

The Luther Memorial News

August 2016

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

We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

The Reverend Bill King, Pastor
luthercm@vt.edu 951-1003

The Reverend Joanna Stallings, Associate Pastor
jstallings@lmlc.org 951-1728

*Church E-Mail: luther@lmlc.org
Phone: 951-1000*

*Web Site: <http://lmlc.org>
Fax: 951-0820*

Dear Church Family,

The church wide "welcome back" picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 28th. Some great eats will be offered by our chief BBQ officer Danny Knott. Congregational members are invited to prepare sides that will please every palate. This event always signifies the arrival of Christian Formation Classes that will begin meeting on Sunday, Thursday, and other events that will be held for parents and children during each month.

You read this correctly. Graded classes for K-6th will **not** meet on Sunday mornings. We have had such low participation in the past couple of years as well as difficulty securing teachers. We have twelve children spread over grades 1-6 grade. They rarely achieve critical mass which is frustrating for teachers and uncomfortable for the children. The Christian Education Committee decided to be bold and faithful by engaging children and parents in a new initiative: Faith Five for home use and Grab n' Serve Meals.

- **Faith Five:** materials will be made available to families so that they can do devotions at home. The conversation starters will revolve around five things; 1) Share Highs and Lows, 2) Read a Bible verse or story, 3) Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows, 4) Pray for one another's highs and lows, 5) Bless one another. Group meetings will be planned to assist families in using these tools for faith development every night in every home.
- **Grab n' Serve:** These hour and a half events will be planned throughout the upcoming year. They will be designed for fellowship, serving, and teaching. The projects will be something that anyone can do. We had great success with the two that were held this summer.

Our hope in offering these events is to encourage parents to feed their own faith while they engage their children in active learning at home. The Grab n' Serve meals will provide an intergenerational opportunity for the church family to gather, learn, and serve together.

What can you expect on Sunday: 9:45-10:45am. The Luther Forum will meet in the Great Room of the Campus Center with Pastor King and Fred Rencsok's class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The Confirmation Class will meet in the Conference Room and the High School Class will meet in their room on the balcony level of the church.

In addition the Thursday morning group, Men's and Women's small groups will begin or continue meeting. If your time is yours when those are happening consider joining. The experiences in all of these groups have provided an opportunity for deep faith conversations.

With all these good changes-here is an opportunity for you to use your gifts to help plan and implement these events that will nurture faith. If you have a burning desire to create a project-talk to Pastor Joanna. Let's be bold and faithful as we explore something new.

Martin Luther once said "To be Christian without prayer (faith development, my addition) is no more possible than to be alive without breath." Let's breathe together while Christ makes all things new.

STEWARDSHIP NUGGETT FOR AUGUST 2016

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

A Quick Reminder

As you travel this summer, please keep your pledges current. Our congregation's expenses continue year round as do the expenses of the local benevolences which we support with our offerings.

Creation Care Service on August 7th. On Sunday, August 7th we will worship outside in the picnic shelter (weather permitting). Our worship focus will be care of creation. You are invited to bring a lawn chair if you would like. There will be other chairs under the shelter. Why not invite a friend to join you for this special worship?

Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for the September newsletter is **Monday, August 15!** Please be sure to have all articles or announcements to the church office prior to or on the deadline so that they will be included in the August issue.

New & Returning Students: The students at the university will be moving back to town during this month. The dorms will open on August 17th. Please make students and their families welcome as they come to worship and participate in the programs we offer. They bring life and vibrancy to our community and we want this to be their community of faith too!

Extending Our Campus Ministry by Student Referral: Do you know anyone who is going off to college for the first time? Maybe you know a returning student who is searching for a church home or campus ministry. You can extend the campus ministry of our church to institutions across the United States by logging on this site and sharing contact information with different sites. It's fast and easy. <http://lumin-networkreferral.org/student-referrals/>. Don't have any students—check out the page anyway—there is a lot of great information on the page about building faith among young adults.

