



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Note From Pastor Kelli

MLC held its annual meeting last Sunday. I admit, this regularly scheduled event is not why people join a congregation. I've never heard a colleague say, "I went to seminary because I love annual meetings." While they aren't the flashiest, most exciting event that happens at church, I am grateful for them.



I appreciate the annual meeting because the business of the church is important. Deciding how to allocate funds that have been entrusted to our care is important. Hearing from staff and ministry groups about the work that is unfolding is important. Discerning and electing our leadership, and deciding that language that accurately reflects our mission is important.

We moved through these agenda items without much fanfare, but my favorite part of Sunday's meeting was not on the schedule. There was so much laughter! There were so many smiles! There were good-natured jokes and a positive energy moving through the room. There was a sense of hope as we looked forward to the future – an excitement about where the Spirit may lead us next. Now *that* is why people join a congregation.

Thank you to all who joined us and to those who kept us in prayer. Thank you to the staff who offered remarks and the committee who submitted reports. Thank you to the outgoing, current, and newly-elected Council members. And thanks be to God who makes the joy, laughter, and smiling possible!

~Pastor Kelli

A Note From Our Youth Director, Chris Landerud

After 13+ years serving as Youth Director, I have made the prayerful and difficult decision to resign from this privileged position of employment. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity walk as disciples together, and to share in ministry through relationships and experiences with students, families, friends, staff, and colleagues.

This has been on my heart and mind for a time now; I am simply seeking changes to my overall work life balance and looking forward to a new chapter with new challenges

and opportunities for growth. The timing of this decision has everything to do with personal and professional reasons, and the timing of our church programmatic year.

The timing and decision has nothing to do with the recent arrival of Pastor Peter. In fact, Pastor Peter has been beyond amazing to me personally and his involvement with our youth ministries in a very short time has been life-giving! His pastoral leadership, approach to ministry together, and overall personality has made this decision more difficult. At the same time, I feel that our church leadership is in a strong position to navigate this staff transition. I am confident that our youth programs will continue to thrive and make a significant difference in the lives of young people and their families.

I will treasure the many mountaintop experiences like mission trips to Puerto Rico and Guatemala. My summers will forever reflect on Pike Lake and SummerFest Camps. Memories and camp songs will always be on my photo reels and playlists. I will miss weekly routines like children's worship, HS Wednesday Breakfast, and Confirmation. Most of all, I will treasure the many relationships and friendships that I have been blessed with as a result of serving as Youth Director. In the days and weeks ahead, I hope that I can personally connect and extend my thanks and gratitude.

Sunday, September 1, will be my last day as Youth Director, but my family and I are going to still very much be a part of life at MLC. I was baptized here, and I have been involved with leading youth ministries for decades before serving on staff. I will continue to be involved at MLC, but I will be taking a bit of a sabbatical from most volunteer roles to discern how I personally want to serve and grow in faith moving forward. I hope to continue to play guitar at worship. In years ahead, I hope to help lead congregational mission trips to Guatemala or Puerto Rico or wherever God is calling us! I would be willing to assist as needed with summer camp as a parent leader. I am also willing to connect and be a resource to the future Youth Director.

Please accept my sincerest gratitude and THANK YOU for the opportunity to be a part of our sacred work in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

<>< Chris Landerud

Please Read - A Message from Pastor Peter

McFarland Lutheran has been blessed for nearly fourteen years by Chris Landerud's gospel-focused ministry of care for our young people. Many lives have been touched by God's grace through Chris. We are immensely grateful.

As Chris departs his position as Youth Director, we recognize that his reasons completely make sense. Life transitions are normal, and we honor and respect that. At the same time, I know this isn't easy for us to say good-bye to him in this role. Fortunately, Chris and his family will still be with us as members of MLC, which is really great news.

Please know – there will be Youth Ministry at MLC. In the short term, Pastor Kelli and I are making plans for the middle school confirmation program and high school Wednesday morning breakfasts. We will be bringing in others to help out.

As well, a task force made up of members of the Executive Committee, Personnel Committee, along with Pastor Kelli and me are beginning work on finding the next Youth Director God has in mind for us.

God is faithful. God is good. As we give God thanks for Chris, we ask for God to bless Chris' future endeavors, and we trust that God will provide for McFarland Lutheran.

God's peace,
Pastor Peter

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Greetings from Child Life Ministries

We have busy plans for this week and we hope that the weather is cooperating! Parks, and pools are on the schedule, along with walks to the library! We have lots of summer left and we are trying to take advantage of every outside moment that we can.



A mailing went out last week to all of our fall preschool families about the upcoming year. I love meeting families new to CLM and acquainting them not only with our school, but also with the church as well! There are always quite a few questions about McFarland Lutheran and I am more than happy to talk about our congregation and its' ministries. When the VBS kids sang last Sunday, it was fun to see so many CLM students in the group and participating in song. It certainly was an energy filled worship!

We have an opening in our Tot Spot program, and a few spots left in our Pre-K Program. Please contact us for information.

Have a good week and walk with God.
Deb

[BACK TO TOP](#)

2024-2025 Church Council Elections

Four new Council members were elected by the congregation at our Annual Meeting on July 28.

