



# The Luther Memorial News - September 2023

## A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

### All Are Welcome!

#### A Word from Pastor Monica



Can you feel a touch of Autumn in the air? I always look forward to those early signs of Fall: the first chilly morning, earlier sunsets and the return of college football games. The first official day of autumn is Saturday, September 23. Soon after we will begin to see God's glorious handiwork as the leaves begin their brilliant display of color. Autumn is a season of endings: the summer harvest is brought in and we enjoy the taste of that last vine-ripened tomato; frost slows the growth of grass and foliage; we bid farewell to summer's long days and pull out the jackets; Pumpkin Spice appears everywhere (like it or not!), and we prepare for winter.

This Autumn we bid farewell and Godspeed to Carol Webster, our digital media coordinator. Carol has deftly managed the LMLC website and our social media pages for nearly 4 years, and she will retire on September 30. Almost every visitor who joins us in worship has shared that they first visited the LMLC website, and based on the online info detailing our mission and ministry, they decided to join us for worship. Carol also posts the livestream recordings of our worship services, another great Evangelism

resource. Carol's faithful service has bolstered our ministry in the NRV, and we give thanks for her gifts, talents and time. We wish her a fulfilling, relaxing retirement and hold her in prayer. One of Carol's colleagues, Linda Stamps, will take over the website administration. Please pray for Carol and Linda as they initiate this transition, in service to Jesus Christ.

My prayer for each of you is that you may spend some relaxing time in Nature this Autumn; God's creative imagination may be seen everywhere, if we take time to notice it. Let us give thanks and praise to God for this bountiful, glorious Earth, and for the many blessings God gives to us each day. I give thanks for this faithful congregation and the ministry we do together in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peace to all here, *Pastor Monica*

#### 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.



# 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 Has Resumed!

The Thursday morning 8 am Men's Bible Study resumed on Thursday, August 31st, and will meet 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

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

## Help Us Create our LMLC Community Board!

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

*The Congregational Care Committee*

## Chapel Garden Opens Year-Round

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





# Upcoming Events

## 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, September 21, 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, September 17th



Year 1 & 2 confirmands will meet on Sunday, September 17th, 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. Thanks to the Conklin family for hosting dinner in September! For more info, [please email Pastor Monica.](#)

## Luther Forum Resumes September 10th!

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

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



Please plan to join us for a yummy BBQ lunch on Sunday, September 10 (God's Work, Our Hands Sunday), immediately following worship. We will have pulled pork and sides available for you to eat (plenty of options for vegetarians too!) Thanks to Grillmeister Danny Knott for again cooking the pig!

We plan to picnic outside. Bring your own silverware, water bottle, chair and a dessert to share. And don't forget to bring your appetite! ***Come and enjoy the food and fellowship - all are welcome!***





# Upcoming Events

## Learn to Knit Socks - Classes Start September 11th!



If you've ever wanted to learn how to knit a pair of socks, now's your chance! LMLC member and Expert Knitter Linda Libey will teach a sock class beginning Monday, 9/11, at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. Sock Knitting Class will meet every other Monday for three Mondays (9/11, 9/25 and 10/9) at 10 am.

Please bring size 1 or size 2, 32" or 40" circular knitting needles and 1 ball of fingering sock yarn. Sock yarn is typically 75% wool/25% nylon, for strength and durability. Linda works at [SewBiz](#) in Fairlawn, so if you need help identifying the correct supplies including yarn, please ask Linda for assistance.

## Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge would like to thank Luther Memorial's generous support in the use of meeting space for our monthly board meeting. Our non-profit seeks to assure that dignified and meaningful choices are available for end-of-life decisions. You are invited to our board meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the LMLC Conference room. You are also invited to our annual meeting on 9/12 at 7:15 pm in the Community Room of Christiansburg Library., at which Paula Markham will speak on "How a Death Doula contributes to End-of-Life". All are welcome to any of our meetings!

## Save the Date - 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!



## September Member Spotlight - Elizabeth Grant

I was born in Baltimore and baptized at Holy Comforter Lutheran Church (what a name)! I grew up in Towson (like Elaine Benes of Seinfeld) and went to Divinity Lutheran where I was in the children's choir. I headed to Virginia Tech for undergrad, where I attended Luther Memorial and was in the choir and the campus ministry group.

David and I got married right after graduation and moved to Gainesville, Florida. He went to vet school and I worked as an architect. David got a residency at VT's vet school, so we moved back to Blacksburg in 2000.

Initially, I worked as an architect here, but got sucked back into the Hokie vortex and did a master's and Ph.D., then taught as an adjunct. In 2005, we adopted our daughter Ashe (Ekaterina) from Russia. I started teaching full-time at VT in 2009, and left in 2021 to work for GAF, where I now sell roofs (that's the shorthand version). At Luther Memorial I have served on Council and several committees, most memorably the Call Committee. My hobbies besides LMLC choir (got sucked back into that, too!) are going to Jazzercise and helping take care of all the plants, dogs, tiny chickens, and guinea pigs my husband has accumulated.



