



# The Luther Memorial News - February 2023

## A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

### All Are Welcome!

### A Word from Pastor Monica



This month we celebrate human love as a reflection of God's perfect love; Pastor Monica shares the wisdom of Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, from her book *Fierce Love*.

Rev. Dr. Lewis writes: "In my faith tradition we talk about speaking the truth—in love. As a clergy person, I have many truth-telling strategies. Sometimes I'm gentle, needing to take good care of the one who is listening. Sometimes I've got my fists in the air while marching for the truth, for justice and liberation. Always my intention is to free up the energy that's caught in the story, to liberate myself and the other with whom I'm in relationship to find a way forward. Can we win this action? Will the politician change policy or give in to demands? Will the congregant or colleague hear my point of view, and can I hear theirs? Can I change the story in the public square in a compelling way and open eyes, hearts, and minds to new worldviews? Will [my husband] John and I become stronger because of this difficult talk? Telling the truth is an act of love, an act of resistance, an act of courage. Its end is liberation, freedom, and, if possible, reconciliation. But there can be no reconciliation without truth....

"I believe truth is revolutionary; it's part of the work of fierce love. Truth makes a personal, spiritual, ethical, and moral demand upon us. It wants to be said, known, told. It hurts and it's inconvenient, but it's essential to our well-being. It cleanses our spiritual palate and restores our souls. Truth is a drink of water to a parched traveler. It lubricates relationships. It liberates us from bondage. It builds trust and connections. It's the beginning of authentic living and joy. Truth eludes us at times, and we have to pursue it. Truth invites us to be honest about who we are, about our flawed-but-beautiful, broken-but-healing selves. Truth leads to reconciliation and peace; without truth, there is no peace. In the light of truth, we are able to honor our journey and love ourselves. Truth-telling is a spiritual discipline that requires practice. We must not lie to others and, as Fyodor Dostoevsky suggested, we mustn't lie to ourselves. Being honest with ourselves about ourselves is to love ourselves unconditionally, to love ourselves fiercely."\*\*

Beloved LMLC friends in Christ, let us always speak God's truth in love, loving our neighbor and ourselves fiercely, that we may mirror for each other the unconditional love of Jesus in everything we do. —Peace to all here, Pastor Monica

Peace to all here, *Pastor Monica*

\*\**Jacqui Lewis, Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal the World (New York: Harmony Books, 2021)*



# From the Luther Memorial Office

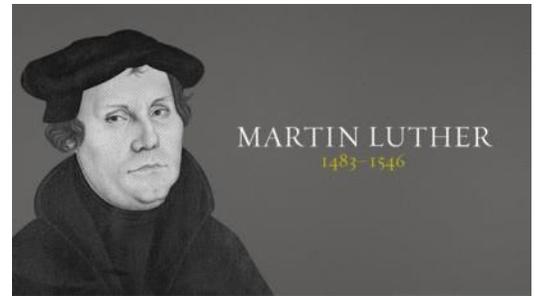
## Sign Up to Host Birthday Fellowship!



On the first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the birthdays of our members born in that month. If you would like to host Birthday Fellowship after Sunday worship, please [contact Marcia Barrow](#) in the church office. Hosts are asked to provide food options for persons who are diabetic, vegetarian, and gluten/dairy-free. Instead of the Bunn coffee machine, we will use the church's regular coffee makers, plus an electric kettle for hot water/hot tea. Please use the paper goods stocked in the church kitchen, and notify Marcia if an item needs to be restocked. **Thanks to Jennifer & Mark Freeman for hosting this month!**

## Luther Forum Information

The Luther Forum meets every Sunday at 8:45 am in the Lutheran Campus Center. The forum is using *On Earth As In Heaven: Daily Wisdom for Twenty-First Century Christians*, by N. T. Wright, as its discussion springboard. Wright is one of the most influential Biblical scholars of the past fifty years. *On Earth As In Heaven* is a compilation of excerpts from his many books, edited and organized around the church year. Readings are short enough to be used as daily devotions and the class will focus on the assigned readings for a week - [you may download a copy of the calendar here](#).



