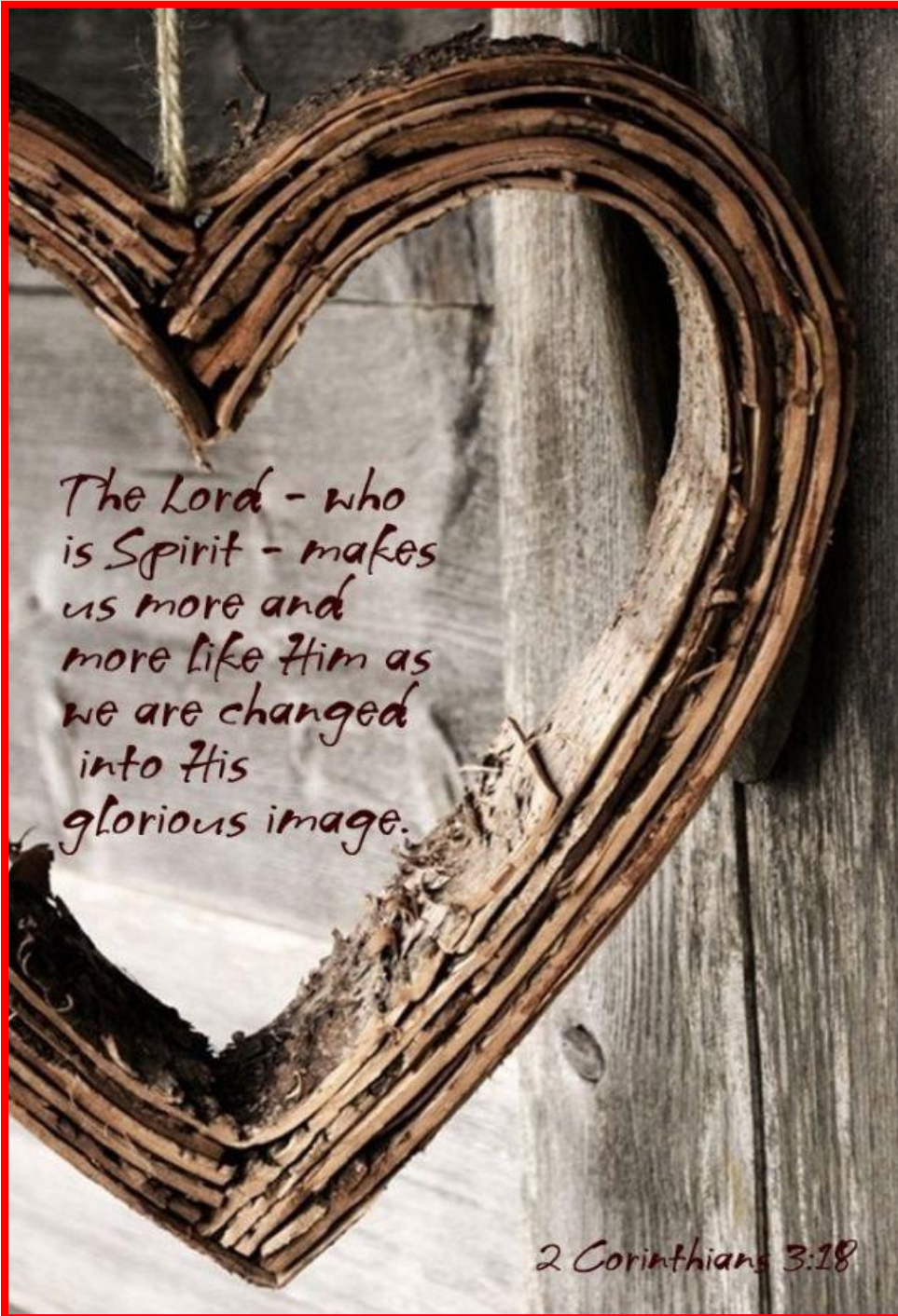


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

FEBRUARY 2024



MLLC's Mission Statement

We are a caring family of God brought together by grace and nourished by the Word.

Led by the Spirit, we are sent out in service to share God's love.

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Pastor has a favorite!

