

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

AUG 2026



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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August — Watch Word of the Month is RETURNING.



As we turn the calendar to August, summer still has a firm grip on us. The soaring temperatures and afternoon thunderstorms remind us that the season is far from over. Yet August also marks a time of new beginnings in the life of the church.

We have been talking and praying about it, reading about it, looking forwards to it and by the time you receive this newsletter we will have celebrated the conclusion of MLLC 's Summer Music Camp. BUT It Ain't Over!! On the first Sunday of the month, August 2nd everyone at Sunday worship will have an hour of Music Camp. We will join in singing the songs our campers learned throughout the week, and together we will hear the Scriptures they have explored. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the faith that has been nurtured in the young disciples and to be reminded that God's Word is for every generation.

We will also celebrate the Blessing of the Backpacks as students, teachers, school staff, and all who support education prepare for a new school year. We pray that God will guide, protect, and encourage them as they begin another year of learning and growth.

While the school year begins, our opportunities for spiritual growth continue as well. Summer is not a season to put our faith on hold. Instead, it is an invitation to deepen our relationship with Christ and one another.

I would like to invited to:

- Join us for Bible Study each Sunday at **9:00 a.m.**
- Enjoy fellowship with the **Lunch Bunch on August 13 at 11:30 am.**
- Consider becoming part of our choir or handbell choir.

Volunteer as a worship leader, reader, money counter, usher, communion assistant, or another ministry of your choice.

Each of us has been given gifts to share. The question is not whether you have something to offer, but where God may be calling you to serve.

As we continue following the ways of Christ together, I invite you to ask yourself one simple question: **What would you like to do?**

There is a place for you here. Your presence, your gifts, and your heart can help strengthen our congregation as we worship, serve, and grow together in God's love.

May God bless your August with reflection and gratitude.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Kathleen

“Sing the Journey” music camp has been a big success! Many thanks to all the teachers, helpers, youth and children who participated in this week and to you, our faithful congregation, for all your prayers and support!

Looking ahead to the new school year, it is soon time for handbells to resume rehearsals. Have you ever thought “that looks like fun!” Or “I think I could do that!”? Our handbell group could use a few more ringers. There will be a come and ring event on **Saturday, August 29th at 10 am.** No obligation! But if you would like to try ringing bells, please join me for a fun morning of ringing. Sign up in the Narthex or contact me so I can prepare accordingly. Come one, come all! Let’s ring our joy!!!

Also, choir continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9 am. We would also welcome more voices as we praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ through the gift of song!

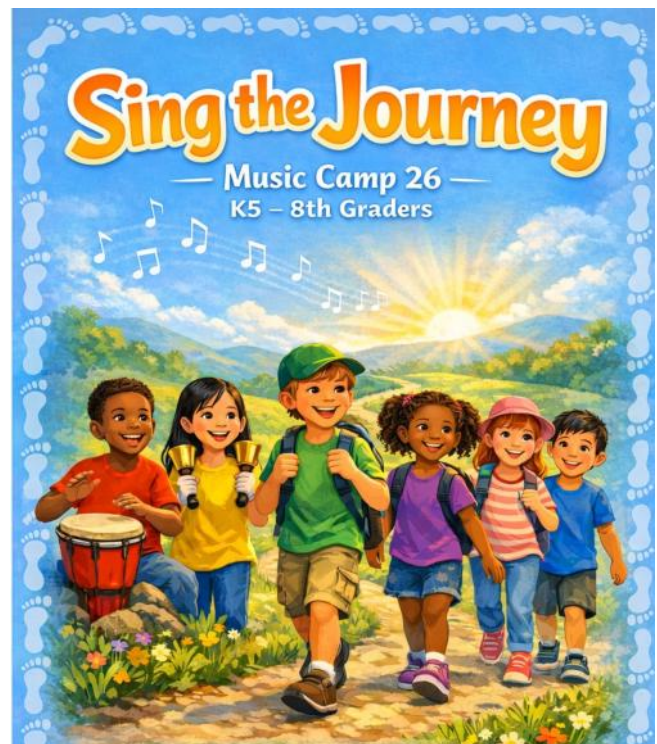
As always, thank you for your prayers and support!

