

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412      FEBRUARY 2022



Love  
*never*  
ends.

- 1 Corinthians 13:8 -



#### 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.*

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# ♥ *MIRACLES of LOVE!* ♥

There is a time-honored story about a skeptic who was continually harassing the local pastor. His one delight in life seemed to be making the pastor appear inadequate intellectually. The pastor bore these challenges to his theology and faith with great restraint.

One day the skeptic was heckling the pastor about his views on miracles. "Give me one concrete example of a miracle," the skeptic taunted. "One concrete example."

Whereupon the pastor hauled off and kicked the skeptic furiously on the shin. The skeptic couldn't believe it!

The pastor asked, "Did you feel that?"

"Yes," the man said as he nursed his sore leg.

"If you had not," said the pastor, "it would have been a miracle!"



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God loves us ...but he does not stop there. God wants to work miracles in our lives.

They're usually not painful, and God would not kick us on the shin...unless we needed it!

But God's always up to new things in our lives because he loves us, and some of them really are so special, so unusual, so spectacular, so inventive, and so unexpected...that they're miracles!

\* How often does God work miracles in our lives...

--but we are skeptical?

\* How often does God do things for us and with us...

--but we just don't see them or acknowledge that God did them?

\* As you enter February, the traditional "Month of Love" ...

--can you intentionally look for God's miracles?

--can you intentionally look for God's working in your life?

--can you intentionally look for God's love?

+

## PRAYER:

*Father God, I know you're working big and small miracles all around me. And I really do want to see them! I know that I'm skeptical sometimes and I can't. But forgive me, I'm only human. Please help me open my eyes, my ears, my mind, and my heart so that I can see you and your miracles each and every day.*

*Thanks for your love, Father God. I love you!*

*In your name I pray. Amen!*

# BIBLE STUDY



The Martin Luther Church  
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY IS  
MEETING EACH  
WEDNESDAY AT 11 AM.

As before, we will be  
studying the Daily Discipleship which follow  
the weekly lectionary.

Pastor Tom will be leading the Bible Study and  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



# MUSIC NOTES

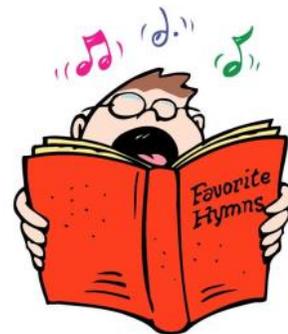
## *Helen's Hints for Hearty Hymn Singing*

### *(How to Beat the Hymn-Singing Blahs)*

1. While you are preparing yourself for worship, look at the service folder with expectation. Anticipate being a participant in the drama. Be ready for the opening hymn. Be involved! Pay attention! Be engaged!
2. Read the hymn text and ask yourself why it was chosen—praise? Season of the Christian year? Scripture connection? Sermon?
3. If you don't read music, take a guess at the tune by the ups and downs of the notes. Imagine the sounds.
4. While the hymn is being introduced by the organist, get into a "readiness" attitude for standing and singing. Lead the crowd with your attention and eagerness! (*Really now, Helen!*) Not to worry if your pew partners don't make it until the fourth or fifth verse.
5. Hold the hymnal so that the top of the book is about shoulder height, and at least twelve inches in front of your face. This way the sound of your voice can sail over the book instead of falling to the floor. (The distance from your face is adjustable according to your latest eyeglass prescription.)
6. If you have to "fall out" to recover after a real vocal challenge, don't just stand there feeling guilty—read the text silently as the congregation is singing. Many of our hymns (not all) are truly great poetry that can be appreciated even without a tune.
7. When the organist plays a thrilling, heaven-bound interlude between verses, and you discover yourself singing the next stanza in the uppermost limits of your voice, just stand a little taller, let your heart beat a little faster, put on an inside smile, take a deep, low breath—and go for it with divine courage.

