



The Luther Memorial News - October 2023

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

All Are Welcome!

A Word from Pastor Monica



Greetings, beloved friends in Christ Jesus. This is the final LMLC newsletter you will receive: beginning in November, instead of a monthly newsletter, the Weekly Happenings email that is distributed every Saturday will be enhanced to include additional information about upcoming LMLC activities, the worship assistant schedule, and more. This change will help us to work smarter and more efficiently. In addition, Sandy Hagman, chair of the Social Ministry committee, has volunteered to publish a monthly digital Social Ministry newsletter, to keep us informed on how the congregation's donations serve the Blacksburg & NRV communities. Thanks, Sandy!

Beginning October 1, our annual Stewardship campaign will begin, with 2024 pledges consecrated on Sunday, October 15th, in worship. You will receive a 2024 Pledge card, and you may also [fill out an e-pledge card online](#). An email will be distributed with this information. Please express deep gratitude to Council member Carla Liversedge, our Stewardship Chair, for her service.

As green leaves turn to brilliant shades of yellow, red and orange in the coming weeks, I ask you to pray for our Well Advisory Board, as they prepare a new strategic plan for The Well Lutheran Campus

Ministry, the founding mission of this congregation. I also ask you to pray for our Well students, who faithfully participate in the Tuesday evening dinners, our biweekly Bible study, and the service projects such as Micah's Closet. We will celebrate the Hokie's Homecoming on Saturday, October 14th, with a Well Alumni Tailgate. Thanks to Well Advisory Board member and Well Alumnus Mark Hustedt and Well alumnus Rebecca Pettit for organizing this Well Alumni Tailgate.

We look forward to the free Reformation Concert we will host in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 29th, at 4 pm. Organist Jay Crone has put together an exciting program of Reformation-era music, including a few "sing-along" hymns (it wouldn't be Reformation without *A Mighty Fortress*!). Thanks to Jay for coordinating this concert, which is open to our community.

This congregation is so very blessed, and I am blessed to serve as your pastor. I pray that God will continue to bless and guide us, and I pray that each of you will prayerfully reflect on your 2024 pledge, so we may call a new pastor for The Well, as together we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

Peace to all here, *Pastor Monica*

Click here to fill out your pledge card online!



From the Luther Memorial Office



Birthday Fellowship Volunteers Needed!

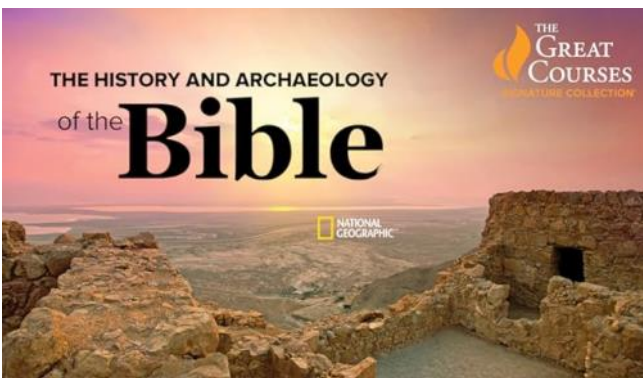
The Congregation Care Committee would like you to consider hosting a birthday fellowship. Generally, these are scheduled for the first Sunday of each month. Your responsibilities would include providing some light refreshments for our members and visitors to enjoy after the service. Including low-sugar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

Men's Bible Study on Thursday mornings

Our Men's Bible Study meets weekly on Thursdays at 8 am via Zoom. The focus of this men's Bible Study will be to study the Gospel reading designated by the Common Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday. Please contact Bill King or Mark Pierson if you have any questions.



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



The Faith & Life class meets every Thursday in the church Fellowship Hall from 10:00 to 11:00 am. We read a short chapter ahead and together watch a half hour video lecture with ensuing discussions. All are welcome! Our current topic is "The History and Archeology of the Bible." Dr. Jean-Pierre Isbouts earned his DLitt at Leiden University in the Netherlands and is a National Geographic Historian. Given the very visual nature of National Geographic, it is not surprising that Dr. Isbouts has won awards as a filmmaker and acclaim for books on

the Biblical world. His course focuses visually on the biblical archeology of the Judeo-Christian world by pursuing topics ranging from "The World of Genesis", "The Kingdom of David," "The Rise of Assyria", "Judea in the Early Roman Empire", to "The Rise of Christianity." The 24 lessons will occupy us from now until well into the Spring of 2024. Please [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.