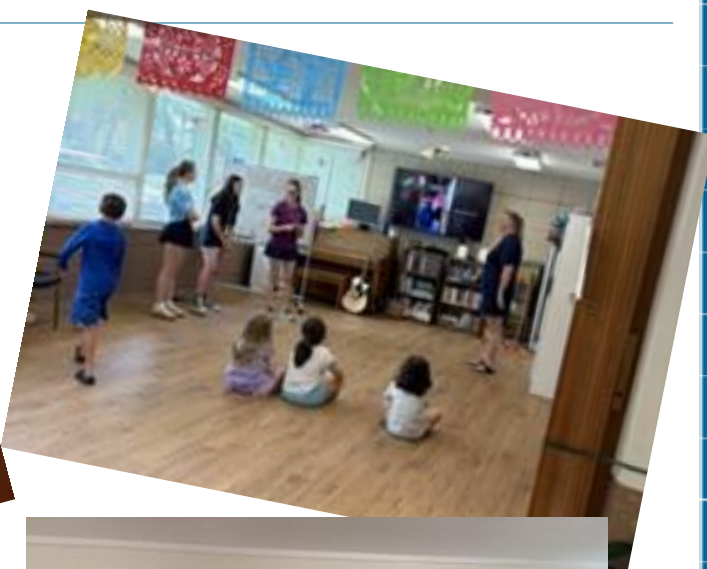
Blessings!

Gina

Ginashuey@gmail.com

843 737 2113





Music Camp

music camp

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the congregation
for their prayers for me during my
recent surgery and recuperation.

Thanks also for the cards, emails
and phone calls. I really
appreciate my church family!

- Connie Gibson

Janice Knight sends a
BIG Thank you for all
the flowers, cards and
prayers for her knee
surgery and recovery.

A poem to make you
go “Hmmmmmm”.

Today was the worst day ever
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a closer look,
This world is a pretty evil place.
Even if
Some goodness shines through once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because
True happiness can be obtained
Only if one's surroundings are good
It's not true that good exists
I'm sure you can agree that
The reality
Creates
My Attitude
It's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a million years hear me say
Today was a good day.

Now read from bottom to top

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

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!

LUNCH BUNCH



Thursday, August 13	
Thursday, September 10	
Thursday, October 8	
Thursday, November 5	Chrismons
Thursday, December 3	Baking Cookies and Bread

BROWN BAG LUNCH AT 11:30 AM

Let's DO LUNCH



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

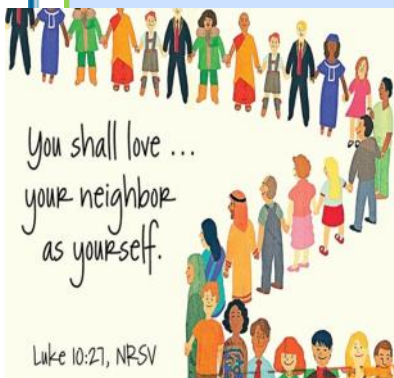


FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

Hot Hot summer! Thanks for all the donations for the “Love Your Neighbor” project. We will still be collecting SOCKS during August. They are the number 1 requested item.

180 Place was delighted to receive the personal hygiene bags delivered last week.

I know you are not thinking about warm clothes yet but try to check your closet for gently used SWEAT SHIRTS. The month of September is “Bring a SWEAT SHIRT” for someone in need. Thirty days of sweat shirts is our goal!



August 13 is the next Lunch Bunch date. Wonderful plans are in place for a marvelous time. If you can remember Sing Along with Mitch then you will enjoy Singing along with Richard. We will be celebrating (a little early) Bill's birthday. Also we will be celebrating the life of Tom Hennessy. Tom came to our family a few months ago and jumped right in and made himself a part of our family.

Although our time with him wasn't long in duration, his gentle kindness, twinkling eyes and sweet smile will be with us as we continue our own life journey. Please bring a bag lunch and join us. Tom will be there in Spirit.

