

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

NOVEMBER 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 Saints:

November is my favorite month of the year, the temperatures are cooling down, the grass doesn't need to be cut, and football is on every Monday, and Thursday night, plus ALL day Sunday. It is a great month! Also, four of my favorite saints, whose influence I will forever be grateful to God for: my grandmother, my mother, my step-father, and my ex-husband were born in November. Plus in the United States, November gives us "Thanksgiving," a national holiday to celebrate just being together and being grateful. I love November!

By the time you read this, we will have already remembered and celebrated All Saints' Day 2025 and the saints in your life. And before the December newsletter is released the 1st Sunday in Advent will be behind us. We all know time passes quickly, but it sure accelerates the closer we get to Christmas. If we are not careful these last two months of the year will become a blur.

That is why I'm so grateful for the four weeks of Advent. As we begin this journey into the busiest time of the year there are many reasons to consider making Advent part of your holiday rhythm. Here are four potential benefits of observing Advent.

1. ADVENT REMINDS US THAT GOD'S PLAN IS BIGGER THAN US.

Advent is an opportunity to refresh your perspective that God has a grand plan for history that is so much larger than just you and your kin. For all the emphasis on gift-giving and sentimentality that characterizes our cultural holiday, we can tend to focus on our small circles of friends. So, in the midst of a season that might shrink our gaze, Advent reminds us to pan the camera back out to the larger scope of God's purposes for history.

Before the foundation of the world, God wrote "the book of life of the Lamb who was slain" **Revelation 13:8**, a story culminating in the marriage of the Lamb and his Bride **Revelation 19:7**. It is so amazing that we are marvelously *included* in this grand plan, but we are not individually the main characters in this story.

The expectation of Advent points our gaze to a far grander story than our sentimental yuletide inclinations.

2. ADVENT REMINDS US OF GENERATIONS OF SAINTS LONGING FOR THE MESSIAH.

Not long ago, it was a luxury to have two-day shipping for online purchases. Now you can have your purchase show up in just a matter of hours. Do modern people even have a category for longing, pining, and waiting?

Advent gives us an opportunity to imagine the long-awaited coming of the Messiah, who was promised thousands of years before his arrival in Bethlehem; check our **Hebrews 1:13** and **John 8:54**.

Since the beginning of time, generations of saints had promises from God in Scripture, which heightened their yearning for the coming One. As we imagine ourselves in this kind of expectation, we begin to see glimpses of how Jesus expected his disciples to see predictions for his ministry in the entire collection of Scriptures **Luke 24:27, 44**, not simply a few isolated prophecies. With this kind of hunger for the Messiah, the pages of the Hebrew Bible rustle with Jesus from Genesis to Chronicles.

3. ADVENT BRINGS SLOWNESS IN THE MIDST OF A FRANTIC SEASON.

The Christmas holiday, especially in our world, can put us on the path to craziness. Even “Black Friday” no longer remain confined by a 24-hour window. Students are busy studying for finals, parents are busy shopping for gifts, families are busy traveling to visit relatives — even social calendars are uncomfortably crowded during December. Advent provides opportunity to slow the pace, or even comparatively grind it to a halt. *Remember the deliberateness of God.* He completed his promise “in the fullness of time” **Galatians 4:4**.

Whether through daily readings, candle-lightings, or other Advent-themed traditions, we resolve to pause and reflect in a season that could otherwise drown out reflection — *and be still*.

