

THE CHIMES



Message from the Pastor

Happy New Year, Church!

With a new year come new opportunities and new hope! We just celebrated the beginning of the new church year during Advent and the birth of our Savior this Christmas. But Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love do not end when the Christmas season ends. The world may have moved on—Walmart, Target, and the like are probably already packed with Valentines' Day decorations and candies—but as Christians, we continue to live out the gifts of God given to us at Christmas into the new year.

What does this year hold for us? That is quite the question!! I believe the answer lies in our discerning—together—what God is calling our congregation to be. How is God seeking us to partner in the work that God is already doing? How do the characteristics of our congregation—our size, the ages of our people, our talents, and our passions—uniquely equip us for ministry together?

During the 2024 calendar year, our congregation will focus heavily on EVANGELISM. With that in mind, it is necessary to point out what evangelism is, and what it is not.

Evangelism is not simply us trying to attract people to Sunday services or to grow our congregation.

When a congregation's goal is to grow for the sake of growing, not only is it doomed to fail in that task, it completely misses the mark of what Christ has called to be and to do.

True evangelism is about DOING MINISTRY. It is getting out into our communities and the world and actively sharing the love of God with others. It is building relationships with our neighbors. It's serving those in need. It's lifting up those who the world would rather leave behind. In short—it's doing all the things that Jesus did. (And it involves doing things outside our building!!!)

When we do these things and do them well, in partnership with God, and with genuine love for others, when we build these relationships, our community will also grow. It will grow not because we have a great sales pitch or the fanciest and flashiest Sunday morning worship service. Rather, it will grow because Christ's love, working through us, is forming and building community with those around us.

Welcome to 2024, Luther Memorial Church—it's time to EVANGELIZE!

Peace,

Pastor Brett

Family Fellowship



We had a great time at family fellowship in December making yummy Christmas treats to take home and to sell to raise money for the youth summer trips. Thanks to all who participated!

And a big thanks to those who bought some of our yummy goodies!

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

On Saturday, December 16th, the youth group held a gift wrapping fundraiser to raise funds for summer trips. Despite only having one customer, we made the best of it. We decorated the sanctuary with poinsettias, made some care cards, and even managed to sneak in a game!



Youth Group

Sunday, Jan. 28

11:30am-1:30pm

All 6th graders and up come join us for youth group after faith formation on Sunday, January 28th. We'll have lunch, play games, and have a Bible study. Let Kari Gosteli (309-657-5175 kari@gosteli.org) know if you can make it.



Still thinking about attending the ELCA's Youth Gathering in New Orleans? It's not too late to register! If you have any questions or would like to attend, please contact Kari Gosteli (309-657-5175). Our goal is to fundraise so there is very little cost to attend!

Faith Formation

**(historically known as “Sunday school”)
Sundays at 10:45 a.m. following worship
For ALL Ages!**

**Come grow in faith and fellowship!
Adults in the Great Room
Children & Youth Upstairs**

2024 Youth Events

June 10-14
Crossways Confirmation Camp
at Augustana College

June 24-29
Leadership Lab
at Augustana College

Food Pantry

ITEMS OF THE MONTH

January - Toiletries (Small Shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush).

Monetary gifts are always appreciated.

February - Paper Towels/Toilet Paper

March - Boxed Pasta (Not Mac & Cheese) & Spices

April - Canned Soup/Ramen

May - Dish Soap (small) Laundry Detergent (Sheets or Small Bottles)

June - Energy Drinks, Gatorade, Water

July - Cereal & Microwave Popcorn



Volunteers

Midwest Food Bank Distribution will be received on Monday, **January 22**, around 8:30 a.m. ***Volunteers Needed to help put products on the shelves!!***

January Food Pantry 9-11 am Volunteers:

January 02 - Sharon Kendall, Kathy Dieker, Lorraine Wickman, Stephanie Demien, Rich Demien

January 09 - Rich Demien, Kathy Dieker, Sharon Kendall, Lorraine Wickman, Stephanie Demien

January 16 - Kathy Dieker, Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien, Sharon Kendall

January 23 - Kathy Dieker, Sharon Kendall, Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien

January 30 - Kathy Dieker, Sharon Kendall, Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien

Hanging Of The Green











Upcoming Events

Thank
you!

