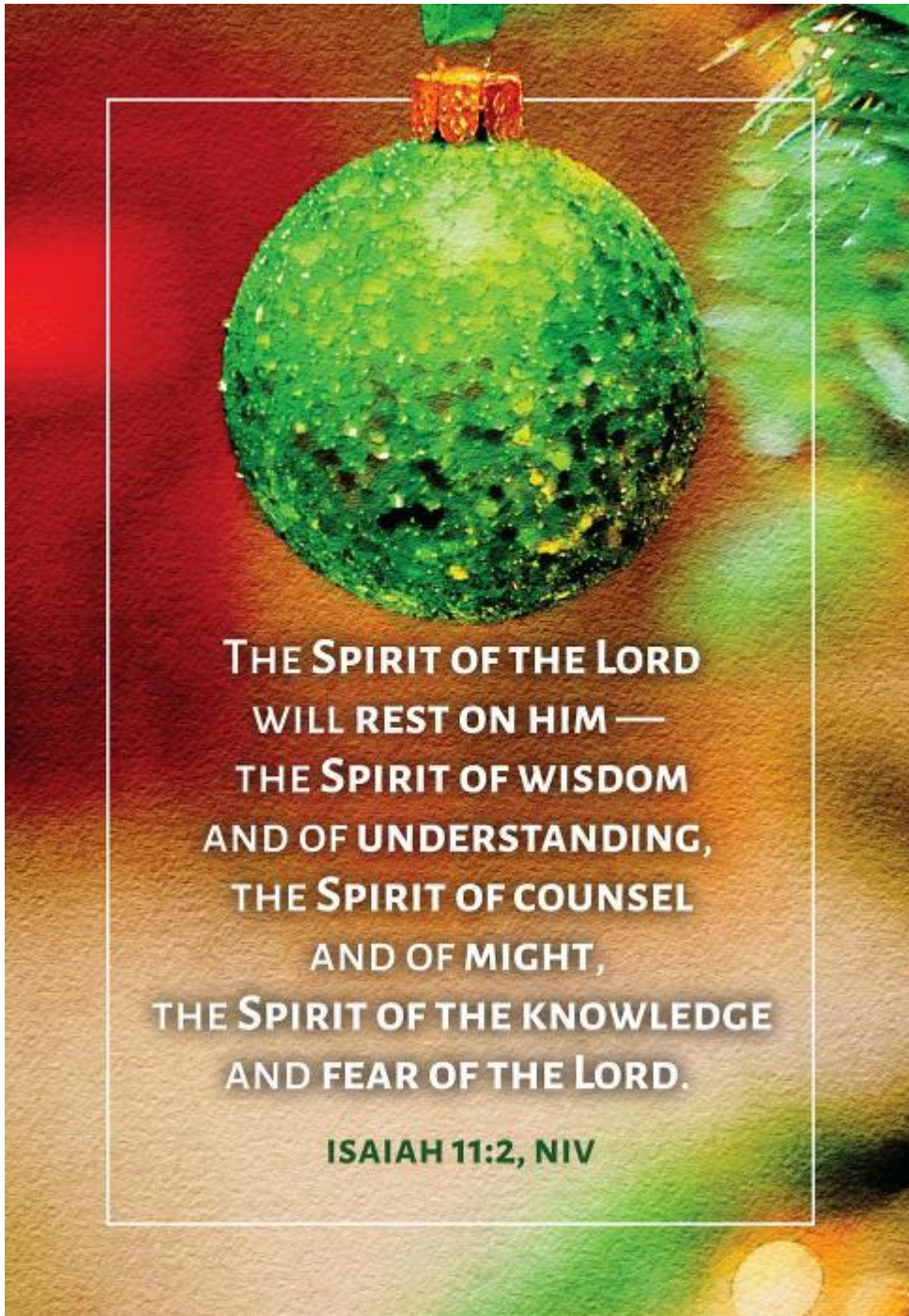


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

DECEMBER 2023



**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD
WILL REST ON HIM —
THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM
AND OF UNDERSTANDING,
THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL
AND OF MIGHT,
THE SPIRIT OF THE KNOWLEDGE
AND FEAR OF THE LORD.**

ISAIAH 11:2, NIV



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.