4. ADVENT FORTIFIES CONFIDENCE IN THE PROMISES OF GOD.

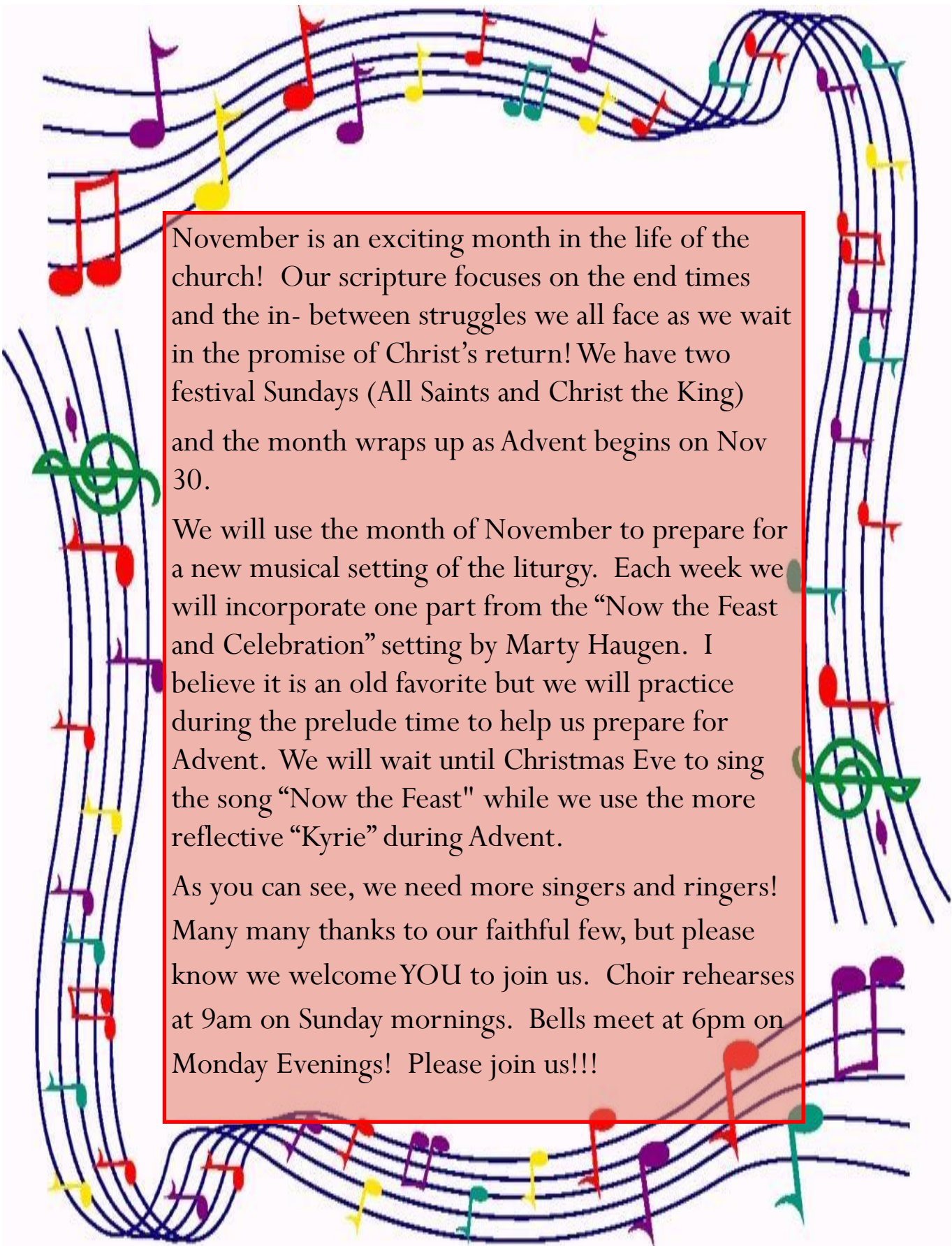
Finally, the best part of this wonderful season of purposeful remembrance is that it directs us toward Jesus’ glorious return.

As we reflect on God’s faithfulness to the promises made to our ancestors, we can be assured in the promises we yet await. Jesus said he is coming soon **Revelation 22:12**, and though our concept of soon most likely does not agree with the Lord’s, the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith by tracing the exactitude of God’s faithfulness to the saints long ago. Confidence in the second coming of Christ inspires our mission, enables fellowship and mutual encouragement, and equips us for this journey of life.

So, how about considering the benefits to embracing this most wonderful season by joining me at our 9:00 AM Bible study to purposefully prepare during Advent for the great celebration of Christmas, and join the voices of generations of saints’ past and present in the refrain, *O come, O come, Emmanuel*.