## September 2023 Calendar Highlights

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

<b>Friday, September 1 from 4-7 pm</b>	Virginia Tech Gobblerfest
<b>Saturday, September 2</b>	Virginia Tech Hokie Home Football Game and Well Parking
<b>Sunday, September 3</b>	<b>14th Sunday after Pentecost</b>
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Monthly Birthday Fellowship
5 pm	Guerrero & Collette Wedding
<b>Tuesday, September 5 at 5:30 pm</b>	The Well Student Dinner
<b>Thursday, September 7</b>	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
<b>Saturday, September 9</b>	Virginia Tech Hokie Home Football Game and Well Parking
<b>Sunday, September 10</b>	<b>15th Sunday after Pentecost/God's Work, Our Hands Sunday</b>
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
11 am	Annual Pig Pickin' BBQ and Picnic
4 pm	Book Discussion (Dangerous Religious Ideas), Our Saviour Lutheran Church
<b>Thursday, September 14</b>	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
12 pm	Va Synod NRV Conference Meeting
<b>Sunday, September 17</b>	<b>16th Sunday after Pentecost</b>
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
4 pm	Confirmation Class
<b>Tuesday, September 19 @ 5:30 pm</b>	The Well Student Dinner and Bible Study
<b>Thursday, September 21</b>	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
11:30 am	Healing Hearts Support Group
<b>Sunday, September 24</b>	<b>17th Sunday after Pentecost</b>
10 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Guest preacher Pastor Liz Radtke, VA Synod Staff
11:30 am	Church Council Meeting
<b>Thursday, September 28</b>	
8 am	Men's Bible Study
10 am	Faith & Life Class
<b>Saturday, September 30</b>	Virginia Tech Hokie Home Football Game and Well Parking

### Mark Your Calendars!

- ⇒ **October 14 and 26 - VT Football Parking to benefit The Well**
- ⇒ **October 1-15 - Annual Stewardship Campaign**
- ⇒ **October 15 - Consecration of Stewardship Pledges during 10 am worship**
- ⇒ **October 21 from 10 am - Noon - LMLC Garden Bed Workday**
- ⇒ **October 29 at 4 pm - Reformation Concert**
- ⇒ **November 5 - All Saints Commemoration during 10 am worship**



# Synod News

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



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

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

### Lay Preachers Commissioned at Synod Assembly

Twelve lay preachers were commissioned at Synod Assembly and Power in the Spirit this summer and are ready to come and preach at your congregation!

Please keep George Donovan, Laura Doughty, Janet Gomez, James Ingraham, Erich Lantz, David Mayersky, Sylvia Miles, Ray Riggan, Kristee Trumbo, Judith Wilfong, and Leon Zimmermann in your prayers as they embark on this new ministry.



### 'This Is How We Die' Sponsored by the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association

Nurses often have the privilege of supporting someone who is dying and/or their family. At those times, the goal is to provide comfort and compassion in the dying process. This series will better equip the nurse to offer care and presence to an individual and family during the dying process.



Anyone is welcome to attend nurses, healthcare providers, clergy, chaplains, and/or congregants. We all want to know how to be present to those who are dying and are on their home-going journey and their families. All sessions are via Zoom, and when one registers, they will receive the Zoom link.

*This is a three-part series from 7-9 PM ET and the dates are:*

September 11 - The Natural Process of Dying from Disease and Old Age

September 18 - The Labor of Dying

September 25 - Integrating Content into Practice: Questions and Thoughts (this session will be a 90-minutes)

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

### Save the Date!

- ⇒ October 15 at 7 pm via Zoom - Climate Change in Context - A Q&A with the Experts
- ⇒ October 21 at 1 pm - Virginia Synod Bishop Installation - First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro



# *The Well Campus Ministry Update*

## **Upcoming Events**

- September 1 from 4 - 7 pm - [Gobblerfest](#) - come see us at Gobblerfest - Well students and LMLC volunteers will be present.
- September 2 starting at 2 pm - VT football parking (see below to sign up)
- September 5 at 5:30 pm - Tuesday night free dinner in the Campus Center
- September 9 starting at 8 am - VT football parking (see below to sign up)
- September 10 at 10 am - Worship service for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday followed by our annual Pig Pickin' BBQ
- September 19 at 5:30 pm - Tuesday night free dinner in the Campus Center followed by Bible Study led by Pastor Monica
- Mid-September - Fall service project - Micah's Closet (more info on page 13!)
- October 8 at 11:15 am - Luther's Luscious Lunch (free!) following 10 am worship service
- October 14 - Homecoming Tailgate - stay tuned for more info!