PASTOR'S PONDERING	2
MUSIC NOTES	3
SUNDAY SCHOOL	4
UPCOMING EVENTS	5
CONFIRMATION	10
PRAYERS	13
BIRTHDAYS	14



Of Husetops, Rooftops, Santa Claus, and Jesus!

*Up on the house top, reindeer pause
Out jumps good old Santa Claus
Down through the chimney with lots of toys
All for the little ones, Christmas joys*

*Oh, who wouldn't go? (Oh-oh-oh)
Who wouldn't go?
Up on the housetop, click, click, click
Down through the chimney with the good St. Nick*





"Up on the Housetop" is a Christmas song written by Benjamin Hanby in 1864. It has been recorded by a multitude of singers, most notably Gene Autry in 1953. "Up on the Housetop" is the second-oldest secular Christmas song, outdone only by "Jingle Bells", was written in 1857.

In Matthew Chapter 10, we see Jesus sending his disciples out to evangelize and share his good news. He gives them many instructions and warns them that not everyone will be receptive. But then he says: *'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.* --Matthew 10:26-27

Husetops...actually, Rooftops... were places of great activity in Bible times. The high, open, flat surfaces were perfect for winnowing chaff from grain, drying fruit, storing grain, nuts, and fruit, and sun-bleaching laundry.

Rooftops were also household gathering places because so much work was done there, and they were sleeping places on the hot nights of summer. And because of their height, their openness, and frequent assemblies of people, rooftops were great places from which to shout the news.

Today Jesus still instructs us: *"What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops."* The good news he wants us to shout and share with other people is far better than any gifts that Santa Claus brings down through the chimney to us! It's about his "Christmas gifts" of love and life – God's love and through Jesus, our life! 

What's YOUR "House Top" or "Rooftop"? It might not be a literal one. But from where can YOU "shout the news" about Jesus? Might be virtual...on the phone...text messages...emails...in stores while you're shopping. Find a creative way of sharing Jesus' Christmas Joys with all of God's children --God's beloved "Little Ones"— that you can! Oh-oh-oh! I think you'll even make Santa Claus happy! 

Have a blessed Advent! *Pastor Tom*

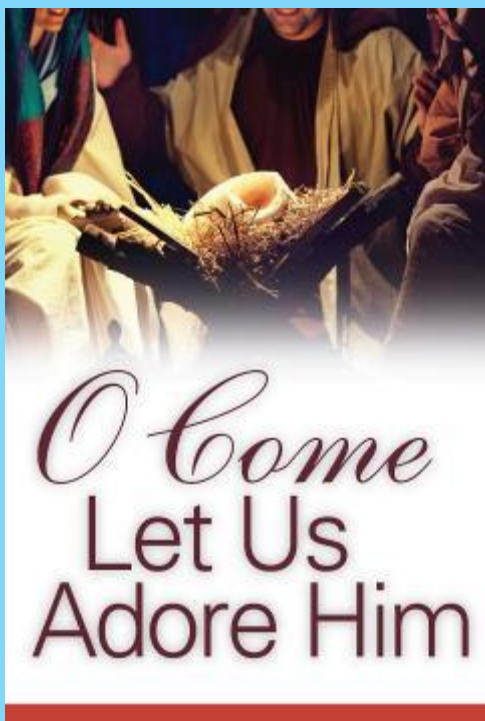
Welcome to Advent! This season marks the beginning of the new church year and focuses on the two comings of Christ. We *remember* the birth of the baby Jesus and *anticipate* His return. It is a joyful season of expectation and preparation, but also reflective. It is a beautiful time set apart, and keeps us yearning as we wait.



We will move to setting 3 of the ELW for our liturgical music (formerly known as setting 1 of the LBW!) The Kyrie will take the place of the Hymn of Praise. The Advent wreath helps us count the days. The color blue will adorn the chancel and reminds us of the hope we find in Christ.

Our mid week services will offer us the opportunity to pause and reflect on God's Amazing Grace and the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas.

