

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

SEPTEMBER 2026



September — WatchWord of the Month is REST



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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September feels like a doorway. Summer begins to fade, hurricanes season keeps us watching the weather, routines return, and we find ourselves looking toward a new season. We don't always know what the future will bring. In fact, if we're honest, we'd probably prefer God to provide a detailed itinerary: where we're going, when we're leaving, who will be coming

along, and perhaps even where we're stopping for lunch! But faith rarely works that way. Instead, God gives us something far more important: **one another, and the promise that God is ALWAYS with us.**

This past summer reminded us of that promise. Our Music Camp was a wonderful expression of what happens when we open our doors and share the gifts God has given us. Children, families, volunteers and congregation members came together in music, laughter and fellowship. We give special thanks for the many people who made Music Camp possible, and especially for the wonderful gift that Gina Shuey is to this congregation.

These moments matter. They remind us that ministry is not only what happens on Sunday morning. Ministry happens whenever we welcome someone, listen to someone, serve someone, encourage someone or make room for someone who has not yet found their way through our doors.

As the church council begins the arduously reflecting task of preparing our Ministry Site Profile and looking toward the future of Martin Luther Lutheran Church, I trust we will celebrate MLLC's story. We have a history. We have gifts. We have people who care deeply about this congregation. And most importantly, **we have God.**

September also brings the ELCA's **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.** It is a wonderful reminder that God's work does not happen only through pastors, church councils or committees. God works through ordinary people doing ordinary things with extraordinary love: A phone call. A visit. A meal. A prayer. A helping hand. A welcoming smile. Sometimes we may wonder whether these small acts really make a difference. ***They do.*** Jesus never seemed particularly impressed by size. He talked about mustard seeds, little children, a widow's offering and a shepherd who noticed when one sheep was missing. Perhaps that is good news for our small congregation. We don't have to be the biggest church to be faithful. We simply have to be willing to love.

So, as we step into September, let's be curious about the future; listening for God's voice, making room for new possibilities, celebrating what has been, while remaining open to what God is still creating. And when we don't know exactly where we're going, let us remember that we don't have to see the whole road. We only need enough light for the next step.

God has been faithful to Martin Luther Lutheran Church for many years. I believe God is not finished with us yet. With gratitude for each of you and with hope for the road ahead,

See you Sunday!
Pastor Kathleen

Fun Facts!

Hymns are two part creations, most often incorporating the words of a poet with the melody of a composer. On some occasions, the artist will create both. In your hymnal or bulletin, you find credits at the bottom of the printed hymn. The title of the hymn usually is the title of the text. The title of the music will most often seem unrelated. Sometimes, music is created for a specific text and sometimes, new words are set to existing melodies.

We enjoy examples of both in our Lutheran body of hymnody.



“Beloved, God’s Chosen”

Our Hymn of the Month is #648 in the ELW. This text by Susan Cherwien is lovely on its own. Robert Hobby set this poem to music titled **Andrew’s Song**. We will hear **Andrew’s Song** as an organ prelude, handbell offering, and piano arrangement before we hear the choir sing the words of Susan’s hymn, **Beloved, God’s Chosen**. Hopefully, the melody will be familiar and you will all be ready to embrace this “new” hymn later in September.

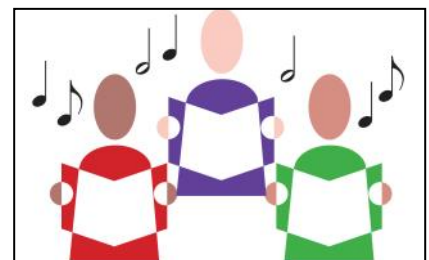
Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart. Above all, before all, let love be your raiment that binds into one every dissonant part.

Within, call forth Wisdom, to dwell in you richly; let peace rule your hearts, and that peace be of Christ. And from the heart's chamber, beloved and holy, let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.

-Susan Cherwien

Blessings!

