

The Luther Memorial News

September 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.

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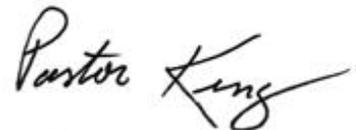
FROM OUR PASTOR...

There is an old fable about a mule which starved to death because it could not decide from which of several feedbags to eat. I always feel like that tale is appropriate as we begin a new program year at Luther Memorial. The summer is over, some programs are resuming, and new possibilities are on the horizon. There are lots of places to both grow in faith and live out that faith in service, but sometimes the options overwhelm us.

So let me lift up a few things and invite you to "eat" from at least one or two:

- Adult Christian formation options abound. Each week adults can choose from two Sunday School classes, three women's groups, a men's bible study, and a faith discussion group.
- Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see the new look of Christian formation for children and youth.
- Each Wednesday our "Get Moving" chair aerobics class meets in the fellowship hall at 10:30.
- Show up at a work day to trim the hedges or set up a new shelter in the playground.
- You can deliver Micah's Backpack to Kipps Elementary school, cook a meal for a parenting class, or be sure the box for the food pantry is full.
- The Blacksburg Refugee Partnership has launched with a goal to settle at least one Syrian refugee partnership in our town. You will be hearing more as the details become clearer.
- We are planning monthly fellowship gatherings. Come to one.
- Last but not least, you can join with the community each week in worship. Sometimes the summer break disrupts our weekly routine and we overlook the obvious. One of the best ways to feel like a part of the community and grow in it is to worship regularly and linger after the service to learn more about those with whom we share our faith.

This fall think about how you can nurture your own faith and feed others through education, service, worship, and mutual support.



CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

Farewell and Thanks

In July we bade farewell to our council president Alex Depew. He has moved to Richmond to begin a new job. We give thanks for Alex's time with us (he began as a student in our campus ministry) and wish him well in this next chapter of his life. We also give thanks to John Anstrom, who is now serving as our council president, and to Carla Liversedge, who is filling out Alex's term on council.



Labor Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day.

Update on Sunday School/Christian Formation Concerns following the July Newsletter.

In the middle of August some members of the congregation expressed serious concerns about the new model for Sunday School/Christian Formation. A letter was sent to the Congregational Council to address these concerns at the August meeting. This is a brief summary of the conversation and actions. As soon as a mutual meeting date for the Christian Education Committee and concerned members of the congregation is chosen—that meeting will be published so that any interested parties may attend the conversation.

On Sunday, August 21 the Congregational Council talked at length regarding Christian formation opportunities for K-6th grade children and their families. They strongly recommended the following actions:

1. Open a conversation with concerned members of the congregation who signed the letter. Once that meeting is set make the congregation aware of it so that others may participate.
2. Proceed with the meetings that Christian Ed. has set for Faith Five & Grab & Serve
3. Consider making the Faith Five meetings twice a month
4. Try the proposed model for the beginning of the year and re-evaluate before January to tweak or create a new model.
5. Make sure that clear information is posted in the bulletin, newsletter, Facebook, and church website.

Hymn Countdown Update!

We have now reached the end of the countdown of our favorite hymns. Here are the final results. Tied for 5th highest number of votes: 674, Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ; 731, Earth and All Stars; 817, You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore; 612, Healer of Our Every Ill. Tied for 4th highest number of votes: 502, The King of Love My Shepherd Is; 779, Amazing Grace; 574, Here I Am, Lord; 856, How Great Thou Art; 504, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God. Number 3: 732, Morning Cry. Number 2: 787, On Eagle's Wings. Number 1: 396, Spirit of Gentleness. Thanks for voting, and for those who missed it this year, maybe we'll do this again next summer.



A great big THANK YOU to the members of Luther Memorial who, over the summer, were once again exceedingly generous in their support of the Social Ministry Committee's annual backpack and school supply drive, benefiting the Salvation Army and the work they do to get ALL children ready for the first day of school.

Members contributed backpacks filled with all the necessary supplies for a particular grade level, or they made a financial donation which was used to purchase additional backpacks and school supplies. In total, approximately 33 completed backpacks were given to the Salvation Army, along with many stacks of "loose" school supplies – we estimate that the total value was at least \$2,500!

