



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH



Join us for the Second Sunday of Advent

December 9/10, 2023

Sat. 5 pm worship

Sun. 8 am Worship

Sun. 10 am Worship & Facebook Live

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

WHAT'S NEW

Red = Newest Article

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MINISTRIES

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IMPORTANT DATES

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

December 9 - 8:00 am

Rummegrut/Christmas Cookies

December 9 - 9:00 am

Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 9 - 5:30 pm

Bake Sale

December 9 - 6:00 pm

Game Night

December 10 - 7:00 am

Bake Sale

December 10 - 9:00 am

Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 10 - 10:00 am

Children's Christmas Program

December 11 - 9:00 am

Giving Quilters

December 11 - 6:00 pm

Local Missions

December 11 - 6:00 pm

Stewardship Committee

December 12 - 8:30 am

LWR Piece Corps Quilters

December 12 - 1:00 pm

Elizabeth Circle

December 12 - 6:30 pm

CLM Committee



Habitat
for Humanity

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 County families.

Global Mission Committee

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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 next meetings will be **December 17 at 9:00 a.m.** between services in Room 113 downstairs. Please prayerfully consider joining us.

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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.



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.



Thank you



Thank You

I am writing this note of a very large Thank You to you Pastor Kelli and everyone on the MLC local missions committee plus each member of our congregation that provided the gift of warm winter apparel that I recently picked up from our church. We greatly value your partnership, support and on-going prayers for the Madison Area Jail Ministry, the chaplains, the deputies, those incarcerated, those recently released, the deputies and everyone impacted.

This is a note of deep and sincere gratitude and profound thank you to you Pastor Kelli, the MLC local missions committee and the MLC congregation from each person that recently received or is about to receive your gift of warm winter apparel that they have need of upon their release from jail. This is the gift of the winter apparel that was generously provided by those in your congregation. Thank you very much for sharing the love of Jesus in this way.

Also, a large thank you to you from the Dane County Jail reentry team that distributes the winter apparel to those in need of it upon their release from jail. And of course, a large thank you to you from the Madison Area Jail Ministry who oversees the request to your church, the logistics of pick up from your church of the winter apparel and delivery of it to the Dane County Jail.

Thank you very much to you for sharing Jesus's love with your generosity and the kindness of your gifts to others in need who frequently are overlooked and forgotten.

Here is your Advent / Christmas season be blessed.

Paul L Hundt
Executive Committee Chair
Madison Area Jail Ministry

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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 blanketsb (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.

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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.

December : No Meeting

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

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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 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:

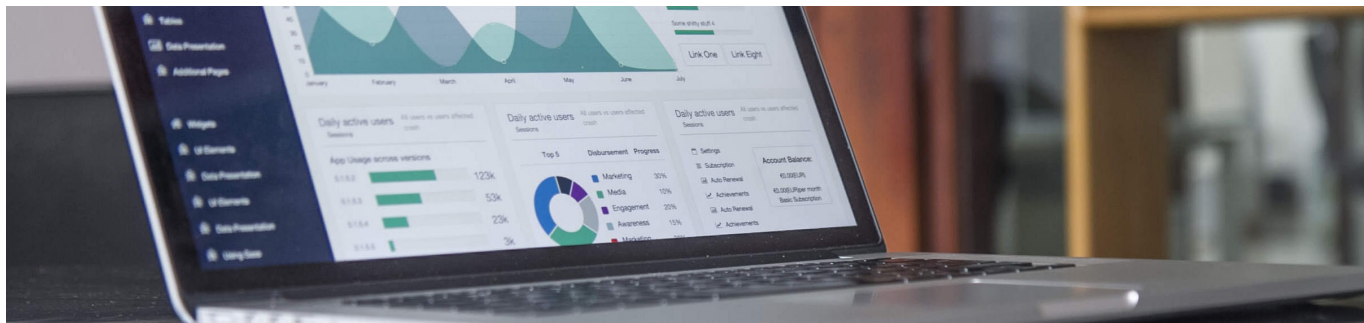
1. Join us on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00-11:00 to make Christmas Cookies & Rømmegrøt.
2. You can make your favorite treats for the bake sale on December 10th. (Drop treats off on Saturday, December 9th by 11AM or Sunday December 10th by 8AM.)

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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Financial Summary

As of October 31, 2023

| | Budget | Actuals* |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| | 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 |
| As of 6/30/23 | As of 10/31/23 |

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.

**Should have said Actual and not Expense (my apologies).*

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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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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 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 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 serve 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

CLM is filled with the excitement of Advent and the coming promise of Christmas. If you have not already joined, I would encourage you to become a member of our Child Life Ministries FB page. We post quite often and there is a very cute video of our Pre-K class looking for the gingerbread boy last week! They make stops around the church looking for clues and asking church staff if he has been seen. He is finally found safe and secure back in their room. On our FB page you will also see photos of children working on activities, playing in the Family Life Center, and attending worship in the worship center. Check it out!



The school age group has been finishing up a table take home gift for the next Triangle Ministry meal and they will complete about 75 of them in time for the meal. We are also collecting much needed food for the food pantry. One of the preschoolers brought in a box filled with food and said, "It's my favorite stuff to eat but it's not for me. It's for kids who need my favorite stuff to eat." Learning to have a giving heart can begin at any age and children will respond in such a giving way.

This Sunday the Preschool and Rainbow North and South groups will be having their Christmas Programs in the Worship Center. We are excited to share our Christmas spirit and sing about Jesus and his birthday! These programs are always fun, joyful, and of course, entirely unpredictable.

We would like to add a CLM welcome to Heather Wedan, Administrative Assistant at MLC, and we look forward to working together with her!

Wishing you Advent hopefulness,
Deb

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