SAVE the DATE: Sunday, August 28th is the church BBQ Picnic following the 11:00am worship service. We will be gathering the community of faith after a summer of vacations, welcoming new students, and visitors to enjoy lunch after the 11:00am worship service. Plan to make a little extra food so share!! There will be some delicious foods for vegetarians too!

Lord's Table: During the growing season, members with surplus produce from their gardens are invited to bring it in and leave it on the "Lord's Table" in the fellowship hall. When you worship pick up something and leave a donation which will be given to the ELCA's Hunger Appeal.

Update on our Favorite Hymns: We have been enjoying singing our favorite hymns for the prelude each Sunday. 5 hymns tied for the 4th highest number of votes and we sang them in July: 502, The King of Love My Shepherd Is; 779, Amazing Grace; 574, Here I Am, Lord; 856, How Great Thou Art; and 504, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God. We will sing the top 3 hymns in August.

Men's Bible Study Resumes: After a summer break, the Men's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, August 31st at 7:30am, in the Campus Center. Join us for this hour of fellowship, study of the coming week's gospel lesson, and prayer.

Altar Flowers by Rebekah Paulson: Rebekah and Mark moved into town in late 2015. Rebekah therefore has limited access to flowers and plant material. As a result in 2016 she stopped providing altar arrangements as a regular practice for church members. However, if you have a special request and wish to check with her about making an exception, please contact her directly at 250-6905 or rebekah.paulson@comcast.net If you write her name on the flower chart please first confirm with her that she is available and willing to provide an altar arrangement for you. Rebekah encourages you to consider using seasonal flowers and plant material from your own yard and garden to create a unique altar arrangement. After all the purpose of the altar arrangement is a gift to glorify God from the bounty of your harvest.

Micah's Backpack Sign Up: Luther Memorial will be responsible for delivering Micah's Backpack to Kipps Elementary School during the 2016-17 school year. MBP ensures that children on reduced or free lunch have food to eat over the weekend. Bags are picked up at St. Michael Lutheran Church on Thursday evening or Friday morning of each week. They are delivered to Kipps between 9 and noon on Friday. **The signup sheet to deliver a week or more is on the mailboxes in the narthex.**

Shelter Fest is Coming: Shelter Fest is a fundraising event sponsored by To Our House, the ministry with homeless men which our congregation hosts each year. This year Shelter Fest will be Saturday, August 27th, beginning at 5:30, Sinkland Farms, in Riner. The featured band is Holy Ghost Tent Revival, with special guests The Apple Butter Blues Band and Black Wax Rebellion. Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$20 at the door, and are available at Due South BBQ and the United Way. For more information see the poster in the narthex.

Thursday Faith Discussion Group Studies Great Christians: Beginning September 1, at 10:00am, in the conference room, the Thursday Faith Discussion Group will resume its DVD course, *The Lives of Great Christians*. Each week we will hear a lecture on a famous Christian from the history of the church—and use that as jumping off point to discuss challenges of faith in our own day.

Blacksburg Refugee Resettlement Partnership Launched: A grassroots organization to welcome Syrian refugees to Blacksburg has formed and begun the tasks necessary to resettle a family. The Blacksburg Resettlement Partnership is working with Commonwealth Catholic Charities, out of Roanoke, to bring a family to our community. Over the coming months the group will be working to ensure basic needs are met, including housing, food, transportation, health care, and employment. At some point there may be a role for our congregation, but right now any individual can be part of this effort. Scott Bailey is serving as coordinator of the group and he can be contacted at blacksburgrefugeeresettlement@gmail.com

Luther Forum

Does religion promote violence? Does the quest for God lead to intolerance of those who travel a different path? Rabbi Jonathan Sacks argues that while religion has often been used a pretext for injustice, the root causes are much deeper. *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence* explores the psychology of violence and invites readers to reinterpret familiar biblical texts as a way to confront violence rooted in religion. During the fall, the Luther Forum will be reading and discussing Sacks' book each Sunday morning. Join us at 9:45am in the Campus Center beginning Sunday, August 28th. All are welcome and books will be provided for participants.

