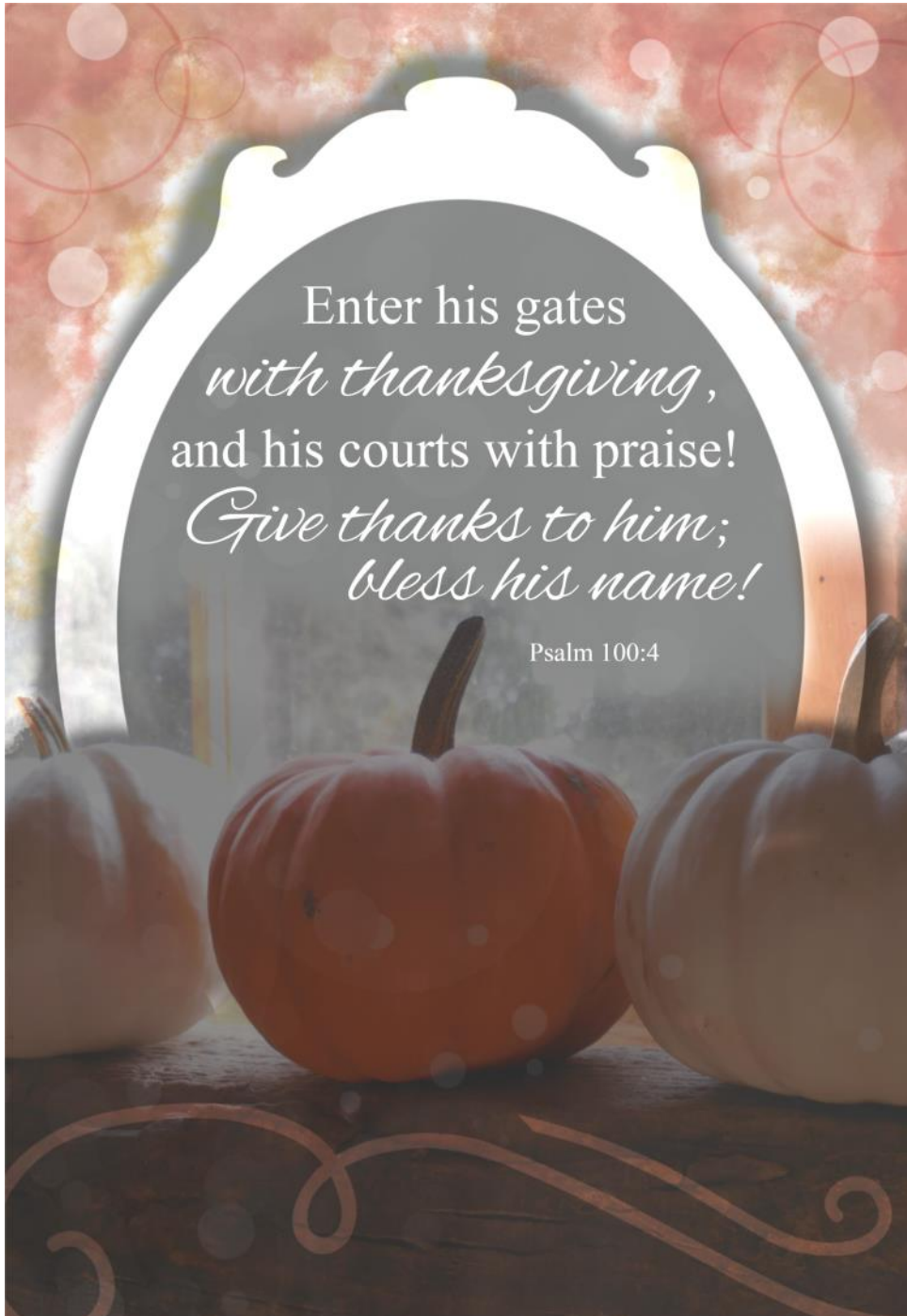


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 NOVEMBER 2023



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 PONDERING	2
MUSIC NOTES	3
SUNDAY SCHOOL	4
WITTING TREE	5
CONFIRMATION	10
PRAYERS	13
BIRTHDAYS	14



A Work In Progress

We have had a lot of work done around our church lately. It's been exciting! In addition to getting our new sound and video systems installed, we have been having painting done on the building's exterior. It really needed doing again and is beautiful now that it's completed!



When Sherry and I were talking in the office, I noticed a couple of places in the copier room where the shelf painting was not finished. It's just the front edges of the shelf unit and part of the trim below the ceiling. Don't know why that wasn't painted, and it's been that way for several years. I pointed it out to Sherry and she replied, *"It's a work in progress."* She's right! For sure!

