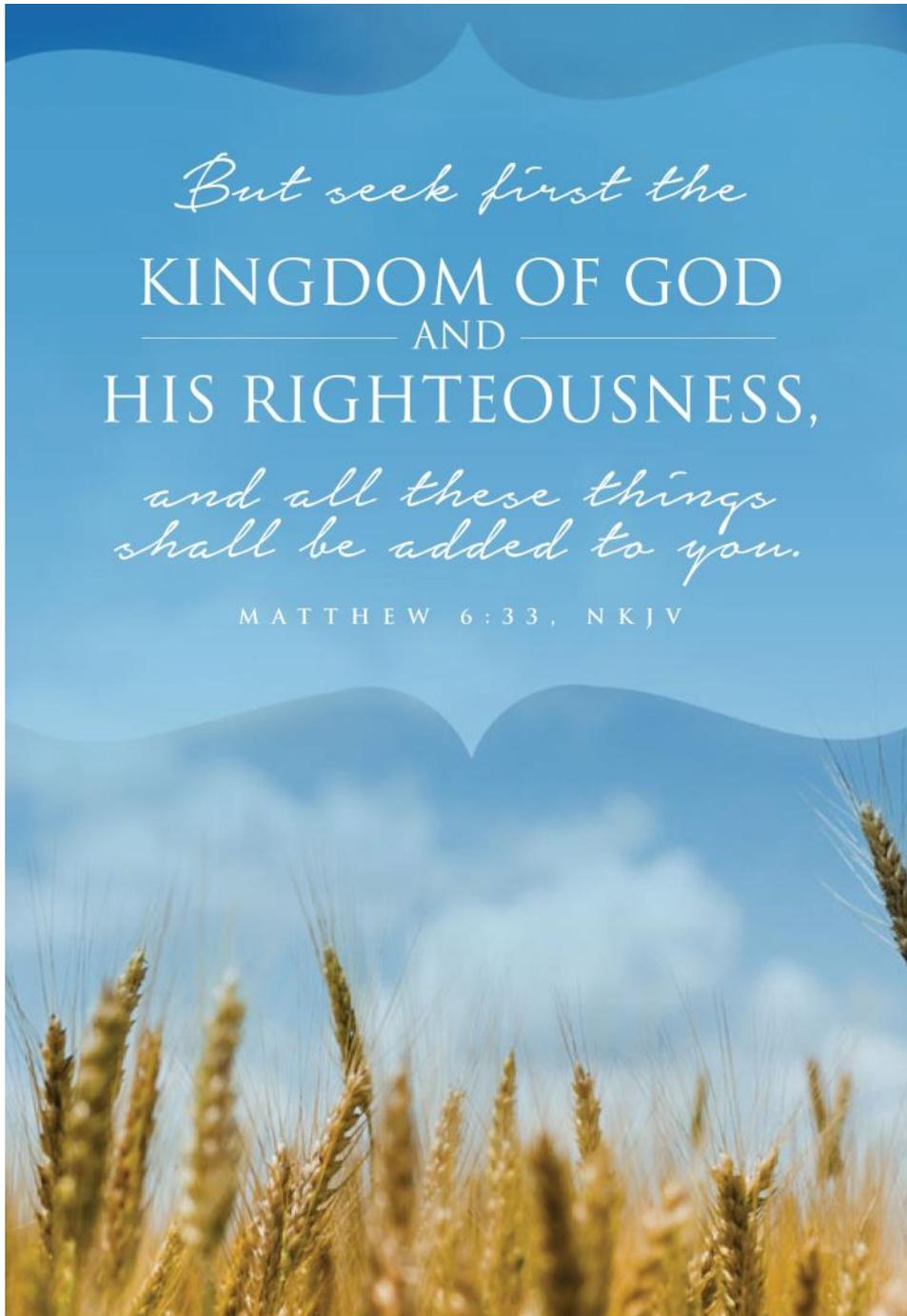


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412      OCTOBER 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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# From Pastor Tom

**Where have I seen God ...in Pastors? ...in Lay People? Great Questions!!**

## 1.) PASTOR: Rev. Willard H. Stark

My home church for many years before I came to Columbia, SC to begin my Lutheran seminary studies was Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Bethany, Oklahoma, a suburb of Oklahoma City.

In 1961, Pastor Stark accepted a special call from the Oklahoma District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) to organize a new congregation in Bethany which was founded in 1962.

After he retired in 1986, he continued to serve as Pastor Emeritus.