God's blessings on each of you,

Barbara 

Martin Luther Lutheran Church
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, June 14, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:

Pastor Kathleen Miko, Brandt Armstrong, Tracey Arthur, Keith Evans, Linda Leone, Joni Suggs,

Absent - Wayne Rimer

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Kathleen Miko

Devotions were presented by Pastor Kathleen.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

June 2026 Pastor's Report is attached.

MAY 5, 2026, COUNCIL MINUTES:

Minutes from the May 5, 2026, Council Meeting were read by Secretary, Linda Leone.

Joni Suggs moved that the May 5, 2026, Council Minutes be approved as corrected. Brandt Armstrong seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Brandt Armstrong distributed the May 2026 financial reports. Brandt explained why there was a difference in the figures under OPERATING.

Brandt reported that several years ago, 50 shares of Nucor Steel was gifted to Martin Luther Lutheran Church. As of the date of this meeting, the stocks are worth \$13,317.00. The stocks yield approximately \$100.00 per year in dividends. Brandt recommended that the stocks be sold and temporarily be put into a reserve account. Eventually the funds would be put in a money market account where it will yield some interest but more importantly, be available to be used by MLLC if necessary. Tracey Arthur moved that Brandt Armstrong sell the stock and it was seconded by Joni Suggs. The floor was open for discussion.

Following discussion the motion was amended to give Treasurer Brandt Armstrong the authority to sell the Nucor stocks, assuming any fees or penalties incurred do not exceed \$3,000.00. If the sale of the stocks should be greater than \$3,000.00, Brandt would bring the information back to the Council for further review.

Tracey Arthur moved to allow Treasurer Brandt Armstrong be given the authority to sell the Nucor stocks, if the stocks not exceed \$3,000.00 in costs incurred by the sale. Joni Suggs seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

ELECTION OF 2026-2027 COUNCIL OFFICERS:

The following Council members have been elected to serve on the 2026-2027 Martin Luther Lutheran Church Council slate of officers:

President – Joni Suggs
Vice President – Tracey Arthur
Secretary – Linda Leone
Treasurer – Brandt Armstrong

COUNCIL MEETING DATES & DEVOTION SCHEDULE:

After much discussion, Council determined that we will continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month following the worship service. A list of those Sunday dates will be sent out to all Council members.

Joni Suggs will do the devotions at the July meeting. Also at the July meeting, Council members will be asked to sign-up for the remainder of the year to share a devotion.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD:

Pastor Kathleen was thanked for all her work in getting the Constitution/Bylaws updated. It was noted that it was encouraging to have such a good turnout at today's worship service.

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 – JULY 12, 2026
DEVOTIONS – JONI SUGGS
MOTIONS FROM THE JUNE 14, 2026
MLLC COUNCIL MEETING

Joni Suggs moved that the May 5, 2026, Council Minutes be approved as corrected. Brandt Armstrong seconded motion and the it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Tracey Arthur moved to allow Treasurer Brandt Armstrong be given the authority to sell the Nucor stocks, if the stocks not exceed \$3,000.00 in costs incurred by the sale. Joni Suggs seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.



We invite you to bring your backpacks
and briefcases for a special blessing.



UPCOMING FREE EVENTS

Aug. 20

Care Compass: Dealing with Daily Dementia
Caregiving Challenges with **Amy Mauer, PT.**



Sept. 15

Caregivers Reading Room book club with Live 5 News anchor, **Raphael James**. We'll discuss James' book: "I Don't Want To Talk About It: A Journalist's Essays on Autism, Dementia, Religion, and God"



Sept. 17

Care Compass with TED Talk speaker, **Jacobo Mintzer, M.D., MBA**, who is one of the nation's leading experts in Alzheimer's disease, dementia care, and brain health.



Sept. 28

22nd Annual MORE.GOOD. DAYS. Golf Tournament at Seabrook Island's Ocean Winds course. Thanks to title sponsor Seafields at Kiawah by Bishop Gadsden.