Thank you and goodbye from Carol Webster

After three and a half years, my time working together with the good people of Luther Memorial is ending as I enter retirement. I am looking forward to enjoying more time with my husband Tim and family, doing some traveling and volunteer work, and enjoying our new environs after moving to Ormond Beach, FL this summer. Although moving into this next phase of my life is exciting, I will miss communicating and collaborating with you all.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with everyone at Luther Memorial, and to serve the congregation by spreading the word about the church and its activities throughout the New River Valley (especially during the pandemic!). I greatly appreciate the trust Pastor Monica and all of you have put in me to be a part of Luther Memorial's ministry. Thank you for your kind words over the last few years, and for making my job a pleasant one. God's Blessings to all of you as you move forward!

COVID Rates Rise in SW VA

The Virginia Department of Health cautions residents of SW Virginia that COVID-19 rates are increasing in our region, as well as across the country. A new COVID vaccine designed to treat the latest virus variant should be available in late September; boosters are strongly recommended by Virginia Dept of Health and the CDC, especially for persons with compromised immune systems and chronic medical conditions.

Luther Memorial recommends wearing a mask in worship, at fellowship events and in our buildings as a precaution against COVID spread. For now, masks are optional, and we ask that all members who test positive for COVID alert the church office, so we can advise our members of potential spread and safeguard everyone's good health.

Tech-Savvy Volunteers Needed

Each Sunday, we broadcast our worship service via livestream, so that our homebound and traveling members may watch worship, and so that folks who are interested in attending LMLC can view our live and archived service recordings. We need 2-3 volunteers to join the Livestream Team, to set up the camera, monitor the worship livestream, and return the equipment to the Music Room for battery charging. If you'd like to learn more about this, or volunteer, please [contact Pastor Monica](#).



A Note from Stewardship

As you may be aware, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church was founded with a mission to provide service to the Virginia Tech community. At our last Congregational Meeting, the congregation reaffirmed its commitment to that mission. The Well Advisory Board has recommended that we search for a full-time Campus Minister to lead the Campus Ministry. With this important recommendation comes the need for the congregation to support this goal financially. We are asking that members consider increasing their monthly pledges so that Luther Memorial may grow in the area of campus ministry, committing to serving the Virginia Tech students, teachers, and staff.



The Stewardship Committee gives thanks to our members and friends for the many ways you contribute. The work that is done is meaningful. The activities of our church are varied and vibrant. The stories we share and hear about the impact of time, talent, and resources are very real. All these things are important, and we are grateful to you for your continued support.

You may click below to fill out your pledge card online, or cut the pledge card at the bottom of this page, and fill it out and return it to the church office by October 15, 2023 or bring it to church on October 15th. Thank you!

[Click here to fill out your pledge card online!](#)

2024 Campaign at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

I will give to God's work at Luther Memorial:

\$_____ per week or \$_____ per month



This is a pledge I plan to give in 2024. My giving plan can be changed at any time.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this pledge card to the church on Commitment Sunday, October 15, 2023, or to the church office by October 15, 2023.



Upcoming Events

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, October 19, 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 Meets Sunday, October 15



Year 1 & 2 confirmands will meet on Sunday, October 15, at 4 pm in the LMLC Fellowship Hall. Please bring your CoLabOrate workbooks and student Bibles to class. Each month the class meets for a lesson from 4-5pm; dinner 5-5:30pm; and a second lesson from 5:30-6:30pm. Visit the [LMLC calendar](#) for the full class schedule. For more info, [please email Pastor Monica.](#)

Luther Forum Meets Sunday Mornings

The Luther Forum, an adult faith formation group, meets every Sunday morning at 8:45 am 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.



Saturday, October 21st from 10 am - noon!

The CreationCare Committee invites you to join us for a Garden Bed Work Day Saturday morning, October 21st, to help us do some weeding, planting and mulching in the No Mow garden and the Tom's Creek garden beds. If we have enough volunteers and time permits we will work on other garden beds as well. Please join us!





Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting on November 12th - SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Luther Memorial Congregational Meeting will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Agenda items are to elect new Council members and vote to approve the proposed 2024 Ministry Funding Plan. Copies of the meeting agenda, a slate of Council nominees and the proposed 2024 Ministry Funding Plan will be mailed to all LMLC members in good standing. Per the ELCA's guidelines, an LMLC member in good standing has attended worship and communed at least once in the previous year, and/or has made a financial donation in the previous two years. All members in good standing are eligible to vote in Council elections and to vote on the proposed 2024 Ministry Funding plan.

Please plan to attend this important meeting, as together we discern the future of our mission and ministry to Well students and to our community.

