

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 JANUARY 2024



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.

**Savior, teach me day by day
love's sweet lesson to obey,
sweeter lesson cannot be,
loving him who first loved me.**

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For the New Year



I was working in the office on Tuesday, January 2nd and, among other tasks, I had to get a Bible Study sheet ready for our upcoming class. I often use study sheets from previous years and put the current Sunday's date on them. Why re-invent the wheel, right?

We had removed the Christmas decorations after worship two days before, and the Baby Jesus that I had placed in the manger on the altar on Christmas Eve was now laying on the counter in the office waiting to be safely stored for next Advent. Since he was laying in the place that I usually work, I picked him up, moved him to the other end of the counter, set him down and said, "*Jesus, you're in my way. I've gotta move you.*"

Then it hit me! Was that a sacrilegious thing for me to say...especially to Jesus? Likely not in this case. Whew! But it does raise an interesting question.

When Peter got in Jesus' way and tried to block him from going to Jerusalem and the cross, Jesus said, "*Get behind me! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.*" Peter had good intentions from a human point of view, and he just wanted to protect his Lord from harm. But Jesus had a much larger and far better perspective on life ...and for Peter.

As we start this new year, we know that Jesus will be with us. Does he ever get in our way? Some people may think so...and that may be why they aren't actively involved in faith and don't come to church. They may believe that Jesus is getting in the way of the life they want to live.

But for us who are actively involved in our faith and are following Jesus, maybe there are times when he needs to! Maybe at times Jesus needs to get in our way and block us from going the direction we're going. Sometimes we may need to stop, turn around, get back in line, and keep following him. Maybe we need to be protected from a dangerous situation we're walking into! Or maybe he needs us to go a different direction in order to be in a specific place or with a specific person he needs us to help!

Well, our Baby Jesus is safe and sound. And I don't think he was offended when I said, "*Jesus, you're in my way. I've gotta move you.*" After all, I also was moving him to a safe place so that I would not accidentally knock him off the counter and down onto the floor! But the point remains. As we go into this new year, we'll do well to watch for Jesus' lead and follow him. Should make for a much better year!

Happy New Year! Be blessed! --*Pastor Tom*



Life as a Piece of Music

Think of your life as a piece of music. Life in the microwave world provides you the staccato notes, the quick and sometimes dissonant voice. By itself, it is confusing and lacking in substance or form. It may even seem chaotic and annoying.

A long baptismal obedience in the same direction provides the sostenuto, the sustained voice, the continuo line. It gives body and substance to the piece. By itself, it could become tedious or dull.

But when the sustained voice undergirds and supports the staccato notes -- when life in the microwave world is sustained and supported by God's gift of a long baptismal obedience in the same direction -- then life is a magnificent fugue -- beautiful, rich, multi-textured, varied; surprising yet graceful and grace-filled.

Such a life is beautiful music; played and sung to the glory of the composer God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, into whose eternal name we are baptized!

MarkWM Radecke, God in Flesh Made Manifest, CSS Publishing

This is the kind of life that our beloved Music Director Gina has been encouraging us to live through the beautiful and inspired music she has led us in over the past 3 years. I thank God for Gina and for her faith which she shares with us in music.

If you're not familiar with some of the musical terms Mark Radecke uses, go ahead and look them up. You'll be enriched in doing so.

But definitely follow Gina's lead in living your life like a piece of beautiful music... *"played and sung to the glory of the composer God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit!"*



--Pastor Tom

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!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Have you heard about the video series, “The Chosen”?

Get Used to Different. *The Chosen* is not your average Christian tv series or movie. This crowd-funded awe-inspiring series with global impact presents the accounts of Christ as He calls his first disciples. This dramatic series features remarkable casting, beautiful costuming, amazing locations and scenery, touching moments, and gives space for historically reasonable character development of those who encountered Jesus.



Here at Martin Luther Church we will be watching the series and having discussion during the Sunday School time. Even if you have seen the series (or what has been produced of the story), please join us.



Question of the Month

Our January Question of the month is

What is your favorite hymn?

Is there a special significance to this hymn for you?

Here are some of the responses.

- * Judy Simmons—"Amazing Grace" and "This Is My Father's World"
- * Bill Mariorenzi—"Jesus, I Heard You had a Big House" and "In The Garden"
- * Pastor Tom—"Hymn of Promise" and "Lord Build Me a Cabin in Glory"
- * MaryLou Hoover—"I Love to Tell the Story"
- * Al Hoover—"In the Garden" and "A Mighty Fortress"
- * Sherry Fowler—"Joyful, Joyful, We adore Thee", "When Peace Like a River" and "Be Still My Heart" (I think of my grandchildren when I hear "Be Still My Heart")
- * Wendy Hudson Murphy (Respite Care) - "Joy to the World", "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Joyful, Joyful We adore Thee"
- * Janice and Jimmy Knight—"Bind Us Together" It was sung at our wedding.
- * Peggy Oxendine—"Have You Seen Jesus My Lord" - just a beautiful song with beautiful words that remind me His presence is everywhere and always with us.

The February "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" will be
"What is your favorite Bible Verse and what does it mean to you?"

RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON

Oysters & Art

**Art Gala, Silent Auction
& Oyster Roast**

February 10, 2024

at the Isle of Palms Exchange Club

Don't miss the return of Respite Care Charleston's **art auction**, featuring original pieces from local artists, along with merchandise and gift certificates for area restaurants, events and other services.