I thought and said, *"Well, we are a work in progress. God's not finished with us!"* She agreed. And it's true...we're all a work in progress, and God's always working on us to make us look and do better. Hopefully we can look at the many events in our lives that mold and shape us and be grateful to God for them. Sometimes that's easy to do, other times it can be hard. The "painting" and work God has to do to build, shape, and finish us can sometimes be painful and hard to get through. But we gotta remember who's the "painter" and "construction contractor" working on us! It's God!

Sherry said, *"It's a work in progress. One day I'll bring a brush and some white paint and finish the shelf."* Thank you, Sherry! I'll be glad to help!

God says to us, *"You're a work in progress. I'll finish you, though it will take your lifetime."*

Lord, Jesus, help us to reply, *"Thanks, Father! We'll be glad to help!"*

Blessings, *Pastor Tom*



Following the long “green” season of *Sundays after Pentecost*, November brings exciting times and themes to worship. We begin with the celebration of *All Saints* on November 5th; remembering all who have gone before us, especially family members and loved ones who were instrumental in our faith formation. The next two Sundays look to the “End Times” as we anticipate Christ’s return; exploring our part in bringing justice and peace to the world, while we wait. Finally on November 26, we celebrate the last Sunday in our church calendar year, known as *Christ the King* Sunday, when we marvel at the paradox of Jesus, as both Lamb and Shepherd.

We will use “This is the Feast” as our Hymn of Praise for November. We will also enjoy the last of our Fall Psalm Project, compiled by local Lutheran Church Musicians. Our hymns and songs promise to be exciting! Many thanks to our choir for their leadership and faithfulness and to our handbells for the joy they bring to our worship services! The invitation stands. Come, join us!!!

Blessings!!

Gina

**Come
Ring
With
US**



BIBLE STUDY



The Martin Luther Church WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY IS MEETING EACH

WEDNESDAY AT 11 AM.

They are studying the Daily Discipleship which follow the weekly lectionary. Pastor Tom is leading the Bible Study and **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Have you heard about the video series, “The Chosen”?

Get Used to Different. *The Chosen* is not your average Christian tv series or movie. This crowd-funded awe-inspiring series with global impact presents the accounts of Christ as He calls his first disciples. This dramatic series features remarkable casting, beautiful costuming, amazing locations and scenery, touching moments, and gives space for historically reasonable character development of those who encountered Jesus.



Here at Martin Luther Church we will be watching the series and having discussion during the Sunday School time. Even if you have seen the series (or what has been produced of the story), please join us.



