



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH



Join us for the First Sunday of Advent

December 2/3, 2023

Sat. 5 pm worship

Sun. 8 am Worship

Sun. 10 am Worship & Facebook Live

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

WHAT'S NEW

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MINISTRIES

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YOUTH

CLM

IMPORTANT DATES

November 29 – 6:15 pm

Handbell Choir

November 29 – 7:30 pm

Choir

November 30 – 9:00 am

80+ Birthdays meeting

November 30 – 1:00 pm

Worship & Music Committee

November 30 – 6:30 pm

Men & Women's Basketball

December 1 – 11:00 am

Red Cross Blood Drive

December 1 – 6:00 pm

Decorative Arts & Banner Committee

December 2 – 7:00 am

Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

December 2 – 7:30 am

Men & Women's Bible Studies

December 2 – 8:00 am

Lefse Making

December 2 – 8:30 am

Decorative Arts & Banner Committee

December 3 – 9:00 am

Sunday School Christmas Program
Rehearsal

December 3 – 9:00 am

Uganda Mission Trip Info

December 4 – 8:30 am

Giving Quilters

December 4 – 6:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Workshop

December 5 – 6:30 pm

Family & Children's Committee

December 6 – 7:00 am

HS Breakfast

December 6 – 5:30 pm

Advent Meal

December 6 – 6:15 pm

Handbell Choir

December 6 – 6:30 pm

Advent Worship

December 6 – 7:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

December 7 – 6:30 pm

Men & Women's Basketball



**BOY
SCOUTS**



Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast

Come join the Boy Scouts Saturday, December 2 from 7 am - 12 pm for a pancake breakfast in the FLC. \$5 for kids 12 and under, \$10 for adults and kids 13 and up (Pancakes, Ham, & Apple Sauce) Thank you for the support!

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BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED. GIVE BLOOD.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Donors needed!

**Friday, December 1- McFarland Lutheran Church,
11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

DONATE

Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but can make a big difference in the lives of others. The donation process from the time you arrive until the time you leave takes about an hour and 15 minutes. You can save up to 15 minutes by using RapidPass!

[Visit redcrossblood.org/Give](https://redcrossblood.org/Give) for more information.

Nationwide, around 44,000 blood donations are needed EACH and EVERY day to meet the needs of hospital patients, including accident victims, cancer patients, and children with blood disorders. All blood types are needed to help maintain a sufficient blood supply. Please consider donating at our next scheduled drive in McFarland. To schedule an appointment go online at redcrossblood.org or call (608) 838-2403. Thank you!

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Uganda Mission Trip

The Global Mission Team announces informational meetings concerning our **next mission trip to Uganda, March 12 -25, 2024**. The meetings will be your choice of **December 3 at 9:00 a.m.** between services in the Quilting Room downstairs or **December 17 at 9:00 a.m.** between services in Room 113 downstairs. Please prayerfully consider joining us.

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Guatemala Mission Trip 2024 – DONATION DRIVE

In partnership with Outreach for World Hope (www.outreachforworldhope.org), for the second year in a row, MLC will be going on a **Guatemala Mission Trip (January 11-16, 2024)**. MLC has a team of 21 (11 parents & 10 students)! Each team member will be taking 50+lbs of donated supplies. Our MLC group will be taking 1,000+lbs of supplies to Guatemala to give directly to the families we will be serving.

In the church main hallway, we have collection bins for the following needed supplies.

We will be collecting donations through Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

Thank you for your donations! Contact Chris Landerud (Youth Director) with any questions. Talk or text: (608) 444-3604 or clanderud@mcfarlandlutheran.org

Guatemala Mission Donation Items Needed

Supply Drive & Collection at MLC – Ends Sunday, January 7, 2024

Collection Bins can be found in the MLC Main Hallway

Baby Formula (Powder only)

- Any POWDER brand is welcome; “with Iron” is a bonus

Medications

- Ibuprofen
- Hydrocortisone Cream
- Anti-Fungal Gel
- Multi-Vitamins (non-gummy)

Personal Care Items

- Combs
- Nail Clippers
- Head Bands, Hair Ties, or “Doodads”