Annual All Saints' Day Remembrance

During worship on Sunday, November 5th, All Saints' Day, we will remember our beloved saints who now rest with God and Christ Jesus. Please submit names of persons you would like to remember during this service to [Marcia Barrow in the church office](#). ***All names should be submitted no later than Monday, October 30, 2023.***

Names will be read aloud and a bell tolled after each name. We will also provide loose stems of white flowers that you may place on the altar before worship.



Virginia Synod Gathering of the Ministerium

Every October, the rostered clergy of the Virginia Synod gather for continuing education, updates from the Synod Staff and Bishop, and fellowship. Pastor Monica will attend this year's Ministerium from the afternoon of Sunday, October 1 through Wednesday, October 4, returning to the office October 5. If you have a pastoral care emergency, please contact the church office, 540-951-1000.

Mark Your Calendars!

November 5 - All Saints Commemoration during 10 am worship

November 18 - VT Football Parking to benefit The Well

December 10 - Holiday Brass Concert at 4 pm

New Security Code for Well Campus Center entrance

This summer, we replaced the worn entrance door lock with a new electronic keypad for enhanced security at the Well Campus Center. Current Well students and alumni, plus LMLC members, may obtain the code by calling Marcia in the church office, 951-1000, or by emailing [Pastor Monica](#).





October 2023 Calendar Highlights

[ease check our calendar online for the most up-to-date information\)](#)

October 1-4	Pastor Monica attends Virginia Synod Ministerium Gathering
October 1 - 15	Stewardship Campaign
Sunday, October 1	18th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Monthly Birthday Fellowship, Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, October 3 at 7 pm	The Well Fire Pit Gathering
Thursday, October 5	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
Sunday, October 8	19th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Choir Rehearsal
11:30 am	The Well - Luther's Luscious Lunch
Tuesday, October 10 at 5:30 pm	The Well Student Dinner & Bible Study
Thursday, October 12	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
Saturday, October 14	Virginia Tech Football Game vs. Wake Forest The Well Homecoming Tailgate and Parking
Sunday, October 15	20th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion/Consecration of Stewardship Pledges
11 am	Choir Rehearsal
4 pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday, October 17 @ 5:30 pm	The Well Student Dinner
Thursday, October 19	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
11:30 am	Healing Hearts Support Group
Saturday, October 21 at 10 am	Garden Bed Work Day
Sunday, October 22	21st Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11:30 am	Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 24 at 5:30 pm	The Well Student Dinner & Bible Study
Thursday, October 26	Virginia Tech Hokie Home Football Game and Well Parking
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
Sunday, October 29	Reformation Sunday
8:45 am	Luther Forum
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
4 pm	Reformation Concert

POWELL



WONDER



SMALLS



PRICE



DILWORTH



GARRETT



HOGAN



BLACKSBURG
**MASTER
CHORALE** presents...

Lift Every Voice

A Celebration of Black Composers

Dr. Dwight Bigler, Conductor

Featuring The Blacksburg Children's Chorale
Amy Hill, Conductor

Oct 28, 2023 | 7:30 pm
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church
701 Church Street



Tickets available at the door or
www.blacksburgmasterchorale.org
\$20/general admission,
\$15/senior, \$10/student

Online discounts with code
earlybird10 through October 23!





Synod News

Climate Change in Context: Q&A with the Experts



As the 2023 Season of Creation celebration comes to a close, Tapestry is excited to announce a once-in-a-lifetime chance to talk about climate change and creation justice from a distinctively Lutheran perspective with two experts in the field.

On Sunday, October 15 at 7pm the Virginia Synod Tapestry Team will host a discussion of climate change with Dr. Chad Rimmer, newly installed Rector of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and Phoebe Morad, Executive Director of Lutherans Restoring Creation. The conversation will be based on your questions about climate change. You can submit questions in your registration or [e-mail them to Sr. Phyllis Cox, ELCA Deacon](#).

Both Dr. Rimmer and Mrs. Morad are eco-theologists who can give us better insight on how best to incorporate climate change and creation justice into your ministry, so the more questions we can provide for them, the more spirited and spirit-led the conversation will be.

Registration for this event will close on Thursday, October 12 at 12 noon. [Click here to register](#).

Bishop Installation on October 21

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.

In this month's *We Are Virginia Synod*, Bishop Phyllis Blair Milton shares a little about herself and her vision for the ministry of the Virginia Synod. [Watch the video here](#).



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 October, October 16 is World Food Day, and October 17 is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population! In 2021, 3.8 percent of U.S. households (5.1 million households) had very low food security. 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

Prayer: Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, that they may receive the food and care that they need. Awake the spirit of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given. Let us pray for the farmers with limited or marginal land throughout the world, for those who lack access to water and other resources, and for the light of research and support services to shine in the lives of all God's people. Let us pray for the health of women, children, and families around the world. Let us pledge to help build healthy families, to strengthen impoverished communities, and repair the breaches which divide nations and peoples.

