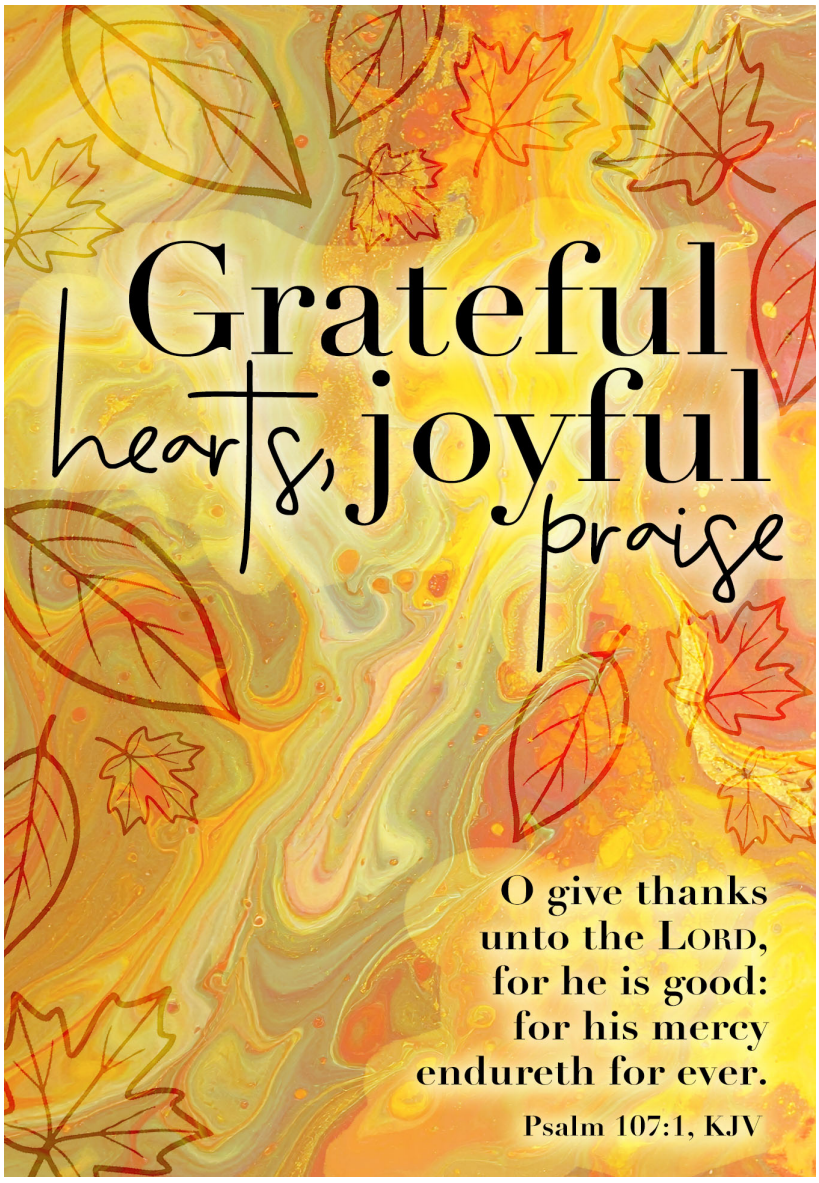
MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 NOVEMBER 2026



November —WatchWord of the Month is THANKS

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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Please VOTE! Mid-Term Elections are the first Tuesday in November. If you have not already voted, I hope you have it in your plans to exercise one of the greatest privileges we have as citizens of the United States.

November is a month that invites us to slow down, reflect, remember, and give thanks. The days grow shorter, the leaves continue to fall, and we begin to feel the quiet change of seasons around us.

Don't forget that Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1st. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night. We gain an extra hour of sleep, but we are also reminded that the seasons of life continue to change, bringing new opportunities to pause and appreciate God's blessings.

On **All Saints' Sunday**, we remember those who have gone before us in faith: Julie Carter, Tom Hennessy, Carl Simmons, Polly Sutton. We give thanks for these members of our church who have touched our lives, shared their faith, offered encouragement, and helped shape the church family we are today. Their stories, love, and faithful witness remain part of who we are. Although we miss them, we take comfort in God's promise that death does not have the final word. We are held together in the love of Christ, both now and forever.