Children’s Clothing

- Boys & Girls NEW Underwear (size 2T -16)
- Boys & Girls NEW or USED Clothing (infant and up)
- Jeans/Pants/Leggings (as opposed to shorts...)
- Lightweight Shoes/Sandals/Flip-Flops
- Baby Receiving Blankets
- Baseball Hats

Toys

- Small Stuffed Animals, Beanie Babies
- Small, Lightweight Toys (yo-yos, dollar toys, etc.)
- Stickers
- Dum-Dums (suckers)
- Soccer Balls

Items can be purchased anywhere available and anywhere a good value can be found. Big box stores, grocery stores, or Costco may be good places to purchase baby formula and medications. The “Dollar Tree/Store” can be a good place for personal care items and small, lightweight toys.

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Live Nativity Scene

Saturday, December 2

12:30 - 4:30 pm | Free Admission



Good Shepherd by the Lake Lutheran Church

1860 Why 51, Stoughton, WI

Travel back over 2000 years ago to view the manger where Jesus Christ was born.

You will see Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, The Shepherds, Wisemen and Angels

A live camel, donkey, and sheep will also be there!

Take time to pet the animals.

Candy canes, "Gold" chocolate coins, and small nativity sets will be distributed, while supplies last.

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Skaalen Christmas

Another year has flown by, and it's almost time to start thinking about Christmas shopping. If your church would like to support Skaalen without going out and purchasing gifts and would like to provide a **cash or check donation, please try to get them to us by Friday, December 8th**, so we can order or **purchase some gifts**. If you would like to purchase gifts for Skaalen, we would like to **receive them as well by Friday, December 8th**. When purchasing gifts, the amount spent should **stay in the \$6.00 - \$10.00** range. Please also refrain from wrapping all gifts before bringing them to Skaalen (putting them in a gift bag is acceptable though). This helps us know the gift going out, so we can give it to a resident that it would be beneficial for.



GIFT SUGGESTIONS:

Men:

- Colored pocket T-shirts
- Baseball caps (sports teams or USA themed)
- Watches
- Cologne

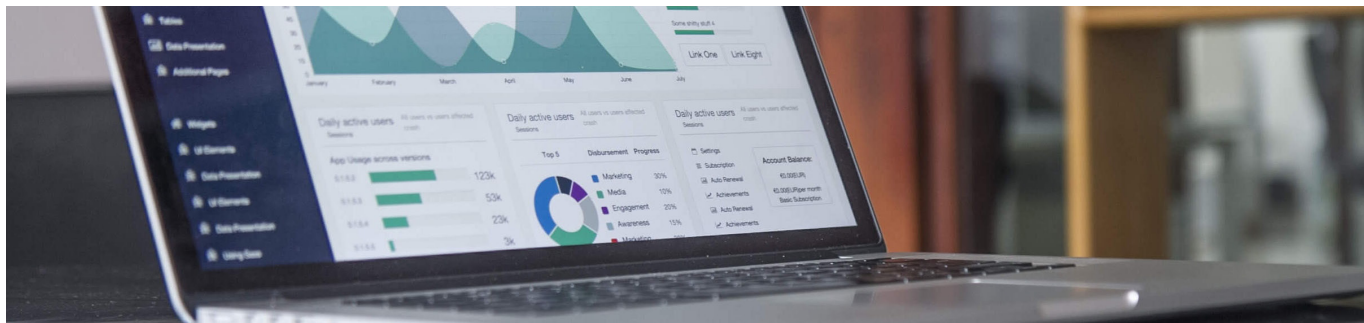
Women:

- New Jewelry necklaces, pins, earrings)
- Hair clips/ponytail
- Body Sprays
- Fuzzy socks w/grip

Both

- Professional/ Collegiate items (posters, pins, etc.)
- Window Decor
- Wall Decor
- Dresser Decor (no candles)
- Coloring Pages with utensils (crayons, colored pencils, markers)
- Music CDs
- Soft chocolates (regular & sugar free)
- T-shirts of Professional/Collegiate Teams (Brewers, Packers, Badgers, etc.)
- Light-weight blankets (fleece, quilt, etc.)
- Brush, Comb, Picks
- Dove Body Wash

Any question about the donations for Skallen, please ontact Paul Hundt, hundtsil@yahoo.com or 608-225-0377.



