

The Luther Memorial News

July 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...

“So what happens now; where do we go from here?” Since I announced my retirement I have heard that question, in one form or another, many times. It has been over 30 years since Luther Memorial has been without a called pastor. So it is natural to have a little bit of confusion over what comes next. So a few words which I hope will ease some of your anxiety:

- **You are not in this by yourself.** By the time you read this the congregational council will have met with the bishop to begin thinking about pastoral leadership after September 1. The Virginia Synod will be working with Luther Memorial’s lay leaders to find an interim pastor for the congregation. As soon as the shape of that leadership is determined the congregation will be informed.
- **This is an opportunity for the congregation; embrace it.** I cannot express how much I have loved this congregation and been blessed by serving it. But I know quite well that no person has all the gifts to lead in every time. This pastoral vacancy is an opportunity for you to think about what you want Luther Memorial to be, chart that future, and seek a pastor who can facilitate the journey to a new identity. Now is the time for bold thinking and imagination.
- **Try not to be anxious.** God is in the midst of this journey and will bring it to a good conclusion. The call process takes a while. It is natural to want to speed things up, but Luther Memorial will be well served by taking sufficient time to discern who it is and what it needs from a pastor. In coming months, the congregation will be filling out the ELCA Ministry Site Profile, a document which helps the congregation think systematically about its ministry context and needs. Do not be anxious, but DO be engaged in letting the congregational council (and the committees it appoints) hear what you want Luther Memorial to be. The call process is confidential but it is not secret; every effort will be made to have the congregation’s input each step of the way.
- **Remember, YOU are the church.** There is a reason we say pastors “serve” a church. Pastors can guide, cajole, exhort, comfort, teach, preach, challenge, and console—but in the end it is the people they serve who are the community of faith; we exist to facilitate your ministry. There is no reason why the great things which have been happening at Luther Memorial cannot continue during the vacancy. You, not any pastor, are Luther Memorial.

Pastor King

Dear Members of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church,

The process of filling our upcoming pastoral vacancy has begun. Church Council met with Bishop Bob Humphrey on June 19 to discuss the options available to us. Bishop Humphrey advised us strongly to secure the services of an interim pastor to allow us time to consider our goals and hopes for future ministry prior to issuing a permanent pastoral call. We need to know what an interim pastor is:

- An interim pastor is ordained in the ELCA and will perform all pastoral tasks that Pastor King now performs.
- An interim pastor serves the Congregation continuously, as Pastor King now does.
- An interim pastor is recommended by the Bishop rather than being chosen by a Congregational Call Committee.
- An interim pastor serves for a relatively brief period of time, usually at least a year and for a number of months longer by mutual agreement.
- An interim pastor is not eligible to serve the congregation in a permanent call.

At its June 24 meeting, Church Council unanimously passed a motion to immediately seek the services of an interim pastor. Council authorized payment of moving expenses to enable a wide, thorough, and hopefully brief search. Council voted to use the services of an interim pastor for at least one year and perhaps longer.

The search process for the interim pastor is conducted by the Bishop and staff of the Virginia Synod. Church Council will approve the recommendation of the Bishop but will not be directly involved in the search itself. Council has asked the Bishop to expedite the process, with installation of an interim pastor at the earliest date that can be arranged.

While our immediate plans are to seek the services of an interim pastor, the call process for a permanent pastor is in our future. Virginia Synod requires that congregations with pastoral vacancies be briefed on the procedures involved in issuing a call. To that end, Rev Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, will meet with Church Council and all members of the congregation who desire to attend following her sermon in our church on September 16. Her sermon will be a special event in and of itself, so please mark your calendars and plan to participate on September 16. Knowledge of the call process will help insure a smooth transition to a new face in our pulpit a year or so into the future.

This time of transition will present some challenges, especially to our comfort zones! Let us remember that we are about God's work in this process, and respond as the Holy Spirit calls each of us to service.

In Christ,

Bennet Cassell
President, Church Council

MEETINGS IN THE MONTH OF JULY 2018

Evangelism Committee Meeting: Friday, July 13 @ 9:00 am Parish Life Center

Church Council Meeting: Sunday, July 22 following service in the Parish Life Center

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Creation Care Focus

New Recycling Guidelines for Plastics in NRV and Roanoke

Recent market changes have led to new guidelines for the kinds of plastics that can be recycled in the New River Valley and Roanoke. Only plastics bearing the numbers 1 (PET) and 2 (HDPE) will be accepted by [Recycling & Disposal Solutions](#), the region's major recycling contractor. That means plastics numbered 3 through 7, which were formerly accepted, are no longer allowed. China, the major buyer of these lower grade plastics, has ceased taking them for now. Fortunately, the majority of plastic containers we use, such as water bottles and milk jugs, are the higher grade 1s and 2s that are still accepted for recycling.

