

The Luther Memorial News October 2020

*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

Church Contact Information:

Phone: 951-1000

Email: luther@lmlc.org

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



Lutherans love October because it's Reformation month: on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg Castle church, proclaiming his disgust with the papal curia's corruption and its neglect of God's people. Luther didn't intend to start a new branch of Christianity, but his protests, bolstered by other Christian voices, established Protestantism. Luther's supporters inadvertently created the new Christian denomination of Lutheranism that we cherish today. We continue to celebrate the Protestant Reformation, because in Christ Jesus, we are re-formed every day by God's endless grace and love. As Luther wrote in his 1520 treatise, "The Freedom of a Christian," having been freed by Christ **from** sin, we are made free **for** service to God and neighbor. Lutherans have celebrated, practiced and shared our understanding of freedom in Christ for over 500 years!

The global pandemic of 2020 has required each of us to re-form our way of life: every time we leave the house, we place our health at risk. The masks we wear for protection hide our facial expressions and smiles. We stand far apart from one another, unable to hug or shake hands. We frequently wash our hands and sanitize surfaces, on constant guard. And we long for the simple pleasures of singing together in worship, eating in a restaurant, and traveling without fear of exposure to a virus.

As Lutherans, we proclaim our emphasis on God's unconditional grace to the world, and that includes our faith in God's ability to re-form us in mercy, every new day. In the midst of the pandemic's tragedies, God's endless grace abounds, if we choose to notice. Many of us have rediscovered and re-formed close relationships with our housemates; we've enjoyed more home-cooked meals together or learned to bake bread. Some of us have rescued a new pet and been re-formed by the joy of companionship with God's creatures. We've slowed our pace to discover awesome beauty and peace in God's Creation, and we've re-formed how we gather, how we celebrate, and how we cherish God's precious gift of life.

This Reformation season, I invite you to be re-formed in your approach to what 'church' means, and consider that despite the pandemic and chaos all around us, Christ's Church on earth still gathers, worships, and serves. Freed from sin by the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, may we be freed for vibrant ministry to the world, right in our backyard. —Peace to all here,

Pastor Monica



Congregational Council Corner

Council Members:

2020

Fred Rencsok, President rencsok@verizon.net
Kathy Parrott homes@vt.edu
Leah Wechtaluk McFarren lwechtal@vt.edu
Lois Voss, V. President loisvoss@aol.com

2021

Carolynn Howard carric2003@gmail.com
Mara Knott knott@vt.edu
Tim Larson tilarson@vt.edu
John Hess, Secretary jlhess@vt.edu

2022

Jay Crone jaycrone@vt.edu
Andy Hansbrough andy.hansbrough@kollmorgen.com
Seth Knight sethoro@gmail.com
Ed Vigen ed.vigen48@gmail.com

The building permit for the renovations to the fellowship hall from the Town of Blacksburg, pending as of mid-September but has been approved. Work is scheduled to begin the last week of September.

The laundry facility in the campus center has been completed. Council approved conditional use of only the large room of the campus center for study by up to 10 students at a time, under guidelines for building use defined by the COVID-19 Task Force and the covenant established by the leadership team of the Well. Use of the laundry will be approved at a later date, pending recommendations from the COVID-19 Task Force.

The congregation will consider changes to constitution for LMLC to comply with the model constitution of the ELCA. The congregation will act to adopt the revisions at the annual meeting in November. The revisions to the constitution will be available online or mailed to members by mid-October.

Input from committees forms the basis of the spending plan for 2021 that will be drafted by the Committee on Finance and presented to Council at the meeting on October 4.

On October 4, Council will determine whether or not to reopen for limited in-person worship as it considers input from the survey of the congregation and policy guidelines from the government.

Blacksburg ELCA Fellowship's Blessing of the Pets Sunday, Oct 4th

Join us to remember St Francis of Assisi with the Blessing of the Pets. The Fellowship pastors will bless our pets, who remind us of God's unconditional love. Gather at **3pm** in **Luther Memorial's lower church parking lot** near the picnic shelter. Please observe safe physical distancing and wear a mask. All pets are welcome but must be leashed/controlled at all times.

