



The Luther Memorial News - August 2023

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

All Are Welcome!

A Word from Pastor Monica



For the first time in many years, LMLC does not have a campus pastor on staff to welcome Virginia Tech students to The Well campus ministry. Ministry to Tech students is the founding mission of Luther Memorial, and we continue that legacy even as we pay attention to the work of God's Spirit to re-create The Well with new leadership and vision. We trust the Spirit to lead us into a new era for The Well, and to provide an enthusiastic, energetic campus pastor who is excited about student ministry.

I'm grateful to the new Well Advisory Board for their work to revision and rebuild The Well in light of the COVID pandemic's effect on campus life, and in particular the new challenges that face college students. Please hold the Well Advisory Board members in prayer: Bennet Cassell; Jay Crone; Rachel Larson; Mark Hustedt; and Jody Smiley.

Fruitful campus ministry is based on relationships, and without a campus pastor this semester, it is imperative that every LMLC member step up to welcome students who visit us for worship, fellowship, service and study. The Well will be represented at GobblerFest on September 1st; we will also invite students to attend Well fellowship activities. I will be present with Well students as my schedule allows, to let them know that my door is always open to them, if they need a listening ear or a word of grace.

It's more important than ever that the members of LMLC make an effort to greet students in worship, invite them to participate in Well events, and engage with Well students to cultivate the trusted friendships that young people need. We follow Jesus who says in Matthew 25:35, ***"For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me."***

May our Creator God bless all Virginia Tech students, faculty, and staff as a new semester begins; may God bless our efforts to meet students where they are, and may God bless The Well Campus Ministry as it evolves and flourishes.

Peace to all here, *Pastor Monica*





From the Luther Memorial Office



Birthday Fellowship Volunteers Needed!

The Congregation Care Committee would like you to consider hosting a birthday fellowship. Generally, these are scheduled for the first Sunday of each month (this month it takes place on August 20th). Your responsibilities would include providing some light refreshments for our members and visitors to enjoy after the service. Including low-sugar and gluten-free options would benefit our members and friends. Please [let Marcia know](#) which month you can host!

Men's Bible Study Resumes August 31st!

The Thursday morning 8 am Men's Bible Study is on hiatus for the summer, and will resume on Thursday, August 31st. Please [contact John Hess](#) if you have any questions.

Join us for Faith & Life Class on Thursdays at 10 am

We gather in the church Fellowship Hall TV Lounge from 10:00 to 11:00 am on Thursdays. Our procedure is to watch a half-hour video lecture with ensuing discussion. Dr. Mark Berkson of Hamline University (Methodist, St. Paul, MN) provides expert lectures and a study guide concerning "Death, Dying and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures". What might seem to be a grim topic is treated with appropriate gentle humor and wisdom. The first eight lectures assess key definitions, concepts and values while covering topics ranging from "Death's Place in Our Lives" to "American Death Rituals." The next 12 lectures range worldwide from Christianity to Judaism, Islam and other world religions and related cultures. It is an exciting topic dealing with a fundamental reality of life we try to ignore. Join us! [Contact Phil Jordan](#) with questions.

Help Us Create our LMLC Community Board!

- Please send a digital photograph of you/ your family to Carol Reynolds at carolreynolds691@gmail.com.
- If you have a physical photo that you'd like scanned first, please leave that in Carol Reynolds' box.
- Please write the names of your family members/ your name in the email or on the back of the physical photo.
- We will place photos as we can. We'd love to have 100% participation. Please let us know if you need a photograph taken.

The Congregational Care Committee

Chapel Garden Opens Year-Round

Our Chapel Garden, adjacent to the LMLC Chapel and columbarium, is now open year-round; the door is unlocked so you may enter the garden and meditate any time. Nancy & Bruce Prichard have landscaped the space and added beautiful flowering plants to enhance the space. Take time to spend a quiet moment in reflection and gratitude.





Upcoming Events

Summer Outdoor Worship at LMLC

Back by popular demand, we will worship outdoors (weather permitting) on August 6th, at 10 am in the lower parking lot, under the shade. Make sure to bring your own lunch, water bottle, and chair for the lunch picnic after the service. We invite you to worship outdoors, eat together, and catch up about everyone's summer. We will notify the congregation by email on Saturday afternoon if forecasted bad weather moves our worship indoors.



