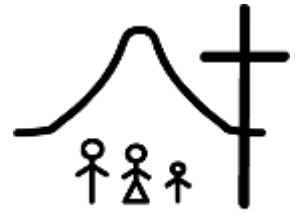
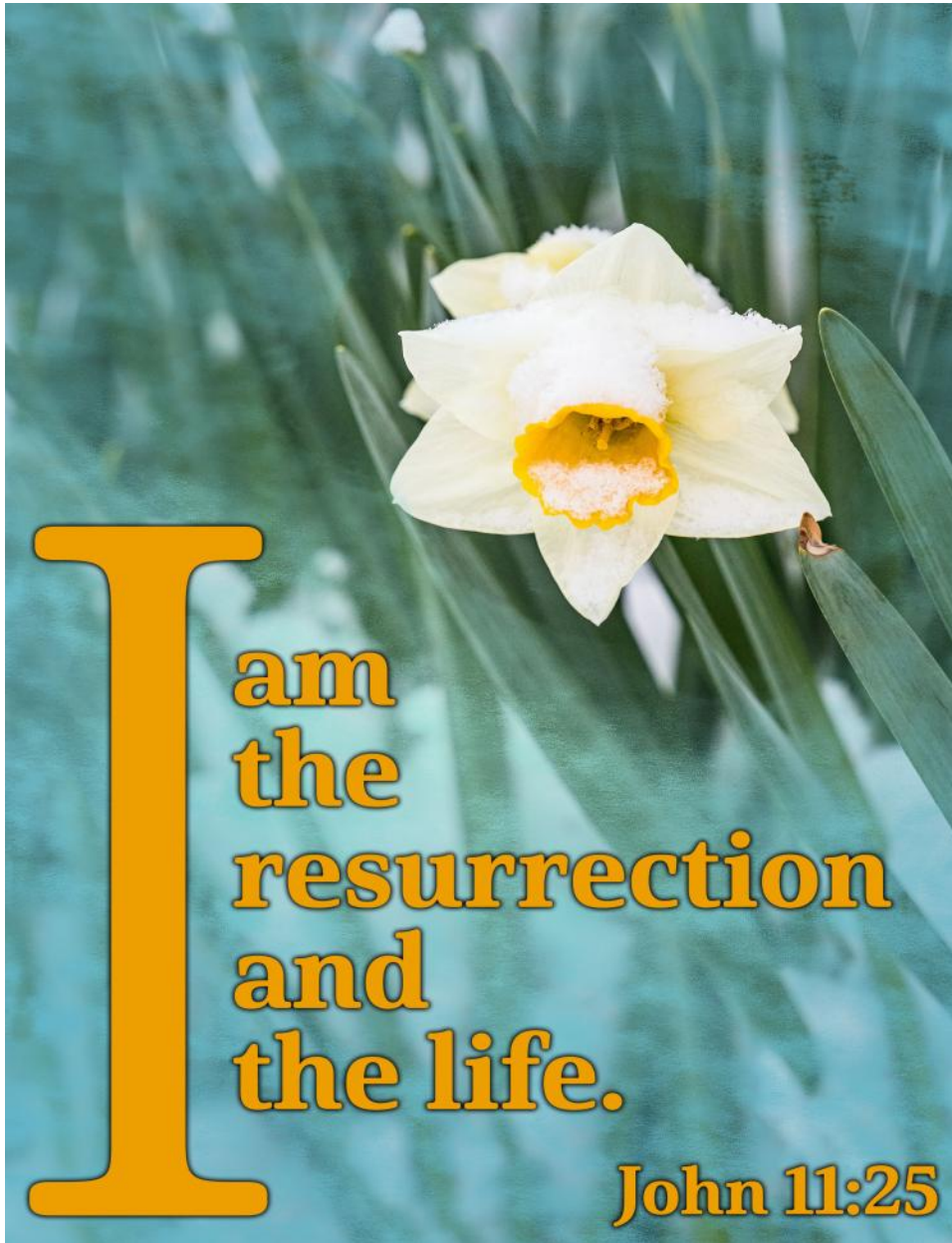


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

APRIL 2026



a caring family of God

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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April—Watch Word of the Month is LIFE



Grace and peace to you as we enter into the Easter season.