The class meets in person, but anyone is also welcome to participate via Zoom [using this link](#). If you need to call in use this number: +1 646 931 3860. Please [contact Bill King](#) if you have any questions.

## Consider sponsoring the Altar flowers!



You can honor or memorialize a special person or event, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or sponsor just because. Stonecrop Farms provides all of our flowers and the charge is \$45; the office will invoice you. You are encouraged to take your flowers home following worship service. The 2023 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and Narthex. Pick your date and note any dedications you would like. Thank you!

## New Page on the Luther Memorial Website!



We are excited to announce a new Resources Page on our website! This page is intended to be a resource for those who are in need of help (shelter, food, personal necessities, etc.). We also added some Lutheran area resources including Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Relief. [Please visit the page and take a look](#), and if you have any resources in the Blacksburg area you would like to add, let us know! We will be working to add to it and update as much as possible! Thank you for your help.



# Events



## Rainbow Connection Will NOT Meet on February 5, 2023

Please note that due to rampant flu & Covid in our area, we will *not* meet on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Please join us for our next meeting on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall for Welcoming Conversation & Games as we offer affirmation and friendship to all of God’s children, no matter their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more info, [please contact Pastor Monica](#).

## 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, February 16, 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. 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 February 19th



Our Confirmands continue to earn Service Hours by serving as Acolytes and Communion Assistants, helping to fold worship bulletins, and other tasks. Confirmands, don’t forget to track your hours using the form in your notebook.

Our February Confirmation class will meet at St Michael Lutheran on Sunday, February 19 from 4-6:30 pm. Sermon Notes are due on February 19th to Pastor Monica.



Nancy’s artwork currently on display at LMLC

## There’s Still Time to Register for Nancy Prichard’s Art Class in February 2023!

Congregation member Nancy Prichard will lead an art class in the Fellowship Hall on February 2, 9, and 16, 2023. The class is open to anyone, but you must reserve a spot.

See page 4 of the newsletter for more information and [sign up here](#).

## Pre-Lenten Art Workshop



Adriaen van Utrecht

**Title:** *Art in the Vanitas Tradition*

**For:** Anyone regardless of artistic ability!

**Dates:** February 2, 9, and 16, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 am

**Where:** LMLC Fellowship Hall

**Project Overview:** Come join the fun and explore the creative process in this pre-Lenten workshop using a style of art that was popularized by 17<sup>th</sup> century artists in Holland. These Dutch masters depicted objects in their paintings that symbolized the futility of vane pursuits. Think *vanity of vanities* in Ecclesiastes 1:2.

After collecting printed images and actual objects, we will explore how they become symbols as we create a multi-layered artwork.

**All supplies will be provided.** However, it would be helpful if each person could bring a pair of scissors and 2-3 magazines and/or newspapers if you have them.

**Reservations required:** Please [sign up using this link](#).

**Questions:** Nancy Prichard, [bruprich@aol.com](mailto:bruprich@aol.com), (757) 323-2208



# Synod News

## ELCA Vote to Observe Land Acknowledgment & LMLC's Commitment

At the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, members voted, as a component of our Christian responsibility to work for peace, reconciliation and social justice, to acknowledge that the lands on which we live, work, worship and serve first belonged to Indigenous peoples. The Assembly voted to begin all ELCA Churchwide & Synod gatherings and meetings with a land acknowledgment, to honor the legacy and humanity of Indigenous peoples, and encouraged all Synods and congregations to research the names of Indigenous peoples who lived on the lands where ELCA Lutherans gather. The Virginia Synod observes this practice, and encourages all member congregations to participate. If you have any questions regarding this practice or our commitment to it, [please contact Pastor Monica](#).

### Luther Memorial Land Acknowledgment:

We, the congregation of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, acknowledge and honor the Yesan & Tutelo peoples, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, for learning, for fellowship and for service. We give thanks for all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this land and call it their home.

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## February is Black History Month: Hunger and Race



According to Feeding America<sup>1</sup> the Black community experiences food insecurity at higher rates than Whites. One in four African American children is affected by hunger.

According to Bread for the World, the higher rates of poverty and hunger among African Americans are direct results of systemic inequity through racial and gender discrimination. While the United States has an overall poverty rate of 12.3 percent, according to the U.S. Census, within the African American community, the poverty rate is 21.2 percent<sup>2</sup>.