Sherry's "Question of the Month" for February is "What is your favorite Scripture / Bible passage?" Since my youth, mine has been:

Proverbs 3:5-6

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight (understanding).
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight (direct) your paths."*

I had been active in church since I was a little boy. And I had always believed wholeheartedly in God and Jesus. But when I reached my teenage years, I fully realized that I needed to look to God and our Lord for guidance in my life...and that I could!

My father told me to do like he did and "pull myself up by my own bootstraps". He said God made me, gave me a good body and mind, and expected me to use them as I went through life. Dad was right about that, and I thank God for my physical and mental health.

But I soon found that my own insights and understanding, as brilliant as they were (LOL!), were not enough. I needed wise, reliable, and trustworthy help and advice from a source outside of myself.

And I found it! I soon discovered that there are many people and groups "out there" in life who are very eager to give us advice. Unfortunately, they often have their own agendas and want to use us for their purposes and their best interests rather than ours. And with some of them, their interests are for our harm, rather than for our good!

But I also discovered that the Bible was right! (Imagine that!!) The Lord's insight and wisdom are far better than mine! And the Lord can be trusted. I learned that when I rely on the Lord and acknowledge him as my mentor and leader, my life goes much better and I am much stronger than when I rely on my own insight, understanding, and strength. I learned that when I let him lead and direct my life, my life's paths are straighter, more productive, and happier.

It's not easy to do...not all of the time. Putting all of our trust with all of our hearts in the Lord can be challenging, especially when the path ahead is not clearly marked or visible. And doing so does not mean that we'll never have problems or challenges. Far from it! But it does mean that the Lord will help us get through them...if we trust in him, rely on him, and let him lead us.

Many years have passed since I first adopted Proverbs 3:5-6 as my own personal Bible passage. And looking back on my life, I thank God for bringing this passage to me in my early days. As I reflect, I see that its truth has been realized in my life over and over again.

Hope this helps you on your life path!



Blessings, *Pastor Tom*

Music to our Ears!

Romans 8:26

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.”

I never pray for “stuff”. I certainly have wants and wishes but I trust that God will provide for my actual needs, so I am not in the habit of praying for material things. I purged a lot last summer during our move, realizing that so much of my collected stuff was disposable.

But of course, we do need stuff and our needs change over time. Last week, I mentioned to my son that we need a keyboard so I can start working with the grands. And now that baby Kai has arrived, I need a new pack and play for my house so he can come visit. It was conversation in passing and I thought no more of it until I walked into the church office on Friday morning. Someone had brought in a keyboard and a pack and play, hoping Sherry and Pastor Tom could find them a new home. What a special God moment!

I didn't “pray” or ask God to provide these things, but He did! I doubt the generous donor knew they were answering unspoken prayers but God used them to do just that. Not a coincidence friends!

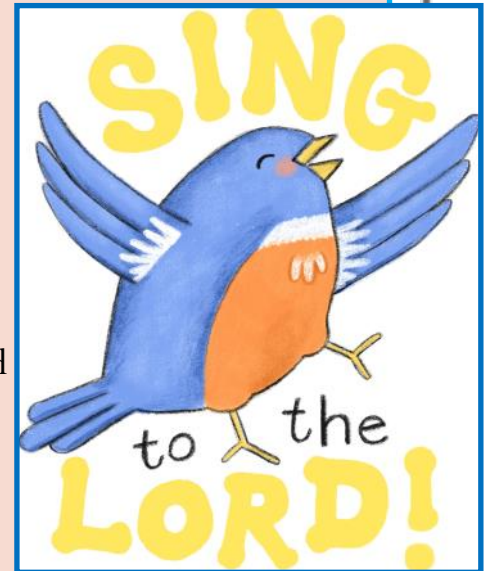
God reminded me that God is everywhere, all the time. God is all-knowing and loving and kind.

So I will praise the living God! Thanks be to God!

Colossians 3:16b

....with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Blessings! Gina



BIBLE STUDY

The Martin Luther Church WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

MEETS EACH

WEDNESDAY AT 11 AM.



This group is studying the Daily Discipleship which follow the weekly lectionary. Pastor Tom is leading the Bible Study and **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Have you heard about the video series, “The Chosen”?

Get Used to Different.



The Chosen is not your average Christian tv series or movie. This crowd-funded awe-inspiring series with global impact presents the accounts of Christ as He calls his first disciples. This dramatic series features remarkable casting, beautiful costuming, amazing locations and scenery, touching moments, and gives space for historically reasonable character development of those who encountered Jesus.