Only when all else fails should we "let the choir do it." The hymns are for you, the congregation. To make a joyful noise in your special assignment, your important part in the drama of worship. You might be surprised at how beautiful that can be.

*Use the talents you possess, for the world would be very silent if no bird sang except the best.*



# Joy in God's Presence

by Angela T. Khabeab—

According to Merriam-Webster, **joy is “the emotion evoked by well-being, success or good fortune.”** Happiness, the dictionary attests, means “to be favored by luck or fortune.” At first glance, it might appear that happiness and joy are synonymous, but our sacred texts teach us otherwise.

For example, the prophet Nehemiah proclaims, “the joy of the Lord”—rather than the happiness—“is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

Happiness is directly connected to what is happening around us. Happiness is fleeting, temporal. Have you ever seen a commercial that promises all will be well for \$19.99 plus shipping and handling?

Perhaps it was an advertisement for skin cream, diet pills or the perfect umbrella. Act now, and you'll get an extra order for free!

**Joy, however, is everlasting.** The joy that is found in God's presence does not fade away.

When I think about joy in the context of faith, I am immediately drawn to the many-layered narrative of Paul and Silas. In the book of Acts, these two men are attacked by an angry mob. They are taken before the magistrate, stripped, brutally flogged and thrown into prison—in the innermost cell.

There in the darkness, at “about midnight,” something bubbles up inside of Paul and Silas. Despite the terror of their circumstances, they begin to praise God. Everyone in the prison hears them—including the prisoners and the jailer.

And God answers their midnight joy with an earthquake. The foundation of the prison begins to shake. The shackles fall from their feet, and the prison doors fling open. Paul, Silas, and all of the jail's prisoners are liberated.

**The power of joy cannot be contained.**

When the jailer realizes that the prison doors are open, he is overcome by fear of repercussions from his commanding officers. He grabs a sword with the intention of dying by suicide. But in an act of extreme benevolence, Paul and Silas interrupt his plans. They cry out to the jailer to let him know that the prisoners are still there, that he shouldn't hurt himself.

**This midnight joy is so transformative it leads Paul and Silas to save their enemy. In the jailer's midnight hour, Paul and Silas became light for him.**

We're fond of quoting from 1 Kings 19:12, where God speaks to the Prophet Elijah in a still, small voice. But sometimes, God does indeed answer with an earthquake—our lives are reordered, and we are never the same again.

Midnight joy has the power to permanently transform us. Midnight joy is something that no one can take from us. You don't have to pay taxes on it, and there's no penalty for early withdrawal. It cannot be repossessed.

Happiness is like the morning dew. It's sweet and refreshing, yet it quickly evaporates under the scorching heat of grief, betrayal and devastation. Joy remains after happiness has left the building.

Happiness comes for the party. Joy stays to help you clean up the mess.

Happiness resides on the mountain top and rarely forsakes its inviting vista to venture into the valley. Joy, however, will travel with you through the valley of the shadow of death and stay there with you no matter what. Joy is rooted in a “some-way-somehow-we're-gonna-make-it” spirit.

When the three Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace, **happiness was nowhere to be found. But joy endured the torment of the flames.**



- submitted by Peggy Oxendine

# 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!!!**

## **Tricounty Family Ministries is now NEIGHBORS TOGETHER!**

They are continually in need of food. If you would like some items delivered to them, please see Sherry at the church. All non-perishable food items are welcome!

## **BLESSING OTHERS**

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.

## **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)

## **RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON**

Upcoming Respite Care  
Charleston Support Group  
Meetings at MLLC

**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 at 10 AM —  
Tuesday Morning Respite Group**

**Feb. 8 at 6 PM—Tuesday  
Support Group**

**Feb. 2 and 16 at 10 AM—  
Wednesday Support Group**

**Feb. 3 and 17 at 10 AM—  
Thursday Morning Respite  
Group**

**Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 at 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**

# Scholarships



At Martin Luther Church, our chapter of the Women of the ELCA gave Scholarships to graduating High School Seniors annually. Many High School Seniors were assisted and we are so very thankful for this past ministry.

