

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412

APRIL 2023

*He is Risen*

EASTER SUNDAY  
SERVICE

Sunday, April 9<sup>TH</sup>  
EASTER SERVICES

Join us Easter Sunday Morning at 6:30 AM AT YOUR HOME for the Easter Message. We invite you to stay at home—in your comfortable clothing—grab a cup of coffee or tea—and join us for a SONRISE Service on your TV, your computer or your phone. This Service will be pre-recorded with a short morning meditation and exciting music!

JOYFUL HOLY COMMUNION  
SERVICE begins at Martin Luther  
Church at 9:00 am

PLEASE JOIN US!



#### 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.*

PASTOR'S PONDERING	2
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE	3
MUSIC MINISTRY	5
BIBLE STUDY	6
EGG HUNT PICS	7
PRAYERS	18
BIRTHDAYS	19



# CONNECTIONS

Rev. David Kalas tells the story about meeting a colleague of one day for lunch. He says:

“We live three hours apart, so we picked a little family-style restaurant that was in a small-town about halfway between our two locations. Neither of us had been to that restaurant before, but it was the perfect location –and we hoped the food would be good, too.

I arrived a few minutes early, parked my car, and went up to the door. I figured I would get a table for the two of us and watch for my friend to arrive. When I got to the door, I found a sign indicating that they were closed on Mondays. Who knew? So, I went back to my car and waited for my friend to arrive. I figured we’d be able to find some alternative nearby once we were together.

I read for a while, and about forty-five minutes after our scheduled meeting time, my phone rang. It was my friend. I greeted him cordially, but with the assumption that he was calling to explain why he was so late. After a moment of awkward conversation, it became clear that he was calling me to see why I was so late!

Because the restaurant was on a corner at the intersection of the roads he and I had traveled... from different directions...he was parked on the other side of the restaurant waiting for me! He had gone up to the door on his side, made the same discovery I had, and decided to sit in his car and wait for me. There we had been, so near to each other, but not quite making the connection!”

+ + + + +

We all have things like that happen at times and we don’t quite make connections. Sometimes that happens between us and Jesus! He wants to talk with us, but we’re too busy, “not there yet”, “at the wrong door”, not watching for him, not listening, too distracted by life, and not paying attention. Result? We don’t quite make the connection. We miss seeing him, talking with him, and hearing what he wants to say to us. That’s sad. And the longer we wait to make connections with him, the easier it is to get out of the habit and find ourselves living without him.

But the good news is...this month, it’s Easter! We are celebrating the truth that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! He’s wanting to connect with us. And because he’s still alive, he can!

Our Lord will wait on you and watch for you. He really wants to get with you! It’ll be great! Don’t wait too long! Rather than just wait on him, try making a new connection yourself. Today!

Easter Blessings, *Pastor Tom*



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2, AT 9 AM,  
WILL INCLUDE OUR PALM  
PROCESSION AND A NARRATIVE  
FROM THE GOSPEL OF ST.  
MATTHEW.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WILL BE  
HELD AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 6 AT 7 PM.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WILL BE  
HELD AT MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH  
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7 PM.





## **A RADICAL IDEA**

**We will be celebrating the “Sonrise” Service from the comfort of our homes.**

Join us **ONLINE** Easter Sunday Morning at 6:30 AM for the Easter Message. We invite you to stay at home—in your comfortable clothing—grab a cup of coffee or tea—and join us for a SONRISE Service on your TV, your computer or your phone. This Service will be pre-recorded with a short morning meditation and exciting music!

**We will be holding our normal 9 AM Resurrection Worship Service in the church!**

**These services will be different so join us for both!**

# MUSIC NOTES



## **This is the Day!**

As I write this, we are still in the 40 days of Lent. Our journey of introspection as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem is leading us to the three days known as Holy Week.

We have abstained from Alleluias and focused on the Amazing Grace of God, who loves us, calls us, and redeems us through the gift of his only Son. It has been a beautiful journey that offers us hope and peace!

Behind the scenes, our handbell and chancel choirs have been busy preparing for Easter Sunday when we can sing and ring with confidence:  
 “Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!”

