MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHER LINES

JAMES ISLAND, SC 29412 MARCH 2021

a caring family of God

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Martin Luther Church is the only ELCA Congregation on James Island*
- *Martin Luther Church was organized on February 5, 1961.*
- *273 Disciples call Martin Luther Church their home church.*
- *Eight Pastors have shepherded Martin Luther disciples since its organization.*

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PRAYER

Elaine M. Ward tells this beautiful story about prayer:

The two-year-old was visiting her grandparents, and as they gathered around the table, holding hands, they prayed a silent prayer before they passed the food. When they opened their eyes, the child joyously exclaimed, "Do it again!"

We held hands,
Said a silent prayer.
The Spirit was there.
And though only two
We knew he knew
When she said aloud,
"Do it again!"
Faith can't be taught.
Trust in God is caught
In hands held together,
In awe of the setting sun,
The moon and stars above,
God doing it again …
And again …
In mercy and in love.

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The young child in Elaine's story said, "Do it again and again." How about your prayer life? When do you pray? Do you pray alone or with someone? How often do you pray?

When you pray, are you always talking to God? Or do you stop to listen to his response?

Do you pray only when things are really tough or going badly? Or do you pray when things are good and going well? Do you only pray for help? Or do you also thank God for his help and his answers to your prayers? Do you only pray for yourself or others?

Prayer is always important…especially now during this Covid-19 Pandemic! It appears that we are starting to come out of it as more people are able to get the vaccine. We have a way to go before it's under control. But God is still here with us in this "wilderness", and he wants to hear from us and help us.

Prayer is simply spending time talking with God. That keeps our personal relationship with God alive and strong. As we pray…and the more often that we pray…the more we find that we can trust God, and the more our faith grows. It just works that way!

I pray that your prayer life grows stronger during this Covid-19 Pandemic, and that you grow even closer to him as we go through this "wilderness" and come out of it. That's what God's praying for!

Pastor Tom

MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH LIVESTREAM

A LIVESTREAM OF THE 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE FROM THE MLLC SANCTUARY IS NOW ON THE AIRWAVES.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE IN OUR ENDEAVORS. WE DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH OUR STREAMING FROM OUR INTERNET PROVIDER.

