

# ***The Luther Memorial News***

***December 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***

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## **December Stewardship Nugget**

*"He that gives all, though but little, gives much; because God looks not to the quantity of the gift,  
but to the quality of the givers."*

*Francis Quarles (1592-1644, author)*

## **FROM OUR PASTOR....**

Experts in time management tell us that the most important time we spend in a week is not plowing through our to-do list, but in stepping back and getting some perspective on what is important. When we disengage from a sense of urgency and calmly ask, "What is most important?" we are less likely to feel overcome by stress—and more likely to put our energies into what really matters. In the crush of a jammed schedule we seldom feel as though we have time to plan, but the reality is that we have too little time **not** to focus our energies.

We do well to keep that truth before our eyes during December. No time is more hectic. No time is more stressful: gifts to buy, visits to plan, baking to do, parties to attend. We begin to feel like a ninja, dealing with one adversary only to encounter another. So let me invite you to give yourself the gift of midweek worship.

Each Wednesday in December we will be gathering with members of St. Michael to share a meal and Holden Evening Prayer. With the season's chaos swirling beyond the nave and our pulses racing from the demands of the week, we will pause to remember God's faithfulness. We will allow the music, lesson, and prayers to massage frayed spirits. We will lift up our world to God care, for at least a few moments remembering that it does not all depend on us.

Then we will step back into the raging river which is the holiday schedule, but now anchored in the remembrance of whose we are. The schedule is elsewhere in this newsletter. I urge you to treat yourself to a grace moment.

*Pastor King*

## **NOVEMBER CHANGE FOR CHANGE – CHRISTMAS OUTREACH**

We kicked off our fund raising for Christmas Outreach on November 20. We are assisting families with financial assistance at Valley Interfaith Child Care Center (VICCC). The center provides child care to low income families in our area. Each month VICCC provides a "Story of VICCC". It is meant to put a face to the families this center serves. Below is this month's story:

*There is a single mother who was raised by her mother who was an addict. She remembers making her own sandwiches at the age of 7 because her mother was not able to care for her. She had her first child at the age of 16. She is a beautiful girl. She was able to finish high school with the help of her grandmother. She had her second daughter at the age of 19, another girl. She has lived in generational poverty with family members incarcerated or addicted. This mother brought her children to VICCC. She is now working full time and has started classes at New River Community College. She is moving forward to change her future and the future of her children. She needs help and encouragement. While she is trying to find a different way, she is working and her children are playing happily at VICCC.*

Last year we raised \$3000 to provide \$150 each to 20 VICCC families to help with the cost of their child care. We plan on continuing this gift to provide tuition assistance to designated families this Christmas. I would like to challenge the congregation to raise \$3750 so we can provide the \$150 to 25 families this year. We also plan on providing cookies and books for each child at the center. The center serves about 45 children including an afterschool program. VICCC also provides the same book each month to each child as part of their curriculum. We would like to sponsor one month of this book at a cost of \$180. In order reach our goals, we need to raise \$3,930.00. I feel confident that we can meet this goal to help the children of low income working families. We will take donations through Sunday December 11. If you would also like to provide cookies, those need to be delivered to the church on the 11 of December so we can put them in individual bags for each child. I would be glad for a couple of volunteers to help me place the cookies in bags on the December 11. I would like to thank everyone who continues to support this fundraising effort.

## **HOLIDAY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

December 4, 11, and January 8, Pam Tessnear will be facilitating a group focused on grieving. The holiday season is often particularly hard for those dealing with grief and this is an opportunity for fellowship, a brief program on the grieving process, and mutual support. The group will meet at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Sunday afternoons, from 2:00pm until 3:30pm.

A fourth session will provide an opportunity to worship together at a Longest Night Service (or Service of Solace) at which the worshipers will celebrate Christmas and lift up griefs with a ritual of candle lighting, scripture reading, songs, and story sharing. That service is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 18 at 6:00pm. Participants are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

On Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> the church office will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday.

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER:** The deadline is Thursday, December 15, 2016. Please have all articles, ready for publication and to the church office on or before this date. Thanks!

