



The Luther Memorial News - March 2023

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

All Are Welcome!

A Word from Pastor Monica



A Prayer of St Augustine: *Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Guard me, O Holy Spirit, that I myself may always be holy. Amen.*

This prayer's focus seems perfect for the season of Lent, the one liturgical season of the church's calendar year that focuses on humanity: for six weeks leading up to Jesus' final days and his glorious Easter resurrection, we are called to reflect on and confess our individual and corporate sin; we are called to sacrificial giving and service to relieve human suffering; we are called to reconcile with the estranged; we are called to grow closer to our Creator God through worship, reading Scripture and prayer. In Lent, the focus is on us, as we journey alongside Jesus in the wilderness, counting the cost of our sins as individuals and as a society.

Augustine (354-430) knew full well the scope of human sin: born to an affluent Berber family in North Africa, Augustine was raised by his devout Christian mother Monica but was sent to Rome to continue his education. He lived a hedonistic lifestyle, rejecting Christianity in favor of philosophy. Then Augustine met Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, who inspired Augustine to return to Christianity and serve the Church. Augustine became a priest and was eventually appointed Bishop of Hippo in North Africa; his theological works inspired Martin Luther, among many others.

My prayer for you this Lenten season is that you might use St Augustine's prayer to frame your daily devotions, as a reminder that God has acted for us in Christ Jesus to forgive all our sins. In gratitude for God's mercy, we hold the baptismal responsibility of aligning our words, thoughts and actions with God's expectations for human life, as outlined in the Ten Commandments. May all that we think, say and do be holy, to glorify God in Christ Jesus. Peace to all here, *Pastor Monica*

Well Update



Thanks to all the Well stakeholders who participated in the Campus Ministry Review conducted by representatives from ELCA Churchwide, ELCA Region 9 and the Virginia Synod. We will receive a report from that review with suggestions on how to improve our outreach to Virginia Tech students. The VA Synod has pledged to support The Well in 2023 with a grant of \$20,000. We give thanks to God for this support, and soon we will begin a call process to call a new Well campus pastor.

On February 12, Well students gathered for a delicious lasagna lunch provided by Terry & Sandy Hagman. Pastor Monica led the students in a discussion of ideas for upcoming service projects, Spring worship at the Duck Pond and fellowship. On Saturday, April 15, several Well alumni are planning a Well Alumni Reunion in the Campus Center. Stay tuned for more info!



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.

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.

Are You a Textiles Artist or Designer?



The Worship & Music committee is seeking volunteers to participate in the design and production of new altar paraments for our Sanctuary. Luther Memorial has been blessed with many gifted textile designers and artists who collaborated to create the paraments we have used for decades. It is our wish to honor that tradition in the creation of new paraments that glorify God and proclaim our faith in Christ Jesus. If you would like to serve in this way, [please contact Worship & Music chair Gail King](#).

Take a moment to see all the beautiful artwork created by Nancy Prichard's students in February! These Vanitas art pieces will remain on display in the Narthex throughout Lent.





Events



Rainbow Connection Will NOT Meet on March 5, 2023

In lieu of a March meeting, Rainbow participants are invited to attend the free trombone concert at 4:00 pm on March 12. Please join us for our next meeting on Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall for welcoming conversation & fellowship 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, March 16, 2023, 12:45 - 1:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and will last one hour (following midweek Lenten worship). Please note time change for this month!***



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

Mr. Jefferson’s Bones Brass Quintet Concert on March 12th at 4 pm

For the second time, Mr. Jefferson’s Bones quintet is traveling to Puerto Rico to share their music, with a class for university students planned, and a free public concert on March 20th. The quintet first visited Puerto Rico in 2018 as a Hurricane Maria relief effort: eight trombonists from the United States spent a week performing a number of free concerts for the public; they also offered music classes to students, distributed free music books and pBone instruments, and spent money with local businesses to help them recover and know they had not been forgotten by American citizens. [Click here for more information on the 2018 trip](#). Robert Mott, a member of the quintet, says, “We made some great friends and contacts with music teachers and professors on our 2018 trip and as a result, we have been invited to perform this year for the Puertorrican Brass Fest held annually in Mayaguez on Tuesday, March 21. Trumpet, trombone, horn, and tuba students of all ages from across the island will gather for one day of classes and performances and we will be the closing concert for that one-day festival.”

