

The Luther Memorial News November 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

Libby Pfaff, the Well Pastor

Juanita Smoot, Director of Music Ministry

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Marcia Barrow, Office Manager

Church Contact Information:
Phone: 951-1000

Email: luther@lmlc.org

Web: <http://www.lmlc.org>



A Quick look at November:

November 02: LMLC Election Precinct 6am – 7pm



November 03: Practicing Daily Gratitude Devotion
Time @ noon: LMLC Chapel

November 07: All Saints & Campus Ministry
Sunday

November 08: Scout Troop 704 Court of Honor
@ 7pm

November 10: Practicing Daily Gratitude Devotion
Time @ noon: LMLC Chapel

November 13: VT vs Duke – Well Parking



November 17: Practicing Daily Gratitude Devotion
Time @ noon: LMLC Chapel

November 25: *Happy Thanksgiving*



November 26: Office Closed



November 28: First Sunday of Advent



The Luther Memorial Offices are now open by appointment for church business, Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm, as we safely move toward the full reopening of our facilities. Please call Office Manager Marcia Barrow at 540-951-1000 to schedule.

Pastor Monica is 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:

In November, we're often encouraged to develop an "attitude of gratitude" by reflecting on our many blessings from God, given to us across the whole span of our lives. Martin Luther understood gratitude as the most fundamental aspect of the Christian life: thankfulness to God should be the mold that shapes everything we think, say and do. Scripture reveals the many ways that God's people give thanks through prayer, song, worship and service, but as we navigate the uncertainty and chaos in this prolonged pandemic, gratitude may drop to the bottom of our To-Do list.

We naturally count our blessings as we gather with loved ones and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, but what if we could cultivate a **daily** gratitude practice? How might the daily recognition of thankfulness bring us deeper into relationship with the Triune God? When we approach life from a posture of gratitude, we often feel less anxious and far more confident in God's abundant presence and mercy. The daily practice of gratitude teaches us to be aware of situations outside ourselves: we learn to demonstrate empathy and compassion, as we discover how easy it is to let go of striving, and to let go of our need to control other people and outcomes, so we may trust in what God is doing in us, and in the world.

This November, I invite you to join me in the Luther Memorial Chapel every Wednesday at noon for a half-hour of Scripture, prayer and inspirational readings focused on the theme, "Practicing Daily Gratitude." All are welcome, there's no 'homework,' and I will provide all materials. I give thanks to God every day for the opportunity and blessing to serve Luther Memorial as your pastor, and I give thanks for the future opportunities to serve God and neighbor that we will enjoy in the coming months and years. God is so very, very good! Peace to all here,

Pastor Monica

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

November Council Meeting: 21st, 11:30am-Fellowship Hall. Staff & Council members please submit your monthly reports to Marcia Barrow in a PDF file no later than Monday, November 15th. Packets will be distributed by email.

September by the numbers:

General treasury receipts: \$27,629.92 (- \$19,236.45 from last month)

General treasury expenses: \$35,705.63 (+ \$ 3,470.26 over last month)

Net, general treasury: – **\$ 8,075.71** (-\$22,706.71 from last month)

Accounting checking balance 9/30: \$123,664.75 (- \$21,470.37 from last month)

Actual Bank checking balance 9/30: \$141,149.10 (- \$10,888.39 from last month)

Actual Bank checking balance 10/20: \$141,971.92

Unrestricted cash available to spend in GT checking (approx..) as of 8/31: +66,000

Council Corner – Actions and Approvals

Approved recommendations from the COVID-19 task force to ease requirements for wearing face masks and social distancing. Requested use of kitchen facilities will be reviewed on a case- by-case basis. Persons no longer need to sign in and out when using the building. Adjustments to the policy will reflect guidance from the Virginia Synod and health officials.

Income for September was less than in August and expenses for the year are tracking at the expected rate of 75%. With a sufficient balance in the general fund, Council approved the transfer of \$25,000 to designated funds.

Approved, for action at the November meeting of the congregation, a ministry funding plan with expenditures of \$308,393 and a projected income of \$280,000. This proposal includes the 3% increase in total compensation for the staff, Pastor Monica, Nita Smoot, Marcia Barrow, and Michael Spencer.

Approved closing a line item in spending plan for “Luther’s Lunches”, a ministry that we no longer provide, and transfer of these funds, \$909.79, to support feeding guests in the “To Our House” ministry.

Approved payment for Safe Gatherings training for staff, which informs us about procedures and performance that assures the safety of others, particularly children who interact with staff.

Established a restricted fund to support maintenance and development of the pipe organ.

Adopted a proposal and methodology to formalize a seminary debt reduction assistance program. The program will include options for the congregation to reduce seminary debt for staff and establish the LMLC Loan Team to manage the loan paydown process.

