



The Luther Memorial News - August 2022

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

All Are Welcome!

A Word from Pastor Monica



We are truly blessed. As I reflect on the many visitors we've welcomed to worship in recent months; the new members we have received; the new friends who have joined us for The Rainbow Connection gatherings; the amazing dedication of our staff, Council and committee leaders; and the exciting news that LMLC will offer its first confirmation class in over five years, I am humbled by God's Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

We have come through many challenges together, and on September 1, I will celebrate three years as your pastor. I feel more convicted than ever that God led me to Luther Memorial to be a part of this generous, compassionate and committed faith community, and for that, I give deep thanks to God. Our ministry together hasn't always been easy; our path hasn't always been clear; but through prayer and by the Holy Spirit's leading, our efforts are bearing fruit, as we proclaim the Gospel of Christ Jesus to a suffering world.

Martin Luther reminds us that every Christian holds responsibilities as a member of the priesthood of all believers: in gratitude for the gift of eternal life given to us in baptism by Jesus, we worship God, serve neighbor, and encourage each other. Each of us is but one member of the Body of Christ, but when we lift our hands in unison to do God's holy work, we share God's unconditional love and grace with each other, with our visitors, our community and the world.

Thank you for your ongoing response to the love we share in Jesus the Christ. Thank you for your care of me and for each other. It's a very exciting time to be God's holy people at Luther Memorial, and I look forward to what God is doing in our midst in the coming months.

Peace to all here,

Pastor Monica



Sunday, September 11 at 10 am

ELCA God's Work/Our Hands National Day of Service
Worship outdoors at St Michael Lutheran with the five congregations of the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship. Following worship, there will be a lunch and service project - details to be announced!



From the Luther Memorial Office

Church Office Hours & Phone Messages



As a reminder, our Office Manager Marcia Barrow serves in the church office Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm; Pastor Monica's schedule varies from day to day. If you need to contact Marcia or Pastor Monica, **please call the church and leave a message on the voicemail** so we can assist you in a timely manner. We ask that you please notify the church office if you or someone you love is hospitalized or in need of prayer; we always want to pray for persons who are ill, facing surgery, or in any kind of need, so please help us help you!

Pastor Monica's Schedule

ELCA pastors are required to participate in 50 hours per year of continuing education. Pastor Monica will be on a continuing ed retreat from Monday, August 1 through Sunday, August 7. Thanks to Rev. Don Holmstrom and Rev. Rachel Larson for preaching/presiding at worship on Sunday, August 7, in Pastor Monica's absence. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the church office and leave a message.



COVID 19 Surges & Mask Guidance Reminder



The LMLC Covid Task Force reminds you that masks are recommended but optional in our buildings and in worship for fully vaccinated/boosted persons; our kitchens remain closed. The Task Force continues to monitor virus spread and CDC guidance, and encourages our members to be fully vaccinated and boosted.

The CDC is warning that a new COVID variant is rapidly spreading across the USA; a recent news report stated that COVID-related hospitalizations in Roanoke are at their highest level since March 2022.

Masks and hand sanitizer are available in Fellowship Hall at the entrance, and in several locations in the Narthex. As Christians called by Christ to love our neighbor, we continue to mask and observe social distancing, particularly for the care of persons who are immuno-compromised or at high risk from prolonged side effects of the virus.

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



Church Life

New Options for Holy Communion Distribution



Beginning Sunday July 31, we implemented a new distribution method for holy communion, based on requests from members and guidance from the COVID Task Force, the Worship & Music committee and Council. You are invited to commune in one of the following ways during Sunday morning worship:

1. Continue to use the pre-packaged communion cups available in the basket as you enter the sanctuary. Persons who choose this communion method will **remain seated** as usual; Pastor Monica will direct you to commune **first**, before inviting persons to come forward as described below.
2. Persons who wish to line up in the center aisle may do so and come forward to the altar to receive the bread from Pastor Monica, then take a glass cup of wine from trays offered by a Communion Assistant on the left and right sides of Pastor. After drinking the wine, participants will place their empty glass cups in trays on the tables to the right and left of the altar, before returning to the pews.

The glass cups will be washed each week in the church dishwasher for sanitization.

We need two Communion Assistants for each worship service. Please contact Marcia or Pastor Monica to volunteer. Robes are optional for Communion Assistant volunteers.

New Lay Ministry Fund for Persons in Vocational Discernment

Thanks to a generous donation by LMLC member Marjean Anthony, Luther Memorial may now provide financial assistance and support to lay persons who are discerning a call to vocational ministry. The Lay Ministry Fund will assist with tuition, fees and administrative expenses for persons in discernment, so they may attend Virginia Synod Vocation Retreats, enroll in the Lay Preaching Academy, and participate in the Candidacy process as appropriate. Please consider making a donation to this fund, to assist persons who feel a call by God's Holy Spirit and empower them to discover their ministry gifts and talents.

