



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH



Join us for the 4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 27/28, 2024

Sat. 5 pm worship

Sun. 8 am Worship

Sun. 10 am Worship & Facebook Live

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

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MINISTRIES

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YOUTH

[CLM](#)

• IMPORTANT DATES

January 24 - 7:00 am

High School Breakfast

January 24 - 6:15 pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

January 24 - 7:30 pm

Vocal Choir Rehearsal

January 25 - 6:30 pm

Men's Basketball

January 27 - 5:00 pm

Worship/Guatemala Mission Trip Event

January 28 - 8:00 am

Worship/Guatemala Mission Trip Event

January 28 - 9:00 am

Sunday School

January 28

Confirmation

January 28 - 9:15 am

Face Time

January 28 - 10:00 am

Worship/Guatemala Mission Trip Event

January 29 - 9:00 am

Giving Quilters

January 29 - 6:15 pm

Call Committee

January 29 - 6:30 pm

Stewardship Committee

January 30 - 6:30 pm

Council Meeting

January 31 - 7:00 am

High School Breakfast

January 24 - 6:15 pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

January 24 - 7:30 pm

Vocal Choir Rehearsal

New Worship Assistant Sign Up

New Worship Assistant Sign up

Sign up to help lead worship as an usher, lector, communion server, and more!

Sign Up Here!

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

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

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

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FAQ's

1) Where are we in the search for our new senior pastor?

The call committee has received two additional candidates Rostered Minister Profiles (RMPs) and the call committee is actively reviewing each candidate to determine whether to offer Zoom interviews. We're targeting Zoom interviews for these candidates in February.

2) Where are we in the solar panel installation process?

Following final approval from Alliant Energy, the new MLC solar panel system has been switched on and now is generating energy for the church! We will be dedicating the new system and celebrating at worship services on February 3 and 4. There will be an information table in the gathering space after all three services and an opportunity to visit the system hub in the mechanical room. All are invited to participate.

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Greetings from CLM

I am writing this on a very icy morning and everything is running a little slow, which is the best way to stay safe. I always meet the school bus for 4K and since they were running later this morning, we took the shortcut through the building to get to the 4K room. That means we walked through the MLC office hallway. I had to stop at the CLM office to get my keys and as they looked into the office A said, "Deb, is this where you sleep at night?" I assured them that I sleep at home but I am not sure they were convinced.



Last week in CLM worship and this past Sunday in church, we heard the voice of Jesus calling out to fishermen to come and follow Him. I thought how probably most of us know where we will sleep each night, but to those who dropped their nets and followed Jesus, there were no guaranteed room reservations or secure sleeping accommodations. As CLM followers of Jesus we are thankful that others went before us to follow Jesus and make the way for faith living. In music we sang, "I Will Follow Jesus in my heart" We are safe in our following so our gain is a life spent with Jesus.

Thanks be to God.
Deb

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Thank you



Thank You From the Walther Family

On behalf of the Edward Walther family we would like to express our thanks for the prayers, cards, flowers, and those who helped in the kitchen for Edward's funeral. This church family is so very wonderful. You have touched us all with the warmth and kindness. It has helped us all as we heal from our loss. We were blessed with such a wonderful service and God's presence was felt. A huge thank you to Pastor Kelli who was so wonderful and did such a great job. The service was exactly how my mom wanted....God's Blessings Brenda Moen.

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Prayer Shawl Workshop

Join us **Monday, February 5th at 6:30pm** for a prayer shawl workshop. These workshops will be held in the Gathering Space. For more information, please contact Norma Kohl.



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Valentine's Are Here!

Check out the card table in the Great Hall. Donations made will go to the Alzheimer's Association. Thanks for your support and enjoy the cards! ~Brenda Moen



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Solar Energy is Here!

Following final approval from Alliant Energy, the new MLC solar panel system has been switched on and now is generating energy for the church! We're praising God for these bright, sunny days as we move into the operational phase of this multi-year project.

We will be dedicating the new system and celebrating at worship services on February 3 and 4. There will be an information table in the gathering space after all three services and an opportunity to visit the system hub in the mechanical room. All are invited to participate!

Thanks to the Solar Implementation Task Force: Ron Vandeberg, Wes Licht, Doug Bechel, Nina Schulz and Brent O'Dell for their work over the past 14 months. And much appreciation to the hard work of the Care of Creation Committee and the Sunshine Task Force who got things underway a few years ago. Special acknowledgment to Ron Vandeberg for his expertise and leadership with Synergy Systems to manage the project.

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2024 Flower & Wine Schedules Are Here



Altar Flowers
&
Wine

The 2024 Schedules for dedicating Altar Flowers (\$35) and Communion Wine (\$7.50) are now at the welcome desk. Stop by if you'd like to reserve a date!

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CHILDREN SINGING GROUP

Our youngest vocalists shared their musical gifts in worship. It was such a hit that they're invited to participate again!

Rehearsals will be in the sanctuary on Sundays immediately following the 10:00am worship for roughly 15 minutes. Students will sing during the 10:00am worship.

Rehearsals on February 4 and 11. Sing on February 18.

Rehearsals on March 3 and 10. Sing on March 17.

Rehearsals on April 7 and 14. Sing on April 21.

All students are welcome to participate!

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Hi Friends of McFarland Evangelical Lutheran Church!

Your well is open!! Your generous support to help the most vulnerable affected by the water crisis in Uganda will bring water security, good health, hope, and a bright future to those who need it most. This gift of safe water is a life-impacting investment, transforming thirsty villages into thriving communities for decades.

Your participation in our Water 4 Kids 2023 Walk 4 Water McFarland, WI event has made all the difference to the children and families!!