Please join me in offering a word of thanks to those dedicated to our ministry of music. Weekly rehearsals and early Sunday morning preparations are no small commitment! These friends bring so much joy and support to our worship services;  
 Pam Arnold, Ada Arthur, Brenda Burke, Bill Mariorenzi, Judy Simmons, Pastor Tom, Tracey Arthur, Mary Lou Hoover, Laura Jordan, Adelaide McKeithan, and Peggy Oxendine.

We also thank Sherry Fowler, Gary Frear, and Richard Fowler for sharing their gifts.

All children are invited to sing on Easter Sunday at our 9am service. We will prepare our offering on Saturday, April 8 at 1:00 pm. Come one, come all! Bring a friend!!!

Finally, a note of thanks to all of you who gather and bring our worship to life through the gift of singing! We offer our praises with humble hearts, in thanks for all that God has done and is doing in his kingdom on earth and in this beloved congregation we call Martin Luther Church!

Happy Easter!!  
 “Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!”  
 “He is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!”

- Gina

# BIBLE STUDY



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

As before, we will be studying  
the Daily Discipleship which follow the weekly  
lectionary.

Pastor Tom will be leading the Bible Study and  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



# Easter Egg Hunt Pictures

*OUR EASTER EGG HUNT  
ON SATURDAY, MARCH  
25TH AT MARTIN  
LUTHER CHURCH!  
EGG-CELLENT DAY!!!*





## Children's Choir

Let's Sing!!! We are planning a "Children's Choir" rehearsal on

Saturday, April 8 -  
the day before Easter -  
at 1 PM.

We want to bring joyful children voices to Easter Morning!

Please join us - ALL ARE WELCOME!

## 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.**







## NO FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH IN APRIL

*Our wonderful First Sunday of the Month Fellowship Brunch will be NOT be held in April. Please join us on Sunday, May 7 for our next Fellowship Brunch.*



**20th Annual Mom's Run**  
**Saturday, May 13, 2023**  
**7:00 AM 11:00 AM**  
**PHILIP SIMMONS HIGH**

**POSTPARTUM SUPPORT CHARLESTON**  
**CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF THE MOMS' RUN!**

Honor moms everywhere by supporting a cause that helps women and their families suffering from postpartum depression and anxiety. Postpartum Support Charleston is hosting the 20th annual Moms' Run + Family Fun Day on May 13th! Our annual 5K Moms' Run is Postpartum Support Charleston's largest fundraiser, allowing the organization to further its mission of providing support and resources to women and their families struggling with maternal mental illnesses (such as depression, anxiety, OCD, and psychosis during and after pregnancy).

# NEWS FOR YOU TO KNOW

**Martin Luther Church is gladly accepting online contributions through [Tithe.ly.com](http://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!!!

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

## THE GREAT REEVALUATION

Pastor Tom, Nancy Haynsworth, Laura Jordan, Gary Frear and Sherry Fowler are participants in this SC Synod sponsored program. Led by Mark E. Tidsworth, we are on a church leadership growth experience together with other SC Lutheran churches. This program continues through June. There will be a report to the congregation when we complete the program. Please keep our participants in your prayers.

## RESPIRE CARE CHARLESTON

Upcoming Respite Care  
Charleston Support Group  
Meetings at MLLC  
**April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 10 AM  
— Tuesday Morning Respite  
Group**  
**April 11 at 6 PM—Tuesday  
Support Group**  
**April 5 and 19 at 10 AM—  
Wednesday Support Group**  
**April 6 and 20 at 10 AM—  
Thursday Morning Respite  
Group**  
**April 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 10 AM—  
Friday Morning Respite Group**

## 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)

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*



**I See JESUS**

Were not our hearts  
*burning*  
within us?

LUKE 24:32

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
JUNE 8TH-10TH, 2023

**THE 2023 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD  
JUNE 8-10, 2023 AT THE  
MARRIOTT COLUMBIA**

Disciples / Voting Delegates are needed to attend the SC Synod Assembly to represent Martin Luther Church.

All registration and lodging fees are paid by Martin Luther Church.

Please see Pastor Tom or Sherry about attending this wonderful annual event!

