

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 DECEMBER 2024



WELCOME
OUR NEW
PASTOR



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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WELCOME Pastor Kathleen Miko

We are delighted to welcome Pastor Kathleen Miko as our Interim Pastor. Pastor Kathleen begins her official duties here at Martin Luther Church on Sunday, December 1, 2024. The SC Synod appointed Pastor Kathleen to be with us until we call a Part-time / Full-time Pastor.

Please join us on Sunday, December 1, immediately following the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting for our “Meet Pastor Kathleen” Brunch. Bring your favorite brunch foods and share some time with your church family. The beverages and paper products will be provided.



ADVENT

A Season of Preparation

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS AT 7 PM

Join Martin Luther 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 Martin Luther on December 4, 11 AND 18.

Christmas Eve Service

Martin Luther at 5 PM



“Advent” means coming. In the Christian church, it refers to a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. (<http://www.britannica.com>)

We prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus through worship, prayer, reflection and meditation. It is a season of waiting and watching. In church, we counter the norms of society. We take a more deliberate, thoughtful approach to Christmas.

This year, we will decorate our sanctuary in weekly steps. The first Sunday of Advent, you will find our blue paraments and the Advent wreath with one candle to light. (We add a candle each of the four Sundays to remind us of the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.) Week two, the bare tree will go up. Week three, the tree lights will be turned on and the Chrismons will be added for the fourth week. On Christmas Eve, the sanctuary will be transformed to Christmas in all its glory! (Red poinsettias, white paraments, etc.) There are two Sundays of Christmas in the church calendar this year, so we will keep our decorations through worship on Jan. 5.

As we watch and wait, we will enjoy the sense of “building” toward Christmas; not in a hurried, stressful way, but with ease as we draw nearer and nearer to God’s perfect gift to us: Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 for “Holden Evening Prayer”. This beautiful, simple service offers respite from the busy-ness of the secular season. It is a time set apart to be still, to worship, and pray as we journey through this Advent season.

Gina

Morning Manna

As part of the MLLC Evangelism Quarterly meals, we (Laura Jordan, Kathy Swittenberg and Sherry Fowler) delivered food items to James Island Outreach for their volunteers and staff. Thank you so much Laura Jordan for developing this caring outreach!



Thanksgiving Blessings

Thank you to EVERYONE at Martin Luther Church for so generously blessing those visiting the Blessing Boxes on James Island.



We had 32 Thanksgiving Bags that were placed all over James Island! Thank you to Laura Jordan and MLLC for this wonderful outpouring of love.



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 for the Fourth Season of this amazing series.

Poinsettias

Poinsettia Order Form



Please use this form to order Christmas Poinsettias for this Christmas season. Return form and your check (payable to Martin Luther Church) to the church office or place in offering plate. Those remembered will be listed in the bulletin insert on Christmas Eve.

Your Name: _____

Your phone number: _____

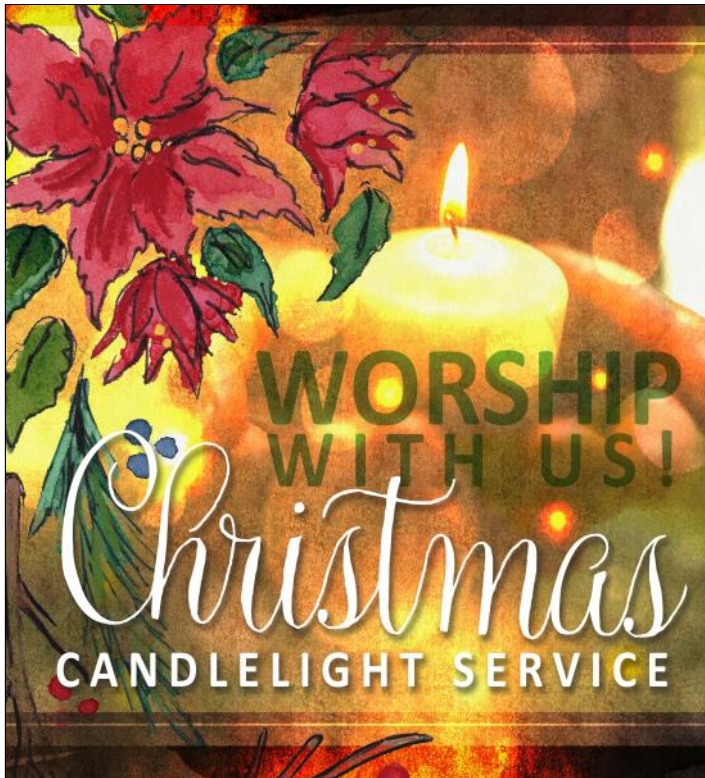
Number of plants at \$15.00 each: _____

Given to the Glory of God and in MEMORY of

Or in HONOR of: _____

By: _____

Please return your order form to the church office no later than
Sunday, December 15.