Thursday Faith Discussion Group

The Lives of Great Saints is the course which the Thursday Morning Faith Discussion group will be using as its focus in the fall. Each week the group views a lecture on a person of particular importance in the history of the Church. This is the jumping off point for a far-ranging discussion of faith in the modern world. Join us beginning September 1st at 10:00am, in the conference room.

Fellowship Hall on Sunday

As the birthplace of Judaism and Christianity, the Holy Land (the area in and around modern-day Israel) is one of the most important regions in the world. With a rich history stretching back over 3,000 years, this area is a sacred land for three major faiths and the setting for defining events in religious history. The Holy Land Revealed DVD series used with the adult discussion will add new dimensions to your understanding of the millennia-long narrative of this dynamic place. Delivered by archaeologist and award-winning Professor Jodi Magness of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who has spent her career excavating at sites in and around Israel, these 36 lectures give you an insider's look at how archaeology helps us relive and encounter firsthand life during this formative period of human civilization. And it's a chance to gain an understanding of the ruins, artifacts, murals, documents, and other long-buried objects that appear as backdrop in the pages of the Bible.

Provocative and intriguing Questions can be expected as this deft blend of religion, archaeology, history, and culture is unrolled like a scroll. The program creates a narrative tapestry of life in the ancient Holy Land. The region is one that Professor Magness has devoted her entire career to studying and understanding.

- Did Herod's infamous "slaughter of the innocents" happen the way it is described in the New Testament? Or was it instead inspired by the ruler's murder of his own sons?
- How does Jesus's Passion along the Via Dolorosa compare with how the route actually existed during that period in Jerusalem's history?
- Was there really a mass suicide at the fall of Masada? If so, did it truly happen the way Josephus describes it in his historical narratives?

Confirmation is for 7th & 8th graders. This class meets on Sunday from 9:45am-10:45am in the Conference Room. Is your son or daughter eligible? Interested; or ready to dig a little deeper into questions of faith? The program lasts two years plus a week at Confirmation Camp (of which the church pays half). If you would like more information please contact Pastor Joanna (jstallings@lmlc.org).

ACTIVLY CHRISTIAN TEENS-----Hey there Parents, Middle and High School.

I hope that everyone has been having a great summer. It looks like some of you have been having some wonderful travels. Keep it up--time is growing short!

I'm looking at a few changes for ACT this fall. I need some feedback. Here is the situation. We have about 16 middle and high school students at LMLC. We could have a pretty good youth group and Sunday School class. Based on participation from last year--I'd say we are not meeting at a time that most people can attend. I'd like to mix it up this fall.

What I'm suggesting is that we meet on Wednesdays twice a month and Sat/Sun once or twice a month.

- Meeting on Wednesdays will allow us to continue having a meal at 6pm-7:30pm and program.
- Meeting on Sat/Sun would give us opportunity to do things with youth that we miss on Wednesday, plan an outing (I will need some parental help with transportation). It gives us more time to plan events that could last longer than 1.5 hours.

You are beginning to put schedules together for the fall. How does this sound to you? First and Third Wednesday and second Sat/Sun? Please let me know ASAP. It's time to round everyone up and plan some exciting meetings.

Peace & hope. Pastor Joanna

WEDNESDAY MORNING EXERCISE GROUP: We have a group of seniors that meet in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday morning at 10:30am to exercise using instructional DVDs. All of our DVDs offer exercises from a chair. A few of them involve us using light weights and/or stretch bands. We exercise using Pilates, aerobics, tai chi, balance, strengthening, yoga and chair dance DVDs. This is a great opportunity for those who find exercising alone a commitment challenge. Please join us at any time. The fellowship combined with getting healthy is so motivating!