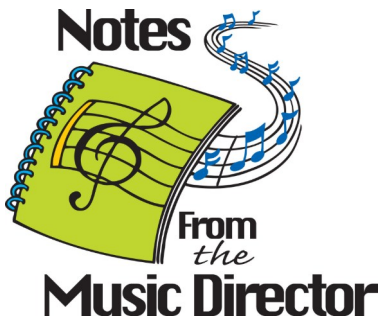
November is also an important month in the life of Martin Luther as we prepare for our **Annual Congregational Meeting**, which will on Sunday, November 22nd following our worship service. This is an opportunity to reflect on where we have been, consider where God may be leading us, and participate in the decisions that shape our future together. Each of us has a place and a voice in the life of this church. I encourage you to take part, stay informed, and continue to support one another as we move forward in faith.

Thanksgiving! This year I trust you all take time to recognize the many blessings that surround us. Gratitude is not simply about having everything we wish for; it is about recognizing God's presence in the ordinary moments of life, in the kindness of others, in a helping hand, a familiar smile, and the gift of being part of a community of faith. May we find ways to share that gratitude with those around us, especially those who may be lonely or in need of encouragement.

When November comes to a close, we'll find ourselves beginning a new season in the life of the church. November 29th is the **First Sunday of Advent** and the beginning of a new church year where we will move from the Gospel of Matthew and begin a new journey through the Gospel of Mark. As we light the first Advent candle, may its light remind us that even in uncertain times, God's promises remain sure. A new church year brings new opportunities for faith, growth, and service. May we enter this season with open hearts and renewed hope, trusting that God is still at work among us.

Wishing you all a November that bring you moments of peace, grateful hearts, and renewed hope.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Kathleen



Church Music Opportunities!

There are many ways to share your musical gifts in worship.



First and foremost, lift your voice in singing hymns and liturgy every Sunday! Don't worry about perfect pitch. Let your heart sing!!!



Join the choir! We practice in the choir room on Sunday mornings at 9 am. We would love to have you join us!

Ring handbells! No experience necessary. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 5:45.



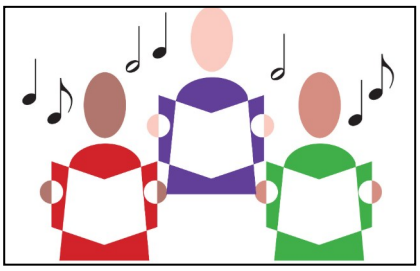
Play an instrument! Do you have hidden talents?

Please share!

Sing a solo!

Bring a friend!

All are welcome!



- GINA

Respite 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

Senior Moments brain health and wellness program

Senior Moments is a program by Respite Care Charleston offering expert-guided sessions that combine cognitive wellness activities, gentle fitness, nutrition tips, mental agility activities, meaningful social connections, and a stigma-free space where you can be yourself without fear or judgment. Whether you're noticing mild cognitive changes or you simply want to stay mentally healthy and sharp, you'll enjoy this group! Sessions are two hours, and the cost is $25/session. To learn more about Senior Moments, please email info@RespiteCareCharleston.org or call (843) 647-7405.

2026 WATCHWORD Of the Month

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!

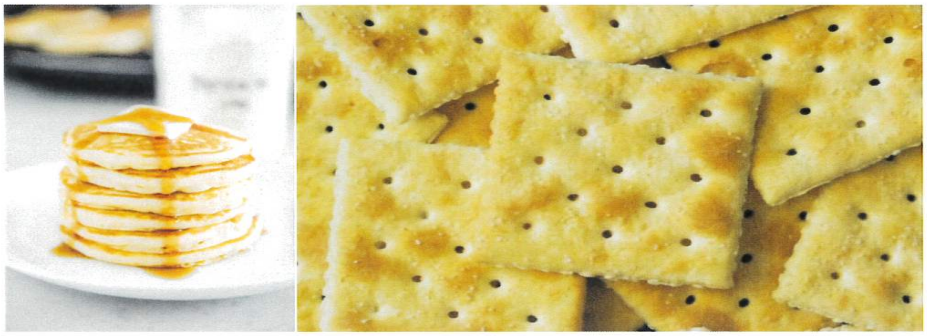


Thursday, November 5	Chrismons
Thursday, December 3	Baking Cookies and Bread

BROWN BAG LUNCH AT 11:30 AM



MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH

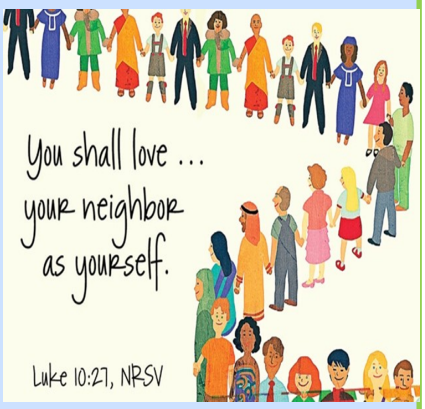


FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

October is fast coming to a close.

