

The Luther Memorial News December 2021

*We are a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

*A community committed to making
Christ's disciples, dedicated to worship,
study, and prayer while serving all in need.*

Rev. Monica L. Weber, Pastor

Libby Pfaff, the Well Pastor

Juanita Smoot, Director of Music Ministry

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Marcia Barrow, Office Manager

Church Contact Information:

Phone: 951-1000

Email: luther@lmlc.org

Web: <http://www.lmlc.org>



A Quick look at December:

December 01: Contemplative Advent Worship
@noon: LMLC Chapel
Holden Evening Prayer @ 7pm:
Saint Michael

December 08: Contemplative Advent Worship
@noon: LMLC Chapel
Holden Evening Prayer @ 7pm:
Luther Memorial

December 15: Contemplative Advent Worship
@noon: LMLC Chapel
Holden Evening Prayer @ 7pm:
Christ Radford

December 21: Longest Night Service @ 7pm:
Saint Michael

December 22: Contemplative Advent Worship
@noon: LMLC Chapel
Holden Evening Prayer @ 7pm:
Saint Michael

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
@5pm



December 26: No in-person worship @LMLC



From your pastor:

I have one simple wish for each of you this Advent season: that you may breathe in and deeply experience the hope given to us by the advent of our Lord Jesus the Christ, who comes as an innocent, helpless baby to shine light into a dark and weary world. Advent is a season of "both/and," a phrase that we clergy use to express the unique, mysterious presence of our Living God. In Advent, we anticipate our great joy at the birth of the Christ child, the advent of Jesus, who **will** come. We also live into the joy of Christ's promise that Jesus **has** come: he walks beside us, now! In this "both/and," Christ is coming into the world, but he is also already here, now and forever. What an awesome God our God is, to accompany and love us so completely!

I give thanks for your faithfulness this year, and hold great anticipation for the ministries of Luther Memorial for 2022, as we continue to find new ways to gather to worship the Holy Trinity, serve God and neighbor, and be present for each other as the Body of Christ. I am overwhelmed with gratitude that God has blessed us so richly in 2021, and that we have been able to gather in-person for worship, meetings, and safe fellowship since June. This congregation continues to amaze me with the ways in which you generously respond to the needs we identify outside and inside our faith community. I hold each of you in prayer in this season of Advent reflection and preparation; that God may give to you the hope, peace, joy and love embodied in God-with-Us Emanuel, Christ our Lord. Peace to all here,

Pastor Monica

Congregational Council Corner

2021

John Hess, Secretary	jlhess@vt.edu
Mara Knott	knott@vt.edu
Tim Larson	tilarson@vt.edu
Carol Reynolds	carol@quintinz.com

2022

Jay Crone	jaycrone@vt.edu
Andy Hansbrough, President	andy.hansbrough@kollmorgen.com
Gail King	glkng2@gmail.com
Ed Vigen	ed.vigen48@gmail.com

2023

Elaine Belay	elainebelay@gmail.com
Teresa Cassell	teresa.cassell@comcastmnet
Carolyn Howard, Vice President	carric2003@gmail.com
Karl Pedersen	Karl_Pedersen@msn.com

December Council Meeting: 19th, 11:30am-Fellowship Hall. Staff & Council members please submit your monthly reports to Marcia Barrow in a PDF file no later than Monday, December 13th. Packets will be distributed by email.

October by the numbers:

General treasury receipts: \$35,402.79 (+ \$ 7,772.87 from last month)
General treasury expenses: \$23,636.44 (– \$12,382.05 over last month)
Net, general treasury: + \$11,766.35 (+ \$20,154.92 from last month)
Accounting checking balance 10/31: \$112,148.79 (– \$11,515.96 from last month)
Actual Bank checking balance 10/31: \$139,448.56 (– \$ 1,700.54 from last month)
Unrestricted cash available to spend in GT checking (approx.) as of 10/31: \$80,000 (+ \$14,000)

Committee on Finance reported that:

Expenditures and income are generally in line with 83% of the amount approved in the 2021 ministry funding plan.

Receipts from pledges in October were greater than in September and \$1200 more than the required monthly average.

It appears that the congregation will be able to carry a positive balance into 2022.

Council approved the payment of last quarter commitments to our local benevolence, \$5,150.