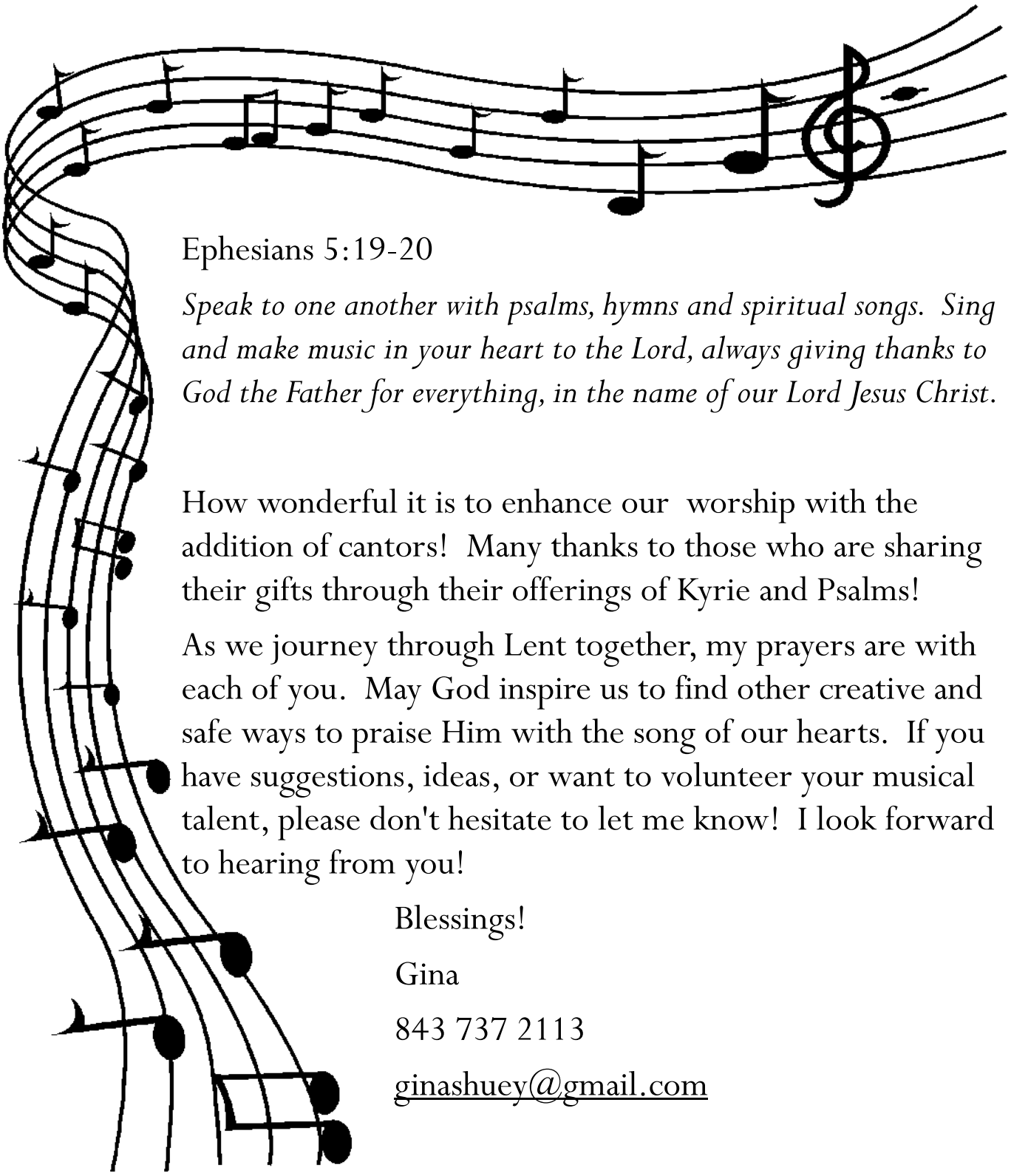
PREPARE YOUR COMPUTERS, MONITORS AND TVS FOR OUR NEW LIVESTREAM EACH SUNDAY AT 9:00 AM.

WATCH FOR THE YOUTUBE LINK IN YOUR EMAILS EACH WEEK, HAVE YOUR CANDLE NEARBY TO LIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SERVICE AND HAVE YOUR HOLY COMMUNION KITS (which are available in the plastic bin at the front door of MLLC) AVAILABLE WHEN IT COMES TIME FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION.

THE LIVESTREAM FROM FAITH LUTHERAN WILL STILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT 11:00 AM EACH SUNDAY MORNING.

WE WILL NEED LESSON AND PRAYER READERS EACH SUNDAY SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME IN AND MAKE THESE OFFERINGS, PLEASE LET SHERRY KNOW. THERE WILL BE NO MORE THAN 5 PEOPLE IN THE SANCTUARY AT ANY RECORDING TIME.

MUSIC NOTES



Ephesians 5:19-20

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How wonderful it is to enhance our worship with the addition of cantors! Many thanks to those who are sharing their gifts through their offerings of Kyrie and Psalms!

As we journey through Lent together, my prayers are with each of you. May God inspire us to find other creative and safe ways to praise Him with the song of our hearts. If you have suggestions, ideas, or want to volunteer your musical talent, please don't hesitate to let me know! I look forward to hearing from you!

Blessings!

Gina

843 737 2113

ginashuey@gmail.com

ST. PATRICK

Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was a unique servant of God who led thousands into Christianity. He was born in 387 and died in 493. Here is a small portion of St. Patrick's statement of devotion to God:

I bind to myself today
God's Power to guide me,
God's Might to uphold me,
God's Wisdom to teach me,
God's Eye to watch over me,
God's Ear to hear me,
God's Word to give me speech,
God's Hand to guide me,
God's Way to lie before me,
God's Shield to shelter me,
God's Host to secure me,
Against the snares of demons,
Against the seductions of vices,
Against the lusts of nature,
Against everyone who meditates injury to me,
Whether far or near,
Whether few or with many.