But before we get there, we remember the darkness of **Holy Week** in profound silence and sorrow. It starts with the triumphant entry of Palm Sunday, the intimate farewell of Maundy Thursday, the agony of Good Friday's cross, and the hushed desolation of Holy Saturday, we walk with Christ through betrayal, suffering, abandonment, and the apparent victory of darkness and death. The weight of sin, the sting of mortality, and the grief of loss press heavily upon the heart, reminding us of humanity's deepest night.

Yet in that very darkness, a transformation is prepared. The tomb that holds the crucified Lord is not the end, but the quiet womb of resurrection. As the ancient liturgy of the Easter Vigil proclaims, this is the night when Christ shatters the chains of death, when light breaks forth undimmed from the grave. The stone is rolled away, the dawn arrives, and the Risen One steps into a new creation.

It is so interesting to me how the journey turns: from the shadowed sorrow of the Passion to the radiant joy of Easter morning. Where once there was only mourning, now bursts forth **Alleluia**—for death is conquered, hope is reborn, and the light of Christ dispels every darkness forever. He is risen indeed!

April draws us into the very heart of our faith—the promise of resurrection and new life. When Jesus Christ declares, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), He is not only speaking of eternity, but of the life we are invited to live right now.

Too often, we carry burdens that feel like sealed tombs—grief, worry, fear, or uncertainty. Yet the same voice that called Lazarus out of the grave still calls to us today. Christ meets us where we are and speaks life into the places we thought were lost.

As we celebrate the resurrection, I invite you to reflect on where God is bringing new life in your own life and the life of Martin Luther. Where is He calling you to step forward in faith? Where is He asking you to trust in His promises more deeply?

Easter reminds us that death does not have the final word—God does. Hope does. Life does.

As your pastor, I am grateful to walk alongside you in this season. I pray MLLC is inspired to be a place where resurrection is not only proclaimed, but lived out—in our worship, our fellowship, and our service to others.

May the peace of the risen Christ fill your hearts and your homes.

Blessings
Pastor Kathleen

&

Peace,



April brings us the JOY of Christ's Resurrection and God's promise of eternal life for all who believe!

Alleluia! We sing praises:

Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

Alleluia!

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Jesus Lives!

Up From the Grave He Arose! Alleluia!

Now all the Vault of Heaven Resounds! Alleluia!

