

The Luther Memorial News July 2022

*We are a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

All are Welcome!

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

Rev. Monica L. Weber, Pastor

Rev. Libby Pfaff, the Well Pastor

Amy Cowan, Choral Director

Daniel Taylor, Worship Accompanist

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Marcia Barrow, Office Manager

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A Quick look at July:

July 4th: OFFICE CLOSED



July 7th: Summer Chapel Service, noon

July 10th: the Rainbow  Connection
4pm Fellowship Hall

July 14th -16th: Power in the Spirit & VA Synod
Gathering and Celebration of Service

July 21st: Summer Chapel Service; noon

July 24th: Outdoor Worship



Pastor Monica available for conversations, counseling and spiritual direction. To make an appointment with Pastor Monica, please call her at 540-951-1003, or email pastormonica@lmlc.org

From your pastor:

This month, Pastor Monica shares this insightful article on The Freedom of Emotional Sobriety as it appeared in Father Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations (cac.org) on June 23, 2022. The article was originally written by Father Thomas Keating (1923-2018).

Emotional sobriety is the same as detachment from our own ideas of happiness and also from our over-dependency on the group to which we feel we belong, along with our cultural conditioning, education, personality traits, and emotional patterns.

In other words, all of these interior tendencies and outside influences added up to a false self-based on our traumatic experiences from early life that we were trying to run away from . . . rather than face. In the Twelve Steps, you face them all, and as a result they have been relativized.

An enormous freedom has begun to be experienced, expressed in the ability to serve others. . . . We cannot do this without an ever deepening awareness of the motivation that lurks in our unconscious, since the unconscious energy is stored in the body and secretly influences our behavior and decisions. We have to find out what this is in order to be able to let it go. . . .

As we become aware of the shadow side of our personality and how much energy we put into programs for security, power and affection, esteem and approval, we realize that we cannot manage our own lives. In other words, the first step has become an experience even deeper than the original one. Only now it is not a desperate state of mind, but self-knowledge that has grown to include parts of our personality that we didn't know because often we had projected the shadow side of our personality onto someone else. Now we are confronted with who we actually are with all our brokenness and our weakness. (Thomas Keating, *Divine Therapy and Addiction: Centering Prayer and the Twelve Steps* (New York: Lantern Books, 2009), 157–158.

Fr Rohr shares wisdom from theologian James Finley, who poetically describes the encounter with God that supports our healing from addiction:

Can I join God in knowing who God knows me to be? Can I join God in seeing who God sees me to be . . . ? This is salvation.

In order to do this, I have to let go of my own present way of seeing things, and I discover I can't. We're afraid to lose the control that we think that we have over the life that we think that we're living, and we're addicted to what binds us. "Out of the depths I cry unto thee, O Lord!" [Psalm 130:1] This is the cry for salvation. . . . Is this possible, that I could place my life over into your hands?

Then the mystery of the cross is this mystery of being liberated from this deep addiction to the illusion of an ultimately isolated self that has to make it on its own. To realize I'm in the presence of the love that loves us and takes us to itself. Through that inner process of discipleship, or whatever we want to call it, we can come to . . . true sobriety, the peace of God that surpasses understanding. (James Finley, "Mystical Sobriety," [Living School Alumni Quarterly](#), issue 3 (Fall 2019).

Congregational Council Corner

2022

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Linda Libey

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No July Council Meeting!! As is our tradition, Council will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be Sunday, August 21 at 11:30am for lunch, followed by a brief business meeting and a Leadership Planning Workshop. Please combine your July and August committee reports and submit them to Marcia Barrow no later than Monday, August 15.

***From the Finance Committee:**

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we are paying our budgeted quarterly benevolences on time.

***The Little Hokie Hangout**, a child care co-op for VT students, is going to look a whole lot better very soon! New Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) will be installed in the old chapel and the classroom they use the most as well as nearby hallways. New blinds for their main classroom will be installed and a fresh coat of paint will complete the project.

***Significant Organ Maintenance Work Needed:**

We are investigating options for doing significant work needed to keep our beautiful organ in good shape for years to come. It was built in 1985 and needs work to keep it sounding its best. Please consider donating to the Organ Maintenance Fund so that this work can be completed.

***Pastor Libby is forming a planning team for campus ministry** that will be comprised of VT students and members from Luther Memorial and St. Michael Lutheran Church. This team will help with ideas for connecting with students as they arrive on campus.