On March 17, many churches, especially those with a large Irish population, will celebrate the life of St. Patrick. He grew up in a Christian home in Britain, but wasn't very religious until a major event changed his life. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, but escaped to Gaul (France) after six years. The years of enslavement strengthened his faith. He later wrote, "In that strange land [Ireland], the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes." He was led by God's voice to return to Ireland where he converted people to Christianity tribe by tribe.

Because Ireland is called the Emerald Isle, those who celebrate St. Patrick's Day will wear something green. Some Christians will even color food or drink green. Many Christians will also eat corned beef and cabbage and decorate tables with shamrocks. Shamrocks are actually three-leaf (not four-leaf) clover plants. Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach about the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

NEWS FOR

CUB SCOUTS

The Cub Scout Pack 4 is not meeting at this time When they return to meeting it will be each Monday evening at 6:30 PM. We love our Scouts!

Bring Your Bottles

ELKS BPO Drove # 231 is collecting empty prescription bottles. Bring your empty bottles to the church office any morning. Please remember to remove all labels. These bottles will be donated to local animal shelters.

BLESSING OTHERS

The Cub Scouts have designed and mounted a Blessings Box to assist the hungry in our midst. They encourage all to take what you need and give what you are able. Along with the Blessings Box, two "Little Libraries" have been mounted beside the Blessings Box. One library is for children's books and one is for adult readers.

Respite Care Charleston

Upcoming Respite Care Charleston Support Group Meetings at MLLC—

March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 10 AM—Tuesday Morning Respite Group

March 9 and 23 at 6 PM—Tuesday Support Group

March 10 and 24 at 10 AM—Wednesday Support Group

March 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 10 AM—Friday Morning Respite Group

If you know of anyone who might benefit from any of these groups, please invite them to join us!

Sara Perry
Executive Director RCC
843 647-7405

YOU TO KNOW

VETERAN MINISTRY

Do you know a veteran or a military family in need?

Education… Housing… Health Benefits… Basic Needs… Assistance… Employment… Homelessness… Peer Support… Financial Crisis Management

Please contact or refer them to:

Tri-County Veterans Support Network
843-276-2840

www.TriCountyVeteransSupportNetwork.org

ONLINE GIVING

Martin Luther Church is gladly accepting online contributions through Tithe.ly.com.

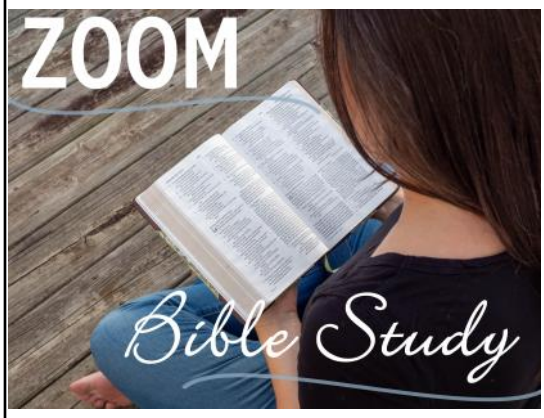
Anyone can access this new App through the MLLC website www.martinlutherchurch.org. Just go to the green Giving Option Button on the opening page! If you need some assistance, please give Sherry a call in the church office! Now you can give, even when you are out of town!!! Tell your friends and family that they can give to MLLC **online**!!!

LENT

Each Wednesday during the season of Lent, Pastor Tom will be leading us in a recorded Lenten Meditation titled **"With Your Whole Heart".** *"It's a journey of our hearts. Are we present to Jesus with our whole heart? Maybe … maybe not. But out Lenten journey is a special time to learn and grow with Jesus, walking with him to the fullness of life at Easter."*

JOIN A ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Who's interested in starting a once a week study online where we can discuss Bible topics?