Cooler weather has put a spring in our step and a reminder that we need to be alert to the needs of others.

Warm clothes and food supplies are ready to be packed up and delivered. However, we only have enough for a small number of neighbors so we are going to continue collecting items of warmth and new socks for the month of November.



Food items are always needed for both the Blessing Box and James Island Outreach. Thanks for feeding those in need.

Lunch Bunch is almost here. We have so much to give God Thanks for! Have you noticed all the new faces in our sanctuary lately? We truly Thank God for letting us be able to share his message. There have been many successful surgeries among our families. Thanks God for healing.

In addition to sharing what we are Thankful for, we will check out our Chrismons and pack bags for the homeless shelter.

Looking forward to seeing you at Lunch Bunch. Bring your sandwich and eat with your friends at Martin Luther!

God's blessings on each of you

Barbara and Andy

A note from the Altar Flower Guild—

We are happy to welcome Judy and Janet to our group! Anyone else interested in making our sanctuary beautiful with flowers on Sunday morning is welcome to join us!

It only takes about an hour on Friday mornings and we always have a great time visiting and catching up on news. Emily and Judy discovered that they are cousins! Maybe you can find an unknown relative or just a new special friend! Contact Barbara Young for more information.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, September 13, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:

Pastor Kathleen Miko, Brandt Armstrong, Tracey Arthur, Keith Evans, Linda Leone, Wayne Rimer

Joni Suggs – Excused Absence

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Tracey Arthur

Devotions were presented by Keith Evans

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor Kathleen requested Council approval to spend $153.00 for the Epiphany curriculum, "Until the Dawn" for Advent.

Brandt Armstrong moved to approve the Advent program purchase of $153.00. Tracey Arthur seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

- Pastor Kathleen requested that the 9:00 Sunday morning Bible study be added to the church answering machine message.
- A letter was read by Pastor Kathleen welcoming Bishop Roof on behalf of MLLC. President Joni Suggs will send this letter.
- Bishop Roof will lead the MLLC worship service on December 13, 2026. A pot luck meal will follow the worship service and Council will have a short meeting with the Bishop after the church supper. There will be NO Council meeting on December 6th.
- Brandt Armstrong is working on the 2027 budget to be presented at the November 2026 Congregational Meeting.

August 9, 2026, COUNCIL MINUTES:

- Minutes from the August 9, 2026, Council Meeting were read by Secretary, Linda Leone. Pastor Kathleen noted that the MLLC Record Retention and Document Destruction Policy (attached), needs to be recorded in the Council Secretary's minutes.

Tracey Arthur moved that the August 9, 2026, Council Minutes be approved with the addition of the Retention Policy document. Wayne Rimer seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Treasurer Brandt Armstrong, distributed the August 2026 monthly statements and reports to the Council.
- Brandt noted that August was a good month and MLLC was ahead in the amount of $4,000.00 as of the time of his report.
- Brandt reported that the check for the sale of the Nucor Steel stock had been received ($11,752.00). The money was deposited into the Operating Fund and then transferred to the Reserve Account.
- All bills are paid as of the date of this meeting.

PROPERTY REPORT:

Wayne Rimer reported on the following regarding the church property.

- The walkway leading up to the front door of the church, has been repaired.
- Joni Suggs is looking into getting a permit to remove oak trees that are causing problems. If a permit is granted, Wayne will get quotes to have this work done.
- Wayne Rimer and Jimmy Knight feel that they can do the replacements needed for the parking lot lights. There are four poles and each pole is approximately $200.00 to replace.
- The lights close to the front door of the church are on timers. These lights will be replaced with dawn to dusk lights.
- Playground equipment should be looked at to see if the equipment if safe. Wayne will report back to Council regarding the condition of the equipment and Council will determine the course of action following the report.
- There was a discussion regarding the possible homeless individual believed to be living on MLLC grounds. Following the discussion, Council decided to determine if that individual is still on the property. Linda Leone would look into MLLC's legal liability if there was someone living on site and report back to Council. Council would then make a decision as to what action would need to taken.

