

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

NOVEMBER 2022



## 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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**I will praise you, O LORD,  
with all my heart;**

**I will tell of all your wonders.**

**Psalm 9:1**



# Thanksgiving = Thanksliving

God gives us blessings every day. Sometimes they're easy to see. But at other times we get so busy and overwhelmed with life that we miss them. We need to learn to look for God's blessings and give thanks. That is what Thanksgiving is all about and is a good and Godly way of living.

In the midst of a Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called on the nation to pause for a day of national "Thanks Giving." Many would say this was the worst time to give thanks. Everything was falling apart around him. Yet he knew instinctively that this was a way to begin healing our nation's old wounds. It was a way to turn the focus off what was wrong with our country and onto what was good about it.



**Clayton A. Lord, Jr. says:** *"Even today, in a society that is more secular than religious, Thanksgiving reminds us of what we have and who gave it to us. It helps us to focus on our blessings. We need to do that because we can easily get swept away by a flood of advertising reminding us of what we don't have."*

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St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Philippians that he has found the secret to contentment. He says, *"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."*

Clayton A. Lord, Jr. reminds us: *"Paul's happiness comes from knowing and serving Jesus. Paul can be happy in prison because he knows God is with him. He can be happy even though he has been thrown overboard and has lost every material thing he owns, because he still has a purpose for his life. If he ties his future to Christ, then he knows he will come out the victor."*

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Most likely we will not be thrown overboard and lose every material thing we own. It happens, and did in the recent hurricane that hit Puerto Rico and Florida, and in other natural disasters. But most of the time, we won't physically suffer that kind of loss. However, when life gets rough, as it is for many of us right now, we may feel that way psychologically and emotionally.

So we need to practice both Thanksgiving and Thanksliving! Look carefully for God's blessings! Find them...See them...and Share them with other people every day. Encourage each other to give God thanks for all of the blessings he gives us. That's a sure way to help each other be happy in God and Jesus each and every day!

Blessings, *Pastor Tom*

**Martin Luther Church and Faith Lutheran are 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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

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 have participated 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.)







## SUNDAY

November 6

*Our next wonderful  
First Sunday of the  
Month Fellowship  
Brunch will be held on  
Sunday, November 6  
immediately following  
the 9 AM Worship  
Service. We are really  
looking forward to being  
together for this special  
time of laughter,  
feasting and fellowship!*

***BRING YOUR FAVORITE FRUIT,  
CASSEROLE, BISCUITS AND GRAVY,  
CEREALS, MEATS, ETC!!!!***

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

# MUSIC NOTES



## **November is an exciting time in the church year!**

We begin with the festival of "All Saints" on November 6th, when we remember all those who have gone before us. November 13th is the last Sunday in "ordinary" time and focuses on how to live in these trying days, knowing the end is near!

November 20 celebrates the festival of "Christ the King" and marks the last Sunday in the church year. The new church year follows on November 27 as we welcome the Advent season and begin to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus!

Just a reminder: Handbell Rehearsals are held on Mondays at 6 and Choir meets on Mondays at 7. Please join us as we prepare for the exciting days ahead!!! Call, text, or Email Gina for more information.

843 737 2113

[Ginashuey@gmail.com](mailto:Ginashuey@gmail.com)

Blessings!!

# SUNDAY SCHOOL



## *EMBRACING GOD'S WISDOM: A STUDY OF PROVERBS*

Each Sunday (except Brunch Sundays) immediately following the 9 AM Worship Service. This new Sunday School Study will be led by Ada Arthur!

Please be sure to join us each Sunday for the study and refreshments!

Bring your winter coats, hats, socks and gloves for delivery to Neighbors Together.

Please bring your items to the church no later than November 27<sup>th</sup> so we can

get these warm coverings to those in need.

