

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 FEBRUARY 2025



MLLC's Mission Statement

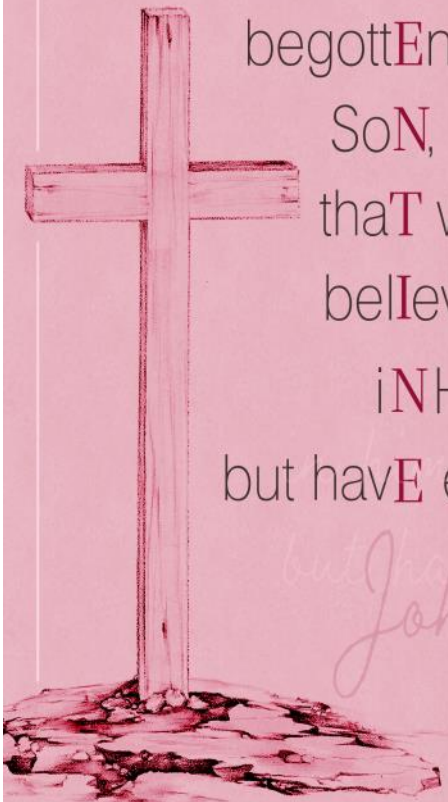
We are a caring family of God brought together by grace and nourished by the Word.

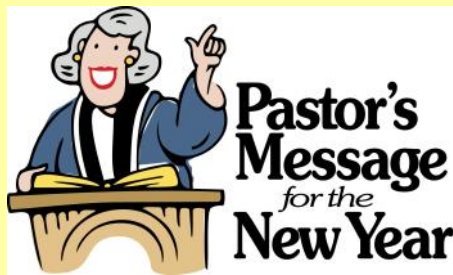
Led by the Spirit, we are sent out in service to share God's love.

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For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIEves
iNHim should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

John 3:16, NKJV





God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness.” —Genesis 1:26

WOW! Image and likeness of God... Every time I read, hear, or ponder the above words of Genesis it reminds me to take a better look at myself, others, and all of creation.

For a few years now, I have enjoyed receiving email devotions from The Center for Action and Contemplation - “Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations.” I find that Father Richard and other theologians from this group share Christ’s message in a style that has touched my heart, so much so that I’d like to share one with you.

Father Richard Rohr, reflecting on Genesis 1:26 locates our essential goodness in being created in the image and likeness of God:

“Centuries of Christian theology confirm that the “image” described in Genesis refers to our eternal essence in God which cannot be increased or decreased. It is the soul’s objective union with God. We (and every other created thing) begin with a divine DNA, an inner destiny as it were, a blueprint tucked away in the cellar of our being, that begs to be allowed, to be fulfilled, and to show itself. “It is the Holy Spirit poured into your heart, and it has been given to you” (Romans 5:5).

My “I am” is merely a further breathing forth of the eternal and perfect “I Am Who Am” of the Creator (Exodus 3:14). This “beingness” precedes all doing. I am loved—or better, I am love—before I do anything right or wrong, worthy or unworthy. To put it philosophically, ontology precedes morality. The divine indwelling is a gratuitous gift, standing presence, and guarantee. We are the containers, temples, and recipients of this gift. In a certain sense, it had nothing to do with us. Yet it is our own inherent and irrevocable dignity. I call it the True Self, an immortal, imperishable diamond. Without doubt, this is our “original blessing.”

The indwelling divine image moves toward fulfillment in each of us throughout our lifetimes. “Likeness” refers to our personal and unique embodiment of that inner divine image. It is our gradual realization of this gift. We all have the same objective gift, but different ways of saying yes and consenting to it. There are as many ways to manifest God as there are beings in the universe. Our personal and collective embodiments reveal aspects of the sacred through our personhood, relationships, fields of work and study, culture, economy, politics, and justice. Though we differ in likeness, the image of God (*imago Dei*) persists and shines through all created things.”

Let the image of Christ, which is in you, SHINE!! If you liked Father Richard Rohr’s meditation, check out <https://cac.org> – the cost is free.

Blessings & Peace
Pastor Kathleen



Music Ministry

Light. Justice. Inclusivity. These are themes we will explore and sing about in February. Christ is our light, shining in the darkness that tries to prevail. Christ calls us to follow him, to work for justice and peace in this world. God welcomes all and may surprise us with his blessings!