Council approved recommendations from the COVID Task Force:

Continued voluntary use of masks during worship.

Beginning November 28, resume serving coffee and donuts in the fellowship hall following worship.

The kitchen will remain closed and group meals will be prohibited at this time.

Incidence of COVID cases will be monitored throughout the holiday season with a review of the current policy in mid-January.

Campus ministry:

Pastor Libby requested providing packaged snacks to the campus center prior to the second week in December.

We encourage and support students as they prepare for finals, using the student center for quiet study.

The kitchen in the student center may be used for warming foods but no cooked food preparation at this time.

Masks are required, which is consistent with practice on campus, and persons are expected to sign in and out of the center.

With the VT home football schedule completed, parking fees yielded \$13,300.

Capital campaign: In preparation of setting goals within the capital campaign, council received options and costs for replacing the roof on the church building 5-7 years from now.

Based on today's prices this project will cost in excess of \$120,000 depending on whether the new roof is placed on top of the existing roof or if the existing roof is removed prior to installing the new roof.

Additional costs, up to \$20,000 depending on the amount of area involved, need to be considered for structural requirements related to the addition of solar panels.

Certified testing reported that the existing roof contains no asbestos.

Council Approved: Renewal of Scout Troop 704 Charter.

Welcome New Council Members & Trustees!

At the November 14th annual congregational meeting, LMLC members voted to elect John Anstrom and Linda Libey as new council members, each serving a 3-year term. As required by the Commonwealth of Virginia, all non-profit organizations must name Trustees whose primary responsibility is to represent the non-profit during the sale or purchase of property or equipment. Our Trustees for 2022 are Teresa Cassell, Jenny Akers and Marti Larson. Please hold these newly-elected members in prayer and thank them for stepping up!

Holiday Office Closures & Emergency Pastoral Care

The Luther Memorial office will be closed from Christmas Eve through December 27; additionally the office will be closed December 31-Jan 2nd.

Pastor Monica will be on vacation Dec 25-Jan 2nd, visiting her son and parents in Nashville. If you need emergency pastoral care during this time, please contact Marcia in the church office. Rev. Don Holmstrom and Rev. Rachel Larson, two of LMLC's retired pastors, will be available for these emergencies. Pastor Monica will return to the office on Monday, January 3rd.

Advent Preparations at Luther Memorial

Happy New Year! The Church began a new liturgical year on Sunday Nov 28 with the start of Advent. This season of quiet reflection and preparation reminds us to be hopeful as we wait for the birth of the Christ Child.

This year, Luther Memorial's Advent preparations include:

Daily Advent devotions using the booklet "Wait Upon the Lord." A copy is available for every household; obtain yours from a worship usher.

Weekly Contemplative Advent Worship, Wednesdays from noon-12:30pm in the Chapel. Step out of the pre-Christmas chaos to rest in God's holy presence. This service includes prayer, Scripture and silence.

Weekly Holden Evening Prayer with the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship churches, as follows:

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7pm at St Michael Lutheran, 8308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg. Rev. Michelle Stramiello presiding

Wednesday, Dec 8, 7pm at Luther Memorial, Rev. Monica Weber presiding

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7pm at Christ Radford, 201 Harvey St, Radford, Rev. Libby Pfaff presiding

Wednesday, Dec 22, 7pm at St Michael, Rev. Dr. Bryan Katz presiding

The Mothers of Jesus Advent Sermon Series

On our Advent Sundays, Pastor Monica will use an alternative set of Scripture readings to focus on the women named in Matthew 1:1-16 as ancestors of Jesus. These women; Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary, Mother of Our Lord, have much to say by their courage, bold witness and agency as they remain faithful to God, and God's plan for human salvation.

All services hosted at Luther Memorial will be live-streamed; visit www.lmlc.org for the livestream link and recordings of prior services.

I wish you a blessed Advent season!

Peace, Pastor Monica



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Join us to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with a Christmas Eve worship service on Friday, December 24th at 5pm. This traditional worship service will include carols, Holy Communion, special music, a children's message, and singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Extra ushers and greeters are needed for this service: please contact Marcia Barrow if you would like to volunteer to assist with this service. This worship service will be livestreamed as usual. All are welcome!