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:30 am - Worship Service of Word and Sacrament
- 10:30 am - Fellowship in the Great Room
- 10:45 am - Faith Formation
(Adults, Children, and Youth)

EVERY THURSDAY

- 10:00 am - Bible Study @ Calftown Coffee House

Jan 04 - Table Talk - 7:00 pm @ Ratskeller

Jan 06 - Monthly Property Work Day - 9:00 am

Jan 08 - Worship Arts Meeting - 7:00 pm

Jan 09 - Finance Team Meeting - 11:00 am

Jan 09 - Church Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

Jan 10 - Confirmation - 4:00 pm

Jan 11 - Youth Ministry Team Meeting - 7:00 pm

Jan 14 - Town Hall Meeting Immediately after church

Jan 15 - Annual Report Content Due Office - 12:00 pm

Jan 15 - Stewardship Team Meeting - 7:00 pm

Jan 16 - Executive Meeting - 7:00 pm

Jan 18 - Table Talk - 7:00 pm @ Ratskeller

**Jan 21 - The Annual Report will not be mailed but can
be picked up at the office or outside the
sanctuary - After Worship**

Jan 22 - Midwest Food Bank Delivery Day - 8:30 am

Jan 24 - Confirmation - 4:00 pm

Jan 28 - Annual Meeting - Immediately 11:00 am

Feb 03 - Monthly Property Work Day - 9:00 am

Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday

Mar 28 - Maundy Thursday

Mar 29 - Good Friday

Mar 31 - Easter Sunday

Food Pantry Schedule

- Every Monday - Stock Day - 8:00 am
- Every Tuesday - 9:00 - 11:00 am

Recovery Group Meeting

- Every Sunday at 6 pm
- Every Tuesday at 7 pm
- Every Friday at 6 pm

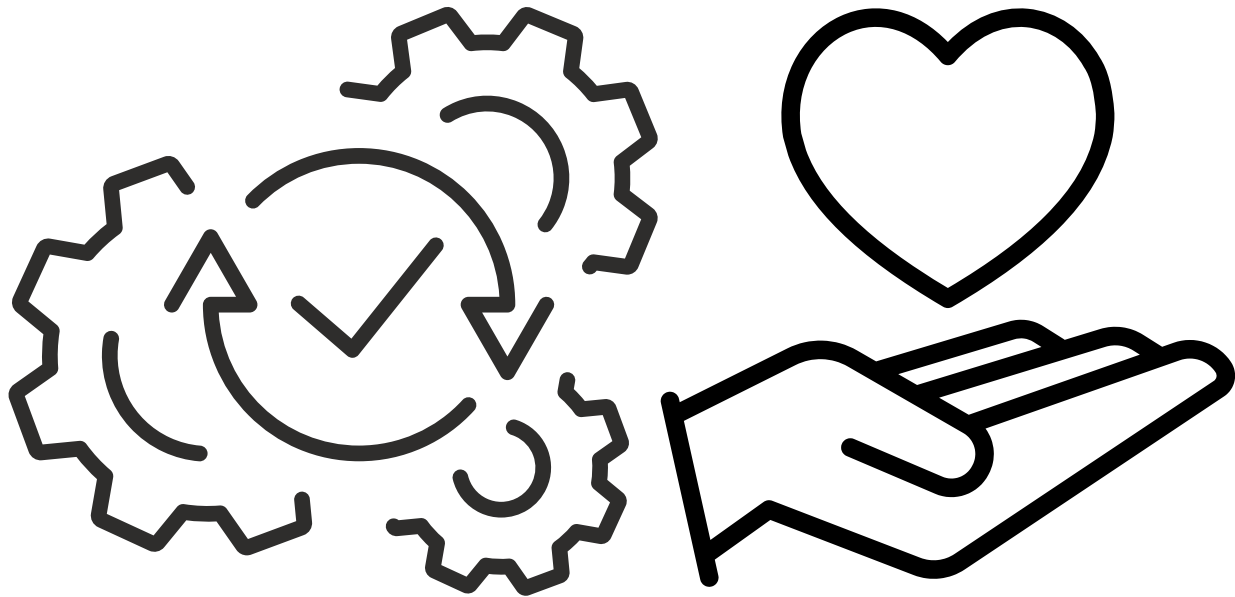
Women's Support Group Meeting

Kala Breder Facilitator

- 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm

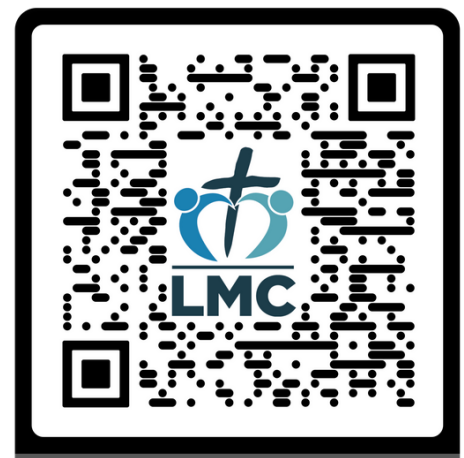
AA Support Group Meeting

- Monday - Saturday 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 6:00 pm
- Wednesday - 7:30 pm
- Friday - 7:00 pm
- Sunday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Automatic Giving

Hey friends! Want an easier way to support the ministries of LMC? Use our Automated Giving option with Vanco! It works with both bank accounts and credit cards and automatically contributes the amount you choose at the frequency you choose. No more check-writing (or forgetting the check), missing a contribution because you were gone for a week, or playing catch-up. This is the *safe and easy* solution for supporting the work of LMC! Use the QR code on this page, visit <http://www.lmcquincy.org/give> or call the church office at 217-222-5085 to get set up! It's *EASY!!*



Give here!

Happy Birthday



Judy Graff - 2
Abby Buettnner - 22
Tom Oliver - 23
Kia Barnes - 25
Barbie Mefford - 26
Evan Gosteli - 26
Leon Pratt - 28



None

Did we miss someone's birthday or anniversary?

If so, please contact the Church Office, 217-222-5085, so we can make it right!

**Church Council Meeting – Luther Memorial Church
Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

In attendance: Amber Casley, Lorraine Wickman, Kala Breder, Mark Snider, Pastor Brett (via Zoom), Tom Oliver (via Zoom), Addie Gosteli (via Zoom).

Not present: Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien, Brandon Dieker

