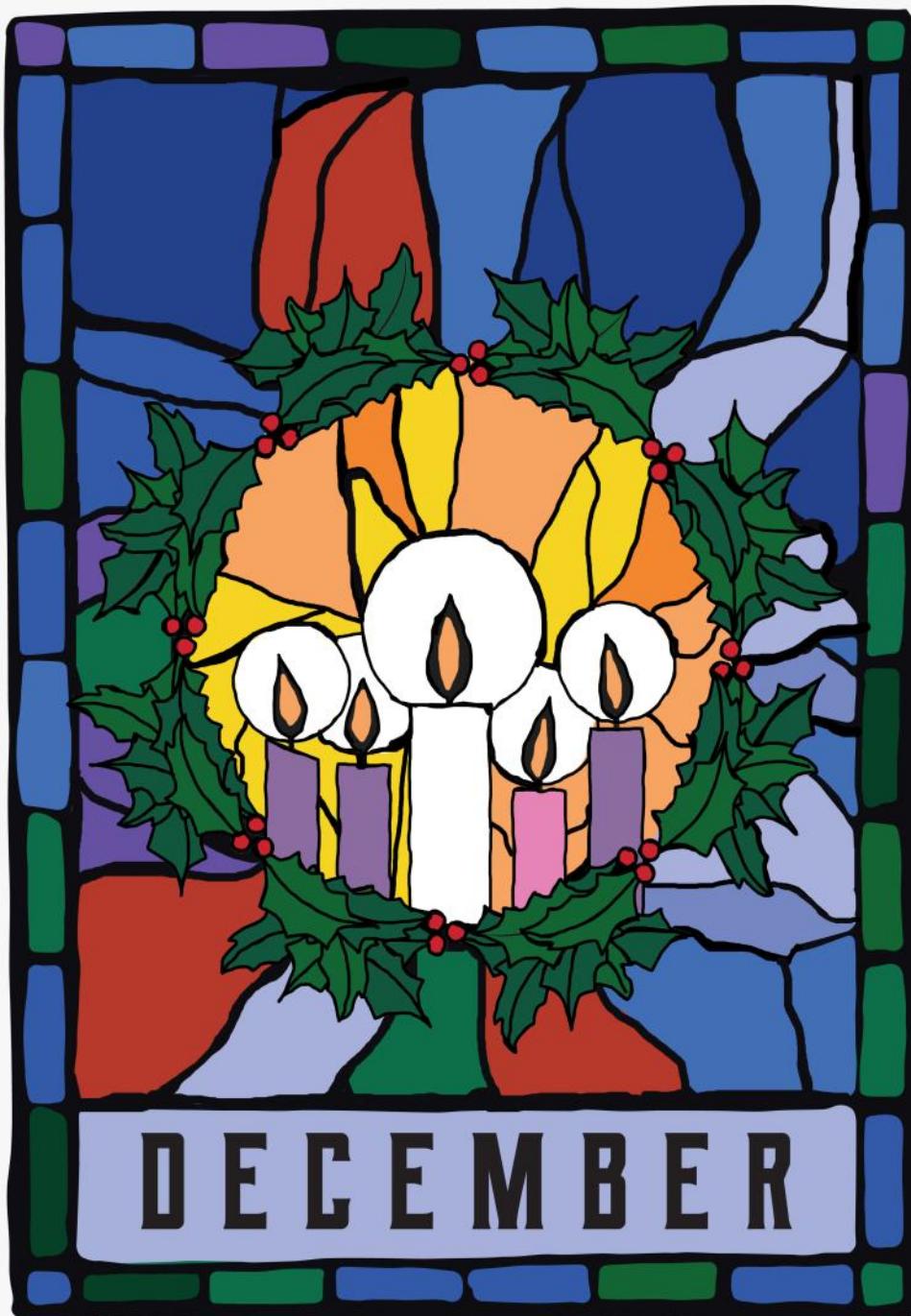


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

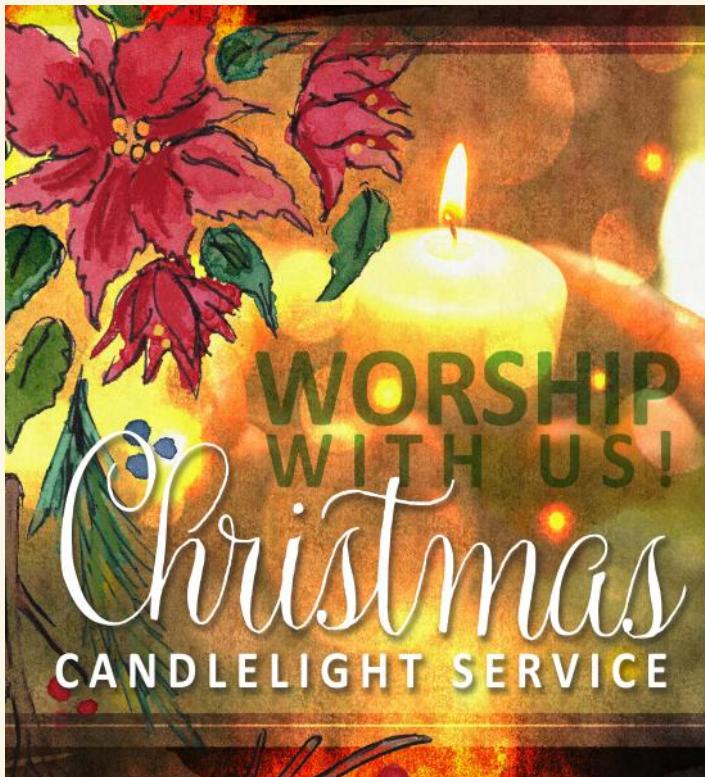
Advent is also a season of expectation. Like Paul, who was filled with hope by the Spirit, we are called to trust not in wishful thinking but in the true hope of Christ’s presence—here and now, and in the days to come.