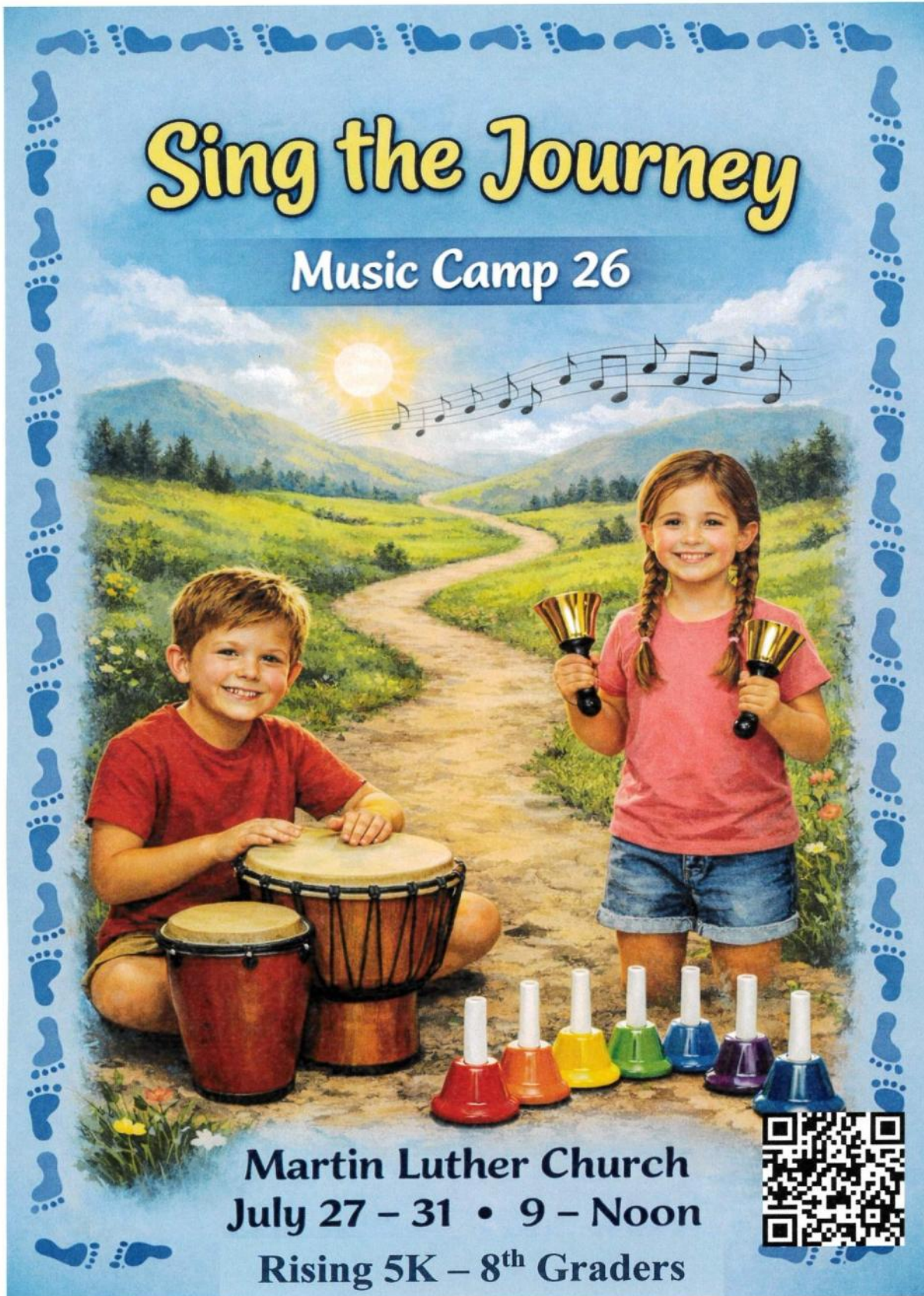
May our song bring glory to God throughout the season of Easter. Raise a song of gladness!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Sing the Journey

Music Camp 26



Martin Luther Church
July 27 – 31 • 9 – Noon
Rising 5K – 8th Graders





Palm Sunday, March 29th • 10:00 am

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! As we wave our palm branches in praise, we remember the King who entered Jerusalem in humility and love. May our hearts welcome Him anew this Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd • Noon

On this sacred day, we reflect on Jesus washing the disciples' feet and teaching us to serve with humility. Take a moment this week to offer simple acts of grace — a listening ear, a meal shared, or a quiet prayer lifted for someone in need.

Good Friday, April 3rd • Noon

Good Friday invites us to pause and remember the weight of Christ's sacrifice. As we reflect, may we hold close the truth that his love reaches us in every season — steady, unwavering and full of mercy.

EASTER SUNDAY

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

April 5th • 10 AM

He is risen! Easter calls us to celebrate with joy and gratitude. Christ's resurrection reminds us that darkness does not win and hope is always rising. Let's rejoice together in the good news that transforms our lives.

Greetings Church Family!