October Member Spotlight - Bennet Cassel



I'm a Virginia native, having grown up in Wythe County, VA. Both parents came from long-time Lutheran families, so I was raised Lutheran. My dad was a farmer, and my mother a teacher. Guess that might have something to do with my career as an educator in the agriculture field. I hold a doctorate in a specialty area called Animal Breeding. My 28-year career at Virginia Tech was as a professor in the Dairy Science Department. I was a researcher in dairy cattle genetics, and an Extension Specialist in dairy genetics with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. I retired in 2010.

My wife Teresa and I were married at Luther Memorial in July 1999. Gary Schroeder officiated. So, Luther Memorial is our long-time church home. I joined the congregation in December 1981 after completing my PhD degree at NC State University. I

have two children, Amy and David, who were confirmed at Luther Memorial. Teresa's two sons, Abe and Sam, were also confirmed at Luther Memorial.

Both of us have been actively involved in church life, having served on the Church Council more than once each, chairing committees, and many other activities. My greatest interest is probably as a member of our church choir, now in a flourishing "renaissance" under the direction of Amy Cowen. "Renaissance" isn't quite right, since rebirth of the choir wasn't necessary when Amy came, but we have become an inspired bunch, and more numerous, under her leadership. Once upon a time, I taught Sunday School, mowed our lawn, and even portrayed Martin Luther at a 1987 celebration of the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth. Or maybe it was some other skit that required a Luther impersonator. Anyway, I got the job.

Most recently, I offered to serve on The Well Board, and am currently involved in helping to maintain a campus ministry program as the congregation considers options for the future of this program. This is new ground for me, as I have spent my time at Luther Memorial safe in the assumption that campus ministry would happen with little input from me. This year, reality set in. Campus ministry requires the input of our entire congregation. And we will need to open our purses and redirect some resources to offer full-time ministry to our students. We face challenges.

I certainly don't consider myself worthy of any particular attention in our newsletter. I am active in our church because it gives me joy. I cherish the friendships with other members. I fully support the progressive stances that our church takes towards social justice and concerns for the needs of others. I want to spend my time working to advance such causes, and Luther Memorial Lutheran Church is as good an opportunity to do that as I know.





Council Corner

Below is a summary of the August 2023 Council Meeting.

Unfinished Business

- All convenors and committee chairs should have their Ministry Funding Plan Requests for 2024 in to the finance committee by September 2nd.
- **Property update** - Pastor Monica reported additional mulch was added to the playground. There is a requirement for LHH to have a 9-inch mulch base for safety. Also, LHH requested coat hooks, which were added by Ray Riggins, and a larger sink, which Danny Knott is addressing. Ray also repaired a spicket that was leaking. Glenn Buss noticed that some of the molding between the windows on the back side of the church needed repair. Moisture and decomposition in the wood behind the aluminum panels around the windows is causing the panels to become loose and could possibly fall out. (These are the windows above the playground.) Pastor Monica said Marcia noted that the congregation still has \$11,000 in the capital campaign account and so Pastor Monica made a motion that these funds be used to hire someone to repair this. The motion passed.
- **The Well Campus Ministry** – The new Well Board has met three times to work on the plans for the fall, recruit volunteers, and plan for the future of the program. Gobblerfest will kick off the fall program on September 1. With the help of volunteers, plans are in place for football parking, Tuesday night dinners, Bible study, and other church activities. Later in the fall Pastor Monica will work with the students to reinstate The Well Alumni Campaign. Pastor Monica also informed council that upon review of the work the congregation has done over the last few months, Virginia Synod plans to renew the \$20,000 grant to The Well for next year.
- **The Alcohol Policy** – Carolyn had a local attorney review our current proposed policy. Based on that review a final statement was drafted. She made a motion to approve this statement and it unanimously passed. The statement will appear on the receipts given out for football parking. "Thank you for choosing to park here for the football game. Parking proceeds help to fund our campus ministry program -The Well. We ask that if you decide to consume alcohol, please do so responsibly, respecting each other and our property. Please place all garbage in the provided cans prior to your departure. We reserve the right to terminate your parking privilege in the event of inappropriate conduct. We pray that you enjoy your time in Blacksburg and have safe travels home!"
- **Potential New Electronic Sign** – Carolyn reported that the new electronic sign at the Church on the Main cost \$40,000. Therefore, council decided to postpone any decision for one at LMLC, although it was requested that Carolyn contact the vendor for a proposal.
- **Digital Media Coordinator Search** – After some research, Pastor Monica believes this will need to be divided position. One for web development and one for social media. Carol Webster recommended Linda Stamps for the web development and updates. She be contracted for the job at \$20/hr. with a cap of 10 hours a month. Linda does not want to do the social media portion of the job. Pastor Monica recommended that we speak to Ray Riggins about handling the social media posts. The position would be contracted for \$10/hr. with a \$225 cap per month. She made a motion to contract with both people starting October 1. The motion passed.
- **Monthly Newsletter** - Pastor, in agreement with Marcia, recommended we stop the monthly newsletter starting November 1. They do not feel enough people read it for time it takes to put it together. The October newsletter would be the last. Karl requested that without the newsletter, it would be helpful for service volunteers to receive a monthly calendar by email to help them plan their schedule and find substitutes when necessary. Pastor Monica said that could be done. Based on feedback from the congregation this could change.