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## **The Well Football Parking Needs Volunteers for Home Games!**

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

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



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

## **Call for Campus Ministry Volunteers**

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

**[Click here for more information](#)**





# Music at Luther Memorial

From Amy Cowan, Choir Director



Welcome to all the lovely new voices in the choir, including our most recent recipient of the Tom Wilson Choral Scholarship, Ryan Bennett! We have many beautiful anthems coming up and look forward to the rich harmonies available with so many voices in each section. Purcell, Bach, and Marcello will all make appearances, along with great arrangements of some of your favorite hymns. Please also keep an ear as the choir introduces new music from our supplemental hymnbook All Creation Sings, so you can learn to sing along. As

always, if you'd like more information or would like to join the choir, reach out to Amy at [choir@lmlc.org](mailto:choir@lmlc.org)! 🎵

## Thanks to our Youth Musicians for their beautiful musical offerings!







Danny Knott  
 Carolyn Howard  
 Rebekah Paulson  
 Jenny Akers  
 Andy Hansbrough  
 Mary Hansbrough  
 Gavin Conklin

September 5  
 September 10  
 September 10  
 September 11  
 September 23  
 September 27  
 September 30



George & Linda Libey

September 1



## September 2023 Worship Assistants

September	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Greeters/ Ushers	Carol Papillon Aaron Conklin	Marty Larson Jennifer Freeman	Charlie Harris Glenn Buss	Jennifer Freeman Marcia Barrow
Lector	Carolyn Howard	Don Holmstrom	Zelma Harris	Bennet Cassell
Tellers	Diane Catley Carla Liversedge	Mark Barrow Tim Larson	Phil Jordan Teresa Cassell	Carla Liversedge Mark Barrow
Comm. Asst.	Ed Vigen Ray Rigglin	Marcia Barrow Diane Catley	Karl Pedersen Gail King	Don Holmstrom Kathy Parrott
Council Point	Ray Rigglin	Diane Catley	Aaron Conklin	Carla Liversedge
Acolyte	Owen Conklin	Willa Cruikshank	Matthew Thorsett	Gavin Conklin



*Best Wishes to Kristina Guerrero & Josh Collette  
 who were married by Pastor Monica at Luther Memorial on  
 September 3rd. May God grant them a blessed life together!*

## 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](#).





## Social Ministries



# God's work. Our hands.

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

- \$200 in Kroger cards for food, gas and medicine
- \$400 for new eyeglasses for a person in need
- \$550 for August's Change for Change program for Holistic Addictions Recovery
- 60 pounds of food and supplies collected for Micah's Mini Pantry
- 60 pounds of food was collected for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

### God's Work, Our Hands Sunday Marks 10 Years

Women's Resource Center  
*of the New River Valley*



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

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

#### 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 September

September  
Change for Change

Women's Resource Center of  
the New River Valley

Women's Resource Center  
of the New River Valley



The mission of the [Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley](#) is to implement individual and social change for a violence-free community in the New River Valley region of Virginia, by providing programs and services to adults and children who have experienced sexual or domestic violence, and by providing education, training, and prevention programming to the public and to allied professionals. Please consider supporting the Women's Resource Center by making a donation to Change for Change during the month of September.

## Help Stock the Pantries in September!

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 September are Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, and Chicken Helper – Helps to expand hamburger, chicken, or tuna into a meal.



### Micah's Mini Pantry

The preferred donations for the month of September are Boxed Pasta and Pasta Sauce (MMP) – Pasta sauce in cans or plastic are preferred.

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



For the 2023 holiday season, the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is offering families a special bag of food for a holiday meal. Families will receive the food in November long with a turkey or ham. Luther Memorial's Social Ministry team has volunteered to purchase 350 cans of Cream of Mushroom soup. Due to your Change for Change generosity, we already have enough funds to do this.

In addition, the 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 September and October, please bring your contributions to church and place in the Food Pantry wagon. Let's see if we can fill it up!**




