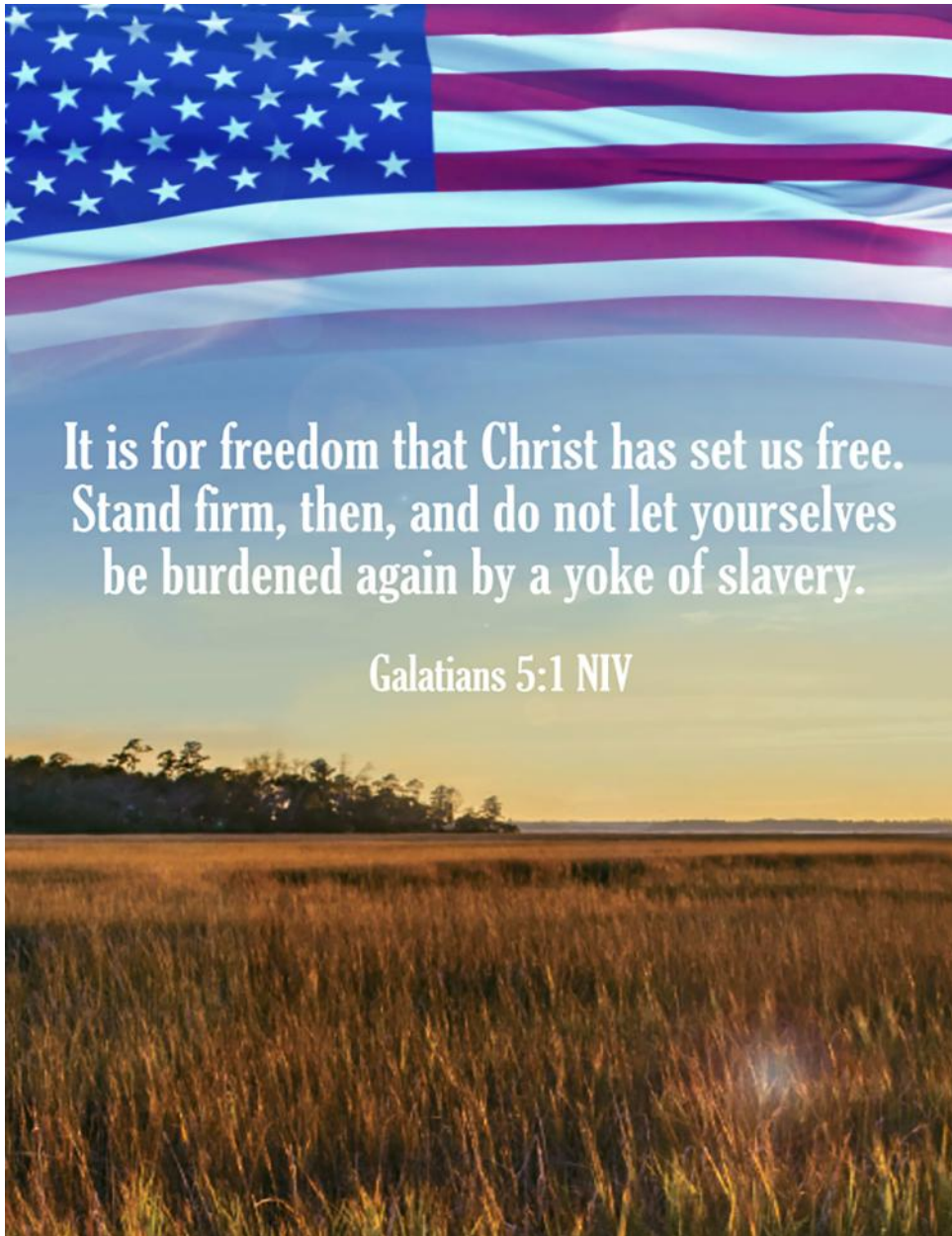


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

JULY 2026



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves
be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 NIV



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.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE	2
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July — Watch Word of the Month is FREEDOM.