Financial Summary

As of October 31, 2023

	Budget	Expenses
	4 Months	4 Months
Income	\$ 417,362	\$ 438,234
Expenses	\$ 429,512	\$ 379,881
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (12,150)	\$ 58,353
Mortgage Balance Outstanding:		
	\$814,892	\$805,956
	<i>As of 6/30/23</i>	<i>As of 10/31/23</i>
As of the end of October, we are current in paying the church's bills, mortgage and benevolences. We came through the summer months in good financial shape. Historically, they have been difficult because of decreased giving.		
Thank you, to you, the faithful supporters of the McFarland Lutheran Church. Know that your contributions are greatly appreciated.		

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Sunday School Christmas Program!

The Sunday School Christmas program is Sunday, December 10 during the 10 am service!

More information and rehearsal times can be found on the registration form, which you can access [here](#). Please complete a registration form for each student.



It takes many hands to support the Christmas Program. If you would like to learn about the volunteer opportunities and sign-up, please [click here](#).

We are excited to hear our youngest disciples share the Christmas story!

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Christmas Bake Sale Dec 9 & 10

Mark your calendars and don't miss the annual bake sale, jointly sponsored by our youth groups and the Global Mission committee. **Sale times are Saturday Dec 9th 5:30 to 6:30 and Sunday, December 10th 7:30 – 11:30 am.** Featured items are McFarland Lutheran's Rummegrot, lefse, baked goods made by our youth groups, and a variety of new and traditional Christmas favorite cookies.

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 9 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am or by 7:30 am on Dec 10. If donated items contain nuts, please note this on a label. Lefse donations are particularly appreciated and should be packaged with 3 pieces per bag.

Proceeds will be equally split between the McFarland Food Pantry and Outreach for World Hope to purchase infant formula for Guatemala. Contact Ron Vandeberg, Chris Landerud or other members of the Global Mission Committee with questions.

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Welcome

Administrative Assisatant Hired

Please join the Personnel Committee in welcoming Heather Wedan, an MLC member, to MLC's Staff. Heather has accepted our offer of employment and **will be joining our staff as our Administrative Assistant on Tuesday, December 5, 2023.** Heather brings many strong work-related skills to this important role and will be working closely with Rita Jenkins our Office Manager as she assumes the position's responsibilities.

A big 'THANK YOU' to: Rita who stepped up in many ways to ensure the responsibilities associated with the Administrative Assistant role were met while it was open; Carrie

Kruzan, the position's former incumbent, who continued to work from home to support the role; and to other MLC members who shared their skills including, Pastor Kelli, Hulda Elestad, Renee Rodeck, Paul Hundt and many other volunteers.

An MLC email has already been established for Heather (hwedan@mcfarlandlutheran.org). **Beginning December 5, please submit Newsletter and other related requests to her at this email address.**

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Christmas Cookies & Treats

Youth Cooks Needed:

Sat, Dec 2nd 9-noon – LEFSE

Sat, Dec 9th 9-11 – CHRISTMAS COOKIES

in the youth church kitchen

MLC hosts an annual bake sale on December 10th to support our McF Food Pantry and our 2024 Guatemala Mission. This is a fun, impactful ministry that provides a wide variety of treats and it raises over a thousand dollars to support people in need. Here are 3 ways you can help out:

1. Join us on Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00-noon to make Lefse (Norwegian flatbread).
2. Join us on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00-11:00 to make Christmas Cookies & Rømmegrøt.
3. You can make your favorite treats for the bake sale on December 10th. (Drop treats off on Saturday, December 9th by 11AM or Sunday December 10th by 8AM.)

We have the opportunity to help learn, cook, and serve! All are qualified. Join me and some of McFarland Lutheran's finest in the kitchen on these first two December Saturdays.

Bake Sale will be at church Sunday morning, December 10th.