Chronic food insecurity and hunger leads to poor health, maternal depression, behavioral and developmental problems and poor academic achievement.

<sup>1</sup>[https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FA\\_Spotlight-Black-Community\\_LR-1.pdf](https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FA_Spotlight-Black-Community_LR-1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.bread.org/article/fact-sheet-hunger-and-poverty-in-the-african-american-community/>

### How Can You Help?

- Connect with your local NAACP chapter to ask about membership and how you can join them to support equity for all people.
- Take the [Implicit Association Test](#) at to help you learn about implicit bias and unconscious discrimination.
- Contribute to a local school backpack program to provide weekend food for hungry kids.
- February 4th is National Homemade soup day! Consider contributing soup to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry and Micah's Mini-Pantry.

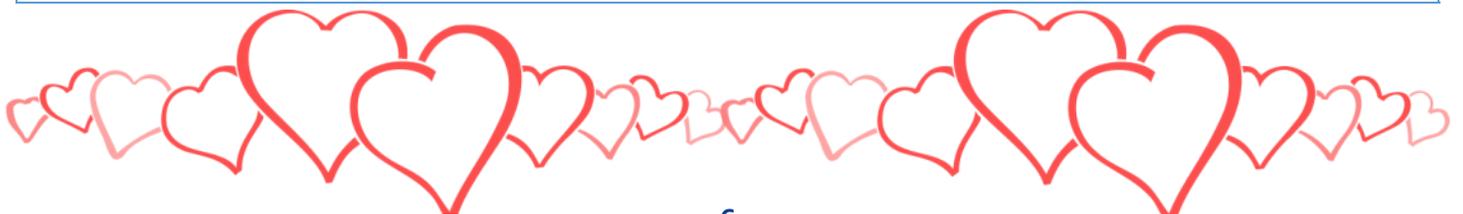
[Click here for more information.](#)



# February 2023 Calendar Highlights

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

<b>Wednesday, February 1 @ 7 pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, February 2</b>	
7:30 am	Men's Fellowship Bible Study
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class; Nancy Prichard's Art Class
<b>Sunday, February 5</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Epiphany</b>
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Monthly Birthday Fellowship; Choir Rehearsal
<b>Wednesday, February 8 @ 1:30 pm</b>	Hymn Selection Committee
<b>Thursday, February 9</b>	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class; Nancy Prichard's Art Class
<b>Saturday, February 11 @ 7:30 pm</b>	Jada Braxton Recital
<b>Sunday, February 12</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</b>
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Choir Rehearsal
11:30 am	The Well Student Lunch
<b>Thursday, February 16</b>	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class; Nancy Prichard's Art Class
11:30 am	Healing Hearts Grief Support Group
<b>Sunday, February 19</b>	<b>Transfiguration of our Lord/Reconciling in Christ Sunday</b>
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Choir Rehearsal
4 pm	Confirmation Class - St. Michael Lutheran Church
<b>Wednesday, February 22</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
12 pm	Imposition of Ashes
7 pm	Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion
<b>Thursday, February 23</b>	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
<b>Sunday, February 26</b>	<b>First Sunday in Lent</b>
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Choir Rehearsal





# LENT

## The 2023 Season of Lent

Lent is a season of penitent reflection, repentance and sacrificial giving, as we examine our lives, our commitment to God and neighbor, and seek to grow deeper in faith. The Blacksburg ELCA Fellowship congregations have opted not to combine for Lenten Midweek worship this year. LMLC’s Worship & Music committee invites you to attend midweek worship at LMLC during Lent as follows:



### *Ash Wednesday, February 22nd*

12-12:30 pm in the Chapel - Imposition of Ashes

7 pm in the Sanctuary - Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion

### *Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30*

12-12:30 pm in the Sanctuary - Lenten Midweek Contemplative Worship with Taizé chants, silence and holy communion built around the theme “Amazing Grace,” our 2023 Lenten home devotion booklet theme.



