

The Luther Memorial News

September 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.*

Bryan Katz, Campus Lay Minister

Gail King, Organist

Tom Wilson, Choir Director

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Marcia Barrow, Office Manager

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Dear Members of Luther Memorial,

Thank you for the amazing send off you gave me as I move into retirement. I greatly appreciate the gifts which you bestowed, particularly because they acknowledge things that I enjoy and treasure. It was a very emotional day as I reflected on how our lives have been intertwined for these last 34 years.

During those years my annual pastor's report always noted how blessed I felt to be one of your pastors. That was not just boilerplate or filler; it was an expression of thanksgiving for your never-failing willingness to support our common ministry. Year after year you embraced the challenges we faced with excitement and faithfulness. It has been an honor to preach to those who are eager to let the Word touch their lives, to teach those who are always ready to have their horizons expanded, to serve with those who want the gospel to transform the world, and to be there with you in the joyful and painful transitions of life. I have no doubt your next pastors will feel equally blessed.

*In Christ our Lord,
Bill King*

Church Council Meeting: Sunday, September 23rd following service in the Parish Life Center

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CREATION CARE FOCUS

For the past several months, we've been presenting information about recycling and minimizing waste. This month's Creation Care Focus turns to a related issue that is increasingly impacting the earth's ecosystems: the problem of plastics.

Plastics have revolutionized our lives since they began to be manufactured in mass quantities in the post-World War II period, offering durability, convenience, and a low cost. But the environmental costs of plastics, especially single-use plastics, are staggering, particularly for marine ecosystems. Although we increasingly have systems in place that offer the possibility of recycling some forms of plastic, the fact remains that 91% of the plastics that are manufactured never get recycled. Below you will find a link to a short video, produced by HuffPost, which provides a brief overview of the problem, with an emphasis on marine environments:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntmN0EfEe-A>

A second, somewhat longer video takes a broader view, looking at how plastics threaten not only our oceans but also other ecosystems and human health:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAnbJCAYQw0>

Please remember the three **R's—reduce, recycle, and reuse**—to help cut down on the amount of plastic ending up in our world's landfills and oceans.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes begin September 9th at 9:00 am.

Where is God leading you and your family? Where is God leading us at Luther Memorial, in our community, in our nation and world? Come and explore ideas with these opportunities:

LUTHER FORUM

Meets in the Campus Center. Our book for the fall is titled ***Christianity after Religion*** by Diana Butler Bass. In it Bass addresses the widespread trend of declining church membership and numbers of individuals who identify as "religious." She first describes and seeks to understand the trend and then offers ideas on where individuals and churches might go from here. As always in the Forum, the book will serve as a jumping off point for discussions where we will likely find places where we agree and disagree. Future topics and books will be chosen by the group.

FELLOWSHIP HALL GROUP

Resumes the study of ***Questions of Value***, a Great Courses DVD program. The presenter is Patrick Grimm, professor of philosophy at Stony Brook in New York. The group will share their comments on the ideas brought out in the program. Topics yet to deal with: Free Will and Determinism, Images of Morality, Ethical Knowledge, Rationality and Rules, Moralities in Conflict and Change, and a summing up.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Meets in the Youth Room at the top of the stairs with Ann Hess.

Life in middle and high school can be overwhelming. Please join Ann and your peers for conversation and exploration of the stories of the Bible. These stories can be funny, disturbing, and challenging. We will share joys, concerns, prayers, and stories. Bring your Lutheran Study Bible.

PRE-K AND ELEMENTARY AGE

Meets upstairs, first room on left as you come inside. Rotating teachers include Jennifer Freeman, Melissa & Bill Knocke, John Hess, Mandy Wilson, and Carolyn Howard.

Students will enjoy workshop style activities based on Bible stories using the Sparkhouse curriculum.