Lutheran Campus Ministry – The Well

Do you know a student who is going to a college or university in the United States? During the undergraduate years students are exploring academics, but also questioning their faith. Lutheran Campus Ministry reaches out to students to give them a safe place to ask tough questions, find community, opportunities for service and growth through Bible study. You can extend the Campus Ministry of our congregation by connecting that student to a ministry or congregation near their school. A referral tool is on the Lutheran Ministry web site: <http://lumin-networkreferral.org/student-referrals/>. While you are there check out the video that will tell you why Lutheran Campus Ministry is so important.

Are you a new student at Virginia Tech visiting for orientation or just checking out the town before you arrive in August? We have an active student led college group called The Well. All are invited to come enjoy hospitality, opportunities for service, ask tough questions about faith, or expand your understanding of scripture through study. Please visit our electronic home at: <http://lsmvt.lmlc.org/the-well-lutheran-campus-ministry-vt> or make an appointment with Pastor Joanna jstallings@lmlc.org, call or text at 540-392-4327.

Better yet come to Gobblerfest on Friday, September 2nd, 4:00pm.-8:00pm on the Drillfield.

Welcome Back! The college students at Virginia Tech will be returning throughout the month. Classes at VT will begin on Monday, August 22nd. Please remember to wear name tags and greet new or returning students around you. Campus Ministry is one of our main ministries. If you see someone who looks lost invite them to sit with you. We want to make students and everyone feel welcome.

Sunday, August 28th – Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic will follow the 11:00am service.
BBQ Picnic on the grounds and the Sunday School Kick-Off

Dress casually for church, bring a blanket and a friend, and plan to stay following the 11:00am service for the picnic, fellowship, and fun! We will enjoy a BBQ picnic around 12:30. If your last name begins with A – P, bring a side dish such as a salad or vegetable. If your last name begins with Q – Z, bring a dessert. **SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS SHOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE AT LEAST 12 PEOPLE!!!** We are hoping to have plenty of hungry students as well as the rest of the congregation. If you are interested in helping to make this day a great success, please contact Marti Larson, 239-3453 or moonm@vt.edu. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk for volunteers to help set up chairs and tables before the picnic, and help for cleaning up afterwards.

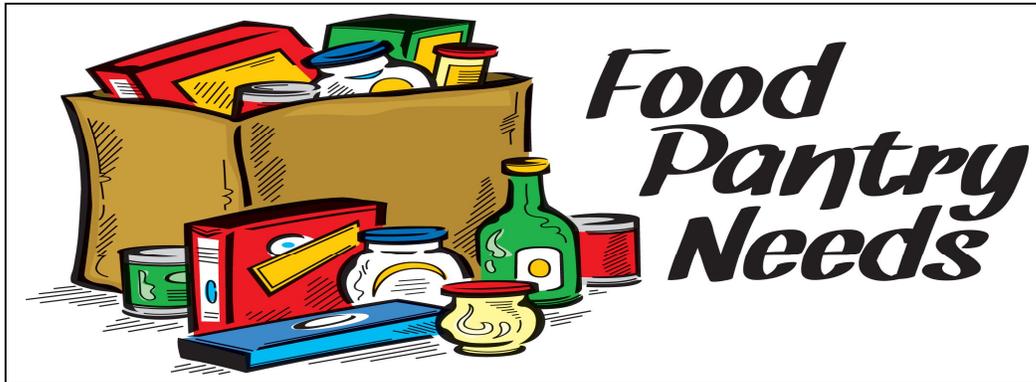
CHANGE FOR CHANGE IN AUGUST

Interfaith Food Pantry

The Interfaith Food Pantry (IFP) is the Change for Change recipient for August. About this time of year, food supplies run a little low. We are fortunate in that many in the community bring extra produce from their gardens to share. The Food Pantry relies solely on cash and food donations from churches, individuals, and other organizations. It is staffed by volunteers from local churches and the community and serves families residing in the Blacksburg and McCoy areas. Luther Memorial provides volunteers on the second and third Wednesdays of each month.

