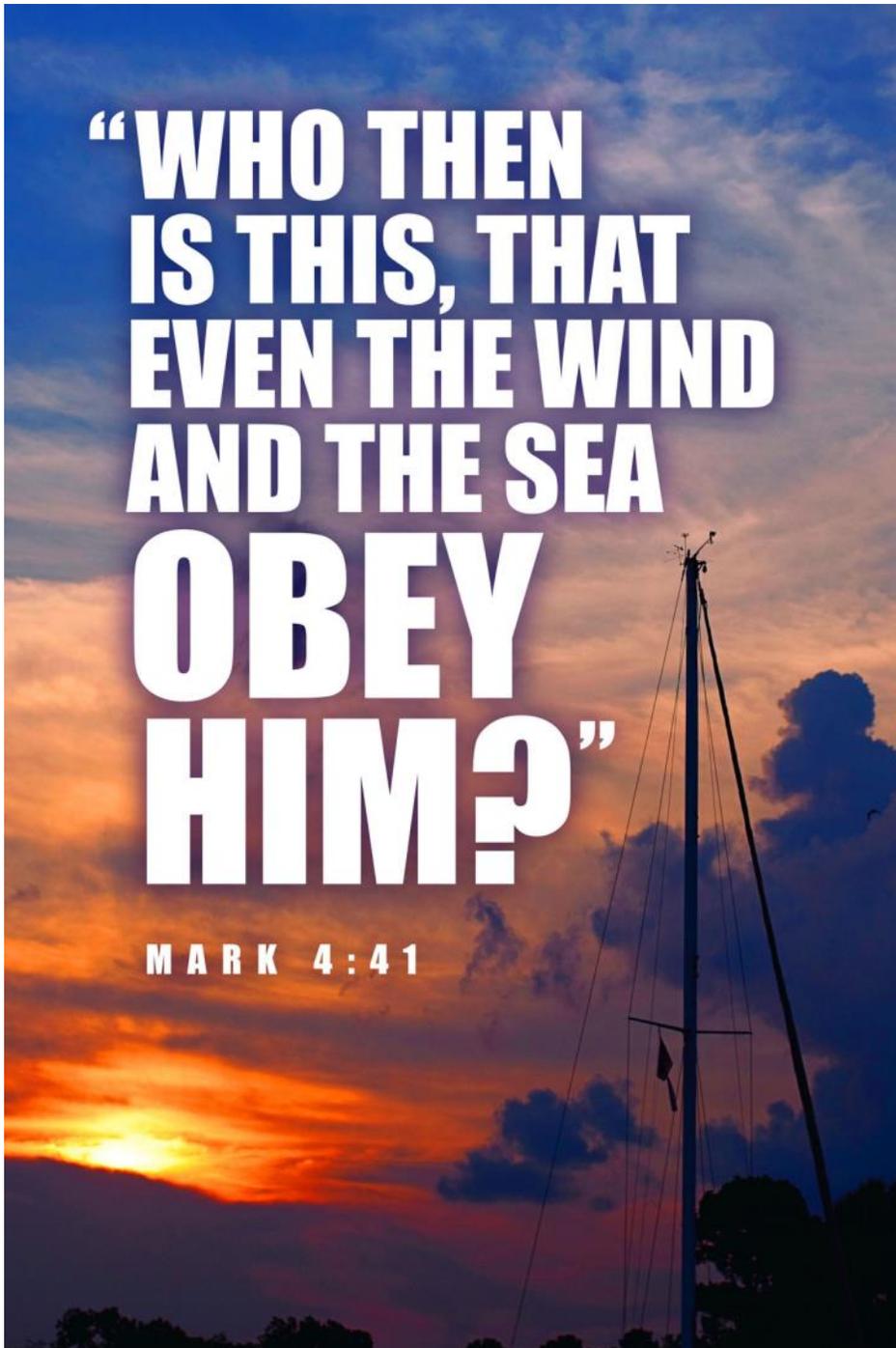


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412      JUNE 2021



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- *Martin Luther Church is the only ELCA Congregation on James Island*
- *Martin Luther Church was organized on February 5, 1961.*
- *273 Disciples call Martin Luther Church their home church.*
- *Eight Pastors have shepherded Martin Luther disciples since its organization.*

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# “Centsing” God at Work!

Last month we talked about how we are sensing (using our 5 senses of seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling) God at work in our lives, homes, families, church, and community.

This month we are adding a 6th sense = how we are “centsing” God at work!