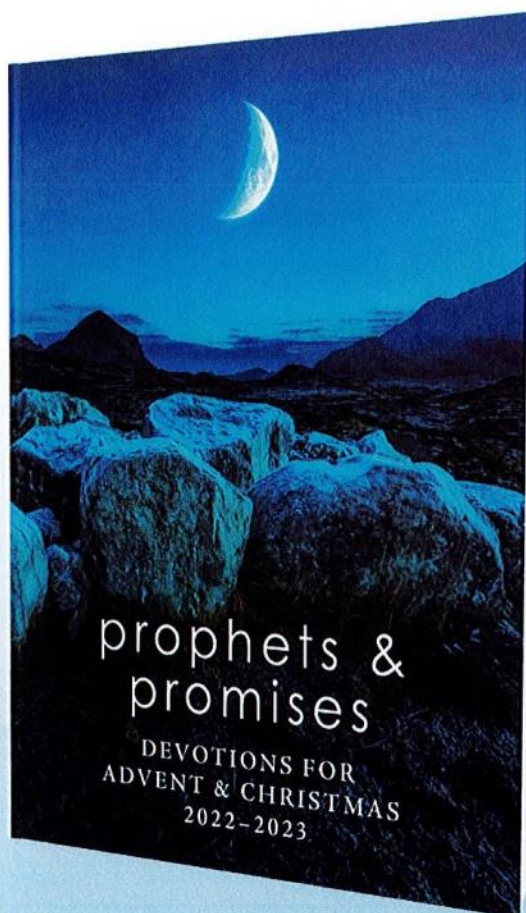


**MLLC Disciples—Join us on Sunday November 13 for our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. We will meet immediately following the 9 AM Service.**



# prophets & promises

DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS  
2022–2023



ISBN: 978-1-5064-8802-8

In ancient times prophets announced God's promises of a deliverer to the Hebrew people. As you read this devotional, look for these ancient promises, even in the Gospel of Matthew. Also watch for the different ways in which Joseph, the magi, and King Herod respond to the arrival of Jesus. Marvel at the power of God's promises, and the mystery of God with us in a newborn child.

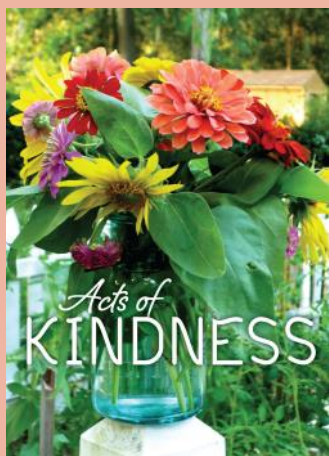
*Prophets and Promises* continues the Christian tradition of setting aside time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and to anticipate his return. The Advent season of preparation then unfolds in the joy of the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany. You will find daily devotions here for the first Sunday of Advent (November 27, 2022) through Epiphany (January 6, 2023). Each devotion features a scripture reading (many from Matthew), accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. The book also offers household blessings and prayers (see pages 86–94) to enrich your preparations and celebrations.

**This wonderful devotional booklet will be available in the Narthex  
—one per family please—beginning November 20.**

## *We Love to Tell the Story!*

My son stopped by the grocery store for me recently. While standing in line an older lady came up with a bouquet of flowers. He felt something that said - do a kind deed. He paid forward for her flowers. As they left she thanked him and shared that she was going to Holy Cross Cemetery to put the flowers on her daughter's grave for her birthday. He had never done anything like this before but felt so strongly it was *"just the right thing to do."* We go through life praying our children will make us proud – he surely paid it forward!!!!

**Kathy Tillman**



Count your blessings..

This morning my wife and I stopped for breakfast at a Huddle House. May be the 3rd time ever. I had just dropped off my truck for some repairs. We were the only customers as it was 9:30 and between breakfast and lunch. I watched the 3 employees working and a strange feeling came over me that those poor souls have little to look forward to in a typical day and I complain about my hunting property getting flooded or my pool needing service. At that very moment a feeling of gratitude for my life came over me. Then a veteran comes in using a cane and so skinny he had to have cancer. He told the server that he was on his way to the hospital. My next feeling was one of sadness. I decided to make the server's day and that vets day a little brighter. I told the vet to order anything on the menu as it was paid for including the tip. My bill was \$29. I gave her a \$40 tip. What I did was not for them. It was for me. It made me feel a little better this morning.