Our Christmas
Eve Worship
Service will be
held on Tuesday,
December 24th
at 5 PM. Come
and meet the
Christ Child in all of His Glory!!

Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will NOT meet during the month of December. They will join together after the first of the year. The next Wednesday Bible Study will meet on January 8th at 11 AM at Martin Luther Church. 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!

Ichthys



"And [Jesus] said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

You have likely seen the "Jesus Fish" on vehicles as a decal or bumper sticker, maybe even with the Greek letters "ΙΧΘΥΣ" meaning Ichthys. We usually recognize this symbol as a Christian emblem but where did it come from?

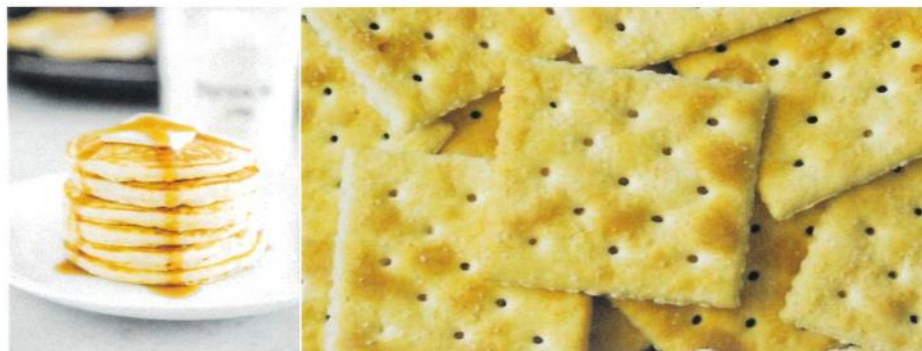
Origin of the 'Jesus Fish' - The first appearances of the Ichthys (Christian fish symbol) date to the 2nd century in Christian art and literature. The symbol's use among Christians had become prevalent by the late 2nd century and spread widely in the 3rd and 4th centuries. In early Christian history, the Ichthys symbol held "the most sacred significance," and Christians utilized it to identify churches and other believers during a period of persecution in the Roman Empire.

We are always looking for things in nature that connect us with God — a sunrise or sunset, a bluebird or cardinal, a beautiful flower or tree. This "fish" symbol is somewhere on our church grounds. See if you can find it and if you can't, just look to the cross.



James Island Outreach

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH IS
THE CRACKERS AND PANCAKE MIX CHURCH



FOR JAMES ISLAND OUTREACH

Hurricane Cleanup

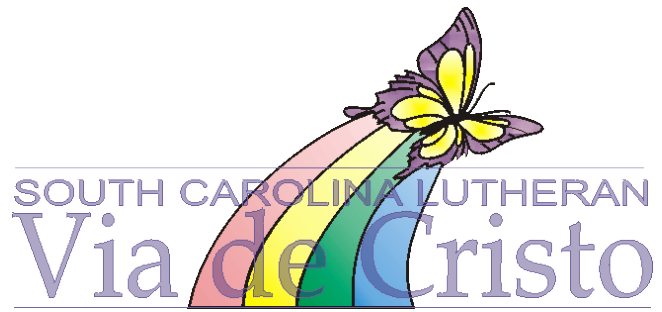
Lutheridge and Lutherock are offering opportunities for anyone 18 and older to help in the Western NC cleanup and restoration of the area from the devastating hurricane Helene. See the QR code on this page to see the dates available. Please see Tracey Arthur if you are interested in joining this group.



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!!!!