July is often a month of sunshine, family gatherings, vacations, and long hot summer days. It is also a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the many blessings God continues to pour out upon us.

As I look around Martin Luther, I see signs of God's faithfulness everywhere. I see it in the dedication of our members who continue to worship and the willingness of those whom help in worship leadership; the faithful that come to Bible study or choir practice before services, and those who serve, and care for one another. I see it in the leadership of our Congregation Council and the willingness of so many people to share their gifts in ministry.

One exciting opportunity this month is our Music Camp during the last week of July. Music has a unique way of bringing people together, teaching, encouraging, and proclaiming God's love. We look forward to welcoming participants, volunteers, families, and friends as we share in a week of learning, creativity, fellowship, and faith. Please keep Gina everyone involved in your prayers and consider how you might support this important ministry.

I hope by now, you all know that I love the Apostle Paul and appreciate how he put things into perspective. In 1 Corinthians 3:7 he writes: "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." This helps me to understand that growth is not always measured by numbers. Sometimes growth is found in deeper relationships, renewed commitment, greater faith, and a clearer sense of God's calling.

As we move through the summer months, I invite you to consider where God may be calling you to grow. Perhaps it is through prayer. Perhaps it is through serving a neighbor in need. Perhaps it is through inviting a friend to worship, participating in Bible study or one of our ministry opportunities. Every act of faith, no matter how small, becomes a seed that God can nurture and bless.

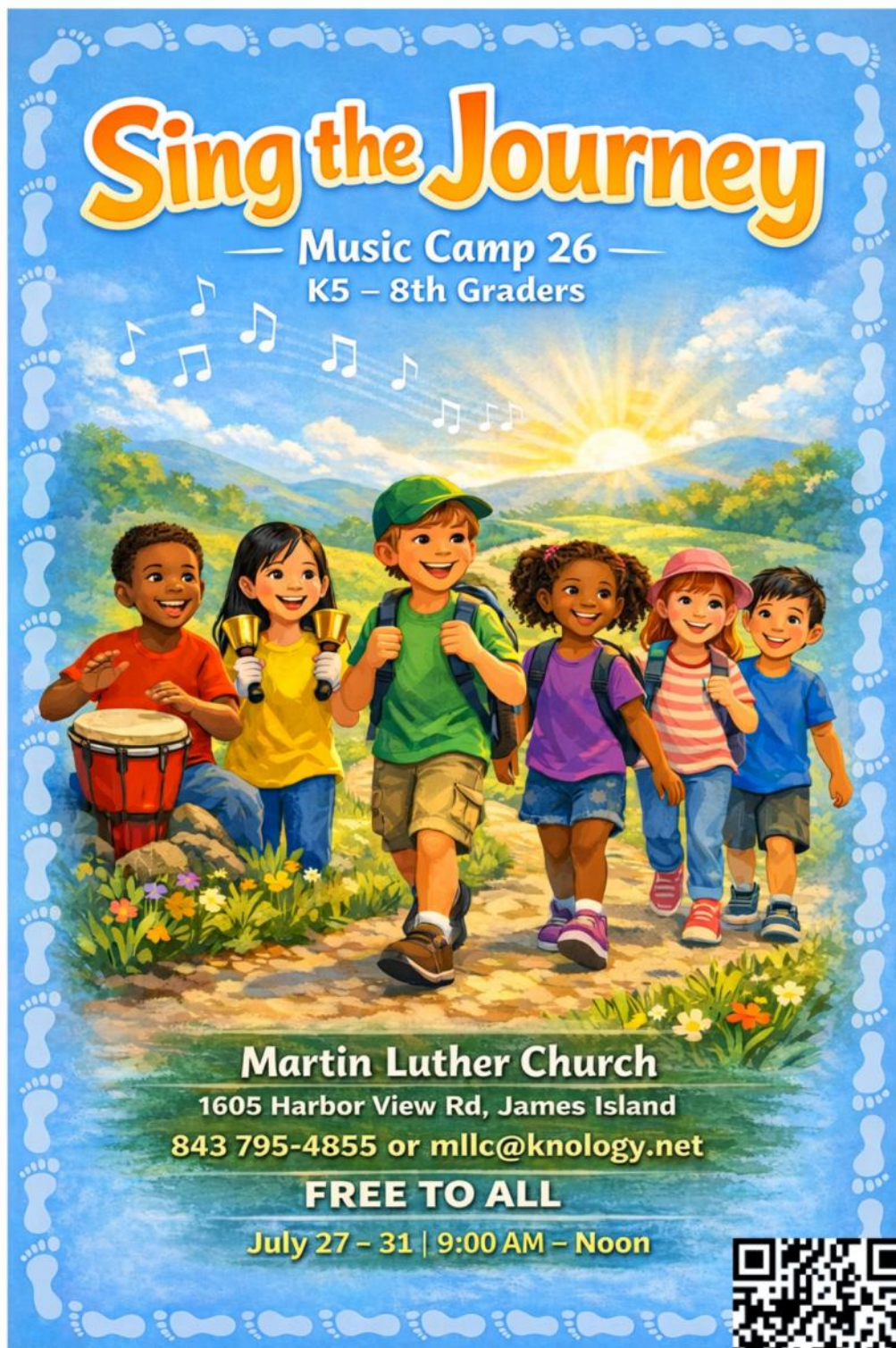
The light of Christ has been shining through this congregation for more than 55 years. That light continues to shine brightly today. The Holy Spirit has guided Martin Luther through many seasons, and I am confident that God is preparing you all for exciting opportunities ahead.