LUTHER MEMORIAL AND CAMPUS MINISTRY WELCOMES BRYAN KATZ

Bryan grew up in Haymarket, Virginia and came to Blacksburg to attend Virginia Tech in 1997. He studied Civil Engineering and loved his time in Blacksburg and ultimately stayed for his Master's degree. In 2002, he left Blacksburg for a few years and worked on his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the Northern Virginia campus. He married his wife, Katie in 2006. Katie is a life-long Lutheran from North Carolina who attended Lenoir-Rhyne College and spent many years at Lutheridge, a summer camp in Arden, NC. They both moved to Blacksburg in 2007 so that Bryan could take a teaching position in the Civil Engineering Department and have been members at St. Michael ever since. Katie teaches in the School of Nursing at Radford University. Bryan and Katie have two children, Emily and Ethan. Bryan serves as an Associate Professor of Practice in Civil Engineering and has received several teaching awards

In 2017, Bryan began the process to become a Deacon in the ELCA and received a positive entrance decision from the Virginia Synod Candidacy Committee in March of this year. He has taken his coursework through the Institute of Lutheran Theology as well as Luther Seminary through distance education. He is extremely excited to be taking the role of Lay Campus Minister and working with Virginia Tech students as they continue faith formation through their college years.

STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT GIVING THANKS

This is typically the time of year in the life of our church to begin discussions regarding the budget. Not something fun or exciting for most of us; but just as in our personal life, it is necessary. This year, however, I think it is a better time to give thanks. A big thanks to everyone for keeping up the regular pledges that support the continued life and operation of the church. As we address the pastoral vacancy, our remaining staff will be increasingly called upon heavily to assist during this transitional time. We will all need to give a little extra to assist in continuing the mission of the church and support of our fellow members.

Thanks very much for the generous gifts toward the capital campaign. In case you have not noticed, over the past two years we have made some significant improvements to our facilities. Some maybe not so glamorous, like HVAC and improvements in water drainage, but all were necessary to care for our building which will allow us to move forward with our goals. This month our most recent investment was in our kitchen. We have greatly improved the functionality of our kitchen as well as the appearance. We replaced the stoves and cooktop and added much needed warming drawers. If you have not already been by to check it out, please be sure to do so!

Many of you have donated generously to the capital campaign both financially and with your time. We have some wonderfully talented members who have given much of their energy to help with these projects. Below is a summary of the campaign receipts as of June 6. As you can see we are well on our way toward our goal. But to continue the mission of our planned campaign, we need to keep our pledges current. As is typical during the summer at LMLC, our finances get a little behind with travels. But with the start of the school year and everyone back in their routines, we can quickly catch-up.

Pledged to date:	\$248,013.55	Received to date:	\$188,374.55
Pourchet Bequest:	\$169,557.40	Received to date:	\$169,557.40
Total Pledged:	\$417,570.95	Total Received:	\$357,931.95

This coming year will be exciting for us as we will be having many conversations about the future direction of the congregation. As we make these plans, I encourage you to embrace opportunities for spiritual growth as well as deeper engagement with fellow members of the congregation. I also hope you will continue the momentum that was started when we first committed to our congregation's future and share those gifts God has generously given each of us as we embrace our transition into many new and exciting opportunities.
Diane Catley

Change for Change September 2018:

Bread for the World -

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decisions makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, we advocate for a world without hunger.

When you give a [gift to Bread for the World](#), its impact is multiplied. For every \$1 you donate, Bread helps win more than \$100 in federal government assistance for hungry and poor people in the U.S. and around the world.

God's grace in Jesus Christ moves us to help our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state, or the next continent. Join us, and let's work together to end hunger.

“So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

Bread for the World Sunday - October 21st; more information coming soon.

NOTE OF THANKS

My aortic valve replacement surgery went very well, and I am feeling better and improving daily. I want to thank everyone who sent cards, emails, messages, FB posts, and lots of prayers. We especially are grateful for the meals provided for us after I got home from the hospital. That made life much easier for two weeks, and we were humbled by the outpouring of support. You have no idea how much your love has meant to us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