Gina



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

Senior Moments brain health and wellness program

Senior Moments is a program by
Respite Care Charleston offering
expert-guided sessions that combine
cognitive wellness activities, gentle
fitness, nutrition tips, mental agility
activities, meaningful social
connections, and a stigma-free space
where you can be yourself without
fear or judgment. Whether you're
noticing mild cognitive changes or you
simply want to stay mentally healthy
and sharp, you'll enjoy this group!
Sessions are two hours, and the cost is
\$25/session. To learn more about
Senior Moments, please email
info@RespiteCareCharleston.org or
call (843) 647-7405.

2026 WATCHWORD

Of the Month

September—Rest

October—Mercy

November—Giving /
Serving

December—Seeing

Let's all get in the habit of
bringing a can of food to
place in the blessing box
each Sunday. Soup is a
favorite and it's easier for
those who are in need to
have the pop-top cans.

Thank you for your
generosity!

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, September 10

Thursday, October 8

Thursday, November 5

Thursday, December 3

Chrismons

Baking Cookies and Bread

BROWN BAG LUNCH AT 11:30 AM*Let's DO LUNCH***MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS
THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH****FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH**

Well , here we are in the last quarter of this year! It has been an amazing journey. I'm confident our journey will continue to amaze us, as we follow Christ.

September is a short busy month but we are ready for it. All month, we can **Give Warm Hugs** to our Love our Neighbor project. Bring your gently used but clean SWEATSHIRTS to give to Neighbors Together. They help many people with food, clothing and support.

The 30 days of September is a good time for us to share our love with Sweatshirts! So grab a few and fill the box in the Narthex. God will bless you!

I'm overjoyed to see so many Martin Luther families supporting the Blessing Box. In this time of need for so many, God is using us to feed the hungry! Glory to God!

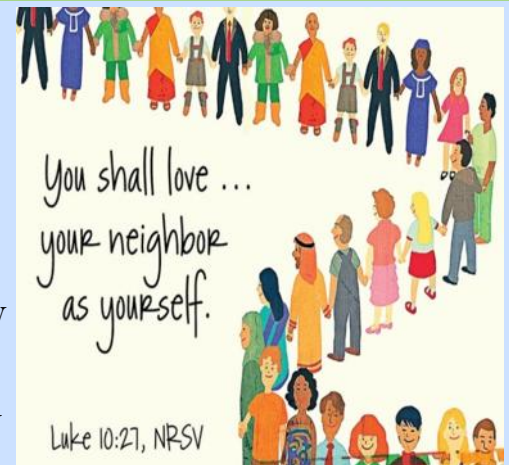
Lunch Bunch in August was spectacular! I don't know that we can top it , but we're going to try. Join us September 10th at 11:30 for Our September Surprise Lunch Bunch! You will be so very glad you came.

October 's theme will center around Oktoberfest! It will be a chance to have a rollicking good time.

I'm sure God smiles on us as we meet each month for a good lunch, great desserts and lots of laughs! It's fellowship at its best! Join us and see how much happier you feel as you leave. The shared happiness of all is awesome!

God bless you.

Barbara and Andy



Martin Luther Lutheran Church
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, July 12, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:

Pastor Kathleen Miko, Brandt Armstrong, Tracey Arthur, Keith Evans, Wayne Rimer, Joni Suggs,
Absent – Linda Leone

The meeting was called to order by President Joni Suggs

Devotions were presented by Joni Suggs.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

June 2026 Pastor's Report was presented by Pastor Kathleen Miko.

Pastor asked for prayers for the new Bishop elect.

Pastor presented document regarding the retention of documents and asked that each member read the document and that we discuss at the August meeting.

Pastor presented the Ministry Site Profile document and explained that the committee would require one council member and two other members of the church to complete.

Pastor pointed out that she will be on vacation October 6-16. In preparation, Pastor Bonnie has already agreed to cover the absence on October 11th. Pastor Kathleen suggested that she ask Pastor Bonnie to also be the on-call pastor during Kathleen's vacation.

JUNE 14, 2026, COUNCIL MINUTES:

Minutes from the June 14, 2026, Council Meeting were read by President, Joni Suggs.

Joni Suggs moved that the June 14, 2026, Council Minutes be approved as is. Wayne Rimer seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Brandt Armstrong distributed the June 2026 financial reports. Brandt explained that this month the operation/cost values put the church approximately \$800.00 in the positive.