During my time there, I served Our Savior Church in many ways as an active lay member, choir member, member of various committees, Church Council member, and Elder. All of this service prepared me for ordained ministry, and the example and support I received from Pastor Stark was invaluable. His ministry included an ecumenical philosophy and innovative community outreach programs, which I have brought into mine. He was innovative in worship and ministry, as well as extremely supportive of his members, especially when we were going through difficult times. He always brought new ideas to worship and fellowship and brought people together in new and exciting ways. In his sermons he brought God's word and the Gospel "down to earth" and gave us something to "chew on" and take with us into our everyday lives and work week to keep us grounded in faith and life. I really needed that in my sales management career then and have tried to do the same in my sermons ever since!

Willard Stark was a good friend and a true shepherd, and I am thankful to God that I was privileged to be one of the sheep in his flock. By example and in working with him, he taught me what it means to be a pastor, and he encouraged me in both my lay ministry and, at that time, my future ordained ministry.

## 2.) LAY PEOPLE:

**Amber Weakley** – Sherry's daughter is doing marvelous work with the Post Partum Support foundation which Helena Bradford started years ago. Amber survived the disease and is using her experience effectively to help save other women's lives. God is using Amber powerfully!

THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART

**Hospital Nurses and Doctors** – With Covid-19 raging again, members of our local medical community are under unbelievable physical and mental strain. God is using them in extremely difficult situations against almost impossible odds to bring people through the disease. Wow!

**US Armed Forces** – Active Duty personnel and veterans are also under great strain from many stresses plaguing them. Please let them know that their personal sacrifices have not been in vain, and still aren't! They need and deserve our thanks for letting God use them to protect us.

# Pastor Appreciation

Pastor Tom has been amazing and we are so blessed to have him at Martin Lutheran Church. He came to us in a time of need and agreed to part-time pay for much more than a part-time position. His joking ways and friendliness make him, in my opinion, what a pastor needs to be – approachable and easy to talk with. When there are times of stress or confusion, I sense his closeness to God by his calm demeanor and the way he tries to view an issue from all sides.

He is shepherd of this congregation, and Christ is the Great Shepherd of all. I have been making more of an effort to, not only read the Bible, but use some commentaries to try and understand the deeper meaning of what I'm reading. For this, I am extremely grateful to Christ for giving me the desire in my heart to study and grow in faith. I wish I was able to attend the Bible study group that Pastor Tom leads during the week, it sounds so much like a wonderful group to be with and discuss topics – and with Pastor Tom's guidance and knowledge, I know that it is interesting and valuable.

I am so grateful to God for leading Pastor Tom to us – we all have so much to learn while we are still in this life and he makes it understandable and enjoyable with his unique, joyful manner – and, of course, his seemingly unending supply of socks for every theme imaginable!

- Peggy Oxendine



## ONE PASTOR'S PASTORS

### David F. Cooper and Josephine Goodwin Cooper

I am a **"PK"**, a **Preacher's Kid**, and that means my first pastors were **my Dad, AND my Mom!** My Dad was the one with the seminary degree, but if pastors are shepherds who care for their flock, Mom and Dad were a team, caring for the Cooper boys and the churches they were together called to serve.

We all idolized my Dad, and 3 of us followed him into the ordained ministry, each with very different callings, however. And our younger brother accepted probably the hardest calling, becoming a Middle School teacher and Principle. But all of us learned about the God of Love and Grace revealed in the person of Jesus and experienced through the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ the Church, through the witness of **both** of our parents. My Dad was passionate about his calling to serve the Lord and the Church, and Mom loved Jesus and the Church just as much. And it was our Mom, a Social Worker, more so than my Dad, who encouraged us to seek vocations in the caring professions.

Although my brothers and I grew up as PKs, I suspect that the first pastors for most children are their parents, whether they are preachers or not.



Thank you Mom and Dad for loving us so much, for bringing us to the baptismal font and the table of Grace, and for raising us as beloved children of God in the family of God.

- Pastor Steve Cooper

### Appreciation for Pastor Richard C. Little

In the spring of 1991, I was encouraged to attend a special weekend that some of my fellow church members had attended—Via de Cristo. My Pastor at that time was Richard C. Little at Advent Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. Being new to the Lutheran faith, I had so many questions when I returned from the spirit filled weekend! Pastor Little took time and helped me to understand the grace and love of God through Jesus Christ. Pastor Little became my pebble in the stream of faith. He stirred the waters of belief and peace. I will always fall on the love and care that he showed to me as genuine and solid.