New Business

Evangelism - Pastor Monica discussed how welcoming the congregation has been to the students as well as visitors, both new and returning. 6B) Nominating Committee: Elaine, Teresa, Karl, and Carolyn will be going off council at the end of the year. The Committee was asked to have nominee's names for the next term in to Carolyn by October 15.

Worship and Music – Plans are being made for a community Reformation Concert on Sunday October 29 at 4:00 p.m. Worship and Music purchased a gently used 1 octave of handbells.

Request from Finance – Carolyn made a motion to approve a request from Finance, in the earlier meeting, to rollover a \$75,000 CD that matures in September for better interest. The motion passed.

Little Hokie Hangout - Pastor Monica shared a letter from the Director of Little Hokie Hangout. The letter summarized the status of the program, how beneficial the program is to graduate students, and how many students have been served through the program. They are grateful for the partnership with Luther Memorial.



The Well Campus Ministry Update

Upcoming Events

- October 3 at 7 pm - **Firepit Gathering** - Fellowship & S'Mores!
- **Happy Fall Break!**
- October 8 at 11:15 am - **Luther's Luscious Lunch** (free!) following 10 am worship service
- October 10 at 5:30 pm - **Tuesday Student Dinner** (free!) **followed by Bible Study** w/ Pastor Monica at 6:15 (Topic: Anxiety)
- October 14 - **Virginia Tech Hokie Home Football Game vs. Wake Forest Game Parking** (see below)
- October 14 - **Well Parking Homecoming Tailgate** - All alumni and current students of The Well are invited to a Homecoming Tailgate on October 14th before the Wake Forest v. Virginia Tech football game! The game time has not yet been announced. All attendees are invited to park for free next door at the Hillel Center. A meal will be provided as well as non-alcoholic beverages. RSVP is appreciated; [e-mail Mark Hustedt](#) or [e-mail Rebecca Pettit](#).
- October 17 - **Tuesday Student Dinner** (free!) at 5:30 pm
- October 24 - **Tuesday Student Dinner** (free!) **followed by Bible Study** w/ Pastor Monica at 6:15 (Topic: Stress)
- October 26 - **Virginia Tech Hokie Home Football Game and Well Parking** (see below)
- October 31 - **Tuesday Student Dinner** (free!) at 5:30 pm
- November 7 - **Tuesday Student Dinner** (free!) at 5:30 pm
- November 12 at 11:15 am - **Luther's Luscious Lunch** (free!) following 10 am worship service
- November 14 at 5:30 pm - **Tuesday Student Dinner** (free!) **followed by Bible Study** w/ Pastor Monica at 6:15 (Topic: Panic Attacks)

The Well Football Parking Needs Volunteers for Home Games!

Please volunteer for a two-hour shift to assist with parking cars on the LMLC property for upcoming home games. All funds raised from the football parking effort support The Well Campus Ministry, and 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. **Sign up [here](#) for a shift.**



We Need Volunteers and Donations!



The Well Kitchen has recently been cleaned and inventoried. **We need a couple of items - Coffee Mugs and microwave-safe Soup Bowls.** We had to dispose of several mugs due to chipped edges. We only have two bowls suitable for heating up soup or chili. If you have items to donate, please let Diane Catley or Sandy Hagman know.

We also need **volunteers to host Tuesday evening Well dinners!** You will provide food for 12 and serve at 5:30pm in the campus center. Please contact Pastor Monica to reserve a date! Thank you!