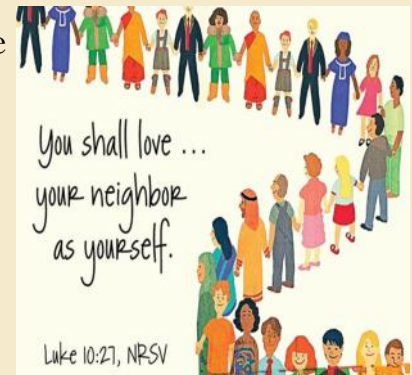
April and Easter arrive at almost the same time.

Lunch Bunch meets on Maundy Thursday. Join us after the service. Just bring your bag lunch and if you want, bring a dish to share. Any kind of salad would be great.

Thanks to all who have been eating lunch with Andy. He looks forward to it so much.

Also thank you, thank you for your contributions to the Love Your Neighbor project. We are well over a hundred wash clothes and soap and almost there with toothpaste and brushes.. Such a great undertaking for sure a small congregation. Mighty is the hand of God.

April is the month for Shampoo. Bring what you can and God will do the rest.



April is also the month for getting ready for the annual Tea Party. Check your email and the church website for updates. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can keep our plans up to date.

On Easter Sunday, if you don't want to take your lilies home, please consider leaving them at the church. We will plant them so they can bloom again. I have some in my yard that are approaching 30 years of age. They still bloom.

We are looking forward to seeing flowers on the altar again. Sunday after EASTER!

If you would like to choose a Sunday, please do it soon, since the chart is rapidly filling up.

Praying that all goes well for our church family in April and beyond.

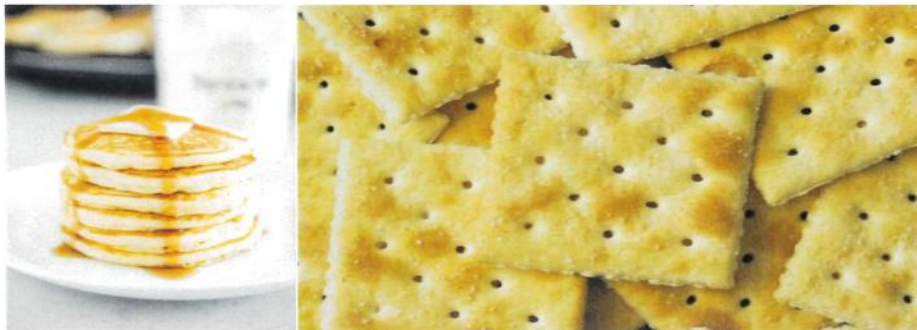
See you at Lunch Bunch, the Tea Party and in Church

Barbara Young



Thursday, April 2	After Maundy Thursday Noon Service / Pot Luck	Lent
Thursday, May 28	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	Bingo and Father's Day
Thursday, June 18	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	Game Day
Thursday, July 2	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	Independence Day
Thursday, August 13	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	
Thursday, September 10	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	
Thursday, October 8	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	
Thursday, November 5	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	Chrismons
Thursday, December 3	11:30 Brown Bag Lunch	Baking Cookies and Bread

**MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS
THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH**



FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

Martin Luther Church is gladly accepting online contributions through [Tithe.ly.com](https://www.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**!!!

