

# The Luther Memorial News June 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**

**Jan Blumenthal, Interim Accompanist**

**Michael Spencer, Custodian**

**Marcia Barrow, Office Manager**

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## *A Quick look at June:*

June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: Virginia Synod Vocation  
Discernment Retreat

June 5<sup>th</sup>: Pentecost Sunday - wear red



June 5<sup>th</sup>: the Rainbow  Connection  
4pm Fellowship Hall

June 19<sup>th</sup>: Happy Father's Day

June 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>: VBS; ELCA Fellowship

June 26<sup>th</sup>: 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](mailto:pastormonica@lmlc.org)

**From your pastor:**

Many of you know that despite being ultra-careful since March 2020, I recently contracted COVID-19 and became quite ill with symptoms that intensified due to having asthma. COVID hit me like the proverbial “ton of bricks,” and every day I gave thanks for the vaccinations and booster, because without those blessings, I might not be writing this today. We never plan for our health to be compromised, and it can be extremely scary and frustrating when health issues sideline us, whether those challenges are sudden or chronic. This experience reminded me that life is fragile and uncertain, but it also reminded me of God’s constant abiding presence and love, as I received your kind expressions of concern, your prayers and your offers to bring over groceries and supplies. I give thanks to God for the love and care you have shown to me, dear LMLC friends, especially as a single person with no family members in this community. At the May meeting, I informed Council that though I’ve officially recovered from Covid and tested negative, I’m experiencing some ongoing lung issues: I become breathless without warning, I can’t sing in worship, and I have to walk at a slow pace, even for short distances. With medication, good self-care and rest, my doctors feel confident that I will heal, but it may take several weeks or even months.

That’s a hard pill to swallow: I care deeply about Luther Memorial and God’s people, and I’m passionate about ministry. It’s difficult for me to set new boundaries so I can observe good self-care, but it’s a new reality I must confront and undertake. I ask for your continued prayers as we work together in service to God and neighbor, and I ask for your grace if I fall short of your expectations. I feel blessed that if this had to happen, it did so during a season of the liturgical year when things typically slow down a little at LMLC, as folks travel and enjoy a relaxed pace. I look forward to spending what I hope will be a relatively quiet summer in Blacksburg (no traffic! no crowded restaurants! beautiful weather!), as my body heals.

I appreciate your patience and understanding in the coming days, mindful of the wisdom of Jeremiah 17:14, “*Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise.*” God is our Great Physician, and that is indeed worthy of our great and constant praise. Let us never forget that God will heal all our ills, by our baptism into Christ Jesus, who gave his life so that we may receive life eternal. Peace to all here,

*Pastor Monica*

**Congregational Council Corner**

**2022**

Jay Crone, President

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**2024**

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Linda Libey

[lindalibey@gmail.com](mailto:lindalibey@gmail.com)

**June 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 **Wednesday, June 8th**. Packets will be distributed by email.

**\*From the Finance Committee:**

We are in good shape financially and we appreciate the faithful giving of our members. Luther Memorial has received generous bequests from the estates of Mary Korslund and Ben Blanchard. Mary's gift is a \$30,000 one-time, unstipulated gift. Ben's gift is also unstipulated and is an annual interest on a principal amount. This year that amount is \$10,373. It is our policy that 10% is automatically deposited from every such bequest into the Mission Endowment General Fund. Council voted to deposit the remaining \$\$ in our Rainy Day Fund until uses for those funds are determined, as Council works with the Mission Endowment Fund Committee to honor the donors and their participation as LMLC members.

**\*Council** will conduct an Implicit Bias Workshop as requested for all VA Synod congregations by Bishop Humphrey, at a date TBD, as we seek to advocate for justice for God's people.

**\*Von Bora Haus:**

We have a family of 5 living in the house. A quilt made by our LMLC quilters was blessed at the May 22 worship service and will be given to them. Water remediation steps have been completed.

**\*New lights in the Sanctuary:**

Bell Electric has completed the installation of our new LED lights. We appreciate the brightness!