May this summer be a season of rest, renewal, and spiritual growth. May you experience God's presence in the beauty of creation, in the fellowship of family and friends, and in the life we've been called together to share as God's people.

May God bless your July with adventure and joy.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Kathleen



Sing the Journey

— Music Camp 26 —
K5 – 8th Graders

Martin Luther Church
1605 Harbor View Rd, James Island
843 795-4855 or mllc@knology.net
FREE TO ALL
July 27 – 31 | 9:00 AM – Noon



Scan to Register

Dear friends,

We are excited to be entering the month of July and are focused on providing the best Music Camp ever, as we ***Sing the Journey*** right here at Martin Luther Church! Please **PRAY** for all the staff and students, that God's love will uplift and inspire us to serve Him throughout our journeys, knowing that He travels with us **ALWAYS!** (As of this writing, we have plenty of room for more students! Please help spread the word!)

Please JOIN us for our closing program and lunch on Friday, July 31st at 11:00 am. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex, or please call the church office so we can plan accordingly.

Gina Shuey -bells

Katie Holland -percussion

Laura Jordan-movement

Ashlyn Cox -Bible study

Sherry Fowler -registrar

Snacks- Peggy Oxendine, Joni Suggs, Linda Armstrong

Guides - Katie Graham -K/1st

Linda Rogers -2nd/3rd

Florence Rimer -4th/5th

Kathy Swittenberg -mids

Teen helpers- Miriam, Sophie, Rowan

Friday Lunch- Wayne Rimer, Brandt Armstrong

Grounds: Jimmy Knight

Pastor Kathleen (MLLC), Pastor Robb Harrell (St John's), Deacon Deb Poole (SC Synod Staff)

Students:

Holly Stewart

Arris Graham

Berklee Rogers

Natalie Shuey

Emma Summers

Valentino Leone

Micah Cox

Huntlee Rogers

Scarlett Conrad

Colin Weakley

Lily Cox

Eli Weakley

Carson Cox

Sutton Graham

Kelsey Bowers

Please JOIN us for our closing program and lunch on Friday, July 31st at 11:00 am. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex, or please call the church office so we can plan accordingly.