The hope is that the market for plastics number 3 through 7 will be restored at some point in the near future, and when that happens, we'll let you know. For more information on this change and other recycling tips, see the display on the Creation Care bulletin board and the recent article in the Roanoke Times:

https://www.roanoke.com/news/local/roanoke/recycling-rules-in-roanoke-new-river-valleys-tightened-for-plastics/article_d6a50dd8-c522-574a-a897-c3731d6fe964.html

Church Kitchen Update

We are going to update the church kitchen!

New appliances, new flooring and a few new cabinets!

We anticipate the work will start the week of **July 9 or July 16**, depending on when the materials and products have all arrived.

The kitchen will be "out of commission" during the renovation for about **2 weeks -- most likely between July 16 and August 3**.

Please plan your activities accordingly!

In anticipation of the renovation, we expect to have some materials delivered and temporarily stored in the Fellowship Hall.

During the renovation, at times you may not have access to items stored in the kitchen - - depending on what work is being done.

Watch for updates on the schedule and progress of the renovation!

Questions? Kathy Parrott: homes@vt.edu

CONGRATULATIONS TO RACHEL PETERSON

The Congregational Council awarded the Endowment Scholarship for 2018 to Rachel Peterson. Rachel, a member of our congregation, is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University and will become a missionary for the church this year serving in Madagascar. She begins her orientation with others in the ELCA's program: Young Adults in Global Mission. We ask that you keep Rachel in prayer as she begins this interesting and demanding work for the Church.

Dear Luther Memorial Congregation,

I am so excited to announce that I have accepted the opportunity to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer in Madagascar starting in August. I will be one of more than 85 young adults serving on behalf of the ELCA in 11 different country programs around the world! Student teaching in South Africa gave me a taste for international education, but I need your help to continue in my global journey.

The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program provides young adults, ages 21-29, the opportunity to grow in their faith and work in partnership with our global companions. Young adults in the program serve in churches, schools and social service ministries. Currently the program is engaged in work in Argentina/Uruguay, Australia, Cambodia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Africa and the United Kingdom.

The total cost for one young adult in the program is \$15,000. Each young adult is tasked with raising a minimum of \$5,000 to help support their year of service. The ELCA commits to raising the additional \$10,000 per volunteer through generous congregations and donors. If more than \$5,000 in gifts is received, the additional funds will be help to support other young adult volunteers and ensure that there is a sustainable source of revenue for future the Young Adults in Global Mission program. One of the first organizations I joined at Appalachian State University was Lutheran Students of Appalachian (LSA). LSA has provided me with opportunities for personal development, faith growth, and lifelong friendships. Each year, a YAGM from the previous service year has come to share their experiences with our group. I was quickly drawn in by the idea of combining my passion for education and my need to serve on a global scale; I was enticed by the idea of doing meaningful work alongside peers that hold similar values to myself. Three years later, I am honored to be a part of this incredible organization and to see this dream become my reality.

I am enthusiastic for this step out of my comfort zone and optimistic that I will be forever changed from this experience. Thank you for joining me and for your support – every gift truly matters!

Rachel Peterson



2018 Virginia Synod Assembly Recap

Only By Grace Can We Stand

Synod Assembly is our annual opportunity for the 150 congregations of the Virginia Synod to come together and be reminded what it means to be a part of the wider church. Our theme during our June 8-10, 2018 gathering was "Only by Grace Can We Stand".

During the weekend, **Bishop Humphrey**, helped explore the theme for the Assembly based off of Ephesians 2:19-21, with three keynote presentations that led into small group time. During small groups participants at Assembly were encouraged to get to know Lutherans and congregations from around the state and to share their experiences as church together. They also discussed and shared their opinions on the current format for the Assembly, and shared ideas for how future Assemblies could take shape.

The Rev. Ron Glusenkamp, the director of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, was present at this year's Assembly to represent the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, bringing good news from the wider church.

The Rev. John Wertz Jr. was joined by **The Rev. Stephen Bohannon**, acting as the **Roving Reporter** to deliver a report for the ongoing ForwardingFaith campaign. It was announced that to date we have reached our \$2.5 million goal which was set not by the need, but rather what the synod could raise. We are continuing to encourage more congregations join in holding their own appeals as part of the campaign, seeking to stretch our total as high as \$4 million. Future campaign training events are being planned now. Thank you to all the congregations and members who have helped us exceed our basic goal for ForwardingFaith.