The new members beginning their three-year

terms are: Anne Janelsins, Denny Schaaf, Cheryl Brown, and Paul Hundt (second term). Council officers for 2024-2025 were elected by the Council following the Annual Meeting. Sharon Mylrea will serve as President, Scott Potts will serve as Vice-President, and Carri Wolff will serve as Secretary. Mike Devine will continue to serve as our Appointed Treasurer. The Church Council plays an important role in the life of our congregation and is charged with general oversight of our ministries and our administration. THANK YOU to everyone who has served on the Council in the past! And

A dark brown rectangular logo with the words "Church Council" in white, sans-serif font. The word "Church" is on the top line and "Council" is on the bottom line. To the right of the text is a white cross.

THANK YOU to the new and continuing Council members for your faithful service to our congregation!

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Vacation Bible School

During VBS last week the voices and laughter of 48 youngsters filled the church. They learned through crafts, games and the Bible that God is real, He loves them, they can trust Him and He is forever with them. None of these adventures would have been possible without the awesome help of the many volunteers who stepped up to help. We are very grateful for Pastor Peter's participation, our teachers, teaching assistants, crew leaders, opening and closing leaders, our snack person (she prepared 50 plus snacks a night), the Welcome committee, Youth Group, Local Missions and Rachel's Circle for the delicious meals. It was the time and talent of these individuals that made it great week for our 48 upcoming young disciples. A big thank you to all.

[BACK TO TOP](#)



No Nursery Attendant August 4th

The nursery will not have an attendant this weekend, August 4th, but will be open if families wish to be in there with their children.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Faith of our Fathers: History of McFarland Lutheran Church

Join church archivist and local historian Ron Larson, on a cemetery walking tour on Tuesday, August 20, at 6:30. The tour, "Faith of Our Fathers: History of the McFarland Lutheran Church," will explore the early days of the Lutheran Church in McFarland, the church buildings, ministers and some of the early and influential congregants. The tour is sponsored by the E.D. Locke Public Library. Registration is required and will open on August 6. To register, click [here](#), or call Sara Hendrickson at the library, 608-838-9030.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

BIBLE STUDY



Men's bible study

First Saturday/month, 7:30 a.m

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, August 3rd 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 a.m

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, August 3rd in room 210.**

Interested? Have questions?

Please contact Sheri Gehrke at

sherilgehrke@gmail.com.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Prayer Shawl Workshop

Join us **Monday, August 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.



[BACK TO TOP](#)

BOOK CLUB



Book Club Schedule

The book club **meets on the third Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am** at the Skalden Village Clubhouse. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Ackley at 608-838-3329. Hope to see you there.

August 20: *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See

September 17: *The Pilot's Wife* by Anita Shreve

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Join Us For Game Night

Game night is open to everyone who is interested in playing games. Join us every second Saturday of the month at 6:00 pm in the FLC. **Our next night is on August 10th.** Enjoy fun, fellowship and games!



Contact Kevin Strattan if you have any questions, kcascade@tds.net.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Stuff the Bus

Each year, a handful of McFarland community organizations and businesses (including the McFarland Lions, the Lioness Lions, the American Legion Auxiliary, One Community Bank, Nelson Bus Service, and the McFarland School District) work together to conduct a 'Stuff the Bus' campaign.



Stuff the Bus is an effort to encourage community members to donate backpacks and school supplies for low-income students in the McFarland School District, to help them deal with the expenses of the new school year. After the campaign is completed, the backpacks with school supplies are then given to children of families served by the McFarland Food Pantry (which serves the school district population).

This year's Stuff the Bus campaign runs between July 27 and Saturday, August 10. If you wish to donate backpacks or school supplies, you can drop them off at the donation box located by the office of McFarland Lutheran Church now through Sunday, August 11. Or you can drop them off in the donation boxes at the village municipal center, the McFarland Library, or McFarland Pick 'N Save between July 27 and August 10. You can also drop donations off at the high school (main entrance) between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 10. If you wish to make a cash donation, you can send a donation to the McFarland Community Food Pantry (specify 'Stuff the Bus' on the memo line of your check), PO Box 101, McFarland WI 53558, or donate online at <https://mcfarlandfoodpantry.org/monetary-donations/> (using PayPal or Venmo), and specify 'Stuff the Bus' in a comment.

School supplies needed: themed backpacks (grades K-5); sturdy backpacks (grades 6-12); Kleenex; black Expo dry erase markers; Notebooks (college-ruled, 1-subject); #2 wood pencils (sharpened); binder dividers; whiteboard erasers; white 1-inch 3-ring binders; yellow highlighters; yellow Post-It notes; composition notebooks (wide-ruled); felt-tip pens; pocket calculators; and Ziploc bags (gallon size).

[BACK TO TOP](#)



Baptism

Congratulations to **Avery Joan Livingston** who was baptized on July 28, 2024.

[BACK TO TOP](#)



Weekly Calendar

Click [HERE](#) to see a list of activities for the next week.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Join us for Worship This Weekend

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 3/4, 2024

Sat. 5 pm Worship

Sun. 8 am Worship

Sun. 10 am Worship & Facebook Live

Thank You for Your Offering

We offer simple and secure online giving for either one-time or reoccurring donations. Click [here](#) to access our online giving page.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Volunteer to Help in Worship

Sign up to help with worship as an usher, lector, communion server, and more! Your assistance is needed and appreciated!

Sign Up Here!

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

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

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