

The Luther Memorial News

January 2018

*We are a
Reconciling in Christ Congregation.*

*A community committed to making
Christ's disciples, dedicated to worship,
study and prayer while serving all in need.*

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FROM OUR PASTOR...

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that a major emphasis for our congregation in the coming year is to create a welcoming climate at Luther Memorial when new people visit with us. That begins with each of us. There is no better ad for Luther Memorial than you. We try to get the word out regarding our programs and ministries via our website and social media, but that only gets people in the door.

The critical factor in determining whether folks are excited about a congregation is what they experience when they visit. Is the worship substantive and rich? Is the facility welcoming? Is the congregation engaged in the community? All of these are questions which people ask, but nothing is more important than feeling that this community is interested in welcoming me and my gifts.

One way we create that sense of welcome is by deliberately creating opportunities for fellowship. Our Evangelism committee is trying to ensure that each week there is some sort of refreshments for members and visitors to share. We will have a standing order at Carol Lee's. If you would like to pick up the donuts you can indicate that on a sign-up sheet.

For the past few months we have been experimenting with a monthly brunch. We are going to make that a regular part of our monthly schedule. We will all bring food, but there will be a need for folks to do the basic setup. Again, you can sign up to help.

I invite you to think about how you can make Luther Memorial an exciting, supportive place for our members and a welcoming community for those who visit with us.



MEETINGS IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2018

Church Council Meeting, January 21 @ 7:00pm. in the Parish Life Center.

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**The Staff at Luther Memorial
Wishes You and Your Family a
Blessed and Happy New Year!**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: On Monday December 25th and Monday, January 1st the church office will be closed in observance of Christmas Day and New Years Day.

JANUARY BRUNCH IS A LUNCH AND LEARN

The first LMLC brunch of the New Year will be on January 14th. It will be a "Lunch and Learn." Representatives of Lutheran Family Services will be with us to share a little bit about the ministries which our congregation supports through our budget and special offerings. The brunch will be immediately following worship. Plan to bring a dish to share and a curious mind.

LUTHER FORUM BEGINS NEW MODULE

The Luther Forum class begins a new module in January using *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to be a Christian in the 21st Century*, a collections of essays by theologian Marcus Borg. Borg challenges Christians to think in new ways and find fresh language to convey the timeless gospel. Join us for this always stimulating group, beginning January 7, 9:00, in the campus center.

UN-DECORATING THE CHRISMON TREE - January 7th Following the 10:00am worship service we will take down the Chrismon Tree. If you are able to help, please plan to join us.

THE 2018 FLOWER CHART has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Narthex. If you would like to provide the altar flowers for one of our Sunday services, please sign up as the spaces go quickly. If you would like to order through the church, the orders will be placed with Angle's Florist in Christiansburg. If you choose to go with a florist other than Angle's, please contact Sharon Walker in the church office so that Angle's will not prepare an arrangement. Contact your florist with the date the flowers will be needed and the type of arrangement you would like. Let them know that they can deliver the flowers to the church on the Friday prior to the Sunday that the flowers will be in the Sanctuary.



NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS FOR LUTHER'S LUNCH AT 12:05PM. Your time commitment will be minimal 11:30am -1:30pm. This ministry helps the food insecure members of the community with a simple meal. Please contact Teresa Cassell if you are interested in signing up to help. teresa.cassell@comcast.net

YOU CAN HELP WELCOME OUR VISITORS.

The Evangelism Committee is working make our visitors feel welcome. Here are a few ways you can help LMLC extend hospitality to those who visit:

- Wearing our name tags makes it easier for visitors to communicate with us. So pick yours up and put it on.
- We ask you to greet our visitors warmly. Nothing is more important in creating a positive experience for visitors than having a one-to-one encounter with someone who can answer questions and make them feel at ease.
- When you greet our visitors, be sure to invite them to join us after the service for a different type of communion. Each week we will have refreshments available after worship. Most weeks that will be beverages and donuts. A cadre of members currently makes sure the coffee/hot water is perking before the service starts. **Now we are recruiting for volunteers to pick up a standing order of donuts at Carol Lee Donuts.** If you would like to provide alternative to donuts, that is certainly welcome. Just let Carol Lee know LMLC will not need its standing order on a date you provide refreshments.
- Once a month, usually the second Sunday, we will plan to have an after worship brunch. Church members are invited to bring a breakfast or brunch item to share. **Volunteers are needed to set-up plates, cups and serving materials.**

Sign-up sheets for brunch set-up and for donut pick-up will be posted on the kiosk.