When the supplies were delivered to the folks at the Salvation Army, their reaction was overflowing with enthusiasm and gratitude! They had a large number of applications from families in our community who had children in need of school supplies – the demand is not decreasing and this means always trying to find ways to make what they have go just a little bit further. There is no doubt, our donations have certainly bolstered their ability to meet the needs of as many families as possible!

A final thought: We think of the school supply drive as a summer project, but it really isn't one that is limited to those weeks in July and August before everyone heads back to school. The folks at the Salvation Army let us know that they get requests from families throughout the school year who need to replenish their children's school supplies. However, the stock of supplies quickly runs low and the Salvation Army is limited in how many additional requests they can fill.

So, if this is a project that calls out to you, consider making a donation of school supplies at other times during the school year. If your own child needs more pencils or notebook paper in October or February, chances are so do other kids in our community. So when you head to the store to replenish your child's supplies, pick up a few extra of each item and donate those to the Salvation Army! It's a little way to make a big difference for a child in our community!

If you have questions about this project, including about making additional donations, please contact either Leah Wechtaluk McFarren (lwechtal@vt.edu) or Kathy Parrott

PLEASE remember to wear your name badges on Sunday mornings. We have lots of visitors during this time of year and as you greet them, it would be helpful for them to see your names.

Teller Training: The procedure for serving as Teller will be changing. As volunteers are assigned each month training is being conducted to identify a few changes and assure understanding of all procedures. If you are interested in seeing what the Tellers do, you are invited to attend a session. Please contact Joe Straub (540-250-2566) or Dianne Rencsok (540-268-5977) to coordinate when training is available. For current volunteers, a new written procedure and some visual aids will be available soon. A new adding machine is already in place. you are interested in seeing what the Tellers do, you are invited to attend a session.

Teacher for High School Class Needed: We have an amazing throng of high school students at LMLC. There are about 17 students who could participate if there was a teacher for Sunday morning. These young men and women need someone who is interested in them and their faith questions. The interested person needs to have a sense of humor, quick reflexes to deflect doubt, and a loving heart. Could that person be you? If it is please contact Pastor Joanna (jstallings@lmlc.org or 540-392-4327)

Are you a graduate student or a young professional? If you are new or returning to the area and would like to meet other young adults-this would be the place to plug in. To add your e-mail to the list-serv please share your information with Pastor Joanna (jstallings@lmlc.org or 540-392-4327)



Hope to Walk Change for Change September 2016



Change for Change for the month of September will be supporting Hope to Walk. Founded by Dr. Philip Johnson, a Blacksburg doctor specializing in prosthetics and orthotics, Hope to Walk brings hope and a future to amputee patients in developing nations by designing low-cost prosthetics and training local providers to manufacture and deliver them.

According to the World Health Organization, there are roughly 35 million people who need prosthetic or assistive devices. Unfortunately, many of these people are not able to afford traditional prosthetic legs, or even have access to providers. Dr. Johnson and Hope to Walk have designed below-knee and above-knee prosthetic legs that cost less than \$100 and \$200, and can be manufactured in developing regions. In order to meet this incredible need through sustainable methods, HTW partners with missionary clinics across the globe and equip locals to manufacture and fit our prosthetics. Those fitted with prosthetics can become a much more productive member of their community.

Currently, HTW has scheduled two trips to Honduras during the last part of 2016. Funds raised by Change for Change in September will go towards supporting that effort.

For more information, see www.hopetowalk.org and www.facebook.com/hopetowalk.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THRIVENT!

Thrivent is a mutual insurance and financial company that was formed more than a century ago and is helping Christians build solid financial futures and stronger communities. Thrivent is a member of the Fortune 500 and gives more money to charitable causes than anyone except Bill Gates.

Our current Thrivent representative, is retiring after many years. Matt Zeiger will be replacing Steve starting in October. Matt is excited about this new opportunity, and is looking forward to meeting current Thrivent members and educating our congregation about what Thrivent can do to help us.

For instance, Thrivent can help us to generate more funds for community impact through Thrivent Action Teams and Thrivent Choice Dollars. Currently, LMLC is under-utilizing some of these potential assets.