If you are feeling down, help someone. It will make you feel better.

**Ray Leone**



**Paul Becker, September 8, 2022**

Vicki, my dear wife and mother of my children, left this earth to be with our Heavenly Father on February 21 of this year. It has been a difficult six months since then. Something very interesting and impactful happened to me a few days ago related to my "journey through grief". My mom went to her Heavenly Home in 2014 at the age of 93. For the last few years of her life, "she lived with Vicki and me in our home on James Island. When we moved her from Texas to James Island, we put most of her possessions in storage. About a month, ago, I started going through the numerous totes containing her papers and discovered a cardboard box with the following hand-written notation on it – "Sonny's Letters." "Sonny" is the nickname given to me by my mom and dad. The box contained 43 letters written to me by Vicki before we were married. We started dating early in 1964 while she was still in high school. I was in my first year of college. After she graduated in 1965, she began working for Gracie Title Company in Austin, TX. She and her friend, Shirley, shared a small rental house in Austin. I was going to college in San Marcos, TX (40 miles south of where Vicki lived) and working on weekends in Round Rock, TX (20 miles north of where she lived). Needless-to-say, my travel to and from work on weekends included stopovers to visit Vicki in Austin. The letters in the box that I found spanned the period, July 1965 – April 1966 (we were married in May 1966). This amounted to 43 letters over 10 months or just over 1 letter a week. She liked writing letters. Me not so much. The first thing that struck me was that I did not know any of these letters still existed. The second thing was that there were so many of them. The third thing was that I really had very little memory of what was in them. The fourth thing that struck me was the 5-cent first class stamp on each one. I put the box aside. Over the next few weeks, I would bring out the box, think about reading the letters, but then put the box back. I was not sure that I could read any of them without breaking down. Finally, a few days ago, I got up the courage to tackle the task. I did break down a few times, but the experience was amazing and well worth it. I am very glad that I decided to read them when I did. I started reading the letters in sequence from oldest (July



1, 1965) to most recent (April 13, 1966). I continued reading into the evening hours and something amazing happened. I started having memories that I did not know were still in my brain. Not vague fuzzy memories, but very vivid memories that were as crystal clear as if they were from yesterday. Every letter was full of her love and support for me. I started remembering things that I had forgotten decades ago. Not just people and events, but things such as our little arguments and follow-up apologies (we were working toward saving for our wedding and planning as to how we were going to afford being married while I was still going to college). The memories became so vivid, that I even very clearly remembered what Vicki and Shirley's

rental looked like, inside-and-out, although Vicki did not mention the rental house in any of her letters. Her return address was on the envelope and that might have helped. But it also appears that memories bring back other memories. Also, these were handwritten letters. I think that being able to see and touch the

words that she wrote with her own hand so many years ago might have had a role in what I experienced. I am not sure that reading these letters in a typed-form would have had the same effect. A day after reading the letters from 56 and 57 years ago, I started thinking about the sequence of events that led to the experience I had the day before.

First, I had actually kept those letters. Then, my mom had found them among some of my old belongings she was probably throwing out and decided to keep them for me; although, over the years I don't remember her mentioning them. Furthermore, they had survived a couple of moves that she made in Texas when she changed residences (purging belongings occurred each time). They then had survived two cross-country moves (Texas to South Carolina and then back to Texas). Again, purging belongings occurred each time. Finally, they came to light after so many years at just the right time to make a big and overall comforting impact on me just when I needed it.

Providential? .....Yes.

Divine Providence?.....I believe it was.

Vicki's words to me after all these years reminded me of why I loved her so much, and still do. The best kind of memory to have.

**Heidi Frear - Friday September 23, 2022**

We received a heart transplant call so I had to go into work at 913pm.