Here at Martin Luther Church we will be watching the series and having discussion during the Sunday School time. Even if you have seen the series (or what has been produced of the story), please join us.



RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON



Don't miss the return of Respite Care Charleston's **art auction**, featuring original pieces from local artists, along with merchandise and gift certificates for area restaurants, events and other services.

Enjoy **roasted local oysters** served with hot dogs, chili and all the fixins plus an open bar with beer, wine and liquor.

Food, drinks and auction from 4 :00pm to 8:00pm, with unlimited oysters served from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Proceeds from the event will help Respite Care Charleston provide support and services to hundreds of **local families living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.**

Space is limited and tickets are offered first come, first serve.

Oysters will be served outside, so dress for the weather!

Contact us at info@respitcarecharleston.org to buy your tickets!

Thank you

So many of you attended Guy's funeral - I truly did not expect the attendance we witnessed. My heart was warmed that you took time to come.

Guy loved his church and all of you. He was happy anytime he was there. He had a faith that he couldn't express but showed it every day. When his grandfather died, he told me not to cry, that Pop was in a better place and didn't hurt anymore.

Each of you helped me raise Guy, as well as Tait and Tracey. I could not have done it without you!

- Ada Arthur



For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. The Souper Bowl at Martin Luther will be held on Sunday, February 11—the same day as the Super Bowl.

Martin Luther Church will participate by accepting donations of non-perishable food and funds to help feed the hungry through Neighbors Together and James Island Outreach. Please give generously!!!

Giving Sundays

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Yes, We all LOVE Pastor Tom's exciting, colorful, funny and silly Socks!

In honor of Pastor Tom's silly socks, we invite you to wear a fun pair of socks to church on Sunday, February 4 and to bring NEW warm socks for Neighbors Together! Let's "Sock" It To Neighbors Together!!!



**ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024—
Warm Coat Sunday—We collected
43 warm coats along with gloves,
hats and scarves for Neighbors
Together. Thank you so much for
supporting the ministries of this
church and the community!!!**

Question of the Month

**Our February Question of the month is
What is your favorite Scripture / Bible
Passage? Here are some of the responses.**

- **Darlene Leach** - Ephesians 5: 18-20, "Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." *I try to remember to thank God for everything, the good and the not so good. Just because bad things happen, we have to remember that God has a plan for everything and everyone!*
- **Wendy Murphy** - Romans 8:36 is one of my favorites!!!
- **Sherry Fowler** - Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again, I say Rejoice!"
- **Linda Leone** - Luke 12:48, "But he who unknowingly committed acts worthy of punishment shall be beaten with few stripes. For to whom much is given, of him much shall be required. And from him to whom much was entrusted, much will be asked."
- **Bill Mariorenzi** - Philippians 4:10-13, "I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need. And I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." *What it means to me first of all God is the giver of all things. Second, it is a process of learning if you will be content with what God allows you to have and be thankful to know the difference. Be grateful that he cares. He loves us.*
- **Linda Armstrong** - Romans 8:38-39 is ONE of my favorite Bible passages: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- **Laura Jordan** - The first is Colossians 3: 23-24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” - The second is Ephesians 6:1-18, “**6** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”^[a] ⁴Fathers,^[b] do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. ⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. ⁹And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

The March “QUESTION OF THE MONTH”
will be “*Have you witnessed a miracle?*”