IN CONCERT



Mr. Jefferson's Bones
Central Virginia's Premier Trombone Ensemble



*"Mr. Jefferson's Bones is trombone magic!
Their soulful performances leave the audience wanting more."*

DR. JOANNE GABBIN • DIRECTOR EMERITUS, FURIOUS FLOWER POETRY CENTER

Enjoy a 60-minute program of classical, sacred, jazz and popular music performed by some of the Shenandoah Valley's most talented professional trombonists.

WHEN

4pm Sunday, March 12, 2023

WHERE

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Rd
Blacksburg, VA 24060

ADMISSION

FREE A free-will offering will be taken to help support the ensemble's upcoming outreach to the music students of Puerto Rico.

THIS CONCERT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY AN ENDOWMENT FROM THE MARILYN NORSTEDT MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND.

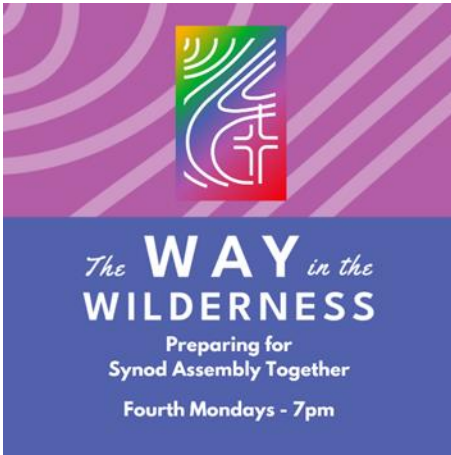
MRJEFFERSONSBONES.COM



Synod News

The Way in the Wilderness: Preparing for Assembly Together

March 27, April 24, & May 22 from 7-8:15 pm on Zoom



As Virginia Lutherans prepare to gather for the 2023 Synod Assembly, everyone is invited to join in a Bible study to explore the theme “The Way in the Wilderness.” God is always with God’s people, including joining us in all the wildernesses of life. Jesus calls us in many and various ways to share God’s expansive love in our unique contexts. We are united in the wilderness, even if our journeys are different. In each session, participants will hear a story about God’s presence in the wilderness, will learn how that story has impacted a synod leader, and will have opportunity to share their wilderness stories too. Each session will help prepare our hearts and minds for the Synod Assembly, assured of God’s presence with us as individuals and together as a synod.

Everyone is welcome to attend: Lay and rostered, voting member or visitor, even if you won’t be onsite for the Assembly in June, you are welcome to join the conversation. [Register here.](#) Portions of the sessions will be recorded and shared. Thank you to our session leaders: Bishop Bob Humphrey, Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick (Assistant to the Bishop), Pastor John Wertz Jr. (Director for Evangelical Mission), Charles Downs (Synod Council President), and Blythe Scott (Synod Council Secretary).



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Your Love is on the Way To Turkey!

We are thankful for all our congregations’ faith in action! Lutheran World Relief quilts, personal care kits, and baby kits are on their way to Turkey. Lutheran World Relief extends its deep gratitude to the quilters and kit-makers. Because of your commitment to making quilts and kits year-round, Lutheran World Relief is sending these valuable resources and **bringing hope to our neighbors who have lost everything.**



Financial Gifts

At this time, [financial gifts](#) are the number one need to assist our neighbors who are injured, hungry, and displaced from multiple earthquakes. **Your congregation’s generosity will ensure that we can deliver quilts, kits, and urgently needed aid to hard-to-reach places as quickly as possible and expand our response into the future.** Gifts can be made now at lwr.org/quake.



March 2023 Calendar Highlights

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

Wednesday, March 1 @ 6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 2	
7:30 am	Men's Fellowship Bible Study
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
12 noon	Lenten Midweek Contemplative Worship
Sunday, March 5	Second Sunday in Lent
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Monthly Birthday Fellowship; Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 9	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
12 noon	Lenten Midweek Contemplative Worship
Sunday, March 12	Third Sunday in Lent
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Choir Rehearsal
4 pm	Mr. Jefferson's Bones Brass Concert
Thursday, March 16	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
12 noon	Lenten Midweek Contemplative Worship
12:45 pm	Healing Hearts Grief Support Group
Friday/Saturday March 17-18	Synod Council Meeting (Pastor Monica attends)
Saturday, March 18 @ 10 am	Shopping Day Service Project for Micah's Closet
Sunday, March 19	Fourth Sunday in Lent
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Choir Rehearsal
4 pm	Confirmation Class - St. Michael Lutheran Church
Thursday, March 23	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
12 noon	Lenten Midweek Contemplative Worship
Sunday, March 26	Fifth Sunday in Lent
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 30	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
12 noon	Lenten Midweek Contemplative Worship



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:

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. Our services will also include contemplative silence; [this Living Lutheran article](#) offers insight into meditation, mindfulness and contemplative practices.



