

The Luther Memorial News

December 2017

*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.*

**Pastor
Bill King**
luthercm@vt.edu
(540) 951-1003

Sharon Walker, Office Mgr. / Financial Secretary
swalker@lmlc.org
(540) 951-1000

Gail King, Organist

Tom Wilson, Choir Director

Michael Spencer, Custodian

Church Contact Information

Phone: 951-1000

Fax: 951-0820

Email: luther@lmlc.org

Web: <http://www.lmlc.org>

FROM OUR PASTOR...

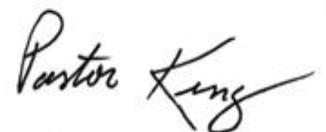
December is always a hectic month as we jam many holiday activities into a short period of time. Paradoxically, one way to ease the stress is to block out time amid the busyness for things which feed the soul and serve the neighbor:

Midweek Advent Worship. During December we will pause in the middle of week to share food and Holden Evening Prayer with the folks at St. Michael congregation. As has been our custom, we will rotate this event. We will be at St. Michael on December 6th and 20th, and at Luther Memorial on December 13th. We will begin eating at 6 and worship at 6:45. Treat yourself to a "time out."

Caroling and Drop-In. December 10th we will plan to carol to our shut-ins and then enjoy some fellowship at the Kings. Gail and I always enjoy hosting our members because it offers an opportunity share chili and conversation with you. Please watch the bulletin for specific times.

Hanging the Greens. We will be preparing the church for Christmas on December 17th, immediately following the Sunday worship service. Join us as we put up the Christmas trees and hang the Chrismons. There is something which everyone can do to help prepare the way of the Lord.

Christmas Outreach. You will see the Christmas Outreach tree in the narthex. Take an ornament and help make Christmas a bit brighter for children at the Valley Interfaith Child Care Center. This is a simple, tangible way to welcome the Christ child who comes in the guise of our community's children.



MEETINGS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Evangelism Committee meets on Dec 6 at 9:30am in the Parish Life Center.

Anyone with ideas on how or what should constitute Evangelism at Luther Memorial is invited to attend.

Church Council meets at 7:00pm on Sunday, December 17.

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CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: On Monday December 25th the church office will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes will not meet on December 24 or on December 31. Classes will resume on January 7!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP: During Advent we will again join St Michael 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: December 6 @ St Michael, December 13 @ Luther Memorial and December 20 @ St Michael.

ADVENT DINNER: Luther Memorial will be hosting the Advent dinner on December 13th. We are asking our congregation to supply pots of either chili or soup. Breads and dessert will already be provided. A signup sheet will be placed on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. As always, thank you so much for your help. Please contact Marti Larson (moon@vt.edu) with any questions.

CAROLING AND OPEN HOUSE AT THE KINGS – DECEMBER 10th: 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 17th: Following the 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 one Christmas Eve service on December 24th, at 5:00pm. The service will include Holy Communion and will use a setting based on Christmas hymns. Worship on January 1st will be a Service of Lessons and Carols.

POINSETTIAS: If you have not yet ordered a Christmas Poinsettia, please contact the church office before December 10. The cost for the plant is \$10.50 and can be placed In Memory or in Honor of someone.

FEED THE SOUL AND SERVE THE NEIGHBOR: December is always a hectic monthly as we jam many holiday activities into a short period of time. Paradoxically, one way to ease the stress of to block out time amid the busyness for things which feed the soul and serve the neighbor.

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 morning,
Dec. 24 or at the Christmas Eve Service.***

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.

ADVENT 2017

This year Luther Memorial will again observe an extended season of Advent, a time of focusing on Christ's coming in the past, present, and future. The lectionary readings for the final Sundays of the church year focus on prophecy and end times.

We began our Advent preparation on November 12, by including the singing of two verses from the hymn, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. Each successive Sunday we will be using a verse from that hymn that emphasizes a particular title for Messiah as prophesized by Isaiah. A new banner on the sanctuary wall will help us focus on these ideas as we move toward Christmas.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, provides opportunities to recall the various prophetic images of the Messiah. The verses of this hymn have roots in the ancient tradition of liturgical responses written specifically for the seven days before Christmas. These are called the O Antiphons; responses to the advent hope, "O Come, O Come."

On December 3, four Sundays before Christmas, the new church year begins. At this time, the advent wreath is placed on the altar and sidewall banners unfold as we approach the Nativity. Our uses of the O Antiphons complement our expectations and liturgical responses to the amazing gift of the incarnate God.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER: The deadline is Friday, **December 15, 2017**. Please have all articles, ready for publication and to the church office on or before this date. Thanks!

