

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 SEPTEMBER 2021

THE LORD WILL REIGN FOREVER,
YOUR GOD, O ZION, FOR ALL GENERATIONS

PRAISE THE LORD!

PSALM 146:10, NRSV



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Martin Luther Church is the only ELCA Congregation on James Island*
- *Martin Luther Church was organized on February 5, 1961.*
- *273 Disciples call Martin Luther Church their home church.*
- *Eight Pastors have shepherded Martin Luther disciples since its organization.*

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God Surprises Us!

A man applied for a job as a handyman. The prospective employer asked, "Can you do carpentry?" The man answered in the negative.

"How about bricklaying?" Again the man answered, "No."

The employer asked, "Well, what about electrical work?" The man said "No, I don't know anything about that either."

Finally the employer said, "Well, tell me then what is handy about you." The man replied, "I live just around the corner."

In Time For Action, Rev. King Duncan observes: "Sometimes the greatest ability we can have is availability. To be where God can call us, to be within whisper range of his summons, that is the beginning of a life of meaningful discipleship."

Oh, how true! God knows us very well. And he knows what gifts, talents, and abilities for ministry we have. After all, God made us, and he's the one who gives us our gifts!

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these



brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

But perhaps the greatest gift we can give God is our availability. Just being open to God's using us "on the spot" in whatever situation he directs us to, is huge! It's so important!

Even as we struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic, we still get so busy and so full of our own schedules, that being open to God's using us "at a moment's notice" is difficult. It can be a real challenge to stop, take a moment, and pray: "God, I'm here. I'm available.

What do you want me to do or say right now?"

Yes, as busy as we are, doing that can be a real challenge!

But guess what? That's where real life is!

And being available to God every day allows God to bless us...and other people through us... in ways we'd never imagine! God loves to surprise us that way. Oh, yeah...he does!

UPDATED COVID 19 PROTOCOLS

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH UPDATED COVID 19 PROTOCOLS

Congregational council met yesterday, Tuesday, August 17th. The main discussion centered around the rising counts of people infected and sick with covid or the variants of covid. For the safety and protection of all worshippers, council members agreed to make the following recommendations –

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Ushers, due to their personal interaction with worshippers, will wear masks;

Ushers will encourage all parishioners to wear masks, but not absolutely required;

There will be minimized personal touch;

Communion – we will not be coming forward to receive communion, instead everyone will remain in their pews and have their own communion kit (which are available when you enter the narthex);

Sharing the peace – by sign language only;

First Sunday of the Month Brunch – on hold until further notice;

BOTTOM LINE – If you feel ill, STAY AT HOME.

No council member is ‘joyful’ about these recommendations. However, we trust that our Lord is in charge, and, as your congregational council, we are following guidelines that we feel are in the best interest of the majority of our disciples for a safe worship experience.

On the positive side, we will still sing praises! We did not feel it was necessary for the choir to wear masks if they so choose – they are a very safe distance away from the congregation. We will also continue to record the service and put it live on Facebook.

With school just now starting back, we feel it is best to hold off on any youth activities in the building for a couple of months and see how things go with the numbers/cases.

Council members and church staff are doing everything we can to keep up with the latest information on this pandemic. News and information are all over the map – as they say – so we can only rely on God and our own common sense for what we believe is the right direction during this pandemic. Please keep all of us and this congregation in your prayers. We continue to meet monthly to review recommendations; our next meeting will be on September 14th.

"Why is making the trip to our church on Sunday worth your time?"

I make the trip to church on Sunday to enjoy time with my spiritual family and because it makes me feel closer to God. I feel God outside of church, but when we are all there as the body of Christ, I know God is smiling down and pleased with us.

Also, I am able to provide in person support to fellow members who may be needing some love and prayers.

And the MUSIC is always enjoyable and uplifting.

Kathy Swittenberg

I take great comfort in the promise that God talks with those who seek him. Going to church on Sundays, to me, is visiting God in his home. My week feels

incomplete for the times that I do have to miss

attending church on Sunday. The past 18 months have been difficult. I don't see some of the familiar faces at Sunday service. I pray for people to come back and to not be afraid. After all, we are in God's house.

Blessings, Maria Namie

Amazing Grace
how sweet the sound



"Why is making the trip to our church on Sunday worth your time?"

Martin Luther Church is the Mushroom Church

Sherry and I found these giant mushrooms growing at the base of some trees in Martin Luther Church's front churchyard.

Obviously, these are some really cool fungi.

This one is Lutheran = As it matured, it turned red!



This one is shaped like a heart = It shows that God's heart is here!