As Covid-19 is getting more under control and our world, society, and lives are opening up again, our church's ministries are getting more active. Covid-19 slowed them down, but didn't stop them. And now we can “cents” God's working more in our lives, homes, families, church, and community.

Some pastors are saying that giving has actually increased during the pandemic in spite of their churches being closed for in-person worship. They've been asked if that means their members are paying more “*not to go to church*”? That's a comical question, and pastors don't look at it that way. But the fact is that the churches are open and ministry goes on, even when the church temporarily appears to be “closed”.

Although giving to both of our churches has declined some, the “cents” you are giving to our churches are supporting our ministries, and we are making a real difference in people's lives. Covid-19 has not stopped the need, and maybe has increased it. And we are doing our best to meet people's needs.

\* Your giving has been giving our church staff a “cents” of security. We have been working from both office and home, and have been able to continue focusing on ministry throughout the pandemic. Phone calls, texts, emails, mailings, some personal visits, counseling, and other ministry activities have helped people ease stress, maintain faith, and not feel as isolated.



\* We have added Gina Shuey to Martin Luther Church as Music Director, and we definitely can “cents” that our music ministry has been enriched by her being able to work and lead us. Music has brought comfort to all of us, in person and at home in our livestreamed services. Oh, the joy we've seen on the faces of our Handbell Choir members...and congregation!

♻️ People are still bringing items for our Martin Luther Church Blessing Boxes, and we can “cents” a real difference that the boxes are making in helping people survive.

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☞ We continue to support our Cub Scout Pack 4. I came on a recent Saturday morning to their annual Pinewood Derby where they race wooden cars they built down a slotted track under our pavilion. I quickly “cents” that many kids and adults thoroughly enjoyed that competition!



\* We continue to support Respite Care Charleston, and they are thrilled to be able to keep their office open and hold support sessions in the church. It’s easy to “cents” the comfort, support, and joy which the dementia sufferers and their families feel when they’re here and cared for. They are all very grateful for our partnership in their ministry...and our prayers!

\* The Postpartum depression awareness foundation which Helena Bradford started 21 years ago, Postpartum Support Charleston, continues to support moms in our Tri-county area. Sherry’s daughter, Amber Weakley, is now a staff member and they are starting a new program which offers meals to moms struggling with PPD. Martin Luther Church’s Council has authorized them to cook and store the meals in the church kitchen. This creative ministry will start small, but we “cents” it will make a big difference in the lives of families fighting the disease!



POSTPARTUM SUPPORT  
CHARLESTON

### How about YOU?

- + What church ministries do YOU "cents" that God is using and blessing?
- + How and where do YOU "cents" that your lives, homes, families, church, and community are better because our churches are here and active and getting more active again?
- + How do YOU "cents" that dollars and cents you are giving are helping God help us and others?

Please keep your offerings and financial support coming. You are helping, empowering our churches’ ministries, and you are making a very real difference in our challenged community.

God’s working! His Spirit’s active in us and through us! Keep it going!

It all makes good “cents” to me! --Pastor Tom

# God-Sighting

I was getting ready to leave my house and I stepped on to the porch, I looked up to make sure I turned off the porch light and there was a HUGH moth hanging from the light shade... it startled me at first but after I started staring at it I noticed how unique and interesting it was... It was light brown in color with white circles at each end of its wings... dark fuzzy brown legs... and I just couldn't believe how BIG it was ... God Blesses us with amazing creatures that makes the world Beautiful... Adelaide McKeithan

# Invitation to Rest

Summer calls to mind a slower pace, time off from school and work. But many still face daily demands this time of year: farmers work long hours; teachers may take seasonal work to make ends meet; parents with kids now home all day may catch up on work late at night. Still, may the longer days and warmer weather beckon you into a bit of free time this season. Listen:

“When you take time to replenish your spirit, it allows you to serve others from the overflow. You cannot serve from an empty vessel.” —Eleanor Brownn (public speaker and educator)