Donate Exam Snacks for The Well Students!

Virginia Tech exams begin Friday December 10 and end on Thursday December 16. It is a Luther Memorial tradition to provide snacks for our Well students as they study in the Campus Center. Please bring any of the following snack items to the **Campus Center kitchen on or before Dec 5:**

- Pre-packaged peanut butter crackers
- Pre-packaged baked goods (individually wrapped)
- Individual candy bars
- Individual bags of chips, pretzels, trail mix, nuts or dried fruit
- Apples, oranges, bananas
- Easy Mac & Cheese (microwaveable single-serve portions)
- Mini frozen cheese pizzas (place in Campus Center freezer)
- K-cup coffee and tea

Thanks for supporting these young, brilliant minds as they tackle final exams. We hold all our Well students, Virginia Tech faculty and staff in our prayers for a successful end to the semester and a restful, safe Winter break. Students return to class on January 18, 2022.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IS BACK!

At the recommendation of the Covid Task Force and by Council's approval, LMLC will resume coffee fellowship after Sunday worship, if volunteers are willing to pitch in and make this possible. Coffee Fellowship will take place as follows:

All coffee and donuts will be served by volunteers in Fellowship Hall after worship.

Please enjoy your coffee/donuts at the tables/chairs provided, versus standing in close, unmasked proximity to others.

Volunteers are needed for the following weekly tasks:

Make coffee and setup coffee supplies (kitchen)

Pickup Donuts from Carol Lee and serve (kitchen)

Setup 3-4 tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning before worship

Cleanup supplies and rinse Bunn coffee maker



To volunteer please use our Coffee & Donut Fellowship SignUp Genius or contact Marcia in the office.

The Longest Night: A Service of Remembrance & Light

The Advent & Christmas seasons can be a time of great joy and anticipation, but for those who have sustained the loss of a loved one, this time of year can be especially difficult as the days shorten and darkness takes hold. If you have experienced a loss of someone beloved in your life, please join the congregations of the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship for a worship service of hope and healing on **Wednesday, December 21**, the longest night of the year. Pastor Monica and other Fellowship clergy will gather us together at **7pm at St Michael Lutheran**, 8308 Merrimac Road in Blacksburg. This evening worship service includes candlelight, inspirational Scripture, poetry, and song as we celebrate the hope of our eternal light, Jesus Christ, who walks beside us in our grief and leads us into God's new Creation. This service will **not** be livestreamed. For more information email: pastormonica@lmlc.org.



The Significance of the Advent Wreath & Candles

This article is excerpted from "What is the Advent Wreath and How Is It Used in Worship" from the ELCA.

Click this link for the full article:

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What is the Advent Wreath and how is it used in worship.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What%20is%20the%20Advent%20Wreath%20and%20how%20is%20it%20used%20in%20worship.pdf)

The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of Northern Europe, as people sought the return of the sun during the darkest month of the year. As early as the Middle Ages, Christians used fire and candlelight to represent Christ's coming into the world, or "advent." From those practices, the Advent wreath developed in Germany several centuries ago as a sign of the hopeful expectation we hold in our hearts at the anticipated return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The circle represents the eternal victory over death we receive by our baptism into Jesus Christ. Evergreens symbolize God's faithfulness, even in death; the lighted candles remind us of the light Christ brings into the world.

Through the years the color of Advent wreath candles has changed; blue candles are often preferred to distinguish from the Lenten use of purple, and to represent the color of hope. A pink candle may be used on the third Sunday of Advent, known as "Gaudete Sunday" (meaning 'rejoice!'); this practice is based in Philippians 4:4-6, "rejoice in the Lord always."



-The first candle on Advent I symbolizes Hope: God is faithful and keeps God's promises.

-The second candle lit on Advent II symbolizes that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, leading us to spiritual peace.

-The third candle lit on Advent III symbolizes the Joy we have in Jesus.

-The fourth candle lit on Advent IV symbolizes the Love God has for humanity.

-The Christ candle, a larger white candle, symbolizes the purity of Jesus and is lit on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Sundays through Epiphany, January 6th.

We give thanks to Ann Hess for making and donating the beautiful pottery Advent wreath used at Luther Memorial.