## **2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Your 2016 offering envelopes can be picked up from the counter in the Narthex of the church. If you do not currently use envelopes and would like to, please contact Sharon Walker at [luther@lmlc.org](mailto:luther@lmlc.org). Your contribution statements for 2016 will be ready in early February 2017. Please check your church mailbox for them. If not picked up, the remaining statements will be mailed.

## **BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR**

The Birthday Fellowship Calendar for 2017 is posted on the kiosk. Volunteers are needed to sign-up for the second Sunday of each month to bring refreshments following the 8:30am and 11:00am services. It is an important time of fellowship and celebration with those who were born in each month of the year.

**THE 2017 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.

### **FAITH5 Meetings for December**

December 4—Carla Liversedge & Lisa Carlson

December 18—Amy Roeder

This is the faith formation opportunity for pre-K thru 6 graders held in the Great Room on the second floor from 9:45am-10:45am on the dates listed above.

**Faith5 Volunteers**—the new year is coming up fast and it's time to create a list of volunteers for our Sunday morning formation time with the younger children in the congregation. The group meets in the Great Room on the second floor from 9:45am-10:45am on the following dates: Jan. 8 & 22, Feb. 5 & 19, Mar. 5 & 19. Curriculum is provided as well as support. It's always great to have two folks who are willing to work together. If you can assist with one or more Sundays, please contact Pastor Joanna @ [jstallings@lmlc.org](mailto:jstallings@lmlc.org). The signup sheet has been posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

**Sunday School Classes** will not meet on December 25 or on January 1. Classes will resume on January 8!

### **SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

Luther Memorial maintains a Special Assistance Fund as a way to respond to urgent needs of which our members are aware. By filling out a simple form any member can sponsor an individual or family through this fund. In the past, this fund has been used to pay mounting electricity costs, assist in travel expenses for a person being treated at a distant hospital, and support a grandmother in caring for children. You can help alleviate this hardship for someone. Imagine the gift that you can provide to a family during this Christmas time! For You - No wrapping!! No gift bag!! No credit card!! You may obtain a sponsorship form by contacting Pastor King.

If you would like to support this fund, you may write a check, put "special assistance fund" on the memo line, and put it in the weekly offering.

**ACT-Actively Christian Teens** – During the month of December we will meet with the congregation for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings (please check the calendar for location as we will switch off with St. Michael and LMLC.) On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> we will go Christmas Caroling.

### **SMALL GROUP FORMING**

Please save the date: Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30am.

There will be a small group forming to work our way through "Eyes of the Heart" by Christine Valters Paintner. We will examine photography as a Christian contemplative practice. There are eight chapters. We anticipate doing a chapter each month and will meet every two weeks to discuss our thoughts and discoveries. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** We are all beginners. Let's meet in the narthex first to see how many of us there are. Then we can find a room to fit in! Please email Jenny if questions: [bluenorthernwind@gmail.com](mailto:bluenorthernwind@gmail.com) or call 641-4496 before 8:00pm.

## UPCOMING HOLIDAY SERVICES AND EVENTS

### THE ADVENT WORKSHOP

Coming up on December 4, 4:00-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall of the church. It's a great time for anyone of any age to gather and prepare the way for the Christ child. There will be stars and ornaments to make as well as other things that will delight. A light supper will be planned.

### MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

During Advent we will again join with St. Michael Lutheran Church for fellowship and joint worship using Holden Evening Prayer. We will meet at 6:00pm for a meal and worship will begin at 6:45pm. Our schedule:

- November 30—St Michael
- December 7—Luther Memorial
- December 14—St. Michael
- December 21—Luther Memorial

**We are hosting the Advent dinner and service at Luther Memorial on December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>.** We would like to serve chili for the Dec 7<sup>th</sup> dinner, and potluck casseroles on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. I'm hoping to get volunteers to bring either chili (Dec 7) or a casserole (Dec 21) for these nights. If you could help out with dinner on the 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 21<sup>st</sup> please let me know ([moonm@vt.edu](mailto:moonm@vt.edu)). I will also place a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Narthex. Thanks so much, Marti Larson

### CAROLING AND OPEN HOUSE AT THE KINGS – DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>

Gather in the parking lot at 4:00pm to join us as we go caroling to the homes of some of our members. You do not have to be a great singer; this is about sharing some Christmas cheer! When we finish caroling we will end the afternoon at Gail and Bill King's home (1401 Highland Circle, Blacksburg) with food and fellowship. Even if you are unable to join us for caroling, please plan to stop in.