THE THINGS THAT REMIND US OF OUR FREEDOM

I am thankful for the Freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America - from freedom of speech to freedom of worship and everything in between. But the freedom I am most grateful for is the Freedom God has given us from the bondage of sin through his love and forgiveness.

It can be hard for us to accept this incredible blessing because we often dwell on the things that we have done wrong, which can lead to fear and anxiety. Yet we are reminded in Psalm 32:2, "Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit." Believing in this gift is a part of believing in God and fully trusting him in His promises.

I once heard someone say it is a stronger statement to say that "I have evidence for God's love", rather than just saying "I believe in God's love". I agree with that. The gift of salvation through Jesus Christ is the biggest evidence of God's love for us. As we celebrate this fourth of July, may we let our light shine through our gratefulness hearts, remembering not only the freedoms we enjoy as Americans but most importantly, the eternal freedom found in the forgiveness of our sins.

- Laura Jordan

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

July—Freedom

August—Returning

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



BROWN BAG LUNCH AT 11:30 AM

Thursday, July 2	Independence Day cookout
Thursday, August 13	
Thursday, September 10	
Thursday, October 8	
Thursday, November 5	Chrismons
Thursday, December 3	Baking Cookies and Bread



MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS
THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH

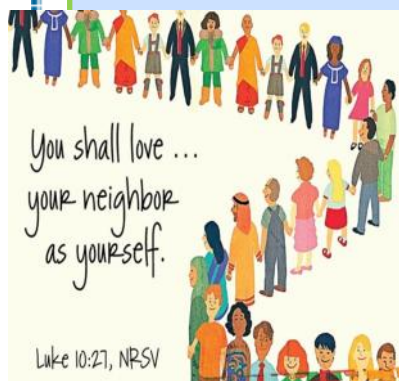


FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

Can you believe it? Half of 2026 has already come and gone! Do you remember a year passing so fast?

The Lord has been busy at Martin Luther Church all of the time. Have you seen him? Felt him? I have. I see him in all the people sitting in church on Sunday morning and feel him in all the benevolent out pouring to those in need!

He joins us for Lunch Bunch and empowers us to follow him and live our lives as lives he died to Save!



I am truly grateful for you, my Church family, for your generosity to Andy and all those who are in need, as well as your love.

Lunch Bunch will continue each month as will the Love Your Neighbor project. Join us and have a fun time.

Please remember that it is more difficult for some to have food than it is for us. Remember the Blessing Box and James Island Outreach! As tempting as large boxes are, most people are only feeding 1 or 2. Please try to donate regular or small size boxes!.

May God heal his blessings on you,
Barbara

Socks, all sizes and colors, is the item of the Month of July.



Dear MLLC family,

Thank you so much for the support you gave my family and me during this hard time. You all had me at every step, from advice to the wonderful cards and flowers. My Mom would be so happy to see how much she was loved and remembered.

Love always,
 Elbert Wayne Rimer and
 The whole Lundy family.



Your kindness and generosity
 are so appreciated.

Thank you again!



Thank you
 Martin Luther
 Church
 for allowing me to
 use the Fellowship Hall
 for my Dad's 95th
 birthday party.
 Sincerely,
 Jimmy Knight

MLLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:

Pastor Kathleen Miko (via ZOOM), Brandt Armstrong Jimmy Knight, Linda Leone, Joni Suggs, Kathy Swittenberg

Ada Arthur – Excused Absence

V. President Kathy Swittenberg called the meeting to order.

Devotions were presented by Linda Leone .

APRIL 12, 2026 COUNCIL MINUTES:

Minutes from the April 12, 2026, Council Meeting were read by Secretary, Linda Leone.

Kathy Swittenberg moved that the April 12, 2026, Council Minutes be approved as amended and it was seconded by Joni Suggs. The motion was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

TREASURERS' REPORT:

Brandt Armstrong reported that April was a good month in terms of finances. There was nothing to update or pending.

CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS APPROVAL:

Kathy Swittenberg noted one minor correction to Page 20, Chapter 12. C12.01. Wording to be changed to “may be” a confirmed youth.

Brandt Armstrong removing in the By-Laws on Page 31, 5. Financial Secretary, ii. “Update and maintain Membership plus software.”

Linda Leone moved that the Council approve the final draft of the updated Constitution/By-Laws to the membership at the May 17, 2026 Congregational Meeting and it was seconded by Joni Suggs. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS:

Three Council will be going off Council, (Ada Arthur, Jimmy Knight, Kathy Swittenberg). Council members were asked to reach out to the membership to ask if they would consider having their names placed into nomination, to be voted on at the May 17, 2026 Congregational Meeting.

Council was also reminded that nominations can be made from the floor the day of the meeting.

However, permission by the individual should be given prior to anyone's name being entered for consideration.

Brandt Armstrong moved that we allow more than six Council members. The motion was seconded by Linda Leone and the floor was opened for discussion.

Following discussion, Brandt Armstrong withdrew his motion.

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME:

Council was charged with making a recommendation to the membership, at the May 17, 2026 Congregational Meeting. Facts were presented and following much discussion, Council would be recommending the Sunday worship time to remain at 10:00 AM. The recommendation is based on what is best for the church and not Council member's individual personal preferences. Brandt Armstrong would present the Council's report (attached) to the membership prior to a vote and explain that this is strictly a recommendation. Worship time would be decided by the majority vote of the membership. Vote would be taken by paper ballot.

Brandt Armstrong moved to recommend to the membership, the Sunday worship time be at 10:00 AM as outlined by the Council and Joni Suggs seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote of Council.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2025 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Secretary Linda Leone will read the minutes of the December 7, 2025, Congregational meeting for approval by the membership.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

The 2026-2027 Council Officers will be installed on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

CLOSING

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned with the doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Leone

Secretary, MLLC Council

MOTIONS FROM THE MAY 5, 2026**COUNCIL MEETING**

Kathy Swittenberg moved that the April 12, 2026, Council Minutes be approved as amended and it was seconded by Joni Suggs. The motion was carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Linda Leone moved that the Council approve the final draft of the updated Constitution/By-Laws to the membership at the May 17, 2026 Congregational Meeting and it was seconded by Joni Suggs. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

Brandt Armstrong moved that we allow more than six Council members. The motion was seconded by Linda Leone and the floor was opened for discussion. Following discussion, Brandt Armstrong withdrew his motion.

Brandt Armstrong moved to recommend to the membership, the Sunday worship time be at 10:00 AM as outlined by the Council and Joni Suggs seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote of Council.

Bill's Writings

Jesus Christ God

He was, He is, He shall always be God.

I think everyone got the wrong impression when it was said that the Romans killed Jesus. No, they may have tortured Jesus and nailed him to a cross but didn't kill Jesus Christ. How can you kill a God? You can't. Jesus gave up His earthly life so that we may live in Heaven when we die with Him.

Understand God? NO. No one can. It's impossible. Few people have seen the face of God (Jesus). Artists have painted a pretty picture of what we think He looks like, even the Shroud of Turin depicts an image of what is mentioned to be the face of Jesus. Yet, unproven. Tell you what, when earth has seen it's last live person and the world we all know ends, then everyone will see Jesus, Heaven and all it's splendor. If you were to stand before the Lord, what would your eyes behold? What would He say to you? "Welcome, my child"? To many He will say "be gone for I know you not." He is known as love but love can only go so far. True love has no boundaries. It's more than just a word. Has the Lord instructed you in a path for you to follow and have you listened? Thank God we are all alive and if need be, we still can get it right. Surrender to Him. Follow the path of Righteousness. Be glad the Lord, God Almighty is merciful and compassionate. A Loving God came to save. Amen.