This year, Christmas Eve is on Sunday. Our morning worship will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent. After this service, our sanctuary will be transformed to reflect the Glory of Christmas!



We will gather at 5 pm to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us! Our service of Lessons and Carols will be enhanced by all the music as we sing with the angels to proclaim Christ's birth!

“O Come, let us adore Him; Christ the Lord!!!”
May you be blessed with Hope, Peace, Love and Joy throughout this season!!

Yours in Christ,
Gina

BIBLE STUDY



The Martin Luther Church WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY
IS MEETING EACH

WEDNESDAY AT 11 AM.

They are 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.





Christmas Craft Workshop

**FUN AND CRAFTS FOR ALL AGES.
JOIN US ON SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2023 FROM 1 – 3 PM
AT MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH.
ENJOY MAKING SOME CHRISTMAS
CRAFTS WHILE BEING TREATED TO
SOME CHRISTMAS GOODIES.**



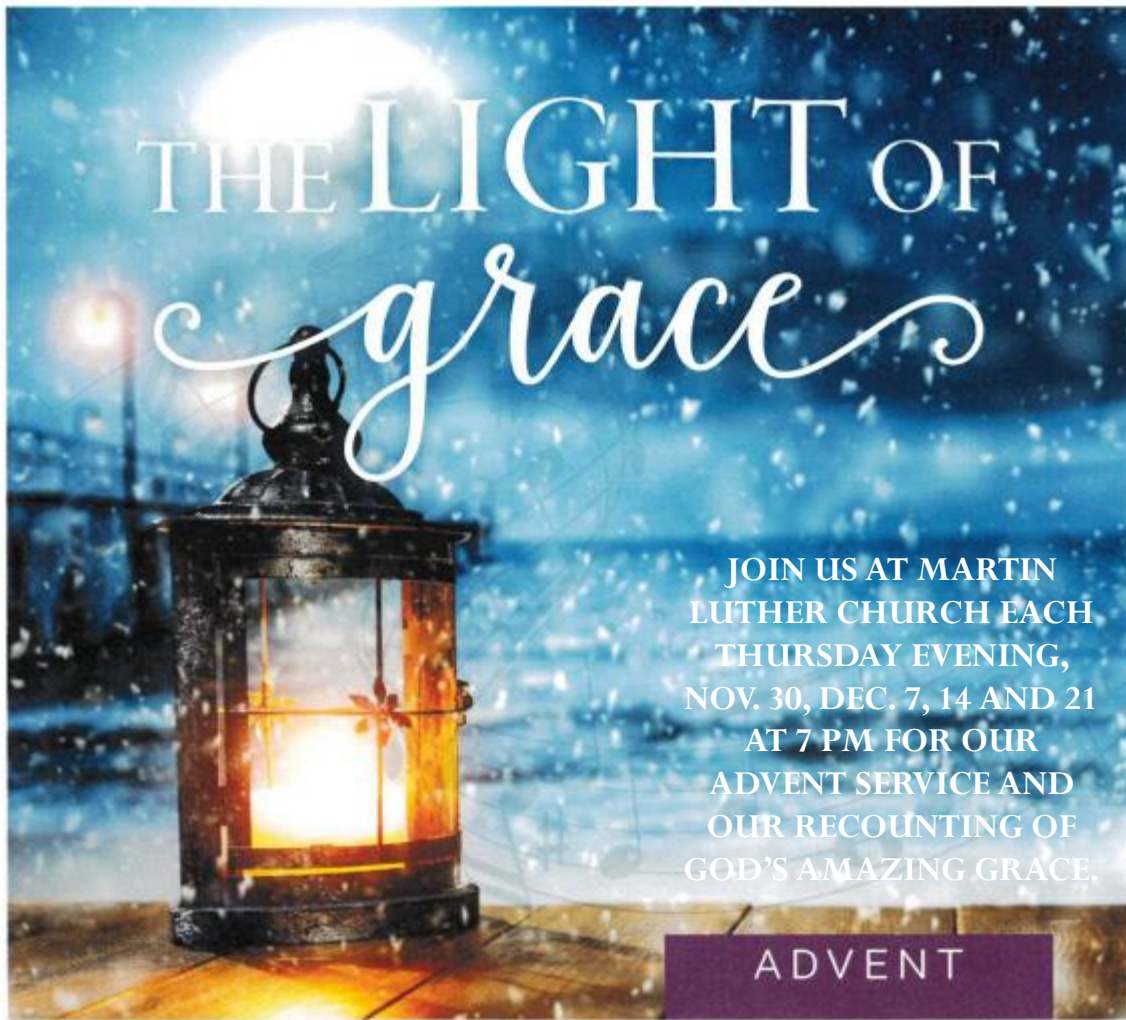
**December 4th
12:00 PM
Station 13
358 Folly Road**