Learn more or register by scanning the code
or go to RespiteCareCharleston.org/Events



Bill's Writings

Our Caring Father and Son

"A Sinner's Testimony"

Father, we cannot make it on our own and we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ into this world to forgive us and to renew us. Your Son Jesus gave up his earthly life in obedience to your word. We trust in your power that sustains us and restores us. Please touch us with your healing hands so that we may be healed of things that may be in our bodies that are unhealthy and unholy. Whether it be from blocked arteries or damaged areas due to infections. Jesus, cover us with your precious blood that will replenish any and all damaged areas. Jesus, you are our only hope. Please, Jesus, fill us with your Holy Spirit as we put our trust in you. Teach us how to follow your path – to follow so that our words and actions may be pleasing to you. You offer all believers eternal life. Forgiver of our sins, strengthen us so that we will be able to resist the temptation so we can be obedient and follow the path that you have shown us. Life is not easy and we may stumble because of that despicable evil. We depend on your promise that the righteousness is upheld by you, dear Lord. In closing, we want to express our deepest gratitude for being a merciful and compassionate God. We thank you.



By Bill Marioenzi

Jimmy Stone's Writings

When driving by or walking near a fenced herd of cattle have you noticed some cattle are trying to eat the grass on the other side of the fence instead of



the main pasture. Some of the cattle see the fence grass as tempting because they have a boundary or limit. People are like that too. The grass is always

greener on the other side. Many younger generations as workers change jobs every 6 months to a year trying to find the perfect job to be happy. God says we are labor by the sweat of our brow. Believing in God as your savior is like being provided with the best grass pasture with no limits or fences. There is no better so why look. God is "I am"

With God's guidance we will find satisfaction in our work, in our family, problems and trials. He will light your path and grant you his peace. God's blessings to all. - Jimmy

RETURNING

Of rocks and repentance

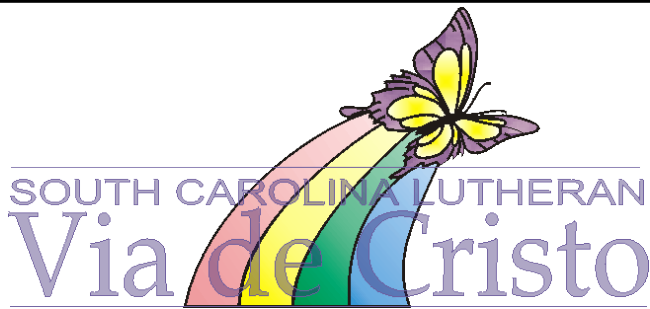
Before recently closing to tourists, Australia's majestic Uluru (formerly called Ayers Rock) was popular with climbers. Many took home illegal souvenirs, sometimes later mailing them back to park rangers after experiencing what they considered bad luck.

So many pilfered mementos were returned, often with notes of apology, that rangers called them "sorry rocks." The returns merely created more work for park staff, who urged visitors not to take specimens in the first place.

"Sorry rocks" is a fitting image for our sins, which the Bible describes as weights and entanglements (see Hebrews 12:1). As sinners, we can't remove those heavy burdens on our own. But through Christ's redeeming work on our behalf, we can "return" the rocks of wrongdoing. When we repent and seek forgiveness, God promises to "remember [our] sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

From Peggy Oxendine— Summer breaks are welcomed, but I always look forward to returning to worship music filled with handbells and chimes!

From Sherry Fowler— I enjoy seeing the children return to their schools. Bright faces, new clothes and all their enthusiasm.



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 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 June 2026 Finances

Budget: \$15,018.25

(Expenses: \$16,773.76)

Offerings: \$ 15,175.12

Difference: \$ 156.87

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!!!