2020 Christmas Music Program "Redux"

The hour-long Christmas music and scripture program recorded in December 2020 will be available to watch again this year! Visit www.lmlc.org and scroll down for the link, available December 23 through Epiphany, January 6th. The program includes carols performed by LMLC's virtual choir, organ and piano selections by Nita Smoot, violin, brass, flute, and string selections by Dr. Jay Crone and other guest musicians, Christmas scripture readings read by a variety of lectors and beautiful images of the season. Enjoy!

Calling All Knitters!

If you enjoy knitting or would like to learn, please join us on **Wednesday, January 12 at 1pm in Fellowship Hall** (MARCIA pls reserve FH for this time). This is a BYOK event: "bring your own knitting" including yarn and supplies. Pastor Monica will gather us together to share tips and techniques, enjoy fellowship and flex our God-given creativity. We hope to begin this as a monthly activity to resume LMLC's Prayer Shawl ministry, so please don't be shy! Even if you've never knit a single stitch, we can teach you. You can also find How to Knit videos on YouTube if you're anxious to begin. Did you know that knitting is a wonderful calm activity that can help lower blood pressure? For more info [email: pastormonica@lmlc.org](mailto:pastormonica@lmlc.org).



NITA'S NOTES

During the month of November, we reflect on the blessings of life, both nationally and personally. With hearts of gratitude we lift our voices in prayer and song and listen to the instrumental offerings also presented to God on our behalf. As believers in Christ, we acknowledge the source of these blessings as we begin our Advent pilgrimage in preparation for the holy celebration of Christmas. Central to our worship music is the beautiful Schlicker pipe organ, which members of our congregation sacrificed to purchase and install in 1986. It is a joy to play this instrument and to lovingly guide in its care. It is also an investment with a current replacement value of \$450,000 - \$500,000.

Therefore, I am most grateful that our Church Council voted in their October 2021 meeting to establish a new Organ Maintenance Fund. Its purpose is to provide a means for people to donate monies to help offset organ repairs and maintenance. The regular tuning cost is part of the annual budget and does not include additional needs. This year it was necessary to regulate all of the keys on both manuals and to install a pedal light.

Grooms and Payne, Inc. from Louisa, VA provide our tuning and maintenance services.

This fall our council requested that during the through tuning visit, Dr. Kelly Grooms also assess the maintenance condition of the instrument and submit her findings. A copy of her complete report has been shared with council. Following are the main needs that go beyond what she is able to do through regular tunings.

- Chamber circulation/ventilation fans to establish equal air flow between the Swell and Great divisions: \$500 each. Begin with one. Add another if necessary.
- Correct several "wilting" pipes that are bending due to type of construction metals and insufficient support racking. Those pipes will have to be removed and sent to a specialty pipe shop for attention and new racking supports designed and installed. Current estimate is \$7500.
- The Pedal 4' Choral Bass and the Pedal 16' Subbass are next to impossible to tune due to a lack of safe access. Additional walkways and ladders need to be designed and built at an estimated cost of \$3000.
- The estimate for 2022 organ related repairs is \$11,000.

I hope that this overview will add to your understanding and enjoyment of our instrument. I also hope that you will be financially supportive of this new fund and am making an urgent request that the monies required for these critical initial repairs and adjustments be given so that the work can be completed in the early months of 2022. I thank Ed Vigen for his leadership and direction from the perspective of the church council. I appreciate his willingness to take a "tour" of the organ chamber room so that he could answer any questions you might have for either of us to answer.

Joyfully yours,

NITA

God's Work Our Hands



Thanks to your continued generosity, Luther Memorial provided the following assistance to our community in **November:**

LMLC donated over 200 pounds of food to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

Donations provided 60+ pounds of food for our new Micah's Mini-Pantry

\$75 in Kroger cards to purchase food, gas and medicine for people in need

Change for Change provided \$800 for To Our House



Christmas Store fruit (collected in July, delivered by Elaine & Ron Belay in November)

May God bless you as you do God's Work with Your Hands!