FEBRUARY 13, 2024 7:00 PM

Pancakes

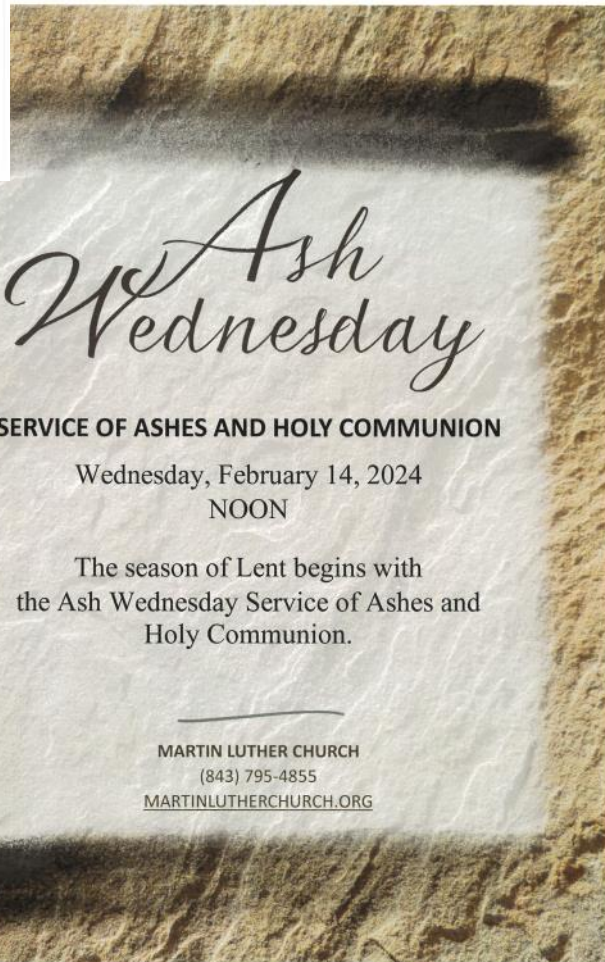
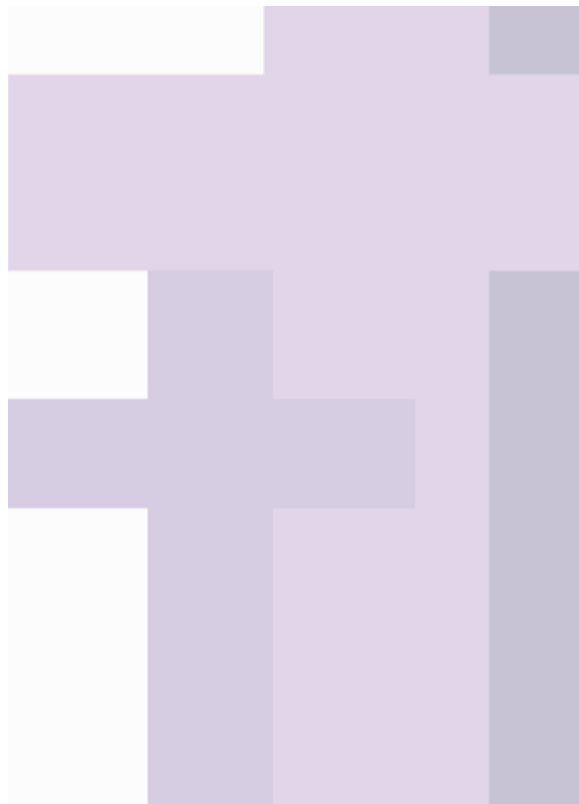
King/Queen's Cake

Putting Away "Alleluias!"

HOSTED BY THE MLLC YOUTH

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 14th, with the service of Ash Wednesday at Martin Luther Church. Which means, of course, that **Tuesday, February 13th is Shrove Tuesday.** For us at Martin Luther, this means **eating pancakes and for dessert, King's cake,** followed by **the crowning our new king or queen of the Mardi Gras.** And then, in true Mardi Gras fashion, processing down the hallway singing **"Halle, Halle, Halle!"** to the sanctuary where we sing and shout our last **"Alleluias!"** for the season, **locking them away for the forty days of Lent.**

JOIN US FOR THE FEAST BEFORE THE
FASTING BEGINS!