Music at Luther Memorial

From Amy Cowan, Choir Director



Come hear the choir sing some stunning music this fall, from the Baroque era to shape note singing, to new hymns from our All Creation Sings, and more! We will even sing a liturgy created by our own Don Holstrom during our Advent midweek services! We recently purchased our own octave set of handbells and we look forward to ringing them in upcoming anthems and hymns. We also look forward to being joined by trumpeter Andy Hansbrough, student flutists from Virginia Tech, and tenor Brian Thorsett this fall, as well as many of our wonderful in-house musicians at Advent and

Christmas. Mark your calendars for the Reformation Concert on October 29th at 4pm, presented by Jay Crone and friends, as well as the Holiday Brass Concert at 4 pm on December 10th. We're excited and fortunate to share all this beautiful music with you in worship. For more information or to join us, please reach out to Amy at choir@lmlc.org! 🎵

A Reformation Celebration Concert!

On Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 4 pm. Luther Memorial Lutheran Church will present a concert of music for organ, strings, brass, winds, and voice to celebrate Reformation Sunday 2023. The music of Johann Sebastian Bach will be featured, of course, with several selections from his church cantatas. In addition, a complete performance of a solo suite for violoncello will be performed. Our musical Reformation celebration will also feature works for brass and organ and opportunities for congregational singing! Professional musicians from Virginia and Pennsylvania will be our guest performers.

All are welcome - please join us and bring a friend!





Bill King	October 5
Barry Johnson	October 10
Ed Vigen	October 10
Dennis Catley	October 18
Jan Buss	October 26
Kevin Carlson	October 26
Erin Hansbrough	October 26
Elizabeth Mallery	October 27
Alison	

Tim & Marti Larson	October 20
Mike & Marilia Deisenroth	October 27
Karl Pedersen & Jan Buss	October 30



October 2023 Worship Assistants

October	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Greeters/ Ushers	Carol Papillon Glenn Buss	Charlie Harris Rick Howard	Aaron Conklin Marcia Barrow	Glenn Buss Jennifer Freeman	Marti Larson Carol Papillon
Lector	Chris Skogen	Kathy Parrott	Linda Libey	Mark Barrow	Andy Hansbrough
Tellers	Diane Catley Tim Larson	Mark Barrow Mark Pierson	Marty Oosterhuis Teresa Cassell	Carla Liversedge Phil Jordan	Tim Larson Teresa Cassell
Comm. Asst.	Bill King Rachel Larson	Marcia Barrow Don Holmstrom	Ed Vigen Gail King	Aaron Conklin Owen Conklin	Karl Pedersen Ray Riggins
Council Point	Diane Catley	Carolyn Howard	Karl Pedersen	Linda Libey	Ray Riggins
Acolyte	Will Cruikshank	Matthew Thorsett	Owen Conklin	Gavin Conklin	Will Cruikshank

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Elaine Belay and I would like to thank the members of our congregation for their continued support for Micah's Closet. With the money we raised last Spring we were able to provide 26 elementary students from Eastern Montgomery Elementary with a week's worth of new winter clothes. I especially want to thank the Well Students and our shoppers from the congregation for shopping for clothes for each child. We could not have done it without your help. We were able to deliver the bags of clothes in record time, September 28th. We are providing extra assistance to students who otherwise may not have had new school clothes to start the new school year. The counselor shared that one family was very thankful because the head of household had just lost their job and there would be no new clothes this year. Thank you again and we will be working toward supplying spring clothes in time for Easter.

In peace, Teresa Cassell





Social Ministries



God's work. Our hands.

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

- \$500 in Kroger cards for gas, food and medicine
- \$1500 in assistance from the Good Shepherd fund for an individual with medical needs
- \$700 plus 3 boxes of supplies (Paper towels, toilet tissue, eye masks, ear plugs) for September change for Change - Women's Resource Center in Radford
- 50 pounds of food and supplies collected for Micah's Mini Pantry
- 31 pounds of food was collected for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

October Change for Change - To Our House

Luther Memorial has traditionally hosted To Our House (TOH) for two weeks every winter. Because TOH is still using the tents, our campus center is too small to accommodate them. We have also had difficulty in getting enough volunteers to help. LMLC also provided two weeks' worth of gift cards to pay for lunches. This is a very positive benefit. It gives the participants more autonomy about where to eat lunch.



This year Social Ministry plans to provide a month's supply of gift cards for lunch in lieu of not hosting the program on our campus. Monies raised during October will go towards the purchase of these gift cards. We appreciate your contributions!

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



Social Ministries

Help Stock the Pantries!

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.

October 2023

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

Instant Mashed Potatoes – Filling and a great addition to recipes.