Healing Hearts Grief Support Group

If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, whether the loss happened last month or years ago, please join the Healing Hearts support group at Luther Memorial. ***Our next meeting is on Thursday, August 17, 2023, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and will last one hour.***

Pastor Monica will open the session with a devotion that speaks to the human struggle with grief, then invite attendees to check in, share feelings and struggles, and pray together. All are welcome, and we encourage you to attend even if you would prefer not to share at this time. Feel free to bring a lunch! You are not alone in your grief journey: we walk with you, and so does Christ Jesus. ***For more info, [please contact Pastor Monica](#).***



Confirmation Class Resumes August 20th!



Year 1 & 2 confirmands will meet on Sunday, August 20 at 4 pm in the LMLC Fellowship Hall. We're excited that we have 12 students this Fall, from LMLC, St. Michael, Our Saviour and the Peace & Hope faith communities. Please bring your CoLabOrate workbooks and student Bibles to class. An info email with the class schedule (also available on the [LMLC calendar](#)), covenant and other items was emailed to parents in mid-July. Each month the class meets for a lesson from 4-5pm; dinner 5-5:30pm; and a second lesson from 5:30-6:30pm. Thanks to the Cruikshank family for hosting dinner in August! For more info, [please email Pastor Monica](#).

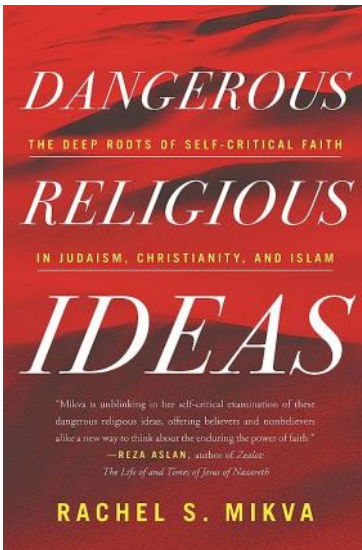
Bless The Backpacks & Youth-Led Music Sunday on August 20th!

On Sunday, August 20, we will bless backpacks during the 10 am worship service. Whether you're a student, teacher, professor, staff or a lifelong learner, bring your backpack to church for this special blessing. The young people of LMLC will lead our worship music for this service; please attend worship and show your support! Thanks to Amy Cowan for coordinating this event.





Upcoming Events



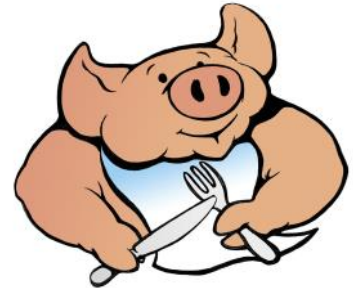
Book Discussion Sunday, August 6th at 4 pm

Our Blacksburg area book discussions promoting interfaith understanding continue on Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 4 pm. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 1301 Gladewood Drive in Blacksburg.

Stay tuned for additional book discussions on this book and others, as we continue to seek understanding of how monotheisms grew from a common root and how the respective belief systems differentiated historically and philosophically. Currently we are discussing [*Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*](#) by Rachel Mikva; we will discuss Chapters 5 and 6 on August 6th. All are invited to participate; if you need assistance purchasing this book please [contact Pastor Monica](#).

Annual Pig Pickin' Returns September 10th!

Join us for worship at 10 am on September 10, God's Work/Our Hands Sunday, and plan to stay for lunch and our annual Pig Pickin' barbecue. We will have pulled pork and sides available for you to eat. We plan to picnic outside. Bring your silverware and water bottle and come and enjoy the food and fellowship! Thanks to Grillmeister Danny Knott for again cooking the pig!



Luther Forum Resumes September 10th!