Approved developing a Building Use Policy and Hold Harmless Policy to establish a clear understanding of responsibilities for groups using our facilities and our support for their use.



Annual Congregational Meeting Notice:

All members are invited and encouraged to attend the Luther Memorial Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, November 14**, immediately following worship. At this meeting, we will elect 4 new Council members; 3 Trustees; vote on the 2022 proposed Ministry Funding Plan; and vote to accept proposed revisions to the congregation Bylaws. All members should have received an email or mailing with the meeting materials: if you did not receive them, please contact Marcia in the church office, 951-1000. The meeting will be live-streamed and electronic voting by Zoom will be permitted. To receive the **Zoom link**, please email Pastor Monica **no later than Thursday, November 11**.

God's Work



Our Hands

In October, Luther Memorial members and friends served as God's Hands, doing God's Work:

379.5 pounds of food donated to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry, including 250 cans of mushroom soup for Holiday Food Bags

50 "Birthday Party Kits" for clients of the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

90 pounds of food and personal hygiene items donated to our new Micah's Mini-Pantry

\$200 to purchase Kroger cards distributed for groceries, gas and medicine

Thank you for proclaiming the love of Christ Jesus with your generosity!



The New River Valley shelter for homeless men and women has a new venue this season. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1845 Cambria Street NE, Christiansburg, is providing a safe and inviting facility. We will again provide **evening meals and breakfast items** for 12 guests plus one to two staff members during the first week **November 13-19**. We are asking for **volunteers to help serve** the meal (may or may not be the cooks.)

Assistance cleaning up the kitchen would greatly be appreciated. We will provide **fast food gift certificates for lunches for the entire two weeks** as we did last year. Saint Michael's will provide dinner the following week. Through an arrangement with Bull and Bones, we will provide a Thanksgiving meal.

Laundry will be picked up from the shelter approximately every three to four days. Pick up can be arranged by contacting Pastor Josh who will let you in. Dirty linens can then be laundered at the Campus Center.

We are asking for **overnight volunteers** this year. There is a room that is totally separate from the guests' sleeping area. It has two comfortable sofas. Many of our members are perhaps not quite comfortable with volunteering for this. This is understandable. Others feel that this is something they can and want to do. You should not feel any pressure either way.

Saturday, **Nov 27**, we need volunteers to help **transport supplies** to Glade Church.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4faaaa2fabfe3-toourhouse2>

Wava Vigen: 571-276-5079 or wavaburg@gmail.com

Have You Seen Our New Micah's Mini-Pantry?

Thanks to everyone who donated non-perishable foods, cleaning products and personal hygiene items for our new Micah's Mini-Pantry, located outside the Well Campus Center at the edge of the sidewalk. This pantry is designed to provide emergency assistance for anyone in need, but particularly for food-insecure students at Virginia Tech. Please support this ministry by bringing items from the list below to the rolling cart in the Narthex, and please thank our members Mark Freeman and Ray Riffin for managing this effort!

New Mask Guidance for Luther Memorial Facilities

The Luther Memorial congregation council voted on 10/24/21 to relax several COVID-19 precautions, based on the following recommendation of the COVID Task Force:

"The number of new Covid cases in Montgomery County has been declining the past four weeks and health officials feel the trend will continue. After discussing this data, the Task Force recommends that some of our restrictions be eased.

Beginning Sunday November 7th:

Wearing of masks within our buildings will be optional.

Standing for customary parts of the liturgy will be optional.

We will continue using in pre-packaged cups for communion in the pews.

Physical contact during the Passing of the Peace will be optional.

Members and friends are asked to support others and be respectful of their decisions.

Masking will be optional for members of outside groups who use our building.

Requests for serving food and use of the kitchen will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The task force will continue to monitor the recommendations of the Synod and health officials, and may request adjustments to this policy in the future."

Council voted to support this recommendation, which takes effect on Sunday, November 7 at 10am worship.

Watch the Reformation Celebration Service!

If you were unable to attend the special Reformation Celebration on October 31, you missed a great afternoon of Lutheran worship and fellowship with special choral and brass music, plus a skit presented by the pastors of 6 area ELCA congregations. To watch the recording of this service, visit lmlc.org and scroll down the page for the link.

We offer a special thanks to LMLC choir members and Director of Music Ministry Juanita Smoot; Dr. Jay Crone and the brass quartet; to Marcia Barrow for creating the bulletin and Pastor Libby Pfaff for directing the skit. It's good to be Lutheran!



Campus Ministry Sunday & All Saints November 7th

Please join us in welcoming Pastor Libby Pfaff and Well students as they present worship on Sunday, November 7th at 10am. We will also celebrate All Saints' Sunday during that service, reading aloud the names of our departed loved ones. Pastor Monica will preside at Christ Lutheran on the 7th so that Pastor Libby may lead worship with our Well students.