Both of these fungi go to show

- * There are some really fun guys (fungi's) and fun gals here in our church!
- * And all of 'em are filled with God's heart and his love!
- * You never know who will pop up!
- * You never know when or where God will pop up!

Sounds like great reasons why making the trip to Martin Luther Church on Sunday is worth the time!

--Pastor Tom

MUSIC NOTES

“All God’s Critters got a place in the Choir!”

What a great motto for our life in Christ. Specially created, uniquely gifted, we are all called by God to serve with grateful hearts!

MLLC has a place for YOU in the choir(s).

Ringers, singers, instrumentalists, and all musical explorers are invited to participate in our music ministry!

Our fall season of handbells will begin with rehearsal on Monday, Sept 12 at 6pm.

Choir rehearsal will move to Monday evenings at 7, beginning on Sept 12.

Hoping to see you there!!!

Blessings!

Gina



A Shared God Sighting

The day before my mother passed, I was sitting at the kitchen table where I grew up with my nephew and his wife. They are young, in their 20's. We were sharing some of our favorite nana memories. While my mother loved all of her grandkids, my nephew was her first and always came to talk or called her randomly, even as a teenager, even while in college. He and nana had a special bond. I was thumbing through one of her journals, and I came to a page from 2015 when my mother met his now wife for the first time. I read it out loud to the both of them. It was a glowing review of her. Our eyes filled up with tears and his wife said, this means so much to me – I always wondered if my first impression was a good one. My mother passed the very next day.

Fast forward to two weekends ago and the three of us were sitting around the same table, sorting through papers. There was a big bag of cards that she got from various associations she donates to. There is a running joke about all of the free cards and labels she has from various associations. I was sorting through those cards and some were already inserted into the envelopes. There were easily 100 plus cards. I happened to pull one out of an envelope (it was not addressed on the outside) and it was a letter from my mother to the both of them, that was never sent. It was a thank you card for a gift they had given her and she was telling them how much she loved them and how happy she was for them.

Again, eyes filled with tears and all three of us agreed that God wanted us to know that she is still very much with us always and is always reminding us how much she loves us ... even if it is from Heaven.

- Laura Jordan



AUDIO-VISUAL
---team---

Martin Luther Church is searching for persons with Audio/Visual Technical experience to assist with our Sunday morning livestream.

This person(s) might be a student who may need service hours, someone who may need to refine their skills or someone with technical experience.

We are willing to pay a stipend for this service.

If you know of someone who might fit this calling, please contact us either by email (mllc@knology.net) or phone (843 795-4855).

NEWS FOR YOU TO KNOW

Martin Luther Church is gladly accepting online contributions through Tithe.ly.com.

Anyone can access this new App through the MLLC website. Just go to the green Giving Option Button on the opening page! If you need some assistance, please give Sherry a call in the church office! Now you can give, even when you are out of town!!! Tell your friends and family that they can give to MLLC **online!!!**

Bring Your Bottles

ELKS BPO Drove # 231 is collecting empty prescription bottles. Bring your empty bottles to the church office any morning. Please remember to remove all labels. These bottles will be donated to local animal shelters.

BLESSING OTHERS

The Cub Scouts have designed and mounted a Blessings Box to assist the hungry in our midst. They encourage all to take what you need and give what you are able. Along with the Blessings Box, two "Little Libraries" have been mounted beside the Blessings Box. One library is for children's books and one is for adult readers.

VETERAN MINISTRY

Do you know a veteran or a military family in need?

Education... Housing... Health Benefits... Basic Needs... Assistance... Employment... Homelessness... Peer Support... Financial Crisis Management

Please contact or refer them to:

Tri-County Veterans Support Network
843-276-2840

www.TriCountyVeteransSupportNetwork.org

RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON

Upcoming Respite Care
Charleston Support Group
Meetings at MLLC

**Sept 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10 AM
—Tuesday Morning Respite
Group**

**Sept 21 at 6 PM—Tuesday
Support Group**

**Sept 8 and 22 at 10 AM—
Wednesday Support Group**

**Sept 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 10
AM—Friday Morning
Respite Group**

If you know of anyone who might benefit from any of these groups, please invite them to join us!

Sara Perry

Executive Director RCC

843 647-7405

BRUNCH IS BACK!

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 5

Our wonderful *Month of the* of the
 Month *been*
 September 5
 9 AM Worship
 looking forward to
 for this special time of
 ,feasting and fellowship!

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE FRUIT,
 CASSEROLE, BISCUITS AND GRAVY,
 CEREALS, MEATS, ETC!!!!**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



A FEW PICTURES FROM OUR AUGUST BRUNCH!



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jimmy Bradley. On August 11, Jimmy graduated his Martial Arts class with a “Black Belt”. Well Done!!!