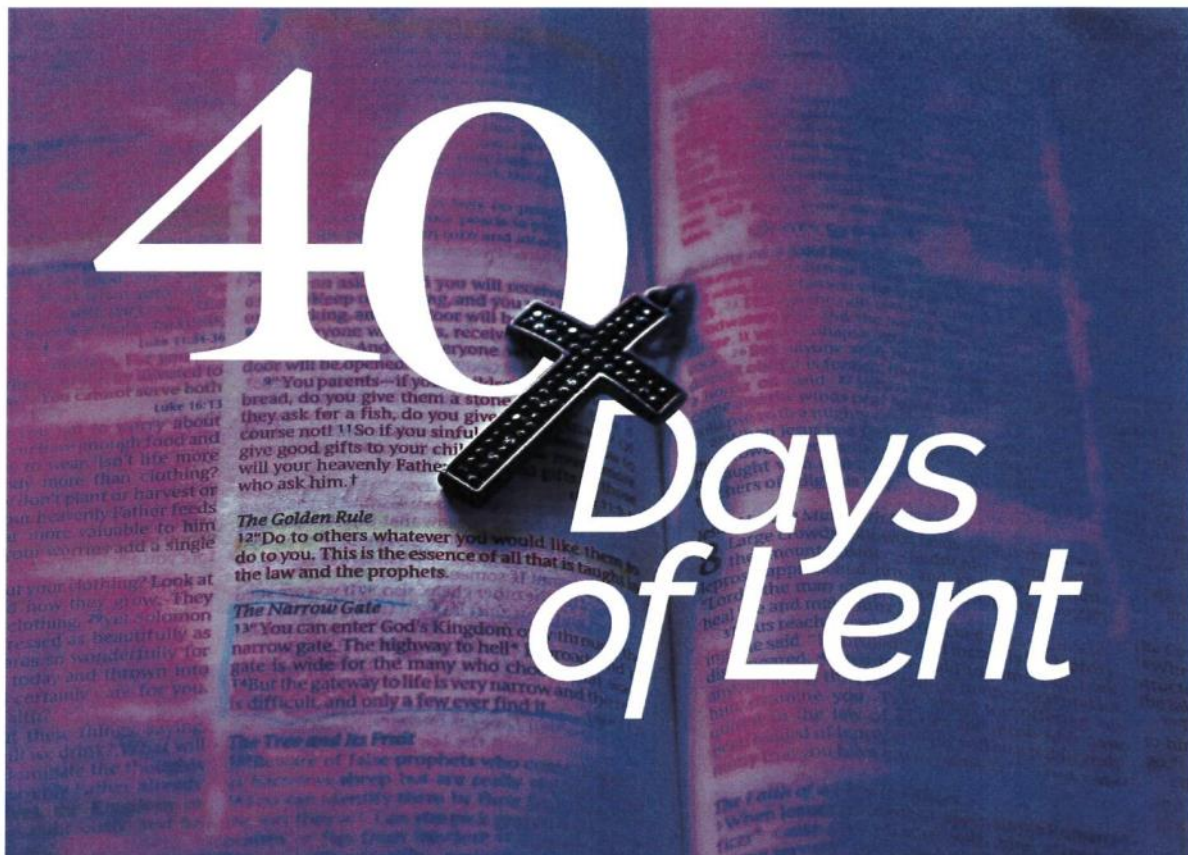
*Ash
Wednesday*

SERVICE OF ASHES AND HOLY COMMUNION

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
NOON

The season of Lent begins with
the Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes and
Holy Communion.

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH
 (843) 795-4855
MARTINLUTHERCHURCH.ORG



Wednesday, February 14 at Noon – Ash Wednesday Service

**Thursday, February 22 at 6 PM - Thursday Evening Lenten Meal
7 PM Lenten Service**

**Thursday, February 29 at 6 PM – Thursday Evening Lenten Meal
7 PM Lenten Service**

**Thursday, March 7 at 6 PM – Thursday Evening Lenten Meal
7 PM Lenten Service**

**Thursday, March 14 at 6 PM – Thursday Evening Lenten Meal
7 PM Lenten Service**

**Thursday, March 21 at 6 PM – Thursday Evening Lenten Meal
7 PM Lenten Service**

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**!!!

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

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK LIVE. JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AT 9 AM FOR OUR FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMING OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE FROM MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH.

RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON

Upcoming Respite Care Charleston Support Group Meetings at MLLC

10 AM — Tuesday Morning Respite Group

6:30 PM— Tuesday Caregiver Support Group Online

10 AM—Wednesday Caregiver Support Group 2nd and 4th Wednesday

10 AM—Wednesday Early Memory Loss Group

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

SCOUT SUNDAY



Scout Sunday at Martin Luther Church is Sunday, February 4, 2024. Boy Scout Troop 4 and Cub Scouts Pack 4 will be joining us and sharing information with us about their upcoming events—Pinewood Derby, Camping, Outings and Community Service Projects. We are very proud of our Scouts!!!

BLESSING BOX

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.

THE BLESSING BOX IS BEING USED DAILY!!! IT IS FREQUENTLY EMPTY. PLEASE HELP STOCK THE BLESSING BOX WHEN YOU ARE ABLE.



