



July 2026 Newsletter



Martin Luther Chapel

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

July brings us into the full heat of summer here in the Florida Keys. It is a season of family visits, road trips, boat rides, fishing days, and afternoons on the beach. What a wonderful time to enjoy the beauty God has placed all around us.

In the midst of these summer blessings, the Church's proclamation remains unchanged: **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!** St. Paul writes, *"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive"* (1 Corinthians 15:20–22).

Time on the water reminds us both how small we are and how good the Lord is. The sea stretches out before us and the sky opens up above us. Then the winds begin to shift and the weather changes. Even our best plans sometimes have to be adjusted. Yet Jesus remains constant. The One who stilled the storm, walked on the water, and called fishermen to be His apostles is the same Lord who has risen from the dead and now reigns over all things for the good of His Church.

July also brings our nation's celebration of Independence Day. We rightly give thanks for the earthly blessings God has given us in this country: freedom, peace, good order, and the opportunity to live, work, worship, and serve our neighbors. These are gifts from God, and they should move us to give thanks.

Yet our deepest freedom is not found in earthly comfort, summer rest, national celebration, or even in the beauty of creation. Our deepest freedom is found in the risen Lord Jesus Christ. In Adam all die, but in Christ all shall be made alive. Because Christ has been raised from the dead, we live as a free people. We receive God's earthly gifts with thanksgiving. Yet we do not have to cling to them as though they were our salvation because we are free to enjoy them and free to let them go.

This July, we also remember the work of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The 69th Regular Convention of the LCMS will meet July 18–23 in Phoenix, Arizona, under the theme "We Preach Christ Crucified." Pastor Tony will be attending the National Convention as our Synod gathers for worship, deliberation, elections, and the work we do together as congregations walking in the same confession of faith.

In connection with the convention, Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison has been elected to serve as president of the Synod for the 2026–2029 triennium. This will be his sixth and final term in office. For this we give thanks to God, and we pray for President Harrison, for all officers and delegates of the Synod, and for our congregations, schools, seminaries, missionaries, and church workers throughout the world.

We pray that the Lord would keep our Synod faithful to His Word, steadfast in confession, and joyful in the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen for sinners. Convention business matters, elections matter, and resolutions matter. They matter because they serve the greater work of the Church: preaching Christ, administering His Sacraments, teaching the faith, and confessing the truth of God's Word in season and out of season.



Martin Luther Chapel
325 122nd Street Gulf
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 289-0700
MartinLutherChapel.com

Church Office Email:
mlcmarathon@gmail.com

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
MartinLutherChapel1/](http://www.facebook.com/MartinLutherChapel1/)

Pastor Tony Mandile III
Cell phone: 305-923-5148
Email: abmnepa@gmail.com



**Sunday Worship
Schedule:
10:00 am Divine
Service
Coffee, refreshments,
Fellowship, Sunday
School & Bible Study
to follow**

As you travel, welcome family, spend time on the water, or enjoy quiet days at home, do not forget the gifts of Christ. Bring your children and grandchildren to church. Pray together. Read Scripture together. Give thanks before meals. Speak of the Lord's mercy in ordinary conversation. Let summer be not only a time of rest, but also a time when your faith is shared in your home and passed on to the next generation.

If you are here in Marathon this July, we would be glad to see you in worship. If you are traveling, seek out an LCMS congregation wherever you are. Pray for your family. Pray for your church. Pray for our nation. Pray also for our Synod.

Please remember our college students in your prayers as well, especially those beginning their studies early this summer and those serving in internships. Pray that the Lord would keep them steadfast in the faith, bless their work and study, and surround Grace, Benito, Justin, Matthew, and Rickey with faithful Christian encouragement wherever they are.

May the Lord bless your July travels, your homes, your families, and your time together, keeping you always in Christ.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,

Pastor Mandile



Please have your
children join us for
Sunday School
during Fellowship hour
following Divine Service.