Besides your monetary contributions, we also collect food on an ongoing basis. Additional ways that you can help the Food Pantry include:

- Bring food donations to church and place in the designated containers.
- Ask for paper bags when you buy groceries and recycle them for the Food Pantry. There is a collection box in the narthex.
- Items that are not regularly available to clients include condiments such as catsup, mustard, spices, salt, pepper, flour, or broth which is used for making soup.



Notes of Thanks...

Pastor Joanna and Luther Memorial,

Thank you so much for hosting our ASP Crews on our way down to the centers for over 30 years! We cannot tell you how much we appreciate all you do for us!

Trinity's 2016 ASP Crews

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$510.06. 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.

With sincere gratitude, Pat Brown

Dear LMLC Friends,

Saying "Thanks" is not enough to express my gratitude for all of the many calls, cards and notes that I received during the time following my surgery. My husband was overwhelmed at the number of cards that I received. I appreciate the kind and encouraging words from those who have experienced this type of surgery, as that is what helped me to prepare for "what to expect". Any type of cancer is frightening and your prayers were much needed during the past weeks.

I thank each of you so very much, Sharon Walker



Aug. 1 Martin Forsman
Aug. 2 Anna Westwood
John Westwood
Logan Wolfe
Aug. 4 Elena Oosterhuis
Tom Reid
Aug. 5 Chris Branscome
Harper Thorsen
Aug. 6 Danial De La Mota
Aug. 9 Mary K. Smith
Aug. 10 Jennifer Freeman
Konrad Kubin
Cindy Strock
Aug. 12 Samantha Quisenberry
Aug. 13 Glen Earthman
Elizabeth Grant
Joyce Mills
Aug. 14 Jim Westwood
Aug. 15 Krista Johansen
Aug. 16 Mark Pierson
Aug. 17 Zelma Harris
Aug. 19 Pam Vickers
Aug. 20 Casey Knott
Don Marickovich
Aug. 21 Melissa Knocke
Aug. 22 Morgan Knott
Rebekah Schiek
Aug. 26 Marcia Barrow
Aug. 27 Hudson Collins
Seth Elich
Aug. 29 Alice Feret



Thanks for your service during the month of August



LAY COMMUNION

August 21 – Norm and Dori Marriott

BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

August 14 – Betty Segar / Joanna Stallings

BULLETIN FOLDING / STAPLING

August 5 – Nelda Buss / Jan Spahr

*August 12 – Betty Segar/
Irmtraut Hartenstein*

August 19 – Glen and Julie Earthman

*August 26 – Lisa Goodell / Betty Jo Prater /
Betty Everett*

MOWING SCHEDULE

*August 6 Everett Warner
Betty Segar
Fred & Dianne Rencsok*

*August 13 Barry Johnson Family
Kevin Widner*

*August 20 Glenn Buss
Andy Hansbrough
Kevin Carlson*

*August 27 Tim Larson
Danny Knott*

LMLC August 2016 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 – AA Mtg-SSC 7:00 - WRC	2	3 10:30 – Get Moving	4 6:30 – AA Mtg.	5	6 10:00 – Sanctuary Rehearsal
7 Creation Care Service 8:30 – Worship 10:00 – Worship 11:00 – Social Ministries Mtg.	8 6:30 – AA Mtg-SSC 7:00 - WRC	9	10 10:30 – Get Moving 5:30 – Christian Ed. Mtg	11 4:00 – Dialogue and Race 6:30 – AA Mtg.	12	13 10:00 – Sanctuary Rehearsal
14 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Birthday Fellowship 10:00 - Worship	15 Newsletter deadline 6:30 – AA Mtg-SSC 7:00 - WRC	16	17 10:30 – Get Moving	18 1:30 – FCA 4:00 – Finance Mtg 6:30 – AA Mtg.	19	20 10:00 – Sanctuary Rehearsal
21 8:30 – Worship 10:00 – Worship 7:00 – Cong. Council Mtg.	22 6:30 – AA Mtg-SSC 7:00 - WRC	23	24 10:30 – Get Moving	25 6:30 – AA Mtg.	26	27 10:00 – Sanctuary Rehearsal 5:30 – Shelter Fest at Sinkland Farms
28 Food on 4th 8:30 – Worship 10:00 – Worship 12:00 – Church Picnic 1:15 – Campus Ministry Committee	29 6:30 – AA Mtg-SSC 7:00 - WRC	30	31 7:30 - MBS 10:30 – Get Moving	Notes: WRC: Wilderness Road Chorus FCA: Funeral Consumer Alliance MBS: Men’s Bible Study		