Thank you to everyone who attended outdoor worship on July 24th!





Council Corner

No July Council Meeting

Council enjoyed a summer break in July! The next council meeting is Sunday, August 21, at 11:30 am for lunch, followed by the business meeting at noon and a Leadership Workshop.

2023 Ministry Funding Plan Drafts Due September 15

As a reminder to Council conveners and committee chairpersons, it's time to prepare your draft Ministry Funding plans for 2023, so that our Finance Committee may prepare the proposed budget for a congregation vote at our annual meeting on Sunday, November 13. Please review your committee's year-to-date expenses and 'wish list' items, and submit your proposed 2023 budget to Marcia in the church office.



Synod Updates

Power in the Spirit Recap

Ten members of Luther Memorial plus Campus Pastor Rev. Libby Pfaff attended the Virginia Synod's Power in the Spirit gathering at Roanoke College in mid-July.



Pastor Monica served as a co-presenter for a workshop on Unconscious Bias, and attendees participated in additional workshops on Forgiveness, Women in John's Gospel and other topics. The keynote address was offered by 1517 Media (formerly Augsburg-Fortress Press) CEO Emeritus Beth Lewis, and we enjoyed a Bible study led by ELCA Pastor Rick Rouse. It was great to gather in person for meals, to renew friendships and meet fellow Lutherans.

Attendees also participated in a service project to provide clothing for persons experiencing homelessness through Micah's Street Church.

In 2023, the Virginia Synod will conduct its annual Assembly from June 9-11 to elect a new bishop, following the news that current Bishop Robert Humphrey will retire next year. Luther Memorial will send two voting members to the 2023 Assembly: please prayerfully consider representing our faith community at that important gathering.



August 2022 Calendar Highlights

(Please check our calendar online for the most up-to-date information)

August 1-7	Pastor Monica Continuing Education
August 4 at noon	Summer Chapel Need to take a break from the world's chaos and despair? Join us in the Chapel for a half-hour service of scripture, prayer and silence. All are welcome!
August 7 at 4 pm	Rainbow Connection Join us on Sunday, August 7th, 4pm in Fellowship Hall as we welcome and affirm our LGBTQIA+ friends and allies for a time of networking, sharing and fun, as we proclaim our Reconciling in Christ inclusive welcome to all of God's beloved children.
August 14 at 4:30 pm	Potluck, Bless the Backpacks & Taizé worship at St Michael Lutheran
August 15	Council Packet Reports due to Marcia
August 18 at noon	Summer Chapel Need to take a break from the world's chaos and despair? Join us in the Chapel for a half-hour service of scripture, prayer and silence. All are welcome!
August 18th at 5:30 pm	Campus Ministry Planning Team
August 21 at 11:30 am	August Church Council Meeting
August 22nd	Virginia Tech classes begin
August 24th	The Well Campus Ministry Welcome Cookout
August 27th at 10 am	Choir Workshop
August 28th starting at 10 am	Outdoor Worship and Pig Pickin' Weather permitting, join us for outdoor worship in the lower parking lot at 10am on Sunday, August 28, followed by the return of LMLC's Pig Pickin'! This is a BYOC event: Bring Your Own Chair. After worship, we will enjoy delicious food and fellowship, thanks to Grill Meister Danny Knott and the LMLC Fellowship committee. We will also welcome our special guests, The Well Campus Ministry students. We need volunteers to serve food, set up tables and chairs, and provide general assistance. To volunteer, please email the church office or Karl Pedersen, Fellowship Chair. <u>PLEASE RSVP to Marcia in the church office, 540-951-1000, by Sunday, August 21st or by email to luther@lmlc.org.</u>

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Sunday, October 30, 3 pm at LMLC: Reformation Festival Worship with the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship churches and combined choirs, directed by Amy Cowan, featuring a brass ensemble.

Sunday, November 13, Annual Congregational Meeting after worship

Saturday, December 10, Holiday Brass Concert, Luther Memorial, 7:30pm



Music at Luther Memorial



From Amy Cowan, Choir Director

LMLC Choir has a busy and fun season of singing ahead! This summer, we have enjoyed special music gifted by many talented LMLC musicians, and soon the choir will be coming back, too! On August 27 from 10-2:30, we will have a Choir Retreat with rehearsal and fellowship to look ahead at the wide range of wonderful music we're singing over the next few months. Brand new binders, beautiful new anthems, and a practice playlist for our fantastic choir members will give us a fresh start. We are excited to have Daniel Taylor accompany us at the piano and organ, and to have the dulcet tones of

mezzo-soprano Jillian Donahue, as the first ever recipient of the Tom Greenwood Wilson Voice Scholarship! October 30th hails in the joyful sounds of brass and organ, as well as the combined choirs of LMLC, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, and other congregations in the area. Stay tuned for other opportunities to hear beautiful music at LMLC- if you are interested in singing with the choir or sharing your own musical gifts, please contact Amy Cowan at choir@lmlc.org.

