



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to the new newsletter format! This weekly eNews is sent out in place of our paper copy. Due to the quarantine, we have suspended the paper copy and have started using this new email newsletter format.

Look for updated information every Wednesday!



Join us for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 1

8 am In-Person

9 am Drive-in

10 am In-Person & Sanctuary Live

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

Baptism



Congratulations to **Hudson Ben Catterall** who was baptized on July 25, 2021.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are **in honor of Hudson Catterall's baptism** given by Marty & Nina Schultz.

First Communion

Congratulations to the following students who recently participated in our First Communion Class! We're excited to have you join us at the altar!

Adelaide E.
Roman H.
Isaac J.
Wyatt J.
Grady K.
Keegan M.

Ava M.
Peyton M.
Matilda M.
Kullen P.
Madilyn P.
Amelia P.

Jayla S.
Jianna S.
Braeden V.
Vivienne W.



Halle Kluever Ordination August 1!



The congregation is invited to give thanks to the Holy Spirit and celebrate God's call for Halle Kluever to be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. The service of ordination will take place on **Sunday, August 1, 3 p.m.**, in the Sanctuary.

Halle, daughter of Don and Cindy Siebert, grew up in our faith community, and recently graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She has been called to serve as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Slatington, PA.

She and her spouse, Josh Kluever, will be moving to Slatington at the end of July. If you would like to send Halle a note of congratulations, you can reach her after July 28 at this address:

Halle Kluever
39 South Second Street
Slatington, PA 18080

We wish Halle God's richest blessings as she begins her ministry as pastor of St. John's! Thanks be to God, for gifts of grace to serve in Jesus' name!

Stuff the Bus

Stuff the Bus is a community effort to collect backpacks and school supplies for students in the McFarland School District to help them deal with the expenses of getting started with the new school year. At the completion of the campaign, school supplies are distributed to the children of families served by the McFarland Community Food Pantry.



Needed supplies include:

- Themed Backpacks for younger students
- Kleenex
- Hand Sanitizer
- Cloth Facial Masks
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Pens-Blue/Black (10-12)
- Colored Pencils (12 Ct)
- Washable Markers
- Expo Dry Erase Markers- Black
- Spiral Notebooks
- Looseleaf Paper
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Scissors-Point Tip
- Crayons (24 Ct)
- Pencil Boxes/Bags
- Wood Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Clear Tape
- Erasers
- 3-Ring Binders 1.5 inch
- Highlighters
- Post-It Notes - 3"
- Notecards Lined - 3x5

Donations may be dropped off at McFarland Lutheran Church from July 31 through August 13 or at the High School main entrance on Saturday, August 14 from 9am-3pm. Monetary donations for Stuff the Bus can be made directly to the McFarland Food Pantry with "Stuff the Bus" in the memo line.

Stuff the Bus is sponsored by the McFarland Lions & Lioness Lions Clubs, McFarland Lutheran Church, McFarland United Church of Christ, McFarland Food Pantry, American Legion Auxiliary, One Community Bank and Thrivent Financial.

Task Force Update



The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted so much of our lives to include our faith practices. Together we want to get back to normal knowing that normal may not be exactly the same as several years ago, but we do it safely.

Our COVID Task Force (appointed by the Congregation Council) has worked to progressively re-open our church programs to allow us to achieve a more normal operation. The guiding principles for the task force have been to provide a safe environment for all members given the recommendations of public health officials and our ability to follow these recommendations to be safe. We have been challenged during our re-opening to respond in a timely manner to the changing recommendations and meet our goals.

For some the Coronavirus pandemic seems to be controlled so why are we not fully re-opened. The reality is that the pandemic still has some question marks (Variant Delta), the number of people fully vaccinated has not achieved the goals that are needed, and some age groups (under age 12) remain unvaccinated. Given these factors the task force continues to look for more safe ways to reopen.