Congregational Meeting



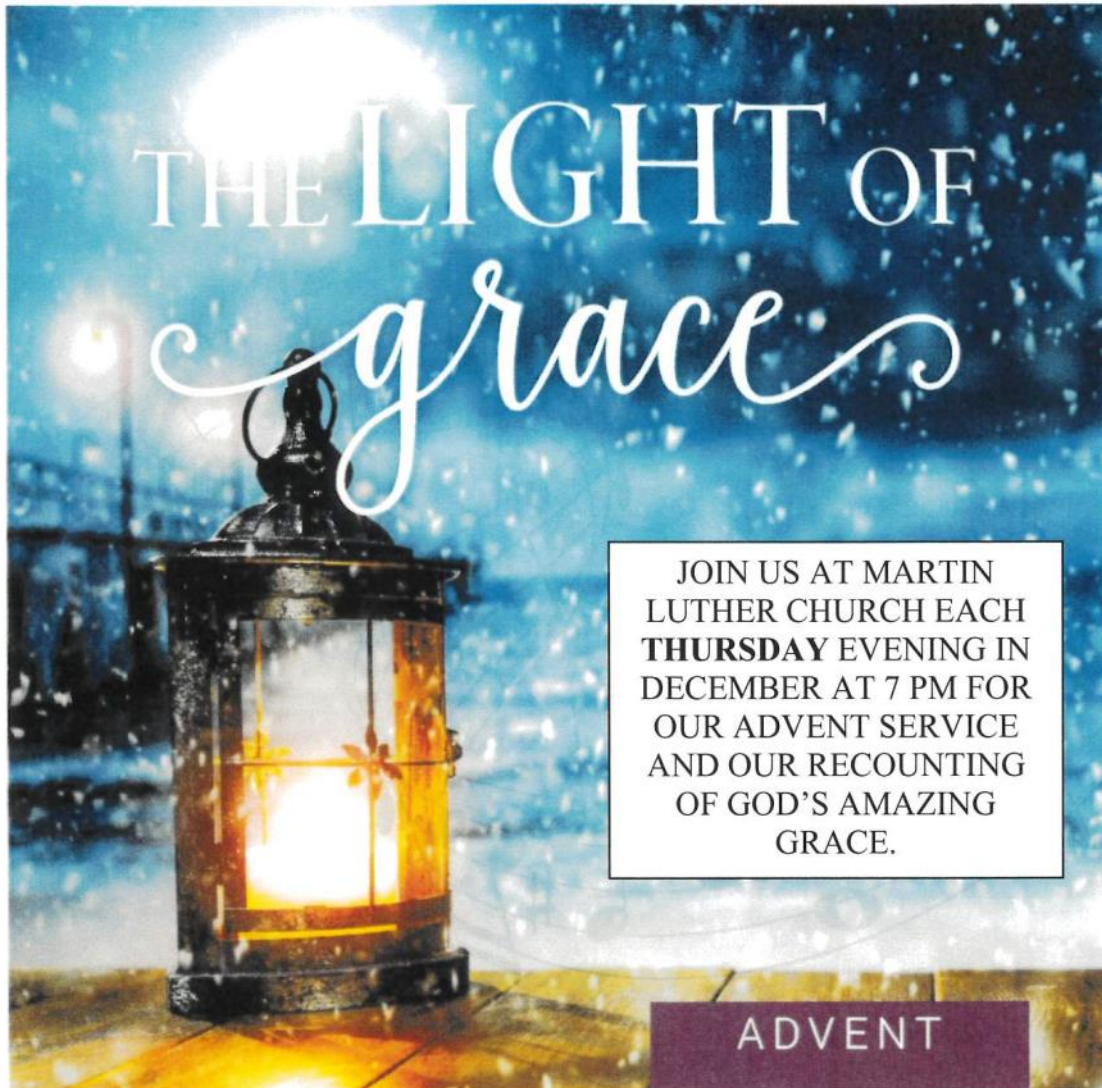
Dear Martin Luther Church Disciples:

The semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 19th**, immediately following the 9 am worship service and prior to our special Fellowship Brunch. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt a 2024 budget.

Per our constitution, we must have 25 voting members of the congregation attend this meeting in order to have a quorum. In the past, we have not had any real issues with meeting a quorum. So, I am asking those that have been attending or feel comfortable attending to please mark this date down and stay after the service so we have a quorum and can discuss the budget.

Thank you – God’s blessing to everyone for safety and health!

Nancy Haynsworth



JOIN US AT MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH EACH **THURSDAY** EVENING IN DECEMBER AT 7 PM FOR OUR ADVENT SERVICE AND OUR RECOUNTING OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE.

ADVENT



WEEK 1: HOPE
Zechariah



WEEK 2: PEACE
Isaiah



WEEK 3: JOY
Elizabeth



WEEK 4: LOVE
Mary

**Martin Luther Church is participating in a project sponsored by the
Spiritual Support Outpost Network.**



**This project is called “The Veteran Suicide Awareness
Tree” or**

THE WITTING TREE.

November 1st – 11th, 2023

**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 larger community so much.

The term “witting” means to be cognizant, deliberate, and aware to the facts of a situation. Each year, more than a dozen faith communities and organizations join in hosting a Witting Tree ceremony at their sites.

We will participate in the Witting Tree project by hanging 22 sets of dog tags each day on a tree in our church side yard (near our sign on Martello Drive) in public remembrance of 22 veterans who take their lives each day by suicide. (That is one Veteran that takes their life every 80 minutes.)

We would like each of our Veterans to participate in this project by taking a day to place the 22 dog tags on our designated Witting tree and saying a prayer.

Can we count on you to be our Witting Tree witness? Contact the church office to sign up. Please call the church office at 843 795-4855 to request a time to participate.



News from Respite Care Charleston

Did you know?

- That every month, Martin Luther Lutheran Church provides 48 hours of physical space to support our half-day memory care programs and support groups?
- That your generosity gives RCC a homebase to operate out of and support dozens of families every month as they care for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias?

That you help RCC give MORE.GOOD.DAYS to our families!

Thank you for all you do to support our work. We are here for you and your friends, families and neighbors. Reach out to us by email (wendy@respitcarecharleston.org) or phone (843.647.7405) if we can help you with

- Supporting people who are caregivers or loved ones for people with Alzheimer's or dementia
- Providing education and support to people diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or are concerned about their own memory loss

Families who will benefit from our half-day memory loss programs

Thank you, MLLC, for all you do for us!



