

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 MARCH 2025



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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Lent is a journey!

I hope you will all join us on the first day of our journey toward Easter, which begins with our Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at Noon followed by a Brown Bag bible study. In the service we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. Recognizing that life is a precious gift from God, we re-turn our lives toward Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days trusting that the one we

follow is always with us.

Why ashes?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Why do we use ashes?

On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. The ashes we use Ash Wednesday come from burned palms mixed with a little oil. It's symbolic.

During the Ash Wednesday service, people are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. A small cross is placed on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, nonverbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

So what is Lent?

At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, the Spirit sent Jesus into the wilderness, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterward, he was ready to begin his ministry.

Why "Do" Lent? How do I start?

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose, or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of life; our relationships, family, and work. The world we live in is filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities, or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God. Lent is a great time to "repent" — to turn around, to return to God and refocus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart.

What do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear, or do?

You might try one of these practices for Lent

Prayer: My personal favorite. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God.

(continued on next page)

Service: You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, coworker, or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

Fasting: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity* like worry or computer time to spend time outside enjoying God's creation.

Blessings on your Lenten journey; you are never traveling alone.
Pastor Kathleen

There will be a Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 27, 2025 following our worship service. We will be electing you council members to serve a two (2) year term. We are truly blessed to have Sherry Fowler, Linda Leone, and Joni Suggs on the ballot, willing to serve a second term. This is an important time at Martin Luther and leaders are needed to navigate with God the future of our congregation. If you are hearing God's call to serve on council, please contact Pastor Kathleen or Sherry Fowler to be added to the ballot. If you see leadership gifts in a member of our congregation encourage them to consider serving, and please – please pray for your church leaders, Pastor Kathleen, and the future of Martin Luther, giving all glory to God.



We will put away all Alleluias this week after we celebrate the *Transfiguration of our Lord*. We won't raise our Alleluias again until *The Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday*.

Our Lenten journey begins with the *Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, March 5th at noon*.

You will notice a seasonal change in our Sunday morning liturgy.

The Kyrie replaces the Hymn of Praise.

The Gospel Acclamation changes from the Alleluia verse to Let your Steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

For the Psalms, The congregation will sing a simple refrain and the lector will read the stanzas.

These simple changes help us set the season apart. It's a temporary "fasting" in the cycle of the church year.

May your Lenten journey be blessed! Gina

The Changing of the Gods

March is primarily noted for being named after the Roman god, Mars, signifying the start of the warm season in the ancient Roman calendar. It is also recognized as transitional with winter and spring the month of change. How about humans? Are we changing, too? Every time I turn on the TV war, death, stabbings, shootings, people madness for sure. Has most everyone gone crazy? Don't people know the Word of God – well, it's not only a word. Unfortunately for some, they are going to meet the Word and He is not happy. If they are in line to get in heaven, they better not say 'what's the slowdown up there', because they will be on top of a whirlwind. The ancient gods are nothing compared to our God. They are nothing Heaven is the place. Change is good; new car, new house, new life In case you can't remember – there's only one GOD that counts. People may want to walk your path with you, but they can't walk it for you. Spring forward.

- Bill Mariorenzi

Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will meet at 11 AM at Martin Luther Church each Wednesday. God's people join together for a one hour Bible Study using the Daily Discipleship as their guide. Maybe you hit the mid-week slump like so many of us do and we need a little boost to help us walk upright again. We have the perfect place for you! This Bible Study is all engaging and everyone learns something new each week! Come join us!



The Altar Flowers are now \$82.00 [for 2 arrangements] for each Sunday. This is an increase passed on from the Florist. Whenever we do not have flowers, we will use our lovely peace lilies on the altar.

Postpartum
Support CHS
Presents

JOIN
NOW!



MOMS' RUN

▶▶▶ RUN - WALK - FUN

Join us for our 22nd annual Moms' Run 5K & 1-mile event. Runners & walkers are invited to run or walk & also enjoy our family fun activities and NEW Mother's Day Market!

May 10, 2025, 7-10:30am

5K Race @ 8:00am at Philip Simmons High

Register at postpartumsupportchs.org/event/momsrun/



“Bless the Lent We Actually Have”

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and then each Sunday after the Worship Service, the following Lenten topics will be offered by Pastor Kathleen. Please join us!