## 2023 Lenten Home Devotions

You may pick up your free copy of the 2023 Lenten devotion booklets from tables as you enter Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary. The theme this Lenten season is “Amazing Grace.” There are materials for children and teens.



# Council Corner

- Welcome to our new council members who were elected at our annual meeting: Diane Catley, Aaron Conklin, Carla Liversedge, and Ray Riggin. They join existing members Elaine Belay, Teresa Cassell, Carolyn Howard, Linda Libey and Karl Pedersen. The officers for 2023 are Carolyn Howard, President, Teresa Cassell, Vice President, Diane Catley, Secretary, and Terry Hagman, Treasurer. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this important way!
- Work has been completed in the spaces used by the Little Hokie Hangout. Walls have been painted and new flooring has been installed. Thank you to Ed Vigen for all of his work coordinating these projects and to members who helped paint and move furniture.
- An audit of our campus ministry program will be conducted February 8-9 in the campus center. LMLC Members and students will be interviewed during this process.
- Cub Scout Pack 706 has joined with our Boy Scout Troop 704 to meet at Luther Memorial. They meet on Mondays from 6-8 pm.
- Council accepted a proposal from Bell Electric to install dawn to dusk sensors on our parking lights and replace the lights that are burned out on our front sign.

## 2023 Council Members

### Elaine Belay

elainebelay@gmail.com  
540-558-8893

### Teresa Cassell

teresa.cassell@comcast.net  
540-818-1438

### Carolyn Howard

carric2003@gmail.com  
540-558-8961

### Karl Pedersen

Karl\_Pedersen@msn.com  
540-577-6623

## 2024

### Linda Libey

lindalibey@gmail.com  
540-320-6191

### Ray Riggin

raymondriggin@gmail.com  
412-719-9672

## 2025

### Diane Catley

dwcately@gmail.com  
540-553-6116

### Aaron Conklin

anconklin@yahoo.com  
832-353-7956

### Carla Liversedge

carla.lockwood@gmail.com  
540-558-8641

## What's Your Favorite Bible Verse?

**Thanks to Sandy Hagman for her Bible Verse submission in January - it was well received on social media!** Many people say reading the bible more is one of their New Year resolutions. We are doing a series of our congregation members' favorite verses on social media over the next few months. If you would like to participate, [please send a short e-mail to Carol Webster](#) (our social media and website coordinator) with your favorite Bible verse, and what it means to you (When has it been an encouragement in your life? Was it a part of a special day for you (a loved one's funeral, confirmation, wedding). We would love to have many of you participate!



# Music at Luther Memorial



## From Amy Cowan, Choir Director

We enthusiastically welcome Jay Crone as he becomes the interim worship accompanist! February also brings us a chance to hear our youngest musicians share their gifts, with a Youth-led Music Sunday on February 19th. We are happy to welcome back Virginia Tech student musicians, Jillian Donahue and Jada Braxton, after the winter break. Your wonderful and devoted choir has some lovely anthems planned and will rehearse mostly on Sundays after church service, with some possible Wednesday evenings as needed. If you would like to be included on the choir email list,

please reach out to Amy at [choir@lmlc.org](mailto:choir@lmlc.org)!

*Choir, since we missed being together on Sunday, January 30th, to look ahead at future anthems, we will rehearse on Wednesday February 1st at 7 pm! I will also try to record parts for the February 5th anthem for those who can't make it this week, and we will rehearse February 5th after service as usual. Please take good care and get well/ stay well!! Thanks for all you do!*

## Welcome Dr. Jay Crone, Interim Accompanist!

Since June 2022, Daniel Taylor has served as our worship accompanist, but now we bid him farewell & Godspeed as he pursues new opportunities with Blacksburg Baptist Church. Daniel's last Sunday with us was January 22nd; we hold him in prayer and send him out with our best wishes.



We give thanks to God for the Spirit's leading that inspired LMLC member and Virginia Tech professor Dr. Jay Crone to serve as our Interim Accompanist. Jay is a gifted musician: in addition to serving as Principal Trombone for the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Opera Roanoke, and the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra, Jay also performs with the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival Orchestra, and he has played with many symphonies and bands throughout the United States. Jay is also an excellent pianist, and he has shared his gifts on brass and piano in LMLC worship services over the years. In 2022, Jay served LMLC as Council President. We hold him in prayer as he begins this new adventure, as together we "make a joyful noise to the Lord!"