All Saints *Sunday* is November 5

A day for the saints

November 1, is a day set aside by the church for remembering dedicated Christians of the past. It is often called All Saints' Day or All Souls' Day. This day has been set aside "since the Middle Ages for remembrance of the beloveds who no longer laugh and cry with us on Earth. But All Souls' Day is a beautiful occasion for contemplating how we care for our own souls"

-Sarah Ban Breathnach in Simple Abundance

Sinners and saints

As sinners we may not be able to change the world, but as saints we may be able to change our communities.

As sinners we may not be able to change our communities, but as saints we may be able to change our neighborhoods.

As sinners we may not be able to change our neighborhoods, but as saints we may be able to change our homes.

As sinners we may not be able to change our homes, but as saints we may be able to change ourselves.

As sinners we may not be able to change ourselves, but as saints we may offer ourselves up to the grace of God and experience nothing less than a changed world.

—*Homiletics*

Among the saints

In *God in the Moment*, Kathy Coffey retells the story of a priest who fielded this question: "How many people were at the early celebration of the Eucharist last Wednesday morning?"

The priest replied, "There were three old ladies, the janitor, several thousand archangels, a large number of seraphim and several million of the triumphant saints of God."

Coffey writes: "Such a 'cloud of witnesses' answers a deep human urge to be part of something larger, to not stand alone, to give our little lives meaning. One drop of water, left alone, evaporates quickly. But one drop of water in the immense sea endures."

Searching for saints

God is on a saint search, and it's not only perfect people who are going to be found. Sure, there may be some who are born with the natural ability to love the Lord with the totality of heart, soul, mind and strength, nonstop. But for most of us, this passion and power come only after we discover that God has always loved us, and that his love precedes our own.

Fact is, most of us find the Lord only after we have been found by him.

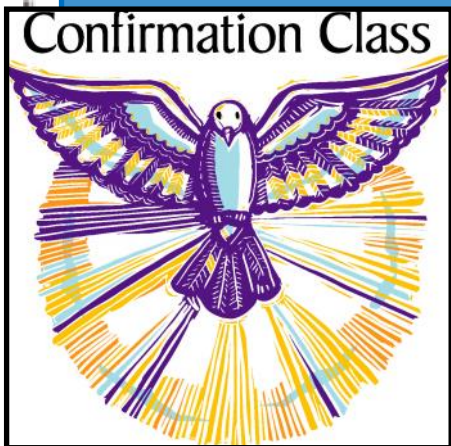
And all God asks is that we respond with that same level of passion ... loving him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength ... and showing a willingness to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If we do, we'll be God's holy ones, set apart for his service.

—*Homiletics*



Fun At Confirmation Class



Martin Luther Church hosted the first in a series of Confirmation Classes for

students from Martin Luther Church, Faith Church, Holy Spirit Church, St. Mark's and St. John's on **Saturday, October 7th**. We are so excited to get to meet and study together again! This first session focused on "Baptism". Please keep the students, parents and *Pastors* in your prayers.

Our next Confirmation Class is scheduled for Saturday, November 11. Watch for details.



The Great ReEvaluation

The Great ReEvaluation committee is looking toward revising our mission statement to reflect the changing needs of the world, community, and congregants most accurately. In the coming weeks, we would like your assistance in working on a revision to the existing MLLC 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.”** Please share your thoughts with one of the team members, Nancy Haynsworth, Sherry Fowler, Laura Jordan, Gary Frear or Pastor Tom.

BLESSING BOX

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.

THE BLESSING BOX IS BEING USED DAILY!!! IT IS FREQUENTLY EMPTY. PLEASE HELP STOCK THE BLESSING BOX WHEN YOU ARE ABLE.



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!!!

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

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK LIVE. JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AT 9 AM FOR OUR FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMING OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE FROM MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH.

RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON

Upcoming Respite Care Charleston Support Group Meetings at MLLC

10 AM — Tuesday Morning Respite Group

6 PM—Tuesday Support Group

10 AM—Wednesday Support 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

PRAYERS



Carl and Judy Simmons

Polly Sutton

Ursel Harmon

Nancy Haynsworth

Judy Alcorn

Margaret Balzano

Joyce Guffin

Paul Bauersfeld

Claire and Buddy

Diffenderfer

Myrl Kluge

Mary and Jack Cooper

Bill Mariorenzi

Joe Sproles

Blake Dunn

Lael Byrd

The Rustin Family

Debbie Jones

Becky Schleppegrell

Jim and Joanne Johnston

Elizabeth Burgess

Molly Arnold

Jeff Ascell

Vickie Dangerfield

Kai Shuey

Jill Halevi and family

Tasha Higgins

Robert Mallard

Steve Leasure

Kim Jordan

Bobbi Butler

Caren Clark

Luke Rankin

Cyndee and Kenny

Roumillat

Joe Coates

Eric Wohltman

Robert Suarez

Tim Frear

Jacob DuPree

Harold McMillan

Evan McMillan

Karen Ezell

Anna Bailes

Fran Lingenfelter

Autumn Young

Trey Crayton

Carlton Hartis

Johnny Hallman

Cyndie Hartsell

Josiah Parnell

Marc Bennett

Catherine Brack

Amy Fisher

Patty Langella

Jamie Foster

Yvonne Thompson

Peyton Sullivan

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Annie Flanders

Roger Nelson

Connie and Walt Wurster

Anita Sloan

Larry Miller

Whitney Greene

Jamison Ford

Mary Stevens

Dwight and Susan Hartsell

Linda Miller

Fran Williams

Rodney Fowler

Michele Wallis

Marvin Sims

Rusty Sims

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn Swittenberg

Mildred Woods

Ned Vendrick

Wendy Thomas

Ann Smith

Ruth Toney

Richard Haynsworth

Ronnie Suggs

Erik Wohltman

The Citizens of Ukraine,
Israel and other war-
torn countries, that
peace may prevail.



BIRTHDAYS

Claire Diffenderfer	11/03
Janet Kruger	11/10
Joe Sproles	11/11
Kaitlyn Frear	11/11
Delayna Guffin	11/12
Tracey Arthur	11/14
Ada Arthur	11/15
Marcia LaFrance	11/18
John Weed	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

BIRTHDAYS

Marty Richard	12/01
JB Bradley	12/01
Polly Sutton	12/04
Aaron Armstrong	12/05
Haley Swittenberg	12/07
Brian Shaddrix	12/12
Chuck Gillette	12/15
Laura Richard	12/15
Greta Waters	12/18
Charlie Harris	12/19
Joyce Guffin	12/23
Michael Gillette	12/26
Pam Gillette	12/27
Joni Suggs	12/28
Steve Shaddrix	12/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Lynn & Steve Shaddrix	11/27
-----------------------	-------

ANNIVERSARIES

Pam & Chuck Gillette	12/09
Heidi & Gary Frear	12/12
Nancy & Bruce Carter	12/18
Marcia & Russell LaFrance	12/24



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher	Video
11/5	Nancy Haynsworth	Nancy Haynsworth	Maria Namie	Sherry Fowler	Jimmy Knight	Sherry Fowler
11/12	Laura Jordan	Laura Jordan	Torren Thomas	Laura Jordan	Rick Beruf	Tracey Arthur Peggy Oxendine
11/19	Mary Baldwin	Mary Baldwin	Maria Namie	Linda Leone	Wayne Rimer	Peggy Oxendine
11/26	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear

DECEMBER

	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher	Video
12/3	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Richard Fowler	Sherry Fowler
12/10	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Laura Jordan	Jimmy Knight	Laura Jordan
12/17	Ada Arthur	Ada Arthur	Maria Namie	Peggy Oxendine	Rick Beruf	Peggy Oxendine
12/24	Heidi Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear
12/31	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Nancy Haynsworth	Brandt Armstrong	Sherry Fowler



I am GRATEFUL FOR:

.....

WORD SEARCH

TURKEYEGMX
 GATHERHRGV
 DPRKVVAAUQ
 EOIMPPRTKT
 GRSRFLVEYH
 FSOCAREFRA
 AQNLMTSUPN
 LOOBHITLUK
 LHVLLAVQMS
 YVEEYNPPGG
 FIMSXKEZKI
 LJBSKFCWIV
 THEEVUTXNI
 ZBRDDLZMQN
 GRATITUDEG

THANKFUL BLESSD
 THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER
 FAMILY GRATEFUL
 GATHER TURKEY
 GRATITUDE HARVEST
 FALL PUMPHIN





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

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL</u>	<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u>	SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:
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	<i>Officers</i> <i>President—</i> Nancy Haynsworth <i>Vice President—</i> Sherry Fowler <i>Secretary—</i> VACANT <i>Treasurer—</i> Linda Leone <i>Financial Secretary—</i> Vacant	<i>Worship Team Leader—</i> Brenda Burke <i>Service Team Leader—</i> VACANT <i>Evangelism Team Leader—</i> Laura Jordan <i>Learning Team Leader—</i> Heidi Frear <i>Congregational Care Team Leader—</i> Joni Suggs <i>Property Team Leader—</i> Gary Frear <i>Youth (one year term) -</i> Kaitlyn Frear	