Brandt reported on the sale of the 50 shares of Nucor Steel. The stock documentation had to be found and sent off to Minnesota. He explained that the documentation was mailed off by certified mail on Wednesday. Per the tracking information, the stock has not yet been delivered, but has reached Minnesota. Once the stock arrives, it will take time to process. Brandt believes that the church will get the check within the week.

GENERAL QUESTION:

Keith Evans presented a general question regarding the church employees. Joni responded listing all the church employees.

Keith Evans went on to ask a question regarding the ground's keeper. Wayne explained that Jimmy volunteers his time to keep the grounds and works each Thursday. He went on to say that others help him at different times. Keith volunteered to come up to the church to take care of a fallen tree limb from last night's storm. Wayne and Brandt offered to assist.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES & DEVOTION SCHEDULE:

Joni presented an idea to change the October 11th church council meeting as both Linda Leone and Pastor Kathleen will be absent. It was suggested that we create a practice of moving the council meeting back one week when more than one council member will be absent.

Joni asked who would be willing to volunteer to lead the devotion at next month's meeting. Brandt volunteered.

FELLOWSHIP HALL USAGE:

Respite care has asked to use the Fellowship Hall on September 17 for a presentation on dementia.

Joni made a motion to allow for the usage of the hall. Tracey seconded the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

CEMETARY PLOT:

Brandt found that the church was gifted a cemetery plot at Bethany in 1999. Joni suggested offering the plot for sale and putting the money in operating funds or the discretionary fund.

Brandt and Joni will go on to research more the state of the cemetery plot and the options for sale. They will present the information next meeting.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD:

Pastor Kathleen presented a question regarding partnering with a church in Zambia that was presented to her. The council declined.

Brandt asked questions regarding the needs of the Hennessey family. Pastor Kathleen assured she would pass on any needs.

Joni presented an idea that she would like to explore at the next meeting regarding a Bereavement committee. She will bring more information in August.

CLOSING

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Arthur

Vice-President, MLLC Council

NEXT MEETING – August 9, 2026

DEVOTIONS – Brandt Armstrong

The October Council Meeting originally scheduled for Sunday, October 11 has been rescheduled. The Council will meet on Sunday, October 4, following the 10 AM Worship Service.



UPCOMING FREE EVENTS

Aug. 20

Care Compass: Dealing with Daily Dementia
Caregiving Challenges with **Amy Mauer, PT.**



Sept. 15

Caregivers Reading Room book club with Live 5 News anchor, **Raphael James**. We'll discuss James' book: "I Don't Want To Talk About It: A Journalist's Essays on Autism, Dementia, Religion, and God"



Sept. 17

Care Compass with TED Talk speaker, **Jacobo Mintzer, M.D., MBA**, who is one of the nation's leading experts in Alzheimer's disease, dementia care, and brain health.



Sept. 28

22nd Annual MORE.GOOD. DAYS. Golf Tournament at Seabrook Island's Ocean Winds course. Thanks to title sponsor Seafields at Kiawah by Bishop Gadsden.



Learn more or register by scanning the code
or go to RespiteCareCharleston.org/Events