From Daniel Taylor, Worship Accompanist

Greetings Friends!

Let me just start out by saying, what a joy it has been to be welcomed into the community of Christ here at Luther Memorial! From the moment I stepped in the door several weeks ago, I knew this was going to be a wonderful church home. I grew up in the United Methodist Church, but have been an accompanist for an ELCA congregation for over 3 years now. It is very different, having much more music and liturgy than the traditional United Methodist service. But I found myself falling in love with it quickly.



One thing that drew me to this congregation was that LMLC is living out its Reconciling in Christ affirmation. This may not be important to some people, but it was a beacon to me. It was somewhere I could go to worship Christ, and be unapologetically me.

God always puts us where we need to be. I thank our gracious creator for leading me here to this wonderful congregation. I look forward to continuing to serve this wonderful congregation.

In Christ's Love,

Daniel Taylor
Worship Accompanist





Social Ministries



New Exciting Program - Micah's Closet

The Social Ministry Committee is pleased to announce a new ministry opportunity called **Micah's Closet**. This program, started at St. Michaels Lutheran Church, buys a new set of fall and spring clothes for children who are in need at Prices Fork Elementary. We plan on adopting 20 children at Eastern Montgomery Elementary to expand the program. Micah's Closet works closely with the school staff and social workers to provide new clothing for identified children. The school staff or the social worker selects the children who need clothes and provides the sizes. We never know who we are helping to protect the child.

We are asking for money to help buy the clothes for the children this fall. It cost about \$185 to provide a child with one week's worth of clothes. This includes 2 pairs of pants, 3 pair of shorts, 7 shirts, 5-10 pairs of underwear, a light jacket, and 1 pair of PJs. We need to raise \$3700 to sponsor the 20 children. We need your help for this worthy project. Donations can be made for Micah's Closet for **August Change for Change**, mailed to the church office or placed in the offering. Please note Micah's Closet on the memo line of your donation. Again, we would like to thank our fellow church members for all your support for the Social Ministry projects!

Donate School Supplies for Eastern Montgomery Elementary



The Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship churches are collecting school supplies for the students at Eastern Montgomery Elementary in Elliston. All Fellowship friends are invited to bring their donations and gather at a Potluck Supper on Sunday, August 14 at 4:30 pm at St Michael Lutheran. We will 'bless the backpacks' and the donations during a Taizé worship service. You can find the Supply Donation list [here](#).

If you cannot attend the potluck event, ***please do not leave your donations in the LMLC Narthex or other areas***; you may drop off your donations of school supplies at St Michael Lutheran Church,

2308 Merrimac Road, between 9-noon on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Stock the Pantries in August!



Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

The preferred donations for this month are **Canned Chicken or Canned Tuna** – these items provide protein for a filling meal.

Micah's Mini Pantry

The preferred donations for this month are **Peanut Butter & Jelly and/or Juice boxes**. Plastic containers are preferred.





God's work. Our hands.

During the month of July, your generous donations made the following assistance possible to friends in our community:

- \$500 in Kroger cards for medicine, gas and food to persons in need
- 142 pounds of food donated to Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry & Micah's Mini-Pantry
- Nearly \$800 collected for Change for Change, to benefit Northside Presbyterian's Free Meals program
- Incontinence products donated to the Women's Resource Center and Food Pantry
- A donation of feminine hygiene products was delivered to the Women's Resource Center in Radford.

Note: Visits to our Micah's Mini-Pantry have substantially increased due to the effects of inflation; please pick up your copy of the Pantry Donation Calendar in the Narthex (or [click here to access it online](#)) and help us feed God's hungry people! Thank you!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 1 - Philip & Jan Gilbertson