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry



Thank you for your support during 2017 for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Your contributions have really made a difference. I would especially like to thank our volunteers who show up to help every second and third Wednesday of the month: Alice Feret, Barb Straub, Bill Knocke, Brad and Mary Grems, Konrad Kubin, Irmtraut Hartenstein, Rob Myers, Jennifer McDonald, and Wava Vigen. I would also like to thank Mary, Kayla, and Erin Hansbrough, Dylan McDonald, and Mike and Marilia Deisenroth for their support during our onsite food drives in the summer and fall.

During the coming year, I will try to highlight each month a particular need at the pantry. For the month of January, bring canned fruit with low or no sugar. Clients often look for these types of fruit. The Pantry is making an effort to offer more healthy alternatives.

Contribution Statements – Member Information Updates

The contribution statements for 2017 should be ready and in your narthex mailbox by February 11, 2017. If you need to have your statement mailed to your home, please contact Sharon Walker in the church office at 951-1000.

Also, if there is a change of phone number, email, address or an addition to your family, we would like for you to send that information to the church office so that our data base will be up to date.

JANUARY 2018 – CHANGE FOR CHANGE YAGM is January Change for Change Focus

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), a ministry of the ELCA, will benefit from January's Change for Change offering. YAGM allows young adults, ages 21-29, to spend a year serving outside the United States in a variety of countries and contexts.

Volunteers work in areas such as education, community development, human rights, health, homelessness, women's issues, and addiction.

YAGM volunteers receive living expenses and a very small stipend. They are asked to raise some money for their support but this is not a requirement. Contributions such as that from Change for Change allow the church to both serve abroad and engage in the leadership development of some of brightest and most engaged young adults in the church. An alum of Luther Memorial's campus ministry program, Samantha DiBiaso, is presently serving in South Africa.



Creation Care Focus

“Climate Change Is Complex. We’ve Got Answers to Your Questions.” By Justin Gillis, © 2017 The New York Times Company.

We know. Global warming is daunting. So here’s a place to start: Often-asked questions with some straightforward answers.

PART 3: WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. Are there any realistic solutions to the problem?

Yes, but change is happening too slowly.

Society has put off action for so long that the risks are now severe, scientists say. But as long as there are still unburned fossil fuels in the ground, it is not too late to act. The warming will slow to a potentially manageable pace only when human emissions are reduced to zero. The good news is that they are now falling in many countries as a result of programs like fuel-economy standards for cars, stricter building codes and emissions limits for power plants. But experts say the energy transition needs to speed up drastically to head off the worst effects of climate change.

2. What is the Paris Agreement?

Virtually every country agreed to limit future emissions.

The [landmark deal](#) was reached outside Paris in December 2015. The reductions are voluntary and the pledges do not do enough to head off severe effects. But the agreement is supposed to be reviewed every few years so that countries ramp up their commitments. President Trump announced in 2017 that he would pull the United States [out of the deal](#), though that will take years, and other countries have said they would go forward regardless of American intentions.

3. Does clean energy help or hurt the economy?

Job growth in renewable energy is strong.

The energy sources with the lowest emissions include wind turbines, solar panels, hydroelectric dams and nuclear power stations. Power plants burning natural gas also produce fewer emissions than those burning coal. Converting to these cleaner sources may be somewhat costlier in the short term, but they could ultimately pay for themselves by heading off climate damages and reducing health problems associated with dirty air. And expansion of the market is driving down the costs of renewable energy so fast that it may ultimately beat dirty energy on price alone — it [already does](#) in some areas.

The transition to cleaner energy certainly produces losers, like coal companies, but it also creates jobs. The solar industry in the United States now employs more than twice as many people as coal mining.

4. What about fracking or ‘clean coal’?

Both could help clean up the energy system.

Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” is one of a set of drilling technologies that has helped produce a new abundance of natural gas in the United States and some other countries. Burning gas instead of coal in power plants reduces emissions in the short run, though gas is still a fossil fuel and will have to be phased out in the long run. The fracking itself can also create local pollution.

[“Clean coal”](#) is an approach in which the emissions from coal-burning power plants would be captured and pumped underground. It has yet to be proven to work economically, but some experts think it could eventually play a major role.