With our Roman Catholic and Episcopal brothers and sisters, Lutherans observe October 4th as the feast day for St Francis of Assisi, known for his love of Creation and all God's creatures. Born into great wealth in Italy, Francis took a vow of poverty and worked to renew the church, care for Creation and relieve human suffering. In 2011, a Lutheran order of Franciscan brothers and sisters was founded. Their goals are: to accompany the poor; to bring about spiritual renewal; to care for Creation and to build ecumenical bridges. You can learn more about this order here: <https://www.lutheranfranciscans.org>. We look forward to seeing you and your pet on **October 4th!**

Annual Stewardship Drive

In mid-October, you will receive a packet by mail from our Stewardship committee, chaired by Bennet Cassel, including a 2021 Pledge Card and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope so you may mail in your pledge for next year.

As you consider how to contribute your gifts, talents and tithes for the coming year of Lutheran ministry and mission support, please remember that Luther Memorial's ministry to The Well students, to the communities of the New River Valley, and to the world continues, even though our buildings are closed to protect the health and safety of our members and friends. With God's help, we've discovered new ways to worship, serve and gather safely and meaningfully: proof that the love and mercy of God in Christ Jesus always triumphs, no matter what the circumstances. God's Holy Spirit continues to lead us into exciting ways to worship and serve together, safely.

Over the years, Luther Memorial has been richly blessed by God with many gifts: those gifts are embodied by our dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to care for our grounds, oversee our financial health, and serve on committees to make vital ministry possible. God's gifts are embodied by your church staff as they lovingly care for you, the people of God. God's gifts to us are also embodied in the financial contributions our members make so generously and faithfully. Your ongoing support of this congregation's ministry has enabled us to continue our mission of service to Christ and community during this global pandemic. Thank you!

We also give thanks to the good stewards on Council and committees for their careful monitoring of expenses in the midst of 2020's uncertainty. Because of this congregation's excellent planning and vision, plus your capital campaign donations, we are now blessed with a new, more efficient HVAC system and will soon complete the renovation of Fellowship Hall, gifts we will enjoy for years to come.

Together we remain committed to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to one another, to our neighbors and to the world, shining a much-needed light of love and hope into the darkest corners of despair that plague our society. Please complete your 2021 Pledge card and return it to the Church office in the envelope provided. Your gifts and tithes bless this congregation, our community, and the work of Christ!

Save the Date: LMLC's Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, November 15, 2pm.

This meeting will take place electronically by Zoom, and our tasks include the election of 4 new council members, approving the proposed 2021 Ministry Funding Plan, and a vote to revise our Constitution to be in alignment with the ELCA Model Constitution approved at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

All LMLC members will soon receive by mail a copy of the proposed Constitutional amendments; instructions on how to access the Zoom meeting, how to cast votes and how to ask questions in the Zoom platform; and a copy of the 2021 proposed Ministry Funding Plan; plus you will also receive information on council nominees to fill four expired terms.

Members who do not use a computer, tablet or smartphone may also attend this meeting by dial-up on any telephone. This information will be provided in the mailings.



Autumn Worship Highlights from the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship:

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,
Please mark your calendars with these upcoming worship opportunities:

Oct 4th, **Blessing of the Pets**, Luther Memorial Lower Parking Lot, 3pm

Oct 25th, **Campus Ministry Sunday & Drive-In Worship, Commemoration of the Reformation**, 10am, St Michael Lutheran Church. Students from The Well will present our worship service! Join us for worship & holy communion and don't forget to wear red!

Nov 1st, **All Saints' Day**. Please submit the names of loved ones who have passed to Marcia Barrow in the LMLC Church Office **by Friday, October 16th at 4pm**, so their names may be included in a special tribute. VA Synod Bishop Robert Humphrey will serve as our Guest Preacher.

We continue to collaborate to present meaningful worship for our five Fellowship congregations, and we give thanks to you for your support, encouragement and participation. We are working together to plan special Advent & Christmas worship, so stay tuned!—The Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship Clergy



Renovations have begun in the **Fellowship Hall**. During demolition and construction you will no longer be able to enter the church through the Fellowship Hall door. You must enter through the Narthex exterior doors. The sign-in table and library cart (full of books longing to be read) are right inside the Narthex doors closest to the parking lot. The Little Hokie Hangout daycare is up and running and following strict Covid19 guidelines so you cannot enter the church through the Education Wing door either. Please contact the office if your key does not work on the Narthex doors and you need to get inside the church building.