[Read more here](#)

In-Person Worship Update

In-Person Worship will be expanded on Saturday, September 4 when we add the Saturday Evening Worship to our schedule. Drive-In Worship will not take place after August.



Our Sunday In-Person Worship Services will remain at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be live-streamed, Sanctuary Live.

Worship updates governing worship decided by the Covid Task Force include:

- For the Saturday Evening Service masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated. For those attending who are not fully vaccinated masks are required.
- For the Sunday In-Person Worship Services, masks are required for inside worship for all people over the age of 2.
- Seats in the Sanctuary have been roped off to provide appropriate distance and comfort. People may choose to sit next to extended family/friends outside their immediate households.
- Communion will be received at the in-person services by people picking up pre-filled chalices as they enter worship. The elements will be consumed in the pews.
- Hymns and songs will be sung by the congregation.
- Sharing of the Peace will be no contact.
- We care for one another's health. If you are feeling ill or having flu-like symptoms, you should remain home and worship online.
- **If someone receives a positive Covid test** result after attending worship, they are asked to confidentially notify one of the pastors.

****The 9 a.m. Drive-In Service will continue through the last Sunday in August, August 29.**

These changes by the COVID Task Force are in keeping with public health guidance and our goal to continue to provide a safe place to attend church.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the task force or one of the pastors.

May God continue to be with us and guide us as we move toward resuming our in-person worship and ministries!

Masking Guidelines

The Covid Task Force has decided for now, to continue requiring all people over the age of 2 to wear a face mask for indoor activities at MLC with some exceptions:



- One exception will be the Saturday evening in-person worship where those who are fully vaccinated may choose to not wear masks.
- For meetings and small group sessions (indoors or outdoors) those attending may mutually agree to not wear masks especially for those who are fully vaccinated.

The reason for continuing to encourage and maintain requirements for masks except as outlined is to protect those who are not vaccinated especially those under the age of 12 who are not approved for COVID vaccination.

For outdoor activities, face masks remain optional if people can be appropriately distanced.

This policy will continue to be reviewed and modified by the task force, as we look at risk levels vaccination levels in our county and the availability of vaccines for vulnerable populations especially children. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the task force or one of the pastors.

Save the Date: Holy Smokes Cookout

Welcome back Celebration ~ **Sunday, September 12th**
11 am to 1 pm ~ Lunch provided

Watch for more details as we get closer to the date!



Walk 4 Water



It's time again for our Walk 4 Water, presented by McFarland Lutheran Church!

Saturday, September 25 - Our outdoor, socially distanced silent auction begins at 10:30 AM followed by our walk at 11:00 am.

At 11:00 AM we will begin the Walk 4 Water (about 2.5 miles), starting at McDaniel Park and continuing on the boardwalk along the shore of Lake Waubesa, a symbolic effort made in honor of the women and children who walk for water daily in Uganda. Donations, registration fees and silent auction proceeds will all benefit the drilling of a safe water well for the precious village of [Aboliya, Uganda!](#)

If you would like to participate in the Walk 4 Water McFarland, but cannot be with us in person that day, we understand.

We would still love for you to join us virtually! You can walk in your own space at your own pace.

For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Outdoor Fellowship Continues



Chat with longtime friends and make new friends! Bring a lawn chair and enjoy Fellowship every Sunday after the 8:00 worship service (**8:30 – 10:00 am**). Coffee will be available under the front canopy entrance and you are invited to relax in the shade near that entrance.

2021 Flower Schedules

We have returned the altar flowers for 2021 with the 8 & 10 am worship services. If you wish to dedicate Altar Flowers (\$35), you may email Carrie Kruzan, ckruzan@mcfarlandlutheran.org, if you'd like to reserve a date!

Prayers

We pray that God's love & comfort will surround all those listed on the prayer page. If you see names on this page that should be removed, or to list someone on the prayer page, contact Carrie Kruzan at ckruzan@mcfarlandlutheran.org.

The prayer page is listed on our website: <https://www.mcfarlandlutheran.org/prayers/>