- Sherry Fowler

*Besides Pastor Tom, of course, another one of my pastors has made a huge impact on my life and on my faith. Like Pastor Tom, he is a true shepherd. His faith has always been exceptionally strong even when life brought many disasters and tragedies. Through them all he has staunchly held on to his incredible faith in his Lord and, as a result, has been a beacon of light to me as well as a source of strength during those times my own faith falters. I am truly thankful God brought him into my life!*

- Helena Bradford



# MUSIC NOTES

**“All God’s Critters got a place in the Choir!”**

What a great motto for our life in Christ. Specially created, uniquely gifted, we are all called by God to serve with grateful hearts!



I will sing and  
make melody  
to the LORD.

Psalm 27:6

MLLC has a place for YOU in the choir(s).

Ringers, singers, instrumentalists, and all musical explorers are invited to participate in our music ministry!

Handbell rehearsal will be held on  
Mondays at 6pm.

Choir rehearsal will be held on Mondays at 7pm.

Hoping to see you there!!!  
Blessings!

Gina

# Thank You



Margaret Balzano's daughter, Debbie, called to let us know how much Margaret appreciates all the cards and calls from the disciples of Martin Luther Church. She is doing well and continues to pray for the church!



## AUDIO-VISUAL

---team---

Martin Luther Church is searching for persons with Audio/Visual Technical experience to assist with our Sunday morning livestream.

This person(s) might be a student who may need service hours, someone who may need to refine their skills or someone with technical experience.

We are willing to pay a stipend for this service.

If you know of someone who might fit this calling, please contact us either by email ([mllc@knology.net](mailto:mllc@knology.net)) or phone (843 795-4855).

# 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

**Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10 AM —  
Tuesday Morning Respite  
Group**

**Oct 19 at 6 PM—Tuesday  
Support Group**

**Oct 6 and 20 at 10 AM—  
Wednesday Support Group**

**Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 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**

# COVID 19 PROTOCOLS

## MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH UPDATED COVID 19 PROTOCOLS

Congregational council met yesterday, Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. The main discussion centered around the rising counts of people infected and sick with covid or the variants of covid. For the safety and protection of all worshippers, council members agreed to make the following recommendations –

### EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Ushers, due to their personal interaction with worshippers, will wear masks;

Ushers will encourage all parishioners to wear masks, but not absolutely required;

There will be minimized personal touch;

Communion – we will not be coming forward to receive communion, instead everyone will remain in their pews and have their own communion kit (which are available when you enter the narthex);

Sharing the peace – by sign language only;

First Sunday of the Month Brunch – on hold until further notice;

**BOTTOM LINE – If you feel ill, STAY AT HOME.**

No council member is ‘joyful’ about these recommendations. However, we trust that our Lord is in charge, and, as your congregational council, we are following guidelines that we feel are in the best interest of the majority of our disciples for a safe worship experience.

On the positive side, we will still sing praises! We did not feel it was necessary for the choir to wear masks if they so choose – they are a very safe distance away from the congregation. We will also continue to record the service and put it live on Facebook.

With school just now starting back, we feel it is best to hold off on any youth activities in the building for a couple of months and see how things go with the numbers/cases.

Council members and church staff are doing everything we can to keep up with the latest information on this pandemic. News and information are all over the map – as they say – so we can only rely on God and our own common sense for what we believe is the right direction during this pandemic. Please keep all of us and this congregation in your prayers. We continue to meet monthly to review recommendations; our next meeting will be on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

# Focus in November



For the November Luther Lines, we will be creating a “Thanksgiving” video. In addition to using some of the stories in our Luther Lines, we will post the edited videos on our website! But, please, don’t wait for me to ask to video you and/or your family—reach out and volunteer to be videoed telling us what you are thankful for and how being thankful has changed your life! Thanks be to God! Sherry Fowler

## We’re On Facebook



### 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 Church.

We also have a Facebook Group. **Search for MLLC “All Is Good” Discussion Group.** We discuss devotional material, share prayers and keep lifting up each other!

Join us!!!