Since the our chapter of WELCA has dissolved, we would like to offer the opportunity to our Disciples to donate to a Scholarship Fund to show our support for our graduating High School Seniors. If you would like to give to this fund, please mark your donations “Scholarships” in the memo line. Scholarships will be granted to High School Seniors intending to enter an institution of higher learning after high school.

As many of you may know, a young Webelo Cub Scout in the Martin Luther Church sponsored Pack 4 passed away suddenly on January 9, 2022. Sullivan “Sully” Jones will be greatly missed by his pack (and by his classmates at Harbor View Elementary School.)



The MLLC Council has established the “Sully Jones Scholarship Fund” to aid children in joining Cub Scout Pack 4. All funds donated will go directly to assist with fees associated with the application to join the Cub Scouts and for any other needs (including uniforms, outings, etc.)

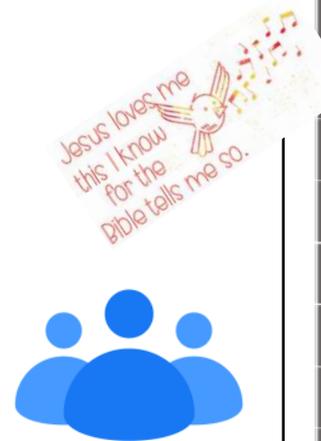
Please give generously to the Sully Jones Scholarship Fund. All gifts will be acknowledged to the Cub Scout Pack 4 and to Sully’s parents.

# We're On Facebook



**Are you on Facebook?**

If you are, then join us on Sundays at 9 AM for our Facebook Live streaming of the Worship Service from Martin Luther Church.



## AUDIO-VISUAL ---team---

Martin Luther Church is searching for persons with Audio/Visual Technical experience to assist with our Sunday morning livestream.

This person(s) might be a student who may need service hours, someone who may need to refine their skills or someone with technical experience.

We are willing to pay a stipend for this service.

If you know of someone who might fit this calling, please contact us either by email ([mllc@knology.net](mailto:mllc@knology.net)) or phone (843 795-4855).

# We are Thankful

I am so thankful for my daily blessings from God.

My family, my health, a roof over my head and food on my table.

When I worry about foolish things, I am grateful for those blessings that many don't have.

Kathy Swittenberg

I want to share some of my Blessings...For the past two years i have had the pleasure of calling some of our disciples on a weekly basis...Although it started out as a way to connect with the ones that for health reasons for their ability to attend services, I have been told how they look forward to my calls, I feel I am the one that has benefited.

Blessed... MaryLou Hoover

A BIG Thank you to all who brought warm winter coats and jackets (gloves, scarves and hats) for our Neighbors Together (formerly Tricounty Family Ministries) coat drive. With your donations, some were warmed, body and soul!

Thank you to Jimmy Knight for his never-ending efforts to keep our grounds looking lovely and safe!

Thank you to Gary Frear (Heidi and Kaitlyn) for delivering food and bags to James Island Outreach. **Please continue to bring food for James Island Outreach and the Cub Scout Blessing Box.**

Thank you for your generous gifts of baby wipes for Postpartum Support Charleston.

We hope to have an article next month sharing their new ventures and exciting new missions!

Thank you to the Altar Guild for all the service that they provide "behind the scenes". From changing the season colors (altar, lectern, pulpit, baptismal font) to keeping the Eternal Candle, Altar Candles and Communion set up—we thank you!!!



## PRAYERS



The family of Joan  
Cunningham, at her  
death on January 8.

