

The Luther Memorial News May 2021

*We are a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

*A community committed to making
Christ's disciples, dedicated to worship,
study, and prayer while serving all in need.*

Rev. Monica L. Weber, Pastor

Vicar Alyssa Kaplan, Lay Campus Minister

Juanita Smoot, Director of Music Ministry

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Marcia Barrow, Office Manager

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Greetings to you in the name of Christ Jesus as we enter the Fifth Week of Eastertide. Did you realize that Eastertide, the season of Easter, lasts “a week of weeks” or 7 Sundays? We continue to celebrate Christ’s Resurrection for 7 Sundays, until The Feast of Pentecost, which takes place this year on Sunday May 23. It’s important to know that Pentecost began as a Jewish observance: the Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) originated as a thanksgiving for the Spring wheat harvest’s first fruits, which were dedicated to God and set aside to feed the hungry. This Jewish Feast of Pentecost was observed 7 weeks after Passover. Later, Pentecost developed into a Jewish remembrance of the giving of God’s Law to Moses at Mount Sinai.

In Acts 2, we read the story of what we as Christians often describe as “the first Pentecost,” when hundreds of people who gathered together to hear God’s Word were suddenly filled with God’s Holy Spirit, which appeared as tongues of fire burning over their heads. While it’s correct that this was the first *Christian* Pentecost, we must not forget that those early Christians in fact gathered on the day of the Jewish festival of Pentecost. Pentecost is therefore a unique occasion that Jews and Christians share, because as the people of God, we remember God’s love and saving actions through the giving of the Law, and the giving of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is an active force in our lives, and when we pause to pay attention to the Spirit at work within us, our lives can be transformed, as we notice what God is doing all around us. This year, I invite you to wear red on Pentecost, to attend our Drive-In worship with the Fellowship, and to give thanks to the Holy Trinity for the Spirit, who enlivens us, sustains and leads us, and raises us to new life through our Risen Lord Jesus, the Christ. Come, Holy Spirit, come! —
Peace to all here,

Pastor Monica



May Council Meeting: 23rd, 11:30am-1pm by Zoom. Staff & Council members please submit your monthly reports to Marcia Barrow in a PDF file no later than Monday, May 17th. Packets and the Zoom meeting link will be distributed by email.

Congregational Council Corner

2021

John Hess, Secretary	jlhess@vt.edu
Mara Knott	knott@vt.edu
Tim Larson	tilarson@vt.edu
Carol Reynolds	carol@quintinz.com

2022

Jay Crone	jaycrone@vt.edu
Andy Hansbrough, President	andy.hansbrough@kollmorgen.com
Gail King	glkng2@gmail.com
Ed Vigen	ed.vigen48@gmail.com

2023

Elaine Belay	elainebelay@gmail.com
Teresa Cassell	teresa.cassell@comcastmnet
Carolyn Howard, Vice President	carric2003@gmail.com
Karl Pedersen	Karl_Pedersen@msn.com

Congregation Council at the April meeting:

Approved payments to local benevolence pledges for the first quarter.

Accepted the recommendation from the COVID-19 task force to initiate in-person, outdoor worship on May 30. Lay leaders, tellers, greeters, and persons to assist with preparing the worship space will be needed.

Approved the members of the Call Committee for the campus pastor: Carolyn Howard (LMLC), Rev. Rachel Larson (LMLC), Ryan McIlwee (The Well) and Rachel Rosenquist (The Well). Christ Lutheran has named two persons to the committee. The members from The Well have voice but no voting privilege on the committee. The call process has been initiated with Rebecca Walls, Virginia Synod.

Established a task force, chaired by Ed Vigen to focus on long-term planning and visioning for LMLC, which will include evaluation of options for the best use of the Von Bora House and property.

Adopted the revised wedding policy presented by Pastor Monica.

Adopted the revised personnel policy prepared by the Committee on Personnel.

Adopted the recommendation from the Committee on Creation Care to establish a no-mow, pollinator, demonstration garden to be located on the north side of the picnic shelter. Details will be established with input from the Committee on Property and the Lawn Mowing crews.

Approved Carol Reynolds and Lois Voss to be voting delegates at the Synodical Assembly, June 12, 2021, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm using a Zoom format.

Considered opportunity through the Open Door Grants program (ELCA) to plan tangible actions for welcoming the community as we return to in-person worship.

Will review initial input from committees on revisions to the bylaws in May with ongoing review through the summer months.

March by the numbers:

General Treasury receipts: \$90,737.45*

General Treasury expenses: \$31,279.87

Net General Treasury: +\$59,457.58

*This includes the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan of \$49,297 without that the Net would be +\$10,160.58.