March 5 Ash Wednesday

Blessed are the Fragile

Psalm 51

Brown Bag Lunch

March 9 Lent 2

Blessed are the Imperfect

Matthew 4:1-11

March 16 Lent 3

Blessed are the Curious

John 3:1-17

March 23 Lent 4

Blessed are those who Suffer

Romans 5:1-11

March 30 Lent 5

Blessed are those who Feel

Alone - Psalm 23

April 6 Lent 6

Blessed are those who Mourn

John 11:1-45

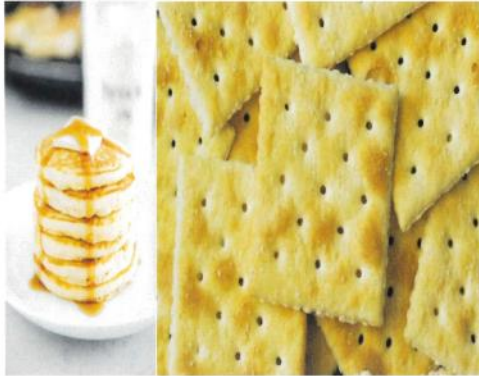
April 13

Palm Sunday Brunch

Blessed are those who still

Hope – Luke 23:1-56

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH



FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

Lutheridge and Lutherock are offering opportunities for anyone 18 and older to help in the Western NC cleanup and restoration of the area from the devastating hurricane Helene. See the QR code on this page to see the dates available. Please see Tracey Arthur if you are interested in joining this group.



At the February 18th Council meeting, we discussed the Janitorial Services at Martin Luther Church. The company we have been using has not been as thorough as we had hoped. It was decided to initially post a volunteer list within MLLC. SO, a sign up has been placed on the bulletin board for YOU to sign up and help us on a weekly basis to keep our facilities clean. The other groups that use the facilities have been apprised and will do their best in helping us keep things clean!!! Thank you so much!!



A Quick View of our January 2025 Finances

Budget: \$15,794.17

(Expenses \$14,410.77)

Offerings: \$9,965.04

Difference: -\$5829.13

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!!!

I am thankful for many things:
 God's enduring love and mercy.
 The gift of salvation brought about through Jesus's death and resurrection.
 God's peace that passes all understanding.
 My wonderful husband and two children.

My church family at MLLC.

A beautiful world.

- God's abundant blessings.
- God protects and keeps me.

That God created me on purpose, with purpose, and for a purpose.

VR, Nancy Haynsworth



Spring Tea

The Ladies at Martin Luther Church are planning a Spring Tea FOR Sunday, May 4 from 2 PM to 4 PM.

A planning meeting will be held on Sunday, March 16 at 2 PM at the church. All are welcome.

WE NEED YOU TO HELP US PLAN!

Contact Judy Simmons for details at 843 795-7974

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

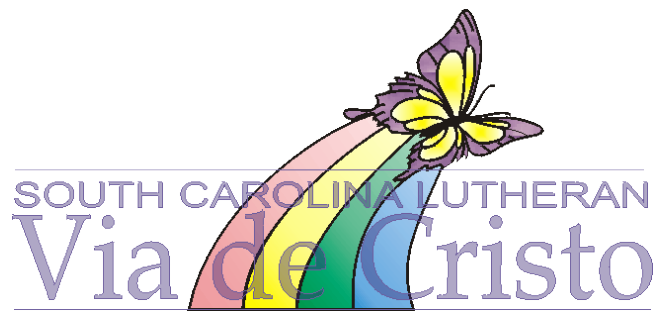
If you know of anyone who might benefit from any of these groups, please invite them to join us!

Sara Perry
 Executive Director RCC
 843 647-7405

BLESSING BOX

The MLLC Cub Scouts designed and mounted a Blessings Box to assist the hungry in our midst. The older Boy Scouts and Martin Luther Church Disciples 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.



next Fall

Could your spiritual journey use a tune up? Have you sensed a calling into a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior?

Through a partnership between Pastors and Lay Leaders with full reliance on prayer and the Holy Spirit, the SC Lutheran Via de Cristo has been helping people to enrich their relations with Jesus for MANY years.

