



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Lessons & Carols



Join us for the First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

Sun. 10 am Worship & Facebook Live

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

WHAT'S NEW

Red = Newest Article

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IMPORTANT DATES

December 27 -
No High School Breakfast
December 27 - 6:15 pm
Handbell Choir Rehearsal
December 27 - 7:30 pm
Vocal Choir Rehearsal
December 28 - 6:30 pm
Men's Basketball

December 31 -
No Sunday School
December 31 -
No Confirmation
December 31 - 10 am
Worship: Festival of Lessons &
Carols

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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Worship - First Sunday of Christmas

There will be one worship service this weekend!

Come enjoy a Festival of Lessons and Carols! Sunday, December 31 at 10:00am. (There is no Saturday service or Sunday, 8:00am service)

MLC's regular worship schedule resumes with Epiphany on January 6 & 7, 2024!

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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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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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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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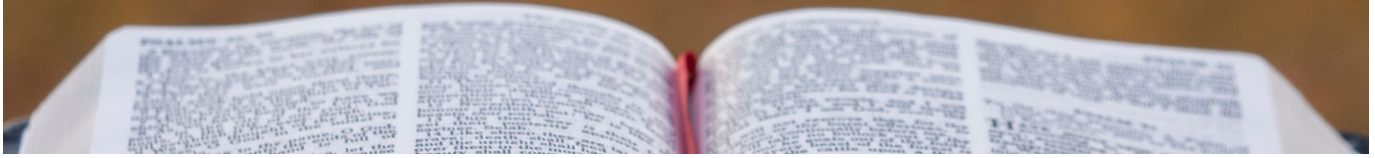
Prayer Shawl Workshop

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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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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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

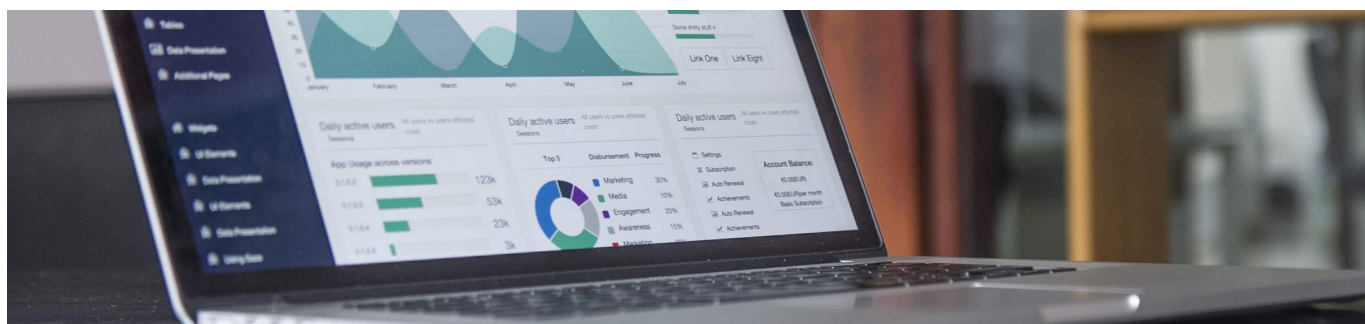
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Congratulations to Child Life Ministries

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 31st

Kaitlyn will be celebrating the holidays with her family over the holiday weekend. 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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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.

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FAQ's

FAQ's

1) What is the upcoming worship schedule?

One Service for the First Sunday of Christmas

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

** No Saturday service or Sunday 8:00am service*

Come join us to hear the Christmas story and sing beloved hymns!

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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