***A new communion distribution plan** has been approved that will allow members to come to the altar to receive communion. This will be put in place as soon as we get glass communion cups and racks to wash the cups in our dishwasher.

***New voice scholarship:** A Thomas Greenwood Wilson Voice Scholarship will be established with funds from the Wilson bequest. This scholarship will award about \$750 per semester to a voice student chosen by a selection committee working with our choir director, the Mission Endowment Fund committee, and the pastor.

CouncilCornerCouncilCornerCouncilCornerCouncilCornerCouncilCornerCouncil

Welcome to Amy Cowan & Daniel Taylor!

A hearty LMLC welcome to our new LMLC staff members Amy Cowan, permanent Choir Director, and Daniel Taylor, permanent Worship Accompanist! We're thrilled that they were led by the Spirit to share their musical gifts, skills and expertise with us as we "make a joyful noise to the Lord!" To learn more about Amy and Daniel, visit our website's Music Ministry page at <https://lmlc.org/music-ministry>.



God's Work Our Hands

During the month of June, your generous donations made the following assistance possible:

\$250 in Kroger cards for persons in need to purchase gas, food, medicine

\$200 to assist with past-due utility bills for persons in crisis

\$500 toward cremation expenses for a person who passed without financial resources or family members

231 pounds of food for Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry & Micah's Mini-Pantry

The purchase of baby and adult diapers for the Interfaith Food Pantry

Dinner and hospitality for 15 cyclists with Bike Across the US for MS who stayed in our Campus Center

\$323 in Change for Change, to benefit MCEAP

\$130 for pizza to feed the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship Vacation Bible School attendees

\$5,375 in 2nd Quarter Benevolences distributed to NRV non-profit agencies and ministries

BLACSBURG INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Thank You



The call for volunteers was heeded and we have new volunteers for the second Wednesday of the month at the Food Pantry.

Stock the Pantries for July

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry:



The preferred donations for the month of July are Ground Coffee or Tea Bags. All of us enjoy a cup of coffee or tea in the morning.

Did you know that the Food Pantry has its own coffee label? We purchase our coffee from The Strange Coffee Company in Floyd. You can purchase coffee online from them and they deliver to the Food Pantry. It's a win for the Pantry and supports a local business.

Micah's Mini Pantry:



For Micah's Mini Pantry this month, we are seeking Tuna Pouches. Great for an easy meal and require no cooking. Also Canned Fruit with pull tabs is a great option as well. Fruit in juice or low sugar makes for a more balanced diet.



Our July 2022 Change 4 Change: Feeding the Hungry

One of the members of our Social Ministry Committee, Anne Devenport, has been meeting with a representative with the Northside Presbyterian Free Meals Program. Northside gives out meals every Monday from 6:00 to 6:30 pm. to feed the hungry in our community. They prepare enough food for 60 people. If they run out of food, they hand out \$5.00 Wendy's gift certificates. Northside either prepares food such as Stouffer's Lasagna, Baked Ziti or Chicken sandwiches or buys meals from Jersey Mike's. Each meal is accompanied by chips/cookie/fruit/bread or a roll. They try to keep the cost under \$5.00 for each meal. They advertise on the Facebook pages Everything Blacksburg and Buy Nothing Blacksburg (West). Pre-pandemic, they made simple meals on site and ate in the building.

To fund this program, the church has a small grant from the Presbyterian governing body, and they used funds from other committees. They also have asked their congregation that every time, someone sits down for a meal, to place 2 cents in a jar to be donated to this project. If they have too much food, it is donated to the rescue squad.

Over the past few months, the Social Ministry Committee has been considering ways that we could help with this project. We have decided to help fund the cost of meals one week a month for an entire year. This amount would come to approximately \$3,000. We are designating July's Change for Change towards this goal. We are hoping to raise \$1,500 during the month and more through another campaign later in the year. If you have any questions, please contact: Anne Devenport, Teresa Cassell, Sandy Hagman, or Elaine Belay

New Food Pantry Calendars Available!