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.*

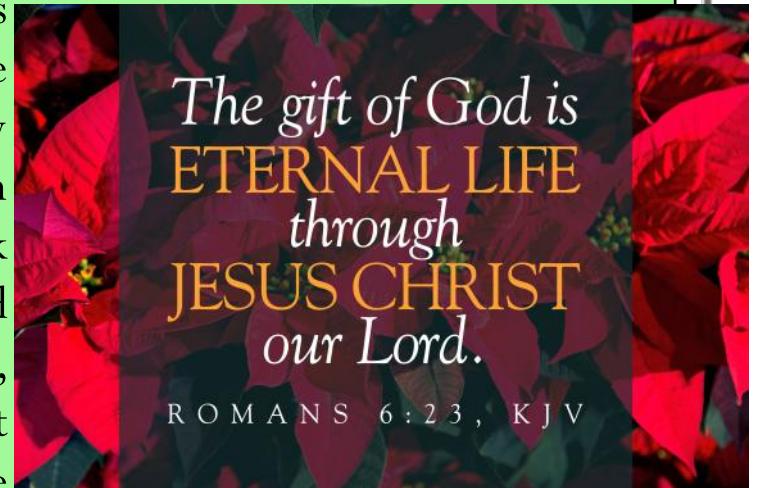
Emmanuel  
He Came Down  
We are Waiting  
All Earth is Hopeful  
The King Shall Come  
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers  
Savior of the Nations, Come  
Come Now, O Prince of Peace  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus  
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry  
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper  
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

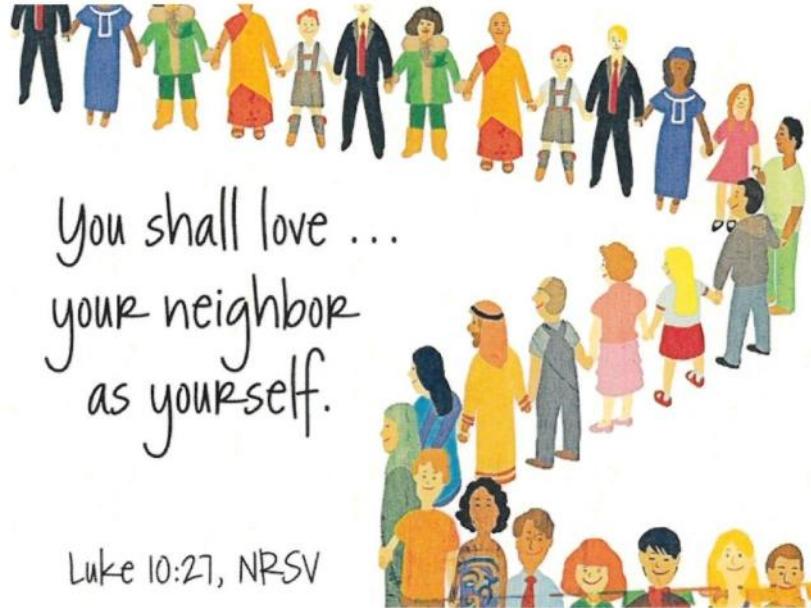
You've heard of pure country—well, Jesus is pure love. Hi folks, do you know what GPS means? Let me clue you in. It stands for “Global Positioning System”. Or it could stand for “God’s Perfect Son”, the one and only one to walk this earth sinless. Perfection! Your Majesty—that’s who Jesus is. I could 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	Shampoo
Hand sanitizer	Hand towels
Wash cloths	Toothpaste
Razors	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](https://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](#)!!!

## 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*



## 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](http://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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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

# DECEMBER

## 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 Shaddix	12/29

## ANNIVERSARIES

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

# JANUARY

*birthdays & anniversaries*

## BIRTHDAYS

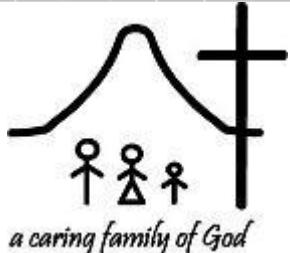
Jacob Hamill	1/03
Margaret Balzano	1/06
Joseph Donaldson	1/09
Linda Leone	1/17
Beverly Weed	1/19
Carl Simmons	1/26
Brooke-Lynn Burke	1/31



# 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 Shaddix	Lynn Shaddix	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: [mlc@knology.net](mailto:mlc@knology.net)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.MARTINLUTHERCHURCH.ORG](http://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**