We will learn a new hymn this month from the ELW.
"Light Dawns on a Weary World" #726

The refrain is based on *Isaiah 55:12*

*You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace,
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.*

Listen for the tune to be introduced as the prelude on February 9 & 16. (You could look it up in the hymnal and follow along while listening to the melody!) We will sing it as the Hymn of the Day on Feb 16 and it will be our sending hymn on Feb 23.

I pray that God will touch our hearts through this joyful new song of light, love and hope!

Blessings!

Gina

Bill's Writings

HEAVEN AWAITS YOU

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God (love). God, I wonder, why did you create the earth? I mean with vast mountain ranges, and with unbelievable beautiful scenery, seas with marine life and land with mammals of all kinds. With creation came man. Later woman. Oh, the happiness. Why, Lord, why? God you are awesome, you made this wonderworld for us to enjoy. Thank you. If that is not love, then search me. But why all this if you can't figure it out—it's love, God's Love. He made this huge planet for us to enjoy. What about this place called heaven? Want to go there? To tell you the truth, if I had no arms and my mouth didn't work, I would find a way of saying yes. Is it that easy? NO. First believing Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the cross for our sin. Ask Him to forgive us. You better believe it. To get to heaven is by invitation, trusting in Jesus death and resurrection, reconciles believers with God and Eternal life. You will have salvation upon your forgiveness. God will gather all His people and He will keep His Word. Heaven Awaits You. Try to make you understand, if you are faithful look what awaits you—Heaven. When time is no more let's all go home.

But God demonstrates
his own love
for us in this:
While we were
still sinners,
Christ died
FOR US.
Romans 5:8, NIV

5 things

Five things you need to pray for on a daily basis.

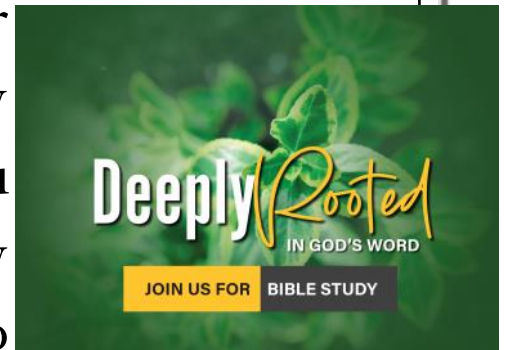
1. **Pray for love.** Lord, help me to love as You have commanded me to love.
2. **Pray for peace.** Father, surround me with the peace only you provide.
3. **Pray for guidance.** God, lead me where you want me to go by your Holy Spirit.
4. **Pray for forgiveness.** Lord, if I've sinned against you, please forgive me.
5. **Pray for faith.** Father, help me to believe that you will provide for my needs.

If you need this, save it and pass it on to your friends.

Thanks to Ada Arthur for submitting this reminder.

Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will meet at 11 AM at Martin Luther Church each Wednesday. 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!



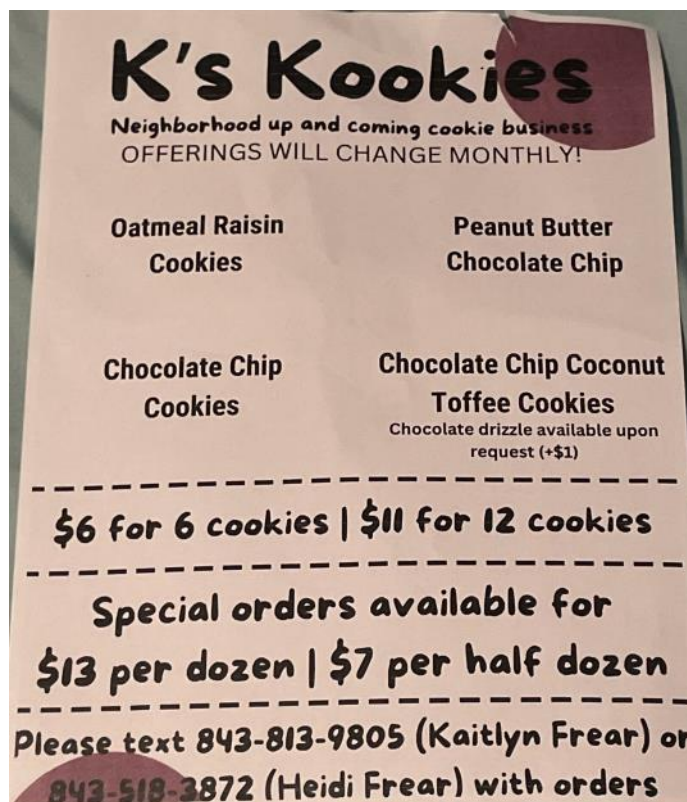
Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are now \$82.00 [for 2 arrangements] for each Sunday. This is an increase passed on from the Florist. Whenever we have no sign up for the flowers, we will use our lovely peace lilies on the altar.