We are starting a new quarterly ministry through Evangelism! We will be connecting with servants of and businesses in our community on James Island. We will provide them with a meal, goodies bags and prayer cards and an open invitation to join us in worship any time! Our first effort is for Fire Station 13, right around the corner. We will need some volunteers to meet at the church to deliver the lunch on 12/4.

We also need donations for the goodies bags. Items needed: travel size pain relief, Pepto, gum, snacks, chap stick, Gatorade and waters. There will be 5-7 firefighters the day we drop off.

Please write a prayer or comment on the prayer cards in your bulletin and leave them in the basket in the Narthex. There are also the wicker bins for the donations for the goodies bags. Lunch is being provided by a Thrivent grant.

We look forward to this new ministry and would love suggestions for recipients. Please email Laura Jordan at Lauraparrischas@yahoo.com or text 843-480-8287 if you are interested in volunteering or suggestions.



JOIN US AT MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH EACH THURSDAY EVENING, NOV. 30, DEC. 7, 14 AND 21 AT 7 PM FOR OUR ADVENT SERVICE AND OUR RECOUNTING OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE.

ADVENT

			
WEEK 1: HOPE Zechariah	WEEK 2: PEACE Isaiah	WEEK 3: JOY Elizabeth	WEEK 4: LOVE Mary

GRL

Join us on Christmas Eve at 5 PM for a Candlelight Service!



2023

Support our Veterans this Christmas

Pick an angel on the tree, write your info on the ticket. Put the ticket in the pocket of the back of the angel & keep the stub. Please turn in your stub and gift card to the office no later than December 17th.

Last week while I sat in the waiting room, a man came in and sighed as he sat down.. I smiled and said “ it’s hurry up and wait.” His answer was, “I was in the military for 30 years, I’m used to it.” I thanked him for his service. He went on talking and said he served during the Vietnam war, and lost a lot of buddies to agent orange. We talked about the Quilts for Vets program, the war, his losses. As I got up to go, he said “do you know you are the first person that said ‘welcome home.’” His eyes got misty and I admit so did mine. Definitely a God moment..... Mary Lou

News from Respite Care Charleston

Respite Care Charleston Plans for the Holidays!

At Respite Care Charleston, our programs for folks with memory loss and dementia and their caregivers are in full swing. This month at our half-day memory care programs, we will experience traditions around Advent, learn about Christmas around the world, and create special gifts for our families. Our support groups for caregivers and for people with early memory loss continue to meet regularly this month.

We know that while the holidays bring joy and delight, they also can bring additional stress for families with dementia. We are here to support families all year long. If you have a friend or family member who is caring for someone with dementia, know they are not alone. We are here for you! Reach out to us at info@respitecarecharleston.org for more information.



Fellowship Brunch Pictures



Sharing a few pictures from our Fellowship Brunch held on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Thank you to Heidi Frear for the pictures!

The Christ Child

Christ is coming
 It's a time of good cheer.
 Our Blessed Redeemer
 Will soon be here.
 His coming is welcomed
 We all will agree.
 It's a time of happiness
 We are eager to share.
 Our Lord, Our Savior
 Is coming to earth
 To seek his people
 And to prove their worth.
 When time is no more
 On planet earth
 We will all thank God
 For the Christ Child's birth.

- William Marioenzi

9/12/2023

Did you know?

Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 117

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 119

Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?

A: Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?