We're On Facebook

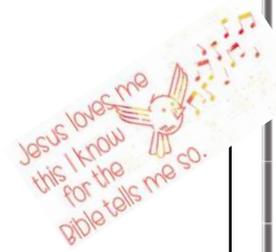


Are you on Facebook?

If you are, then join us on Sundays at 9 AM for our Facebook Live streaming of the Worship Service from Martin Luther Church.

We also have a Facebook Group. **Search for MLLC “All Is Good” Discussion Group.** We discuss devotional material, share prayers and keep lifting up each other!

Join us!!!



BIBLE STUDY



The Martin Luther Church
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY IS
MEETING AGAIN EACH
WEDNESDAY AT 11 AM.

As before, we will be
studying the Daily Discipleship which follow
the weekly lectionary.

Pastor Tom will be leading the Bible Study and
ALL ARE WELCOME!



FUN FOR YOUNG AND OLD

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
 b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
 f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t
 y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s
 th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
 r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
 n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.

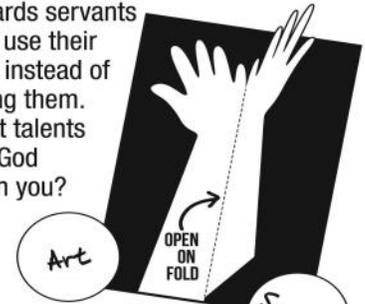
_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



Answer: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV

FULL OF TALENT

In Matthew 25:14-30, the master rewards servants who use their gifts instead of hiding them. What talents has God given you?



What you need:

- Construction paper (2 sheets)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Gold crayon or pen
- Black pen

What you do:

1. Fold one sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Trace your hand and lower arm so your arm touches the folded edge. Cut out the arm and hand, keeping the folded edge uncut.
2. Glue the folded hand to the other sheet of paper.
3. In gold, draw five coins in the hand. In black, write the skills and gifts God has given you.
4. Open the fold and draw 10 gold coins in the two open hands. In black, write how you can use your skills and gifts to help others and honor God.

Postpartum Support Charleston

Postpartum Support Charleston has some wonderful new programs beginning this Fall that will help us reach more mothers and support them throughout their motherhood journey. With the generous help of Martin Luther Lutheran Church, we will be able to begin our newest program called **Beyond Delivery**. This program will provide new mothers with a homemade lasagna and diaper kit that will be delivered directly to their home. This program was started to not only combat the food shortage and hunger concerns for families in our area, but also to spread the word about Postpartum Support Charleston and encourage mothers to reach out if they need emotional support. We will be partnering with a nationwide organization, Lasagna Love, to be able to meet the large number of requests that we anticipate receiving.



Martin Luther Lutheran Church has graciously allowed us to use their kitchen to help prepare lasagnas, and additionally providing us with space in their freezer to store these meals prior to delivery. We will be looking for volunteers beginning in October to help prepare the lasagnas on Saturday mornings or at home on their own. Additionally, we always welcome donations of lasagna ingredients, diapers and wipes.

Support Groups:

As the weather cools off, we are partnering with Charleston Parks Conservancy to be able to offer a unique support group to our mothers. Our group will meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 9-11 am to Gather & Garden. While chatting about motherhood, we will also be working with our hands in the garden to weed, plant, harvest and care for their plants. Registration for this support group is required and can be done on our website, www.ppdsupport.org.

With the addition of this support group, we will now be offering three different types of support for mothers.

Virtual Support Groups: Every Sunday at 3 pm

Gather & Garden: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 9-11 am on James Island

Walking Support Group: Every Friday at 10 am in North Charleston



We also have a wonderful event in planned for October 2nd that raises money and awareness for both our organization and Postpartum Support International. This event, called **Climb out of the Darkness**, will be held at Riverfront Park from 9:30 am - 12pm and will include a short walk (or 'climb' if you will) around the park. This is an individual fundraising event, so all of the fundraising is done by each participant through an online fundraising website. We will have local vendors and maternal professionals at the event to offer support. Please visit our website to check out more about this event and see how you can support us.

We are continuously grateful for all of the support that Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Sherry, and Pastor Tom provide for our organization. Thank you to all the congregation for your support and spreading the word about our organization!

If you or anyone you know is looking for support, please reach out to contact@ppdsupport.org, visit our website at www.ppdsupport.org, or call/text (843) 410-3585.

PRAYERS



The family of Michael Bass, Edna Mariorenzi's brother, at his death on August 4th.

The family of Kathryn Gay, Claire Diffenderfer's sister, at her death on August 17th.

The family of Suzanne Smith Bridges, Emily Schroeder's sister, at her death on August 21st.