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 also materials for children and teens.

Holy Week Schedule

April 2, 2023 - Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

10 am Worship w/ Palm Procession & Passion Play Reader's Theater

April 6, 2023 - Maundy Thursday

7 pm Worship Service

April 7, 2023 - Good Friday

12 noon - 2 pm - Chapel open for prayer with Pastor Monica
7 pm Tenebrae Service

April 9, 2023 - Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Sunday

10 am Worship Service

Calling All Actors!

April 2 is Palm Sunday, and we will present the reading of Christ's Passion as a reader's theater during worship. If you would like to read the part of a character in the Passion story, please [email Pastor Monica](#). No memorization is required, and all ages are welcome to participate. Readers will stand in front of a microphone at the front of the Sanctuary.



Music at Luther Memorial



From Jay Crone, Accompanist

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may have noticed a new/familiar face on the organ bench the last few Sundays. While I have played trombone and piano in many churches and for many different denominations, I am not a trained church musician, nor am I an organist! The opportunity to learn on the job is inspiring, and I look forward to learning and improving in the weeks and months ahead.

I was raised in the United Methodist Church and joined the ELCA after Betsy and our landlord invited me to attend his Lutheran church in Arcata, California. **Hint: Don't be shy about asking people to church!** My mother was a longtime church organist and my first piano teacher, but I must have drawn the line at only taking piano lessons. And, of course, my interest in band led to my career as a professional trombonist and teacher.

Protestant sacred music was a part of my music education, which included studying many of the significant works of Lutheran music. The Bach concerts Luther Memorial has presented over the years result from my interest in this music. As a trombonist, I have played many Renaissance and Baroque instrumental works, but now I can learn this repertory from an organist's perspective. A daunting task, but one that I hope to honor and respect, primarily through practice!

Luther Memorial was fortunate to have an excellent and dedicated music staff for many years. Tom Wilson and Gail King were present week after week, month after month, and year after year. As someone who has only done it for a couple of Sundays, I can vouch for the magnitude of their achievements! I hope to continue their remarkable legacy and stewardship of excellence in sacred music at Luther Memorial.

In peace, Jay

Luther Memorial is blessed to have so many talented young people in our congregation. Thanks to everyone who shared their musical gifts with us on February 19th for Reconciling in Christ Sunday worship service!



Elena Oosterhuis

Matthew Thorsett

Gretchen Thorsett

Gavin Conklin



Erik Akers Performs Bach

We invite you to listen to this beautiful Bach piece performed by Erik Akers on electric bass. May this music inspire your Lenten journey as we walk in the wilderness with Jesus.

[Suite for Violoncello Nr.1, BWV 1007 "Prelude"](#)

Thanks to everyone for helping and participating in our Reconciling in Christ Sunday on February 19th!





Chris Skogen	March 11
Stephen Everett	March 12
Karl Pedersen	March 12
Lois Voss	March 14
Jay Crone	March 15
David Grant	March 16
Rev. Don Holmstrom	March 22
Louise Price	March 27



March 2023 Worship Assistants

March	5th	12th	19th	26th
Ushers	Martha Larson	Jennifer Freeman	Carol Papillon	Glenn Buss
	Rick Howard	Marcia Barrow	Aaron Conklin	Carla Liversedge
Lector	Gail King	Carolyn Howard	Andy Hansbrough	Rachel Larson
Tellers	Mark Pierson	Teresa Cassell	Carla Liversedge	Tim Larson
	Diane Catley	Phil Jordan	Teresa Cassell	Marty Oosterhuis
Comm. Asst.	Rachel Larson	Diane Catley	Don Holmstrom	Aaron Conklin
	Bill King	Karl Pedersen	Gail King	Owen Conklin
Council Point	Ray Riggan	Diane Catley	Aaron Conklin	Carla Liversedge
Cantor	Don Holmstrom	Don Holmstrom	Jillian Donahue	



Summertime Potluck Picnics at Luther Memorial

You're invited to a trio of potluck picnics at Luther Memorial during the summer months. Come with an outdoor chair for the service and a dish to share for the picnic. Please consider bringing reusable utensils, plates, and cups for yourself as well. Join us on the first Sundays (June 4, July 2, and August 6) to enjoy worship, fellowship, and nature during our splendid summer season.