The Luther Forum, an adult faith formation group, will resume meeting Sunday, September 10, 8:45 a.m., in the Lutheran Campus Center. The Forum is intended to be a place where adults grow in knowledge and reflect on their own faith journeys. The group uses a common reading as the jumping off point for discussion. The fall focus of the Forum will be ***Amazing Grace: A***

Vocabulary of Faith, by Kathleen Norris. Norris is a poet, essayist, and memoirist who writes eloquently of her faith journey. She invites her readers to engage with her in reimagining what familiar theological words might mean in a new day. The forum is open to all and persons may also participate via Zoom. Participants are responsible for obtaining the book, but if doing so presents a hardship please contact Bill King at luthercm@gmail.com. You may also contact him if you have any questions or would like to receive a Zoom invitation.



Mark Your Calendars!

- ⇒ September 2 - Hokies vs. Old Dominion at Home; Well Football parking (signup link p. 7)
- ⇒ September 10 - Adult Luther Forum SS class resumes (see above for more info!)
- ⇒ September 9 - Hokies vs. Purdue at Home; Well Football parking (signup link p. 7)
- ⇒ September 10 - God's Work/Our Hands Sunday & Pig Pickin'



August 2023 Calendar Highlights

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

Thursday, August 3	10 am Faith & Life Class
August 3 - 7	Pastor Monica Continuing Education
Sunday, August 6 10 am	10th Sunday after Pentecost Summer Outdoor Worship Service w/ Holy Communion; Fellowship following
Thursday, August 10	10 am Faith & Life Class
Sunday, August 13 10 am	11th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Thursday, August 17 10 am 11:30 am	Faith & Life Class Healing Hearts Support Group
Sunday, August 20 10 am 11 am 11 am 4 pm	12th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Monthly Birthday Fellowship Choir Lunch and Workshop Confirmation Class
Thursday, August 24	10 am Faith & Life Class
Sunday, August 27 9:30 am 10 am 11:30 am	13th Sunday after Pentecost Choir Rehearsal Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Church Council Meeting w/ Finance Committee
Monday, August 28 7 pm via Zoom	Beyond Thoughts & Prayers: A Commemoration of Moses the Black
Thursday, August 31 8 am 10 am	Men's Bible Study Faith & Life Class

Pray for teachers, school staff and administrators in public and faith-based schools as they prepare for a new academic year.

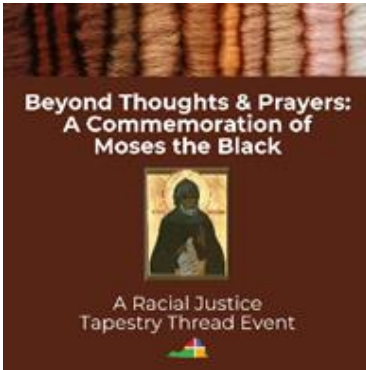
Give thanks that they have chosen a vocation of service, education and care for children and youth of all backgrounds and abilities.





Synod News

Beyond Thoughts & Prayers: A Commemoration of Moses the Black **August 28 – 7pm – Zoom**



Moses the Black lived in the 4th century. He was, before his conversion, known as a robber and scoundrel. He was considered a worthless blight in his society. Hiding from local authorities, Moses appealed to Scetis monks to give him sanctuary. Observing their peace, contentment, and faith practice, Moses was baptized and became a dedicated member of their monastic community. Moses the Black became an example of faith through his actions even beyond peers and elders. His faith inspired his martyrdom, which saved his community. Moses the Black is commemorated for his life of faith on August 28th. To coincide with his commemoration, Tapestry invites you on August 28th at 7:00 pm to join in brainstorming initiatives for our

congregations, conferences, and synod that may support our communities with actions of faith beyond sympathies of thoughts and prayer. There have been 248 tragedies characterized as mass shootings in 2023. Sympathies for the victims and their families have been expressed by a call for our thoughts and prayers. [Click here to sign up.](#)

This Year Marks the 10th Anniversary of “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday!