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Your 2018 offering envelopes should arrive by late-December and 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. Your contribution statements for 2017 will be ready in early February 2018. Please check your church mailbox for them. If not picked up, the remaining statements will be mailed.

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.

ARE YOU VISITING?

When the church is full, I get the feeling of substance and support all around me. It is one advantage to having one service. Getting reacquainted with people I have not seen in many years is wonderful. Except, that is, when I recognize the face but have no idea what name should accompany it.

Interestingly, there have been "visitors" whose name I do remember! When my daughter's high school friends visit, their names flash along with memories of teenage escapades. There are families of some of the Virginia Tech students who have come often enough for me to remember them. When I greeted someone who I was sure was a visitor, I made it a point to ask their name and, after a few visits, I can remember it. I don't put them in the position of trying to remember who I am because I am wearing a name tag.

Perhaps you are not wearing your name tag because it is damaged, or too plain, or just has a type font that isn't you. There is a solution! A basket is sitting on the counter in the Narthex with name tag cards, holders, and colored markers. You can make your own and put some design on it to personalize it. My new name tag has a strange scroll on it, I may try to make another. The design is supposed to represent a 1040 tax form to indicate my activity as an AARP Tax preparation volunteer!

So, I encourage you to wear your name tag. We can be more collegial to our own congregation members and more welcoming to visitors when they have a name to connect with.

*Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*

Change for Change in December



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.

From October 28, 2017-March 31, 2018 this year, guests are housed in warm locations. Luther Memorial provided space and the support of many volunteers from November 18-December 2. Other congregations provided meals. Last year, 52 different guests were served. Already this year, recent guest have transitioned to more permanent housing and jobs.

Your donations through Change for Change will assist in purchasing supplies and resources to assist the men in their journey out of homelessness.

If you would like to provide a direct tax-deductible donation, go to <http://newrivercommunityaction.org/to-our-house/toh-donations/>



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 2: WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

1. How much trouble are we in?

Big trouble.

Over the coming 25 or 30 years, scientists say, the climate is likely to gradually warm, with more extreme weather. Coral reefs and other sensitive habitats are already [starting to die](#). Longer term, if emissions rise unchecked, scientists fear climate effects so severe that they might destabilize governments, produce [waves of refugees](#), precipitate the [sixth mass extinction](#) of plants and animals in the Earth’s history, and melt the polar ice caps, causing the seas to rise high enough to flood most of the world’s coastal cities. The emissions that create those risks are happening now, raising deep [moral questions](#) for our generation.

2. How much should I worry about climate change affecting me directly?

Are you rich enough to shield your descendants?

The simple reality is that people are already feeling the effects, whether they know it or not. Because of sea level rise, for instance, some 83,000 more residents of New York and New Jersey were flooded during Hurricane Sandy than would have been the case in a stable climate, scientists have calculated. Tens of thousands of people are already dying in heat waves made worse by global warming. The refugee flows that have destabilized politics around the world have been traced in part to climate change. Of course, as with almost all other social problems, poor people will be hit first and hardest.

3. How much will the seas rise?

The real question is how fast.

The ocean has accelerated and is now rising at a rate of about a foot per century, forcing governments and property owners to spend tens of billions of dollars fighting coastal erosion. But if that rate continued, it would probably be manageable, experts say.

The risk is that the rate will increase still more. Scientists who study the Earth’s history say waters could rise by a foot per decade in a worst-case scenario, though that looks unlikely. Many experts believe that even if emissions stopped tomorrow, 15 or 20 feet of sea level rise is already inevitable, enough to [flood many cities](#) unless trillions of dollars are spent protecting them. How long it will take is unclear. But if emissions continue apace, the ultimate rise could be 80 or 100 feet.

4. Is recent crazy weather tied to climate change?

Some of it is.

Scientists have published strong evidence that the warming climate is making heat waves [more frequent and intense](#). It is also causing [heavier rainstorms](#), and coastal flooding is [getting worse](#) as the oceans rise because of human emissions. Global warming has intensified droughts in regions like the Middle East, and it may have [strengthened](#) a recent drought in California.

In many other cases, though — [hurricanes, for example](#) — the linkage to global warming for particular trends is uncertain or disputed. Scientists are gradually improving their understanding as computer analyses of the climate grow more powerful.

THANK YOU NOTES.....

Thank you Lois and Jim Lang, Keli Lichty, Mary Grems, Jennifer Freeman, Dianne Rencsok, Marti Larson and Kathy Parrott for preparing and serving dinner for the NRV Cares parenting class over the winter. Our visitors in these classes have enjoyed the variety of meals.