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE:

- Laura Jordan and Peggy Oxendine have agreed to work on the Ministry Site Profile. Information would be needed by the committee to complete the profile. One such area is determining the pastor's salary. Wayne Rimer distributed part of the MSP from 2014 that addresses this. Pastor Kathleen said that for determining the pastor salary, it would be what the church could afford.
- Ministry Site Profile should be completed by January 2027.

BUILDING USE:

- Discussion for the use of the MLLC building facility by outside groups and organizations, was tabled.

SUTTON MEMORIAL DONATION:

- Memorial donations in memory of Polly Sutton, were received in the amount of $2,100.00 of which $400.00 of this amount were earmarked for Respite Care. Pastor Kathleen spoke with the Sutton family to let them know that Respite Care was an independent organization and not supported or sponsored by MLLC. Pastor reported to Council that the Suttons assumed that Respite Care was a part MLLC and wanted any and all donations for Polly to go to MLLC. Brandt Armstrong expressed a desire to donate the $400.00 to Respite Care and made a motion that was seconded by Linda Leone. The floor was open for discussion. Following discussion a vote was taken the the motion failed.

Brandt Armstrong moved to donate the $400.00 donated in memory of Polly Sutton, to Respite Care. Linda Leone seconded the motion. Following discussion, a vote of one Yes and five No failed the motion and it did not carry.

- The Sutton family had also expressed a desire to add Polly's name to the family stain glass window. They later withdrew their request. Following discussion, it was decided that Council would get a quote on how much this would cost. Once a estimate was obtained, Council would determine if there were enough Sutton memorial donation money to cover this cost and if so, Council would go back to the Sutton family to see if they wanted to move forward with their original request.

Linda Leone moved to getting a quote to add Polly Sutton to the Sutton family stained glass window and report back to Council for further discussion. Tracey Arthur seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

ENDOWMENTS:

- Brandt Armstrong reported that MLLC has two endowments. One endowment is in a nine month CD and the second endowment is in a six month CD. Brandt will ask Peggy Oxendine to see what the guidelines are for using these funds. Brandt will report back to Council with this information.

CLOSING

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

Respectfully submitted, Linda Leone

WE ARE BLESSED

We are blessed. To awake to sunlight after a night of body maintenance and repair, a night of growing cells to replace dying ones, a night to digest foods consumed during the day. A night for our super computer brain to maintain our breathing, and a heart to store and file the activity, learning and emotions of the day. We are blessed to awaken where we can worship as we please, read an uncensored newspaper, have clean shelter, have clean water, food to eat, jobs to prepare for, families and friends to share the day with. Enjoy love and prayers, **Jimmy Stone**





THE STORY OF THANKSGIVING

Where shall I begin? Well, for starters without my hands I can't make the sign of the cross. Wait a minute! How are you going to do that without these arms? I'm walking – that's right – without these stilts, I can't go anywhere. And without my toes, my little buddies holding me together. When it comes right down to it, we are all important. God made feet for walking and arms for holding people we love. Fact is, the Good Lord has a purpose for all of us – to honor and worship the one that created us – the God Almighty. In case you don't know it, He made us in His image. Now, let's all say "Thank You God for all we have because without you, God, we would be nothing." This is the true meaning of Thanksgiving. I

Thank You, God.

- Bill Mariorenzi



A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.

On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.

We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you. Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.

We come before you with love and deep appreciation for your constant grace and abundant gifts. The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.

Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings. We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence. Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another.

We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

“There are so many things to be thankful for - big and small - but what keeps coming back to me over and over is that I am so thankful that God has promised to never leave me.” - Peggy Oxendine

Martin Luther Church is participating in a project honoring and remembering Veterans.

This project is called "The Veteran Suicide Awareness Tree" or THE WITTING TREE.

November 1st – 11th, 2026

The Witting Tree is a silent, faith-filled witness observed each day for eleven days, from November 1 through November 11 (Veterans Day).

The term "witting" means to be cognizant, deliberate, and aware to the facts of a situation. Each year, more than a dozen faith communities and organizations join in hosting a Witting Tree ceremony at their sites.

We have participated in the Witting Tree project by hanging 22 sets of dog tags each day on a tree in our church side yard (near our sign on Martello Drive) in public remembrance of 22 veterans who take their lives each day by suicide. (That is one Veteran that takes their life every 80 minutes.)





While at the Holy Cross Cemetery, I caught up with a friend, Laurie Bowdoin-Burns, and she showed me a prayer that was written by her father, Lewis G. Bowdoin. With his permission, we present his prayer below.