# BIBLE STUDY



The Martin Luther Church  
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY IS  
MEETING AGAIN 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!**



# FUN FOR YOUNG AND OLD



## GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

*Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.*

e 7 2 4 1 c j i 6 3 5  
 w 3 5 2 a s a 4 6 1  
 p y r a 1 4 2 3  
 e g v i 4 1 3 2  
 n n t a s k 2 4 1 3 6 5

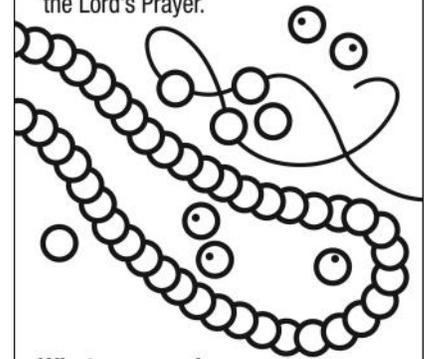
-----  
 -----  
 -----  
 continually,  
 -----  
 -----  
 in all circumstances; for this  
 is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answers: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

## Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



### What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

### What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver

## Your Generosity

We received two very special letters of thanks from Fort Johnson Baptist Church and Lutheran Services Carolinas for the gifts that were sent to them.

Dear Pastor Cassem,  
Thank you so much for the encouraging letter, the prayers of your people, and the generous gift towards the restoration efforts here at FJBC. I am overwhelmed by God's goodness through folks like you who have been so thoughtful and encouraging. Thank you so very much for your care and support!  
Marty Middleton  
Pastor

Dear Pastor Cassem and Congregation:  
Lutheran Services Carolinas greatly appreciates your contribution to Refugee Emergency Assistance. We strive every day to carry out LSC's mission, "Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve." Thank you for helping us do that every single day!  
*(The entire letter may be read on the bulletin board in the Narthex.)*  
Ted W. Goins, Jr.  
President

## PRAYERS



The family of James D. Bradley, JB Bradley's father, at his death on September 8.

Buddy Diffenderfer

Paul Bauersfeld

Joan Cunningham

Emily Schroeder

Bill & Leslie Carter

Don Rankin

Polly Sutton

Anna Harmon

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

Richard Carter

DeAnne Snider

Larry Miller

Whitney Greene

Luke Parnell

Jeri, Nicki, Zack and

Devon

Jamison Ford

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Luther Yon

Dwight and Susan Hartsell

Fran Williams

Stacia Brown

Rodney Fowler

Lucille Mullis

Michele Wallis

Fran Lingenfelter

Autumn Young

Trey Crayton

Johnny Hallman

Cyndie Hartsell

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Linda Miller

Betty and Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Carolyn and Linwood

Swittenberg

Mildred Woods

Eugene Alexander

Ned Vendrick

Darby Kress

Thomas Soyden

Eliza Cate Volousky

Wilma McLelland

Mark Danehey

Larry Alexander



Alissa Baker

Julie Phifer

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.



**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**OCTOBER**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Linda Sproles 10/6  
 Ryan Hamill 10/7  
 Peggy Oxendine 10/7  
 Brandt Armstrong 10/9  
 TJ Peterson 10/10  
 Bade Thomas 10/11  
 Sherry Fowler 10/12  
 Connie Baker 10/14  
 Evelyn Browne 10/23  
 Robin Richard 10/25  
 Jack Cooper 10/25  
 Carley Congdon 10/26  
 Al Hoover 10/28  
 Edna Mariorenzi 10/29  
 Ursel Harmon 10/31

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Robin & Marty Richard 10/16  
 Edna & Bill Mariorenzi 10/21  
 Judy & Carl Simmons 10/25

**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  
 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

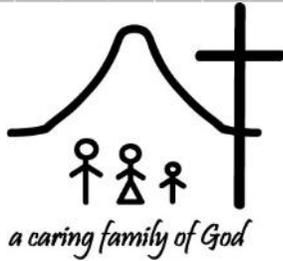
**ANNIVERSARIES**

Amanda & Josef Burke 11/13  
 Beverly & Jerry Weed 11/21  
 Lynn & Steve Shaddrix 11/27

**Worship Assistants for October**

OCTOBER 2021

	<b>Lesson Reader</b>	<b>Prayer Leader</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>CPOD</b>	<b>Usher</b>
10/3	Judy Simmons	Judy Simmons	Lynn S	Peggy	Jimmy Knight and Ricky Suggs
10/10	Laura J	Laura J	Torren	Laura	Jim Swittenberg and Rick Beruf
10/17	Lynn S	Lynn S	Sherry	Peggy	Richard Fowler and Wayne Rimer
10/24	Mary Lou	Mary Lou	Melena	Mary Lou	Jimmy Knight and Al Hoover
10/31	Heidi Frear	Heidi Frear	Sherry	Heidi	Richard Fowler and Gary Frear



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.