The PPP loan is being used to pay salaries and benefits for our personnel and to pay for utilities. At our current rate of expenditure, the loan will be spent by June 15 and then the church can ask for forgiveness of the loan. March was also a good month with Pledge receipts at \$32,913 and Non-Pledge receipts at \$6,260. This was due to increased donations by our members and to a couple of members paying their annual pledge all at once this month. We thank you for your continued support of our mission plan! Due to our current financial situation we expect to pay one-quarter of our remaining 2021 benevolences in the upcoming month. We are still not out of the financial woods yet and request your continued diligence in making pledge donations as you are able.

Council Votes to Return to In-Person Worship Outdoors

At the April 25 meeting, Council voted to conduct in-person, masked & socially distanced worship outdoors in the lower parking lot of Luther Memorial, beginning Sunday, May 30 at 10am. Worshiping outdoors allows us to sing (masked), whereas singing is not advisable indoors. Our summer outdoor worship will continue through Sunday, August 29. In case of inclement weather, we will gather in Fellowship Hall (no singing) or conduct a Drive-In service at Luther Memorial. Special observances for worship this summer will include Boy Scout Sunday; Creation Care speakers; Remembrance of the Emanuel 9; and more. You will receive a letter providing you with details, but please mark your calendars and join us as we gather together in person to worship the Triune God!

Final Drive-In Worship from the Fellowship: Wear Red for Pentecost!



Don't miss the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship's final Drive-In Worship service on **Sunday May 23**, The Feast of Pentecost, 10am at St Michael. We invite you to wear red, the color of the "fire of the Holy Spirit."

Beginning May 30 through the summer, each Fellowship congregation will return to their respective sites for weekly live, in-person worship with holy communion. Members and friends who are unable to attend live in-person worship may visit the Luther Memorial Home Page, www.lmlc.org, to watch a pre-recorded Gospel reading and sermon that will be posted every Saturday for the coming Sunday. You may also wish to watch full worship services broadcast from Rev. Dr. Bryan Katz' new digital faith community, "Peace & Hope" in the coming months. Stay tuned for more info!

How Should the Fellowship Continue to Serve Together?

At a recent meeting of the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship, clergy and lay representatives discussed the amazing work of God's Holy Spirit at work in our midst since March 2020, to bring our 5 congregations together for recorded worship, drive-in worship, outreach ministry, Bible study and fellowship. All participants at this meeting expressed the strong desire to continue our Fellowship relationship, even as our congregations return to in-person worship this summer. We identified key areas that we would like to explore including Worship (such as a Fellowship Reformation worship service); Outreach (partnering together to support area charities); Study (joint Bible studies led by various clergy); and Social (gathering together to celebrate our Lutheran traditions). Many ideas were shared that will be discussed as we go forward. If you would like to participate in this discernment and planning, please contact Pastor Monica.

God's Work



Our Hands

In the month of April, LMLC members and friends served the world as God's Hands, doing God's Work, through:

- Contributions of \$500 for Change for Change, to benefit NRV Cares
- Funds that provided 50 cartons of Mac & Cheese & 1000 bars of bath soap to the Interfaith Food Pantry
- Donations of 100lbs of food and personal hygiene items for Micah's "Mini-Pantry"
- Provided funds to assist 4 community residents with help for groceries, utility bills and funeral expenses
- Donations of \$4,000 to the Good Shepherd Fund to aid persons in crisis in our community
- Donation of \$1,000 to fund the new "Little Free Pantry" project (stay tuned for more info!)



Food Pantry Update

Thank you for your continuing support for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Luther Memorial is making a difference.

With your monetary donations, we purchased 50 cartons of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese for a total of 900 boxes. That amount provides a meal supplement for two to three months. I also made our quarterly purchase of Ivory Soap for the Pantry. The total was 15 cartons or about 1000 bars of soap.

On Sunday **May 23, 2021**; the **last drive-in worship** at St. Michael's, we are having a **food drive** for **Micah's Backpack**. When we help others less fortunate, we are sharing God's love. Plan to be there at 10 am.



Some of the suggested food items are as follows:

(Remember these products need to be smaller sizes to fit into the backpacks. The students take home 6 meals each weekend).

Van Camp's Beanee Weenee

Quaker Instant Oatmeal Fruit and Cream

Dole Fruit Bowls Diced Peaches in 100% fruit juice

Corn Flakes Breakfast cereal, 12 oz. boxes

Kellogg's Rice Krispies Breakfast Cereal in cups

Kellogg's Raisin Bran Crunch Cereal in cups

Kraft Easy Mac Original Flavor Mac & Cheese in cups

Chef Boyardee Spaghetti and Meatballs

Chef Boyardee Beefaroni

You may send a check or cash to Marcia and please post that you want this money to go to the Micah's Backpack; 255 students are served each week.