I have been one of the members at Luther Memorial who has used the **VANCO** service to automatically have my pledge taken out of my account since the church started offering it. I was recently made aware that there is a 3% service fee to do this. This is a portion of my pledge the church is not getting. Now, in this day of online banking, I will be switching to electronic checking (which is a free service through my bank). This is typically how most people pay their bills now. For those who don't know, an electronic check, or e-check, is a form of payment made via the internet. It is designed to perform the same function as a conventional paper check, but it is processed faster and has more security than handwritten or mailed checks. I would like to encourage everyone who is comfortable doing this to consider changing from VANCO or PAYPAL, whichever you use, to making this switch to electronic checking. It is also a great resource during this time when we are not meeting in person to have your pledge regularly sent to the church. If you would be interested in making the switch, please contact Marcia for more information.

Thanks for reading my little promotion for electronic banking. – Diane Catley



Drive Thru Donations for the **Christmas Store**

October 24, 2020 (SATURDAY)

@ Lutheran Memorial Church Lower Parking Lot Near the Picnic Shelter.

12 noon to 2 p.m.

The Christmas Store would like our congregation to collect cans of pasta and cans of meat for baskets to be given to families this Christmas Season. Please donate cans of pasta like: Chef Boyardee ravioli, lasagna, and spaghetti & meatballs. Also cans of meat like: salmon, tuna, chili, corned beef, chicken, and stew are needed. Food donations are essential for many more families in our area this year.

Thanks,

Elaine Belay; chair of Social Ministry

It is election "season", perhaps more important this year than **election "day"**. The Covid Task Force encourages everyone to vote in the safest way possible. In Virginia, you can register or request an absentee ballot at www.elections.virginia.gov. To do this by phone in Montgomery County, call 540-382-5741. Out-of-state family and friends can get info at www.VOTE411.org

There are two constitutional amendments on Virginia's ballot. (1) creation of a bi-partisan commission to draw congressional district lines and (2) exemption of taxes on a vehicle used by a disabled veteran. Read the explanations on the election website.

If you do not wish to put your absentee ballot in the US Mail, you can place it in one of the drop boxes, located inside the rooms for early in-person voting. Montgomery County residents have two early in-person voting sites in Christiansburg: a large room on the first floor of the **County Government Center** or at the NRV mall in "**Wonder Universe: A Children's Museum.**" Those locations will be available through **Saturday, October 31**. Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except the holiday on October 12, plus the same hours on two Saturdays, October 24 and 31.



Reminder: Luther Memorial is an official polling place on November 3rd!



Lutheran Campus Ministries At Virginia Tech

We ask your prayers for our fall semester! The semester is off to a wonderful start with a full weekly programming. Here's a look at a week at The Well:

Tuesday Night Gatherings: Each week, along the same schedule in previous years, The Well gathers via zoom at 7pm for fellowship, learning and worship. We have had Bible Study, Bob Ross Painting Night, a justice issue teach-in, a Netflix Watch Party, and game night...upcoming we'll have a 'Chopped Cooking Challenge' where folks will pick up bags of random ingredients from the campus center and we'll all test our kitchen chops!

Wednesday Night Socially Distant Worship: At 6pm we gather with masks and at a safe social distance for a 45-minute service of the Word.

Wednesday Night Bible Study: At 7pm we gather over zoom for Bible study. This semester we are following Paul's missionary journey through Acts and his epistles.

Sunday Night Burning Bush Gatherings: At 7:30pm on Sundays we are gathering in-person and via zoom around the fire pits in the Lower Lot at LMLC. These gatherings are described as 'an open space for connection and conversation.' Unlike our other programming these gatherings are less structured with the invitation for students to bring their joys, challenges, questions and uncertainties.

God's peace be with you all!

-Alyssa Kaplan

Nita's Notes – October 2020

Throughout the month of September I have bonded at a more profound level with my new LMLC friend and member of our Music Ministry team, H5 the Zoom Handy Recorder. We are spending lots of quality time together recording the mini concerts which are posted on our website as well as with the additional singers and instrumentalists who participate in our LMLC worship services. Not being much of a gadget person, I am learning and adapting to this new skill set and actually enjoying the stretch. I have amazed even myself! Yesterday Bennet Cassell and I met to record his solo and cantoring contributions for the upcoming OCT 4th worship service. At his suggestion, I am including some insight as to how this process evolves.