One resolution was passed over the weekend, memorializing the 50th anniversary of women's ordination in the Lutheran Church.

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia Hearts & Hands award winners were recognized during this year's Synod Assembly. **Kim Begnaud** of Trinity in Stephens City received the silver award, **Jane Perry** of Zion in Edinburg received the Gold award, and **Karen Murphy** of Bethlehem in Lynchburg was presented with the Diamond award.

The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, and **Deacon Lisa Geiger**, Candidacy Process Administrator, were installed into their new positions in the Synod Office during the Friday afternoon worship service.

Isaac Wilson of Christ in Fredericksburg, president of the Lutheran Youth Organization, presented the Youth Assembly report, centered on the Youth Assembly theme of "Who Stands by Me?". He shared a summary of this year's Youth Assembly, and raised up aspects of the current Assembly format the youth feel are important as the format is reviewed for future assemblies. The incoming LYO Board president will be **Turner Barger** of Epiphany in Richmond.

July Change for Change

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

This month's Change for Change goes to our local Food Pantry. The Interfaith Food Pantry offers basic food supplies, once a month, to low-income Blacksburg residents or those in emergency situations, including homeless individuals and families. The Pantry is currently serving approximately 350 families. Potential recipients are screened for eligibility by New River Community Action in Christiansburg and by trained volunteers at the Food Pantry. Criteria include meeting 150% of the Federal Poverty level. While the majority of the Pantry's clients work, minimum wage jobs do not always enable recipients to feed their families.

Recently, we have had to discontinue food drives at our local super markets. Because they now require us to stand 100 yards from any entry point, contributions have fallen by 80%. It is very difficult to engage the public when we have to stand so far away and cannot approach them to hand out flyers. Because of this Luther's Memorial annual Social Ministry budget contributions and the yearly

Change for Change solicitation have become even more crucial. If you would like to learn more about how the Food Pantry serves the community and how Luther Memorial is contributing, I will be making a presentation at the next Sunday brunch on July 8th.

Thank you for your continuing support of this critical ministry.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS JULY 2018

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
Greeter	<i>Elaine Belay</i>	<i>Teresa Cassell</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>	<i>Irmtraut Hartenstein</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>
Communion Assistant	<i>Linda Libey</i> <i>Mandy Wilson</i>	<i>Danny Knott</i> <i>Karl Pedersen</i>	<i>Glenn Buss</i> <i>Marcia Barrow</i>	<i>Kathy Parrot</i> <i>Tom Wilson</i>	<i>Mary Grems</i> <i>Janet Buss</i>
Cantor	<i>Jay Crone</i>	<i>Bennet Cassell</i>	<i>Jenny Akers</i>	<i>Carolyn Howard</i>	<i>Tom Wilson</i>
Lector	<i>Ed Vigen</i>	<i>Carolyn Howard</i>	<i>Mark Barrow</i>	<i>Andy Hansbrough</i>	<i>Anne Devenport</i>
PW Greeter	<i>Irmtraut Hartenstein</i>	<i>Elaine Belay</i>	<i>Irmtraut Hartenstein</i>	<i>Mark Barrow</i>	<i>Elaine Belay</i>
Ushers	<i>Gary Buss</i>	<i>Gary Buss</i>	<i>Gary Buss</i>	<i>Gary Buss</i>	<i>Gary Buss</i>
	<i>Bryce Carlson</i>	<i>Bryce Carlson</i>	<i>Bryce Carlson</i>	<i>Bryce Carlson</i>	<i>Bryce Carlson</i>
	<i>Kevin Carlson</i>	<i>Kevin Carlson</i>	<i>Kevin Carlson</i>	<i>Kevin Carlson</i>	<i>Kevin Carlson</i>
	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>
Tellers	<i>John Anstrom</i>	<i>John Anstrom</i>	<i>John Anstrom</i>	<i>John Anstrom</i>	<i>John Anstrom</i>
	<i>Lisa Carlson</i>	<i>Lisa Carlson</i>	<i>Lisa Carlson</i>	<i>Lisa Carlson</i>	<i>Lisa Carlson</i>
	<i>Diane Catley</i>	<i>Diane Catley</i>	<i>Diane Catley</i>	<i>Diane Catley</i>	<i>Diane Catley</i>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN JULY