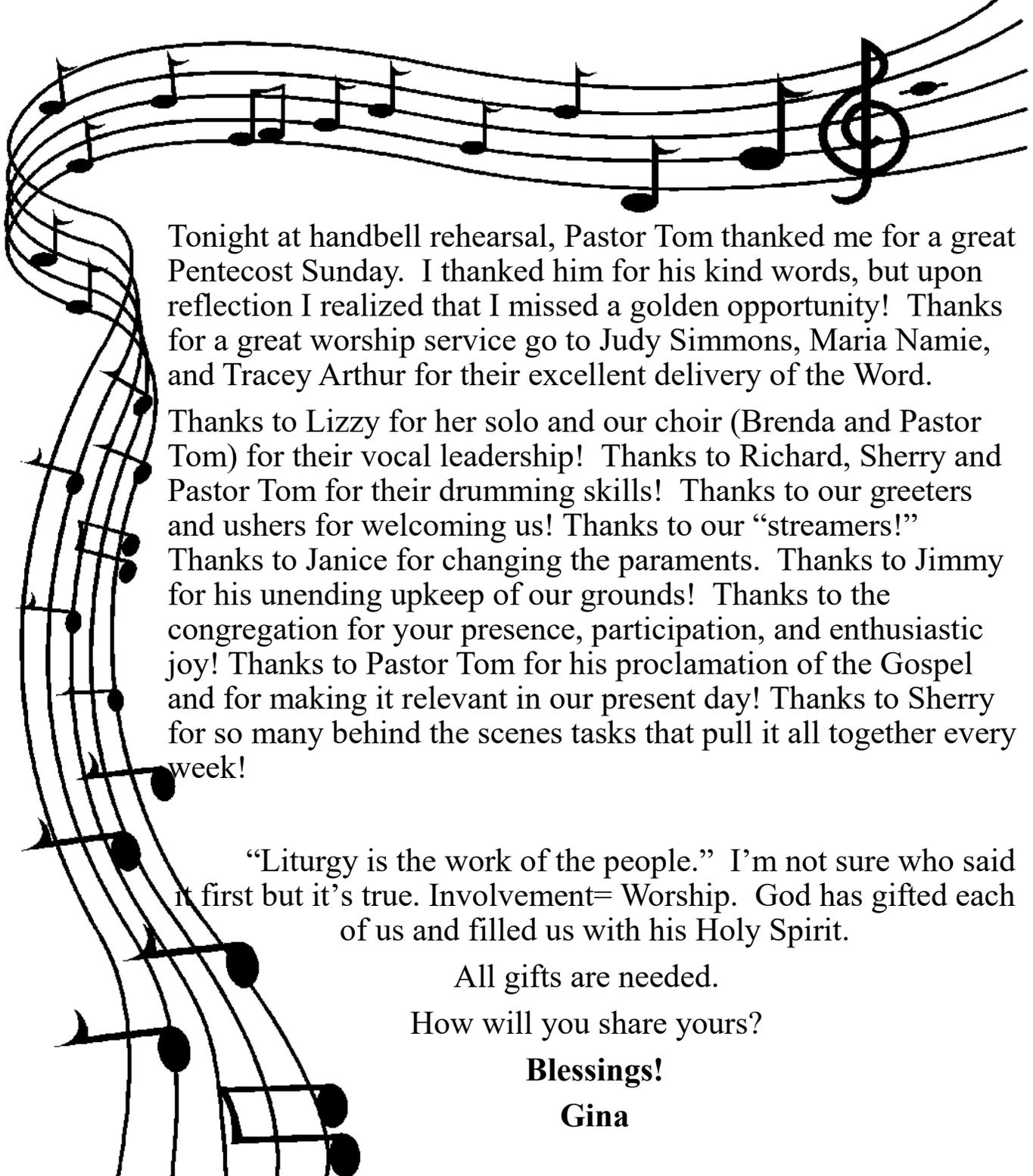
“Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential ... to make sure that your most important decision in the day [is] which color to slide down on the rainbow.” —Douglas Pagels (author)

“Rest time is not waste time; it is economy to gather fresh strength. ... In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less.” —Charles Spurgeon

“Come to me, all you that are weary ... and I will give you rest. ... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” —Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)



# MUSIC NOTES



Tonight at handbell rehearsal, Pastor Tom thanked me for a great Pentecost Sunday. I thanked him for his kind words, but upon reflection I realized that I missed a golden opportunity! Thanks for a great worship service go to Judy Simmons, Maria Namie, and Tracey Arthur for their excellent delivery of the Word.

Thanks to Lizzy for her solo and our choir (Brenda and Pastor Tom) for their vocal leadership! Thanks to Richard, Sherry and Pastor Tom for their drumming skills! Thanks to our greeters and ushers for welcoming us! Thanks to our “streamers!” Thanks to Janice for changing the paraments. Thanks to Jimmy for his unending upkeep of our grounds! Thanks to the congregation for your presence, participation, and enthusiastic joy! Thanks to Pastor Tom for his proclamation of the Gospel and for making it relevant in our present day! Thanks to Sherry for so many behind the scenes tasks that pull it all together every week!

