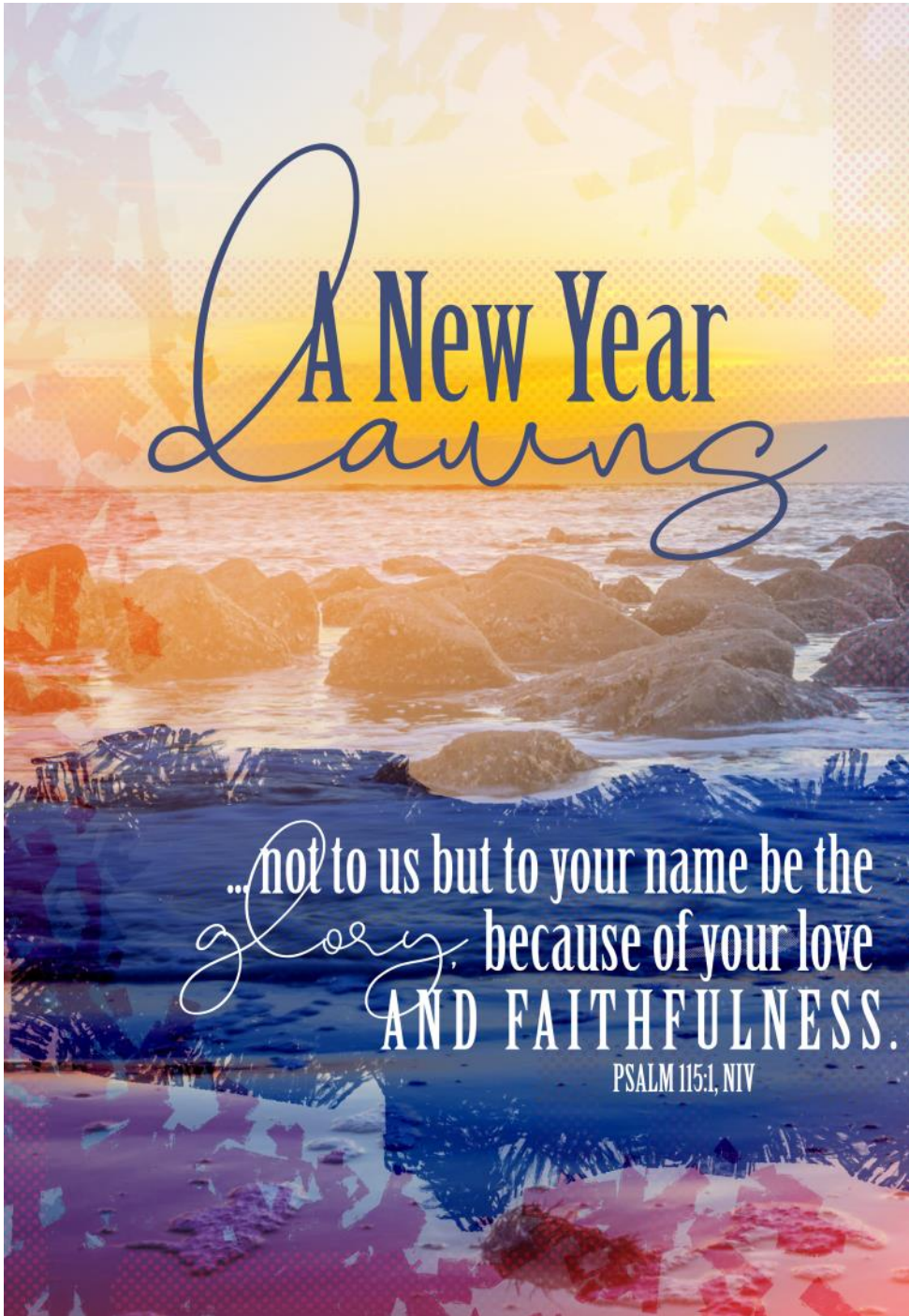


MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

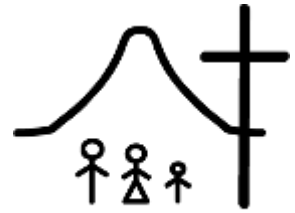
JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 JANUARY 2025



A New Year
Laurel

...not to us but to your name be the
glory, because of your love
AND FAITHFULNESS.