**\*The Little Hokie Hangout** will be getting new vinyl floor covering in August. Painting will be done to refresh the walls and new blinds are being investigated. We appreciate Glenn Buss's work to remove the old stage and the hard work Ed Vigen is doing to research options for the blinds.

**\*Pastor Monica** has recovered from Covid (thanks be to God!). However, the illness has exacerbated her severe asthma and she will be working with her doctors in the coming weeks to manage her stress and breathing issues. The council emphasized our desire to support her in any way possible.

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**Welcome New Members Nancy & Bruce Prichard!**

We are excited to receive Nancy and Bruce as new members of Luther Memorial by Letter of Transfer from Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Virginia Beach. They are both Virginia Tech graduates (N: BA '74, B: BArch '75) who met on the Architecture Summer Abroad Program in Salzburg in 1973. They were married in 1976, while Nancy attended graduate school at Radford, and have lived in the Virginia Beach area since 1977. Nancy taught art in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools for 30 years, with most of that time at a pull-out program for gifted and talented students. Bruce has been an architect in private practice for 47 years and will be retiring next week. They transfer to LMLC from Our Saviour, Virginia Beach, where they have been members since 1988.

Nancy and Bruce are both avid Hokie sports fans, enjoy reading, and serve on various boards in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Nancy loves to garden (Bruce just provides labor) and do jigsaw puzzles. Bruce is an occasional lousy golfer who hopes to eventually improve, and likes to do projects around the house. Both are looking forward to having more time to travel in retirement.

**An Update on our Schlicker Organ**

The organ received its spring tuning on May 24th. Our tuners are seeking the cause of the organ's mysterious occasional sounding of a pedal note and looking for ways to mitigate the low humidity in the organ chamber during the winter months when the heat is on. A second evaluation of repairs needed for the organ will be completed soon.

Please consider making a gift to the Organ Maintenance Fund, as we prepare to conduct necessary repairs and adjustments to this valuable pipe organ, so we may continue to enjoy it for years to come!



# God's Work Our Hands

Thanks for your generous donations which helped our neighbors in need during the month of May:

**Change for Change:** Over \$350 donated to benefit ReconcilingWorks  
Our June Change for Change charity is **MCEAP**  
Provided \$200 in Kroger cards for food, medicine, and gas  
Assisted a local Tech graduate with \$300 rent assistance as she begins a new teaching job after months of unemployment

Donated 75 lbs. of food for Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry clients

Donated 35 lbs. of food and personal hygiene items for Micah's Mini-Pantry clients

Persons who struggle with food insecurity continue to use our Micah's Mini-Pantry, which now has a pole light so folks can safely select food after dark. Thanks to Glenn Buss and Ed Vigen for coordinating this project! Thanks to Mark Freeman and Ray Riggan for stocking Micah's Mini-Pantry!

Thanks to Sandy & Terry Hagman for their ongoing support in faithfully collecting our BIFP donations, delivering them to the Pantry, and organizing bulk purchases of items such as soap, canned chicken, etc. with funds donated to LMLC.

If you'd like to volunteer to assist these ministries, please contact Pastor Monica.

## **BLACKSBURG INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!!**

### **Bimbo Bread Run:**



We like to have a team of two people to go to the Bimbo bread warehouse in Dublin to pick up bread. This job is on Mondays BUT not every Monday. We do have a roster of teams that alternate Mondays during the month to pick up bread. If you have two hours available once a month on Mondays and are interested in learning more, please let Sandy Hagman (sandy.hagman@comcast.net) know. Right now, the Pantry needs team members for the first and fifth Mondays of the month.

### **Stock the Pantries for June:**

#### **Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry**



The preferred donations for the month of June are Two-pound bags of rice. Our customers also like instant rice as well.

#### **Micah's Mini Pantry**



Cleaning Sprays, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Sponges/Scrubbers (MMP) – These items are not covered by SNAP.