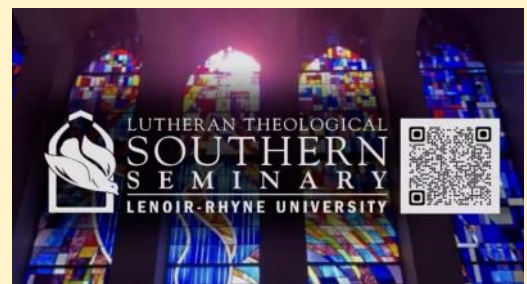
On **Sunday, September 10**, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service. “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday began in 2013 in connection with the ELCA’s 25th anniversary. It continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

[Old Lutheran](#) has T-shirts and other items available for purchase. **The deadline for ordering personalized T-Shirts for Luther Memorial is August 18.**

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community a better place. **Join us in celebrating 10 years on Sept. 10! See page 11 for information on Luther Memorial’s activities for “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday!**

Greetings from Luther Theological Southern Seminary!

[In this video](#), the Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer, Rector and Dean at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS), brings greetings to the Virginia Synod and shares some exciting stories about LTSS.



Virginia Synod Bishop Installation on October 21st

Save the date for the Virginia Synod’s Bishop Installation on Saturday, October 21. The installation will be at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro at 1:00 pm.



The Well Campus Ministry Update

Help Us Welcome The Well Students!



Classes resume at Virginia Tech on Monday, August 21, and we are excited to welcome returning Tech students as well as new friends who may be interested in participating in The Well activities. Please greet students you see in worship and invite them to pick up a new Well lanyard for their keys and ID. There is a new Well flier available on the Usher table with a QR code, so students can quickly scan to learn details about upcoming Well events. Welcoming guests to worship is the responsibility of every LMLC member, so please don't be shy: offer a smile, a word of welcome and spend a few moments to chat with our worship guests.

The Well Football Parking Needs Volunteers!

The Hokies play Old Dominion at home on Saturday, September 2, and Purdue at home on Saturday, September 9. Please volunteer for a two-hour shift to assist with parking cars on the LMLC property for these two home games. All funds raised from the football parking effort support the campus ministry efforts of The Well Campus Ministry, a primary mission of Luther Memorial. Plus, it's a great way to connect with congregational members, out-of-town guests and Well alumni! Training will be provided if you haven't done it in the past. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Papillon at carolpapillon@gmail.com or 540-267-4601.

Please sign up [here](#) for a shift and pencil in future dates for fall football games on your calendar.



September 2, 8 p.m., vs Old Dominion
September 9, noon, vs Purdue
September 30, TBD, vs Pittsburgh
October 14, TBD, vs Wake Forest
October 26, 7:30 p.m., vs Syracuse
November 18, TBD, vs NC State

Call for Campus Ministry Volunteers

The Board of The Well campus ministry organization is again asking for volunteers for the rapidly approaching Fall Semester. As a reminder, we currently have no staff professionals to meet this core responsibility for ministry at LMLC. It falls to the members of LMLC to fill these roles for the near future. Please seriously consider offering your talents for this short term, but vital ministry effort by responding to Pastor Monica, the church office, or Rachel Larson, Jay Crone, or Bennet Cassell.

[Click here for more information](#)



Music at Luther Memorial

From Amy Cowan, Choir Director



We'll close out summer with some lovely music from our talented in-house musicians, including a Youth-Led Music Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks on August 20th! Come hear some of our youngest musicians lead the music during worship as they did beautifully last January. After service, we will have our second annual Choir Workshop (known casually as "Singapalooza") from 11am-2pm. Lunch will be provided for the choir and we will enjoy an extended rehearsal period to study upcoming anthems. Choir will resume singing anthems on August 27 and will rehearse on Sundays after worship unless the Council meets, in which case we will rehearse on the next Wednesday evening.

We also look forward to welcoming our Tom Wilson Voice Scholar, Ryan Bennett! For more information about the choir schedule, or to RSVP for the August 20 Choir Workshop if not already on the choir email list, please reach out to choir@lmlc.org! 🎵

Thomas Greenwood Wilson Endowed Voice Scholarship recipient for 2023-2024

Our Thomas Greenwood Wilson Endowed Voice Scholarship Recipient for 2023-2024 is Ryan Bennett!

Originally from Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Ryan studied at Roanoke College in Salem, VA, earning a Bachelors of Arts in music with a concentration in vocal performance in May 2022.