The patient a 32 year old man had arrhythmia's that had effected his heart so much he needed a transplant. We were transporting this patient to the OR, he had his eyes closed the whole way. When we got into the OR everyone started introducing themselves to him, Stephen whispered to me "please don't take offense but I'm going to keep my eyes closed until I'm asleep, my anxiety is high enough already I don't need to see what's happening".

I said would it be ok if I just held your hand until you go off to sleep then, he said please do!

Stephen and I held hands for about 40 minutes, he'd squeeze, I'd squeeze back to let him know I was there. We prayed together the whole time.

Fast forward to the next morning about 9am. Stephen is recovering in ICU, the breathing tube is out. I knocked on the door & walked in



his room, he was visiting with his wife. I said "Good morning, I wanted to check how you were feeling". Stephen stopped speaking, looked at me looked back at his

wife, and said "this is the angel I was telling you about, I wouldn't have made it through the surgery without her". Then he proceeded to grab my hand and explain to his wife how I was his eyes and ears while he was terrified and anxious.

She teared up and asked, "Stephen how do you know this is her?" He replied, "I will NEVER forget her voice, my angel".

Kaitlyn has since made his family apple cider donuts, I brought him brown sugar for his hospital oatmeal, and his wife and I have exchanged numbers. We're in this together through Christ!

**WE LOVE THESE  
STORIES AND THE  
WILLINGNESS TO SHARE  
THEM IS POWERFUL.  
PLEASE SEND A STORY  
TO SHARE TO THE  
CHURCH OFFICE SO WE  
CAN SEND THEM OUT  
EACH THURSDAY!**



**At the 2022 SC Synod Assembly, we learned again the importance of "telling our stories". We will be publishing stories submitted by our members and friends, to help us all become more familiar with each other. PLEASE submit your stories as they occur, or tell us stories of your past that will engage us in further discussion, joy and fellowship! Submit your stories to [mllc@knology.net](mailto:mllc@knology.net).**

**Here are a few stories that we have received that you will enjoy!**





# ADVENT

*A Season of Preparation*

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY  
EVENINGS AT 7 PM

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Join Martin Luther Church and Faith Church for our mid-week Advent Services. Sadly, we will not be sharing a meal this season, but we will be joyfully preparing for Christmas with the

“Holden Evening Prayer”.

Meet us at Faith Church on November 30 and December 14 and  
at Martin Luther on December 7 and 21.

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*Christmas Eve Services*

*Martin Luther at 5 PM      -      Faith Church at 8:30 PM*



# PRAYERS



The family of Edna  
Mariorenzi at her  
death on October 15

The family of Virginia  
Patterson, Carl  
Simmons sister, at her  
death on October 17

The family of Deda  
Lindfors, Judy  
Simmons aunt, at her  
death on October 17

The family of Mickie  
White at her death on  
October 21

Eda Laughlin

Judy Alcorn

Margaret Balzano

Joyce Guffin

Emily Schroeder

Paul Bauersfeld

Leslie Carter

Claire and Buddy

Diffenderfer

Harriet Brunson

Polly Sutton

Myrl Kluge

Carl and Judy Simmons

Mary and Jack Cooper

Bill Mariorenzi

Joe Sproles

Joe Coates

Robert Suarez

Tim Frear

Jacob DuPree

Bobby Webb

Harold McMillan

Evan McMillan

Karen Ezell

Anna Bailes

Josiah Parnell

Yvonne Thompson

Sylvia Stroud

Peyton Sullivan

Fran Williams

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Mikalynn Burke

Charlie Smith

Helena Bradford

Connie and Walt Wurster

Annie Flanders

Roger Nelson

Anita Sloan

Chieko Jordan

Larry Miller

Whitney Greene

Jamison Ford

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Dwight and Susan Hartsell

Fran Williams

Rodney Fowler

Lucille Mullis

Michele Wallis

Marvin Sims

Fran Lingenfelter

Autumn Young

Trey Crayton

Carlton Hartis

Johnny Hallman

Cyndie Hartsell

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Linda Miller

Betty and Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn Swittenberg

Mildred Woods

Ned Vendrick

Chip Guffin

Wendy Thomas

Ann Smith

Anna Hiott

All those suffering with  
the COVID-19 virus.