Let’s do Advent together.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Kathleen

A decorative border made of multiple blue musical staves with various colored notes (red, yellow, green, purple) and clefs (green and red) arranged in a wavy, flowing pattern around the central text.

November is an exciting month in the life of the church! Our scripture focuses on the end times and the in- between struggles we all face as we wait in the promise of Christ's return! We have two festival Sundays (All Saints and Christ the King) and the month wraps up as Advent begins on Nov 30.

We will use the month of November to prepare for a new musical setting of the liturgy. Each week we will incorporate one part from the "Now the Feast and Celebration" setting by Marty Haugen. I believe it is an old favorite but we will practice during the prelude time to help us prepare for Advent. We will wait until Christmas Eve to sing the song "Now the Feast" while we use the more reflective "Kyrie" during Advent.

As you can see, we need more singers and ringers! Many many thanks to our faithful few, but please know we welcome YOU to join us. Choir rehearses at 9am on Sunday mornings. Bells meet at 6pm on Monday Evenings! Please join us!!!

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

“Jesus, I Love You”

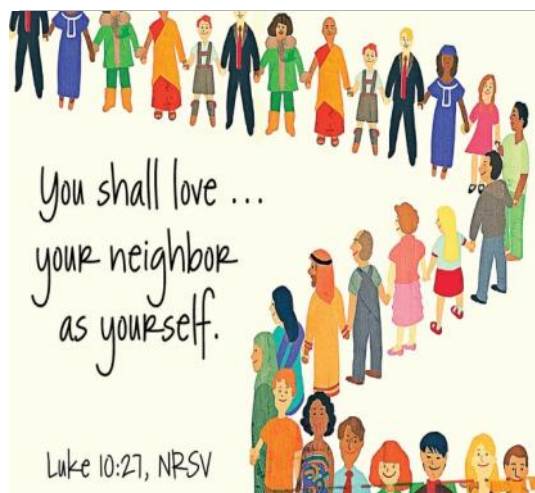
Jesus, how often I think I’m too busy to pray. My days are overloaded and yet, Jesus, you surely don’t expect me to be so preoccupied. How can I not have the time to thank you? You are always at my side, Jesus. You alone are my strength, my courage, and my support. I want to make it a habit Jesus, to speak to you as a friend to confide my joys and sorrows. So from the bottom of my heart, I want to say, “Jesus, I love you.” When I’m tired, help me to say, “Jesus, I love you.” When I find it hard to forgive, let me always say, “Jesus, I love you.” When darkness comes over me and I don’t know where you are, I will simply say, “Jesus, I love you.” My day will become easier, my work will be a prayer that said “Jesus, I love you.” When the evening of my life comes and you invite me home, let me say, “Jesus, I love you.” When you call us (me) for judgement, Lord, please be merciful.



**JESUS,
I love you!**

Footnote—Folks November is known for many things, but especially Thanksgiving Turkey Day, so let’s not become turkeys ourselves and thank God (Jesus) for all we have and enjoy. This prayer is a good way to say thanks. “Jesus, we love you.” Have a great and blessed day! Enjoy!

- By Bill Mariorenzi



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Over the next 2 months, we have the opportunity to share more than food with those in need. We can be Good Samaritans and show love to our neighbors.

Warm coats, hats, scarves, jackets, sweatshirts, and gloves are always needed when the weather turns cold.

Gain space in your closets by emptying them of coats, jackets, hoodies, caps, scarves and gloves that you no longer use. We can only wear one at a time. And if I remember correctly, I think we are told, if we have 2 coats, we are to give one to someone who needs it. Gift cards are always welcomed.

Many items have been donated – THANK YOU!