Ryan, 23 years old, is currently attending Radford University, and is pursuing a Masters of Arts degree in the music therapy department. Prior to starting course work, Ryan was working part-time and also participating as an active member of various choir ensembles directed by Dr. Meredith Bowen at Radford University. He also performed supporting roles in Radford's opera production of Venus and Adonis under the direction of Dr. Denise Bernardini.



Visitors from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

We give thanks to the youth, adults and congregation of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansdale, PA, who recently spent the night in our Campus Center, en route to Dickson Co VA to work with Appalachian Service Projects. The youth and their chaperones joined us for worship, and presented LMLC with a \$300 donation. Thanks be to God for their service and generosity.

June 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Unfinished Business

Financials - The council packet included April and May financial reports. Discussion involved the issue that Non-pledged and Plate offerings are down. Pledged offerings are relatively current. The council discussed methods to improve the ways people can give electronically, specifically in person with QR codes. This is the more current way people donate instead of cash or check. Pastor Monica would work with Marcia to put something in the bulletin and with Carol Webster to put the option online. Stewardship would send out a letter encouraging people to stay current with donations and a reminder of all the methods to access electronic giving.

Property Update - Pastor Monica said the new keypad has been installed on The Well door. Anyone needing the combination code can call the office for the information. Karl mentioned that there is a crack in the toilet in the men's upstairs bathroom. Monica said she would pass the information on to Ray.

The Well Campus Ministry Call Process and Volunteers for the Fall 2023 –The Well Board members are: Ben-net Cassell, Jay Crone, and Rachel Larson from LMLC, Jody Smiley from St Michael, and Mark Hustedt, a Well alumnus. The Board has begun meeting and they are setting goals for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. Carolyn asked that they bring their ideas to the council before the August Council meeting.

The Alcohol Policy – After council developed an alcohol statement for football parking, a member of the congregation is still concerned that the church is promoting alcohol consumption by this statement. Also of concern was the liability the church might have. The council agreed to have an attorney review the policy statement for possible liability issues. Once we have his legal opinion, the wording of the statement may or may not be edited.

Potential Pastoral Intern for 2024 – There is nothing to report at this time, but hopefully by the August Council meeting there will be more to report.

New Business

2024 Ministry Funding Plan Drafts are due September 15 – Carolyn will send out a reminder letter.

Potential New Electronic Sign – Based on the member feedback of the new electronic sign at The Church on The Main, council requested that Carolyn follow up to get information on the costs to replace our sign. Everyone agreed this would be a great benefit for posting services and other activities at the church.

Rainbow Connection Update – Pastor Monica is planning to meet with the people who run the South Paw Café after her vacation. They have offered a possible space for the Rainbow Connection meetings.

Update on Media Consultant – Carol Webster is retiring. Her last day will be September 30 and the last work she will do with us will be the October Newsletter. Therefore, the congregation will need to hire one or two people for the website revisions, social media posts, and publicity. Carol has offered to put together a list of everything she does and help generate position description(s).

Chapel Garden Request – Bruce and Nancy Pritchard have done a great deal of work to get the chapel garden in better condition. Bruce is requesting we consider opening the garden for people to enjoy and add a bench. The council thought this was a great idea. Monica said Marcia could unlock it and we would investigate options for a bench.

Council Meeting for July – The council voted to not have an in-person July meeting. Any business which comes up prior to the August meeting will be done electronically.

Council Roundtable

Pastor Monica closed the meeting with prayer.



Elena Oosterhuis	August 4
Harper Kennedy	August 7
Jennifer Freeman	August 10
Konrad Kubin	August 10
Elizabeth Grant	August 13
Mark Pierson	August 16
Zelma Harris	August 17
Don Marickovich	August 20
Melissa Knocke	August 21
Pastor Monica Weber	August 25
Marcia Barrow	August 26

Philip & Jan Gilbertson	August 1
Seth & Alison Knight	August 4
Ed & Wava Vigen	August 5
Bill & Gail King	August 10
David & Elizabeth Grant	August 12
Brian Thorsett & Amy Cowan	August 18
Randy & Barb Shifflett	August 22
Andy & Mary Hansbrough	August 26