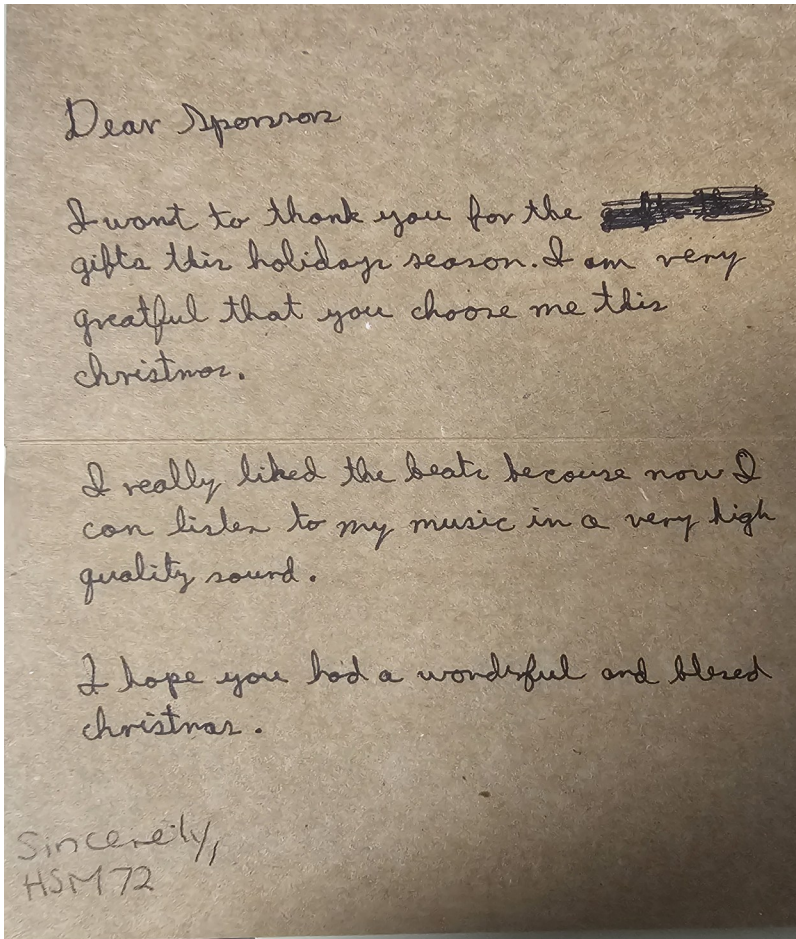


Please welcome our new members—Mike Herring and his daughter Grace Herring. June 14, 2026



MLC had the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for a Marathon High School student through the MHS Champions for Change program in December 2025. We gifted the student with a mini fridge, a pair of Beats headphones, Adidas sneakers and a very generous stocking with cologne, gift cards, candy, and cash.

Below is the Thank You note that we received recently. Please continue to keep this young man in your prayers. We are blessed to be a blessing!



College kiddos settling in. Please pray for them as they begin their new journey!





Thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ:

- For our congregation leadership and those who volunteer their time.
- For all of our households. Blessings on our homes, that all who enter our homes enter into the presence of Jesus Christ.
- For answered prayers: Thanksgiving for the increase in the study of Scriptures in our Community.

Heavenly Father, we ask that you would

- Grant Healing and strength to Jamie Irwin. Jamie has stage 4 colon cancer.
- Grant us the boldness to invite our family, friends and acquaintances into the Word and Sacramental ministry at Martin Luther Chapel.
- Grant us all with a stronger desire to read, study and learn about your holy Word.

And Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into his harvest.

Let us pray:

For young men to enter the pastoral ministry. That young men and women would be drawn toward Jesus and worship him and honor the estate of Holy Matrimony. Let their homes be blessed and their children raised to be godly men and women.

Into your hands O Father, we commend all our prayers to Your holy will, trusting in Your mercies that are new every morning.



Happy Birthday

7/4 Lori Mandile
7/5 Ken LaRose
7/8 Debra Grill
7/10 Floyd Swaidan
7/23 Renee Dixon
7/25 Marcy Smith

Happy Anniversary

7/30 Pastor Tony & Lori



Please remember to pick up a copy of
Portals of Prayer Devotional
from the back of the Chapel!

Faith & Fellowship

Join us for Fellowship, coffee and snacks after service on Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet if you would like to help out!



2025–2027
MISSION GRANTS

<https://www.lwml.org/assets/attachments/543899>

On the first Sunday of each month we will have an LWML mite box collection. These LWML Mite Boxes are closely tied to mission grants. The mite offerings are freewill gifts given above and beyond a congregation's regular support, and that nationwide, these offerings "amount to millions of dollars" used to fund district and national mission grants and carry out the LWML program. Local groups gather these offerings, districts retain 75% of mites for district mission work, and national mites help fund more than \$1 million in grants that support Gospel outreach.

St. Paul speaks of the spirit of Christian generosity: "their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity" and "excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:1–7). Through your mites, even small gifts become mission grants for Christ's work.

What follows is a description of two of the mission grants LWML has pledged to support over the 2025-2026- 2027 three year period. Each month we will focus on two different mission grants supported through LWML mite offerings.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Vision Statement

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

2025-2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 13

REACHING GOD'S CHILDREN IN HAITI

TRINITY HOPE, HAITI | \$61,782



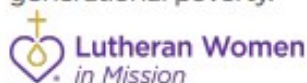
Showing Love to Haitian Children

Fear is a constant for the children of Haiti. Fear for their safety and fear wondering where their next meal will come from. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and voodoo is recognized as the national religion. Two out of three Haitians live on less than \$2 a day. The United Nations estimates that 62% of the Haitian population suffers from malnutrition. Less than 50% of Haitian households have access to clean drinking water.

Trinity HOPE is helping children in Haiti by providing nourishment for the body and soul. They partner with Christian schools in the country to provide a healthy meal for children while they are at school. This grant will be used to reach around 425 students at a rural school in Paul et Isabel, Haiti. Prayers of thanks are said over the food and hymns of praise can be heard throughout the school day. Also, providing lunch has allowed students to stay engaged in school and retain what they are learning. Trinity HOPE has seen regular attendance, students' national test scores, and grade level advancement all increase significantly when schools are a part of their program. Students' basic needs are being met while hearing about God's love for them.

Trinity HOPE partners with Lutheran schools throughout the country by supporting Lutheran pastors and teachers and by making sure these schools have what they need to share the Gospel and ensure each child receives a hot meal while at school. They also provide opportunities for over 400 native Haitians to be gainfully employed. With 36 program directors employed by the ministry, over 350 cooks employed by the schools, and food purchased from local vendors throughout the country, Trinity HOPE's feeding program contributes to the Haitian economy and helps break through cycles of generational poverty.

*For I was hungry
and you gave me
food, I was thirsty
and you gave
me drink, I was a
stranger and you
welcomed me
(Matthew 25:35).*



Mission Grant Story | Learn more at lwml.org/mission-grants

july 2026



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 Divine Service 10:00 am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Divine Service 10:00 am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Divine Service 10:00 am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Divine Service 10:00 am	27	28	29	30	31	