August 4 - Seth & Alison Knight

August 5 - Ed & Wava Vigen

August 10 - Bill & Gail King

August 12 - David & Elizabeth Grant

August 22 - Randy & Barb Shifflett

August 26 - Andy & Mary Hansbrough



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

- Thanks to Ed Vigen and Glenn Buss for cleaning up the Christian Education rooms in preparation for new flooring that will be installed this month while the Little Hokie Hangout is on a break. Thanks to Marcia Barrow for procuring the paint/supplies for the rooms to be painted. Thanks also to our dedicated Property team for their help and effort to reinstall a new system to hang our liturgical banners in the Sanctuary, and for their general assistance with all of the many maintenance tasks at Luther Memorial. We always welcome new volunteers to help the Property team: please contact Ed Vigen for more info.
- Thanks to Nancy & Bruce Prichard for weeding the Chapel Garden and other spaces!
- Thanks to Mark Freeman, Mary Hansbrough & Sandy Hagman for taking stock of our Micah's Mini-Pantry and revising the Pantry Donation calendar.
- Thanks to our Magdalene Ministry team for faithfully visiting our homebound members and bringing them holy communion.
- Thanks to Marjean Anthony for her generous donation of seed money to establish the new Lay Ministry Fund
- Thanks to all who have participated in Thursday Noon Summer chapel as attendees and leaders
- Thanks to folks who assisted in setting up Outdoor Worship on July 24, in the extreme heat!
- Thanks to everyone who continues to faithfully support our food donations to the Food Pantry and Mini-Pantry
- Thanks to members who donate Altar Flowers, and to Stonecrop Farms, our fantastic florist! If you'd like to sign up to donate flowers, contact the church office.



8/4 - Elena Oosterhuis
8/7 - Harper Kennedy
8/9 - Mary K. Smith
8/10 - Jennifer Freeman
8/10 - Konrad Kubin
8/13 - Glen Earthman
8/13 - Elizabeth Grant
8/16 - Mark Pierson
8/17 - Zelma Harris
8/20 - Don Marickovich
8/21 - Melissa Knocke
8/25 - Pastor Monica Weber
8/26 - Marcia Barrow



The Well Campus Ministry

Greetings in Christ!

A new semester at Tech is just around the corner and I am pleased to share with you that plans for the 2022-2023 school year are underway! Students return to campus on August 15th and classes begin on August 22nd.

Our outstanding planning team has put together some excellent opportunities for students this Fall for fun, fellowship, worship and public ministry. Our focus this year will be on community service with projects supporting Micah's Closet and Micah's Backpack, among other projects serving the community of Blacksburg. Please check out our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for upcoming events and fellowship opportunities.



COVID-19 is still very much a part of our reality, and we are sadly still limited in our ability to host meals indoors. However, we will be throwing a welcome cookout in our picnic area on August 24th and students will be encouraged to join LMLC for the outdoor worship and pig pickin' scheduled for August 28. If you are interested in supporting an incoming student this year, please sign up for our Sponsor-A-Student program either online ([click here](#)) or on a paper sign up available in the fellowship hall.

We are happy to show off our beautiful new logo, incorporating the RIC colors and reflecting our commitment to inclusive and expansive community. Thank you so much for your continued support of our ministry!

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Libby Pfaff*



August 2022 Service Participants

August 7th

Ushers: Glenn Buss, Charlie Harris
Lector: Carolyn Howard
Tellers: Rick Howard, Tim Larson
Council Point Person: John Anstrom
Communion Assistants: Rachel Larson, Marcia Barrow

August 14th

Ushers: Diane Catley, Marcia Barrow
Lector: Bill King
Tellers: Mark Barrow, Teresa Cassell
Council Point Person: Linda Libey
Communion Assistants:

August 21st

Ushers: Carol Papillon, Jennifer Freeman
Lector: Zelma Harris
Tellers: Marty Oosterhuis, Carla Liversedge
Council Point Person: Jay Crone
Communion Assistants:

August 28th

Ushers: Don Holmstrom, Diane Catley
Lector: Gail King
Tellers: Tim Larson, Teresa Cassell
Council Point Person: Gail King
Communion Assistants:



Resources

Here are a few resources to help guide you as you continue your faith journey!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	https://elca.org/
Virginia Synod ELCA	https://vasynod.org/
Reconciling in Christ	https://www.reconcilingworks.org/
Living Lutheran Magazine	https://www.livinglutheran.org/
ELCA Daily Bible Readings	https://elca.org/Faith/DailyBible/
Luther Seminary God Pause Daily Devotion	https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/



The Luther Memorial Lutheran Church newsletter is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to luther@lmlc.org. Deadline for the September 2022 issue is August 26th. Please [contact the church office](#) with any questions.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



*A community committed to making Christ's disciples,
dedicated to worship, study, and prayer while serving all in need.*
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
A Reconciling in Christ Community

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Marcia Barrow, Office Manager
Pastor Libby Pfaff, The Well Campus Ministry Coordinator
Amy Cowan, Choir Director
Daniel Taylor, Worship Accompanist
Michael Spencer, Sexton