

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

DECEMBER 2025



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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My Dear Waiting Saints:

“Stir Up Your Power and Come”

As we enter December, the 2nd Sunday of Advent is already here, calling us to slow down, to watch, and to prepare. Advent is more than just a countdown to Christmas—it is a sacred time of waiting, a season of hope, and a reminder that God’s promises are still unfolding in our individual lives, the lives of our loved ones, and in our world.

John the Baptist’s cry still echoes across the centuries: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” His words remind us that Advent is not only about decorating trees or lighting candles, but about turning our hearts toward God. Repentance means beginning again, turning around, opening ourselves to renewal, and allowing Christ to be born within us anew.

The prophet Isaiah paints a vision of peace where wolves and lambs dwell together, and children play safely without fear. In these most crazy, heartbreaking days of injustice, Advent invites and encourages us to hold onto that vision, to believe that righteousness and peace can embrace, and to live as people of hope even in a world that feels fractured.

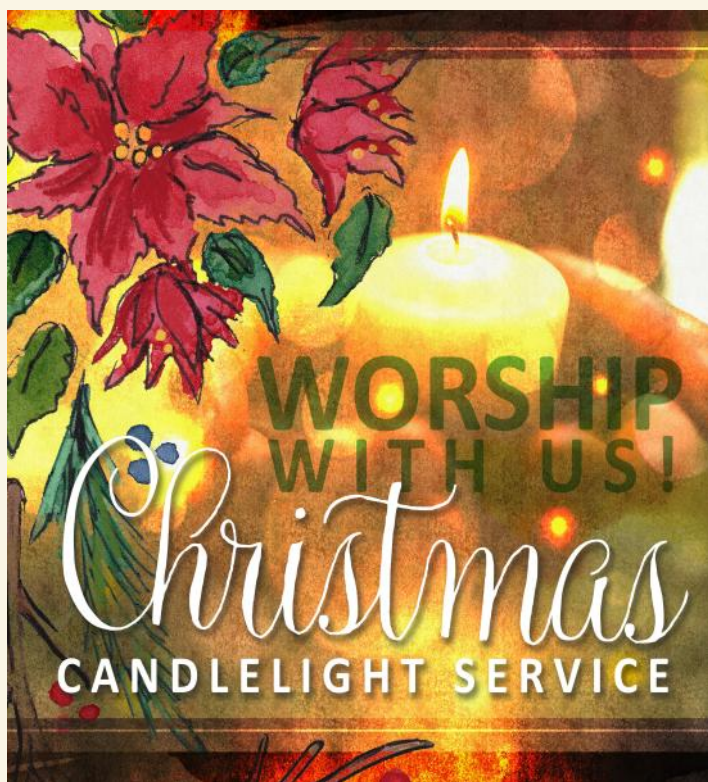
Advent is also a season of expectation. Like Paul, who was filled with hope by the Spirit, we are called to trust not in wishful thinking but in the true hope of Christ’s presence—here and now, and in the days to come.

This year, as tradition has it; we light the candles of the Advent wreath - hope, peace, joy, and love. In doing so, we are reminded that Christ is the light shining in the darkness. I pray each flame lit reminds us of God’s justice, mercy, and love. May we remember the poor and the weary, and may our caring and giving be signs of Christ’s incarnation among us. That is the promise that God is with us, and that his presence transforms our waiting into expectation.

And when Christmas morning arrives, may we find that Christ has not only come into the world, but has been born anew in each of us.

Stir up your power and come, Lord Jesus. Be born anew in us.

See You Sunday
Pastor Kathleen



Our Christmas Eve
Worship Service
will be held on
Wednesday,
December 24th at
5 PM. Come and
meet the Christ
Child in all of His
Glory!!



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

We will, again this year, be placing poinsettias in the church on Christmas Eve. Order forms are in the Narthex. Plants are \$10 each. Order Forms are in the Narthex.

Emmanuel
He Came Down
We are Waiting
All Earth is Hopeful
The King Shall Come
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
Savior of the Nations, Come
Come Now, O Prince of Peace
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
Light one Candle to Watch for Messiah
Awake, Awake and Greet the new Morn
Keep your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

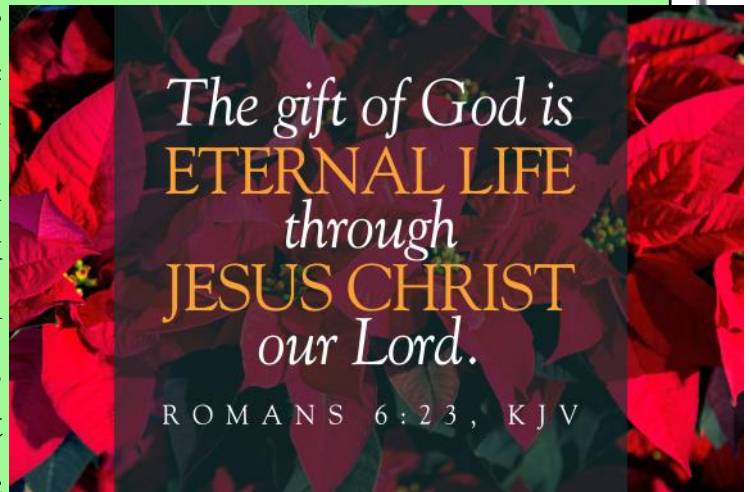
Joy to the World!

