



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH



Epiphany

Join us for Epiphany

January 6/7, 2024

Sat. 5 pm worship

Sun. 8 am Worship

Sun. 10 am Worship & Facebook Live

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Sympathy



We express our sympathy **to Judy Walther and her family**, on the death of her husband, Ed Walther.

Sympathy



We express our sympathy **to Cynthia Devine and her family**, on the death of her mother, Elaine Kroll.

WHAT'S
NEW

Red = Newest Article

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MINISTRIES

IMPORTANT DATES

January 3 - 7:00 am
High School Breakfast
January 3 - 6:15 pm
Handbell Choir Rehearsal
January 3 - 7:30 pm
Vocal Choir Rehearsal
January 4 - 6:30 pm
Men's Basketball
January 6 - 7:30 am
Women's Breakfast
January 6 - 7:30 am
Men's Bible Study
January 6 - 5:00 pm
Worship
January 7 - 8:00 am
Worship & Guatemala Mission Trip
Sending
January 7 - 9:00 am
Sunday School and Confirmation

January 7 - 9:00 am
Call Committee Open Forum
January 7 - 9:15 am
Face Time
January 7 - 10:00 am
Worship & Guatemala Mission Trip
Sending
January 7 - 11:00 am
Children's Singing Group Practice
January 8 - 9:00 am
Giving Quilters
January 8 - 6:00 pm
Local Missions Meeting
January 8 - 6:30
Prayer Shawl Workshop
January 9 - 1:00 pm
Elizabeth Circle
January 9 - 6:30 pm
CLM Committee Meeting

New Worship Assistant Sign Up

New Worship Assistant Sign up

There is a new way to volunteer for worship leadership roles: ushers, lectors, communion servers, and more!

Our current sign-up forms conclude at the end of 2023. This is a great opportunity for us to take your feedback into consideration and try out a new process!

The new sign-up forms will begin with the worship services for January 6 and 7, 2024. You can start signing up now!

A few details:

- There is a separate sign-up for each of the three services.
- This is something we will experience on a trial basis, for three months. Please contact Pastor Kelli with aspects you appreciate or possible adjustments.
- Leadership roles that serve both Sunday services, such as Assisting Minister, Sacristan, and Welcome Desk, can be found in the 8AM link.
- This is something we will experience on a trial basis, for three months. Please contact Pastor Kelli with aspects you appreciate or possible adjustments.

Sign Up Here!

[Saturday 5PM Worship Sign-Up](#)

[Sunday 8AM Worship Sign-Up](#)

[Sunday 10AM Worship Sign-Up](#)

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Call Committee

Call Committee Special Update

It is with a sad heart that we share that we need to temporarily pause the call committee's search for our next senior pastor due to our recommended candidate abruptly

withdrawing from our call process. The Call Committee was preparing to update the congregation with the exciting news that we had selected our candidate, and that they had accepted our recommendation to Council and, ultimately, to the Congregation. However, one day before the call committee meeting to prepare for the recommendation, our selected candidate blindsided us by withdrawing from our call process.

[Click here to read more](#)

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FAQ's

FAQ's

1) What is the upcoming worship schedule?

Epiphany of our Lord

Our familiar worship schedule will resume in the new year.

Saturday, January 6 at 5:00pm, Sunday, January 7 at 8:00am and 10:00am.

Join us as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord!

2) Who is our new Administrative Assistant?

Please join the Personnel Committee in welcoming Heather Wedan, an MLC member, to MLC's Staff. Heather joined our staff on December 5, 2023. You can contact Heather by either calling the main office or emailing her at: hwedan@mcfarlandlutheran.org.

3) What if I have questions about the call process or the recent update from the Call Committee?

The Call Committee hosted an open forum on Sunday, December 17, 2023. A productive dialogue was shared and questions were addressed.

The Call Committee will be hosting another open forum on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 9:00am in the Family Life Center. All are welcome and encouraged to join.

4) How do I sign up to serve in a worship leadership role?

There is a new way to volunteer for worship leadership roles: ushers, lectors, communion servers, and more!

The new sign-up forms will begin with the worship services for January 6 and 7, 2024. You can start signing up now! The links will be found on the top of each weeks e-news letter.

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CHILDREN SINGING GROUP

Children Singing Group!

Our youngest vocalists (Sunday School ages) are invited to sing a special song during worship!

We will rehearse in the sanctuary on Sundays, January 7 and 14, 2024 at 11:00am (immediately following the 10:00am worship), for roughly 15 minutes.

The students will share their musical gifts during the 10:00am worship on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

All students are welcome to participate!

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SCSW Care for God's Creation Team is offering a Zoom book study in January, February, and March

We will discuss the book "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul" by John Philip Newell, Angus King, et. al.

"The wisdom of Celtic spirituality is needed today to help heal the earth, overcome our conflicts, and reconnect us to the sacredness of the earth and one another. John Philip Newell shows us how this earth-based spirituality can help us rediscover our connection with God, with each other, and the earth."

The group will meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday in January (January 11 and 25) and February (February 8 and 22) and the 2nd Thursday in March (March 14). The meetings will go from 6:30pm to 7:30pm each time.

If you are interested in being a part of the Care for God's Creation book study, please contact Deacon Meg Nielsen, team chair, at churchladymeg@hotmail.com.

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Prayer Shawl Workshop

The Prayer Shawl Workshop will meet **Monday, January 8th** due to the holiday.



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BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study

Men's Bible Study

First Saturday/month, 7:30 am

Come and join the MLC Men's Bible study group as we delve into God's Word and enjoy fellowship time together. We are meeting on Saturday, January 6th in room 125.