A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

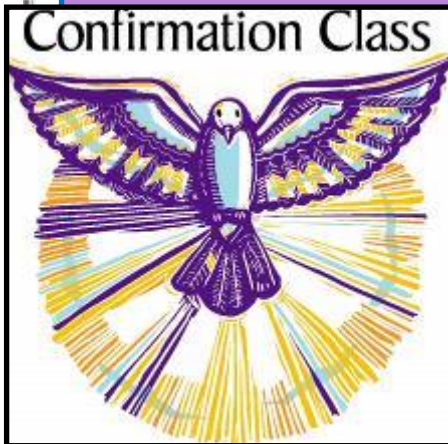
The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Psalms 118:8

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

Fun At Confirmation Class



Holy Spirit Church hosted the second in a series of Confirmation Classes for students from

Martin Luther Church, Faith Church, Holy Spirit Church, St. Mark's and St. John's on **Saturday, November 11th**. We are so excited to get to meet and study together again! This first session focused on "Holy Communion". Please keep the students, parents and *Pastors* in your prayers.

Our next Confirmation Class is scheduled for Saturday, February 17. Watch for details.



The Great ReEvaluation

The Great ReEvaluation committee is looking toward revising our mission statement to reflect the changing needs of the world, community, and congregants most accurately. In the coming weeks, we would like your assistance in working on a revision to the existing MLLC 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.”** Please share your thoughts with one of the team members, Nancy Haynsworth, Sherry Fowler, Laura Jordan, Gary Frear or Pastor Tom.

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.



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

PRAYERS



The family of Paul
Bauersfeld at his death
on November 11.

Carl and Judy Simmons

Jerri Snider

Linda Leone

Polly Sutton

Judy Alcorn

Margaret Balzano

Claire and Buddy
Diffenderfer

Myrl Kluge

Joe and Linda Sproles

Edward Knight

Glenn Lawley

Bobby Bellah

Jean Lofton

Patty Langella

B.T. Bouton

Debbie Wilson

Patricia Davis

Corporal Lucas Watts

Julie Zerbst

Blake Dunn

Lael Byrd

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 and Linda Miller

Mary Stevens

Dwight and Susan Hartsell

Fran Williams

Rodney Fowler

Marvin Sims

Rusty Sims

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn Swittenberg

Mildred Woods

Ned Vendrick

Wendy Thomas

Ann Smith

Ruth Toney

Richard Haynsworth

Ronnie Suggs

Erik Wohltman

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



BIRTHDAYS

Marty Richard 12/01
 JB Bradley 12/01
 Polly Sutton 12/04
 Aaron Armstrong 12/05
 Haley Swittenberg 12/07
 Brian Shaddrix 12/12
 Chuck Gillette 12/15
 Laura Richard 12/15
 Greta Waters 12/18
 Charlie Harris 12/19
 Joyce Guffin 12/23
 Michael Gillette 12/26
 Pam Gillette 12/27
 Joni Suggs 12/28
 Steve Shaddrix 12/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Pam & Chuck Gillette 12/09
 Heidi & Gary Frear 12/12
 Nancy & Bruce Carter 12/18
 Marcia & Russell LaFrance 12/24



BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Hamill 1/03
 Margaret Balzano 1/06
 Sammie Burke 1/13
 Jim Tuten /15
 Ralph McLaughlin 1/16
 Beverly Weed 1/19
 Madeline Gillette 1/21
 Carl Simmons 1/26
 Brooke-Lynn Burke 1/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Connie & Lou Gibson 1/5
 Pam & Charlie Harris 1/29



DECEMBER

	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher	Video
12/3	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Richard Fowler	Sherry Fowler
12/10	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Laura Jordan	Jimmy Knight	Laura Jordan
12/17	Ada Arthur	Ada Arthur	Maria Namie	Peggy Oxendine	Rick Beruf	Peggy Oxendine
12/24	Heidi Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear
12/31	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Nancy Haynsworth	Brandt Armstrong	Sherry Fowler

In 1957 Frances Kipps Spencer developed the idea of crafting chrismons for Christmas trees at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. More than simple decorations for the trees that enhance the sanctuary during the holiday season, chrismons have meanings that allow those who understand these symbols to consider the history, heritage, and basic tenets of the Christian faith. The following paragraphs will help you “read” the chrismons that we all enjoy.