Brunch on Feb. 16

Some of the MLLC Disciples have been reading “*The Unstuck Church*”, as per Pastor Kathleen’s request. *We would like to share our findings and our thoughts about the book with everyone on Sunday, February 16 at a Brunch following the Worship Service.* You bring the food and we will provide the beverages and paper products. Please plan to join us!

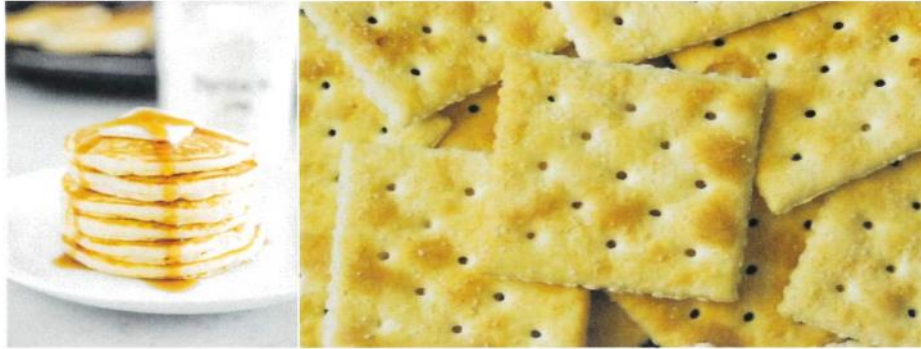
Kaitlyn’s new Kookie business



You Go,
 Kaitlyn!!!
 We are
 proud of
 you!

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 Fall

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 September 25—28

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



The family of Jeffery Young
(Andy Young's brother) at his
death.

Aaron Armstrong
Connie Gibson
Emily Schroeder
Carl Simmons
Polly Sutton
Maria Namie
Mary Baldwin
Brenda Burke
Margaret Balzano
Claire Diffenderfer
Myrl Kluge
Joe and Linda Sproles

Autumn Young
Boose Sims
Dale Peek
Korky Dunn
Lora Ullery
Linda Wells
Pat Ludwig
Michelle Brooks
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
Jean Chesno
Collin Foster
Janice Lussier
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

**OUR PRAYER LIST HAS
GROWN VERY LARGE.
THE LIST WILL BE
CLEARED NEXT MONTH
AND ONLY THOSE WITH
IMMEDIATE NEEDS WILL
BE LISTED. PLEASE
CONTACT THE CHURCH
AND GIVE US UPDATES.**



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

BIRTHDAYS

Caitlin Donaldson 3/05
 Will Waters 3 / 7
 Linda Armstrong 3 / 8
 Elisabeth Diffenderfer 3 / 19
 Judy Simmons 3 / 26
 Richard Fowler 3 / 27

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Beth & Jim Brennan 2/14

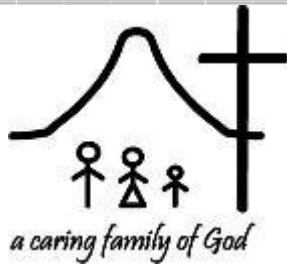
ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Joe Sproles 3/1



FEBRUARY

DATE	Lesson and Prayer Leader	Communion Assistant	CPOD	Usher
Feb 2	Lynn Shaddrix	Maria Namie	Joni Suggs	Ricky Suggs
Feb 9	Laura Jordan	Addie McKeithan	Laura Jordan	Wayne Rimer
Feb 16	Kathy Swittenberg	Tracey Arthur	Sherry Fowler	Jim Swittenberg
Feb 23	Peggy Oxendine	Lynn Shaddrix	Linda Leone	Brandt Armstrong



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.*