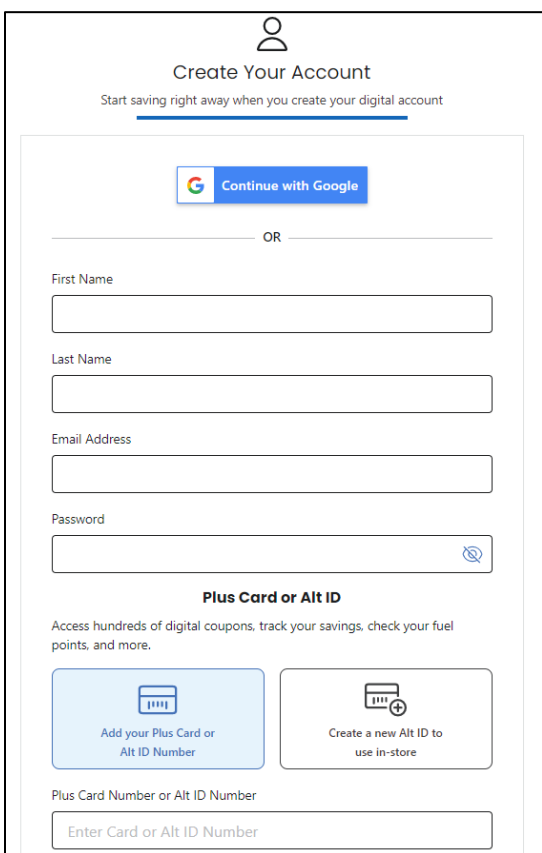


# Kroger Plus Card Signup Instructions

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

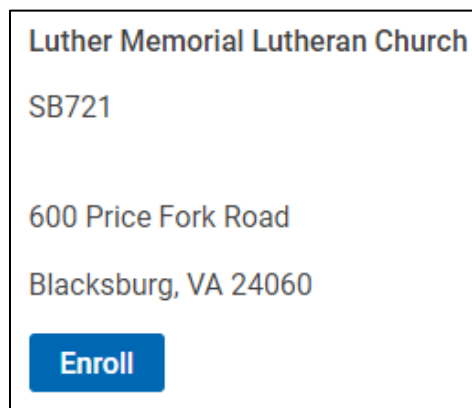
1. Open a web browser and enter <http://www.kroger.com> and press the **Enter** key.
2. Click **Sign In** down arrow and select **Create Account**. 
3. Enter the requested information including your **Kroger Plus card** number



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

- Bruce & Nancy Prichard for weeding the large landscaped bed that borders Tom's Creek Road
- Rebekah Paulson & Mark Pierson for relocating a Trex bench to a new home outside the church office
- Gail King for tending the beautiful zinnias and other flowers in our landscaped beds
- The Cruikshank Family for assembling 500 new Well lanyards for distribution
- All our young people who shared their musical gifts on Youth-Led Music Sunday
- The LMLC Choir, director Amy Cowan and accompanist Jay Crone for participating in Singapalooza choir workshop
- Marcia Barrow, Gail King and Carol Papillon for hosting August birthday fellowship
- Carol Papillon for organizing 2023 Football Parking for The Well and all who volunteer to help
- Aaron Conklin for operating our weekly worship livestream
- Janna Perry & Dana Cruikshank for hosting the Aug 20 Confirmation dinner
- Ray Riggin for preparing holy communion and changing the altar paraments
- Danny & Mara Knott for cooking the Pig for our Pig Pickin
- Ray Riggin for installing new coat hooks for the Little Hokie Hangout and repairing the outdoor spigot
- Carol Reynolds for keeping our church bulletin boards updated and looking great
- The Well Advisory Board: Pr Rachel Larson, Jay Crone, Bennet Cassell, Jody Smiley, Mark Hustedt for their work to draft new strategic visioning for The Well Campus Ministry
- Thanks and Welcome to our new Choir members Ryan Bennett, Kristina Guerrero, Lily Erdal, and Matthew Thorsett

### **Shopping for Micah's Closet**

Fall is in the air. School has started so that means that Micah's Closet is also ready to start the Fall Season Shopping. Micah's Closet provides one week's worth of new clothes to 25 elementary school children at Eastern Montgomery Elementary School. It is expected the cost of the clothes will not exceed \$185. The children are recommended by their teachers. If one child in the family is recommended, all the elementary age children are served. All the children's identities are confidential. We are recruiting shoppers. Each shopper is given a list of clothes to buy. Once purchased, shoppers can turn in their bags of clothes as well as their receipts for reimbursement. We expect to begin shopping around Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and ask that all purchases be completed by Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being a shopper, please email Teresa Cassell at [teresa.cassell@comcast.net](mailto:teresa.cassell@comcast.net). Thank you in advance for all your support!



## How to Donate to Luther Memorial



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

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



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



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

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## 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 September, September 8 is International Literacy Day; September 18 is International Equal Pay Day; and September 29 is **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste**. Reducing food losses and waste should be a priority in a world where the number of people affected by hunger has been increasing since 2014. Literally tons of edible food are lost or wasted every day.



***Prayer: Deliverer of the Bread of Life, We remember that when we were children, our parents used to remind us, "Finish your food. Think of all the poor starving people around the world." Help us to recognize how we waste food and grant us the will to stop. Help us to buy less, eat modest portions at meals, and savor all our food as we consume it. May we be always grateful for the blessings of strength and flourishing that come from our food. And may we recommit ourselves to finding ways to get food to those who are hungry.***





# Resources

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

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



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 October 2023 issue is September 26th.** Please [contact the church office](#) with any questions.



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



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

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