In Memory of Company 410

O Lord, our maker and defender, out help in years gone by and for years to come, help us we do humbly plead. As we near the final steps to becoming men, bless us as we begin to disband and travel separate paths to Thy Glory.

O Savior, help those who have fallen by the wayside and crowded paths of life. Defend these, our friends, families, and loved ones, as we their protectors, go forth to serve God and Country. Bless each of us, we ask, as Thy see fit and in Thine own way. However it may be, we will graciously and in most humble and adoring manner.

In the time of plenty fill our hearts with thankful praise. In the hour of trials, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail. And finally that Thou wilt graciously be pleased to do justice, to love mercy, and to have ourselves with that charity humility. And to have temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Savior of Life.

For in His Name we ask,

Amen.

Lewis G. Bowdoin

Company 410

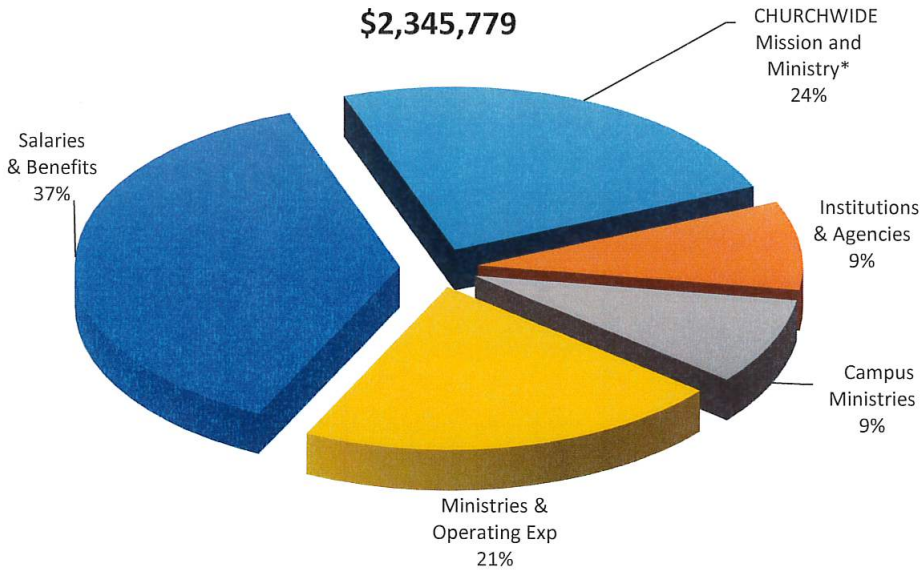
Protestant Religious Petty Officer

South Carolina Synod, ELCA 2027-2028 Proposed Mission Funding/Spending Plan

$566,000	Churchwide Mission and Ministry
$205,500	Institutions & Agencies
$201,509	Campus Ministries
$497,520	Ministries & Operating Expenses
$875,250	Salaries & Benefits

$2,345,779	

Mission Support from Congregations to Synod and Churchwide Ministries $2,345,779



Ministries & Operating Expenses

Category One
Rostered Ministry
Category Two
Congregations & Lay Leaders
Category Three
New Leader Development
Category Four
Connections & Resources for Ministry
Discretionary Fund/Archives/ELCA Gift Planner
Operating Expenses

Campus Ministries

The Citadel
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Lander University
Medical University of South Carolina
University of South Carolina - Columbia
Winthrop University

Institutions & Agencies

SC Lutheran Retreat Centers
Lutheran Homes of SC
NovusWay Ministries
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
Newberry College
Lutheran Services Carolinas

*ELCA Support for 2027-2028 is 22% of unrestricted congregational support

SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN
Via de Cristo

Next Spring

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

APRIL 29 - MAY 2

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"

For more information, visit www.scviadecristo.org or contact 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 Pastor Kathleen. Just ask!!!!!

A Quick View of our September 2026 Finances

Budget: $15,018.25

(Expenses: $18,828.78)

Offerings: $ 11,333.00

Difference: $ 3,685.25

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**!!!

Respite Care
CHARLESTON

CARE COMPASS

CREATING DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY HOLIDAYS



The holidays are a time for connection, tradition and being together, but for families living with dementia, gatherings can feel overwhelming.

Join us as we explore simple, meaningful ways to adapt holiday gatherings and the busyness of the season so loved ones living with dementia and their caregivers can participate, connect and enjoy the season together.