Micah's Mini Pantry

Dish Soap, Sponges, Clorox Wipes, Multi-Surface Cleaner – Needed for healthy living.



November 2023

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles – Always a staple in providing a cheap but filling meal.



Micah's Mini Pantry

Canned Chicken, Tuna Pouches – Great sources of protein.



December 2023

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

Boxed Macaroni and Cheese – Everyone loves cheese!



Micah's Mini Pantry

Soups, Stews, & Chili, Protein Bars, Granola Bars – Great on a cold evening.



Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry's Holiday Bag Project and Children's Food Program


The Food Pantry would like to give out an additional bag of food to families with children during December. Schools will be closed for the Christmas holidays for approximately two weeks, so we feel it is important to see that children have enough food. Social Ministry has volunteered Luther Memorial to collect 300 boxes of macaroni and cheese. ***During October and November, please bring your contributions of boxed macaroni and cheese to church and place in the Food Pantry wagon. Let's see if we can fill up the wagon!***

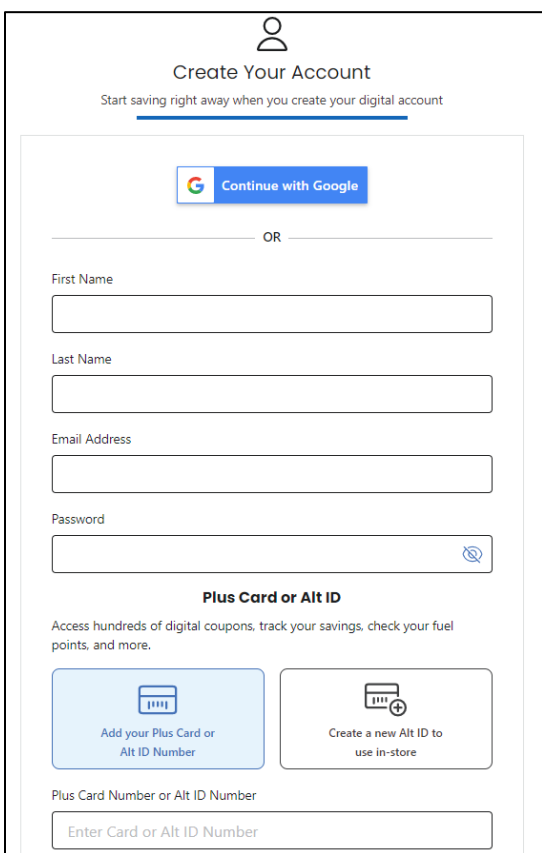


Kroger Plus Card Signup Instructions

If you use a Kroger Plus Card, you can associate your card with Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. Each time that you use your Kroger Plus Card, a percentage of your purchases is donated to Luther Memorial. It is very easy to register your card.


Creating an Online Account

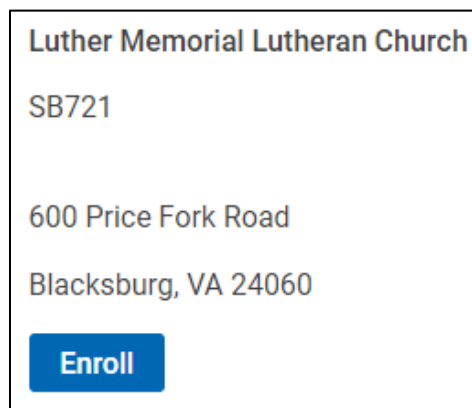
1. Open a web browser and enter <http://www.kroger.com> and press the **Enter** key.
2. Click **Sign In** down arrow and select **Create Account**. 
3. Enter the requested information including your **Kroger Plus card** number



4. Click the **Term and Conditions** checkbox.
5. When you are finished, click the **Create Account** button.
6. If prompted to sign in, click the **Sign In** link and enter your email address, password, and click the **Sign In** button.

Enrolling Your Rewards Card

1. To enroll your Kroger Plus card, click your name and select **My Account** and select **Community Rewards**. 
2. In the **Find an Organization** text box, enter **SB721** and click the **Search** button.



3. Click the **Enroll** button to associate Luther Memorial Lutheran Church with your Kroger Plus Card.

NOTE: To view your quarterly contributions, scroll down the Community Rewards screen. Also, you should check your card's enrollment every year.



We give thanks to these individuals for sharing their time and talents...