- by Bill Mariorenzi



Jimmy Stone's Writings

Some people believe there is a strange, mystical power that resides in certain wishing wells and fountains. The theory is that you toss a coin in while



making a wish. The wish is supposed to come true and grant your wish—be it wealth, health, or the perfect mate, etc. It is amazing how many coins are tossed. The more famous

ones have to be cleaned of coins every two months. There are no mystical powers that can grant your wishes. People get the same surge of adrenaline and excitement akin to lottery winners. True happiness and wholeness come only by accepting Jesus and asking for repentance. Jesus died for all of us, past, present, and future, including you. He will wash away your sin. He has made promises to each of us that are good now and in eternal life. He can help your life achieve your wishes. No coins required. Enjoy. In Christian love, Jimmy

Neighbors Together—Volunteer of the Month—Maria Namie

• **What inspired you to begin volunteering with Neighbors Together, and what has kept you involved over the years?**

• After moving to Charleston in 2001, I joined a church and soon chose to volunteer alongside fellow members of the congregation. I find fulfillment in dedicating my time to volunteerism.

• **The food pantry bears your name—"The Maria Namie Client Choice Pantry"—a remarkable honor. What does that recognition mean to you, and how do you hope it reflects the values of the community?**

• It means a great deal to me, as volunteering allows me to get to know the staff. I also genuinely enjoy building relationships with neighbors, fostering a sense of community and connection. I also value the opportunity to advocate for our mission by stopping by grocery stores to help maintain and strengthen our partnerships with them.

• **Can you share a memorable moment from your time volunteering that reminds you why this work is so important?**

• There isn't one single moment that stands out—instead, it's the many small interactions over the years that have stayed with me. One of the most meaningful experiences is running into neighbors around town and having them recognize me, stop to say hello, or share a smile. Those simple moments remind me that volunteering is about more than providing groceries; it's about building relationships, creating a welcoming community, and letting people know they are seen and valued.

• **How have you seen the pantry and its impact on neighbors evolve over the years?**

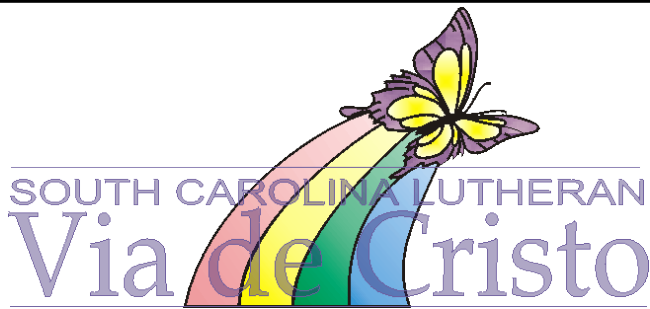
• Over the years, I've seen the pantry serve an increasingly diverse community, including a growing number of Spanish-speaking neighbors. Because I speak Spanish, it's especially meaningful to be able to communicate with them in their native language. Being able to welcome, listen to, and connect with neighbors in a language they're comfortable with helps build trust and ensures they feel seen, respected, and supported.

• **What would you say to someone who is considering volunteering but isn't sure where to start?**

As someone who is retired, I often encourage my fellow retirees to consider volunteering. It's a wonderful way to stay active, meet new people, and make a meaningful difference in the community. I believe having a sense of purpose is important, and volunteering provides that in such a rewarding way. You don't need any special experience—just a willingness to help.

(This article appeared in the Neighbors Together Newsletter.)





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”

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 May 2026 Finances

Budget: \$15,018.25

(Expenses: \$12,014.52)

Offerings: \$ 12,245.12

Difference: (\$ 2,773.13)

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!!!