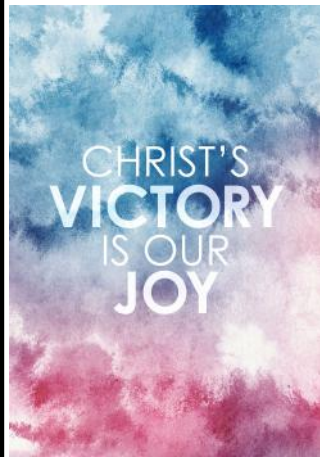
INSPIRATION

God, I am inspired by You and Your Love. Right out of the gate, we humans were sinners. Adam and Eve, our forebearers sinned against God and of course, He threw them out of paradise. But You still gave us humans the ability to redeem ourselves. You know that word we often use, “Salvation”. It is an act of love by You, dear Lord. It is as simple as this, ‘Believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior’. Simply believe that He came to earth as a man and died on the cross for our sins. By the way, if you take away the last three letters in ‘believe’, you have Eve. I wonder why I fell in love with Edna — she was my Eve. Listen, there is no other requirement to receive salvation. God made it this simple for us. That’s how deep His love is for us; He just wants us to be with Him. Wake up People — it’s just that easy — BELIEVE. Dear God, we are blown away by the depths of Your love for us. Father, it wasn’t for you to see Your creation stray from your teaching, but You went the extra mile to retrieve your children. Thank you, Father, for Your love. I don’t know where I would be without it. I believe You showed Your love for me when You made it possible for me to move to a state I did not know, on a whim and a prayer. Without a promised job and with holes in my pockets, I knew the one thing that could happen — Your plan for me and my ability to weld. It started with faith and a church, New Life Baptist Church. Through that church, I met the love of my life, Edna. You see, God had a plan. Edna and I got married and I soon became a Lutheran. I had some help writing this article — God’s help.



By Bill Marioenzi

It has been almost two years since I was supposed to die. I am a bone cancer survivor and I know that God has a reason for me still being here. Praise be to God that someone from Northern Europe donated bone marrow to me. A gift not earned or owed, but from one human to another that I have never met. I think often of the circumstances that we all face



as sinners. My soul's salvation comes through my faith and acceptance of Jesus's sacrifice, death on the cross, and resurrection that I had not earned or owed. Now I celebrate my natural birth, my soul's rebirth, and my rebirth from cancer. While in the hospital, God led me to start a support task for fellow

cancer patients on the same path as me to uplift and encourage them. I call it "Pass the Cross" and am still leaving the packets at several hospitals. Another task is writing inspirational stories for all. I pray that God will bless the seeds that I am sowing. I ask that you remember those on the cancer path and their families and caregivers. Many roadblocks and delays that came our way were moved by God's hand. Without my family, loving caregiver wife, faith, and many prayers from others, I would not be here.

God is great!!!

- Jimmy Stone

REST

Jesus *offers* Real Rest

The world offers temporary relief.
Jesus offers true rest for the soul.

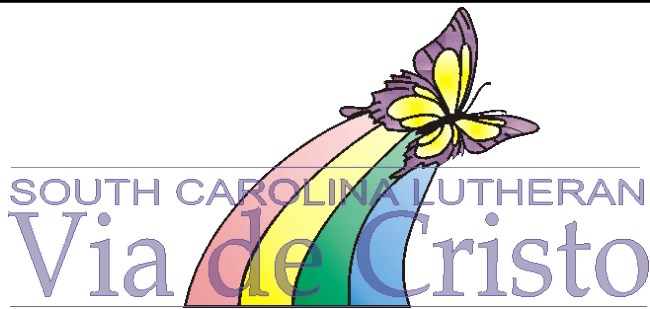
Rest in Christ means:

- Letting go of the weight you were never meant to carry
- Trusting God with tomorrow's worries
- Finding peace in His presence today



From Peggy Oxendine— Rest to me is a conscious awareness of God's stunning creation that brings me a sense of tranquility and bliss - such as watching foaming white waves roll in on a beach, or focusing on the brilliant colors of hummingbirds, or viewing a golden orange sunset - and wondering what else He has in his endless paint palette that is beyond our imagination.

From Sherry Fowler— Being with my Lord Jesus in my own backyard is rest for me. I enjoy the creation that God has gifted to us. Even in the strong thunderstorms and the gentle breezes—HE IS THERE.



Next Spring

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

APRIL 29 - MAY 2

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”

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, Pastor Kathleen and Julie Carter. Just ask!!!!

A Quick View of our June 2026 Finances

Budget: \$15,018.25

(Expenses: \$16,773.76)

Offerings: \$ 15,175.12

Difference: \$ 156.87

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!!!