## Reconciling In Christ Sunday with Music By the Youth of LMLC

On Sunday February 19th, The Transfiguration of Our Lord, we will also celebrate 20 years as a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA! LMLC members voted to become an RIC congregation in 2003, and we are blessed to proclaim our inclusive, affirming welcome of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity or sexual identity.



The Reconciling in Christ committee will serve as worship assistants for this service, and Choir Director Amy Cowan has invited children and youth from our congregation to share their musical talents with us that day. Please join us in-person or by watching our livestream as we give thanks to God for God's imaginative, creative diversity and unconditional love and acceptance of all people.



# *The Well Campus Ministry Update*

Pastor Monica will serve as The Well's campus pastor this Spring, as LMLC initiates a call process to call a new campus pastor, working closely with the Virginia Synod. The ELCA & Virginia Synod will conduct an onsite review of The Well on February 8-9, to identify new goals, programs and activities based on student need and interest. The Well leadership team and LMLC's Campus Ministry committee will participate in this review; plans are underway for Spring semester events and a calendar will be published soon. In addition, alumni from The Well are planning a Spring Reunion! Stay tuned for more info.

We need LMLC volunteers to help host The Well activities that will be facilitated by Pastor Monica. If you'd like to volunteer, please [contact Pastor Monica](#) or [Marcia Barrow, Office Manager](#).

Our Campus Center is open for Well students to study, relax, do their laundry, and enjoy snacks and fellowship. We invite all Virginia Tech students, graduate students, alumni and faculty/staff to attend LMLC Worship every Sunday at 10 am, and Pastor Monica is happy to provide a listening ear if you are struggling with your studies, personal life or wrestling with faith questions.





Linda Libey	February 2
Rob Myers	February 3
Carol Reynolds	February 3
Seth Knight	February 4
Katherine Widner	February 4
Alan Smeal	February 5
Ron Belay	February 6
Sue Dille	February 9
Bob Phillips	February 10
John Anstrom	February 13
Mike Peterson	February 13
Marilia Deisenroth	February 15
Bryce Carlson	February 18
Lisa Carlson	February 20
Aaron Conklin	February 23
Lois Lang	February 23
Patty Marickovich	February 26



## February 2023 Worship Assistants

February	5th	12th	19th	26th
<b>Ushers</b>	Aaron Conklin Marti Larson	Marcia Barrow Carol Papillon	RIC Committee members	Jennifer Freeman Carla Liversedge
<b>Lector</b>	Kathy Parrott	Chris Skogen	RIC Committee members	Bill Knocke
<b>Tellers</b>	Mark Pierson Phil Jordan	Mark Barrow Diane Catley	RIC Committee members	Mark Barrow Phil Jordan
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Diane Catley Karl Pedersen	Mark Pierson Kathy Parrott	RIC Committee members	Gail King Don Holmstrom
<b>Council Point</b>	Carolyn Howard	Karl Pedersen	RIC Committee members	Linda Libey
<b>Cantor</b>	Carolyn Howard	Jenny Akers		

## Welcome Cub Scout Pack 706!



It is our great joy to announce that Cub Scout Family Pack 706 has joined the Luther Memorial family. We are providing the pack a much needed home, and they will help us ensure the future of our Troop 704. For those unfamiliar with Scouting, Cub Scouting services youth from 5 to 10 years of age as we prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. [Contact Aaron Conklin](#), Blue Ridge Council District Commissioner & LMLC member, for more information.



# Social Ministries

## February Change for Change Northside Presbyterian Free Meals Program



Northside Presbyterian Church  
Come Walk With Us

Every Monday at 6:00 pm, rain or shine, Northside Presbyterian Church gives a free meal to everybody who would like one. The meals are sometimes prepared in the Church kitchen, or

they might be from a local restaurant (Subway or Jersey Mikes, for example).