LMLC VOTING MEMBERS FOR VA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Thanks to Gail King and Ray Riggan who will serve as Luther Memorial's voting members at the Virginia Synod Assembly at Roanoke College on June 9-11. At this year's Assembly, we will elect a new Bishop of the Virginia Synod to a 6-year term. Please pray for Gail and Ray as they represent us, and pray for all Assembly voting members as they discern who might be called to serve as our next Bishop.



Social Ministries

March Change for Change - Micah's Closet



When Elaine Belay and I stood up front of the congregation last fall to talk about Micah's Closet, we had no idea about the enthusiasm it would produce. Micah's closet provides a week worth of clothes for children attending Eastern Montgomery Elementary School twice a year. We were able to provide fall clothes for 21 students. The congregation was very generous in providing financial support.

We are getting ready to provide a spring set of clothes to be provided before Easter. Social Ministry committee has designated Change for Change to help pay for the week's worth of clothes. It

takes \$185 to pay for one week worth of clothes for each child. This spring, I would like to be able to help 25 children at a total cost of \$4,625. We has some money put away for this purpose but we hope that March will be our annual fundraising month. We hope that the money we raise this spring will cover the cost of both the spring and fall season.

We are recruiting volunteers to shop for the week's worth of clothes. You will be given a list of clothes including sizes and preferences. Once purchased, you can turn in your receipts, to be reimbursed. The shopping can be done either online or in person at local stores as long as you stay within the \$185.00 budget. To donate, you can put your donation in the Change for Change box or you can go to the donor button on the church's website and choose Micah's Closet from the menu. If you are interested in volunteering as a shopper, [please email me](#) or text me at 540 818-1438 to get on the list. We will contact you once we receive the information from the school.

In Peace. Teresa Cassell

To Our House 2023

The success of the LMLC hosting of the community hypothermia shelter depended on the join effort of many participants. A total of 14 guests were sheltered and fed during the 12-day period in early January.

Seventeen different individuals filled many different tasks from transforming the Campus Center multipurpose room into a cozy sleeping area, to preparing and serving nutritious yummy dinners to doing loads of laundry. Our congregation also donated \$720.80 through Change for Change and 31 gift cards for lunches. The budgeted benevolence carry over was \$1800. After purchasing needed supplies and more lunch gift cards, we were able to send \$1400 to the TO Our House program.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MINISTRY AND MADE IT A SUCCESS!

We must also thank St Michael Lutheran Church for their contribution. This congregation provided 80 gift certificates and prepared several evening meals.

With Much Gratitude, Wava Vigen. LMLC TOH Coordinator





Social Ministries



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 - 115.5 pounds of food for a total value of \$199.82
- 25 pounds of food and supplies donated for Micah's Mini Pantry
- Around \$600 for February Change for Change for the Northside Presbyterian Free Meals Program

Help Stock the Pantries in March!



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 March are Pancake Mix & Syrup – Pancakes with butter and syrup make a filling meal.



Micah's Mini Pantry

The preferred donations for the month of March are Canned Pasta (i.e., Ravioli, SpaghettiOs or Mac & Cheese Cups – Quick and hardy meals. Pull tabs are appreciated.

World Water Day: March 22



World Water Day is an annual United Nations Observance, started in 1993, that celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people currently living without access to safe water. A core focus of World Water Day is to inspire action towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Water is important to all living beings. Without water our bodies would not survive and our crops would not grow. It is as vital as the air we breathe. We enjoy a hot shower, a plunge into a clean swimming pool and a hot cup of tea. Water nourishes our bodies and souls! According to biblegateway.com, there are 617 bible verses referencing water.

Billions of people across the globe do not have ready access to enough clean water. Bacteria-contaminated water is often the only water available for drinking and cooking. Many women and children walk miles to obtain enough water for their daily needs. Crops go without water, wilt, and die. Take some time this month to learn about global water needs and concerns. Take some time to pray.