Emily Schroeder  
Paul Bauersfeld  
Ralph Shrivalle  
Bill & Leslie Carter  
Buddy Diffenderfer  
Don Rankin  
Polly Sutton  
Mickie White  
Judy Alcorn  
Carl and Judy Simmons  
Myrl Kluge  
Mary and Jack Cooper  
Bill & Edna Mariorenzi  
Joe Sproles  
Vicki Becker

Courtney MacDougall  
Olivia MacDougall  
Helena Bradford  
Connie Wurster  
Annie Flanders  
Roger Nelson  
Kali Kinloch  
Anita Sloan  
Richard Carter  
Chieko Jordan  
Pedro Ferreira

DeAnne Snider  
Larry Miller  
Whitney Greene  
Jamison Ford  
Mary Stevens  
Joyce Salters  
Mark Hair  
Luther Yon  
Dwight and Susan Hartsell  
Fran Williams  
Stacia Brown  
Rodney Fowler  
Lucille Mullis  
Michele Wallis  
Mary Johnson  
Marvin Sims  
Fran Lingenfelter  
Autumn Young  
Trey Crayton  
Carlton Hartis  
Johnny Hallman  
Cyndie Hartsell  
Alice Vendrick  
Mary Ann Graff  
Linda Miller  
Betty and Paulwyn Boliek  
Will Coleman  
Ramona Horres  
Becky Cook  
Sherry Cook  
Carolyn Swittenberg  
Mildred Woods  
Eugene Alexander  
Ned Vendrick  
Thomas Soyden  
Eliza Cate Volousky



Wilma McLelland  
Mark Danehey  
Larry Alexander  
Alissa Baker  
Julie Phifer  
Michael Burke  
Rose Burke  
Rafael del Valle  
Michele Miller

All those suffering with  
the COVID-19 virus.

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



**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**FEBRUARY**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Janice Knight 2/02  
 Adelaide McKeithan 2/07  
 Susan Sykes 2/08  
 Matt Rimer 2/09  
 Melena Snider 2/10  
 Scott McLaughlin 2/15  
 Sean Fowler 2/20  
 Mikalynn Burke 2/21

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Mary Beth & Jim Brennan 2/14  
 Karen & Paul Bauersfeld 2/18



**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**MARCH**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Gary Frear 3 / 5  
 Will Waters 3 / 7  
 Linda Armstrong 3 / 8  
 Austin Ake 3 / 9  
 Mark Kruger, Jr. 3 / 11  
 Denice Mondello 3 / 12  
 Elisabeth Diffenderfer 3 / 19  
 Amber Weakley 3 / 20  
 David Whittaker 3 / 22  
 Tom Cassem 3 / 26  
 Becca Spain 3 / 26  
 Judy Simmons 3 / 26  
 Richard Fowler 3 / 27  
 Kyle Ake 3 / 28  
 Pam Harris 3 / 28  
 McCulloch Hoxie 3 / 29

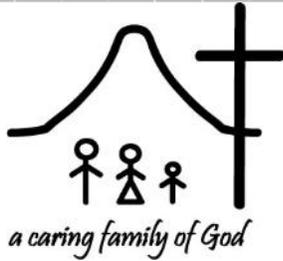
**ANNIVERSARIES**

Linda & Joe Sproles 3/1  
 Lori Nolan & Robert Jackson 3/29

**Worship Assistants for February**

FEBRUARY 2022

	<b>Lesson Reader</b>	<b>Prayer Leader</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>CPOD</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Video</b>
2/6	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Lynn Shaddrix	Peggy Oxendine	Rick Beruf	Brooke-Lynn Burke and Peggy
2/13	Charles Pingree	Charles Pingree	Sherry Fowler	Laura Jordan	Jim Swittenberg	Sherry Fowler
2/20	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	TBD	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear and Jimmy Knight	Heidi Frear
2/27	Tracey Arthur	Tracey Arthur	TBD	Mary Lou Hoover	Mary Lou and Al Hoover	Sherry Fowler



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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**



Council Members  
serve two year  
terms with the  
exception of the  
youth members,  
serving a one year  
term.