### DECORATING THE CHRISMON TREES – DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>

Following the 11:00am worship service we will begin decorating the church for our Christmas celebration by setting up our Chrismon trees. Join us for this time of fellowship. A light lunch will be provided.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

There will be two Christmas Eve services on December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm and 8:00pm. Both services will include Holy Communion and will use a setting based on Christmas hymns.

### ONE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY

We will have **ONE** worship service on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. The service time will be at **11:00am**. Worship on January 1<sup>st</sup> will be a Service of Lessons and Carols. There will be no Christian education classes on these days.

**MEALS AT THE MANGER** has been a way for us to support Micah's Backpack which offers assistance to children in our community that are food insecure.

*Canned Pasta (14.75 oz. or smaller), Chicken Noodle Soup (10.75oz or smaller), Tuna (small can), Individual Mac and Cheese Cups, Vegetable Soup (10.75oz. or smaller), Peanut Butter (10.75 oz. or smaller), 100% Juice Boxes, Individual Oatmeal, Small cans of Veggies, Fruit Cups In juice or lite syrup.*

***Items may be brought and placed in the manger on Sunday, Dec. 18 thru Christmas Day.***

**The Fellowship Hall Sunday Forum has started**  
***LUTHER: Gospel, Law, and Reformation.***

This series of video presentations by Professor Phillip Cary first traces Luther's discoveries in the Gospel then examines the Protestant Reformation and completes with how Luther approached key selected topics. Bring your coffee and stop by this informative background to next year's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.



**BIG THANKS TO...**

- Carol Papillon for coordinating Luther Memorial's To Our House hosting and to all the amazing volunteers who stepped up to making hosting of this ministry possible.
- Wava Vigen for energetically representing Luther Memorial in the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership.
- Our lawn crews for keeping the grounds neat during the mowing season.
- Teresa Cassell and the volunteers who have helped us launch Luther's Lunch at 12:05.
- Each of you who perform the routine, often unnoticed, tasks which make ministry at Luther Memorial happen each week.

**THANK YOU NOTES.....**

Thank you for your recent gift of toiletries and household items. 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

Thank you Jamie Worley, Patty Marickovich, Kathy Parrott, Barb Straub, Lois and Jim Lang, Marti Larson, Gail King and Carol Papillon for preparing and serving dinner for the NRV Cares parenting class through this fall. You provided a warm welcome to these visitors to Luther Memorial.

Mary Hansbrough

Dear Luther Memorial Members,

Thank you for your contribution to the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership. Your donation will make it possible for refugees from war torn zones find a new life in Blacksburg, VA. Combines with other generous contributions, families that have fled their native countries will be able to integrate into society here, and be able to integrate into society here, and be able to concentrate their efforts in learning English, finding jobs and pursuing peaceful lives for their children without constant worry about how to pay bills.

You can rest assured that one hundred percent of your donation will be used to support refugee families resettling in our community. I will go towards such things as rent, food, clothing, utility bills, and education about how to acclimate to their new home.

Thank you for making a real difference in the lives of those struggling to make a new home for themselves in our community.

Sincerely,  
Jane Aronson, BRP Board Member

Dear Luther Memorial,

During this season of thanksgiving, the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program and its clients wish to recognize you for your past financial support and express their deep appreciation. We thank you most of all for your care and concern for your fellow citizens in the time of need.

With many thanks,  
Susan Miller, President of MCEAP

**Donate books to the Montgomery County Christmas Store** by dropping them off at the church by December 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a need for books of good quality, as they are often given as Christmas gifts among family members. We need children's and teens' books, cookbooks, Christmas books, popular fiction, and nonfiction books of general interest. Though most donated books are gently used, new ones are welcomed as well!

