

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412      SUMMER 2023



## 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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# SUMMER EDITION

June, July, and August



# Watching

Mee Spousler of the Mount Hope United Methodist Church, in Aston, PA., tells how she was trying to put her three-year-old son to bed for a nap. When she was unsuccessful, she put him in her bed and laid down with him to encourage him to rest. She fell asleep, but he didn't.

When she woke up, she saw him sitting on a chair at the end of the bed, and asked,

"Luke, what are you doing?"

"I'm playing God," he replied.

"Playing God?" she asked.

"Yes," he said. "I'm watching over you while you sleep."



Rev. Billy D. Strayhorn observes: *"Children understand more than we do sometimes. God IS watching over us. Jesus gave that promise here in talking about the coming of the Holy Spirit."*

God is watching over us. Jesus is watching over us. And with the power of the Holy Spirit, we watch over each other. That's our mission. It doesn't matter if we are an adult or a child, God gives us the opportunities and responsibilities of watching over and looking out for each other.

And we do so in love...with love...with God's love!  
 "We love, because he first loved us." We CAN love...because he STILL loves us...and loves other people THROUGH us.

Keep this beautiful and powerful thought and promise in mind as you go through your summer.



No matter where God, your family, and your activities take you, let God lead you as you love and watch over each other and others. That will make for a most enjoyable summer!



And don't forget to send Sherry some good summer stories! We'd all love to hear how God watched over you and helped you watch over others, sharing his love in the process!

Blessings, *Pastor Tom*



*From the*  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

## **Summer Music**

I'm looking forward to our summer "pick-up" choir and I hope many of you will join us!

We will meet in the choir room at 8:15 AM each Sunday to prepare.  
***Come, make a joyful noise to the Lord!***

We will enjoy a different "Psalm" plan for June and July, using hymns based on the Psalm texts instead of tones. We will experience a variety of styles of hymns and songs, some familiar and others that are new to us.

You have been wonderfully receptive of new hymns and liturgies over these last couple of years!

I really appreciate your willingness to try new things. It helps keep our worship exciting and new. As God is always creating, it seems right that we explore new ways to praise Him!

That being said, I am sure that you are missing some of your favorites. **Please send me hymn requests!** I will work them into the upcoming seasons where they best fit. Write them down, email, call or text. I really look forward to hearing from you and including your ideas into our worship plans.

Blessings!

Gina

(843) 737 2113  
ginashuey@gmail.com

*It is well,  
it is well  
with my soul*

# 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!**

Martin Luther Church is researching the possibility of building a Columbarium on our church grounds.



A Columbarium is an outside niche system built to hold loved ones cremated remains.

We invite you to be a part of this Committee to define our on-site design, logistics, permissions, policies, rules and regulations. Please speak with Sherry Fowler or Linda Leone for more details.

Contact us today to be involved in creating this wonderful memory area.

# THANKS BE TO GOD

Barbara Young sends us information about their granddaughter, Autumn. *Autumn has been cancer free for 7 years!* She celebrated her 18th birthday on May 28th. Autumn is graduating high school with honors on June 10. She is going to be attending UNCA with multiple scholarships in the fall. Her major will be in biology with a future in medicine. It is absolutely **amazing** what God can do!!!



## SUMMER BRUNCHES



BRUNCH

WE WILL NOT BE HOLDING OUR FELLOWSHIP BRUNCHES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST.

We will be planning the return of the Brunch in September. Please contact Addie McKeithan, Kathy Swittenberg or Wayne and/or Florence Rimer if you have any questions.

# Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting



Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

1605 Harbor View Road Charleston, SC 29412

(843) 795-4855

The Reverend Thomas A. Cassem

mllc@knology.net

www.martinlutherchurch.org

## NOTICE

The Semi-Annual Martin Luther Church  
Congregational Meeting  
will be held on Sunday, June 4, 2023  
immediately following the 9 AM Worship  
Service.

- . We will receive Annual Reports at this meeting.
- . We will nominate and vote for our 2023-2024 Congregation Council.

**PLEASE PLAN TO MAKE THIS MEETING  
A PRIORITY!!**

The Church leadership will be changing as a result of the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting's elections. Please watch your email and USPS mail for the updates! We thank those who have served in Leadership roles through the pandemic and beyond. Thank you to **Peggy Oxendine, Nancy Haynsworth, Heidi Frear, Janice Knight, Mary Lou Hoover, Pam Peterson, Wayne Rimer, Laura Jordan, Brenda Burke and Torren Thomas.**

# Thank You

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for the cards, words of encouragement and prayers during my recent hospitalization, surgery and ongoing recovery and healing. You have truly been a Blessing to me and to Brandt.*