Interested? Have questions?
Please contact Jeff Gehrke at
jeffgehrke59@gmail.com or
Scott Potts at scottalan23@hotmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

First Saturday/month, 7:30 am

Come and join the MLC Women's Bible study group as we delve into God's Word and enjoy fellowship time together. We are meeting on Saturday, January 6th in room 210.

Interested? Have questions?
Please contact Sheri Gehrke at
sherilgehrke@gmail.com

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Congratulations to Child Life Ministries

CLM was voted Best Child Care in the 2023 "Best of McFarland" special edition of the McFarland Thistle!

Big shouts of congratulations and thanks to each of our CLM staff, families, and students!

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BOOK CLUB

Book Club Schedule

The book club **meets on the third Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am** at the Skaalen Village Clubhouse. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Ackley at 608-838-3329. Hope to see you there.

January 16: *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

February 20: *The Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

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Join us for Game Night

Game night is open to everyone who is interested in playing games.

Join us every second Saturday of the month at 6:00 pm in the FLC.

Our next night is on January 13, 2024. Enjoy fun, fellowship and games!

Contact Kevin Strattan if you have any questions, kcascade@tds.net.

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Recycle the Warmth

Do you have new or gently used quality blankets and bedding you're not using anymore? Maybe a sheet set you received that isn't quite your style? How about gently used quilts

you're finding as you're cleaning out the house?

Your new and gently used blankets, bedding and sheets could go to a struggling family this year when you donate goods to the Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive, January 26th-28th, 2024! The goods collected during the drive will be distributed to families in need through furniture vouchers at St. Vinny's Thrift Stores all year long.

Here is how you can help:

1. Drop off new and gently used blankets, bedding and sheets at McFarland Lutheran Church or any St. Vinny's Thrift Store during the weekend of January 26th- 28th, 2024.
2. Place monetary donations in Recycle the Warmth envelopes and turn them into the office.

More information to come!

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Habitat Volunteering

When attempting to volunteer for construction at Habitat's Owl Creek site in Madison (located north of Siggelkow Rd, intersection of Valor Dr and Owl Creek Dr) several of you found no open slots. This was due to so many corporate groups sending volunteers that only a few slots remained for 'off-the-street' volunteers. Now as winter approaches there are less corporate groups, once again leaving open slots for individuals.

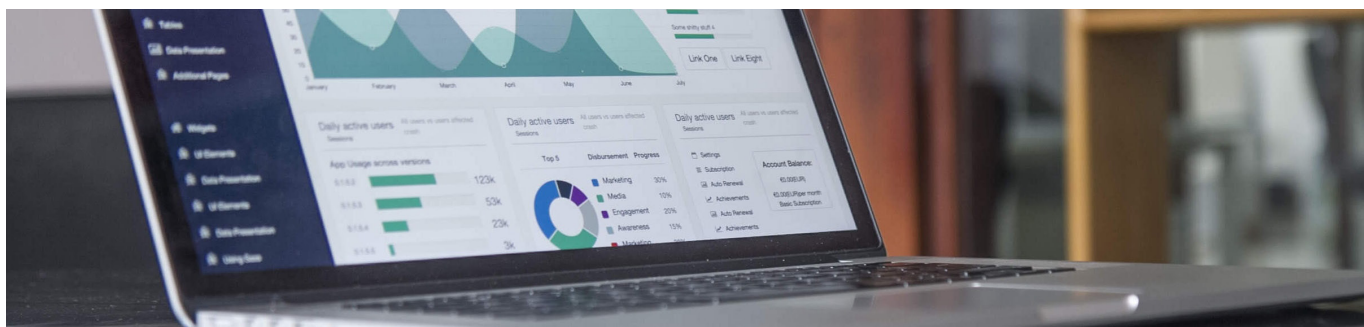
At the Owl Creek site six houses were framed and made weather tight over summer. The next few months will be occupied with inside work to install flooring, doors, trim, closet accessories, etc. On nice weather days there will also be installation of vinyl siding. Come on out and join the fun. Fellow MLC members are often there working on Thursdays, sometimes other days as well.

In other Habitat news, framing of duplexes in Oregon has now started and construction continues on multiple homes in Sun Prairie. Both the east and west ReStores are looking for help almost every day. Many find the ReStore work easier to schedule since these opportunities are in 4 hour increments. If you wish to volunteer for openings at any site, go to website: <https://habitatdane.volunteerhub.com/>. Thank you for considering this opportunity to help provide affordable housing to Dane Country families.

Global Mission Committee

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[BAC](#)



Financial Summary

As of November 30, 2023

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
	5 Months	5 Months
Income	\$525,906	\$527,080
Expenses	\$538,139	\$471,836
Net Income/(Loss)	\$(12,233)	\$55,244

Mortgage Balance

Outstanding	\$814,892	\$799,956
	As of 6/30/23	As of 11/30/23

As of the end of November, the church is current in paying the mortgage, bills and benevolences. The church held it's first Giving Tuesday in conjunction with the National Day of Giving on November 28. We received a total of \$2600 in contributions. This will be used to reduce the church's mortgage balance.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to this event. Also, thank you to those who support the church on a regular basis - it is greatly appreciated.

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Church Council

Council Corner

November 2023

- Properties Committee is working on a campus plan for the grounds.
- Administrative Assistant Heather Wedan's first day is December 5.

- CLM tuition rates for next year have been set and remain competitive.
- The old CLM van has been sold at auction.

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