August 2023 Worship Assistants

August	6th	13th	20th	27th
OUTDOORS				
Greeters/ Ushers	Rick Howard Jennifer Freeman	Marcia Barrow Charlie Harris	Carol Reynolds Marti Larson	Carol Papillon Glenn Buss
Lector	Gail King	Zelma Harris	Andy Hansbrough	Linda Libey
Tellers	Mark Barrow Marty Oosterhuis	Carla Liversedge Phil Jordan	Tim Larson Teresa Cassell	Phil Jordan Marty Oosterhuis
Comm. Asst.	N/A	Karl Pedersen Kathy Parrott	Marcia Barrow Gail King	Diane Catley Aaron Conklin
Council Point	Aaron Conklin	Elaine Belay	Carla Liversedge	Carolyn Howard
Acolyte	N/A	Willa Cruikshank	Gavin Conklin	Matthew Thorsett





Social Ministries



God's work. Our hands.

Thanks to your generous donations and support, LMLC provided the following resources to people in need during the summer:

- \$1000 donation to pay rent for Southpaw Cafe, a safe space for LGBTQIA+ friends and allies in downtown Blacksburg - For more information on how to support Southpaw Cafe, [visit the website](#).
- \$350 in Kroger cards donated to persons for medicine, gas, groceries
- \$500 toward new tires and pre-paid phone cards
- \$854.02 for June's Change for Change program - Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP)
- \$1,076.00 (through 7/27/23) for July's Change for Change program - Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry
- 50 pounds of food was collected for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry
- 45 pounds of food and supplies collected for Micah's Mini Pantry

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday Marks 10 Years

Women's Resource Center
of the New River Valley



ELCA Lutherans have been participating in God's Work, Our Hands, the national day of service to community, for 10 years! GWOH Sunday is September 10th, and once again we will collect items for the [Women's Resource Center](#) in Radford, the NRV-area's safe shelter for victims of domestic violence and abuse. Please bring your WRC donations to church and place them in the box in the Narthex; we will bless all donations in worship on Sept 10; donations will be delivered to the WRC on Sept 11.

Please donate these items for the Women's Resource Center on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Eye masks and Ear Plugs (for sleep in the WRC shelter).

Women's Resource Center: Urgent Need for Your Old Smart Phone

The Women's Resource Center in Radford provides recycled smart phones to clients for emergency 911 calls. Any phone that uses 3G technology is no longer supported by NRV phone service providers. If you have an old cell phone that is not 3G and you would like to donate it to WRC, please wipe all data from the phone (factory reset) and place in the basket in the narthex.



Social Ministries August

August Change for Change - HARI House



Holistic Addictions Recovery (HAR) is a non-profit recovery community organization located in the New River Valley, dedicated to reducing harms associated with substance misuse. HAR opened its first recovery home during the pandemic and is currently working to open a second home. Funds donated to HAR directly aid the support of their mission, offering a cooperative and supportive environment that is alcohol and drug free. Please consider supporting HARI House by making a donation to Change for Change during the month of August.

Help Stock the Pantries in August!

Please pick up your copy of the 2023 Pantry Donation Calendar in the Narthex or [click here to access it online](#), and help us feed God's hungry people! Thank you! **NOTE:** Please remember to put items for the Food Pantry in the blue wagon and items for Micah's Mini Pantry on the black rolling service cart. Thank you.

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

The preferred donations for the month of August are Canned Chicken, Tuna, or Beef Stew – Provides protein for a filling meal.



Micah's Mini Pantry

The preferred donations for the month of August are **Peanut Butter & Jelly, Juice boxes** – Plastic Containers are preferred.

Help feed the hungry!