PSALM 115:1, NIV



a caring family of God

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.

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Happy New Year!

“May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” Psalm 20:4

What beautiful words the Psalmist shares with us, as we start off the new year. Of course, we each have personal desires we want to succeed at in 2025. Yet, how often do we turn our desires over to God. Most of us, most of the time, don't give much thought to our desires, and just let life play itself out. We do this because it takes work to identify what our heart desires, and it is really hard work be persistent until we succeed.

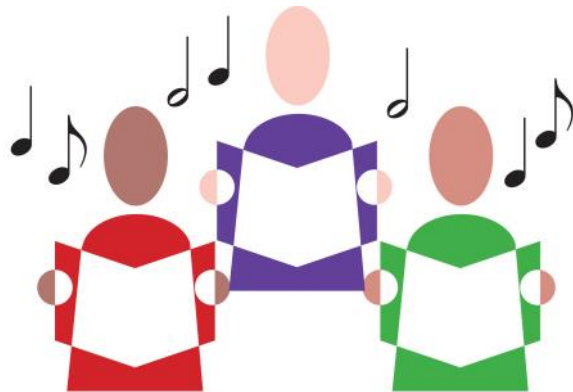
When we don't identify our hearts desire we never know if we're successful or not. Also, we completely dismiss the power of God's desire to be in our lives.

This got me thinking about Martin Luther and the future of the only Lutheran church on James Island. What does God have in store for our congregation? How will it impact me? What will be expected from me?

These are normal thoughts that pop up whenever transition presents itself, yet we have a choice in how to process and them; fear or faith. Through the 'lens of fear' we are overcome with doubt and become passive or indifferent to the process. Yet, through the lens of faith, we trust that we are not and have never been alone in this journey. We have a partner in Christ, that only wants our plans to succeed.

That being said, the work of church council is to ponder the questions: Who is this congregation known as Martin Luther? What is the collective desire of the heart of Martin Luther LC for its congregation members, the ministries that use our building, the community of James Island, and the SC Synod? Being called to serve God in this community is a blessing and honor, and I trust God has a plan us. Therefore, we can confidently move forward in faith, trusting the creator want us to succeed in our hearts desire. I invite you to join me and your church council on this wonderful journey to prepare the path to receive the future God is preparing for Martin Luther. Your prayers are coveted, your generosity of time, talent and treasure is appreciated, and may ALL glory be to God.

Blessings & Love,
Pastor Kathleen



Music Ministry

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

As we begin the new year, I find comfort in these words. We face so many unknowns...personally, professionally and as a church body. But we trust Emmanuel, God with us.

What will our choir look like in the coming year? It looks different than it did a year ago. (We need more voices!) And what about bells? (We welcome more ringers!)

Please pray for our choirs, personally and collectively! God knows our needs. He hears our prayers and promises good for our future! Please Consider your place in the choir(s). Is God calling you to sing? To ring?

May God's good blessings of peace and love and joy and hope be with you all in this New Year! God will do a new thing and each of us has a part in it!

Yours in Christ,
Gina

PS...Thank you so much for all the wonderful kindnesses and gifts shared with me at Christmas! It is truly an honor to be here with you at MLLC!

Bill's Writings

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was among us. Who was the Word? It is stated in the Holy Bible that He is the One that sits at the right hand of the Father, the Creator of all. The Word refers to the Son of God. We will meet Him on the Day of Judgement when all will be judged at the end of time. Everyone will learn that He is also called The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords. As the years unfolded with humans being humans, there was a need for a savior – enter Jesus Christ, the baby Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Through His lifetime this Lamb of God suffered for His sheep (us) as He was the Good Shepherd who cared and protected His sheep. This beloved Son, the Redeemer laid down His life so that we may live. He is the Tree of Life and we are the branches. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Without Him we do not exist. He is known by many names. He is worthy of our love, so let's show Him how much we love Him by being obedient and live a godly life. It's a New Year and a New Day. Let's all live in the Light. - Bill Mariorenzi

Why go to Church?