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

The Citizens for Ukraine  
for their safety and for  
the end to the conflict  
between Ukraine and  
Russia.

## Overeaters Anonymous

OA is a community of people who through shared experience, strength, and hope are recovering from an unhealthy relationship with food and body image.

OA is patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous, using the 12 Steps of recovery.

The Saturday 4:00 PM OA meeting is an ABC- Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeater Step meeting. Each month we explore and share on one of the 12 steps.

There are no dues or fees to join. If you think you're one of us, come check it out!

## BIBLE STUDY

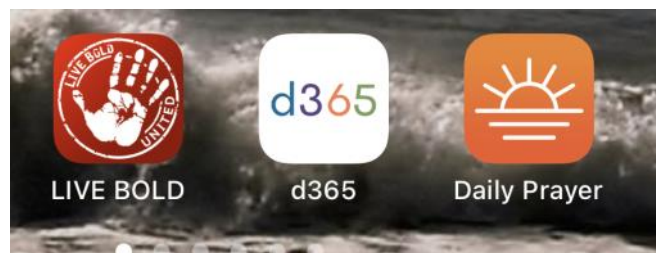
The Martin Luther Church  
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY MEETS  
EACH WEDNESDAY AT 11 AM.

We will be studying the Daily Discipleship which follow the weekly lectionary.

Pastor Tom will be leading the Bible Study and

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## APPS FOR DEVOTIONS



In today's iPhone/Android world I have found three tools (apps) for people to use to assist in devotion and prayer (see the attachment). "Daily Prayer" is just that, "d365" is more devotional and "LIVE BOLD" while specifically for men has a great message for all. These phone/tablet apps are free (no hidden fees) and are filled with God's promise.

I wanted to share with you in the hope you would pass them to others in search of additional inspiration.

God Bless 🙏

Jim Sass

# 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!!!

## **ELCA World Hunger**

Working with and through our congregations in the U.S., Lutheran churches around the world, and other partners, [ELCA World Hunger](#) is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

## **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.

## **RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON**

Upcoming Respite Care  
Charleston Support Group  
Meetings at MLLC

**Nov. 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 10 AM  
— Tuesday Morning Respite  
Group**

**Nov. 8 at 6 PM—Tuesday  
Support Group**

**Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 10  
AM—Wednesday Support  
Group**

**Nov. 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**

## **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)



**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES****NOVEMBER****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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Amanda & Josef Burke	11/13
Lynn & Steve Shaddrix	11/27

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES****DECEMBER****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
Amanda Burke	12/26
Pam Gillette	12/27
Joni Suggs	12/28
Steve Shaddrix	12/29
Wayne Rhea	12/30

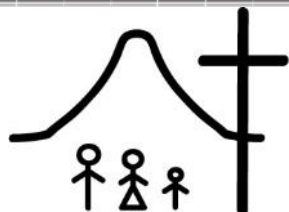
**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

# We're On Facebook

## Worship Assistants for November

	Lesson Reader	Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher	Video
11/6	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Lynn Shaddrix	Peggy Oxendine	Jim Swittenberg	Peggy Oxendine
11/13	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Laura Jordan	Rick Beruf	Laura Jordan
11/20	Ada Arthur	Ada Arthur	Maria Namie	Mary Lou Hoover	Jimmy Knight	Sherry Fowler
11/27	Heidi Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear



*a caring family of God*

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”**

**Join us on Sunday November 13 for our Semi-Annual  
Congregational Meeting. We will meet immediately  
following the 9 AM Service.**

## 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

9 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) -*



**Are you on  
Facebook?**

If you are, then join us  
on Sundays at 9 AM for  
our Facebook Live  
streaming of the  
Worship Service from  
Martin Luther  
Lutheran Church.