Items still needed

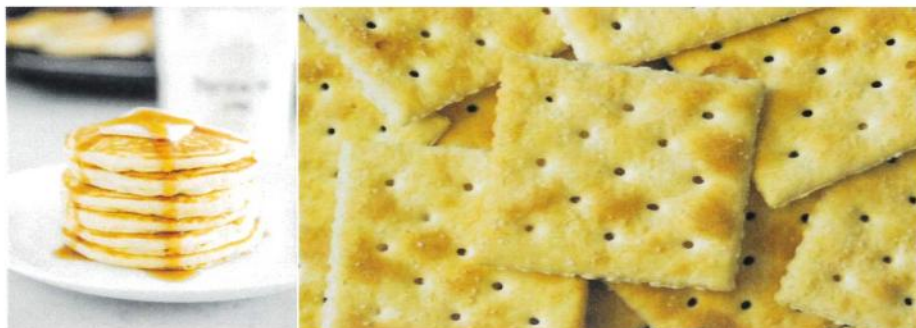
Shampoo, hand towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, hand cream or lotion, Maxipads, new socks, and new underwear. Extra items could be included like hand wipes, bandaids, lip gloss, Vaseline, dental floss, tissues.

Fabric Christmas bags will be made (we need ½ yard pieces of fabric) and will be delivered to James Island Outreach, Our Lady of Mercy John's Island and Neighbors Together before Christmas. To Someone who Has Little or Nothing, a useful gift can Bring a Ray of Sunshine and just maybe a bit of Hope. So, let's follow Jesus and obey his Command!

God's Peace and blessings all of you,

Barbara Young

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH



FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH



A BIG THANKS TO LINDA
AND RAY LEONE FOR
THE REDECORATION OF
THE MARTIN LUTHER
CHURCH NURSERY!
WHAT A FABULOUS
TRANSFORMATION!!!!

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!!!!

WITTING TREE

WITTING TREE

NOVEMBER 1 – 11, 2025

The Witting Tree is a silent, faith-filled witness observed each day for eleven days, from November 1 through November 11 (Veterans Day).

There is a deep need for our society as a whole to take responsibility to interrupt and transform destructive cycles that cost service people, their families, and the community at large so much. This kind of commitment can begin to be assumed by faith communities. The term "witting" means to be cognizant, deliberate, and aware of the facts of a situation. Each year, more than a dozen faith communities and organizations joined in hosting a Witting Tree ceremony at their sites.



PRAYERS



Our Church Family

Joyce Guffin
 Andy Young
 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
 Matt Shrivalle
 Ariel Howcroft
 Georgie Mae Follin
 Lara Carter
 Matt Shrivalle
 Alyssa Baker
 Kim Baker Hoxie
 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

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


 november


 DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

Claire Diffenderfer	11/03
Janet Kruger	11/10
Joe Sproles	11/11
Tracey Arthur	11/14
Ada Arthur	11/15
Marcia LaFrance	11/18
Rich Hamill	11/19
Donna Blish	11/20
Bubba Brandt	11/23
Tait Arthur	11/24
Maria Namie	11/24
Pam Peterson	11/27
Russell LaFrance	11/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Lynn & Steve Shaddrix	11/27
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BIRTHDAYS

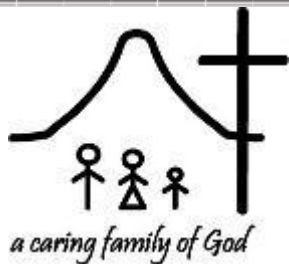
Marty Richard	12/01
Polly Sutton	12/04
Haley Swittenberg	12/07
Greta Waters	12/18
Charlie Harris	12/19
Joyce Guffin	12/23
Amanda Burke	12/26
Joni Suggs	12/28
Steve Shaddrix	12/29

ANNIVERSARIES

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

**NOVEMBER**

DATE	Lesson Reader	Communion Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
Nov 2	Sherry Fowler	Maria Namie	Brandt Armstrong	Janice Knight Maria Namie
Nov 9	Jim Swittenberg	Lynn Shaddrix	Jim Swittenberg	Joni Suggs Linda Armstrong
Nov 16	Ada Arthur	Sherry Fowler	Richard Fowler	Kathy Swittenberg Lynn Shaddrix
Nov 23	Judy Simmons	Maria Namie	Ricky Suggs	Addie McKeithan Kathy Swittenberg
Nov 30	Richard Fowler	Lynn Shaddrix	Richard Fowler	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