“Liturgy is the work of the people.” I’m not sure who said it first but it’s true. Involvement= Worship. God has gifted each of us and filled us with his Holy Spirit.

All gifts are needed.

How will you share yours?

**Blessings!**

**Gina**

# NEWS FOR YOU TO KNOW

## 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!!!

## Bring Your Bottles

ELKS BPO Drove # 231 is collecting empty prescription bottles. Bring your empty bottles to the church office any morning. Please remember to remove all labels. These bottles will be donated to local animal shelters.

## BLESSING OTHERS

The Cub Scouts have designed and mounted a Blessings Box to assist the hungry in our midst. They encourage all to take what you need and give what you are able. Along with the Blessings Box, two "Little Libraries" have been mounted beside the Blessings Box. One library is for children's books and one is for adult readers.

## VETERAN MINISTRY

Do you know a veteran or a military family in need?

*Education... Housing... Health Benefits... Basic Needs... Assistance... Employment... Homelessness... Peer Support... Financial Crisis Management*

Please contact or refer them to:

Tri-County Veterans Support Network  
843-276-2840

[www.TriCountyVeteransSupportNetwork.org](http://www.TriCountyVeteransSupportNetwork.org)

## RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON

Upcoming Respite Care Charleston Support Group Meetings at MLLC June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at **10 AM—Tuesday Morning Respite Group June 8 and 22 at 6 PM—Tuesday Support Group June 9 and 23 at 10 AM—Wednesday Support Group June 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 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**

# Put it in neutral!

## Shift into Neutral

The man ahead of me at the carwash was on a mission. He purposefully strode to the back of his pickup and removed the hitch, so it wouldn't snag the high-powered rolling brushes. He paid the attendant then pulled onto the automated track—where he left his truck in drive. The attendant shouted after him, “Neutral! Neutral!” but the man's windows were up and he couldn't hear. He zipped through the car wash in four seconds flat. His truck barely got wet.



Elijah was on a mission too. He was busy serving God in big ways. He had just defeated the prophets of Baal in a supernatural showdown, which left him drained (see 1 Kings 18:16–39). He needed time in neutral. God brought Elijah to Mount Horeb, where He had appeared to Moses long before. Once again God shook the mountain. But He wasn't in the rock-shattering wind, earthquake, or raging fire. Instead, God came to Elijah in a gentle whisper. “When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out” to meet God (1 Kings 19:13).

You and I are on a mission. We put our lives in drive to accomplish big things for our Savior. But if we never shift down to neutral, we can zip through life and miss the outpouring of His Spirit. God whispers, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Neutral! Neutral!

**By Mike Wittmer**

### REFLECT AND PRAY

How do you slow down to spend time with your Father?

Why is time in neutral necessary for driven people?

Father, I am still because You are God.

**This is from Ada Arthur / Our Daily Bread Devotion**

# Caring for Yourself

Me: Hey God.

God: Hello.....

Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?

God: I would rather not.

Me: Why?

God: Because you aren't a puzzle.

Me: What about all of the pieces of my life that are falling down onto the ground?

God: Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.

Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking down!

God: No - you don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back. You aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax. Take some deep breaths and allow those things you don't need anymore to fall off of you. Quit holding onto the pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

God: Only the very best pieces of you.

Me: I'm scared of changing.

God: I keep telling you - **YOU AREN'T CHANGING!! YOU ARE BECOMING!**

Me: Becoming who?

God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light and love and charity and hope and courage and joy and mercy and grace and compassion. I made you for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off of you. I love you! Don't change! Become! Become! Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

Me: There goes another piece...

God: Yep. Let it be.

Me: So...I'm not broken?

God: No - but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!!





Sunday, June 20, 2021

#### The origin of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

## PRAYERS



Janice Knight  
 Buddy Diffenderfer  
 Paul Bauersfeld  
 Joan Cunningham  
 Don Rankin  
 Polly Sutton  
 Anna Harmon  
 Ralph Shrivalle  
 Barbara Crews  
 Todd Peterson  
 Mickie White  
 Melody Alcorn  
 Judy Alcorn  
 Carl and Judy Simmons  
 Myrl Kluge  
 Mary and Jack Cooper  
 Bill & Edna Mariorenzi  
 Alice Scheld  
 Joe Sproles  
 Vicki Becker  
 Sean Fowler