Enjoy **roasted local oysters** served with hot dogs, chili and all the fixins plus an open bar with beer, wine and liquor.

Food, drinks and auction from 4 :00pm to 8:00pm, with unlimited oysters served from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Proceeds from the event will help Respite Care Charleston provide support and services to hundreds of **local families living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia**.

Space is limited and tickets are offered first come, first serve.

Oysters will be served outside, so dress for the weather!

Contact us at info@respitcarecharleston.org to buy your tickets!

Giving Sundays

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023—Warm Coat Sunday

Many have asked about bringing warm coats to the church for those in need since the weather has turned a little chilly. Please bring new or gently used coats (men's, women's and children's) by **Sunday, January 21** and we will deliver the coats to Neighbors Together!



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Yes, We all LOVE Pastor Tom's exciting, colorful, funny and silly Socks!

In honor of Pastor Tom's silly socks, we invite you to wear a fun pair of socks to church on **Sunday, February 4** and to **bring NEW** warm socks for Neighbors Together! Let's "Sock" It To Neighbors Together!!!



THANK YOU

Pastor Tom, Sherry and Gina send our warmest Thank You's to the Martin Luther Congregation and friends for the most generous Christmas gifts given to us. We are blessed beyond measure to be at Martin Luther Church to serve such an awesome God!!!

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.



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

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

6:30 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

PRAYERS



The family of Judy

Alcorn at her death on
December 8, 2023.

The family of Guy Arthur

at his death on
December 16, 2023

The family of Susan

Evans at her death on
December 21, 2023.

Carl and Judy Simmons

Polly Sutton

Judy Alcorn

Margaret Balzano

Claire and Buddy

Diffenderfer

Myrl Kluge

Joe and Linda Sproles

Edward Knight

Glenn Lawley

Joey Paxton

Bobby Bellah

Jean Lofton

Patty Langella

B.T. Bouton

Debbie Wilson

Patricia Davis

Corporal Lucas Watts

Julie Zerbst

Blake Dunn

Debbie Jones

Becky Schleppegrell

Jim and Joanne Johnston

Elizabeth Burgess

Kai Shuey

Tasha Higgins

Robert Mallard

Steve Leasure

Bobbi Butler

Caren Clark

Luke Rankin

Cyndee and Kenny

Roumillat

Joe Coates

Eric Wohltman

Robert Suarez

Jacob DuPree

Harold McMillan

Evan McMillan

Karen Ezell

Fran Lingenfelter

Autumn Young

Trey Crayton

Carlton Hartis

Johnny Hallman

Cyndie Hartsell

Josiah Parnell

Marc Bennett

Catherine Brack

Amy Fisher

Patty Langella

Jamie Foster

Yvonne Thompson

Peyton Sullivan

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Annie Flanders

Roger Nelson

Connie and Walt Wurster

Anita Sloan

Larry Miller

Mary Stevens

Dwight and Susan Hartsell

Fran Williams

Marvin Sims

Rusty Sims

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn Swittenberg

Mildred Woods

Ned Vendrick

Wendy Thomas

Ann Smith

Ruth Toney

Richard Haynsworth

Ronnie Suggs

The Citizens of Ukraine,

Israel and other war-torn countries, that
peace may prevail.



BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Hamill 1/03
 Margaret Balzano 1/06
 Sammie Burke 1/13
 Jim Tuten 1/15
 Ralph McLaughlin 1/16
 Beverly Weed 1/19
 Madeline Gillette 1/21
 Carl Simmons 1/26
 Brooke-Lynn Burke 1/31

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
 Mikalynn Burke 2/21

ANNIVERSARIES

Connie & Lou Gibson 1/5
 Pam & Charlie Harris 1/29

ANNIVERSARIES

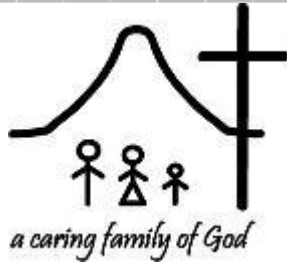
Mary Beth & Jim Brennan 2/14

JANUARY 2024

DATE	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher
Jan. 7	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Tracey Arthur	Sherry Fowler	Rick Beruf
Jan. 14	Mary Baldwin	Mary Baldwin	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Wayne Rimer
Jan. 21	Kaitlyn Frear	Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear
Jan. 28	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Maria Namie	Nancy Haynsworth	Ricky Suggs

FEBRUARY

DATE	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher
Feb. 4	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Tracey Arthur	Linda Leone	Rick Beruf
Feb. 11	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Lynn Shaddrix	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs
Feb. 28	Ada Arthur	Ada Arthur	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear
Feb. 25	Mary Baldwin	Mary Baldwin	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Wayne Rimer



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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

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL</u>	<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u>	SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:
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	<i>Officers</i> <i>President—</i> Nancy Haynsworth <i>Vice President—</i> Sherry Fowler <i>Secretary—</i> VACANT <i>Treasurer—</i> Linda Leone <i>Financial Secretary—</i> <i>Vacant</i>	<i>Worship Team Leader—</i> Brenda Burke <i>Service Team Leader—</i> VACANT <i>Evangelism Team Leader—</i> <i>Laura Jordan</i> <i>Learning Team Leader—</i> Heidi Frear <i>Congregational Care Team Leader—Joni Suggs</i> <i>Property Team Leader—</i> Gary Frear <i>Youth (one year term) -</i> Kaitlyn Frear	