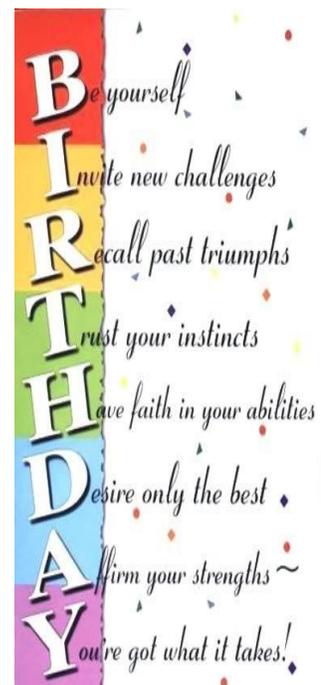
Zelma and Charlie Harris

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS SEPTEMBER 2018

	September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30
Greeter	<i>Teresa Cassell</i>	<i>Elaine Belay</i>	<i>Ann Hess</i>	<i>Mark Barrow</i>	<i>Irmtraut Hartenstein</i>
Communion Assistant	<i>Kathy Parrott</i> <i>John Anstrom</i>	<i>Marcia Barrow</i> <i>Glenn Buss</i>	<i>John Hess</i> <i>Linda Libey</i>	<i>Danny Knott</i> <i>Mandy Wilson</i>	<i>Karl Pedersen</i> <i>Marcia Barrow</i>
Cantor	<i>Bennet Cassell</i>	<i>Jay Crone</i>	<i>Tom Wilson</i>	<i>Carolyn Howard</i>	<i>Jenny Akers</i>
Lector	<i>Leah Wechtaluk</i> <i>McFarren</i>	<i>Carolyn Howard</i>	<i>Ed Vigen</i>	<i>Anne Devenport</i>	<i>Jay Crone</i>
PW Greeter	<i>Kevin Carlson</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>	<i>Kevin Carlson</i>	<i>Elaine Belay</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>
Ushers	<i>Bill Knocke</i>	<i>Bill Knocke</i>	<i>Bill Knocke</i>	<i>Bill Knocke</i>	<i>Bill Knocke</i>
	<i>Carol Papillon</i>	<i>Carol Papillon</i>	<i>Carol Papillon</i>	<i>Carol Papillon</i>	<i>Carol Papillon</i>
	<i>Betty Segar</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>	<i>Betty Segar</i>
	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>	<i>Gilli Freeman</i>
Tellers	<i>Mark Barrow</i>	<i>Mark Barrow</i>	<i>Mark Barrow</i>	<i>Mark Barrow</i>	<i>Mark Barrow</i>
	<i>Danny Knott</i>	<i>Danny Knott</i>	<i>Danny Knott</i>	<i>Danny Knott</i>	<i>Danny Knott</i>
	<i>Brad Grems</i>	<i>Brad Grems</i>	<i>Brad Grems</i>	<i>Brad Grems</i>	<i>Brad Grems</i>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN SEPTEMBER

September 01 *Jim Wilson*
September 03 *Michael Everett*
September 04 *Anne-Marie Lichty, William Schiek, Naomi Shaver*
September 05 *Danny Knott*
September 06 *Alexandra White*
September 10 *Carolyn Howard, Tammy Neeble, Rebekah Paulson*
September 11 *Jenny Akers*
September 12 *Kelly Phillips*
September 18 *Mary Korslund*
September 23 *Eva Forsman, Connor Akers, Andy Hansbrough*
September 27 *Grace Crowe, Mary Hansbrough*
September 29 *Mancer Flatten*



NRVCares PARENTING CLASS

Luther Memorial will be hosting the NRV Cares Parenting Class again this fall. The classes will be on Tuesday nights, September 25 through November 20 (with a night off on November 6). If you would like to help provide and serve a meal for this group, or if you'd like more information, please contact Mary Hansbrough at 951-8189 or maryhhans@aol.com. There is also a signup sheet on the mailbox kiosk.

COMMUNITY FRIDAY LUNCH

We have changed **Luther Lunches** to **Community Friday Lunch** to let guests know that all the community inside and outside of our church are welcome to share lunch. The Community Friday Lunch will begin Friday August 31st. We provide a hot meal and conversation for anyone. We are asking for at least one volunteer each Friday. The volunteer will be the food prep person who can either heat up soup provided by the congregation or provide soup or a casserole. We are asking that you provide a dessert (either store bought or homemade). We would love to have our volunteer stay for lunch but if that is not possible, we welcome you leaving the lunch to be heated up or set out by the experienced set up person. We will need to know instructions if you leave lunch so we can get it ready for our guests. If you can stay for lunch, we are asking volunteers to be at the campus center at 11:30am for a noon lunch and you should be done no later than 1:30pm. We are looking for volunteers for November 2nd, November 16, November 23, November 30th, December 7th, December 14th and December 21st. You can sign up for a date further out as well.

Friday Lunch has gone to using an electronic signup sheet instead of a paper one. The link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4da8a828a3fa7-community>

If you prefer, I can sign you up by a phone call to 540 818-1438. If you have any questions, please feel to contact me by phone or email at teresa.cassell@comcast.net

In peace,

Teresa Cassell

Going off the Rails on a Death Care Time Machine

Have I got your attention yet? This is the title of the presentation to be given at the annual meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge (FCAVBR).