Self-Care September 2026



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'

14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break

21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside

28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn

1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential

8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed

15 Find a calming phrase to use when you feel low

22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still

29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself

2 Notice the things you do well, however small

9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect

16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly

23 Let go of other people's expectations of you

30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are

3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly

10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok

17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself

24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love



4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it

11 Make time to do something you really enjoy

18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you

25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing



5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes

12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost

19 Notice what you are feeling without any judgement

26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents



6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time

13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one

20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories

27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



PRAYERS

*The family of Polly Sutton at
her death on August 3.*

*The family of Nancy Holden
(former member) at her death
on August 26.*

Margaret Balzano

Bill Mariorenzi

Greta Waters

Steve Shaddrix

Jim Swittenburg

Ricky Suggs

Janice Knight

Emily Schroeder

Maria Namie

Ralph Shrivalle

Judy Simmons

Andy Young

Connie Baker

Alyssa Baker

Brenda Burke

Joyce Guffin

Myrl Kluge

Joe and Linda Sproles

Caitlin Donaldson

Claire Diffenderfer

Jan Clinkscales

Autumn Young

Chieko Jordan

Steve Cooper

Sara Perry

Dwight Hartsell

Harry Wright Sr.

Mary Baldwin

Nancy Holden

Ariel Howcroft

Bobby Bellah

Chip Guffin

Evan McMillan

Fran Lingenfelter

Travis Simmons

Johnny Hallman

Alice Vendrick

Sheryl Carroll

Rick Carroll

Paulwyn Boliek

Rusty Sims

Robert Suarez

Erik Wohltman

Boose Sims

Nancy Schwartz

Katie Carrole

Elizabeth Sweet

Linda Miller

Ann Smith

Betty Jones

Mark Hair

Lisa Leone

Carter Ketchum

Martha and Jimmy Stone

Linda Wells

Korky Dunn

Judy Giford

Matthew Huber

Linda Stewart

Stephen Harmon

Marilyn and Stacy Smith

Betty Rimer

Bob Thuet

Fran Fischer

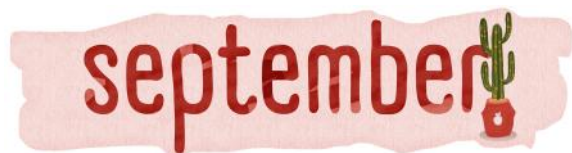
Luke Rankin

William Bartlett

Buffy Copeland

Michelle Brooks

Ethan Kennedy in Kuwait

**BIRTHDAYS**

Marybeth Brennan 9/4
 Myrl Kluge 9/13
 Brenda Burke 9/15
 Emily Schroeder 9/16
 Elizabeth Cockrell 9/23
 Wayne Rimer 9/28
 Lynn Shaddrix 9/30
 Pam Arnold 9/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary & Joe Cockrell 9/20

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Sproles 10/6
 Peggy Oxendine 10/7
 Kathleen Miko 10/7
 Brandt Armstrong 10/9
 Bade Thomas 10/11
 Sherry Fowler 10/12
 Connie Baker 10/14
 Robin Richard 10/25
 Al Hoover 10/28

ANNIVERSARIES

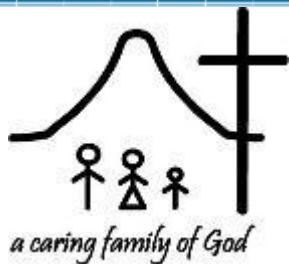
Robin & Marty Richard 10/16
 Caitlin and Joe Donaldson 10/28

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SEPTEMBER

DATE	Communion Assistant	Lesson Reader	Communion Cup Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
Sept 6	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Addie McKeithan	Jim Swittenberg	Pam Smith Janice Knight
Sept 13	Matthew Rimer	Matthew Rimer	Lynn Shaddrix	Wayne Rimer	Addie McKeithan Florence Rimer
Sept 20	Kathy Tillman	Kathy Tillman	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs
Sept 27	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Tracey Arthur	Jimmy Knight	Kathy Swittenberg Janice Knight

Join us in serving Martin Luther Church as Worship Assistants, Communion Cup Assistants, Ushers, Lesson Readers, Altar Guild members, flower arrangers, or Offering Counters. Please prayerfully consider serving and ask God to guide you in this joyful opportunity. For more information, see Pastor Kathleen or Sherry.



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—

Joni Suggs

Vice President—

Tracey Arthur

Secretary—

Linda Leone

Treasurer—

Brandt Armstrong

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wayne Rimer

Keith Evans

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