Participation in TO OUR HOUSE Appreciation

As I write this, LMLC's two week commitment to TOH is partially fulfilled. I want to thank all the shoppers, cooks, servers, cleaners, launderers, and overnight volunteers who helped in this ministry. These include Teresa Cassel, Fred Rencsok, Diane Rencsok, Jennifer Freeman, Marcia & Mark Barrow, Lois Voss, Gail King, Bill King, Diane Catley, Elaine Belay, Chris Skogen, Sandy Hagman, Terry Hagman, John Hess, Lois Lang, Jim Lang, Patty Marickovich, Marty Larson, Pastor Monica, Ray Riggan, and Ed Vigen. Many of you also showed your support for this ministry with your donations and, most importantly, with prayer.

Again this year Bull and Bones/Black Hen is preparing Thanksgiving meal to be served by Pastor Monica and Ray Riggins. We are grateful for their support.

Though we have a finite commitment to the homeless in our community, we have a continuing commitment to the homeless everywhere. Prayerfully consider ways to participate in this ministry.

We are blessed to be blessings. Sincerely,

Wava Vigen

BLACKSBURG REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

The Blacksburg Refugee Partnership (of which LMLC is a part) formed as a response to the Syrian refugee crisis. It was and still is an all-volunteer organization. It relies on donations and occasional grants.

Five years ago, two Syrian families and four families from Afghanistan moved to Blacksburg from their homelands. The BRP supported and mentored them as they learned a new way of life. And now all adults are employed and the children are in school. Two are in college pursuing pre-med programs.

This fall has seen the arrival of seven more families (with more to come). All of these are seeking asylum from the Taliban government in Afghanistan. These families will be eligible for many government support programs; and all hope to be soon employed. But not until they have social security numbers and work authorizations issued to them. In the meantime, BRP is their sole source of support.

In addition to assisting the newly arrived refugees, BRP has set up a GoFundme page to raise funds to help with college expenses. There are two students now who are working on their degrees; there will be more. The program is entitled STARS.

The proceeds from **January's Change for Change** will go the BRP.



Christmas Outreach Update

On November 14th, we kicked off fund raising for the **Christmas Outreach Project**. The Christmas Outreach Project provides financial support for families who have children attending Valley Interfaith Child Care Center (VICCC). The goal of VICCC is to provide high quality affordable, educational, and nurturing, care for young children (ages 6 weeks to 5) and now school age childcare, of income eligible working families in the New River Valley. The mission of VICCC is to provide support for the low-income working population of the New River Valley as they strive to become more self-sufficient.

We had extremely successful fundraising effort. In 2020, we raised \$ 8,026.34. We were able to provide \$380 in tuition reimbursement and financial support to 20 low- income families whose children attend Valley Interfaith Child Care Center. In addition, we were able to provide a couple of prepackaged snacks and one books for all 39 children who attend the center. VICCC also provides the same book each month to each child as part of their curriculum. We were able to provide 2 months of books for the center.

VICCC has identified 19 families to help this year. With Covid 19, has come inflation. Our families' expenses have been going up from fuel prices to groceries. Our help is needed as much as ever. I would like to challenge the congregation to raise **\$8500** this year. Regulations with DSS have changed and copays have been waived through the end of December. We will be providing Visa gift cards to our families this year. This goal will allow us to give each family a \$400 gift card to make their Christmas and provide three months of books to the center and provide a gift bag to each of the 40 children in the center.

We will take donations through **Sunday December 12th** I would like to thank everyone who continues to support this fund-raising effort. We have two ways to donate this year; you can mail in your donation with the enclosed envelop or you can make a donation through PayPal at the link below:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=SU8HQBH2JWURN



Epiphany Diaper Drive

We will be collecting diapers for the NRV Diaper Pantry through **Sunday, January 9th**. They need all size diapers - infants and toddlers as well as adults. You can also donate wet wipes. Please leave your donations near the Food Pantry wagon in the Narthex. Diapers will be delivered following Epiphany Sunday.

New Recycling Program at Luther Memorial

The Alleghany Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), meet in the Luther Memorial fellowship hall the first Thursday of each month. For a community service project this coming year we are taking part in a recycle program offered by the Trex Company. The project is to collect 500 pounds of plastic film packaging which is typically not recycled by the local community recycling program. Once we send in 500 pounds of these plastics, the Trex company will send us a bench made from recycled material. Other organizations in this area have participated in this program with great success.