It will be a 'zoom' meeting, and – if you have a camera built in to your computer or iphone and know how to use it – please use it so everyone can see your smiling faces!!

What specific Bible topics interest you? Or we could use the 'Daily Discipleship' that Sherry sends out every Sunday (it's a study included in the email with the Sunday readings) – The Daily Discipleship could be read by each person ahead of the meeting (but you don't necessarily have to read it before) and it includes questions to think about – or you could come up with your own questions that we then discuss at the zoom Bible study.

What days and times would work best for you?

The goal is to have an open and uplifting discussion – Pastor Tom, Sherry or Peggy will be the meeting leaders – and anyone else who wants to take on a topic!!

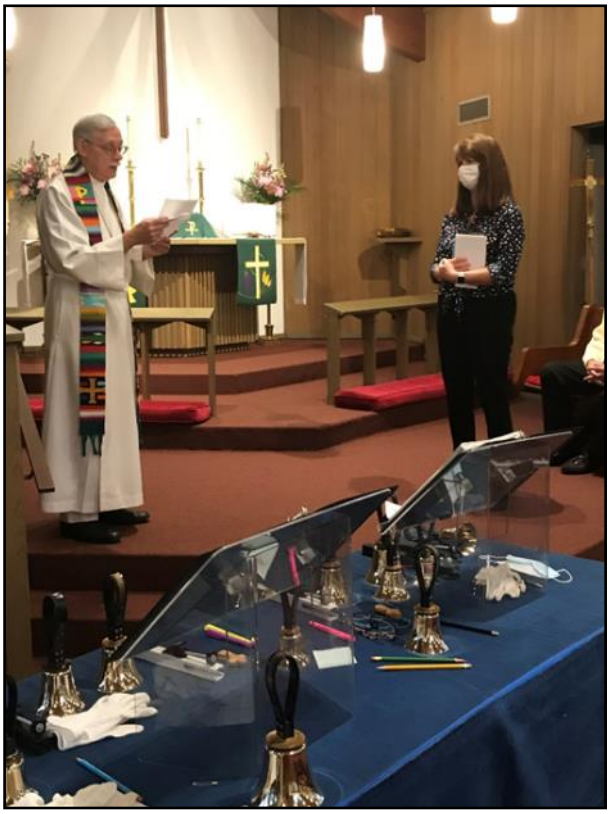
25 YEARS

Congratulations to Sherry Fowler on her 25th Work Anniversary at Martin Luther Lutheran Church!

The year 2020 will be remembered for more than just the Covid creature – Sherry has now been on staff at Martin Luther Church for 25 years!

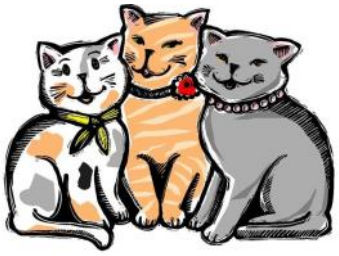
Pastor Tom presented her with a gift on behalf of the church – a one-year membership to the Aquarium.

Thank you Sherry for all you have done for Martin Luther Church and the church-wide organization!



Feline-informed Faith

I am the epitome of a "cat lady": Each of my five felines has taught me a bit about faith. As I settle into bed, Piccolo presses his body tightly against mine. As I type, Tina sits on my lap, often reaching to rest a paw on my hand (the one on the mouse, of course!). Pumpkin cries persistently, even raising his front legs like toddler arms when he wants to be picked up. Yet, as any cat lover knows, these animals can be stubbornly aloof — at least until mealtime.



My cats' actions make me think about how intentional daily Bible reading is like pressing myself against God. When I see God's presence in nature or someone's kindness, pausing to give thanks is like reaching out to touch God's hand. When I feel needy, I can stretch my spirit toward God's embrace with an honest prayer. And when I make myself aloof — as, alas, I sometimes do — I can rejoice that God's love always calls me back, to nourish me again.