Mary Hansbrough

Dear Luther Memorial Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting the good work of caring for the young children of VICCC. Your contribution helps to impact the school readiness of at-risk children in our community. With your help, we can continue to serve these families with quality care in a safe, loving, and learning environment. Thanks so much for what you do for the children!

Judy Shelor, Center Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gifts of \$1,331.52. 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. Oh my goodness! Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness.

Pat Brown

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your donation of \$1,750. I am grateful that you choose to partner with us to invest your charitable dollars locally. As we move forward, we will continue to rely on contributions and the benevolence of our community to help our programs succeed so that we can serve all of our patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Thank you so much! Your support is vital to ensure the good health of our neighbors and I thank you for your dedication to our mission.

Sincerely, Michelle Brauns, CEO

STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR DECEMBER 2017

There cannot be a surer rule, nor a stronger exhortation to the observance of it, than when we are taught that all the endowments which we possess are divine deposits entrusted to us for the very purpose of being distributed for the good of our neighbor.

John Calvin

DECEMBER 2017 SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

10:00	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Greeter	Anna Schmitt	Irmtraut Hartenstein	Betty Segar	Ann Hess	Jennifer Freeman
Communion Assistant	Everett Warner John Anstrom	Charlie Harris Kathy Parrott	Linda Libey Karl Pedersen	Glenn Buss Janet Buss	Mandy Wilson Phil Jordan
Lector	Stephanie Valencic	Glenn Buss	Andy Hansbrough	John Hess	Linda Libey
PW Greeter	Teresa Cassell	Amy Roeder	Kathy Valencic	Everett Warner	Betty Segar
Ushers	Rick Howard	Rick Howard	Rick Howard	Rick Howard	Rick Howard
	Jim Westwood	Jim Westwood	Jim Westwood	Jim Westwood	Jim Westwood
	Marsha Barrow	Marsha Barrow	Marsha Barrow	Marsha Barrow	Marsha Barrow
	Danny Knott	Danny Knott	Danny Knott	Danny Knott	Danny Knott
Tellers	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson
	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow
	Gary Buss	Gary Buss	Gary Buss	Gary Buss	Gary Buss

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

12/01	Bill Knocke Barb Straub Clara Westcott	12/25	Christian Peterson Randy Shifflett
12/02	James Whittaker	12/26	Wava Vigen
12/03	Francisco De La Mota	12/27	Dennis Kubin
12/05	Lauren Widner	12/28	Carla Liversedge Carol Papillon Stephanie Valencic
12/07	Alex Barrow	12/30	Gilli Freeman Jasper Hester Fred Renscok
12/08	Mark Rogers	12/31	Nick Everett Patty Hall Rhoda Janosik Warren Lee
12/12	Joanne Watson		
12/18	Gail King		
12/21	Kevin Quisenberry		
12/22	Jennifer McDonald		



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Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

December Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: purple;">Merry Christmas</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: purple;"><i>To you and your families</i></p>					1 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	2 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
3 9:00am – Christian Formation 10am - Worship	4 9am – Parents Morning Out 6pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	5	6 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 6pm – Advent Meal, St Michael 6:45pm Advent Worship	7 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 6:30pm – AA	8 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	9 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
10 9:00am – Christian Formation 10am - Worship 4:00pm Christmas Caroling With drop in at the Kings <i>Deadline to order Poinsettias</i>	11 9am – Parents Morning Out 6pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	12 9am – Newcomers Club Mtg.	13 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 6pm – Advent Meal, LMLC 6:45pm Advent Worship	14 Newsletter deadline 9am- VT Comptroller Party 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 6:30pm – AA	15 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	16 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
17 9:00am – Christian Formation 10am – Worship 11am – Hanging of the Greens 7pm – Congregational Council Mtg.	18 9am – Parents Morning Out 6pm – Boy Scouts 6:30om – AA 7pm – Wilderness Rd. Chorus	19	20 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 6pm – Advent Meal, St Michael 6:45pm Advent Worship	21 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 1:30pm - FCA Mtg. 6:30pm – AA	22 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	23 10:00am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
24 10am - Worship	MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 7:30am – MBS 9am – Parents Morning Out 10:30am – Get Moving Exercise 7pm – Choir Practice	28 10am Thursday Morning Faith Discussion 6:30pm – AA	29 12pm – Luther’s Lunch	30 10am Rehearsal in Sanctuary
31 10am - Worship						

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Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