Thank you for helping with this Social Ministry Project and your unwavering kindness.

Elaine Belay

Social Ministry Chair

2021 Virginia Synod Assembly News

The 2021 Virginia Synod Assembly will meet on Saturday, June 12 from 10am-4pm by Zoom. Pastor Monica will attend to represent Luther Memorial, and as a voting member of the Virginia Synod Council. The LMLC council elected Carol Reynolds and Lois Voss to serve as voting members to this Assembly, representing Luther Memorial. The Agenda for the 2021 Virginia Synod Assembly may be found at vasynod.org under the Events tab. Key business items to be discussed at this annual Assembly include approval of the Synod's Ministry Funding Plan for 2022; updates on Youth & Campus Ministry initiatives; Synod Council elections; review of rostered clergy compensation guidelines for 2022; and revisions to the Synod's Constitution. If you have any questions regarding Synod Assembly, please contact Pastor Monica.

Did You Know?

The Well Campus Ministry, a mission of Luther Memorial, is working to become a Reconciling in Christ community. Well students prayerfully discerned their desire to join Luther Memorial in becoming a wholly welcoming and affirming safe space for all students. We give thanks for the discernment of these students, their leadership in the Virginia Tech community, and their ministry to the world.



Lutheran Campus Ministries At Virginia Tech

Our Mission Statement: Because God loves us and calls us to love, we welcome and invite all to engage and grow in faith. Through discipleship and active service in our community, we are able to intentionally deepen our relationship with God and one another.

Thanks to The Well Students & Vicar Alyssa for Campus Ministry Sunday!

The Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship was treated to an amazing and meaningful worship service on Sunday April 25, as part of our monthly Drive-In worship. Thanks to Mark Hustedt, Lillian Bleicken and Andy Taminger for sharing their reflections on campus ministry's influence in their lives, and thanks to all the Well students who planned and participated in this worship service. May God bless these students and The Well campus ministry!

Godspeed & Farewell to Vicar Alyssa Kaplan

Since August 2020, Vicar Alyssa Kaplan has capably served as Campus Minister for The Well, in addition to serving as Vicar for Christ Lutheran Church in Radford. Vicar Alyssa is interviewing to discern how God calls her into future ministry to serve the world and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and her final Sunday with the Fellowship will be May 16. On Campus Ministry Sunday, The Fellowship congregations presented Vicar Alyssa with gifts of a portable communion set, a portable copy of ELW pastoral care, a Sending of Communion stole, several books and a chrism oil container. If you would like to express your gratitude to Vicar Alyssa and wish her farewell & Godspeed, please email her at: thewell@mlc.org.

Blessings & Congratulations to our 2021 Well Campus Ministry Virginia Tech graduates:

Lillian Bleicken
Sammi Crittenden
Abigail Dunahoo
Mark Hustedt
Christian Lysek
Kevin McIlwee
Ryan McIlwee
Katrina Schmid
Steven Schwarz
Andy Taminger
Erin Wachter



In lieu of a public reception for these Well graduates, a special picnic celebration has been planned for them on **Tuesday, May 4th** in the **LMLC covered picnic shelter**.

Shared Ministry Partnership Update

At the March 31 special called congregational meeting, LMLC members voted to approve initiating the Virginia Synod's first Shared Ministry Partnership Agreement with Christ Lutheran Church in Radford. This agreement outlines parameters for Christ and Luther Memorial to share a full-time ordained pastor, dividing his/her time 50/50 between serving the Christ Lutheran congregation and serving The Well campus ministry. We are blessed to be able to offer year-round pastoral leadership to The Well, and we give thanks to God for an anonymous donor's contribution of up to \$20,000 toward Luther Memorial's 50% share in this pastor's compensation package.

Council voted to approve Vice-President Carolyn Howard and Rev. Rachel Larson to represent Luther Memorial with voice and vote on the shared Christ Lutheran-Luther Memorial Call Committee. Two Well students, Ryan McIlwee and Rachel Rosenquist will represent The Well on this call committee with voice, but no vote, as they are not official LMLC members. Additionally, Christ Lutheran has elected two voice/vote members from their congregation to serve on the shared call committee. The Call Committee meets regularly and is working closely with the Virginia Synod to begin the candidate interview process, with a goal of welcoming this shared pastor on or before August 1, 2021. Please hold them in your prayers.

If you have any questions regarding this Shared Ministry Partnership, please contact Council Vice-President Carolyn Howard, or Pastor Monica.