If you go to church looking to become offended, you'll succeed.

If you go to church looking for places where people fall short, you'll find them.

If you go to church looking for imperfection, you'll see it.

But if you go to church looking for an opportunity to worship alongside broken people (just like you), you'll find it.

If you go to church looking for a place to serve, you'll find one.

If you go to church to love people like Jesus, you can.

10 out of 10 times ... you will find what you're looking for.

LOOK FOR JESUS!



The Ministry of Maria Namie

Mention “Neighbors Together” and
we all think of
Maria Namie.

Maria has served this ministry in
North Charleston for over 24
years.

In recognition of her Remarkable
Legacy, the Pantry was dedicated
in Her Name! The Maria Namie
Client Choice Pantry.

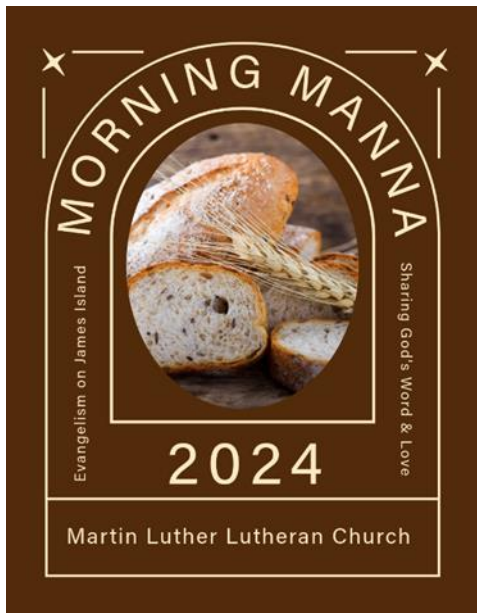
We love you, Maria!!!



Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will meet on January 8th at 11 AM at Martin Luther Church and each Wednesday in the remainder of January. God's people join together for a one hour Bible Study using the Daily Discipleship as their guide. Maybe you hit the mid-week slump like so many of us do and we need a little boost to help us walk upright again. We have the perfect place for you! This Bible Study is all engaging and everyone learns something new each week! Come join us!

Morning Manna



Guess what MLLC! Morning Manna has celebrated it's one year anniversary. We can't thank everyone enough for their time and donations throughout the year!

Our mission continues to be to sharing the Love & Word of God with those who serve our community. Our Island is approximately nine miles long and seven miles wide. There are many, many people who serve our community day in and day out. Fire fighters, Bankers, Teachers, Administrators, James Island Outreach Volunteers & Staff, Town Council & Employees, Police Officers, Nurses, Doctors, Store Clerks, DNR, EMS ... the list goes on and on.

Saying thank you for service and sharing a reminder of how special God makes each one of us can completely change someone's day, week, month or maybe even year. As we act out of gratitude towards our community, we are showing the side of Christianity that doesn't get nearly the exposure it should. The side of what we believe is acting as the hands and feet of Jesus.

We have no way of knowing what any one person's circumstance is when we take these meals. They could have no cares in the world or they could have all the cares in the world, but it is our chance to shine God's love and say regardless of where you are, God sees you and deeply loves you!

Our Thanksgiving Blessing Box Blitz was another huge success. Although it wasn't served directly to any one person, and was not technically a morning manna, it was manna for sure! With all of the monetary donations, left over funds from our pervious Thrivent grant and meal bags that came in already completed; we had 32 meals available in blessing box locations all over James Island. Just think! If each bag fed 4 people, that is 128 people and possibly more.