Yes, I am somewhat of a perfectionist! As a musician, I have been conditioned for most of my life to correct mistakes, or better yet, not even make them. (Good luck with that!) When playing a live service, whatever happens, happens and one simply tries to play as perfectly as possible and navigate around errors without stopping or making facial grimaces or under the breath comments. Recording is a different challenge because any mistake doesn't just happen in passing. Instead, it is there on a recording to be heard over and over, should one so desire. As is often the case, the first take isn't always the best and so more and more are attempted on the quest of perfection, truly a musician's Holy Grail. H5 and I have done as many as 11 takes on one 3 minute piece even though I felt sure I had practiced enough and knew what I was doing!

After everything is recorded to my satisfaction, H5 and I delete all the undesirable takes and transfer the presentable files to a software program, called Audacity. Audacity, who wasn't even on my radar pre Covid-19, is also a new friend and part of the Music Ministry team. We had a slight falling out last month when I thought she deleted my files, though. The possibility of having to re-record everything was rather stressful; however, with reassurances from Jay Crone, my recording mentor, that they were there somewhere, I was able to reboot the laptop and find that they miraculously reappeared. THANK GOD!

Once the files are safe with Audacity, H5 takes a break and I edit the selected files by deleting dead space, unwanted words and such. Then all are linked together to make a set which is downloaded to our Google Drive account so that they are ready to find their new home on the website through more magic!!

I've got to close now as H5, Audacity and I have a rainy day play date!

Psalm 89:15-16a "How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O Lord, they walk in the light of Thy countenance. In Thy name they rejoice all the day..."

Joyfully yours,
NITA



Way to go Lutherans!! We collected **617.5 pounds** of food for the **Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry** on September 26th; valued at **\$1,068.28**. A special thank you Sandy and Terry Hagman for getting all this food delivered.

Follow Luther Memorial on *Instagram*



@luthermemorialblacksburg

2020-2021



Synod Youth Events



Last updated: 9/13/2020

The restrictions that have become necessary due to the current pandemic have meant that we will be holding all of our events online instead of in-person. As conditions change, we will return to in-person gatherings as soon as we are able. Check the Virginia Synod website (www.vasynod.org) for specific dates, times, registration instructions, and other arrangements for each event.

ROANOKE COLLEGE LUTHERAN VISIT DAY

Oct. 3, 2020

For high school youth and parents to learn about our church's college and about discerning the Christian calling to higher education.

LOST AND FOUND

Nov. 20-22, 2020

For 7th and 8th graders and their adult advisors

WINTER CELEBRATION

Jan. 22-24, 2021

For 9th through 12th graders and their adult advisors

SEVENTH DAY

March 6-7, 2021

For 5th and 6th graders and their adult advisors

BISHOP'S DAY

March, 2021

For youth discerning a call to ministry and their pastors

YOUTH ASSEMBLY

June 11-12, 2021

For 7th through 12th graders Each congregation of the Synod is invited to send two delegates to the Youth Assembly.

KAIROS

June 20-25, 2021

For rising 9th through 12th graders

BISHOP'S SCHOOL

June, 2021

For youth having completed grades 11 or 12 by June 2020. Sponsored by Region 9 of the ELCA.

LAUNCH

July 11-15, 2021

For just graduated high school seniors

THEOLOGY FOR TEENS

July, 2021

Roanoke College's annual summer camp introducing teens (10th-12th grade) to biblical and theological scholarship, exploring contemporary challenges and how their faith tradition can meet those challenges.

Note: The ELCA Youth Gathering, originally scheduled for June, 2021 in Minneapolis, has been postponed to July 24-28, 2022.

Check www.elca.org/gathering for regular updates on the Youth Gathering

Connect with us!



Virginia Synod-ELCA @virginiasynod @virginiasynod

Registration:

Registration forms for all events can be downloaded from the VA synod website at: www.vasynod.org (click Youth Ministry).

For more information contact Virginia Synod Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries Dave Delaney at delaney@vasynod.org.

Contact our Camps!

For year-round meeting and retreat opportunities



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN OCTOBER

October 05	<i>Bill King Jim Wolfe</i>
October 10	<i>Barry Johnson Ed Vigen</i>
October 12	<i>Allen Price</i>
October 18	<i>Dennis Catley</i>
October 20	<i>Elizabeth Roeder</i>
October 26	<i>Kevin Carlson Erin Hansbrough</i>
October 27	<i>Elizabeth Mallery</i>
October 29	<i>Alison Knight</i>



Happy Anniversary



Tammy Graham; October 10th

Tim & Marti Larson; October 20th

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR OCTOBER 2020

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Master, let me not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
It is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

--Attributed to St. Francis