- Mara Knott, Bill Knocke, Aaron Conklin, Marcia Barrow, & Mark Pierson for their diligence and hard work to create the draft 2024 Ministry Funding Plan.
- The Compensation Task Force led by Mara Knott to review church staff compensation details for 2024.
- Council members for their faithful service and wisdom
- Will Cruikshank & Janna Perry for folding worship bulletins
- Danny & Mara Knott for cooking the BBQ for the Pig Pickin, and to our Congregation Care team, led by Carla Liversedge, for hosting this event.
- Aaron & Rachel Conklin for hosting the Confirmation class meal in September
- Our Faithful Lawn Mowing Crews for their excellent lawn care on our grounds
- Ray Riffin for ordering new pads for the AED device in the Sanctuary...the beeping has stopped!
- Carol Papillon and all our parking volunteers who help park cars to raise funds for The Well Campus Ministry
- Matthew & Brian Thorsett for rebooting and upgrading the computer in the office conference room
- Jay Crone, Bennet Cassell, Rachel Larson, Jody Smiley & Mark Hustedt for their service on the Well Advisory Board
- Our Well Tuesday night meal hosts: Jay Crone, Jennifer Freeman, Gail & Bill King, & Teresa Cassell
- Mary Hansbrough for helping set up and clean up the Tuesday night Well meals in the campus center
- Teresa Cassell, Well students and our members who donated and/or shopped for schoolchildren with the Mi-cah's Closet donations
- Our Scout Troop 704 for spreading playground and landscaping mulch
- Alan Smeal for faithfully unlocking the church and turning on lights on Sundays, and for watering the indoor plants
- Gavin Conklin, Owen Conklin, Will Cruikshank and Matthew Thorsett for serving as Acolytes
- Phil Jordan and Bill King for their faithful leadership of adult Christian Formation classes
- To all who serve as Lectors and Worship Assistants
- To everyone who donates Altar Flowers to the glory of God and memory of loved ones
- To our awesome Choir, Choir Director Amy Cowan, and Organist Jay Crone for making worship so meaningful with music
- To Diane Catley for collecting recyclable plastics toward earning a Trex bench
- To Michael Spencer for his excellent care in cleaning our buildings
- To Marcia Barrow for her efficient administration of LMLC business
- To YOU our members for your abiding generosity as we support non-profit agencies in the NRV

In August, LMLC members donated \$550 in Change for Change to support Holistic Addictions Recovery, a local non-profit agency working to provide halfway housing for persons discharged from in-patient substance abuse programs. Funds donated will be used to renovate a new halfway house in Christiansburg. Director Reed Yearwood, member of St Michael Lutheran in Blacksburg, sent us this message of thanks: "Thank you Luther Memorial family!!!! Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for gathering contributions this month of August, 2023! These donations directly support our residents and further sustain Holistic Addictions Recovery mission.

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](#).

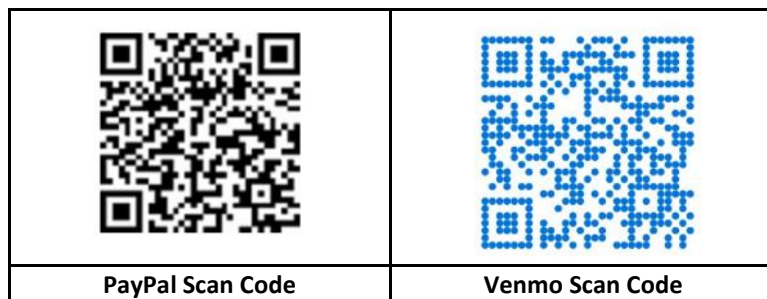
Luther Memorial also now has a Venmo account. Venmo is a digital app that transfers funds from your bank account to any other Venmo account that you designate. Venmo is a subsidiary of PayPal, and offers instant, secure transfers of funds to



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](#).

How to Use QR Codes

Did you know that QR codes, short for quick response, have been around for nearly 30 years? They were developed as a way of including additional information on automobile parts. Luther Memorial has two QR codes that you can use to donate money. One is for making contributions using PayPal and the other uses Venmo. To use either one, you must first **CREATE** a PayPal or Venmo account.



- Open the camera app on your phone and point it at the code. You can hold your phone vertically or horizontally.
- When your camera scans the QR code, an icon or web address will appear on your screen near the code. Tap it with your finger.
- You will be taken to the associated website via your web browser.

NOTE: if this does not work, check to see if your smartphone's operating system is up to date.



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.



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/



This is the final LMLC newsletter you will receive: beginning in November, instead of a monthly newsletter, the Weekly Happenings email that is distributed every Saturday will be enhanced to include additional information about upcoming LMLC activities, the worship assistant schedule, and more. This change will help us to work smarter and more efficiently. Thank you for your understanding!



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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Amy Cowan, Choir Director
Jay Crone, Organist
Michael Spencer, Sexton