

The Luther Memorial News May 2022

*We are a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

All are Welcome!

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

Rev. Monica L. Weber, Pastor

Rev. Libby Pfaff, the Well Pastor

Amy Cowan, Interim Choral Director

Jan Blumenthal, Interim Accompanist

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Marcia Barrow, Office Manager

Church Contact Information:
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A Quick look at May:

May 1st: Roanoke Pride in the Park

May 8th: *Happy Mother's Day!*



VIRGINIA TECH.

May 13th & 14th: Graduation

June 5th: Pentecost Sunday - wear red



June 5th: the Rainbow  Connection



Pastor Monica available for conversations, counseling and spiritual direction. To make an appointment with Pastor Monica, please call her at 540-951-1003, or email pastormonica@lmlc.org

From your pastor:

My heart was filled to overflowing on Easter Sunday this year! What a glorious celebration of Christ's Resurrection we enjoyed, live and in person in our sanctuary, as we welcomed so many new friends who joined us for worship. It was wonderful to conduct a procession with the crucifer and choir; it was moving to hear our choir and our musicians make such a 'joyful noise' on this most holy of days, and it was awesome to see young children in our sanctuary and share a special message with them. What a blessing it was to see Glenn Buss light the candles with the help of his grandson and great-grandson! Even though we're in our second year of a global pandemic, on Easter, it felt to me like nothing had changed...except my friends, *everything has changed!*

Christ's glorious Resurrection changes every aspect of human life: not only has Christ defeated death and the grave, all people of the world may now share in that same Resurrection, by our baptism through God's Holy Spirit. We no longer need to fear death, or worry that we will be separated from God when we die. God in Christ Jesus has promised that he will never abandon us, and that he will bring us into eternal life with him, by God's unconditional love and grace.

God's priceless gift of eternal life does change everything, which is why from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, the church celebrates Easter in worship for seven weeks: we devote a "week of weeks" to remembering the Resurrection, in gratitude for our baptism that brings us into the same Resurrection as Jesus. During these seven weeks, we will continue to proclaim "He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia!" We will light the Paschal candle as a sign of the Risen Christ's holy presence among us, now and always. Though every Sunday of the year represents a "little Easter," the seven weeks of the Easter season give us a special opportunity to focus on the fulfillment of God's promises made real and embodied in God's Son, Jesus the Christ.

The month of May is typically very hectic, as we celebrate the end of the school year, graduations, Mother's Day and the start of the summer vacation season. All of these things are important events in human life, but this year, I invite you to intentionally observe the seven weeks of Easter by taking a few moments each day to pause and reflect on what Christ's Resurrection means to you. How has the Resurrection changed everything, in your daily life? I invite you to share your reflections with me, if you like, as we celebrate together the incredible news that by the love of Jesus Christ, God has changed all the rules, and we receive all the benefit! Peace to all here,

Pastor Monica

Congregational Council Corner

2022

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May Council Meeting: 22nd, 11:30am-Fellowship Hall. Staff & Council members please submit your monthly reports to Marcia Barrow in a PDF file no later than Monday, May 16th. Packets will be distributed by email.

***From the Finance Committee:**

We have fallen a little behind in pledged receipts meeting our average monthly budget needs of \$25,700. We appreciate your faithful giving through the upcoming summer months! We were able to pay one quarter of our 2022 Spending Plan commitments to local benevolences, which keeps us on track overall to fulfill these commitments during the year.

***Organ Fund:**

We anticipate funds will be needed to keep our organ in excellent condition. Members are encouraged to donate to the "Organ Fund" to ensure money is available for this purpose.

***Von Bora Haus:**

We have new tenants! Water remediation steps have been taken for the water in the basement.

***New lights in the Sanctuary:**

Bell Electric will be installing new LED lighting in our sanctuary on Monday, May 2nd. Things will be a lot brighter in there the next Sunday!

***Rainbow Connection and Roanoke PRIDE in the Park:**

Luther Memorial will share magnets and brochures about our new ministry on Sunday, May 1, in Roanoke. This event will take the place of the Rainbow Connection for May.

***The Little Hokie Hangout** will be getting new floor covering in August. The carpet has become stained and is showing its age. Nobody seems to know exactly how old it is! Vinyl flooring will replace the carpet and make for easier cleaning and upkeep. We appreciate all the hard work Ed Vigen did to research options!