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

The Gifts of Giving

When I was young, I was taught that a baby named Jesus was being born into this world to give us hope for our future. At the same time, a man named Santa was coming to town. If we were good, gifts of all kinds would be given to us. In time the baby and the Man would grow older. The old man named Santa was giving gifts of all kinds for all of us. Later we found out the presents that we got were given by people that loved us. Now what about the man named Jesus? He also gave gifts that we liked. First of all, he gave us his love as well as his friendship and free will. He also taught us how to pray. He offered us eternal life that is given to anyone that wants it. Along with spiritual growth, this man named Jesus gives forgiveness to all believers. Great gifts from both of them! I wonder, can't we have both. Into this season of giving, let us all be thankful for what is given to us. So be safe, have fun and when it comes have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill Mariorenzi

At the center of Christmas is Jesus, both fully God and fully man. "In Bethlehem, humility and glory in their extremes were joined," wrote pastor R.G. Lee (1886-1978). When Jesus came to earth, Lee explained, he descended:

- from the heights of glory to the depths of shame,
- from the wonders of heaven to the wickedness of earth,
- from exaltation to humiliation,
- from the throne to the tree,
- from dignity to debasement,
- from worship to wrath,
- from the halls of heaven to the nails of earth,
- from the coronation to the curse,
- from the glory place to the gory place!

•
"Born in a stable! Cradled in a cattle trough! Wrapped in swaddling clothes of poverty!" Lee wrote. "No room for him who made all rooms! [No] place for him who made and knows all places! Oh, deep humiliation of the Creator — born of the creature, woman! But in his descent was the dawn of mercy. Because we cannot ascend to him, he descends to us."

- from NewsletterNewsletter

PRAYERS



The family of Buddy
Diffenderfer at his death on
October 23.

Aaron Armstrong

Janice Knight

Carl Simmons

Polly Sutton

Maria Namie

Mary Baldwin

Brenda Burke

Margaret Balzano

Claire Diffenderfer

Myrl Kluge

Joe and Linda Sproles

Carter Ketchum

Evan McMillan

Debbie Wilson

Patricia Davis

Jimmy Davis

Ben Reep

Martha and Jimmy Stone

Matt Tiller

Wendy Thomas

Pastor Russell Seabright

Amiliah Dreame

Aven Elize

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

Marty Richard 12/01
 JB Bradley 12/01
 Polly Sutton 12/04
 Aaron Armstrong 12/05
 Haley Swittenberg 12/07
 Laura Richard 12/15
 Greta Waters 12/18
 Joyce Guffin 12/23
 Joni Suggs 12/28
 Steve Shaddrix 12/29

BIRTHDAYS

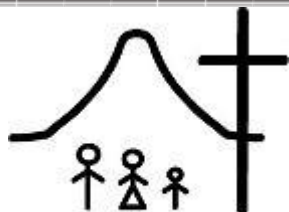
Jacob Hamill 1/03
 Margaret Balzano 1/06
 Sammie Burke 1/13
 Jim Tuten 1/15
 Ralph McLaughlin 1/16
 Beverly Weed 1/19
 Madeline Gillette 1/21
 Carl Simmons 1/26
 Brooke-Lynn Burke 1/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & Bruce Carter 12/18
 Marcia & Russell LaFrance 12/24



| DATE | Lesson and Prayer | Communion | CPOD | Usher |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Leader | Assistant | | |
| Dec 1 | Judy Simmons | Maria Namie | Joni Suggs | Ricky Suggs |
| Dec 8 | Laura Jordan | Addie McKeithan | Laura Jordan | Wayne Rimer |
| Dec 15 | Kathy Swittenberg | Tracey Arthur | Sherry Fowler | Jim Swittenberg |
| Dec 22 | Lynn Shaddrix | Lynn Shaddrix | Linda Leone | Brandt Armstrong |
| Dec 24 | TBD | | | |
| Dec 29 | Sherry Fowler | Lynn Shaddrix | Nancy Haynsworth | Brandt A. |



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

| <u>STAFF</u> | <u>CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL</u> | <u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u> | SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST: |
|--|--|--|---|
| Interim Pastor Rev. Kathleen Miko | <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> <i>Vacant</i> | <i>Worship Team Leader—</i> Brenda Burke <i>Service Team Leader—</i> Vacant <i>Evangelism Team Leader—</i> <i>Laura Jordan</i> <i>Learning Team Leader—</i> Vacant <i>Congregational Care Team Leader—</i> Joni Suggs <i>Property Team Leader—</i> Vacant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Martin Luther Church is the only ELCA Congregation on James Island</i>• <i>Martin Luther Church was organized on February 5, 1961.</i>• <i>273 Disciples call Martin Luther Church their home church.</i>• <i>Eight Pastors have shepherded Martin Luther disciples since its organization.</i> |
| Director of Congregational Ministries Sherry Fowler | | | |
| Director of Music Gina Shuey | | | |
| Office Hours are Monday—Friday 9 AM to Noon | | | |