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

2026 WATCHWORD

Of the Month

January—Hope

February—Love

March—Peace

April—Life

May—Grace

June—Joy

July—Freedom

August—Returning

September—Rest

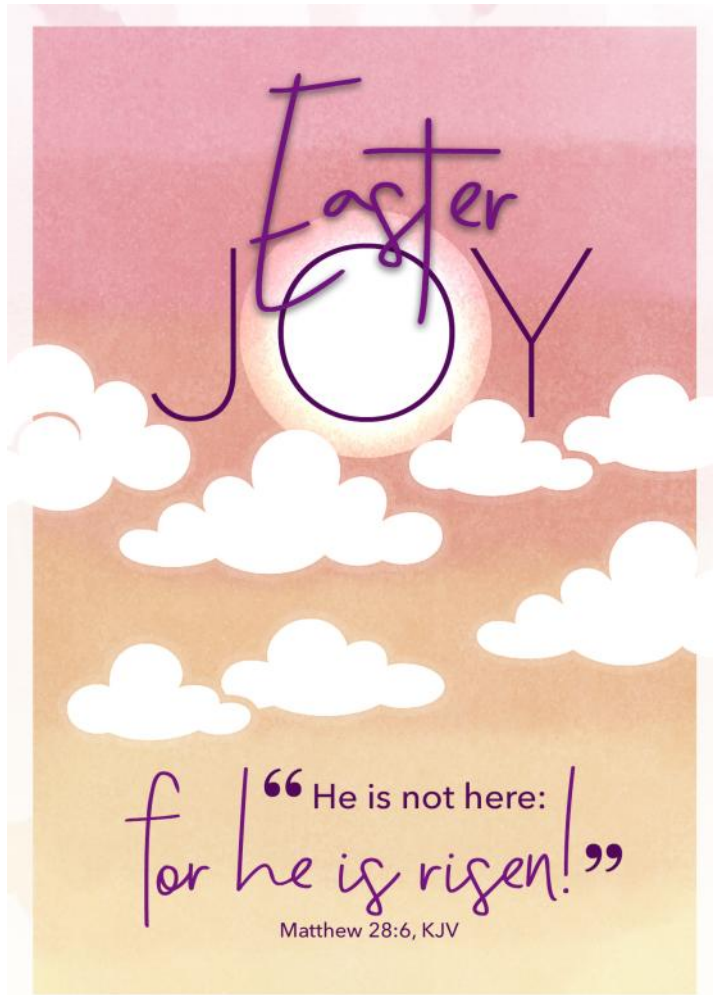
October—Mercy

November—Giving / Serving

December—Seeing

Let's all get in the habit of bringing a can of food to place in the blessing box each Sunday. Soup is a favorite and it's easier for those who are in need to have the pop-top cans.

Thank you for your generosity!



JOY

Puddles form, a stage is set,
 Raindrop curtains, joy's silhouette.
 Children leap, hearts light as air,
 Dancing, splashing, without a care.

Silver droplets, skies profound,
 Echoing laughter, the only sound.
 Bare feet twirl on earth's wet floor,
 With every splash, they yearn for more.

Moments fleeting, yet memories stay,
 Of rain-drenched dances, in child's play.
 Nature's embrace, so pure, so coy,
 In every drop, a puddle of joy!

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MLLC COUNCIL

**THE MLLC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE
HELD**

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

FOLLOWING THE 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

There are three Council members going off Council because their term is up, and one member resigning from Council.

We will be voting on four new members to fill these vacancies.

We will be voting on the Sunday morning worship time.

The two times being offered will be 9:00 AM or 10:00 AM.

A report from Council will be presented, as to the status of where we are in the call process.

This is a very important meeting, so we ask that you mark your calendars. Council has asked the Bishop's office if we can do a paper ballot. Unfortunately, the SC Synod Constitution does not allow for this. It must be an "in person" vote. We want to assure that everyone has a voice so please plan on attending.

MLLC COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, February 15, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:

Pastor Kathleen Miko, Brandt Armstrong, Ada Arthur, Jimmy Knight, Linda Leone, Joni Suggs, Kathy Swittenberg

President Ada Arthur called the meeting to order. Devotions were presented by Kathy Swittenberg.

JANUARY COUNCIL MINUTES:

Minutes from the January 11, 2026, Council Meeting were read by Secretary, Linda Leone. One correction was noted that in the December Treasurer's Report. It was reported that there were five Sundays in December and there were actually only four Sundays in the month of December.

Joni Suggs moved that the December Council Minutes be approved as corrected. Jimmy Knight seconded the motion and the motion was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Brandt Armstrong highlighted some of the points in his January report.

Brandt reported that we are holding steady with our operating budget and bills are being paid.

A reminder for the budget next year that the water company will need to be contacted about this year's (2026) payment schedule so as to not get charged a late fee.