5. What’s the latest with electric cars?

Sales are still small overall, but they are rising fast.

The cars draw power at night from the electric grid and give off no pollution during the day as they move around town. They are inherently more efficient than gasoline cars and would represent an advance even if the power were generated by burning coal, but they will be far more important as the electric grid itself becomes greener through renewable power. The cars are improving so fast that some countries are already talking about [banning the sale of gasoline cars](#) after 2030.

6. What are carbon taxes, carbon trading and carbon offsets?

It’s just jargon for putting a price on pollution.

The greenhouse gases being released by human activity are often called “carbon emissions” for short. That is because two of the most important gases, carbon dioxide and methane, contain carbon. (Some other pollutants are lumped into the same category, even if they do not actually contain carbon.) When you hear about carbon taxes, carbon trading and so on, these are just shorthand descriptions of methods to put a price on emissions, which economists say is one of the most important steps society could take to limit them.

7. Climate change seems so overwhelming. What can I personally do about it?

Start by sharing this with 50 of your friends.

Experts say the problem can only be [solved](#) by large-scale, collective action. Entire states and nations have to decide to clean up their energy systems, using every tool available and moving as quickly as they can. So the most important thing you can do is to exercise your rights as a citizen, speaking up and demanding change.

You can also take direct personal action to reduce your carbon footprint in simple ways that will save you money. You can plug leaks in your home insulation to save power, install a smart thermostat, switch to more efficient light bulbs, turn off unused lights, drive fewer miles by consolidating trips or taking public transit, waste less food, and eat less meat.

Taking one or two [fewer plane rides](#) per year can save as much in emissions as all the other actions combined. If you want to be at the cutting edge, you can look at buying an electric or hybrid car or putting solar panels on your roof. If your state has a competitive electricity market, you may be able to buy 100 percent green power.

Leading corporations, including large manufacturers like carmakers, are starting to demand clean energy for their operations. You can pay attention to company policies, support the companies taking the lead, and let the others know you expect them to do better.

These personal steps may be small in the scheme of things, but they can raise your own consciousness about the problem — and the awareness of the people around you. In fact, discussing this issue with your friends and family is one of the most meaningful things you can do.

Notes of Thanks...

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$250 to Habitat NRV. You know that this is a very busy time for us. We closed on the most recent Habitat home in Pulaski just a month ago, and the family is settled in. We plan to close in the next Pulaski home in two weeks (!), in time for that family to celebrate the holidays there.

Meanwhile, we are preparing to break ground in Christiansburg; the Giles County technical school is building their fourth house for us; and plans are move forward for the townhome project in Blacksburg.

Thank you again for believing in and supporting our mission!

With great thanks, Terry Ellen Carter

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of handmade quilts. Our community is our biggest partner in providing free services to adult and child victims of sexual and domestic violence. Your participation in our mission helps us get closer to becoming a community free of sexual and domestic violence.

What a lovely, lovely gift. Merry Christmas!

With Sincere gratitude, Pat Brown

Thank you Thank you Thank you

The social ministry committee would like to thank all who supported the Christmas Outreach Project in 2017. With everyone chipping in, we were able to exceed our goal this year. With your continued support, we raised over \$5,200.00 for the families of the Valley Interfaith Childcare Center(VICCC). That meant we were able to provide financial support of \$200.00 to 23 low income families whose children attend VICCC. I also appreciated all the wonderful bakers who provided cookies for each child attending the center. That meant that we provided 7 cookies for each of the 50 children. I would like to thank Gail King who provided over 50 children's books to include with the cookies. We were also able to provide a stuffed toy to each child. Thank you, Sandy Hagman for this wonderful gift. I also want to thank the church members who helped sort cookies. Along with Sandy Hagman and Wava Vigen, I had the privilege of handing out the letters regarding our gift to each family and the gift bags. Many of the parents were overwhelmed with gratitude with their expression of thank you and we could see what it meant to them in their faces. Lutheran Memorial family, you are making a difference in these families lives over the Christmas Holiday. We couldn't have done this without each generous member of our congregation.

Thanks Again.

