



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!

HOPE



Join us for the First Sunday of Advent

November 27/28

Sat. 5 pm In-Person

Sun. 8 am In-Person

Sun. 10 am In-Person & Sanctuary Live

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Baptism



Congratulations to **Eleanor Elizabeth Langevin** who was baptized on November 14, 2021.

Join us for Advent & Christmas Services!

Midweek Advent Services – Wednesdays, December 1, 8, & 15

- 11:00 a.m. – A three-week series of “Watch, Wonder, Worship”
- 6:30 p.m. – Holden Evening Prayer
6:30 p.m. – Facebook Live

Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24

- 3:00, 5:00, and 9:00 p.m. – with LED candle lighting during “Silent Night”
3:00 p.m. – Facebook Live

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. – Facebook Live
- **No 5:00 p.m.** Saturday evening service

1st Sunday of Christmas, December 26

- 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. – Facebook Live



McFarland Food Pantry Giving Tree!

Sign up and help a neighbor celebrate Christmas!

1. Click on the included ([LINK](#)) to see the list of gift options.
2. Type your name and phone number in the appropriate column next to the gift you would like to provide. Then close the window. The information should save automatically.
3. Purchase and wrap the gift, and include the Tag Number on the gift.
4. Drop off your gift directly to the Food Pantry during one of the times listed below. 5404 Anthony Street, and please mention you are from McFarland Lutheran Church



NOTE: the information on the document can be seen by anyone who has access to the link. If you do not want to share your name and contact information, call Carrie Kruzan in the church office (608-838-3184). She will take your information but publicly reserve the gift under the generic “MLC Office.”

If you do not wish to purchase a specific gift but would like to participate, you are welcome to give a financial gift to the church, specially marked “Giving Tree.” Any unclaimed gifts will be purchased with this money. All remaining money will be gifted to the Food Pantry.

Any questions? Contact Deb Alber – djalber1@hotmail.com (608-843-1308)

****Drop Off Times****

Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 PM

Saturday, December 4 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Christmas Bake Sale December 12th



Mark your calendars and don't miss the annual bake sale **Sunday, December 12, 7:30 – 11:30 am**. Featured items are McFarland Lutheran's Rummegrot, lefse made by our Confirmation students, and a variety of new and traditional Christmas favorite cookies.

To enable social distancing the bake sale will be held in the Family Life Center. Face masks will be required for both the sellers and buyers.

Calling all bakers!!! Please consider donating your favorite baked goods to provide a broad assortment of treats for the bake sale. Donations must be pre-plated with approximately 6 items per plate and delivered to the **church on Saturday, Dec 11 or by 7:30 am on Dec 12**. Lefse donations are particularly appreciated and should be packaged with 3 pieces per bag. To reduce the number of people touching the baked goods and their packaging, bringing the goods to church for someone else to package will NOT be an option this year.

Proceeds will be equally split between the 2nd Harvest Foodbank and Outreach for World Hope to purchase infant formula for Guatemala. Contact Ron Vandeberg or other members of the Global Mission Committee with questions.

Food Drive



As part of the Winter Wonderland in the Village Celebration, the Lions/Lionesses will be hosting a Drive-Thru Food Drive at the **McFarland Food Pantry on Saturday, December 4 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**. The need is great, especially during the Holidays. Please help make someone's Holiday a little brighter by making a food or monetary donation to the Food Pantry.

Council Notes

Brothers and Sisters of MLC,

The nomination box, that is being used to collect names of individuals to serve on either the transition or call committees, will be pulled in on Monday, November 22. We hope that we have a good selection of names to choose from to help with these very important steps to help form the future of MLC.

The council has a date set up in December to meet with the Synod. The Synod has indicated that a pastor is coming out of an interim call that should be a good fit for MCL. We hope that out of that meeting, the who and when an interim will be available to start at MLC will be revealed.

Church
Council

COVID Task Force Bi-Weekly Update (11/04/21)

The COVID Task Force met on 11/04/2021 to discuss the status of COVID in our community and current directives from Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC).



- Effective Nov 5, 2021, PHMDC has extended the mask mandate for indoor activities and remains in effect until Saturday, Nov 27, 2021.
- While the number of new COVID cases is lower than in past weeks, the number still places our community in at a high level.
- While vaccinations are incrementally increasing (71.8% completed vaccinations), children under the age of 12 remain unvaccinated.

Please Note: Our most recent recommendations on wearing masks for all church activities indoors remains in effect for those aged 2 and older. For outdoor activities we still encourage masks, but they are not required. The changes outlined for worship in our last communications remain.

Given the holiday season is around the corner, the task force decided to maintain our mask requirements for indoor activities through the first week in January 2022 regardless of potential changes by public health officials.

We know the holiday season increase the chances of sharing communicable diseases such as the flu and COVID. With numerous church gatherings and the potential for larger groups at services and guests, we believe it is prudent to extend the mask requirement. The protection of unvaccinated children and those who are immunocompromised remain keys to our decision process.

[Read more](#)

Food Pantry Coordinator Needed

After 11 years, Sue and Toni are retiring as Co-manager's of the McFarland Community Food Pantry. We have filled one co-manager position and still have an opening for one more. If you are creative, energetic, and committed to the Pantry's position to help those struggling with hunger in the McFarland community, we are interested in hearing from you. Please send a letter of interest outlining your background to Peter Morehouse, McFarland Community Food Pantry Board President, PO Box 101, McFarland, WI 53558. If you have any questions regarding this position, contact Peter via personal messaging, or by calling 608-658-0927.

Habitat for Humanity Happenings

Q: What can't you find on Google Maps?

A: Abel Court in Stoughton, where Habitat for Humanity is building 4 townhouses with 2 units each, thus creating housing for 8 families. Two of the townhouses are currently being framed. To find the location of Abel Court, search for 160 Lincoln Ave and envision a street.



Q: So what's the status of other Habitat developments?

A: The last house in the Renaissance on the Park development in Fitchburg is getting the finishing touches. In the Tension neighborhood on the north side of Madison, the last house is also nearly complete. At the opposite end of construction is the 62-acre Habitat site in Sun Prairie. This development will have 118 single-family homes, 48 of which will be Habitat homes. The first basement has been dug and construction will start soon.

On a different note, the Habitat ReStores on Monona Drive and Odana Ave continue to be very busy with approximately \$200K of sales each month. If you haven't been to a ReStore recently, go check them out. They are loaded with a variety of household goods, appliances, and building materials, some new and some used, all with good prices. Sales proceeds are used to finance the construction of new Habitat homes. Since there is so much activity at the ReStores they are in need of more volunteers to process donations.

To volunteer at a ReStore, construction site, or for other special projects, visit <https://habitatdane.volunteerhub.com/>. Whether volunteering with Habitat or buying from a ReStore, you will be helping bring affordable housing to Dane County. Thanks be to God.

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 Krizan at ckruzan@mcfarlandlutheran.org.

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