—Heidi Mann (article from Newsletter newsletter)

PRAYERS

The family of Charter Member Ann Amos at her death on Jan. 29
The family of Elizabeth King Maddox at her death on Feb. 8
The family of Ingeburg Sproles, Jo Sproles' mother, at her death on Feb. 20
Janice Knight
Buddy Diffenderfer
Joan Cunningham
Don Rankin
Polly Sutton
Anna Harmon
Ralph Shrivalle
Barbara Crews
Todd Peterson
Mickie White
Melody Alcorn
Judy Alcorn
Carl and Judy Simmons
Myrl Kluge
Mary and Jack Cooper
Bill & Edna Mariorenzi
Alice Scheld
Joe Sproles
Vicki Becker
Sean Fowler
Muriel Bellah
Lucille Mullis
Michele Wallis
Fran Lingenfelter
Autumn Young
Trey Crayton
Preston Vinson
Johnny Hallman
John Bischoff
Cyndie Hartsell
Alice Vendrick
Mary Ann Graff
Linda Miller
Ingeburg Sproles
Betty and Paulwyn Boliek
Frank Oastwalt
Will Coleman
Lynn Nash
Maggie Bennett
Ramona Horres
Becky Cook
Sherry Cook
Carolyn and Linwood Switzenberg
Mildred Woods
Eugene Alexander
Ned Vendrick
Darby Kress
Thomas Soyden
Eliza Cate Volousky
Dwight Hartsell
Wilma McLelland
Lisa Player
Mark Danehey
Lisa Galary
Larry Alexander
Paige Osbon
Alissa Baker
Randy Oxendine
Michael Burke
Rose Burke
Rafael del Valle
Michele Miller
All those suffering with the COVID-19 virus.

All those who serve in the military and those who protect our country, state, and communities.

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

Gary Frear	3 / 5
Will Waters	3 / 7
Linda Armstrong	3 / 8
Austin Ake	3 / 9
Mark Kruger, Jr.	3 / 11
Denice Mondello	3 / 12
Elisabeth Diffenderfer	3 / 19
Amber Weakley	3 / 20
Tom Cassem	3 / 26
Becca Spain	3 / 26
Judy Simmons	3 / 26
Richard Fowler	3 / 27
Kyle Ake	3 / 28
Pam Harris	3 / 28
McCulloch Hoxie	3 / 29

ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Joe Sproles	3/1
Lori Nolan & Robert Jackson	3/29

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

Ashley Harris Wright	4/3
Matthew Harris	4/4
Tricia Bradley	4/6
Mary Lou Hoover	4/12
DJ Watts	4/13
Bill Carter	4/15
Morgan Gillette	4/16
Ned Balzano	4/18
Noah Hodges	4/18
Luke Rimer	4/21
Leslie Carter	4/23
Vicki Becker	4/26
Lori Hamill	4/27
Julie Carter	4/28
Jerri Snider	4/30
Torren Thomas	4/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Sherry & Richard Fowler	4/7
Barbara & Andy Young	4/21
Laura & Eddie Jordan	4/23

a caring family of God

MARTIN LUTHER EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Charleston, SC 29412

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Email: mllc@knology.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MARTINLUTHERCHURCH.ORG

"A CARING FAMILY OF GOD"

STAFF AND CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

STAFF

Pastor

The Reverend Thomas Cassem

Director of Congregational Ministries

Sherry Fowler

Director of Music

Gina Shuey

Office Hours are

Monday—Friday

8 AM to Noon

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers

President—

Peggy Oxendine

Vice President—

Nancy Haynsworth

Secretary—

Heidi Frear

Treasurer—

Janice Knight

Financial Secretary—

Vacant

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Worship Team Leader—
Brenda Burke

Service Team Leader—

Laura Jordan

Evangelism Team Leader—
Vacant

Learning Team Leader—

Pam Peterson

*Congregational Care Team Leader—**Mary Lou Hoover***

Property Team Leader—

Wayne Rimer

Youth (one year term) -
Torren Thomas

Council Members serve two year terms with the exception of the youth members, serving a one year term.