We'll share practical ideas so you can:

- Ensure calmer, more comfortable time with your loved one.
- Create new memories that foster connection instead of exhaustion.
- Leave with simple ideas you can use this holiday season.
- Focus less on what has changed and more on enjoying meaningful moments together.

DETAILS

DATE
Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026

TIME
10:30 a.m. – noon

LOCATION
Martin Luther Lutheran Church
1605 Harbor View Rd.
James Island 29412

PRESENTED BY
Respite Care Charleston

Scan QR Code to Register, or
email info@RespiteCareCharleston.org

PRAYERS

The family of Bobby Bellah (member of Faith Lutheran and good friend of those at MLLC) at his death on October 11.

Emily Schroeder

Ada Arthur

Laura Jordan

Margaret Balzano

Bill Mariorenzi

Steve Shaddrix

Jim Swittenburg

Ricky Suggs

Janice Knight

Maria Namie

Ralph Shrivalle

Judy Simmons

Andy Young

Connie Baker

Alyssa Baker

Brenda Burke

Joyce Guffin

Myrl Kluge

Joe and Linda Sproles

Caitlin Donaldson

Claire Diffenderfer

Jan Clinkscales

Autumn Young

Chieko Jordan

Steve Cooper

Sara Perry

Dwight Hartsell

Harry Wright Sr.

Mary Baldwin

Nancy Holden

Ariel Howcroft

Chip Guffin

Karen Ezell

Fran Lingenfelter

Travis Simmons

Johnny Hallman

Alice Vendrick

Sheryl Carroll

Rick Carroll

Paulwyn Boliek

Rusty Sims

Robert Suarez

Erik Wohltman

Boose Sims

Nancy Schwartz

Katie Carrole

Elizabeth Sweet

Linda Miller

Ann Smith

Betty Jones

Mark Hair

Lisa Leone

Carter Ketchum

Martha and Jimmy Stone

Linda Wells

Korky Dunn

Judy Giford

Matthew Huber

Linda Stewart

Stephen Harmon

Marilyn and Stacy Smith

Betty Rimer

Bob Thuet

Fran Fischer

Luke Rankin

William Bartlett

Buffy Copeland

Michelle Brooks

Tom Dale

Ethan Kennedy in Kuwait

Please contact the church office with updates to this prayer list.

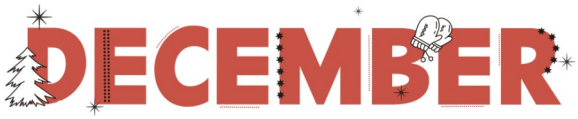


BIRTHDAYS

Claire Diffenderfer	11/3
Janet Kruger	11/10
Joe Sproles	11/11
Tracey Arthur	11/14
Ada Arthur	11/15
Shane Roscoe	11/18
Bubba Brandt	11/23
Maria Namie	11/24

ANNIVERSARIES

Lynn and Steve Shaddrix	11/27



BIRTHDAYS

Haley Switzenberg	**12/7**
Greta Waters	**12/18**
Joyce Guffin	**12/23**
Joni Suggs	**12/28**
Steve Shaddrix	**12/29**

ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy and Bruce Carter	**12/18**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

NOVEMBER

DATE	Communion Assistant	Lesson Reader	Communion Cup Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
Nov 1	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Addie McKeithan	Jim Switzenberg	Pam Smith Janice Knight
Nov 8	Matthew Rimer	Matthew Rimer	Lynn Shaddrix	Wayne Rimer	Addie McKeithan Florence Rimer
Nov 15	Kathy Tillman	Kathy Tillman	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs
Nov 22	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Tracey Arthur	Jimmy Knight	Kathy Switzenberg Janice Knight
Nov 29	Kathy Switzenberg	Kathy Switzenberg	Lynn Shaddrix	Brandt Armstrong	Linda Armstrong Addie McKeithan

DECEMBER

DATE	Communion Assistant	Lesson Reader	Communion Cup Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
Dec 6	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Addie McKeithan	Jim Switzenberg	Pam Smith Janice Knight
Dec 13	Matthew Rimer	Matthew Rimer	Lynn Shaddrix	Wayne Rimer	Addie McKeithan Florence Rimer
Dec 20	Kathy Tillman	Kathy Tillman	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs
Dec 27	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Tracey Arthur	Jimmy Knight	Kathy Switzenberg Janice Knight

a caring family of God

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—

Joni Suggs

Vice President—

Tracey Arthur

Secretary—

Linda Leone

Treasurer—

Brandt Armstrong

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wayne Rimer

Keith Evans

VISIT OUR WEBSITE