Matt will be holding an informal information session after the congregational picnic on August 28th. If you miss that, but would like to learn more, just call Matt at 540-392-0896 or email at matthew.zeiger@gmail.com.

Blacksburg Refugee Resettlement Partnership

Area faith and civic communities have been organizing over the past few months in order for Blacksburg to welcome its first Syrian refugee family. Under the auspices of Commonwealth Catholic Charities, the preparatory work has begun.

There are certain needs that have to be met before the family can be placed here:

Housing. A home (house or most likely an apartment) must be identified. There is an active search for a unit that is near public transportation.

Funding. Several thousands are needed to support the family for several months. Financial assistance will be needed for rent, utilities, groceries, etc. In other words, items needed for setting up and running a home. It is hoped that several individuals or groups will agree to pledge a monthly sum of \$100 for a year. Some members of the partnership are researching possible grants.

Less pressing but still very important needs to be addressed are:

Transportation. Until the family can self-transport, they will need assistance getting to various appointments (health, employment, groceries, etc.).

Employment. At present, the skill level of any working age adults is unknown. However, possible employment opportunities need to be identified.

Food. Most likely there will need to be an initial stocking of the refrigerator and pantry. There are Arab speaking members in the partnership who will guide us in the selection of appropriate foods.

Furniture. The home needs to be at least furnished with basics. Beds, linens, dishes, table, etc. There is a storage place already identified.

Health. The family will be Medicaid eligible. A primary care physician has volunteered. A dentist that takes Medicaid or does pro bono work, needs to be identified.

The Social Ministry committee approved a pledge of at least \$1200 over a year for the support of the family. **The committee is asking members of the congregation to pledge/donate \$100 a month for as many months as desired toward raising this amount. Any shortfall will be covered by committee funds. If you would like to pledge a month's support please tell Pastor King. Checks may be put in the offering bags with "refugee resettlement" on the memo line.** There will be further information concerning this (and other progress of the effort) at later times. Or contact LMLC liaison to the partnership, Wava Vigen 571-276-5079 or wavaburg@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday

9/1/16 Jim Wilson
9/2/16 Henry Elich
9/3/16 Michael Everett
9/4/16 Anne-Marie Lichty
William Schiek
Naomi Shaver
9/5/16 Danny Knott
9/6/16 Alexandra White
9/7/16 Brantley Hall
Alyssa Meighan
9/9/16 Matthew Schendel
9/10/16 Tammy Neeble
9/11/16 Jenny Akers
9/12/16 Kelly Phillips
9/18/16 Mary Korslund
9/23/16 Connor Akers
Eva Forsman
Andy Hansbrough
9/27/16 Grace Crowe
Mary Hansbrough
9/29/16 Mancer Flatten



HOME COMMUNION

Sept 18 John and Ann Hess



Bulletin Assembly

Sept 2 Jan Spahr and Nelda Buss
Sept 9 Betty Segar and Irmtraut Hartenstein
Sept 16 John Hess and Betty Segar
Sept 23 Lisa Goodell, Betty Jo Prater
and Betty Everett
Sept 30 Alison Vick and Ben Anstrom

Bulletin Proofer for September (Wednesdays)

Dianne Rencsok

Newsletter Proofer in September

Dianne Rencsok (for October Newsletter)



Mowing Teams for September

Sept 03 Neeble Family, Zeiger Family
Sept 10 Everett Warner, Betty Segar,
Fred and Dianne Rencsok
Sept 17 Barry Johnson, Kevin Widner
Sept 24 Glenn Buss, Andy Hansbrough,
Kevin Carlson