# God Sightings

*This morning as I was coming to Church I saw this lady on Harbor View Road. She hit her brakes and did a u-turn. She pulled over to the side of the road and jumped out of her car ran to the middle of Harbor View Road and picked up this little turtle, and walked to the side, put the turtle down, then left.*

**- Judy Simmons**

**I just wanted to say Thank you to everyone. I don't know what I would do without my Church. Thank You all.**



# Jesus, I Love You

Jesus, how often I think I am too busy to pray. My days are overloaded and yet, Jesus, you surely don't expect me to be so preoccupied. How can I not have the time to think of you. You are always at my side. Jesus, you alone are my strength, my coverage and my support. I want to make it a habit, Jesus, to speak to you as a friend, to confide my joys and sorrows. So, from the bottom of my heart, I want to say, "Jesus, I love you." When darkness comes over me and I don't know where you are, I will simply say, "Jesus, I love you". My days will come easier. My work will be a prayer that said "Jesus, I love you", and when the evening of my life comes and you invite me home, let me say "Jesus, I love you". When you call me for judgement, be merciful, Lord, because you know how many times I said "Jesus, I love you."

— Bill Mariorenzi



# God's Timing

I'm always amazed how God prepares us for the future! Last Tuesday in the exercise class here, Peggy (our instructor) began by talking about "listening."

There's a huge difference between "hearing" and "listening." We hear many things - traffic noise, birds, etc. - but listening requires us to stop and give our attention to the sounds.

Three times that day I was stopped by people in the community who needed a listening ear.

One just wanted to share news that she couldn't publicly announce but just HAD to tell someone.

The next one was a wife whose husband's behavior was driving her crazy. She asked what I would do so I told her with the caveat that my suggestion was just mine - she should do what felt right to her.

A phone call was my third listening opportunity. A friend was feeling lonely and wanted to hear a friendly voice. We talked-and I listened - eventually realized that making plans to go out for a glass of wine the next day was what she needed.

Would I have handled those situations as well had not Peggy talked that morning about "listening?" I'll never know but I thank God for that opportunity!

- Ada Arthur



# Heaven

There is a world above, unseen by us  
 It's made 4 love, with nary a fuss  
 If you are born again, and obey His law  
 Christ shall see you there, you He'll enthrall!

— Glenn M. Condsey (visitor at MLLC)

# PINEWOOD DERBY AT MLLC



HERE ARE SOME PICTURES TO SHARE WITH YOU OF THE PINEWOOD DERBY THAT WAS HELD ON MARCH 4 AT MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH. ALL THE SCOUTS - AND FAMILIES - HAD A BLESSED DAY!!!



# SCOUTS SKI AND PLAY



Troop 4 has been busy as of late working on advancement and planning our upcoming campouts. We were honored to be a part of Scout Sunday and very thankful to be a part of Martin Luther Lutheran Church.

After a long break due to scheduling and life events the Troop was able to go on a ski/tube/snowboarding trip to Beech Mountain up in North Carolina. This trip was made possible by the fundraising efforts of the scouts over the last several years and they had a blast!

We have an upcoming camping trip at the end of April to Poinsett State Park where the scouts will be working on their Hiking badge by planning and completing a 20-mile hike as well as some working on their Fishing merit badge. Currently our Scouts are working on their Chess merit badge during their Monday evening meetings.

Thank you again for all of the churches' continued support!

Yours in Scouting,  
Robby Lingenfelter  
Scoutmaster Troop 4



# Please join us for

# LUTHERIDGE DAY CAMP

For over 25 years Lutheridge in Arden, NC, has been partnering with churches to bring a taste of summer camp to their communities. Lutheridge Day Camps are more than a traditional Bible school experience - the trained counselor staff brings special resources, including music, arts and crafts, games nature program and Bible study. This is sure to be an amazing week of growing in our faith and having a LOT of fun learning about God's abundant love for us!

**WHO:** *K5 through 5th graders 2022-23 School Year*

**OPENING COOKOUT:** *Sunday, June 11 6p*  
*Lutheran Church of the Redeemer*  
*714 Riverdale Dr, Charleston 29407*

**PROGRAM DATES:** *June 12-16 9a-4p*  
*Holy Spirit Lutheran Church*  
*3075 Bees Ferry Rd, Charleston 29414*

**HOW MUCH:** *\$150 per Camper*  
*Scan the code to REGISTER!*







NeighborsTogetherSC.org

2105 Cosgrove Ave.  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
843-747-1788

March 3, 2023

Martin Luther Church  
Attn: Reverend Tom Cassem  
1605 Harbor View Rd  
Charleston, SC 29412-3215

Dear Reverend Tom and Members of Martin Luther Church,

You are loved at Neighbors Together! We were so excited to see your gift of \$162.50 on 3/2/2023!