### December Stewardship Nugget

*"He that gives all, though but little, gives much;  
because God looks not to the quantity of the gift,  
but to the quality of the givers."*

Francis Quarles (1592-1644), author



### "To Our House" December 2016 Change for Change Recipient



*The mission of To Our House is providing thermal shelter and compassionate care to homeless men in the New River Valley, and to make available any resources that could help the men reintegrate into society. Donations through Change for Change will assist in purchasing much needed supplies and will provide the resources needed to assist the men in their journey out of homelessness.*

To Our House is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year. Last year, 48 different guests were served with 12 finding jobs and 25 locating more permanent housing. This season from November 5-March 31, guests will be housed in warm locations, usually churches throughout the New River Valley. The guests stayed at Luther Memorial from November 12<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> with over 25 individuals volunteering with other congregations providing meals. Please consider donating your Change!





## Lutheran Campus Ministries At Virginia Tech

### The Well

***Our Mission Statement:*** *Because God loves us and calls us to love, we welcome and invite others to engage and grow in faith. Through discipleship and active service in our community, we are able to intentionally deepen our relationship with God and one another.*

We will make a fast run toward final exams and the end of the semester. All students are invited to join in the meetings offered this month at The Well.

- **Sunday, Dec. 4**  
Come and pick up your exam survival kits when you worship at LMLC.
- **Wed., Dec. 7**  
White Elephant Christmas Celebration with our friends from Radford University. We will meet at The Well for dinner, silly fun, s'mores, and devotions. Bring a white elephant gift that is wrapped (worth no more than \$5 or a re-gifted item to share). Laughter and good times will follow.
- **Sunday, Dec. 11—L Cubed**  
Luther's Luscious Lunches immediately after the 11:00am worship service will be served in the Campus Center.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 13**  
Dinner only.

The Campus Center will be available 24/7 for study groups,  
preparing your favorite snack,  
watching TV or taking a nap away from campus.

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#### **2016-2017 The Well Leadership**

Meghan Rupkey, President  
Sam Dibiaso, Secretary  
Rachel Magri, Service Officer

meghanr9@vt.edu  
saman13@vt.edu  
rmagri@vt.edu

Casey Parrett, Vice President  
Tommy Hyres, Outreach Officer

pcasey8@vt.edu  
tommy085@vt.edu

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2016

**8:30am**

8:30am	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Charlie Harris	Danny Knott	Mary Grems	Janet Buss
<b>Lector</b>	Zelma Harris	Chris Skogen	Leah Wechtaluk-McFarren	Jay Crone
<b>PW Greeter</b>	Kevin Carlson	Kevin Carlson	Congregation	Congregation
<b>Ushers</b>	Glenn Buss	Glenn Buss	Glenn Buss	Glenn Buss
	Everett Warner	Everett Warner	Everett Warner	Everett Warner
	Bryce Carlson	Bryce Carlson	Bryce Carlson	Bryce Carlson
<b>Tellers</b>	Brad Grems	Brad Grems	Brad Grems	Brad Grems
	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow
	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson

**11:00am**

11:00am	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Ben Anstrom	Gwen Barnes	Linda Libey	Teresa Cassell
<b>Lector</b>	John Hess	Mandy Wilson	Bennett Cassell	Ann Hess
<b>Greeter</b>	Ann Hess	Xavier Barnes	Amy and Ellie Roeder	Congregation
<b>PW Greeter</b>	Irmtraut Hartenstein	Irmtraut Hartenstein	Congregation	Congregation
<b>Ushers</b>	Betty Segar	Betty Segar	Betty Segar	Betty Segar
	Jody Freeman	Jody Freeman	Jody Freeman	Jody Freeman
	Katya Grant	Katya Grant	Katya Grant	Katya Grant
	Marti Larson	Marti Larson	Marti Larson	Marti Larson
<b>Tellers</b>	John Anstrom	John Anstrom	John Anstrom	John Anstrom
	Teresa Cassell	Teresa Cassell	Teresa Cassell	Teresa Cassell
	Dianne Rencsok	Dianne Rencsok	Dianne Rencsok	Dianne Rencsok

**CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS:**

*Crucifer  
Lector  
Ushers  
Communion Assistants  
Tellers*

**5:00pm**

*Nick Brians  
Anne Devenport  
Marti Larson  
Diane Catley*

**8:00pm**

*Stephanie Valencic  
Betty Segar  
Tom Wilson*

## Happy December Birthday Wishes to:

Dec. 1 Bill Knocke, Barb Straub, Clara Westcott  
Dec. 2 Cash Mills, James Whittaker  
Dec. 3 Francisco de La Mota  
Dec. 5 Lauren Widner  
Dec. 7 Alex Barrow  
Dec. 8 Mark Rogers  
Dec. 12 Joanne Watson  
Dec. 16 Norm Marriott  
Dec. 18 Gail King  
Dec. 21 Kevin Quisenberry  
Dec. 22 Jennifer McDonald  
Dec. 25 Christian Peterson, Randy Shifflett  
Dec. 26 Wava Vigen  
Dec. 27 Dennis Kubin  
Dec. 28 Carol Liversedge, Carol Papillon, Stephanie Valencic  
Dec. 30 Gilli Freeman, Jasper Hester, Fred Renscok  
Dec. 31 Nick Everett, Patti Hall, Rhoda Janosik, Warren Lee



## Ministry Assistants this Month

### Bulletin Preparation

Nelda Buss Jan Spahr	12/02/16
Betty Segar Rhoda Myers	12/09/16
Glen and Julie Earthman	12/16/16
Betty Jo Prater Betty Everett	Wednesday 12/23/16

**Lay Communion, December 18:** Norm & Dorie Marriott

### Hosting Birthday Fellowship on December 11

9:45am	The Barrow Family
12:00pm	The Freeman Family

# Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

## December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am TMFD 6:30pm - AA	2	3 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
4 8:30am - Worship 4pm - Advent Workshop 9:45am - Christian Formation 9:45am - Faith5 11am - Worship 2:30 - Holiday Grief Support Group- BMUC	5 9am - PMO 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30om - AA 7pm - WRC	6	7 7:30am - MBS 9am - PMO 10:30am - Get Moving Exercise 6pm - Advent Meal and Worship @ LMLC	8 10am TMFD 4pm - Dialogue on Race 6:30pm - AA	9	10 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
11 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Christian Formation 9:45am - Birthday Fellowship 11am - Worship 2:30 - Holiday Grief Support Group- BMUC 4pm - Caroling - King's Open House	12 9am - PMO 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30om - AA 7pm - WRC	13 9am - Newcomers Club Mtg.	14 7:30am - MBS 9am - PMO 10:30am - Get Moving Exercise 6pm - Advent Meal and Worship @ St Michael	15 <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 10am TMFD 6:30pm - AA	16	17 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
18 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Christian Formation 9:45am - Faith5 11am - Worship 12pm - Hanging of the Greens 7pm - Congregation Council Meeting	19 9am - PMO 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30om - AA 7pm - WRC	20	21 7:30am - MBS 9am - PMO 10:30am - Get Moving Exercise 6pm - Advent Meal and Worship @ LMLC	22 10am TMFD 6:30pm - AA	23	24 10:00am Rehearsal in Sanctuary 5pm Christmas Eve Service 8pm Christmas Eve Service
25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 11am - Worship	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27	28 7:30am - MBS 9am - PMO 10:30am - Get Moving Exercise	29 10am TMFD 6:30pm - AA	30	31 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary

FCM - Finance Committee Meeting  
 FCA - Funeral Consumers Alliance  
 PMO - Parents Morning Out

WMMBS - Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study  
 TMFD - Thursday Morning Faith Discussion  
 WRC - Wilderness Road Chorus

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# Christmas Poinsettias



*We will once again decorate the church with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you wish to give a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office **no later than Sunday, December 11, 2016**. The poinsettias are florist quality, foil wrapped and grown locally. **The final day to place the order is Monday, December 12**. The cost is \$10.25 per plant.*

Number of Poinsettias ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given to the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

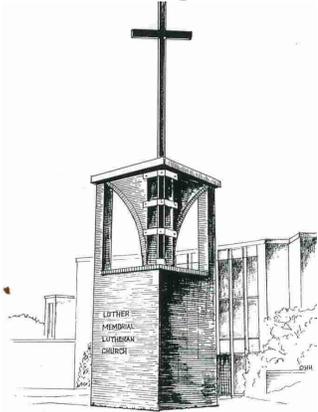
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please put completed form in the offering bag or return to the church office by Monday, December 12.**



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



*Wishing each of you and your families a  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*Pastor Bill King*

*Pastor Joanna Stallings*

*Sharon Walker*

*Gail King*

*Tom Wilson*

*Michael Spencer*