Prayer: Good and gracious God, you separated the waters from the dry land and called them good. Grant us the knowledge, energy, and generosity to provide abundant, clean water for all. Stir in us the desire to be good stewards of the water resources in our communities. We rejoice in the abundance of this gift of water and the nourishment it has brought us. Holy God, let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

Activities:

- Drop a dime in a jar every time you turn on a faucet and collect the money for one of the ELCA water Good Gifts: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/water>
- Remember your baptism when you wash your face each morning.
- Pray for those who walk miles to obtain water and consider how you might implement water-saving measures in your home. https://thewaterproject.org/water_conservation_tips
- Give thanks daily for the water in your life: that you gaze upon at the shore, that falls in a gentle rain, that is delivered to your house through something as convenient as a faucet!

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



- Andy Hansbrough, Carolyn Howard, Bill King, Marcia Barrow, Jody Smiley (St Michael), Aidan Quinlan; Gwyn Steele, Mark Hustedt, and Rev. Bryan Katz for participating in the ELCA Campus Ministry Review
- Sandy & Terry Hagman for hosting The Well lunch
- Mark Freeman for repairing the broken Mini-Pantry doors
- Marcia Barrow for designing/crafting the beautiful new RIC banner and altar frontal
- Aaron Conklin for operating our worship livestream
- Nancy Prichard for teaching the mixed-media art class
- The RIC Committee for a wonderful RIC Sunday: Lois Voss, Carol Reynolds, Elizabeth Grant, Patty Marickovich, Ray Riggin, and Jenny Akers
- Ed Vigen & Glenn Buss for installing new rainbow flags on our campus

Spotlight on Carol Reynolds

Hello, I was asked to tell you something about myself, and so I will. I was born in Palo Alto, California, many years ago. During my lifetime I have lived in a number of interesting places; among them, Germany, Northern Virginia, the Williamsburg-Newport News-Hampton Roads peninsula, Vermont, and beautiful Southwest Virginia.

My career was centered around students with disabilities, first as a teacher of emotionally disturbed and learning disabled students, later as an evaluator of students K-12, to discover the cognitive areas that were resulting in their learning difficulties, and finally in the Montgomery County Public School system working with teams of teachers, specialists, and administrators to develop Section 504 accommodation plans for students with various disabilities, so that they could access education in the regular classrooms.

I was blessed with three children, two of whom are still living. My two daughters and their children live nearby, and this has allowed me to be part of the lives of my daughters and my nine – yes, nine – grandchildren! My immediate family includes my dog, Patti, and my two cats, Denny and Dearie.

In addition to writing about myself, I have been asked to tell you about how it was that I came to Luther Memorial. Two years after my husband died, I felt drawn to the idea of joining a church in the Christiansburg-Blacksburg area. I was looking for a like-minded community and purpose in my life; I found both at Luther Memorial. My years spent singing in the choir, taking classes, co-chairing the Congregation Care Committee, working with the Reconciling in Christ ministry and others, and serving on Council have been happy and productive years. I wish you the same sort of experience to each of you.



Music Scholarships Available



Luther Memorial Lutheran Church has a strong history of choral excellence and a deep appreciation for quality music. Former choir director of thirty years, Thomas Greenwood Wilson left a generous endowment for the music program and we hope to create meaningful connections with music students in the area by establishing the **Thomas Greenwood Wilson Memorial Voice Scholarship!** Music students at Virginia Tech or Radford, who maintain a GPA of 3.25 and can commit to joining us for ten Sundays per semester, are eligible to apply for this scholarship of \$750 per semester by lending their voice and gifts to the choir and congregation.

Through the **Luther Memorial Wilson Family Endowed Scholarship Program**, funded through estate donations by Jim & Betty Wilson and their son Tom Wilson, we are also offering one \$1,000 scholarship for high school seniors entering college, university or technical school in the fall of 2023. The application process begins March 1st; applications are due on May 1st and will be reviewed in May and awarded in June, payable directly to the student's learning institution.

Scouts Pinewood Derby Day



Troop 704 Klondike Campout



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](#).

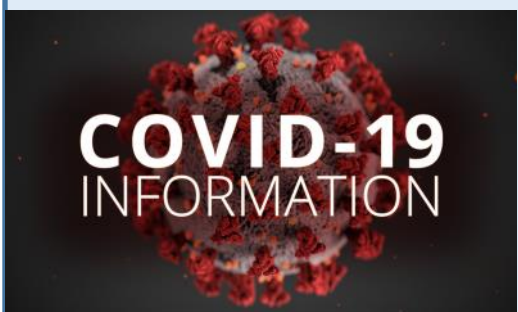


SMART Recovery®

Life beyond addiction

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.

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>



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 April 2023 issue is March 27th.** 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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