



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH



Join us for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Sun. 10 am, 3 pm, 5 pm

Sun. 10 am and 5PM Worship & Facebook Live

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

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IMPORTANT DATES

December 20 - 7:00 am

High School Breakfast

December 20 - 5:30 pm

FML - Advent Evening Meal

December 20 - 6:15 pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

December 20 - 6:30 pm

Advent Worship

December 20 - 7:30 pm

Vocal Choir Rehearsal

December 21 - 6:30 pm

Men's Basketball

December 23

No Saturday worship

December 24

No Confirmation or Sunday School

December 24 - 10:00 am

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 - 3:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 - 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

December 25

No Christmas Day Worship

December 25

All offices/programs closed

December 26

All offices/programs closed

December 27

All offices/programs closed

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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A banner with a dark blue background and a white diagonal stripe on the left. The text "Call Committee" is written in a large, white, serif font with a slight shadow effect.

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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Prayer Shawl Workshop

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

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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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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.

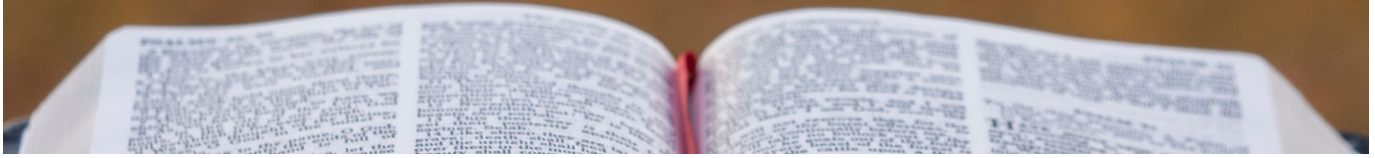
Thank you very much to you for sharing Jesus's love with your generosity and the kindness of your gifts to others in need who frequently are overlooked and forgotten.

Here is your Advent / Christmas season be blessed.

Paul L Hundt
Executive Committee Chair
Madison Area Jail Ministry

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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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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

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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

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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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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

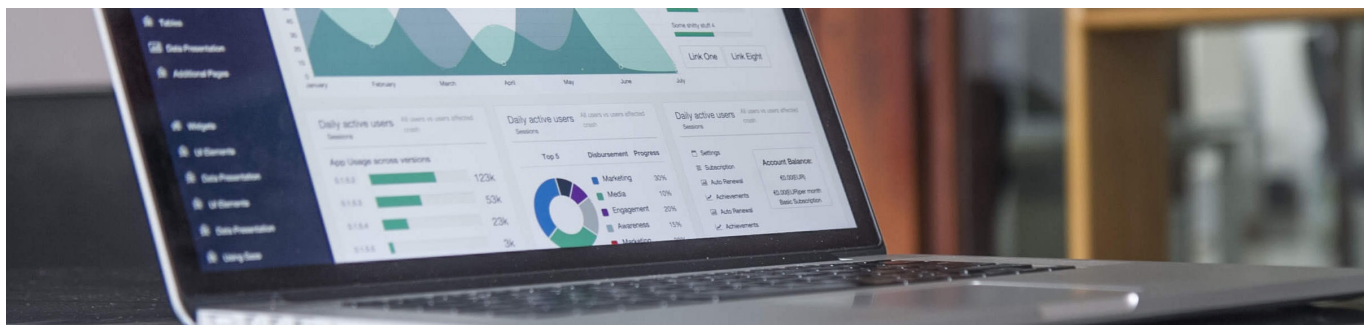
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Congratulations to Child Life Ministries

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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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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No Nursery Attendant - December 24th & 31st

Kaitlyn will be celebrating the holidays 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.

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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!

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

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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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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 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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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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FAQ's

FAQ's

1) What is the Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule?

Three Midweek Advent Services

Advent Meals at 5:30pm-6:30pm
Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 at 6:30pm

Three Christmas Eve Services

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 Saturday, December 23 service

No Christmas Day Service

Celebrate Christmas Day at home with loved ones

One First Sunday of Christmas Service

Sunday, December 31 at 10:00am
Festival of Lessons and Carols

- * No Saturday, December 30 service or Sunday, December 31 8:00am service

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.

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Greetings from CLM

This week at CLM, our Rainbow North and South groups have gone to the library, performed experiments using glitter, participated in an ornament scoop, and decorated cookies. The waiting is nearly over and Christmas will soon be here!



The entire staff of CLM wishes each and everyone of you a blessed Christmas and happiness and healing in your lives. We celebrate with you the birth of our Lord and King!

Deb, Sara. Beth, Jenny, Olivia, Katie, Rachel, Jessica, Hailey, Brooke, Jane, Michelle, Kayla, Kaitlyn, Ashlee. Katie, Lily, Tess, Ella, Ashlyn

Dear God, did you watch them try and find a space? Asking, then begging for a birthing place. Did he help her down to lay on the hay, did he rub her back? What did she say?

Nothing was going to stop this birth, the night you sent your child to earth.

Nothing could stop it from taking place

No Herod cruel enough, no disaster bad enough to keep Him from our time. Our space.

We bear witness to the wonder of this birth,
Because dethroned, uncrowned, uncovered you sent a king to earth.

You sent Him to us knowing what would be done
For in giving us Jesus, you sacrificed your son.

Tears become mingled within our joy, for we know the future of this baby boy.

You knew our world needed your son
And in His Coming. His Birth. His Death.

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