PASTOR'S REPORT: (attached)

In her report, Pastor Kathleen highlighted that it is encouraging to see that we have welcomed some new members and have seen a return from some former members. Pastor Kathleen said that, "In a very small church, progress often looks quiet and steady. But steady faithfulness is never small in the Kingdom of God."

In an effort to obtain a more accurate count of active members, a list is being provided to go through and remove those members that are inactive.

Linda Leone will get together with Sherry Fowler to work on a list of items to go into a welcome basket for new members when they officially join church. The goal is to have consistency.

Letter from Rev. Rick Carter, Ast. Bishop SC Synod: (attached)

President Ada Arthur read a letter from Pastor Rick Carter of the Bishop's office.

Bishop Ginny and Pastor Rick had met with Faith Lutheran on John's Island regarding their wants and needs in calling a pastor. Faith has decided to continue with their present Supply Pastor and not partner with Martin Luther. As a result of this letter, the Council will await the next course of direction from Synod.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Ministry Profile

The Ministry Profile needs to be completed. This document must be submitted before the call process can begin. Ada Arthur and Brandt Armstrong will go over the profile and provide their insights, then report back to Council in order to complete the Ministry Profile.

Constitution & By-Laws

The most recent MLLC Constitution is being worked on by David Whittaker. The Constitution will be amended and updated as needed in order to provide a new Constitution. A current Constitution is required before the call process can be initiated.

Election of New Officers

Three Council members' terms expire and there will be an election to fill these three vacancies. Each term is two years and a council person can serve two terms.

REVIEW OF SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME:

Brandt Armstrong moved to take a vote (by the membership) at the May 2026 Congregational Meeting, to revisit the Sunday worship time change. Ada Arthur seconded the motion and the floor was opened for discussion.

It was decided that an in-person vote would take place and not a mail-in vote. Therefore, it is very important that this meeting be announced well in advance (one month), of the May Congregational Meeting along with the information that a vote will take place regarding the time change.

Also noted that due to the fact that we are presently not sharing a pastor, that we have no restrictions on the time other than the two times offered which will be 9:00 AM or 10:00 AM.

Following discussion, there was a call for the question. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

Brandt Armstrong moved to take a vote (by the membership) at the May 2026 Congregational Meeting, to revisit the Sunday worship time change. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

Brandt Armstrong made a motion to hold the Congregational Meeting on May 17, 2026. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Knight and was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

PROPERTY REPORT:

Jimmy Knight reported the Director of Respite Care offered to apply for a grant to get new furniture for both Respite Care and MLLC use. Council agreed that this was a welcome idea. Jimmy will let Respite Care know of Council's approval.

CLOSING

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

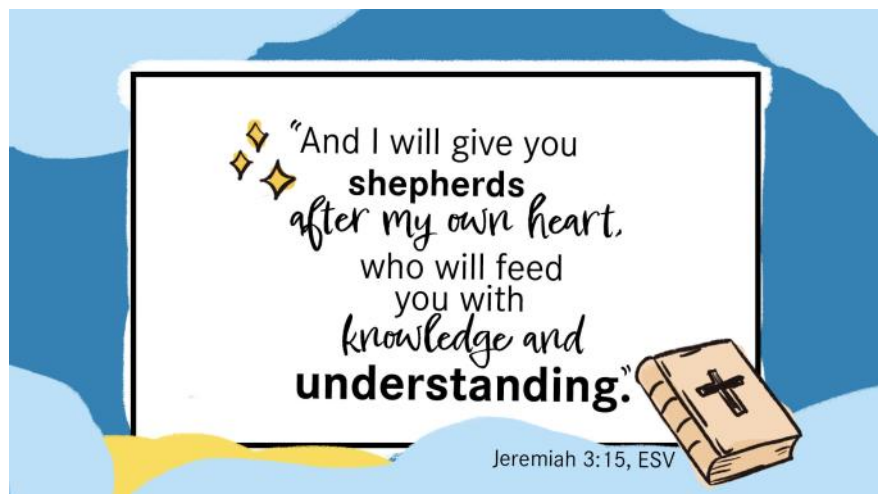
Respectfully submitted,

Linda Leone

Secretary, MLLC Council

NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

DEVOTIONS – Linda Leone



Jimmy Stone's Writings

Hey there!