Based on the popularity of items offered in our Micah's Mini-Pantry outside the Well Campus Center, we have updated the month-by-month Food Pantry donation calendar. Please take your copy from the table in the Narthex, to donate the items most needed by persons in our community who experience food insecurity. Thanks to Mark Freeman and Mary Hansbrough for their supervision of Micah's Mini-Pantry, and to Sandy Hagman for producing the new calendars. Thanks also to Sandy and Terry Hagman for their diligent work to deliver our donations to the Interfaith Food

Discretionary Fund: Immediate Assistance for Persons in Need

Friends in Christ,

I felt exceptionally called to pastor Luther Memorial because of this congregation's generosity to assist persons in need. The Social Ministry Committee works hard to identify area non-profit agencies whom we support with your donations on a rotating basis; our Good Shepherd Fund offers relief to persons in extreme hardship, after they complete an application process; we also make special appeals to you from time to time, and we give thanks for your support.

The **LMLC Discretionary Fund** is our main source of immediate financial assistance to persons who call the church or reach out to me: we provide Kroger cards for gas, medicine or food, and this fund also helps with past-due utility bills. There is a high demand for assistance in our community as federal COVID relief expires. Please consider making a designated gift to the LMLC Discretionary Fund, so we may continue to relieve human suffering through Kroger cards and utility assistance. Thank you and bless you! — Pastor Monica

Summer Outdoor Worship & "BYOB"

The Worship & Music Committee is excited to announce that we will conduct worship outdoors in our lower parking lot, weather permitting, on the 4th Sunday of July and August. Mark your calendars for **July 24 and August 28, at 10am**. Please bring your own camp or lawn chair; a few hard chairs will be provided. After worship, everyone is invited to **"BYOB": Bring Your Own Brunch!** Pack your favorite brunch snacks and beverages and stick around to enjoy fellowship.

If you would like to share your special musical talents for these outdoor services, please let Pastor Monica know! We will have electric keyboard accompaniment, thanks to the loan of a keyboard by Tim & Marti Larson.



Rainbow Connection

At four o'clock on Sunday, June 5, the Rainbow Connection gathering met in our fellowship hall. Attendees included several LMLC members, as well as non-members, who had learned about Rainbow Connection through our website or by personal invitation. After introductions had been made, one of us mentioned their pet – that started a lively conversation complete with photos from cell phones. As the time for our gathering to end approached, we decided that it would be fun to play board games during the July meeting – and so we will.



Join us on **Sunday, July 10, 4pm in Fellowship Hall** for our next meeting. This new ministry provides a safe gathering space for LGBTQIA+ persons and their allies to make friends, network, and share their concerns and challenges. Many visitors to LMLC worship express to Pastor Monica and our members that they seek a faith community that welcomes, embraces and affirms LGBTQIA+ persons, and this group represents a significant step in proclaiming our Reconciling in Christ inclusive welcome to all of God's people.

Virginia Synod's PRIDE Worship Service

The Virginia Synod's PRIDE worship service took place as a Zoom gathering on June 26. If you missed it, you can view it on the Synod's Facebook page.

Power in the Spirit: July 14-16, 2022, Roanoke College in Salem

What does it mean to be a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus? The words of Saint Thomas reveal a disciple whose faith in Jesus makes him willing to go where Jesus goes, even when danger and death are real possibilities. For Thomas, it's better to be unsafe with Jesus than to stay behind as Jesus heads into dangerous places. For the Church today, we just may be called to a similar faith that goes with Jesus—even into danger. At Power in the Spirit 2022 we'll explore these themes, and more!

Power in the Spirit begins with lunch at noon on Thursday, June 14 and concludes by 11:30 AM on Saturday, June 16. Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come to serve your neighbor! Come to Power in the Spirit 2022! This year Power in the Spirit will also include the Virginia Synod Gathering & Celebration of Service on Friday evening, 7pm at College Lutheran in Salem.

For more information or to register visit: <https://vasynod.org/2022-virginia-synod-gathering/>



ELCA Resources on Pro-Choice & Reproductive Rights

With the SCOTUS reversal of Roe v. Wade, the constitutional protection for women to make their own decisions about their reproductive health has been eliminated. To be “pro-choice” is not the same as endorsing abortion: Lutherans value and respect all life that God creates; yet we recognize that there are personal, medical and lifestyle circumstances that do not always fit into a legalistic box.