"Mothers of Jesus" Women's Bible Study, Thursday 7pm by Zoom!

Matthew's Gospel names four women from Israel's history as ancestors of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba. But what do we know about these "mothers of Jesus" and their remarkable journeys of struggle, witness and justice? Join Pastor Monica and Pastor Michelle of St Michael on **Thursday Nov 4th & 11th** by Zoom at 7pm as we explore the extraordinary stories of these women of faith, and what they can offer contemporary Christian women. This study has minimal reading, and Pastor Monica will preach an Advent sermon series on The Mothers of Jesus, so this is a great way to dive deeper into the stories of these influential women of God. **To receive the Zoom link, please email:** pastormonica@lmlc.org



Advent Begins November 28th!

Sunday, November 28th begins our celebration of the season of Advent, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, the renewal of God's Creation and a new liturgical year.

Copies of "Wait Upon the Lord," the 2021 Advent devotional booklet, will be available on Sunday, November 21. This booklet features special readings for every day of Advent. Please contact Marcia in the church office if you would like your booklet mailed to you.

Pastor Monica will present a special Advent Sunday sermon series on "The Mothers of Jesus." We will also join friends from the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship congregations for Advent Midweek worship using Holden Evening Prayer, beginning Wednesday Dec. 1st. Watch your email later this month for more info.

If you would like to sponsor an **Advent** office. We need four!!



Door Wreath, please call/email Marcia at the

NEW Men's Bible Study with the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship!

The 5 Fellowship congregations will begin a new Men's Bible Study group by Zoom, led by John Stramiello, Director of Micah's Initiative, on **Thursdays at 7pm**. John, a former lay prison minister, will engage the ELCA's "Lutheran Men in Mission" resources for this study. In addition to the study, we will discuss possible service projects and men's fellowship activities. To receive the Zoom link for this event, **please email** pastormonica@lmlc.org.

Heart Felt Thanks!

We give thanks for our members who donate their time and talents to serve God & neighbor:

Thanks to **Ray Riggin** for patching and painting several dents in the Christian Ed classrooms.

Thanks to **Anne Devenport** for editing our livestream Sunday worship recordings every week.

Thanks to **Bennet Cassell** for crafting the beautiful new garden bench adjacent to our "No Mow Zone."

Thanks to **Rebekah Paulson & Mark Barrow** for coordinating with an arborist and the Property team on several tree issues.

Thanks to **Rev. Don Holmstrom** and **Rev. Rachel Larson** for preaching/presiding during Pastor Monica's retreat.

Thanks to **Aaron Howard** and **Andy Hansbrough** for faithfully operating the weekly worship livestream.

Thanks to our dedicated **Lawn Care crew** for their hard work to keep our grounds beautiful.

Thanks to our Christian Ed and Bible study leaders: **Rev. Bill King, Jim Lang, Fred Rencsok, Phil Jordan** and **John Hess**.

Thanks to **Well students, Pastor Libby** and **LMLC volunteers** for assistance with football parking: we have earned over \$11,800 to date this season to pay for Well Campus Ministry expenses.

Christmas Outreach Will Kick-off the Fund Drive on November 14th

It's hard for me to realize that the Christmas Season is upon us. With that said, we will begin our Fund Drive for Christmas Outreach at our annual meeting on November 14th.

The Christmas Outreach Project provides financial support for families who have children attending Valley Interfaith Child Care Center (VICCC). The goal of VICCC is to provide high quality affordable, educational, and nurturing, care for young children (ages 6 weeks to 5) and of income eligible working families in the New River Valley. The mission of VICCC is to provide support for the low-income working population of the New River Valley as they strive to become more self-sufficient. There is a significant barrier to low-income parents seeking to participate in the local job market. These parents may be left with a difficult choice. Without childcare, some parents are unable to hold a job, leaving them dependent on public assistance and unable to strive for their family's self-sufficiency. VICCC operates a licensed nonprofit childcare center that provided high quality care at a subsidized price our families can afford. VICCC parents can report to work knowing that their children are in a safe and loving environment where they are following the Covid-19 protocols, they will benefit from a curriculum that stresses literacy, self-esteem, and school readiness as well as nutrition program tailored just for them. Instead of providing financial assistance to the center, Christmas Outreach focuses on the families.

We had extremely successful fundraising effort. In 2020, we raised **\$8,026.34**. We were able to provide \$380 in tuition reimbursement and financial support to 20 low- income families whose children attend Valley Interfaith Child Care Center. In addition, we were able to provide a couple of prepackaged snacks and one books for all 39 children who attend the center. VICCC also provides the same book each month to each child as part of their curriculum. We were able to provide 2 months of books for the center.