***New Sound System for the Sanctuary:**

The Wilson bequest will enable us to get a much needed new sound system for the sanctuary. It will have capability of 8-10 wireless microphones and a new sound board.

***THANK YOU** to all who have helped on the work days to make our grounds beautiful! A LOT of raking, mulching, and weed pulling happened as well as the accumulated piles of brush and limbs were chipped. THANK YOU also to the teams of mowers who mow weekly to keep things looking great!

Council Corner Council Corner Council Corner Council Corner Council Corner Council

Welcome Jan Blumenthal, Interim Pianist!

We give thanks to Jan Blumenthal for serving as our Interim Pianist from May 1-June 5, as we bid a 'second farewell' in deep gratitude to Gail King, who played organ and piano for our worship services and choir rehearsals from February through April.

Jan is a retired music educator who formerly directed the Madrigal Singers at Blacksburg High School. She has also played accompaniment for various churches in the NRV. Please give Jan a warm Luther Memorial welcome!

Update on Permanent Music Staff

The Personnel and Worship & Music committees are working to finalize the hiring process for Amy Cowan, our Interim Choir Director, who has agreed to serve as our permanent Choir Director. Amy will lead the choir through June 5, Pentecost, then will take a summer break with the choir and return in September. Personnel and Worship & Music teams are planning to conduct an audition and interview with one candidate for the permanent Worship Accompanist position. Please hold them in your prayers.



God's Work Our Hands

Thanks for your generous donations which helped our neighbors in need during the month of April:

\$ 550.22 collected for NRV Cares Change for Change in April

\$921 distributed to assist with past-due utility payments

An "overflowing wagonload" of new underwear donated to the Women's

Resource Center

50lbs of food/personal hygiene items donated to Micah's Mini-Pantry

376 lbs of food donated to Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

\$718 worth of bar soap purchased for Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry clients

May God bless all who receive assistance and all who provide it!

Our May 2022 Change 4 Change is Reconciling in Christ

LMLC is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. As a RIC Congregation, we provide a safe church and worship space. We support all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

This is a place where all can grow in faith and in community. We understand that God created each of us as beautiful and worthy of love without exception, judgement, or blame. Jesus loves all of us.

If you want to contribute to this charity please, send in a donation to our church office with C4C/Reconciling in Christ noted in the memo line. Thank you, Elaine Belay-Social Ministry Chair

Stock the Pantries for May:



Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry -

The preferred donations for the month of March are **Canned Fruit** (in juice or low sugar if possible).

Micah's Mini Pantry -



Cleaning Sprays, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Sponges/Scrubbers (MMP) – These items are not covered

THANKS!

We give thanks to all the volunteers who faithfully braved the snow (!) to participate in the March and April Property Workdays, making our grounds and buildings so beautiful, and to our Mowing Crew for their hard work now that the mowing season has resumed. Thanks also to everyone who gave their time and talents to spruce up the Von Bora Haus for a new family. We are grateful to the Passion Play readers who shared their gifts on Palm Sunday; to the choir, Gail King, Amy Cowan, Andy Hansbrough, Jay Crone and Genevieve Cruikshank for the inspiring special music during Holy Week services; to crucifer Ray Riggins for swapping out the altar paraments and leading our Palm Sunday and Easter processions; and to all who serve as Ushers and Worship Assistants, you are appreciated! It was a special honor to serve on Easter alongside Rev. Bill King, LMLC's former pastor, and we give thanks for his leadership and participation. Thank you! —Pastor Monica

Offering Bags Return to Worship

Council voted to resume the distribution of the Offering bags through the pews during worship, effective May 1. You may place your offerings and tithes in the bag as it is passed; please also feel free to continue giving electronically or by mailing your gifts to the church office. If you'd like assistance with setting up electronic giving through your bank, please contact Office Manager Marcia Barrow.

Let There Be Light!

On May 2nd, Bell Electric is scheduled to install new LED light fixtures in the Luther Memorial Sanctuary, replacing the original fluorescent fixtures that require frequent maintenance. The LED lights will significantly improve our Sanctuary lighting and reduce our energy footprint. The average LED bulb burns for a minimum of 10 years. Council voted to pay for this improvement project with funds from the Capital Campaign.