*Sending our Love,*

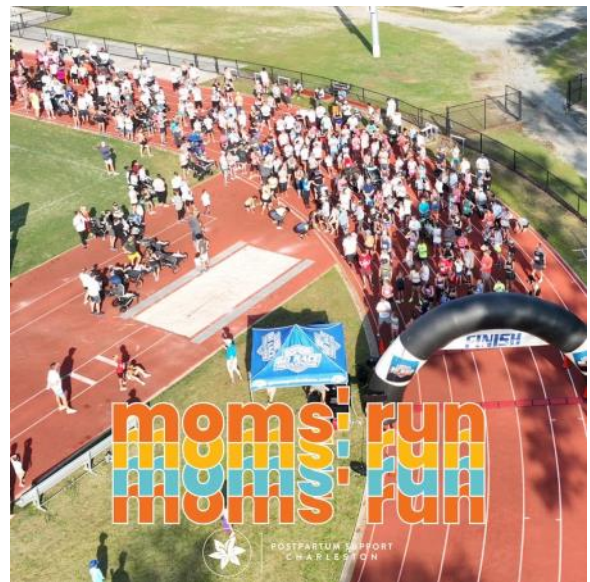
*Linda and Brandt*



## **Postpartum Support** **Charleston** **2023 MOMS RUN**

**Congratulations to all of our  
2023 Moms' Run participants!  
This year we had 695 registrants  
and raised over \$47K!**

**Thank you sponsor, donors,  
vendors, participants,  
volunteers and supporters for making our 20th year so  
special! And thank you for making such a big impact for  
moms in our community!**



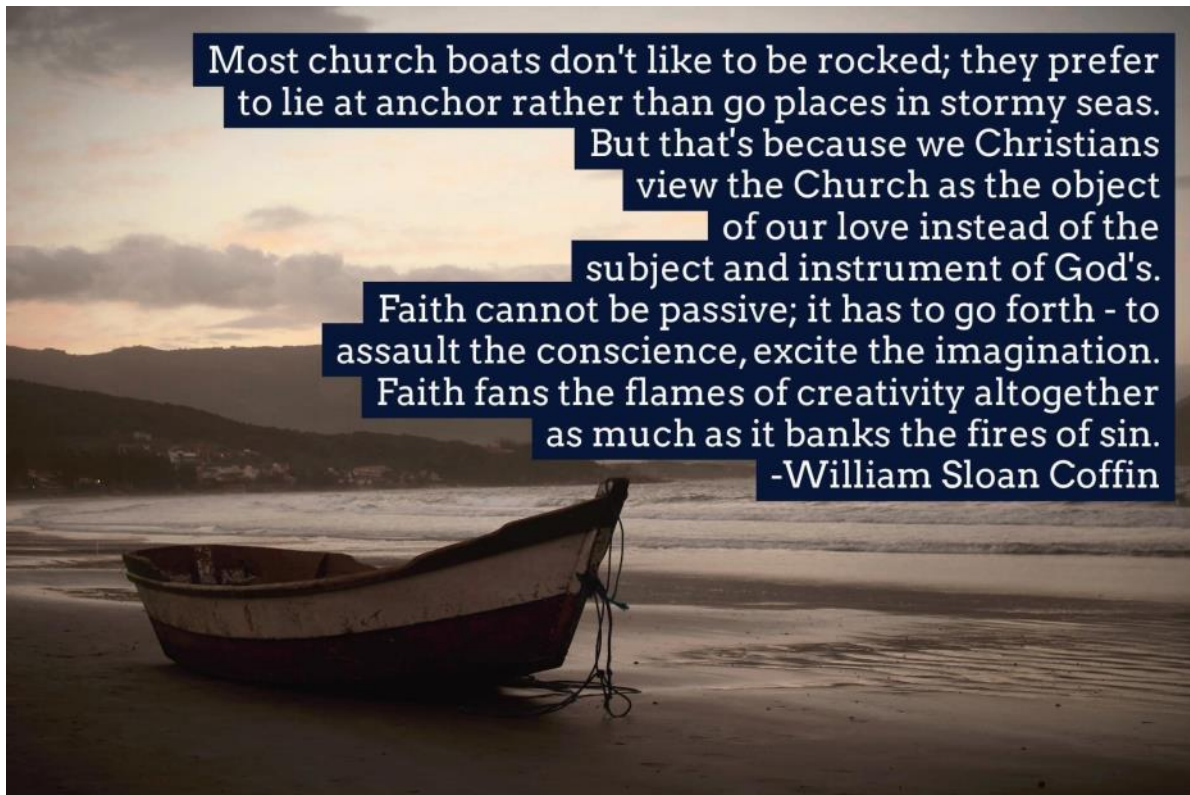
Want to help??? Here is the direct link for volunteering.