Just wanted to share a little thought that popped into my head recently. You know how sometimes you just feel incredibly valued by someone? Well, I was thinking about God's love, and it's like that, but on an infinitely grander scale.



Picture this: if God had a super-special keepsake box, your photo would absolutely be front and center. Or if He had a giant calendar, your birthday would be circled with a big, celebratory heart! It's that kind of personal, heartfelt affection that makes you feel like the most important person in the world.

Think about it – every single day, we get these incredible, mind-blowing spectacles in the sky, like those fiery sunrises and the soft, dreamy sunsets. It's like He's painting a masterpiece just for us, day in and day out. And then, when spring rolls around, BAM! A riot of colorful flowers, and in

the fall, a dazzling show of leaves in every shade imaginable. It's all these little reminders of the sheer beauty and wonder He's constantly showering upon us.

And the best part? Whenever life throws a curveball, or you just need a friendly ear, He's right there, ready to listen and give you that boost you need. Seriously, like an always-on-call, super supportive friend.

But here's the absolute kicker that always gets me: out of all the places in the universe, He chooses to make His home right in your heart. How wild is that? It's not just an external force; it's a deep, personal connection that's always with you.

Hope this brightens your day a bit!

Best,

Jimmy Stone

Bill's Writings

Al Jolson—the black man who wasn't.

He was born in Lithuania. Al sang “April Showers”, “Mammy”, “Toot Toot Tootsie” and other songs. He was also in the first talkie movie, “The Jazz Singer”. Although he was not a racist by wearing a black face, that was his signature. Al Jolson, despite his controversial use of black face, was a complex figure who significantly championed talent and challenged racism. He promoted black musicians like Louis Armstrong.

You want to know something—I was a black face singer. I am white and so was Al Jolson. Now I didn't sing “Mammy”. The song I sang at the age of 9 was “The Thing”. I was so scared my knees were knocking. The thing was, the people in the audience thought, a part of my act. I always thought I would grow up to be a singer.

I have an Uncle who was a famous song writer. I thought that singing in a group while in the Navy, he would help me out. He said, “Billy, you sing. Let me hear you.” I said, “Now?” He said, “Yes.” Well, I was already working for him. I said, “I don't have any song.” He said, “OK, sing something. Anything.” After hearing me he said, “Go Back To Work!”

I didn't know that the Lord didn't want me singing that stuff, He wanted me to sing Gospel and I agreed. I love praising with the voice He gave to me. Praise the Lord for those April Showers.

- by Bill Mariorenzi





Next Spring

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

April 30 — May 3, 2026

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, Pastor Kathleen and Julie Carter. Just ask!!!!

A Quick View of our February 2026 Finances

Budget: \$15,018.25
(Expenses: \$12,479.90)
Offerings: \$ 11,512.50
Difference:
(\$ 3,505.80)



Some people open their holiday meals to strangers, and one host even did so inadvertently. In 2016, Wanda Dench texted 17-year-old Jamal Hinton about Thanksgiving dinner, thinking she was contacting her grandson. When a skeptical Hinton requested a photo and received a selfie of someone with a different skin color, he chuckled — but then asked if he could still come eat! Thus began a new friendship and a new annual tradition, which Hinton documents online. “Family is more than blood,” says Dench. “It’s the people you want to be with.”

This year’s meal will be bittersweet, with an empty chair for Dench’s husband, who died of Covid-19 in April. To show support after that loss, Hinton sent his “grandma” a collection of loving video messages. Strangers worldwide expressed condolences to a woman who’d fully embraced a stranger.

