



# McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Join us for the Second Sunday of Advent

December 16/17, 2023

Sat. 5 pm worship

Sun. 8 am Worship

Sun. 10 am Worship & Facebook Live

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

### WHAT'S NEW

**Red** = Newest Article

[Council Corner](#)

[Thank You](#)

[Habitat for Humanity](#)

[Uganda Mission Trip](#)

[Guatemala Mission Trip](#)

[Financial Summary](#)

[Administrative Assistant](#)

[Advent/Christmas Schedule](#)

[Christmas Bake Sale](#)

[\*\*Bible Study\*\*](#)

[\*\*McFarland Food Pantry\*\*](#)

[\*\*No Nursery Attendent\*\*](#)

## MINISTRIES

[Book Club](#)

[Prayer Page](#) (External Link)

[Congratulations to CLM](#)

## YOUTH

[Midweek Advent Worship](#)

[CLM](#)

### IMPORTANT DATES

**December 13 – 9:00 am**

Old Fellowship Hall (Rachel Circle)

**December 13 - 5:30 pm**

FLC - Advent Evening meal

**December 13 – 6:15 pm**

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

**December 13 - 6:30 pm**

Advent Worship

**December 13 - 7:30 pm**

Vocal Choir Rehearsal

**December 14 - 5:00 pm**

Finance Committee

**December 14 - 6:30 pm**

Men's Basketball

**December 16 - 5:00 pm**

Worship

**December 17 - 8:00 am**

Worship

**December 17 - 9:00 am**

Sunday School

**December 17 - 9:00 am**

Confirmation

**December 17 - 9:00 am**

Uganda Mission Trip Information

**December 17 - 9:15 am**

Face Time

**December 17 - 10 am**

Worship

**December 17 - 11am**

Guatemala Mission Trip Team Meeting

**December 18 - 9:00 am**

Giving Quilters

**December 18 - 6:30 pm**

Global Mission Committee

**December 18 - 6:30 pm**

Boy Scouts

**December 19 - 5:30 pm**

Executive Committee

**December 19 - 5:30 pm**

CLM Staff Meeting



**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 Country families. Global Mission Committee

[BACK TO TOP](#)

---



## 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.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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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](http://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](mailto: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

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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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  
sherigehrke@gmail.com

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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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.

**December : No Meeting**

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

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## Thank You from the McFarland Community Food Pantry

Hello All,

Thank you all of you for your support of McFarland Food Pantry Giving Tree! As a result of your generosity, we will be distributing fits to each household with their holiday meals starting tomorrow. We couldn't do it without your support and the great community we have. Thank you for helping make the holiday season special for everyone!

With gratitude,  
Kelly and Judy

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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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](mailto:hwedan@mcfarlandlutheran.org)). **Beginning December 5, please submit Newsletter and other related requests to her at this email address.**

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## Christmas Cookies & Treats

Wow! The Spirit is active in you as evidenced by the results of our annual bake sale on Dec 9 and 10. Once again this year the bake sale was a joint effort between the youth groups and Global Missions. Lefse, Rummergrot, and countless plates of Christmas cookies were made by the youth with adult guidance. The Spirit also inspired many of you to roll out the dough for beautiful and tasty treats. Results were not mixed - they were a solid performance. Over \$1600 was raised to support the McFarland Community Food Pantry and the January mission trip to Guatemala /Outreach for World Hope.

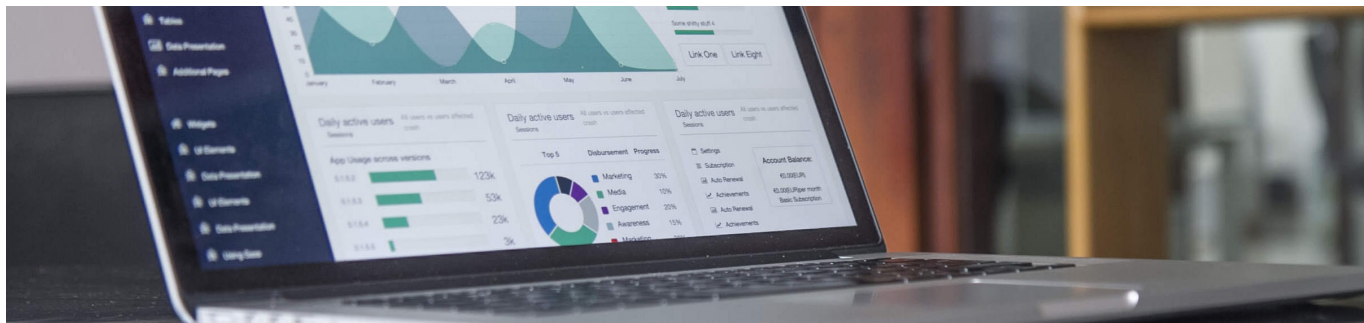
Thank yous with frosting and candy sprinklings go out to all the bakers and buyers who made the event a success.

Youth Groups and Global Mission

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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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).*

[BACK TO TOP](#)

## No Nursery Attendant - December 24th & 31st

Kaitlyn will be out of town with her family over the holiday weekends. The nursery will not have an attendant but will be open if parents wish to be in there with their children.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

## 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!



## 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!

### **Midweek Advent Service**

Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30pm

Holden Evening Prayer with youth worship leaders

Advent Meal – new time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

### **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

# 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 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)

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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## Greetings from CLM

Last week we received an email from the McFarland Thistle, which is our local hometown newspaper! We were so pleased and humbled to learn that Child Life Ministries had been voted Best of Childcare in McFarland! To be recognized by the community and have them cast their vote for our faith-based ministry was wonderful news. Thank you to all who voted, to all who support this out-reaching ministry of McFarland Lutheran, to those who pray for us, and to all of our families, past and present whose children have attended or do currently attend CLM. CLM has an amazing staff of teachers who teach, tend, and nurture children as if they were their own. We ask God to care for all providers who keep watch over children, at CLM and beyond, and that children remain safe in caring and loving environments.



Preschool is in its' final week before Christmas Break. We had wonderful programs on Sunday and it was so much fun to see the church filled with the Sunday School Christmas Program followed by CLM programs. Many of our preschoolers did double shows so I imagine a few naps were taken that afternoon. We had special snacks this week, made a birthday cake for Jesus, and Pastor Kelli led us in worship. On the last day of class, many wore their pajamas and comfy clothes to share in games, book exchanges, packing up their bags, and singing Christmas songs.

Next week, I will fill you in on Rainbow North and South activities, school age doings, and 4K wrap up!

Until then, try and fit in a pajama day for yourself!

Deb

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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