At the announcement of the Court’s decision on Friday, June 24, 2022, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton wrote, *“Our social statement provides the moral framework for our church’s communal discernment and ministry, holding in tension both the strong Christian presumption to preserve and protect all life as well as the complex moral situations in which pregnancy sometimes occurs. Our social teaching is complex and does not hew to clear categories or labels such as “pro-abortion” or “anti-abortion.”*

To read the ELCA’s Social Statement on this topic, visit this

link: <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/AbortionSS.pdf? ga=2.162020479.295805201.1656007660-1608361455.1655304413>

You can also download the ELCA Study Guide

here: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/AbortionSS_Study_Guide.pdf? ga=2.229563359.295805201.1656007660-1608361455.1655304413



Lutheran Campus Ministries At Virginia Tech

This year’s Region 9 LuMin Campus Ministry Summer Retreat was held at the SC Synod Isle of Palms Retreat Center, June 21-23. The trip was organized by Region 9 director Andrew Rickel of Grace House Lutheran and Episcopal Campus Ministries in Atlanta. Campus ministers from all over the Southeastern Region were invited to participate in this event and to join in the Annual LuMin Meeting virtually.

One of the most pressing concerns on America’s campuses in our post-COVID climate has been related to the struggles of mental health. Todd Cutter, campus minister and certified counselor at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC, led two presentations for the group, the first focusing on providing mental health support to students, how to recognize a crisis and how to properly respond; the second focused on the importance of supporting mental health for clergy and warning signs to be on the lookout for to avoid burnout. It was an excellent set of presentations which will be very useful in providing support to our students.

The retreat also included listening sessions, wherein we provided advice, encouragement and shared ideas for helping our respective ministries and ways we may join in group retreats and community services in partnership with one another. During this trip, I had the opportunity to connect with some excellent ministry leaders of our Region 9 campuses and look forward to future projects with them.

The focus for The Well this summer is putting together a campus ministry planning team to prepare for the upcoming school year. I look forward to sharing our collective ideas with the student body and with the LMLC congregation in the coming months. Thank you so much for your continued support of our ministry.

Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Libby Pfaff, M.Div.
Campus Minister - 540-391-0856 - thewell@lmlc.org



LMLC Awarded “Peak Host of the Year” for BiketheUSforMS!

On June 6-7, Luther Memorial hosted a group from BiketheUSforMS. 15 cyclists and their crew stayed in The Well Campus Center overnight for their days of rest, and LMLC fed them dinner one evening. The cyclists presented LMLC with the “Peak Host 2022” award for our 9 years of hospitality. The cyclists began their journey at Yorktown, and will arrive in San Francisco in mid-August. Please hold them in prayer as they raise money for and awareness of Multiple Sclerosis.



LMLC Members attend Blacksburg's March for Our Lives Rally

As a peaceful response to the threat of gun violence in America where mass shootings take place almost daily in our communities, citizens of Blacksburg gathered on the Henderson Lawn of the Virginia Tech campus for a rally, in conjunction with the national March for Our Lives rally in Washington D.C. Speeches were made, we raised our voices in unity, and the spirit of telling the truth in love to power was communicated. We continue to hold all victims of gun violence in our prayers, and pray that Congress will pass gun reform legislation. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship Vacation Bible School

Our theme this year was "Fruits of the Spirit," and everyone enjoyed delicious food, stories, art projects, and Bible study. Thanks to St Michael Lutheran for hosting us. Enjoy these photos, and next year come join the fun!





Service Assistants for July:*

	07.03	07.10	07.17	07.24	07.31
Lector	Rachel Larson	Carolyn Howard	Ed Vigen	Jay Crone	Mark Barrow
Usher/greeter	Don Holmstrom	Glenn Buss	Marcia Barrow	Carol Papillon	Jennifer Freeman
Usher/greeter	Diane Catley	Jennifer Freeman	Charlie Harris	Marcia Barrow	Don Holmstrom
Teller	Rick Howard	Marty Oosterhuis	Mark Barrow	Diane Catley	Carla Liversedge
Teller	Tim Larson	Carla Liversedge	Teresa Cassell	Marty Oosterhuis	Tim Larson
Livestream					
Council Point Person	Andy Hansbrough	Gail King	Ed Vigen	Teresa Cassell	Karl Pedersen
Altar Flowers	Teresa Cassell	Deisenroths	Jan Buss		Hansbroughs

***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!**



July 02

Robin Reynolds

July 04

Sandy Sheppard

July 12

Sandy Hagman

July 15

Meg Peterson

July 19

Betty Segar

July 22

Ann Stevens

July 25

Roger Sheppard

July 30

Kayla Hansbrough



Ron & Elaine Belay; July 1st

Bennet & Teresa Cassell; July 3rd

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
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Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR JULY 2022

“Whatever I thankfully receive, as a token of God’s love to me, I part with contentedly as a token of my love to God.”

Theophilus Gale