How to Make July Really Fun

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28 	29 	30	1 Go to a bookstore browsing after work.	2 Go for a walk by a lake, pier, or waterfront.	3 Have a backyard BBQ.	4 Enjoy a picnic outdoors.
5 Have a day at a pool, go to the beach, or play water games.	6 Watch the sunset from a scenic spot (or wake up for sunrise).	7 Try an evening at a board game cafe.	8 Go to an after-work paint-n-sip class.	9 Go for a scenic sunset walk.	10 Have a movie night at home.	11 Go window-shopping in your favorite stores.
12 Go to a nearby farmers' market.	13 Learn a few phrases in another language.	14 Go for lunch or dinner at a new restaurant.	15 Try a new weeknight dinner recipe at home.	16 Go to an open mic night.	17 Follow a fun tutorial (calligraphy, origami, painting).	18 Try a new brunch place or a new coffee shop.
19 Go on a photo walk and take pictures that inspire you.	20 Start a new TV show.	21 Have a relaxing night in with journaling.	22 Try a new fitness class after work.	23 Go to a trivia night.	24 Have a spa night at home.	25 Try a pottery class (or pick another hobby class).
26 Pick up 3 things you haven't tried before from the supermarket today.	27 Work on a giant jigsaw puzzle at home.	28 Have a music discovery evening, listening to different genres.	29 Have an ice cream tasting (different flavors) at home.	30 Write down your August bucket list.	31 Go for an ice cream and a scenic walk after work.	1  Ordinary & Happy

PRAYERS

*The family of Mary Frances
Lundy at her death on June 2.*

*The family of Julie Carter
Spain at her death on June 3.*

Connie Gibson

Tom Hennessey

Emily Schroeder

Maria Namie

Bill Marioenzi

Ralph Shrivalle

Judy Simmons

Andy Young

Connie Baker

Alyssa Baker

Brenda Burke

Joyce Guffin

Polly Sutton

Myrl Kluge

Margaret Balzano

Joe and Linda Sproles

Caitlin Donaldson

Claire Diffenderfer

Jan Clinkscales

Chieko Jordan

Sara Perry

Dwight Hartsell

Mary Baldwin

Nancy Holden

Ariel Howcroft

Bobby Bellah

Chip Guffin

Evan McMillan

Fran Lingenfelter

Travis Simmons

Johnny Hallman

Alice Vendrick

Sheryl Carroll

Paulwyn Boliek

Rusty Sims

Robert Suarez

Erik Wohltman

Boose Sims

Nancy Schwartz

Katie Carrole

Elizabeth Sweet

Linda Miller

Ann Smith

Rick Carroll

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

Bonnie Rimer

Bob Thuet

Amy Guffin

Fran Fischer

Luke Rankin

Bonnie Rimer

William Bartlett

Buffy Copeland

Michelle Brooks

Ethan Kennedy in Kuwait

***Please contact the church
office with updates to this
prayer list.***

**BIRTHDAYS**

Rick Suggs 7/ 4
 Jim Swittenberg 7/ 7
 Barbara Young 7/ 12
 Bruce Carter 7/ 19
 Josef Burke 7/ 20
 Andy Young 7/ 24

BIRTHDAYS

Florence Rimer 8/ 4
 Nancy Carter 8/ 12
 Jimmy Knight 8/ 15
 Kathy Swittenberg 8/ 18
 Bill Mariorenzi 8/ 21
 Ray Leone 8/ 27

ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Ray Leone 7/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Janice & Jimmy Knight 8/ 11
 Linda & Brandt Armstrong 8/ 19

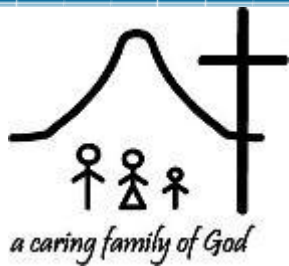


WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

JULY

DATE	Lesson Reader	Communion Cup Assistant	Usher	Offering Counters
July 5	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Ricky Suggs	Pam Smith Janice Knight
July 12	Matthew Rimer	Addie McKeithan	Wayne Rimer	Addie McKeithan Lynn Shaddrix
July 19	Kathy Tillman	Kathy Tillman	Ricky Suggs	Linda Armstrong Joni Suggs
July 26	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