<i>July 02</i>	<i>Robin Reynolds</i>
<i>July 04</i>	<i>Sandy Sheppard, Tom Wilson</i>
<i>July 06</i>	<i>Christina McIntyre</i>
<i>July 07</i>	<i>Amy Cassell</i>
<i>July 08</i>	<i>Michele Kennedy</i>
<i>July 11</i>	<i>Chris Lichty</i>
<i>July 12</i>	<i>Sandy Hagman</i>
<i>July 15</i>	<i>Meg Peterson</i>
<i>July 19</i>	<i>Sam Crone, Betty Segar</i>
<i>July 20</i>	<i>Ben Blanchard</i>
<i>July 22</i>	<i>Ann Stevens</i>
<i>July 23</i>	<i>Krista Rogers, Jacob Schillen</i>
<i>July 25</i>	<i>Cooper Neeble, Roger Sheppard</i>
<i>July 26</i>	<i>Susan Everett, Kathy Thorsen</i>
<i>July 29</i>	<i>Rod Smith</i>
<i>July 30</i>	<i>Julein Axelson, Korin Freeman, Kayla Hansbrough</i>
<i>July 31</i>	<i>Georgia Roeder</i>



Lutherans Nail It with Habitat for Humanity!

Join us this summer at the Habitat for Humanity build site in Christiansburg for a special double build! Habitat NRV is building a duplex on Johnston St. (off of Depot St. behind the Christiansburg Kroger), and they need volunteers to help with the construction. Luther Memorial had a super time participating at the Pulaski build in the fall of 2017, and you are invited to join a crew at one of the Saturdays in July. We are considering July 7th, July 21st and July 28th as possible dates (note that we may mix/match with the other local Lutheran churches). There will be a special Women's Build date on July 14th for ladies only. Currently, it appears that July building will consist of framing, porch construction and insulation work. You must be at least 16 years of age to participate in the builds, and a waiver is required.

If you are interested in participating in any of the July dates, please contact Matt Zeiger at matthew.zeiger@gmail.com or call him at 540-392-0896 to sign up for a date or ask questions. If there is sufficient interest, we'll consider another set of dates in September or October.

You can find more information at www.habitatnrv.org, including the waiver and volunteer signup. Note that Thrivent Financial has sponsored this build with a \$55,000 matching grant, and Thrivent is asking its members to consider making a gift of time to this build.

Bryan Katz is Lay Campus Minister

Beginning in August, Bryan Katz will be serving as the Lutheran Lay Campus Minister at Virginia Tech. Bryan is a member of St. Michael's congregation, on the engineering faculty at VT, and pursuing theological studies through the diaconal ministry program of the ELCA. He will be the primary adviser to The Well, our campus ministry, and will work with a strong cadre of student leaders to continue a program of worship, service, study, and fellowship.

Children's/Friend's/Family's Summer Programs

Luther Memorial is delighted to announce summer activities to bring all ages together for fun and fellowship. Grab your children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, or just come yourself...all are welcome!

First Friday Friends and Families

Friday, July 6...Pizza and Game Night...5:30 – 8:00 pm...Campus Center

Friday, August 3...Pizza and Movie Night...5:30 – 8:00 pm...Campus Center

Back to School Last Blast: Water and Watermelon

Saturday, August 11 @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm...Picnic Shelter

Water games, wading pools, water slide and more. Pack a lunch – we'll provide the watermelon and fun!



July 2018 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am - Worship	2 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 9:00 am – VT Faculty Women 6:30 pm – AA Meeting 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	3	4 Happy Fourth!! Office Closed 	5 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	6 5:30 pm – First Friday: Pizza & Games	7 Trinity: ASP – Campus Center 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
8 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am - Worship 11:30 am - Brunch & Learn	9 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 6:30 pm – AA Meeting 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	10	11 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 10:30 am – Get Moving Exercise	12 4:30 pm – Dialogue on Race 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	13 9:00 am Evangelism Committee Meeting	14 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
15 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10 am – Worship	16 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 6:30 pm – AA Meeting 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	17	18 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 10:30 am – Get Moving Exercise	19 1:30 pm - FCA 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	20	21 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
22 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am - Worship 11:30 am - Congregational Council	23 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 6:30 pm – AA Meeting 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	24	25 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 10:30 am – Get Moving Exercise	26 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	27	28 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
29 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am– Worship	30 9:00 am – Parents Morning Out 6:30 pm – AA Meeting 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	31				

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR JULY 2018

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Winston Churchill

“Giving is not a debt you owe; it is a seed you sow.” Unknown