SEPTEMBER 2016 AT LMLC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30pm- AA 10:00am - TMFD	2	3 10:00am Sanctuary Reh.
4 8:30am – Worship 9:45am- Christian Formation 11:00 am – Worship	5 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	6	7 7:30am - MWMBS 9:00am – PMO 10:30am-Get Moving Exercise 7:00pm – Choir Prac.	8 6:30pm – AA 10:00am – TMFD 4:30pm – Dialogue and Race	9	10 10:00am Sanctuary Reh.
11 8:30am – Worship 9:45am- Christian Formation 9:45am – 11:00 am – Worship 11:45am - Birthday Fellowship	12 6:00pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA in SSC 7:00pm -WRC	13 9:00am Newcomers	14 7:30am - MWMBS 9:00am – PMO 10:30am-Get Moving Exercise 7:00pm – Choir Prac.	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30pm – AA 10:00am - TMFD	16	17 10:00am Sanctuary Reh.
18 8:30am – Worship 9:45am- Christian Formation 11:00 am – Worship 7:00pm – Congregational Council Mtg.	19 6:00pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA in SSC 7:00pm - WRC	20 5:00pm – Parenting Class	21 7:30am - MWMBS 9:00am – PMO 10:30am-Get Moving Exercise 7:00pm – Choir Prac.	22 6:30 – AA 10:00am - TMFD	23	24 10:00am Sanctuary Reh.
25 Food on 4th 8:30am – Worship 9:45am- Christian Formation 11:00 am – Worship	26 6:00pm – Boy Scouts 6:30pm – AA in SSC 7:00pm - WRC	27 5:00pm – Parenting Class	28 7:30am - MWMBS 9:00am – PMO 10:30am-Get Moving Exercise 7:00pm – Choir Prac.	29 6:30 – AA 10:00am - TMFD	30	

MWMBS - Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 FCM – Finance Committee Meeting
 TMFD – Thursday Morning Faith Discussion

FDG – Faith Discussion Group
 FCA – Funeral Consumers Alliance
 SSC – Sunday School Classroom

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

8:30am Worship

8:30	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
Communion Assistant	Charlie Harris	Janet Buss	Mary Grems	Kathy Parrott
Lector	Zelma Harris	Chris Skogen	Kathy Parrott	Glenn Buss
PW Greeter	Congregation	Congregation	Congregation	Congregation
Ushers	Bryce Carlson	Bryce Carlson	Bryce Carlson	Bryce Carlson
	Kevin Carlson	Kevin Carlson	Kevin Carlson	Kevin Carlson
	Everett Warner	Everett Warner	Everett Warner	Everett Warner
Tellers	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow	Mark Barrow
	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson	Lisa Carlson
	Bill Knocke	Bill Knocke	Bill Knocke	Bill Knocke

11:00am Worship

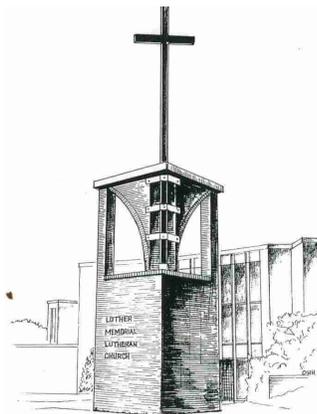
11:00	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
Communion Assistant	Ben Anstrom	Gwen Barnes	John Hess	Linda Libey
Lector	Bennet Cassell	Mandy Wilson	Ann Hess	John Hess
Greeter	Irmtraut Hartenstein	Xavier Barnes	Ellie Roeder	Ann Hess
PW Greeter	Kathy Valencic	Irmtraut Hartenstein	Teresa Cassell	Congregation
Ushers	Gilli Freeman	Gilli Freeman	Gilli Freeman	Gilli Freeman
	Jody Freeman	Jody Freeman	Jody Freeman	Jody Freeman
	Betty Segar	Betty Segar	Betty Segar	Betty Segar
	Barb Straub	Barb Straub	Barb Straub	Barb Straub
Tellers	John Anstrom	John Anstrom	John Anstrom	John Anstrom
	Teresa Cassell	Teresa Cassell	Teresa Cassell	Teresa Cassell
	Joe Straub	Joe Straub	Joe Straub	Joe Straub

Luther Memorial News

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

600 Prices Fork Road NW

Blacksburg, VA 24060



STEWARDSHIP NUGGET FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

“No one has ever become poor by giving”

Anne Frank (1929-1945) Jewish Dutch diarist during Nazi Occupation

Newsletter Deadline: Please remember that the deadline for sending in articles for the Luther News is on the 15th of each month. Thanks for helping with this.