The SC Via de Cristo Community invites you to “Come and See”

Dates for next weekend event is September 25—28

For more information, visit www.scviadecristo.org or any one of the following people. We would be thrilled to sponsor you to attend a weekend; Sherry and/or Richard Fowler, Gina Shuey, Laura Jordan, Peggy Oxendine, Wayne Rimer, Joni Suggs, and Julie Carter. Just ask!!!!

PRAYERS



Our Church Family

Aaron Armstrong
 Connie Gibson
 Emily Schroeder
 Carl Simmons
 Polly Sutton
 Maria Namie
 Mary Baldwin
 Brenda Burke
 Margaret Balzano
 Claire Diffenderfer

Myrl Kluge
 Joe and Linda Sproles
 Jimmy Bradley

Our friends and family

Autumn Young
 Boose Sims
 Dale Peek
 Korky Dunn
 Lora Ullery
 Linda Wells
 Evan McMillan
 Jimmy Davis
 Martha and Jimmy Stone
 Wendy Thomas
 Pastor Russell Seabright
 Mike Shuey
 Debby Epley

Jean Chesno
 Nancy Schwartz
 Sara Perry
 Elizabeth Burgess
 Luke Rankin
 Eric Wohltman
 Fran Lingenfelter
 Trey Crayton
 Mark Hair
 Annie Flanders
 Larry Miller
 Dwight Hartsell
 Rusty Sims
 Alice Vendrick
 Paulwyn Boliek
 Ned Vendrick
 Chieko Jordan

DO ALL THE GOOD
 YOU CAN ♥ BY ALL
 THE MEANS YOU CAN
 IN ALL THE WAYS YOU
 CAN ♥ IN ALL THE
 PLACES YOU CAN ♥
 AT ALL THE TIMES YOU
 CAN ♥ TO ALL THE
 PEOPLE YOU CAN ♥
 AS LONG AS EVER YOU
 CAN ♥ JOHN WESLEY

© HECK

Music Camp is coming to Martin Luther this summer! See Gina for more details and to volunteer!!





BIRTHDAYS

Caitlin Donaldson 3/05
 Will Waters 3 / 7
 Linda Armstrong 3 / 8
 Elisabeth Diffenderfer 3 / 19
 Judy Simmons 3 / 26
 Richard Fowler 3 / 27

Tricia Bradley 4/6
 Mary Lou Hoover 4/12
 Ned Balzano 4/18
 Luke Rimer 4/21
 Lori Hamill 4/27
 Julie Carter 4/28
 Gina Shuey 4/29
 Jerri Snider 4/30
 Torren Thomas 4/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Joe Sproles 3/1

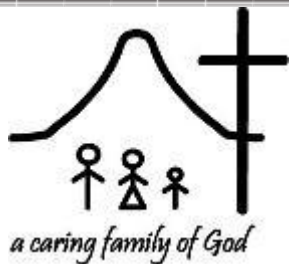
ANNIVERSARIES

Sherry & Richard Fowler 4/7
 Barbara & Andy Young 4/21
 Laura & Eddie Jordan 4/23



MARCH

DATE	Lesson and Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher
March 2	Lynn Shaddrix	Maria Namie	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs
March 9	Laura Jordan	Lynn Shaddrix	Laura Jordan	Wayne Rimer
March 16	Peggy Oxendine	Tracey Arthur	Sherry Fowler	Jim Swittenberg
March 23	Kathy Swittenberg	Addie McKeithan	Linda Leone	Brandt Armstrong



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

Interim Pastor

Rev. Kathleen Miko

Director of

Congregational Ministries

Sherry Fowler

Director of Music

Gina Shuey

Office Hours are

Monday—Friday

9 AM to Noon

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers

President—

Nancy Haynsworth

Vice President—

Sherry Fowler

Secretary—

VACANT

Treasurer—

Linda Leone

Financial Secretary—

Vacant

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Worship Team Leader—

Brenda Burke

Service Team Leader—

Vacant

Evangelism Team Leader—

Laura Jordan

Learning Team Leader—

Vacant

Congregational Care Team

*Leader—***Joni Suggs**

Property Team Leader—

Vacant

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