Watch LMLC Worship on Livestream or YouTube!

As you prepare to embark on summer travels, remember that you can watch LMLC worship services live through our website. Visit lmlc.org Home Page, scroll down and click "Watch our Livestream" to view the live worship service. You can access a PDF of the Sunday worship bulletin from the same location. To view recorded worship services, click "Watch Last Sunday's Service" on the Home page. We encourage members and guests to "Like" our LMLC YouTube Page: click this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTDz76wqGtrhazExzLCUc-Q> to "Like" us and to subscribe. We give thanks to Anne Devenport who faithfully edits our weekly worship services for posting on YouTube.

Message from Council President

Dear friends in Christ,

Spring has finally arrived in the New River Valley. The birds are singing, and the foliage is in full bloom, promising us another beautiful spring and summer in Blacksburg. It seems like only yesterday that volunteers were pruning, weeding, and spreading mulch on the grounds of Luther Memorial, except with a light snow falling!

Luther Memorial has persevered over the past two years despite COVID having caused so much suffering. We continue to be a vital part of the faith community in Blacksburg and support many non-profit organizations doing important work helping the less fortunate in the New River Valley. Many of our members also volunteer their time to these organizations. Supporting these ministries continue to be a core part of the mission of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church.

Providing meaningful, spirit-filled worship opportunities are also essential for Luther Memorial's mission. Pastor Monica, the staff, and every volunteer, from the greeters to the choir, work diligently to make Luther Memorial a welcoming place for visitors. Seeing the pews filled at Palm Sunday and Easter services was heart-warming, and we hope that trend keeps rising upward as the pandemic fades. There has never been a better time to invite someone to a Sunday morning service at Luther Memorial! The Council is also working to finalize our music staff in the next few weeks so we can continue providing the beautiful music that is an integral part of the Lutheran liturgy.

As spring quickly moves into summer, I reflect upon Luther Memorial's importance in our lives. We have been blessed in so many ways and continue to be grateful for all we have. There are many ways to help Luther Memorial succeed in its mission, including volunteering and ensuring that your pledges are current, especially if you are traveling this summer.

We give thanks for your faithfulness in providing financial support, plus your time and talents, to ensure the continuation of our Gospel proclamation in our community.

I look forward to seeing you on a Sunday morning, very soon!

In peace,

Jay Crone; President, Congregational Council

Impressions of the 30th Roanoke Gay Pride Festival
May 1, 2022
from Carol Reynolds and Lois Voss



On May 1, Lois Voss and I did not attend the Luther Memorial Church. Instead, we took part in Pride Festival in downtown Roanoke. Neither of us expect in terms of weather, which was predicted to of anything else. We arrived early to allow time to only to find that Ray Riggins had gotten there even already set it up. After such an easy start to our time to pass out our Rainbow Connection flyers and magnets, to mingle with people, and to simply observe what was going on. What follows are impressions Lois and I were left with:

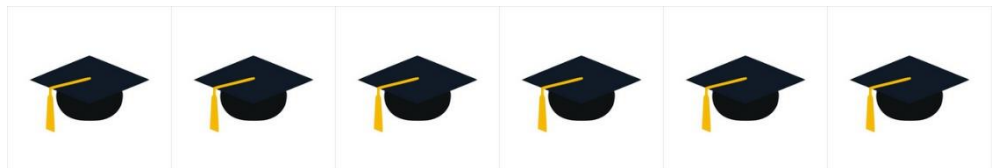
morning service at the 30th Roanoke Gay knew quite what to be rainy, or in terms set up our booth, earlier, and had day, we had lots of