Stacia Brown  
 Rodney Fowler  
 Muriel Bellah  
 Lucille Mullis  
 Michele Wallis  
 Fran Lingenfelter  
 Autumn Young

Trey Crayton  
 Preston Vinson  
 Johnny Hallman  
 John Bischoff  
 Cyndie Hartsell  
 Alice Vendrick  
 Mary Ann Graff  
 Linda Miller  
 Betty and Paulwyn Boliek  
 Frank Oastwalt  
 Will Coleman  
 Lynn Nash  
 Maggie Bennett  
 Ramona Horres  
 Becky Cook  
 Sherry Cook  
 Carolyn and Linwood  
     Swittenberg  
 Mildred Woods  
 Eugene Alexander  
 Ned Vendrick  
 Darby Kress  
 Thomas Soyden  
 Eliza Cate Volousky  
 Dwight Hartsell  
 Wilma McLelland  
 Mark Danehey  
 Larry Alexander  
 Paige Osbon  
 Alissa Baker  
 Randy Oxendine  
 Michael Burke  
 Rose Burke  
 Rafael del Valle  
 Michele Miller

All those suffering with  
 the COVID-19 virus.

All those who serve in the  
 military and those who  
 protect our country,  
 state, and communities.

**Holy God, your beauty  
 shines forth from the  
 manger and your love  
 flows from the cross. As  
 you gather us around  
 these signs of your love  
 come among us, warm us  
 to extend your care  
 among the hungry and  
 all in need. In Jesus'  
 name we pray. Amen.**



**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**JUNE**

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Connie Gibson      | 6/03 |
| Jan Clinkscales    | 6/12 |
| Brooke Dark        | 6/12 |
| Joe Cockrell       | 6/13 |
| Buddy Diffenderfer | 6/22 |
| Mark Kruger        | 6/25 |
| Nancy Haynsworth   | 6/30 |

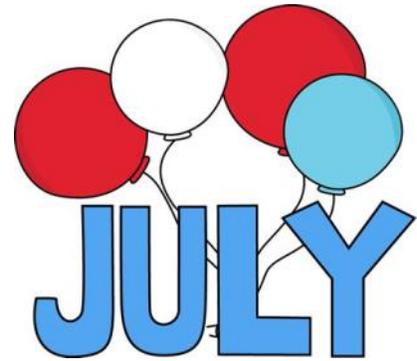
**Anniversaries**

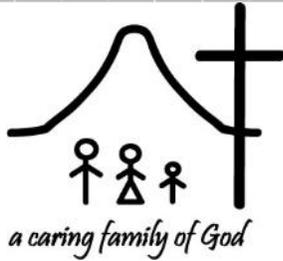
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|----------------------------|------|
| Florence & Wayne Rimer     | 6/04 |
| Kristina & Steve Everman   | 6/05 |
| Pam & Todd Peterson        | 6/12 |
| Janet & Mark Kruger        | 6/14 |
| Lori & Rich Hamill         | 6/16 |
| Mary Lou & Al Hoover       | 6/17 |
| Amanda and Richard Summers | 6/24 |

**BIRTHDAYS**

**JULY**

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Rick Suggs      | 7/02 |
| Jim Swittenberg | 7/07 |
| Barbara Young   | 7/12 |
| Lou Gibson      | 7/18 |
| Kay Ake         | 7/19 |
| Ellie Hamill    | 7/19 |
| Bruce Carter    | 7/19 |
| Paul Becker     | 7/20 |
| Josef Burke     | 7/20 |
| Patty Iler      | 7/21 |
| Andy Young      | 7/24 |





MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

Pastor

**The Reverend Thomas  
Cassem**

Director of  
Congregational Ministries

**Sherry Fowler**

Director of Music

**Gina Shuey**

Office Hours are

Monday—Friday

8 AM to Noon

### CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

*Officers*

*President—*

**Peggy Oxendine**

*Vice President—*

**Nancy Haynsworth**

*Secretary—*

**Heidi Frear**

*Treasurer—*

**Janice Knight**

*Financial Secretary—*

*Vacant*

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Worship Team Leader—*

**Brenda Burke**

*Service Team Leader—*

**Laura Jordan**

*Evangelism Team Leader—*

*Vacant*

*Learning Team Leader—*

**Pam Peterson**

*Congregational Care Team  
Leader—***Mary Lou Hoover**

*Property Team Leader—*

**Wayne Rimer**

*Youth (one year term) -*

**Torren Thomas**



Council Members  
serve two year  
terms with the  
exception of the  
youth members,  
serving a one year  
term.