Love has Come
Away in a Manger
Go, Tell it on the Mountain

The Month of December

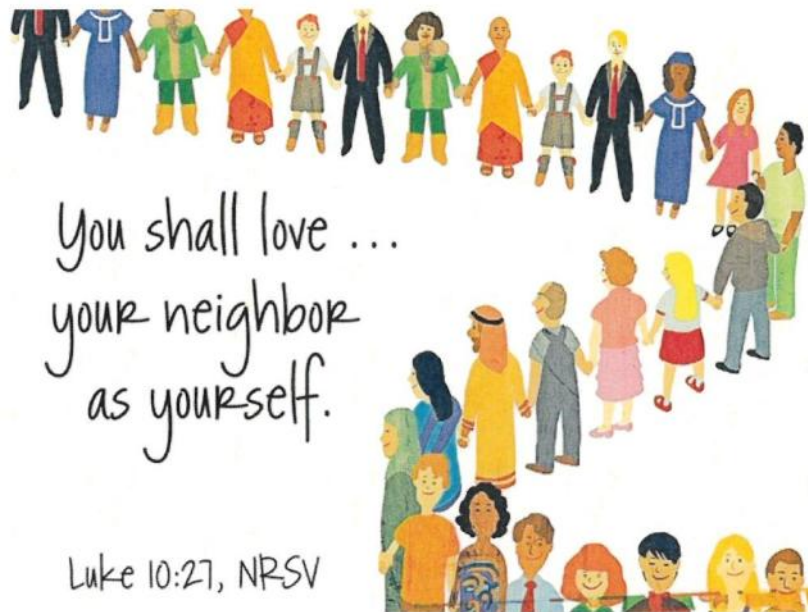
You've heard of pure country—well, Jesus is pure love. Hi folks, do you know what GPS means? Let me clue you in. It stands for “Global Positioning System”. Or it could stand for “God’s Perfect Son”, the one and only one to walk this earth sinless. Perfection! Your Majesty—that’s who Jesus is. I could go on and on with sir names but I will stop with Savior.

Now about December. It is the last month of the year. It’s associated with holidays like Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. The month got it’s name from the Latin word “Ten”. It was originally the tenth month in the Roman calendar. Now, let’s not forget the man with the white hair and black boots—Santa by name. If you would ask on Christmas morning who would pick as your favorite between Santa and the baby, Jesus? Most would say, “Santa”. After all, they are both gift givers. Santa gives presents while



Jesus offers Life—Eternal Life. Did you ever wonder why it’s called “Christmas”? It starts with the word Christ. The three wisemen knew. They traveled many miles to see the King of Kings, the baby. They brought with them Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Why do you think they called them the three wisemen? They knew and we should too, that He provides life. December is also known for Ugly Sweater Day. UGH. December is known for many other things. Now I’m not what you would call a disciple, but I do like writing about God! Enjoy!

Bill Mariorenzi



**ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR”
CAMPAIGN**

Deodorant
Hand sanitizer
Wash cloths
Razors

Shampoo
Hand towels
Toothpaste
Maxipads

Bring items to Martin Luther Church, 1605 Harbor View Rd.
Office hours are Monday – Friday, 9 am to noon.

Packing gift bags will be Friday, December 12 at 10 AM at the church.
All help will be welcome! Thank you for your support!

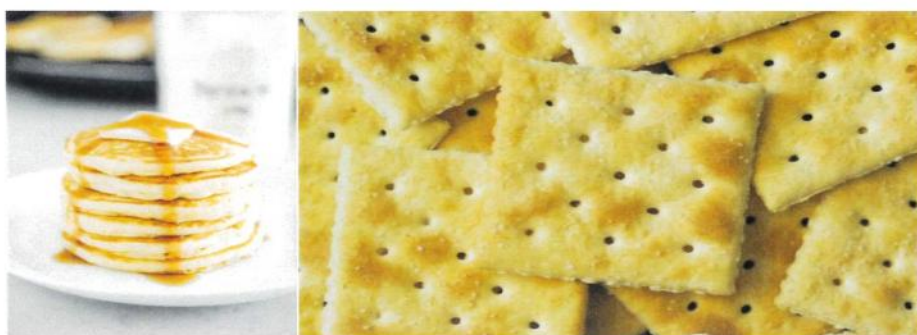
Our gift bags will be delivered to Neighbors Together, Our Lady of Mercy
on Johns Island and James Island Outreach.