[https://app.squarespacescheduling.com/schedule.php?  
calendarID=6551207&owner=24702763](https://app.squarespacescheduling.com/schedule.php?calendarID=6551207&owner=24702763)

# 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.**





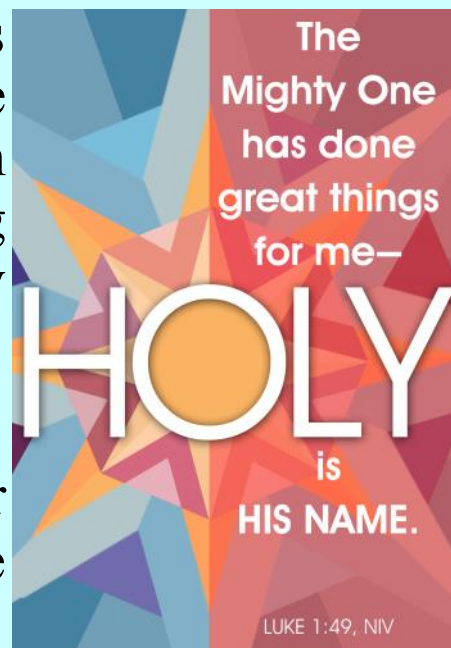
# THE GREAT REEVALUATION

The Great ReEvaluation is a SC Synod sponsored program for church leadership growth.

We are involved with other SC Lutheran churches learning together under the direction of Rev. Mark Tidsworth. Our church participants are Pastor Tom, Nancy Haynsworth, Laura Jordan, Gary Frear, and Sherry Fowler. The workshops began in April and continue through June.

When the workshops conclude, our Great ReEvaluation Team will meet to pull our learnings together. The team will then get with our Church Council to determine the next steps we will take to bring new spiritual vitality to our church's ministry. The council will also engage our full congregation in conversation about where the Holy Spirit is leading us and what new community ministry opportunities we should be active in.

Please keep our participants in your prayers as we move forward to serve our Lord and our community.



# 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](http://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 PM—Tuesday Support Group**

**10 AM—Wednesday Support 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**

# Shoes for Neighbors Together



Martin Luther Church has delivered over 75 pairs of children's shoes to *Neighbors Together*. Thank you to all who contributed to this effort by bringing shoes and by donating to the fund.

Blessed  
to Be a  
Blessing



## PRAYERS



The family of Cheri  
Shores, Maria  
Namie's niece, at  
Cheri's death on May  
14

Eda Laughlin

Judy Alcorn

Margaret Balzano

Joyce Guffin

Emily Schroeder

Paul Bauersfeld

Claire and Buddy  
Diffenderfer

Harriet Brunson

Polly Sutton

Myrl Kluge

Carl and Judy Simmons

Mary and Jack Cooper

Bill Mariorenzi

Joe Sproles

Sawyer Arnold

Linda Tidsdale

Vicki and Dale  
Dangerfield

Caren Clark

Gloria Irwin

Luke Rankin

Cyndee and Kenny  
Roumillat

Georgie Follin

Joe Coates

Eric Wohltman

Patti Mears

Robert Suarez

Tim Frear

Jacob DuPree

Harold McMillan

Evan McMillan

Karen Ezell

Anna Bailes

Fran Lingenfelter

Autumn Young

Trey Crayton

Carlton Hartis

Johnny Hallman

Cyndie Hartsell

Josiah Parnell

Yvonne Thompson

Peyton Sullivan

Fran Williams

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Helena Bradford

Connie and Walt Wurster

Annie Flanders

Roger Nelson

Anita Sloan

Larry Miller

Whitney Greene

Jamison Ford

Mary Stevens

Dwight and Susan Hartsell

Linda Miller

Fran Williams

Rodney Fowler

Lucille Mullis

Michele Wallis

Marvin Sims

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Betty and Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn Swittenberg

Mildred Woods

Ned Vendrick

Wendy Thomas

Ann Smith

All those suffering with  
the COVID-19 virus.

All those who serve in the  
military and those who  
protect our country,  
state, and communities.

The Citizens for Ukraine  
for their safety and for  
the end to the conflict  
between Ukraine and



### Fixed hours of prayer

As summer approaches, you may look forward to a more relaxed routine. But don't discard all your good habits and commitments! For soul care, try fixed hours of prayer. Simply expand the concept of praying at set times (such as before meals and bed) into praying regularly each morning, midday and evening. Set an alarm on your watch or phone and commit to engaging with God at the specified times. You can do this on your own or with family or friends.

You can pray using Scripture verses, devotional guides, the *Book of Common Prayer* or a resource such as *ExploreFaith.org*. (When I'm tired or overwhelmed, it's helpful to pray someone else's words.) You might want to pray the same prayers morning, noon and evening for a week or a month. This practice isn't meant to replace spontaneous prayers. Instead, use fixed hours of prayer to nurture a consistent habit of conversing with God.