Altruistic August 2026



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1 Set an intention to be kind to others (and yourself) this month

2 Send an uplifting message to someone you can't be with

3 Be kind and supportive to everyone you interact with

4 Ask someone how they feel and really listen to their reply

5 Spend time wishing for other people to be happy and well

6 Smile and be friendly to the people you see today

7 Give time to help a project or cause you care about

8 Make some tasty food for someone who will appreciate it

9 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

10 Check in with someone who may be lonely or feeling anxious

11 Share an encouraging news story to inspire others

12 Contact a friend to let them know you're thinking of them

13 No plans day! Be kind to yourself so you can be kind to others too

14 Take an action to be kind to nature and care for our planet

15 If someone annoys you, be kind. Imagine how they may be feeling

16 Make a thoughtful gift as a surprise for someone

17 Be kind online. Share positive and supportive comments

18 Today do something to make life easier for someone else

19 Be thankful for your food and the people who made it possible

20 Look for the good in everyone you meet today

21 Donate unused items, clothes or food to help a local charity

22 Give people the gift of your full attention

23 Share an article, book or podcast you found helpful

24 Forgive someone who hurt you in the past

25 Give your time, energy or attention to help someone in need

26 Find a way to 'pay it forward' or support a good cause

27 Notice when someone is down and try to brighten their day

28 Have a friendly chat with someone you don't know very well

29 Do something kind to help in your local community

30 Give away something to help those who don't have as much as you

31 Share Action for Happiness with other people today



PRAYERS

*The family of Tom Hennessy
at his death on July 12.*

*The family of Lowell Lundy
(Florence's father) at his death
on July 14.*

*The family of James Gray
(Florence's Uncle) at his death.*

Connie Gibson

Emily Schroeder

Maria Namie

Bill Mariorenzi

Ralph Shrivalle

Judy Simmons

Andy Young

Connie Baker

Alyssa Baker

Brenda Burke

Joyce Guffin

Polly Sutton

Myrl Kluge

Margaret Balzano

Joe and Linda Sproles

Caitlin Donaldson

Claire Diffenderfer

Jan Clinkscales

Chieko Jordan

Sara Perry

Dwight Hartsell

Mary Baldwin

Nancy Holden

Ariel Howcroft

Bobby Bellah

Chip Guffin

Evan McMillan

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

Amy Guffin

Fran Fischer

Luke Rankin

William Bartlett

Buffy Copeland

Michelle Brooks

Ethan Kennedy in Kuwait

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

**BIRTHDAYS**

Florence Rimer 8/ 4
 Nancy Carter 8/ 12
 Jimmy Knight 8/ 15
 Kathy Swittenberg 8/ 18
 Bill Mariorenzi 8/ 21
 Ray Leone 8/ 27

BIRTHDAYS

Marybeth Brennan 9/4
 Myrl Kluge 9/13
 Brenda Burke 9/15
 Emily Schroeder 9/16
 Elizabeth Cockrell 9/23
 Wayne Rimer 9/28
 Lynn Shaddrix 9/30
 Pam Arnold 9/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Janice & Jimmy Knight 8/ 11
 Linda & Brandt Armstrong 8/ 19

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary & Joe Cockrell 9/20

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

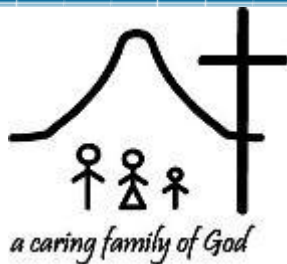
Join us in serving Martin Luther Church as Worship Assistants, Communion Cup Assistants, Ushers, Lesson Readers, Altar Guild members, flower arrangers, or Offering Counters. Please prayerfully consider serving and ask God to guide you in this joyful opportunity. For more information, see Pastor Kathleen or Sherry.

AUGUST

DATE	Communion Assistant	Lesson Reader	Communion Cup Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
Aug 2	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Addie McKeithan	Jim Swittenberg	Pam Smith Janice Knight
Aug 9	Matthew Rimer	Matthew Rimer	Lynn Shaddrix	Wayne Rimer	Addie McKeithan Florence Rimer
Aug 16	Kathy Tillman	Kathy Tillman	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs
Aug 23	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Tracey Arthur	Jimmy Knight	Kathy Swittenberg Janice Knight
Aug 30	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Lynn Shaddrix	Brandt Armstrong	Linda Armstrong Addie McKeithan

SEPTEMBER

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



MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