Congratulations to
Carl and Judy
Simmons' great-
granddaughter,
Hannah Kennedy.
Hannah graduated
from Army Boot
Camp in October!



MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH



FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

A Quick View of our October 2025 Finances

Budget: \$15,794.17

(Expenses: \$12,453.97)

Offerings: \$ 9,383.00

Difference: (-\$ 6,411.17)

In case you did not know—Sherry Fowler, our Director of Congregational Ministries, is also a **Notary Public**.

If you need documents notarized, please call Sherry either at the church office (843 795-4855) or on her cell phone (843 442-3593). There is no charge for this service.

**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**!!!

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



Next Spring

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

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”**

Dates for next weekend event is

May 1 —May 3 2026

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, and Julie Carter. Just ask!!!!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 7th

11:00 am

The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2026 Budget.

Council Approved Budget will be emailed to all members or available in church office by request.

ADVENT BRUNCH WILL FOLLOW THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

THANK YOU

I want to thank every body for all the Birthday Cards and well wishes I received from you for my Birthday. I have enjoyed re-reading the cards and messages. I am Blessed to have the friends I have at Martin Luther. Again, thank you, Al Hoover

GOD SIGHTING ON JAMES ISLAND

I attended the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 16th, held at the Saint James Episcopal Church on Camp Road. The service was hosted by James Island Outreach and many James Island churches participated in the service. Martin Luther Lutheran Church was among the list of acknowledgements and gratitude for supporting the James Island Outreach program, that serves our community.

It was heartwarming to see unity and respect between all religions and to witness Christians working together and glorifying God. God is good and alive within the James Island community.

Linda Leone

PRAYERS



Our Church Family

Marybeth Brennan
 Joyce Guffin
 Andy Young
 Aaron Armstrong
 Linda Armstrong
 Connie Baker
 Emily Schroeder
 Carl and Judy
 Simmons
 Caitlin Donaldson
 Polly Sutton
 Mary Baldwin
 Brenda Burke
 Margaret Balzano
 Claire Diffenderfer
 Myrl Kluge
 Joe and Linda Sproles

Our friends and family

Amy Guffin
 Nancy Holden
 Stephen Bellah
 Michele Wallis
 Sophia Barton
 Ariel Howcroft
 Georgie Mae Follin
 Lara Carter
 Alyssa Baker
 Judy Gilford
 Autumn Young
 Connie Wurster
 Chieko Jordan
 Fran Lingenfelter
 Trey Crayton
 Sara Perry
 Johnny Hallman
 Alice and Ned Vendrick
 Dwight Hartsell
 Paulwyn Boliek
 Rusty Sims
 Robert Suarez
 Eric Wohltman
 Jean Chesno
 Boose Sims
 Nancy Schwartz

Katie Carrole
 Elizabeth Sweet
 Pastor Russell Seabright
 Linda Miller
 Ann Smith
 Rick Carroll
 Betty Jones
 Mike Shuey
 Linda Wells
 Lora Ullery
 Korky Dunn
 Martha and Jimmy
 Stone
 Marilyn and Stacy Smith
 Wendy Thomas
 Carter Ketchum
 The children and staff at
 Harbor View
 Elementary
 The Staff and Clients at
 Respite Care
 Charleston
 The Staff and Clients at
 Postpartum Support
 Charleston

**BIRTHDAYS**

Marty Richard	12/01
Polly Sutton	12/04
Haley Swittenberg	12/07
Greta Waters	12/18
Charlie Harris	12/19
Joyce Guffin	12/23
Amanda Burke	12/26
Joni Suggs	12/28
Steve Shaddrix	12/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & Bruce Carter	12/18
Marcia & Russell LaFrance	12/24

BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Hamill	1/03
Margaret Balzano	1/06
Joseph Donaldson	1/09
Linda Leone	1/17
Beverly Weed	1/19
Carl Simmons	1/26
Brooke-Lynn Burke	1/31

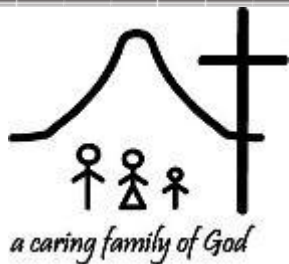


WORSHIP

ASSISTANTS

DECEMBER

DATE	Lesson and Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
Dec 7	Kathy Swittenberg	Maria Namie	Ricky Suggs	Joni Suggs Maria Namie
Dec 14	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Wayne Rimer	Janice Knight Linda Armstrong
Dec 21	Sherry Fowler	Addie McKeithan	Richard Fowler	Kathy Swittenberg Addie McKeithan
Dec 28	Peggy Oxendine	Tracey Arthur	Jim Swittenberg	Maria Namie Janice Knight



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—

Ada Arthur

Vice President—

Kathy Swittenberg

Secretary—

Linda Leone

Treasurer—

Brandt Armstrong

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jimmy Knight

Joni Suggs

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