President Mark called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Pastor Brett led the group in prayer.

Kala made a motion to approve last month's minutes. Amber seconded. Motion approved.

1. Pastor's report

- a. Nothing pressing 😊
- b. Working with some representatives from the conference to plan a conference-wide event.
More news to come!

2. New business

- a. Child and Youth Protection Policy
 - i. Please get this completed if you have not yet.
- b. Safe Church Initiative- Kara shared an update for the newly created "Safe Space Protocol".
- c. Annual Meeting – discussed the nominating committee and the names of others who may be candidates for council next year.

3. BUDGET

- a. Spent time discussing the reality that with the current budget and the way we have been utilizing investments, we have five operating years left if nothing changes
- b. Discussed the options to either continue as-is (close in 5 years), leave the building, combine with another congregation, or make a major change within ourselves.
- c. "if our church closes.. where do we go?"
- d. Discussed having a "Town Hall" meeting to provide complete transparency of the reality we are facing. Will mail a copy of the proposed budget with a letter included prior to this.
- e. Tom made a motion to adopt the budget as presented with the understanding that we have work to do and need bring total transparency to the congregation and identifying what the long range vision and strategy is for the future. Kara seconded. Motion approved with one nay.
- f. Tom will draft the letter and Pastor will revise with the letter to be sent out prior to Christmas. A town hall meeting is set for January 14th with the annual meeting on January 28, 2024.

4. Council greeter sign-ups

- a. December 17 – Kala
- b. December 24 – Lorraine, Mark
- c. December 31 – Addie
- d. January 7 – Amber

5. Robocall information – Christmas services, town hall/budget letter

6. Ministry Team Reports

7. Ministry Team Reports

- a. Finance Team – report provided.
- b. Property Team – working with new insurance companies to provide us coverage.
Discussed reaching out to other individuals who can participate in this team.
- c. Memorial committee – no report
- d. Food pantry – delivery this week, closed 12/26 but open on 1/2.
- e. Worship team – discussed the youth taking lead on worship songs??

Next meeting – Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Kala made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Addie seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Kara Moon, Church Council Secretary



Luther Memorial Church
1210 Jersey Street
Quincy, IL 62301-4210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January 2024

We are a community growing
together in Christ Jesus, embracing
all with Gods' love, and sharing our
faith through words and acts of
compassion.

GROW. EMBRACE. SHARE.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Quincy Illinois
Permit No. 149

Luther Memorial Church

Grow. Embrace. Share.

Behold
I make
all things
➤ *new* ◀

Revelation 21:5

May God bless you
this New Year!