## **Our June 2022 Change 4 Change: Montgomery Co. Emergency Assistance Program**

MCEAP is a nonprofit that has been serving the community since 1975 as a volunteer run organization in order to meet the immediate, emergency, and temporary needs of low-income, unemployed, elderly, and handicapped individuals or families. MCEAP helps where existing agencies cannot do so by supporting the maintaining of their households and restoring self-sufficiency. MCEAP has a food bank, thrift store, clothing bank, and an administrative office. They also offer some financial assistance that existing agencies cannot meet.

## Did You Know?

The Lutheran liturgy we use for worship traces its roots to the earliest Christian communities, bringing together traditional elements designed to lift up praise and thanksgiving to God. The word 'liturgy' means "the work of the people" in Greek (*leitourgia*), reminding us that the intention of worship is not to "get something," but to participate in the joyful, privileged work of praising God in gratitude for our blessings, our baptism and God's grace. Every worship experience begins with the Prelude to set a meditative tone, and concludes with the Postlude, which sends us out to carry the Light of Christ into the world. Each time we worship, the hymns, choral anthem, postlude and prelude are selected to reflect the themes of the day's Gospel and Scripture texts as a musical gift to God, using our God-given talents. When you feel deeply moved by the Spirit to applaud in worship, please be mindful that the entire worship experience represents this congregation's humble offering to the Holy Trinity. We invite you to express your gratitude directly to our musicians, choir members and worship assistants, as a gesture of the unity we share through our baptism into Christ Jesus.

## Watch LMLC Worship on Livestream or YouTube!

As you prepare to embark on summer travels, remember that you can watch LMLC worship services live through our website. Visit [lmlc.org](http://lmlc.org) Home Page, scroll down and click "Watch our Livestream" to view the live worship service. You can access a PDF of the Sunday worship bulletin from the same location. To view recorded worship services, click "Watch Last Sunday's Service" on the Home page. We encourage members and guests to "Like" our LMLC YouTube Page: click this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTDz76wqGtrhazExzLCUc-Q> to "Like" us and to subscribe. We give thanks to Anne Devenport who faithfully edits our weekly worship services for posting on YouTube.

## Wear Red for Pentecost June 5<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars to wear red to worship on Sunday, June 5, in celebration of Pentecost, the Giving of the Holy Spirit. Red is the liturgical color for this feast day, honoring the fire of God's Holy Spirit that is given to us in baptism and unites us to Jesus Christ.



## 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 June, July and August. Mark your calendars for **June 26, 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.

**NOTE:** A notice will be distributed by email on the Thursday evening prior to Sunday's Outdoor worship to notify you if the weather forecast prohibits a scheduled outdoor service.





Join us on **Sunday, June 5, 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.

### **Thanks to Our Amazing Interim Musicians!**

Please join me in offering a huge round of deep gratitude to the Interim Music Staff members who shared their gifts, talents and skills with us since February! We give thanks to Interim Choir Director Amy Cowan; Interim Organist Gail King; and Interim Pianist Jan Blumenthal for their dedication, expertise and enthusiasm. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements about the permanent music staff soon! — Pr Monica

### **COVID Task Force Update**

Based on the rise of COVID-19 cases in our immediate area and across the nation, the COVID Task Force and Council voted to make no changes to our current masking policy: masks are optional inside our buildings and in worship for persons who are fully vaccinated and boosted. Unvaccinated/boosted persons should be masked at all times. Our Kitchens remain closed. We give thanks for your cooperation and patience with these policies, in Christian love and concern for all God's people.

### **Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship Offers Vacation Bible School!**

Lutherans and friends of all ages are invited to participate in VBS with the congregations of the Fellowship, with programming for children and adults, plus an evening meal. Our theme this year is "Fruits of the Spirit". The sessions from Sunday through Wednesday will take place at St Michael Lutheran, 2308 Merrimac Road in Blacksburg, and activities will be led by the Fellowship clergy. On Thursday, bring your "creek-splashin' duds" for a picnic by the creek at Shiloh Lutheran. ***Please RSVP to Pastor Monica by June 15 if you plan to join us for the evening meals***

### **VBS Schedule: (All sessions are conducted at St Michael Lutheran Church except June 23)**

Sunday June 19: Gather at 3:30pm for activities and study, followed by dinner at 5:30pm.