- Rainbows were everywhere – on clothing, flags, table cloths, bandanas, and hats.
- Booths were set up on both sides of the street which had been closed to all but pedestrian traffic. They ranged from those set up by Carilion, Progressive Insurance, and Chanel 10 to others that offered information such as where LGBTQIA+ people in need could get assistance with food and shelter in Virginia and how to help parents find a scout troop that would welcome their child. Colorful booths offered items of clothing and jewelry.
- Music played from a stage during most of the day, often featuring lyrics that evoked the message of welcome, acceptance, and being proud of who you are -- just as you have been created.
- But by far the most lasting impressions were made by those who attended the festival. In a way, most noticeable were those who “dressed to impress” as they sauntered up and down the street. The fun of it was that neither they – nor the spectators – took any of it seriously. It was all done “tongue in cheek”, with a sense of fun.
- More subtle were the people who likely attended because here they could feel completely comfortable about who they are and safe from scorn, disapproval, and perhaps even condemnation from others.
- Families were everywhere, most with young children. Often there would be children with two moms or two dads. Parents and children were having fun together. Another type of family we noticed included parents with an older child who we thought might have “come out” -- with support from their family. There were couples, two men or two women together. Their fondness for each other was apparent and, again, comfortable.
- And the dogs! There were so many – well behaved and well taken care of. Their owners were delighted when people asked if their dog might like a pet. Especially memorable was a young man who had brought his young white pit bull. He told me that he brought his dog so that people could see how friendly his dog was, hoping that this would help to allay the fears that so many have of dogs of this breed.
- Throughout the day a palpable atmosphere of acceptance and comfort developed among those of us who were there to be part of the Gay Pride Festival. When Pastor Monica and Pastor Libby arrived to take over the booth for the second shift, Lois and I packed some things into her car, and Lois drove very slowly and carefully down the pedestrian street. To our great delight, people smiled and waved to us. We had become, for that day, accepted by the community as one of them. Hopefully, we can all offer the same sort of acceptance to those who hope for that from members of Luther Memorial Church. Acceptance from others is truly a priceless gift we can give each other.



Wear Red for Pentecost June 5th

Mark your calendars to wear red to worship on Sunday, June 5, in celebration of Pentecost, the Giving of the Holy Spirit. Red is the liturgical color for this feast day, honoring the fire of God's Holy Spirit that is given to us in baptism and unites us to Jesus Christ.



Congratulations Graduates!

We give thanks to God for our graduating high school and college students:

Ryan Oosterhuis, graduating with a BA in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech. Ryan plans to work for Caterpillar in Clayton, NC as a Developmental Program Engineer.

Abby Hall, Well leadership team, graduating with a BA from Virginia Tech. Abby plans to pursue a Master's degree following graduation.

Service Assistants for May:*

	05.01	05.08	05.15	05.22	05.29
Lector	Zelma Harris	Kathy Parrott	Bennet Cassell	Rachel Larson	Jay Crone
Usher/greeter	Charlie Harris	Carla Liversedge	Don Holmstrom	Carol Papillon	Glenn Buss
Usher/greeter	Glenn Buss	Jennifer Freeman	Marcia Barrow	Diane Catley	Charlie Harris
Teller	Diane Catley	Rick Howard	Mark Barrow	Carla Liversedge	Teresa Cassell
Teller	Marty Oosterhuis	Diane Catley	Tim Larson	Rick Howard	Diane Catley
Livestream					
Council Point Person	Andy Hansbrough	Gail King	Elaine Belay	Ed Vigen	Teresa Cassell
Altar Flowers	Linda Libey	Pierson- Paulson Family	Bill & Gail King		

Service Assistants for June:*

	06.05	06.12	06.19	06.26
Lector	Andy Hansbrough	Zelma Harris	Chris Skogen	Gail King
Usher/greeter	Marcia Barrow	Don Holmstrom	Glenn Buss	Carol Papillon
Usher/greeter	Carol Papillon	Jennifer Freeman	Charlie Harris	Marcia Barrow
Teller	Mark Barrow	Rick Howard	Diane Catley	Teresa Cassell
Teller	Marty Oosterhuis	Carla Liversedge	Tim Larson	Mark Barrow
Livestream				
Council Point Person	Karl Pedersen	John Anstrom	Linda Libey	Jay Crone
Altar Flowers	Alan Smeal	Deisenroth's	Bill & Gail King	Hagman's

***If you cannot serve on your day, please find a member to fill your spot. If you can fill an open spot, please contact the office. Thank you!**



May 01	<i>Jim Lang</i>
May 02	<i>Katya Grant</i>
May 05	<i>Betty Everett</i> <i>Terry Hagman</i>
May 08	<i>Millie Wiggert</i>
May 15	<i>Gladys Smeal</i>
May 22	<i>Nancy Wolfe</i>
May 29	<i>Rachel Larson</i>



Sam and Jenny Akers; May 17

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
600 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR MAY 2022

The world of the generous gets larger and larger...The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed. ***Proverbs 11:24-25***