—Janna Firestone (NewsletterNewsletter)

### 10 biblical ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. "To answer before listening — that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting. "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).

—From various websites; all Scriptures NIV

### Day in, day out

In *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* (Dutton), Timothy Keller says many people think spiritual growth is something akin to high diving, when really it's more like walking — nondramatic and rhythmic:

"A walk is day in and day out praying; day in and day out Bible and Psalms reading; day in and day out obeying; talking to Christian friends, and going to corporate worship, committing yourself to and fully participating in the life of a church. It is rhythmic, on and on and on. To walk with God is a metaphor that symbolizes slow and steady progress."



Connie Gibson	6/ 3
Joe Cockrell	6/13
Buddy Diffenderfer	6/22
Megan Browne	6/30
Nancy Haynsworth	6/30

Rick Suggs	7/ 4
Jim Swittenberg	7/ 7
Barbara Young	7/ 12
Lou Gibson	7/ 18
Ellie Hamill	7/ 19
Bruce Carter	7/ 19
Josef Burke	7/ 20
Patty Iler	7/ 21
Andy Young	7/ 24
Harriet Brunson	7/ 31

Anna-Marie Harmon	8/ 4
Florence Rimer	8/ 4
Amy Harmon	8/ 5
Dawn Congdon	8/ 7
Karen Bauersfeld	8/ 8
Nancy Carter	8/ 12
Heidi Frear	8/ 14
Jimmy Knight	8/ 15
Ben McLaughlin	8/ 15
Jon McLaughlin	8/ 15
Kathy Swittenberg	8/ 18
Abigail Hamill	8/ 19
Amanda Summers	8/ 19
Bill Mariorenzi	8/ 21
Ray Leone	8/ 27
Josh Dark	8/ 29
Paul Bauersfeld	8/ 30

Florence & Wayne Rimer	6/ 4
Kristina & Steve Everman	6/ 5
Pam & Todd Peterson	6/ 12
Lori & Rich Hamill	6/ 16
Mary Lou & Al Hoover	6/ 17
Amanda & Richard Summers	6/ 24

Janice & Jimmy Knight	8/ 11
Patty & Marty Iler	8/ 18
Linda & Brandt Armstrong	8/ 19
Julie Carter and Bob Spain	8/ 25

### Happy birthday to — and for — you!

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you."



These schedules are subject to change. Please let the church office know if you will not be able to serve on the date assigned.

## JUNE 2023

	<b>Lesson Reader</b>	<b>Prayer Leader</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>CPOD</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Video</b>
6/4	Tracey Arthur	Tracey Arthur	Tracey Arthur	Peggy Oxendine	Rick Beruf	Peggy Oxendine
6/11	Kaitlyn Frear	Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear
6/18	Mary Baldwin	Mary Baldwin	Laura Jordan	Nancy Haynsworth	Wayne Rimer	Sherry Fowler
6/25	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Maria Namie		Ricky Suggs	Tracey Arthur

## JULY 2023

	<b>Lesson Reader</b>	<b>Prayer Leader</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>CPOD</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Video</b>
7/2	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Sherry Fowler		Jim Swittenberg	Sherry Fowler
7/9	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Laura Jordan	Jimmy Knight	Laura Jordan
7/16	Ada Arthur	Ada Arthur	Maria Namie	Peggy Oxendine	Rick Beruf	Peggy Oxendine
7/23	Heidi Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear
7/30	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Nancy Haynsworth	Brandt Armstrong	Sherry Fowler

## AUGUST 2023

	<b>Lesson Reader</b>	<b>Prayer Leader</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>CPOD</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Video</b>
8/6	Nancy Haynsworth	Nancy Haynsworth	Mary Lou Hoover	Peggy Oxendine	Jimmy Knight	Peggy Oxendine
8/13	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Torren Thomas	Laura Jordan	Ricky Suggs	Tracey Arthur Sherry Fowler
8/20	Mary Baldwin	Mary Baldwin	Maria Namie		Richard Fowler	Sherry Fowler
8/27	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear



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—*

**Peggy Oxendine**

*Vice President—*

**Nancy Haynsworth**

*Secretary—*

**Heidi Frear**

*Treasurer—*

**Janice Knight**

*Financial Secretary—*

*Vacant*

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Worship Team Leader—*

**Brenda Burke**

*Service Team Leader—*

**Laura Jordan**

*Evangelism Team Leader—*

*Vacant*

*Learning Team Leader—*

**Pam Peterson**

*Congregational Care Team  
Leader—***Mary Lou Hoover**

*Property Team Leader—*

**Wayne Rimer**

*Youth (one year term) -*

**Torren Thomas**

### **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.*