These things would never happen without the loving hearts of our congregation. Even congregation members who already serve in other ways to our community and tri-county area still selflessly give to our local mission. This is what makes us a family. This is literally our Mission Statement, we are sent out in service to share God's love!

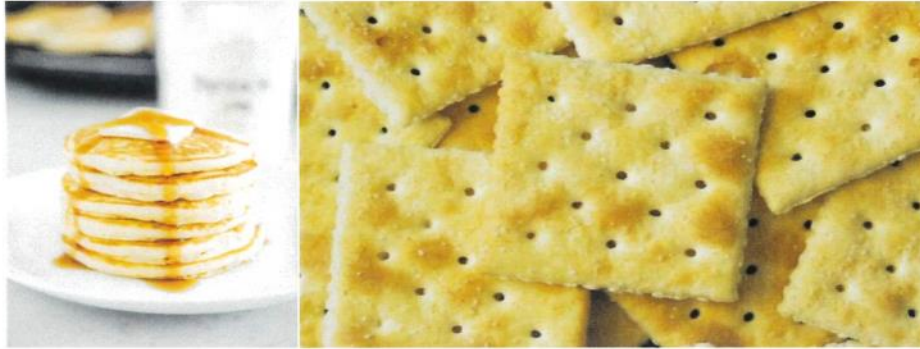
All of this to say, there aren't enough HUGS and THANKYOU'S that we could send out for the small success' of Living out God's Word through Jesus' command. Love Thy Neighbor!

Looking forward to 2025!

With gratitude, Laura Jordan

James Island Outreach

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS
THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH



FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

Hurricane Cleanup

Lutheridge and Lutherock are offering opportunities for anyone 18 and older to help in the Western NC cleanup and restoration of the area from the devastating hurricane Helene. See the QR code on this page to see the dates available. Please see Tracey Arthur if you are interested in joining this group.



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!!!

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK LIVE AND ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL (MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH CHARLESTON). JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AT 9 AM FOR THE LIVESTREAMING OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE FROM MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH.

RESPITE CARE CHARLESTON

Upcoming Respite Care Charleston Support Group Meetings at MLLC

10 AM — Tuesday Morning Respite Group

6:30 PM— Tuesday Caregiver Support Group Online

10 AM—Wednesday Caregiver Support Group 2nd and 4th Wednesday

10 AM—Wednesday Early Memory Loss 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

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

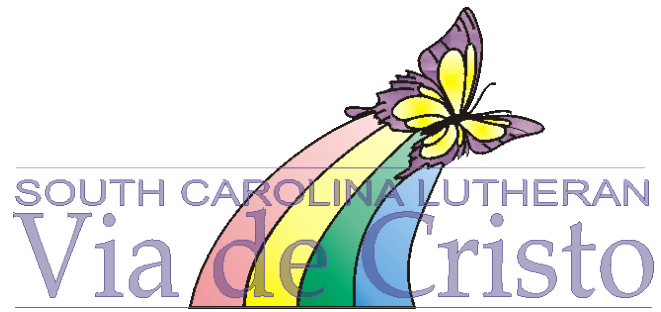
843-276-2840

www.TriCountyVeteransSupportNetwork.org

BLESSING BOX

The MLLC Cub Scouts designed and mounted a Blessings Box to assist the hungry in our midst. The older Boy Scouts and Martin Luther Church Disciples 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.



next Spring

Could your spiritual journey use a tune up? Have you sensed a calling into a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior?

Through a partnership between Pastors and Lay Leaders with full reliance on prayer and the Holy Spirit, the SC Lutheran Via de Cristo has been helping people to enrich their relations with Jesus for MANY years.

The SC Via de Cristo Community invites you to “Come and See”

**Dates for next weekend event is
March 27-30, 2025**

For more information, visit www.scviadecristo.org or any one of the following people. We would be thrilled to sponsor you to attend a weekend; Sherry and/or Richard Fowler, Gina Shuey, Laura Jordan, Peggy Oxendine, Wayne Rimer, Joni Suggs, and Julie Carter. Just ask!!!!