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

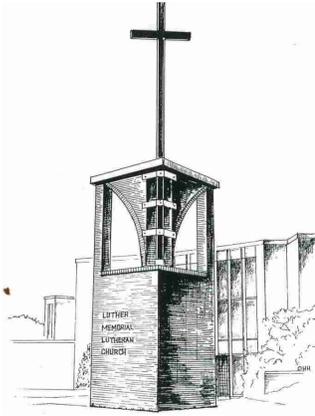
8:30 Service	August 7, 2016	August 14, 2016	August 21, 2016	August 28, 2016
Communion Assistant	Mary Grems	Everett Warner	Everett Warner	Teresa Cassell
Lector	Mark Barrow	Glenn Buss	Jay Crone	Chris Skogen
Greeter		John Hess	Teresa Cassell	
PW Greeter	Kevin Carlson	Mark Barrow	Teresa Cassell	Everett Warner
Ushers	Zelma Harris	Zelma Harris	Zelma Harris	Zelma Harris
	Charlie Harris	Charlie Harris	Charlie Harris	Charlie Harris
	Marcia Barrow	Marcia Barrow	Marcia Barrow	Marcia Barrow
	Glenn Buss	Glenn Buss	Glenn Buss	Glenn Buss
Tellers	Brad Grems	Brad Grems	Brad Grems	Brad Grems
	Danny Knott	Danny Knott	Danny Knott	Danny Knott
	Mara Knott	Mara Knott	Mara Knott	Mara Knott

10:00/11:00 Service	August 7, 2016	August 14, 2016	August 21, 2016	August 28, 2016
Communion Assistant	Diane Catley	John Anstrom	Tom Wilson	Cooper Neeble
Lector	Phil Jordan	Anne Devenport	Andy Hansbrough	Tammy Heft
Greeter	John Hess	Ellie Roeder	Xavier Barnes	Ann Hess
PW Greeter	Irmtraut Hartenstein	Betty Segar	Betty Segar	Irmtraut Hartenstein
Ushers	Joe Straub	Joe Straub	Joe Straub	Joe Straub
	Barb Straub	Barb Straub	Barb Straub	Barb Straub
	Cooper Neeble	Cooper Neeble	Cooper Neeble	Cooper Neeble
	Mike Neeble	Mike Neeble	Mike Neeble	Mike Neeble
Tellers	Elaine Belay	Elaine Belay	Elaine Belay	Elaine Belay
	Dianne Rencsok	Dianne Rencsok	Dianne Rencsok	Dianne Rencsok
	Kathy Valencic	Kathy Valencic	Kathy Valencic	Kathy Valencic

If you are unable to fulfill your position, please contact one of the other Service Participants to sub for you and contact the church office with their name, so that it can be noted in the bulletin.

Thank you for your service.

Luther Memorial News
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
600 Prices Fork Road NW
Blacksburg, VA 24060



MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

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| <i>August 7</i> | <i>11:00am – Social Ministries</i> |
| <i>August 10</i> | <i>5:30pm – Christian Education in Conference Room of Parish Life Center</i> |
| <i>August 11</i> | <i>4:00pm – Dialogue and Race</i> |
| <i>August 18</i> | <i>4:00pm – Finance Committee</i> |
| <i>August 21</i> | <i>7:00pm – Congregational Council Meeting</i> |
| <i>August 28</i> | <i>1:15pm – Campus Ministry Meeting in the Campus Center</i> |