TEA PARTY TIME



**You are cordially
invited to a
Ladies Spring
Tea Party**

**At Martin Luther
Church**

Sunday, May 3rd

2:00 PM

**Please RSVP to the church office
NO LATER THAN APRIL 19.**

PRAYERS



Joyce Guffin
 Pam Smith
 Judy Simmons
 Andy Young
 Connie Baker
 Alyssa Baker
 Brenda Burke
 Polly Sutton
 Myrl Kluge
 Mary Baldwin
 Margaret Balzano
 Joe and Linda Sproles
 Caitlin Donaldson
 Claire Diffenderfer

 Nancy Holden
 George Wallis
 Ariel Howcroft
 Bobby Bellah
 Harold McMillan
 Evan McMillan
 Autumn Young
 Connie Wurster
 Travis Hughes
 Chieko Jordan

Fran Lingenfelter
 Trey Crayton
 Sara Perry
 Johnny Hallman
 Alice Vendrick
 Bob Webb
 Dwight Hartsell
 Paulwyn Boliek
 Rusty Sims
 Robert Suarez
 Erik Wohltman
 Jean Chesno
 Boose Sims
 Nancy Schwartz
 Katie Carrole
 Elizabeth Sweet
 Linda Miller
 Ann Smith
 Rick Carroll
 Betty Jones
 Wendy Thomas
 Carter Ketchum
 Martha and Jimmy Stone
 Mike Shuey
 Linda Wells
 Will Shaddrix
 Korky Dunn
 Judy Giford
 Matthew Huber
 Linda Stewart

Stephen Harmon
 Marilyn and Stacy Smith
 Paul Holmes
 Bob Thuet
 Chip Guffin
 Will Shaddrix
 Jan Clinkscales
 Fran Fischer
 Mary Frances Lundy
 Ethan Kennedy in Kuwait

 SC Synod Bishop Ginny
 Aebischer

 The Children and Staff at
 Harbor View Elementary
 School

 The Staff and Clients at
 Respite Care Charleston

 The Staff and Clients at
 Postpartum Support
 Charleston



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

Todd Peterson 5/2
 Keri Roscoe 5/4
 Bob Spain 5/8
 Laura Jordan 5/9
 Nancy Gillette 5/24
 Ashley Peterson 5/26

ANNIVERSARIES

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



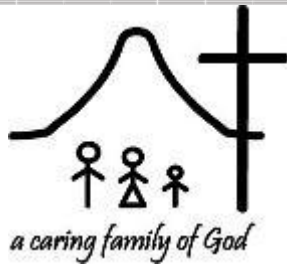
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

APRIL

DATE	Lesson and Prayer Leader	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
April 5 Easter	Kathy Swittenberg	Ada Arthur	Maria Namie	Brandt Armstrong	Joni Suggs Linda Armstrong
April 12	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Tracey Arthur	Wayne Rimer	Janice Knight Lynn Shaddrix
April 19	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Addie McKeithan	Richard Fowler	Kathy Swittenberg Addie McKeithan
April 26	Tracey Arthur	Ada Arthur	Lynn Shaddrix	Ricky Suggs	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs

MAY

DATE	Lesson Reader	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
May 3	Jim Swittenberg	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Jim Swittenberg	Addie McKeithan Janice Knight
May 10	Ada Arthur	Matthew Rimer	Matthew Rimer	Wayne Rimer	Kathy Swittenberg Lynn Shaddrix
May 17	Peggy Oxendine	Laura Jordan	Kathy Tillman	Ricky Suggs	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs
May 24	Tracey Arthur	Sherry Fowler	Tracey Arthur	Jimmy Knight	Maria Namie Janice Knight
May 31	Richard Fowler	Ada Arthur	Maria Namie	Brandt Armstrong	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs



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—

Ada Arthur

Vice President—

Kathy Swittenberg

Secretary—

Linda Leone

Treasurer—

Brandt Armstrong

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jimmy Knight

Joni Suggs

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