I can't thank you enough for being a supporter of our work. I recently learned about one of our neighbors named Bev, who unfortunately became homeless when she lost her job.

While living with her sister, Bev was referred to Neighbors Together. Because of you, Bev was able to get back on her feet again. You helped provide Bev with clothing, food, and emergency assistance. Bev also successfully completed job training classes and found employment. With your help, Bev's case manager was able to find housing for her. She is now living independently again!

"I am so happy and could not have gotten back on my feet without you rooting me on! Thank you so much for your encouragement!" -Bev.

Martin Luther Church, thank you again for your gift. The impact of your generosity warms our hearts and we hope it does the same for you.

With gratitude,

*Pastor Kara*

Rev. Kara Joy Stewart  
Executive Director

*Thank you for sharing  
your Souper Bowl  
Sunday gifts with us!*

PLEASE KEEP THIS LETTER AS A RECEIPT OF YOUR DONATION FOR YOUR TAX RECORDS

Tax ID number: 57-0794782

NO GOODS OR SERVICES WERE RECEIVED IN RETURN FOR THIS GIFT

**Bringing Dignity and Hope to the Lowcountry since 1983.**

## PRAYERS



The family of John D.  
Bischoff, Judy  
Simmons' brother, at  
his death

Eda Laughlin

Judy Alcorn

Margaret Balzano

Joyce Guffin

Emily Schroeder

Paul Bauersfeld

Claire and Buddy

Diffenderfer

Harriet Brunson

Polly Sutton

Myrl Kluge

Carl and Judy Simmons

Mary and Jack Cooper

Bill Mariorenzi

Joe Sproles

Matthew Sawyer Arnold

Gloria Irwin

Luke Rankin

Cyndee and Kenny

Roumillat

Georgie Follin

Joe Coates

Eric Wohltman

Patti Mears

Robert Suarez

Tim Frear

Jacob DuPree

Harold McMillan

Evan McMillan

Karen Ezell

Anna Bailes

Josiah Parnell

Yvonne Thompson

Peyton Sullivan

Fran Williams

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Helena Bradford

Connie and Walt Wurster

Annie Flanders

Roger Nelson

Anita Sloan

Larry Miller

Whitney Greene

Jamison Ford

Mary Stevens

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

*Amazing Grace  
how sweet the sound*

Linda Miller

Betty and Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn Swittenberg

Mildred Woods

Ned Vendrick

Wendy Thomas

Ann Smith

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.

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**APRIL**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Ashley Harris Wright 4 / 3  
 Matthew Harris 4 / 4  
 Tricia Bradley 4 / 6  
 Mary Lou Hoover 4 / 12  
 DJ Watts 4 / 13  
 Morgan Gillette 4 / 16  
 Ned Balzano 4 / 18  
 Noah Hodges 4 / 18  
 Luke Rimer 4 / 21  
 Lori Hamill 4 / 27  
 Julie Carter 4 / 28  
 Gina Shuey 4 / 29  
 Jerri Snider 4 / 30  
 Torren Thomas 4 / 30

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Sherry & Richard Fowler 4/7  
 Barbara & Andy Young 4/21  
 Laura & Eddie Jordan 4/23

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**MAY**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Todd Peterson 5/2  
 Greg Spain 5/3  
 Bob Spain 5/8  
 Laura Jordan 5/9  
 Nancy Gillette 5/24  
 Ashley Peterson 5/26

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Tricia & JB Bradley 5/29



**Worship Assistants for APRIL**

	<b>Lesson Reader</b>	<b>Prayer Leader</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>CPOD</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Video</b>
4/2	Lynn Shaddrix	Lynn Shaddrix	Maria Namie	Mary Lou Hoover	Jim Swittenberg	Sherry Fowler
4/9 Easter	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Laura Jordan	Jimmy Knight	Laura Jordan
4/16	Ada Arthur	Ada Arthur	Maria Namie	Peggy Oxendine	Rick Beruf	Peggy Oxendine
4/23	Heidi Frear	Heidi and Kaitlyn Frear	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Gary Frear	Heidi Frear
4/30	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Kathy Swittenberg	Nancy Haynsworth	Brandt Armstrong	Sherry Fowler



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

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.