The annual meeting is open to the public and Luther Memorial members are invited to attend what will be an interesting history of death care practices. The meeting will be held at the Blacksburg Library on Tuesday, September 11 at 7PM.

The FCAVBR board meets monthly in Luther Memorial's Parish Life conference room. We are a nonprofit concerned with end-of-life questions and promoting planning and communicating. The support of Luther Memorial in providing this meeting place is appreciated. If you would like to more about what we do and the resources we provide, please contact Dianne Rencsok or come to one of the board meetings, which are also open to the public.

PARENT'S MORNING OUT AT LUTHER MEMORIAL

Community Co-op Play Group meets in the nursery on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week from 9 until noon.

This co-op group is coordinated by Trish Downs, 951-7380, tkdowns@me.com. Trish is the sole paid person and coordinates with parents to provide care and activities for up to 10 children. A \$10/day fee is paid monthly by parents. Parents are also required to volunteer to help staff the program. Children from 1 to 3

years of age are provided guided activities. Any family can participate, the service is housed in Luther Memorial Lutheran Church but it serves the community and neighborhood.

It is a small group with occasional openings. Encourage those who could use this opportunity for young families to join the co-op to contact Trish Downs.

YAGM NEWS

You can follow Rachel Peterson's mission adventures in Madagascar: <https://missioninmada.home.blog>. Just as Rachel is beginning her year in Madagascar with Young Adults in Global Mission; we welcome Samantha DiBiaso back from South Africa. In August Samantha began serving as a Short Term Recruiter for YAGM on the East Coast. She is looking forward to sharing her experiences and engaging others in the work of Global Mission. Samantha can be reached at: saman13@vt.edu.

GODPARENTS for TANZANIA

Luther Memorial's Goddaughter, Elifuraha Rafael Paresso, will graduate this month from Machame Health Training Institute with an Ordinary Diploma in Clinical Medicine. Once Elifuraha receives her license she will begin looking for employment in the Kilimanjaro region. There is a serious shortage of health care professionals all over the country, so she should be readily employed. One day, Elifuraha would like to go to medical school and become a doctor.

BLACKSBURG REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

Invites you to come see an amazing documentary about the world-wide refugee crisis by acclaimed director Ai Weiwei. Filmed in 23 countries, it poses the question: "will our global society emerge from fear, isolation, and self-interest and choose a path of openness, freedom, and respect for humanity".

The Refugee Partnership brings this award winning documentary to Blacksburg in October. Mark your calendar (**Oct. 7**) and tell your friends.

Human Flow

Lyric Theater

October 7 @ 3PM

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Resumes its study of the *Sacred Texts of the World* (Great Courses DVD program) Thursday, September 13th at 10:00 am in the Parish Life Center conference room. All are invited to join this group!

September 2018 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00 am - Worship	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4	5 9:00 am – PMO 10:30 am – Get Moving Exercise 7:00 pm – Choir Practice	6 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	7 9:00 am – PMO	8 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
9 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am – Worship	10 9:00 am – PMO 6:30 pm – AA Meeting; Boy Scouts 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	11	12 9:00 am – PMO 10:30 am – Get Moving Exercise 7:00 pm – Choir Practice	13 10:00 am - Bible Study 4:30 pm Dialogue on Race 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	14 9:00 am – PMO	15 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
16 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am - Worship 11:30 am – Brunch & Learn 2:30 pm – NRV Confirmation	17 9:00 am – PMO 6:30 pm – AA Meeting; Boy Scouts 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	18	19 9:00 am – PMO 10:30 am – Get Moving Exercise 7:00 pm – Choir Practice	20 10:00 am - Bible Study 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	21 9:00 am – PMO	22 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
23 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am– Worship 11:30 am – Church Council	24 9:00 am – PMO 6:30 pm – AA Meeting; Boy Scouts 7:00 pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	25 5:00 pm – NRVcares Parenting Class	26 9:00 am – PMO 10:30 am – Get Moving Exercise 7:00 pm – Choir Practice	27 10:00 am - Bible Study 6:30 pm – AA Meeting	28 9:00 am - PMO	29 10:30 am Sanctuary Rehearsal
30 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am– Worship 11:30 am – Social Ministry Meeting 11:30 am – LMLC Singles Potluck						

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change we seek.”

President Barack Obama