Approximately 50 meals are distributed each Monday in the Church parking lot. Nobody is turned away – if there are more people than food (sometimes as many as 75 people are helped), Wendy’s Gift Cards are distributed. The program operates mainly on donations, and so our February Change For Change will be in support of this wonderful program. Please consider donating to Change For Change to help the Northside Presbyterian Free Meals Program during the month of February. Thank you.



# God’s work. Our hands.

We give thanks for your generosity, which made the following gifts possible to persons in our community during February:

- **Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry**
  - 147 pounds of food in donations
  - 15 cartons (330) pounds of soap
- \$250 for assistance with groceries, gas, medicine
- 75 pounds of food and supplies donated for Micah’s Mini Pantry
- Around \$500 in donations for the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership

**Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who worked so hard to make our To Our House guests comfortable the first two weeks of January - we appreciate you!!**



# To Our House

## Help Stock the Pantries in February!



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 February are Soups – The Pantry always needs Hearty Soups such as Progresso, Chili, or Chunky soups.



### Micah's Mini Pantry

The preferred donations for the month of February are Peanut Butter & Jelly, Ravioli and SpaghettiOs – Plastic containers are safer.

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## Change for Change 2023 Calendar

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



### Thanks to the COVID Task Force

At the recommendation of COVID Task Force, Council voted to disband the Task Force as it is no longer necessary. We give thanks for the ministry and leadership exhibited by the members of the COVID Task Force: Andy Hansbrough; Lois Voss; Bennet Cassell; Carol Reynolds; Mara Knott; Jenny Akers. Your guidance and wisdom brought us safely through the height of the global pandemic!

### Thank You Notes

“I would like to thank you for the Christmas offering you gave me. It was a blessing to me and my wife.”  
~Michael Spencer, Sexton

“Thank you for your prayers, support and generous gift that allowed me to make it into the new year. God is certainly great and has blessed me through a difficult 2022.” ~From someone we helped by paying 6 months car insurance so he could drive to work



Congrats to LMLC Senior Aaron Howard, who was honored at Blacksburg High School Senior Night on January 31st!

February 20th is World Day of Social Justice. Pray that our concern for social justice in the world will be grounded in our faith, Jesus’ example and the ways and wisdom of God, emboldening us to serve our neighbor, respect one another and risk changing unjust laws, traditions, institutions and behaviors.

World Day Of  
Social Justice





## How to Donate to Luther Memorial

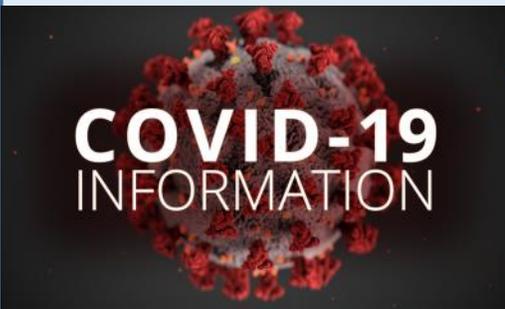
In addition to cash and check, we have more options now available to donate to Luther Memorial. You may donate via PayPal by using the button on the [home page of our website](#) or [using this link](#).

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](#).



**PLEASE NOTE THAT AS OF FEBRUARY 20, 2023 THE AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM WILL NO LONGER EXIST - THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED!**

### Free COVID-19 Home Tests Now Available



With cases of COVID-19 rising, the government has announced that free COVID-19 Home Tests are once again available to order at: <https://www.covid.gov/tests/>.

Health experts continue to worry because cases of COVID-19, the flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are surging and may cause a 'triple-demic'. **Given this possibility, the Office of the Bishop encourages everyone to continue to work to protect the most vulnerable among us.**

Whenever possible be fully vaccinated and to stay home from school, work, or church if you are showing any symptoms of illness.

To check the current COVID-19 levels in your area and see recommendations for how to respond, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

To learn more about influenza prevention and treatment, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/Flu/Index.htm>

To learn more about RSV, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/index.html>



The Social Ministry Committee would like to make you aware of free help available at [www.smartrecovery.org](http://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](http://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.



# 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](mailto:luther@lmlc.org). **Deadline for the March 2023 issue is February 24th.** 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](mailto:luther@lmlc.org)  
Website: [www.lmlc.org](http://www.lmlc.org)

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