Change for Change Calendar 2023

January – Refugee Resettlement - Wava Vigen
February – Northside Presbyterian Feeding Program – Anne Devenport
March – Micah's Closet – Teresa Cassell/ Elaine Belay
April – NRV Cares - Leah Wechtaluk McFarren
May – Reconciling Works – Lois Voss
June – Montgomery County Emergency Assistant Program - Elaine Belay

July – Food Pantry – Sandy Hagman
August – Holistic Addictions Recovery - Anne Devenport
September – Women's Resource Center – Pastor Monica
October – To Our House - Wava Vigen
November – Christmas Outreach VICCC - Teresa Cassell
December – Montgomery County VA Baby Shop – Sandy Hagman



We offer deep gratitude to these volunteers for their participation in our ministries and congregational life:

- Bruce & Nancy Prichard for weeding landscaped beds on the LMLC property, and for the beautiful new teak bench placed in the Chapel garden!
- Gail King for weeding the hillside landscaped bed with flowers.
- To everyone who helped set up for Outdoor Worship on July 2!
- To our faithful Mowing Crew Volunteers who make our grounds look beautiful!
- To Alan Smeal for watering LMLC plants and helping Pr Monica unlock on Sundays
- To the new Well Advisory Board: Bennet Cassell, Jay Crone, Rachel Larson, Jody Smiley, Mark Hustedt, for their time and effort to discern the future direction of The Well Campus Ministry. Thanks also to everyone who has stepped up to volunteer to assist with Well events this new semester, in the absence of a Well campus pastor.
- Thanks to all Worship Assistants!
- Thanks to Mary Hansbrough and Mark Freeman for monitoring Micah's Mini-Pantry and restocking it!

From the Virginia Synod World Hunger Team

Keeping with Christ's commandment to love one another, the Virginia Synod World Hunger Team's mission is to educate, facilitate, and encourage congregations to engage in aspects of hunger and poverty elimination both domestic and international. The team wants to emphasize months or days during the year that have connections to hunger issues. In August, World Breast Feeding Week is August 1-7. Indigenous People Day is celebrated on August 9th. This month, the focus is on World Humanitarian Day, observed on August 19th. This is a day to lift up and celebrate the volunteers who do so much to make our world a better place. Around the world and here at home people are getting their hands dirty and going the extra mile for the sake of God's people. God's Work, Our Hands is a familiar slogan of the ELCA. Volunteers in our communities are often the forgotten servants. Many of the same people volunteer repeatedly to do the work that needs to be done. This month, the Virginia Synod Hunger Team, encourages congregations to recognize volunteers in the congregation and the greater community.



Prayer: Good and gracious God, we give thanks for the hands and hearts that are your presence in our world. We praise you for the gift of willing people who volunteer in so many places doing so many tasks. Grant these volunteers perseverance, good health, and the strength to continue your work in the world.

How to Donate to Luther Memorial



In addition to cash and check, we have more options now available to donate to Luther Memorial. You may donate via PayPal by using the button on the [home page of our website](#) or [using this link](#).

Luther Memorial also now has a Venmo account. Venmo is a digital app that transfers funds from your bank account to any other Venmo account that you designate. Venmo is a subsidiary of PayPal, and offers instant, secure transfers of funds to



organizations, businesses and individuals. LMLC's Venmo address is: [@lmlc_org](#). To set up your Venmo account, download the Venmo app onto your smart phone or computer, create your Venmo ID and follow the steps to link your bank account. Transactions are easy to do, and you can set up automatic monthly payments. For more information, [contact the church office](#).



The Social Ministry Committee would like to make you aware of free help available at [www.smartrecovery.org](#). SMART Recovery is a fresh approach to addiction recovery, helping more than one million people each year – including individuals working to recover, and the family members of loved ones who need help. SMART Recovery hosts confidential, anonymous online and in-person meetings around the world. You can find 24/7 support through online meetings, chat and forums at [www.smartrecovery.org/community](#). You can also find specialized meetings and resources for a variety of communities, including Family & Friends, veterans and first responders, women, LGBTQ+ and more. *The Social Ministry Committee would also like to remind you that Pastor Monica is a certified Spiritual Director and is available to help you.*



International Youth Day

On *International Youth Day*, join siblings in Christ around the world in praying for young people, giving thanks for their gifts and contributions, and lifting up their concerns and suffering.





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 2023 issue is August 28th.** 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***

600 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060
Phone: (540) 951-1000
Office e-mail: luther@lmlc.org
Website: www.lmlc.org

Reverend Monica L. Weber, Pastor
Marcia Barrow, Office Manager
Amy Cowan, Choir Director
Jay Crone, Accompanist
Michael Spencer, Sexton