Thank you for your patience as we pressed forward in bringing clean, life-saving water to the precious people of Petta Central Noarth Village in Uganda, Africa, and their surrounding communities.

Thank you for your patience and prayers as we pressed forward in pouring life into future generations through safe water to the precious people of Petta Central North, in Uganda, Africa, and their surrounding communities. We have more great news to share with you...A second village will receive safe water too!

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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, February 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, February 6th in room 210.

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

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Lenten Fair

Lenten Fair will soon be here. All ages are invited to join us in the Family Life Center on Saturday, March 16th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Come decorate a cross, make a pretzel, sample hot cross buns, plant a seed and so much more. The Care of Creation Team will also be with us sharing insights on the butterfly and why butterflies are a great symbol of Easter. This is not a drop off event but, instead, a fun event for the whole family to experience together!



The Family and Children Ministry Team would also like to invite anyone interested in

helping out on the 16th to contact one of us or see us in church. Helping others, especially our youngest disciples, to learn more about the gift of Easter has its rewards many times over.

JOIN US Brenda 608-873-1634, Cheryl 608-712-9734, Karen 608-513-6240.

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Recycle the Warmth This Weekend!

Do you have 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 to Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive. The good collected will be distributed to families in need.

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 found at the welcome desk and turn them into the church!

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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.

February 20: *The Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
March 19: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

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The Most Fun You'll Have in a Hair Net!

Join your Local Missions team in packing food kits for hungry people around the world with the organization Feed My Starving Children!

We had a great time last year, and we're doing it again this year! We were told it's the most fun you'll have in a hair net!

We will be packing food kits on Saturday, March 9 from Noon-2pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Verona Campus (7291 Cty Highway PD, Verona, WI). We will arrive 15 minutes early for an orientation/training.

It's a great opportunity for the whole family! Minimum age to volunteer is 5 years old. Everyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



To join MLC's registration group, click [here](#). Let Pastor Kelli know you're coming so we can look for you and connect!

Video about this Mobile Pack Event: [click here](#)

FAQs: [click here](#)

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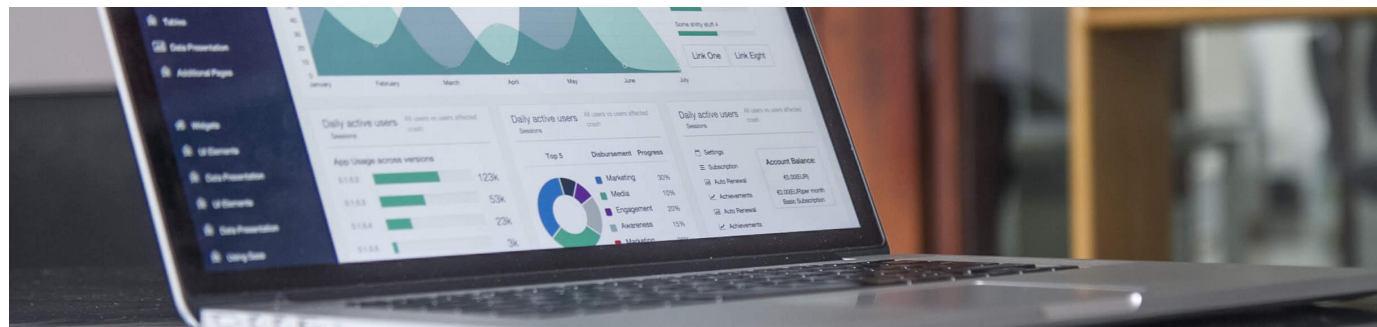


PLEASE HELP BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH...IT'S ONLY A FEW TIMES A YEAR!

- Hello. The Decorative Arts Committee needs help. Let me explain what we do and maybe you can help us.
- We decorate the church with flowers for holidays...Lilies and spring blooms for Easter, Poinsettias for Christmas, and Geraniums for Pentecost.
 - Flowers are ordered, work times are arranged, people show up, flowers are put in place and watered.
 - For Christmas we also decorate the trees, set up the Nativity and Manger scenes, and put out the table decorations.
 - We DO NOT put up or take down the banners which also decorate the church; the Banners Committee does that.
 - We DO NOT make centerpieces or floral arrangements; we just arrange the potted flowers which have been delivered. You do not have to be creative.

We really need the help and it's only for Easter, Christmas, and Pentecost. If you can or cannot do physical work, you could be a coordinator. This would involve ordering the flowers and/or sending emails to set up work times. There is a book that tells you everything you need to do and there are people who can help with anything you have a question about. Please consider helping. You could be coordinator (or choose one thing, like ordering the flowers or sending emails), or choose just to help decorate for Christmas or put out flowers for Easter. It's up to you and very flexible. If you're interested in any part of this, want to volunteer, or have questions, please contact Deb Hettrick at djhettri@msn.com or call someone you know who is on decorative arts. Thank you!

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Financial Summary

As of December 31,

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
	6 Months	6 Months
Income	\$646,450	\$646,882
Expenses	\$665,978	\$582,484
Net Income/(Loss)	\$(19,528)	\$64,398
Mortgage Balance Outstanding	\$814,892	\$797,676
	As of 6/30/23	As of 12/31/23

Recently the question has been asked: After six months of the church's fiscal year, why is the church's net income so high? It is a relatively short answer. There are a few church staff positions that remain open, along with the employment expenses related to those positions. Unfortunately, the senior pastor position remains open as we know. Just recently, we filled the administrative position with Heather Wedan. This position had been open for a number of months. Church giving is slightly under budget by approximately 3%. If it were not for these staff openings and adding in the shortfall in giving, our year-to-date results would be closer to the budgeted loss of \$19,500.

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