Buddy Diffenderfer

Paul Bauersfeld

Joan Cunningham

Emily Schroeder

Bill & Leslie Carter

Don Rankin

Polly Sutton

Anna Harmon

Mickie White

Melody Alcorn

Judy Alcorn

Carl and Judy Simmons

Myrl Kluge

Mary and Jack Cooper

Bill & Edna Mariorenzi

Alice Scheld

Joe Sproles

Vicki Becker

Sean Fowler

Jennifer Riley

Mark Hair

Luther Yon

Roger Carl

Betsy Drake

Dwight and Susan Hartsell

Fran Williams

Stacia Brown

Rodney Fowler

Muriel Bellah

Lucille Mullis

Michele Wallis

Fran Lingenfelter

Autumn Young

Trey Crayton

Preston Vinson

Johnny Hallman

John Bischoff

Cyndie Hartsell

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Linda Miller

Betty and Paulwyn Boliek

Frank Oastwalt

Will Coleman

Lynn Nash

Maggie Bennett

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn and Linwood

Swittenberg

Mildred Woods



Eugene Alexander

Ned Vendrick

Darby Kress

Thomas Soyden

Eliza Cate Volousky

Wilma McLelland

Mark Danehey

Larry Alexander

Paige Osbon

Alissa Baker

Julie Phifer

Randy Oxendine

Michael Burke

Rose Burke

Rafael del Valle

Michele Miller

All those suffering with the COVID-19 virus.

All those who serve in the military and those who protect our country, state, and communities.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Judy Alcorn	9/2
Marybeth Brennan	9/4
Mary Cooper	9/10
Myrl Kluge	9/13
Brenda Burke	9/15
Emily Schroeder	9/16
Craig Bauersfeld	9/19
Rick Beruf	9/20
Kathryn Diffenderfer	9/22
Elizabeth Cockrell	9/23
Cayla Congdon	9/26
Wayne Rimer	9/28
Lynn Shaddrix	9/30
Pam Arnold	9/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Claire & Buddy Diffenderfer	9/10
Mary & Jack Cooper	9/11
Mary & Joe Cockrell	9/20

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Sproles	10/6
Ryan Hamill	10/7
Peggy Oxendine	10/7
Brandt Armstrong	10/9
TJ Peterson	10/10
Bade Thomas	10/11
Sherry Fowler	10/12
Connie Baker	10/14
Evelyn Browne	10/23
Robin Richard	10/25
Jack Cooper	10/25
Carley Congdon	10/26
Al Hoover	10/28
Edna Mariorenzi	10/29
Ursel Harmon	10/31

ANNIVERSARIES

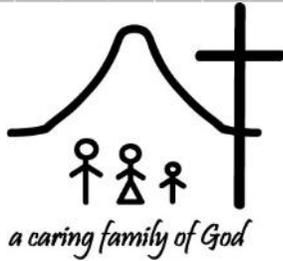
Robin & Marty Richard	10/16
Edna & Bill Mariorenzi	10/21
Judy & Carl Simmons	10/25



Worship Assistants for September

SEPTEMBER 2021

	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Comm Asst	Acolyte	CPOD	Usher
9/5	Kathy S	Kathy S	Kathy S	Lynn S	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear and Richard Fowler
9/12	Mary Lou	Mary Lou	Mary Lou	Melena	Laura J	Jimmy Knight and Ricky Suggs
9/19	Lynn S	Lynn S	Lynn S	Sherry	Wayne Rimer	Jim Swittenberg and Wayne Rimer
9/26	Laura J	Laura J	Laura J	Torren	Laura J	Al Hoover and Rick Beruf



MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1605 Harbor View Road
Charleston, SC 29412

843 795-4855
Email: mllc@knology.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MARTINLUTHERCHURCH.ORG

**“A CARING FAMILY OF
GOD”**

STAFF AND CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

STAFF

Pastor

**The Reverend Thomas
Cassem**

Director of
Congregational Ministries

Sherry Fowler

Director of Music

Gina Shuey

Office Hours are

Monday—Friday

8 AM to Noon

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers

President—

Peggy Oxendine

Vice President—

Nancy Haynsworth

Secretary—

Heidi Frear

Treasurer—

Janice Knight

Financial Secretary—

Vacant

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Worship Team Leader—

Brenda Burke

Service Team Leader—

Laura Jordan

Evangelism Team Leader—

Vacant

Learning Team Leader—

Pam Peterson

*Congregational Care Team
Leader—***Mary Lou Hoover**

Property Team Leader—

Wayne Rimer

Youth (one year term) -

Torren Thomas



Council Members
serve two year
terms with the
exception of the
youth members,
serving a one year
term.