Monday June 20: Gather at 3:30pm

Tuesday June 21: Gather at 3:30pm

Wednesday June 22: Gather at 3:30pm

Thursday June 23: Picnic by the Creek at Shiloh Lutheran, 5218 Long Shop Road in Blacksburg. Entertainment by the Wilderness Road Chorus. Creek-play time for the kiddos (of all ages!)

## Congrats to Nick Brian, Boy Scout Troop 704's Newest Eagle Scout!

After many hours of community service, hard work and perseverance, Nick Brian earned his Eagle Scout rank at an Honor Court on Thursday, May 19. LMLC has proudly held the charter for Troop 704 for over 46 years, and we heartily congratulate Nick and his family on his significant accomplishment! Nick recently graduated from Blacksburg High School and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall. Proud family members include Dr. Jessica Folkart and Luke Brians. May God bless our Scouts!



## TREX Recycling Program

Whoop! Whoop! As of April 30, our DAR chapter had turned in **508 pounds of plastic!** Most of it came from **LMLC** too!! So the bench was ordered and should arrive at the end of the month. We have not decided where it will go, but it will be somewhere in downtown Blacksburg where there is a need.

The Alleghany DAR chapter may or may not decide to try for another bench, BUT even if we don't, **we will continue to collect the plastic.** It is too good of a project. Just to let you know, when the box at the church is filled, it is only about 6 pounds of plastic, so 500 pounds is a great deal of plastic to get recycled. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project and keep recycling your plastic!



**You're invited to a Retirement Celebration for Pastor Ric & Deacon Jane Elliot**

**When:** Saturday, June 18, 2022

Picnic Supper: 4:30 – 6:30pm; Program: 6:30 – 8:00pm

**Where:** Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

3461 Cedar Crest Blvd., Emmaus, PA 18049

**RSVP:** Nikki Clark: [CLARK@HOLYSPIRIT-EMMAUS.ORG](mailto:CLARK@HOLYSPIRIT-EMMAUS.ORG) or 610.967.2220 (by June 13<sup>th</sup>)

**Program Livestream:** [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/5115048051](https://zoom.us/j/5115048051) Meeting ID: 511 504 8051

*All are Welcome!*



**Service Assistants for June:\***

	06.05	06.12	06.19	06.26
Lector	Andy Hansbrough	Zelma Harris	Chris Skogen	Gail King
Usher/greeter	Marcia Barrow	Don Holmstrom	Glenn Buss	Carol Papillon
Usher/greeter	Carol Papillon	Jennifer Freeman	Charlie Harris	Marcia Barrow
Teller	Mark Barrow	Rick Howard	Diane Catley	Teresa Cassell
Teller	Marty Oosterhuis	Carla Liversedge	Tim Larson	Mark Barrow
Livestream				
Council Point Person	Karl Pedersen	John Anstrom	Linda Libey	Jay Crone
Altar Flowers	Alan Smeal	Deisenroth's	Bill & Gail King	Hagman's

**\*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!**



**June 03**

*Elaine Belay*

**June 04**

*Rick Howard*

**June 06**

*Mark Barrow*

**June 07**

*Natalia Mielczarek*

**June 15**

*Jean Farmer*

**June 19**

*Marti Larson*

**June 23**

*Leah Wechtaluk McFarren*

**June 24**

*Ryan Oosterhuis*

**June 25**

*Dianne Rencsok*

**June 28**

*Alex Widner*



*Jim & Nancy Wolfe; June 14<sup>th</sup> Terry & Sandy Hagman; June 19<sup>th</sup>*

*Roger & Sandy Sheppard; June 20<sup>th</sup> Phil & Kay Jordan; June 22<sup>nd</sup>*

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



**STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR JUNE 2022**

A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.

**--BUDDHA**