In Peace

Teresa Cassell

JANUARY 2018 SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

10:00	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Greeter	Amy Roeder	Teresa Cassell	Anna Schmitt	Gilli Freeman
Communion Assistant	Danny Knott Mara Knott	Janet Buss Marsha Barrow	Kathy Parrott Tom Wilson	Everett Warner John Anstrom
Lector	Chris Skogen	Leah Wechtaluk-McFarren	Anne Devenport	Bennett Cassell
PW Greeter	Teresa Cassell	Irmtraut Hartenstein	Kathy Valencic	Betty Segar
Ushers	Kevin Carlson Bryce Carlson Virginia de la Mota Daniel de la Mota	Kevin Carlson Bryce Carlson Virginia de la Mota Daniel de la Mota	Kevin Carlson Bryce Carlson Virginia de la Mota Daniel de la Mota	Kevin Carlson Bryce Carlson Virginia de la Mota Daniel de la Mota
Tellers	Mark Barrow Elaine Belay Bill Knocke	Mark Barrow Elaine Belay Bill Knocke	Mark Barrow Elaine Belay Bill Knocke	Mark Barrow Elaine Belay Bill Knocke

Happy Birthday



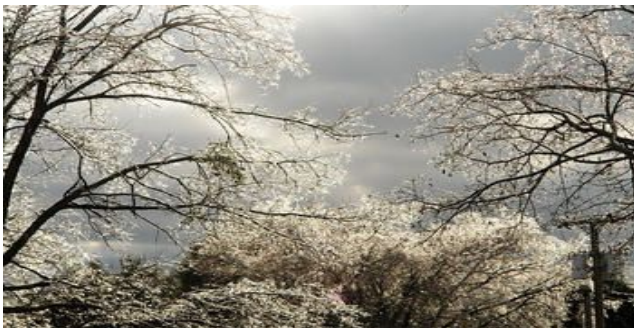
Jan. 01	Dillon Graham Harvey Peterson	Jan. 11	Joanna Sunshine
Jan. 02	Meili Johnson Rachel Magri	Jan. 17	Betsy Crone
Jan. 03	Bennet Cassell	Jan. 14	Aaron Howard
Jan. 04	Jessica Marickovich Allison McDonald	Jan. 18	Nelda Buss
Jan. 06	Konrad Kubin	Jan. 19	Gwen Rencsok
Jan. 08	Virginia De La Mota Jan Gilbertson	Jan. 20	David Wechtaluk
Jan. 09	Elena Johnson Bill Crabtree Roy Vickers, Jr. Jim McIntyre	Jan. 21	Rebekah Less
Jan. 10	Mandy Wilson Jane Williams Cintia Easterwood Barb Shifflett	Jan. 22	Whitney Akers
		Jan. 23	Molly Prater
		Jan. 27	Amory Fischer
		Jan. 28	Michael McDonald
		Jan. 31	Philip Gilbertson



LMLC

January 2018 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 7pm – Choir Practice	4 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 6:30pm – AA	5 9am VT Faculty Women 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	6 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
7 9:00am – Christian Formation 10am - Worship 11:00am – Undecorate the Chrismon Tree	8 9am – Parents Morning Out 6pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	9 9am Newcomers Meeting	10 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 7pm – Choir Practice	11 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 6:30pm – AA	12 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	13 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
14 9:00am – Christian Formation 10am – Worship 11:00am – After Worship Brunch	15 Newsletter deadline 9am – Parents Morning Out 6pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	16	17 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 7pm – Choir Practice	18 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 1:30pm -FCA Mtg. 6:30pm – AA	19 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	20 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
21 9:00am – Christian Formation 10am – Worship 7pm – Congregational Council Mtg.	22 9am – Parents Morning Out 6pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	23	24 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 7pm – Choir Practice	25 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 6:30pm – AA	26 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	27 10:00am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
28 10am - Worship	29 9am – Parents Morning Out 6pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	30	31 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 7pm – Choir Practice			

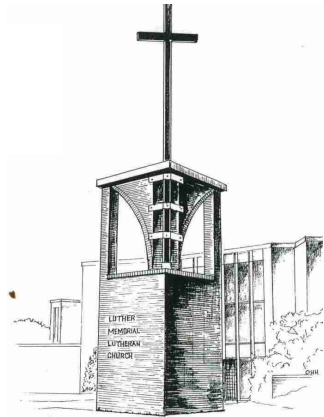


The Luther Memorial News

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR JANUARY 2018

*Stewards are people who live in a place they do not own, making full use of
(but also taking care of) things that do not belong to them.*

Mark Allan Powell