The cross is a symbol that all Christians understand, but there are many forms of the cross. The Latin cross takes the form of the cross that is above the altar in the sanctuary of Martin Luther Lutheran Church. The Greek cross has arms of equal length. The Tau cross looks like the capital letter “T.”

A cross on a sphere, or orb, has a meaning that is distinct from that of a single cross. The orb symbolizes the world, so an orb with a cross surmounting it symbolizes the Church triumphant on the earth. Images of Christ holding the orb and cross, both as a child and as an adult, are common.

After the cross, perhaps the most familiar of the ancient symbols among the chrismons is the fish. Even children know that it refers to Christ, who fished among men to gather up and save their souls. The Greek spelling of the word “fish” is *IXOYC*. These letters are an acronym (in Greek) for Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Savior. In Roman catacomb paintings one can find images of a fish with a loaf of bread. These images refer both to the miracle of the loaves and the fishes and to the Eucharist.

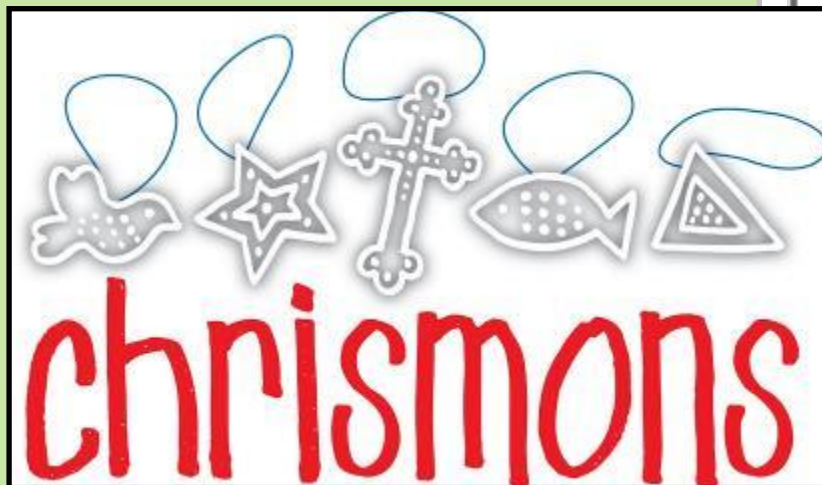
The triangle or a group of three intersecting circles represent the triune God. These ancient symbols recall one of the basic elements of the Christian faith.

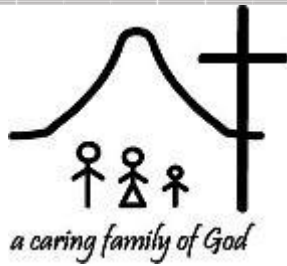
Letters themselves are symbols among the chrismons. IHS (or IHC) are the first three letters of the Greek spelling of Jesus, *IHSUS*. Throughout history, some images of Constantine the Great have depicted his soldiers with these letters on their shields. The Emperor had a vision in which he heard a voice saying “*In hoc signo vinces*” – “In this sign you shall conquer” – on the night before a great battle. He placed the sign of Christ on his soldiers’ shields and was victorious the next day. The IHS on the soldiers’ shields is a monogram for Christ, not an abbreviation of the prophetic words Constantine heard in his vision.

Another letter symbol is XP or XPI, the first letters of the Greek word *XPICTOC*, Christ. If one reads XP backward, one also finds an abbreviation for the Latin word *pax*, peace.

The Greek letters Α (alpha) and Ω (omega) may appear in various ways on chrismons. In particular, one often sees them hanging from the arms of a cross.

These are just a few of the symbols one may find among the chrismons on the trees in the sanctuary at Martin Luther Lutheran Church. Enjoy both their beauty and their meaning as you approach the altar this year!





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—

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—

Heidi Frear

Congregational Care Team

*Leader—***Joni Suggs**

Property Team Leader—

Gary Frear

Youth (one year term) -

Kaitlyn Frear

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.*