Chris Landerud, Youth Ministries Director
clanderud@mcfarlandlutheran.org • (608) 444-3604

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No Nursery Attendant - Sunday, December 10 at 10am

There will be no attendant available in the nursery during the 10am worship on Sunday, December 10. The nursery will be open, but a family member will need to stay with their children.

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McFarland Food Pantry Giving Tree!

Sign up and help a neighbor celebrate Christmas!

1. Click on the ([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 at 5404 Anthony Street during one of the times listed below. Please mention you are from McFarland Lutheran Church.
5. There will be a few tags with the gifts listed on them on the local mission bulletin board in the hallway of the church. There is a signup sheet and instructions for the tags by the bulletin board. .

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 the church office (608-838-3184). They 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 Kristin Hildebrandt at kshildebrandt@charter.net (608-695-4304)

****Drop Off Times****

Wednesday November 29: 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Saturday December 2: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wednesday December 6: 3:00 - 5 pm pm

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2023 Advent & Christmas Schedule

The Worship & Music Committee is excited to share the plans and service schedule for Advent and Christmas. We are looking forward to watching for the Light of the World and joyfully celebrating the Incarnation of God in Flesh with you!

Three Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 at 6:30pm

Holden Evening Prayer with youth worship leaders

Advent Meals – new time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Three Children's Christmas Programs

Sunday, December 10

Sunday School Program during 10:00am worship

Child Life Ministries Program at 12:15pm and 1:00pm

Three Christmas Eve Services

(no Saturday service)

Sunday, December 24

10:00am (Contemporary/Family Emphasis)

3:00pm and 5:00pm (Traditional)

A Children's Message and Silent Night Candle Lighting at all three services

No Christmas Day Service

Celebrate Christmas Day at home with loved ones

One First Sunday of Christmas Service

(no Saturday service or Sunday 8:00am service)

Sunday, December 31 at 10:00am

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Sign-Up Genius form for worship leaders has been updated to reflect this service schedule. Please refer to the form to double-check any standing commitments and to sign-up for available positions.

Worship & Music Committee Members – Linda Ellestad, Jeff Gehrke, Jane Licht, Jane Mitchell, Deb Nygaard, and Pastor Kelli Schmit

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Advent Mid-Week Worship

2023 Advent Wednesdays - Confirmation Students

6:10 pm Confirmation Students Arrive

6:30-7:15 pm Advent Evening Worship

Advent Week ONE: December 6

Advent Week TWO: December 13

Advent Week THREE: December 20

We have Confirmation Wednesdays during Advent. Students can participate in Advent evening worship. Students have the opportunity to server as ushers, lectors, communion assistants, and AV operators during worship. Students can simply attend worship with their family or friends if they are not comfortable assisting in one of these roles. Worship is open to everyone! Chris Landerud, Youth Director (Talk or text: 608.444.3604)

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Greetings from CLM

It's beginning to look a lot like.... ADVENT!

Actually, it's also beginning to look and sound like Christmas as well, but we are mindful of this waiting time called Advent.

On Monday, everyone was greeted by a Christmas Tree in their room and we have begun to decorate the trees, the halls, and the walls! If there is an empty branch or space, be assured it will be covered with a combination of glue, glitter, pom poms, and construction paper.



The preschoolers have made Advent wreaths to take home and were very excited to show them to their families. I always send home an explanation of the wreath as well. We are asking all of our families to bring in donations for the McFarland Food Pantry. We explain to all of the students why we are bringing in the food and even our Tots understand the reason. We pray for the families who will receive it and that they get things that they like to eat!

Our school age group is making table décor for the next Triangle Ministry meal and we hope it brightens up their day.

The preschoolers and Rainbow North are getting excited about their Christmas Programs on Sunday, Dec. 10th! We are singing about cows and donkeys, a song in Spanish and of course, the Light of our Life, the baby Jesus! The programs are always fun, full of energy, and unpredictable. Just like the children participating in them. I think Jesus perhaps placed children in such high regard because He loved those very traits in the children He held on his lap.

Have a wonderful Advent and be a light to someone you love!
Deb

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