PRAYERS



The family of Mildred
Woods, Mary
Cockrell's mother, at
her death on Jan 5.

Carl and Judy Simmons

Polly Sutton

Brenda Burke

Margaret Balzano

Claire and Buddy
Diffenderfer

Myrl Kluge

Joe and Linda Sproles

Dusty Reese

Jerry Drake

Betsy Zafr

Zeke Nobles

Edward Knight

Glenn Lawley

Joey Paxton

Bobby Bellah

Jean Lofton

Patty Langella

B.T. Bouton

Debbie Wilson

Patricia Davis

Corporal Lucas Watts

Julie Zerbst

Blake Dunn

Debbie Jones

Becky Schleppegrell

Jim and Joanne Johnston

Elizabeth Burgess

Kai Shuey

Tasha Higgins

Robert Mallard

Steve Leasure

Bobbi Butler

Caren Clark

Luke Rankin

Cyndee and Kenny

Roumillat

Joe Coates

Eric Wohltman

Robert Suarez

Jacob DuPree

Harold McMillan

Evan McMillan

Karen Ezell

Fran Lingenfelter

Autumn Young

Trey Crayton

Carlton Hartis

Johnny Hallman

Cyndie Hartsell

Josiah Parnell

Marc Bennett

Catherine Brack

Amy Fisher

Patty Langella

Jamie Foster

Yvonne Thompson

Peyton Sullivan

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Annie Flanders

Roger Nelson

Connie and Walt Wurster

Anita Sloan

Larry Miller

Mary Stevens

Dwight Hartsell

Fran Williams

Marvin Sims

Rusty Sims

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn Swittenberg

Ned Vendrick

Wendy Thomas

Ann Smith

Ruth Toney

Richard Haynsworth

Ronnie Suggs

The Citizens of Ukraine,
Israel and other war-
torn countries, that
peace may prevail.



BIRTHDAYS

Janice Knight 2/02
 Adelaide McKeithan 2/07
 Susan Sykes 2/08
 Matt Rimer 2/09
 Melena Snider 2/10
 Scott McLaughlin 2/15
 Mikalynn Burke 2/21

BIRTHDAYS

Gary Frear 3/05
 Caitlin Donaldson 3/05
 Will Waters 3/07
 Linda Armstrong 3/08
 Elisabeth Diffenderfer 3/19
 Tom Cassem 3/26
 Judy Simmons 3/26
 Richard Fowler 3/27
 Pam Harris 3/28

ANNIVERSARIES

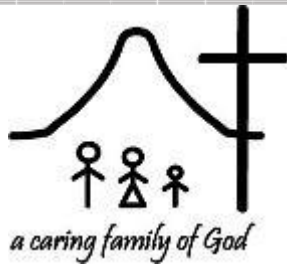
Mary Beth & Jim Brennan 2/14

ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Joe Sproles 3/1

FEBRUARY					
DATE	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher
Feb. 4	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Tracey Arthur	Linda Leone	Rick Beruf
Feb. 11	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Lynn Shaddrix	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs
Feb. 28	Ada Arthur	Ada Arthur	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear
Feb. 25	Mary Baldwin	Mary Baldwin	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Wayne Rimer

MARCH					
DATE	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher
March 3	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Maria Namie	Sherry Fowler	Brandt Armstrong
March 10	Kaitlyn Frear	Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear
March 17	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Lynn Shaddrix	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs
March 24 Palm Sunday	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Linda Leone	Rick Beruf
March 31 Easter	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Richard Fowler



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

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL</u>	<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u>	SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:
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	<i>Officers</i> <i>President—</i> Nancy Haynsworth <i>Vice President—</i> Sherry Fowler <i>Secretary—</i> VACANT <i>Treasurer—</i> Linda Leone <i>Financial Secretary—</i> <i>Vacant</i>	<i>Worship Team Leader—</i> Brenda Burke <i>Service Team Leader—</i> VACANT <i>Evangelism Team Leader—</i> <i>Laura Jordan</i> <i>Learning Team Leader—</i> Heidi Frear <i>Congregational Care Team Leader—Joni Suggs</i> <i>Property Team Leader—</i> Gary Frear <i>Youth (one year term) -</i> Kaitlyn Frear	