The box for this collection has been placed in the back of the fellowship hall near the closet for the tables and chairs. Below is a list of items that qualify for recycling in this program. Items should be clean and dry. If you would like more information about it, contact Diane Catley, dwcately@gmail.com, or see the Trex website. <https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate#materials1>

Examples of plastic film items for recycling are:

- produce bags
- grocery bags
- bread bags
- over wrap from tissue paper or paper towels
- dry cleaning bags
- bags from items that come through the mail, bags that have the recycle symbol of 2 or 4

See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the bin.

Also, it was my understanding that plastic rings that fit on canned drinks qualify, but they do not.



A Note About Luther Memorial's New HVAC System

In 2020, we took advantage of the pandemic closure of LMLC facilities to renovate Fellowship Hall and to replace the HVAC systems across our campus. As we return to full use of our buildings for meetings, worship and community events, please review these important guidelines as good stewards of the congregation's financial and energy resources:

- 1) All thermostats, campus-wide, are **pre-programmed** to comfortable heating and cooling ranges, based on typical high-use periods.
- 2) Please **do not adjust** any thermostat more than +/- 2 degrees, using the + or - buttons located on the front of each new thermostat. Increasing or decreasing the programmed temperature by more than 2 degrees up or down negates the program, wastes energy and adds significant cost to our energy bills.
- 3) If you enter a space at LMLC that is significantly too hot or cold, please notify Marcia Barrow or Pastor Monica, who will contact Southern Air.
- 4) Do not change the MODE setting on any thermostat; notify Marcia or Pastor Monica if the heat or cooling mode should be changed.

Thanks for your attention and cooperation as we do our best to save energy and money!

Reconciling In Christ Sunday, January 30

The Luther Memorial RIC committee is planning Luther Memorial's annual RIC Sunday worship service scheduled for January 30, the national day of RIC observance. If you would like to participate in planning or serve as a worship assistant for the RIC service, please notify Lois Voss, Carol Reynolds or Pastor Monica.

Advent Season is a busy time for most of us. In addition, there are many calls on us to donate and volunteer. Luther Memorial is a huge supporter of the **Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry** and for that they are very grateful. If you are interested in having a family project as you contemplate the meaning of advent, we invite you to consider using this reverse advent calendar. If you chose to do so, bring your box to the church on Christmas Eve. The food will be collected and delivered to the Pantry. Thank you so much for your support throughout the year.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day, add an item to a box. After Christmas, donate the entire box to the Interfaith Food Pantry. Average cost of these items is about \$1/day.

December 1: Canned vegetable

December 2: Canned fruit

December 3: Spaghetti sauce

December 4: Pasta noodles

December 5: Cereal

December 6: Canned tuna

December 7: Peanut butter (16 oz)

December 8: Jelly

December 9: Canned soup

December 10: Mac & Cheese

December 11: Rice

December 12: Hamburger Helper

December 13: Canned Chicken

December 14: Canned vegetable

December 15: Canned fruit

December 16: Spaghetti sauce

December 17: Pasta noodles

December 18: Cereal

December 19: Peanut butter (16 oz)

December 20: Jelly

December 21: Canned soup

December 22: Mac & Cheese

December 23: Canned tuna

December 24: Canned chicken

Bring your box to the Christmas Eve service or leave in the Narthex. Boxes will be delivered after Christmas.

Heart Felt Thanks!

We give thanks to the following persons who have graciously participated in Luther Memorial Ministries:

- Mara Knott, Tim Larson, John Hess and Carol Reynolds, outgoing LMLC Council members completing 3-year terms.
- Outgoing Council President Andy Hansbrough for his capable leadership in 2021; Andy remains on Council to complete his term.
- Mark Pierson for his faithful service as Chairperson of the LMLC Finance Committee.
- Rev. Dr. Bryan Katz for his assistance to Pr Monica in troubleshooting WiFi and livestream technical issues.
- All the volunteers who assisted LMLC's annual sponsorship of To Our House.
- LMLC Personnel committee for their continued leadership and commitment to our staff.
- Ray Riggin for repairing wall dents in the Christian Ed 'big room'.
- Mark Freeman and Ray Riggin for faithfully stocking Micah's Mini-Pantry every week.
- Well Students and Pr Libby Pfaff for baking and delivering delicious pies to our shut-ins on "Pie Day".
- The LMLC Choir, Director Nita Smoot, Dr. Jay Crone and brass quartet members for the joyous music at the Reformation Celebration.
- Pr Libby and The Well Students for their leadership on Campus Ministry Sunday.
- Our members and friends whose donations feed, clothe and support God's people.
- The members of the COVID Task Force for their continued guidance and wisdom: Lois Voss, Facilitator; Jenny Akers, Mara Knott, Carol Reynolds, Bennet Cassell and Andy Hansbrough.
- Diane Catley and the DAR chapter for sponsoring the new Plastics Recycling Station.
- The LMLC Stewardship Committee, chaired by Bennet Cassell, for their hard work with the pledge campaign and Time & Talent surveys.
- To everyone who fulfilled 2021 financial pledges, and to all who pledged financial support in 2022.
- To all who plan to donate time, talent and treasures toward our approved 2022 Ministry Funding Plan.

Important Info Regarding Worship on Sunday December 26th

This year, Bishop Robert Humphrey and the Staff of the Virginia Synod will present a pre-recorded Worship Service for Sunday, December 26th. This service is provided to offer pastors a much-needed day of rest after the Advent and Christmas season.

THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT LUTHER MEMORIAL ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 26th.

An email will be distributed with the Synod worship link so you can watch this service from the comfort of home, in your "Christmas PJs"! The service will include Holy Communion.

On Sunday, January 2nd, in-person worship resumes as the Luther Memorial choir leads a Service of Lessons & Carols at 10am; Rev. Don Holmstrom will preach for Pastor Monica as she travels home from visiting family in Nashville.

The Virginia Synod will also provide a special live-streamed Epiphany Worship Service on Thursday, January 6th; the link to this service will be emailed to you. Watch your "snail mail" for your 2022 "Star Word" arriving in late December from Pastor Monica!

Luther Forum Begins New Study on Christian Identity

"Can you be a committed Christian without having to condemn or convert people of other faiths? Is it possible to affirm other religious traditions without watering down your own?" The Luther Forum will be discussing these provocative questions in its next study. Using ***Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World***, by Brian McLaren, as its springboard, the class will reflect on how Christians should relate to other faith traditions in an increasingly pluralistic religious culture.

The class meets in the **Campus Center at 8:45am**. This module will begin **Sunday, January 16th**

Participants should get the book in the format of their choice. Some may prefer to join the class via Zoom; Bill will be sharing a Zoom link with those who are presently in the class. If you would like to be added to that list, or would like for him to obtain a book for you, please send him an email at luthercm@gmail.com.

Service Assistants for December:*

	12.05	12.12	12.19	12.26
Lector	Gail King	Rachel Larson	Ed Vigen	No Live Service
Usher/greeter	Don Holmstrom	Marcia Barrow	Diane Catley	
Usher/greeter	Carol Papillon	Jennifer Freeman	Glenn Buss	
Teller	Diane Catley	Rick Howard	Mark Barrow	
Teller	Marty Oosterhuis	Tim Larson	Marty Oosterhuis	
Livestream				
Council Point Person	Mara Knott	Carolyn Howard	Tim Larson	
Altar Flowers	No flowers in Advent			

*If you cannot serve on your day, please find a member to fill your spot. If you can fill an open spot, please contact the office. Thank you!



We will once again decorate the church with **poinsettias** for the **Christmas** Season. You can sponsor a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. The poinsettias are of florist quality, foil wrapped, locally grown and the cost is **\$15.00 per plant**.

Please let Marcia in the office know if you would like a poinsettia (or 2) and who you would like to honor or remember by **December 10th**. Checks should be made out to LMLC; memo:poinsettias and can be dropped in the offering basket or mailed to the church.

Poinsettias may be taken home after the **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**.



December 01

Bill Knocke

December 05

Lauren Widner

December 12

Joanne Watson

December 18

Gail King

December 25

Christian Peterson

Randy Shifflett

December 26

Wava Vigen

December 28

Carla Liversedge

Carol Papillon

December 30

Gilli Freeman

Fred Rencsok



Fred and Dianne Rencsok; December 27th

Mark and Jennifer Freeman; December 28th

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
600 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR DECEMBER 2021

In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's Gifts!

--Pope Francis