VICCC still has some restrictions due to Covid 19 and we still serve less children. For Christmas Outreach, 18 families identified this year to help. There will be one change this year. The Department of Social Services has lowered the requirement to receive childcare assistance including paying the copay until the end of 2021. We will be giving financial assistance to each family instead of paying their copay. With the increase in cost of food, gas and other products, this help will be greatly appreciated to make this a Merry Christmas. I would like to challenge the congregation to raise **\$8500** this year. That will allow us to give each family \$450 in financial support, provide two months of books to the center and provide a gift bag to each child in the center. Thank you for your support of Christmas Outreach. Our help means the world to these families.

Peace,
Teresa Cassell





NITA'S NOTES

October has been an exciting month for our LMLC choir. First of all we welcomed 2 new choir members. They will introduce themselves to you.

Jan Buss, an alto, was an Iowa farm girl who moved to San Diego, where she lived and worked at UCSD and The Salk Institute for 24 years. She returned to Ames, Iowa as an Iowa State faculty member, raised a daughter, and continued doing cancer research. She moved to Virginia 12 years ago and works as a senior scientist at TechLab, designing medical diagnostic kits, most recently for food poisoning. On her first day there, Jan met Karl Pedersen, who is also a scientist at TechLab. They built a friendship, and, on October 30th, were joyously married at LMLC. Jan's pleasures are gardening, cooking, and enjoying wine on the front porch with Karl. Her favorite hymn is the Doxology which she sings every morning. It was also sung as the sending hymn during her marriage service with Karl.

Kari Heistad, a soprano, moved from Minneapolis, Minnesota to Blacksburg over the summer with her partner, Xander, who started a Creative Writing MFA program this fall. Xander is Jewish and he and Kari are excited to bring their families together at their interfaith wedding next summer. Kari teaches High School English in Salem and loves it. She is thrilled to be joining the choir at Luther Memorial. Kari sang in the St. Olaf Chapel choir in college and her favorite hymn is "How Can I Keep from Singing," which her Dad will sing at her and Xander's wedding next summer.

We also enjoyed joining with choir members from our Blacksburg Fellowship churches during our special Reformation service on October 31st. Singing with an overflowing choir loft of voices, the brass quartet, organ and congregation will certainly be a worship highlight of 2021.

Remember that there is still room for you in the choir. We will have a special rehearsal NOV 14 after the annual meeting. At that time, we will introduce our Advent and Christmas anthems.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us for our seasonal singing. Joyfully Yours, *Nita*

Service Assistants for November:*

	11.07	11.14	11.21	11.28
Lector	Carolyn Howard	Rachel Larson	Ed Vigen	Zelma Harris
Usher/greeter	Don Holmstrom	Marcia Barrow	Carla Liversedge	Charlie Harris
Usher/greeter	Jennifer Freeman	Carol Papillon	Glenn Buss	Jennifer Freeman
Teller	Rick Howard	Teresa Cassell	Mark Barrow	Diane Ctley
Teller	Marty Oosterhuis	Tim Larson	Marty Oosterhuis	Tim Larson
Livestream	Aaron Howard			
Council Point Person	Elaine Belay	John Hess	Teresa Cassell	Jay Crone
Altar Flowers	Mike & Marilia Deisenroth	Mark & Marcia Barrow		No Flowers - Advent

*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!



November 03

Diane Catley

November 04

Janet Buss

November 14

Teresa Cassell

November 19

Betty Jo Prater

November 23

Sam Akers

Phil Jordan

Joe Liversedge

November 25

John Hess

November 27

Mara Knott

Erin Peterson

November 28

Marjean Anthony

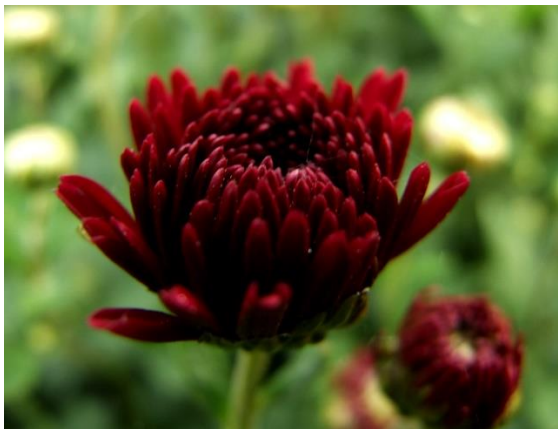
November 30

Mark Freeman



Mark and Marcia Barrow; November 7th

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



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR NOVEMBER 2021

“For it is in *giving* that we *receive*.”

St. Francis of Assisi