PRAYERS



Aaron Armstrong

Janice Knight

Carl Simmons

Polly Sutton

Maria Namie

Mary Baldwin

Brenda Burke

Margaret Balzano

Claire Diffenderfer

Myrl Kluge

Joe and Linda Sproles

Pat Ludwig

Henry

Michelle Brooks

Gerry Wegmann

Carter Ketchum

Evan McMillan

Debbie Wilson

Patricia Davis

Jimmy Davis

Ben Reep

Martha and Jimmy Stone

Matt Tiller

Wendy Thomas

Pastor Russell Seabright

Mike Shuey

Debby Epley

Kai Shuey

Jean Chesno

Collin Foster

Janice Lussier

Jeffrey Young

Autumn Young

Dolores Dukes

Alex Stelmachers

Dale Navarrette

Chloe Spitzer

Denise Dinking

Katie Carrole

Nancy Schwartz

Linda Miller

Sara Perry

Melina Watson

B.T. Bouton

Debbie Wilson

Corporal Lucas Watts

Julie Zerbst

Elizabeth Burgess

Robert Mallard

Steve Leasure

Bobbi Butler

Caren Clark

Luke Rankin

Joe Coates

Eric Wohltman

Robert Suarez

Jacob DuPree

Fran Lingenfelter

Trey Crayton

Johnny Hallman

Cyndie Hartsell

Marc Bennett

Patty Langella

Yvonne Thompson

Peyton Sullivan

Mary Stevens

Joyce Salters

Mark Hair

Annie Flanders

Roger Nelson

Connie and Walt Wurster

Anita Sloan

Larry Miller

Mary Stevens

Dwight Hartsell

Fran Williams

Rusty Sims

Alice Vendrick

Mary Ann Graff

Paulwyn Boliek

Will Coleman

Ramona Horres

Becky Cook

Sherry Cook

Ned Vendrick

Ann Smith





BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Hamill 1/03
 Margaret Balzano 1/06
 Sammie Burke 1/13
 Jim Tuten 1/15
 Ralph McLaughlin 1/16
 Beverly Weed 1/19
 Madeline Gillette 1/21
 Carl Simmons 1/26
 Brooke-Lynn Burke 1/31

BIRTHDAYS

Janice Knight 2/02
 Adelaide McKeithan 2/07
 Matt Rimer 2/09
 Melena Snider 2/10
 Mary Baldwin 2/18
 Mikalynn Burke 2/21

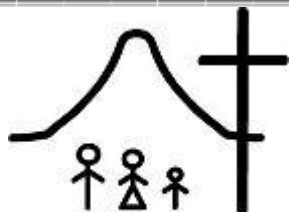
ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Beth & Jim Brennan 2/14



JANUARY

DATE	Lesson and Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher
Jan 5	Kathy Swittenberg	Laura Jordan	Linda Leone	Wayne Rimer
Jan 12	Judy Simmons	Maria Namie	Joni Suggs	Jimmy Knight
Jan 19	Jim Swittenberg	Sherry Fowler	Sherry Fowler	Jim Swittenberg
Jan 26	Ada Arthur	Lynn Shaddrix	Nancy Haynsworth	Brandt Armstrong



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”**

STAFF AND CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

STAFF

Interim Pastor

Rev. Kathleen Miko

Director of

Congregational Ministries

Sherry Fowler

Director of Music

Gina Shuey

Office Hours are

Monday—Friday

9 AM to Noon

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers

President—

Nancy Haynsworth

Vice President—

Sherry Fowler

Secretary—

VACANT

Treasurer—

Linda Leone

Financial Secretary—

Vacant

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Worship Team Leader—

Brenda Burke

Service Team Leader—

Vacant

Evangelism Team Leader—

Laura Jordan

Learning Team Leader—

Vacant

Congregational Care Team

Leader—Joni Suggs

Property Team Leader—

Vacant

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.*