Thank you to our 2021 Mowing Crew!

Team 1: Danny Knott; Glenn Buss; Tim Larson

Team 2: Barry Johnson; Bill King; Gail King

Team 3: Dennis Catley; Andy Hansbrough; Kevin Carlson

Team 4: John Anstrom, Dianne Rencsok; Fred Rencsok

05.01 – Team 4

05.08 – Team 1

05.15 – Team 2

05.22 – Team 3

05.29 – Team 4

If you would like to **join the mowing crew** (yes we need more help!) please contact Barry Johnson or Danny Knott.



Nita Notes

Our May 2nd recorded worship is a team effort by three of our LMLC church musicians, Carolyn Howard, Gail King and Jay Crone. I am very appreciative of their willingness to assist and lead in our music ministry as cantors.

This month we are introduced to the lives of Carolyn Howard and Gail King who share their bio information with us.

Carolyn Howard was born on FE Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, WY to Allyne and Larry Schoff. Fast forward-and 5 tours later-Carolyn first moved to Blacksburg in 1984 with her parents and attended and graduated from Blacksburg High School-this was her first time being a member of Luther Memorial. She attended Valparaiso University where she graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering with honors. One of her scholarships at Valparaiso was to sing with the Chapel Choir.

Fast forward again to 2003-Rick and Carolyn were married at Luther Memorial, and in 2005, only 4 months after Aaron's birth, the Howard family moved from the Chicago suburbs to Blacksburg-to move closer to family and escape the rat race of Chicago. (Aaron was baptized at Luther Memorial at the Easter Vigil service prior to moving here-the Friday before Easter, Rick and Carolyn collectively had 5 job interviews and 2 immediate offers. It was quite the whirlwind trip!)

Since 2005, Carolyn has worked at Draper Aden Associates, is currently on the Board of Directors, and in 2020 was selected to be a Senior Associate. Throughout her civil engineering career, she specialized in site development, storm water management, and floodplain analysis.

Carolyn's favorite thing to do in life is watch her son, Aaron (now 16) play basketball! We are now in the AAU basketball season, so after a long work week, she looks forward to going to tournaments and watching him play at least 3 games on one given Saturday. Carolyn also enjoys cooking using locally sourced ingredients. Among work, basketball, and cooking that's about all the time she has to spare!

Carolyn is currently serving on Church Council as the Vice President, and is looking forward to getting back to in-person worship...seeing everyone and singing again!

Thank you, Carolyn. Yes, we join you in looking forward to returning to in-person worship, seeing everyone and singing again!!

And, from Gail King...

I was born in Augusta, Georgia. From preschool age until I finished the 6th grade I lived in Orlando, Florida, and then moved to SC to be near my grandparents. I got a B.A. at Furman University in Greenville, SC, and married Bill in 1975. I taught 4 different grades and spent one year as an elementary guidance counselor while Bill finished grad school at LSU and completed seminary at LTSS, the Lutheran Seminary in Columbia, SC. (While Bill was in seminary I got a M. Ed. in Elementary Guidance.) When Bill finished seminary we moved to Welcome, NC for his first call, where I stayed at home and had our two children, Scott and Laura.

During Bill's 4th year in Welcome we moved to Blacksburg for him to become the Lutheran Campus Pastor at VT. I found my church home through that move! I became the church organist when Jane Elliott's husband, Ric, took another call and they moved away. Tom Wilson and I were to be interim musicians until more permanent replacements were found. :) You know how that ended....

I have been on the Worship and Music Committee as well as the Worship Enrichment Committee, which met to plan the "nitty gritty" of the church seasons and services. My interests also include being active in fellowship and congregational care activities. I retired from teaching in 2018 and from being the organist in 2019. That meant I could join the choir and I loved it!

I also love gardening, cooking, reading, and walking and hiking in my neighborhood and other beautiful spots.

Thank you, Gail. We are so glad that you are now a part of the singing soprano section of the choir and continue to be active in caring for the people of our church and community.

Joyfully yours,
NITA



- May 01** *Jim Lang*
- May 02** *Katya Grant*
- May 05** *Betty Everett*
Terry Hagman
Emma Sparks
Addie Zeiger
- May 08** *Millie Wiggert*
- May 10** *Ann Hess*
- May 11** *Drew Graham*
- May 15** *Gladys Smeal*
- May 22** *Nancy Wolfe*
- May 28** *Julie Hartenstein-Kinter*
- May 29** *Rachel Larson*



Sam and Jenny Akers May 17th

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
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STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR MAY 2021

“I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with their freedom.” **Bob Dylan**