



Memorial Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*"to share God's love, word and grace with all people"*

## DECEMBER 2022



## WHAT'S YOUR Favorite Christmas Song?

What other answer could there possibly be?

My all-time favorite is The Carpenters' "Merry Christmas, Darling." The magic of hearing it for the very first time on my little Volkswagen Beetle radio way back when is still a treasured Christmas memory.

*"Merry Christmas, darling. We're apart, that's true. But I can dream, and in my dream's I'm Christmasing with you."*

I'm not sure I even know what "Christmasing" is. But with Karen's superb voice singing it, it sounds good. Very good. But where's mention of Jesus, or the manger, or Mary and Joseph?

*"The lights on my tree, I wish you could see. I wish it every day." Logs on the fire, fill me with desire, to see you and to say, that I wish you Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, too. I've just one wish on this Christmas Eve, I wish I were with you."*

cont..on p. 2

When I first heard these plaintive lyrics, my romantic imagination went wild. The song was released during the Vietnam War, and I pictured a young woman waiting at home alone, not knowing if she would ever see her newly deployed husband again. Well, so much for imagination. The song was written by Richard and Karen's college professor in 1946, and recorded in 1970 because they were tired of singing the regular roster of holiday hits.

Still, it became a holiday hit (number one on the Christmas music charts) because it stirred one's imagination. I think it still does. What a great song. Christmas is supposed to work that way. By stirring the imagination. OK – so Mary never sang “I’ve just one wish on this Christmas Eve...” But she probably sang something with equal yearning. For a warm place for her, Joseph, and her baby. For a world where insensitive regulations didn't propel a young family across an entire country, just to be counted in some census so taxes could go up. And because she was willing to struggle to be faithful to God's plan. Mary had a lot on her mind. So do we. And, as we see, some things never change.

Tell me about your favorite Christmas song. I'll bet that once we get to talking about it, wrapped in those sentimental lyrics are the same, basic, heart-to-heart yearnings that accompanied the birth of our Lord. Loneliness and hardship meet a promise made real in time and place. Jesus. It's another way of saying the good news that God is made flesh in our midst to save us.

He's the one who says, maybe while humming along with Karen Carpenter,



“I’ve just one wish on this Christmas Eve.  
I wish I were with you.

And so, by God's loving miracle, it comes to pass. Even your favorite Christmas song is sometimes filled with that eternal, saving truth. Join me in looking for – and finding! – the newborn savior child

in unlikely places, and songs.

## Pastor Dow

And so we sing,

Merry Christmas, Darling.



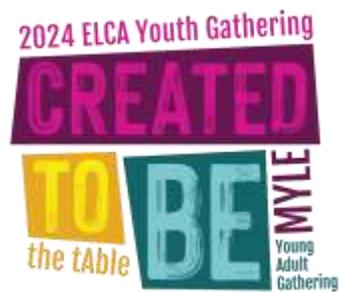
## Family Ministry News



We have had another FUN and busy month of activities! Our Youth Group, called MLC Youth ROCKS! meets every other week and we now have 16 – yes, SIXTEEN active youth members!! They are a wonderful group and we had fun learning about Martin Luther and the Reformation in October. We also created another beautiful piece of art for the hall bulletin board.

Our youth are back at fundraising as we plan for the Youth Gathering in the summer of 2024. It looks like

we will have a large group of eligible kids who are excited about connecting to Christ in New Orleans. The new theme is “Created to Be.” In a world of constant distraction, it’s important to remember who you are and whose you are, knowing that God created you to be, *just the way you are.* Our Parents Night Out fundraisers continue! Our wonderful youth were great with the kids and really had fun playing with them on the playground and in the classroom. They served them dinner and helped clean up. We will have another Parents Night Out fundraiser in February, March, April, and May. In December our youth are providing the meals for the Chapel School Merry Grinchmas Movie Night.



Another two-year Confirmation journey has started. We now have 11 youth in our class, which is HUGE! Pastor Dow and I are using a new confirmation curriculum called “re:form.” This curriculum brings the Bible stories to life with humor kids enjoy. The short animated videos combine funny quips with solid theology to truly engage teens and get them thinking – and the re:form Anti-Workbook gives youth a chance to interact through doodling, journaling, and illustrating to help them build faith.

Our new “Sunday Chapel” service started on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am with 40 participants, last Sunday we had 36. This weekly short service is designed for families and features an interactive Word & Sacrament worship experience. The youth have been helping with set up and clean up, as well as greeting and camera work for the livestream. We need more help! Please let me know how you like to help, and please keep me and this new and exciting opportunity to build faith among our families in your prayers.



Yours in Christ,

Linda Chambers, Family Ministry Director



## First Sunday of the month potlucks

There will be no Sunday Potlucks in December or in January.

## CHRISTMAS POT LUCK and CAROL SING

Wednesday December 21 at 5:30 p.m.



## Online Giving at Memorial Lutheran Church

So, you've been wanting to give online for either regular offering or to help with a special project. Thanks to our office staff and the accounting software they use, it's now a reality.

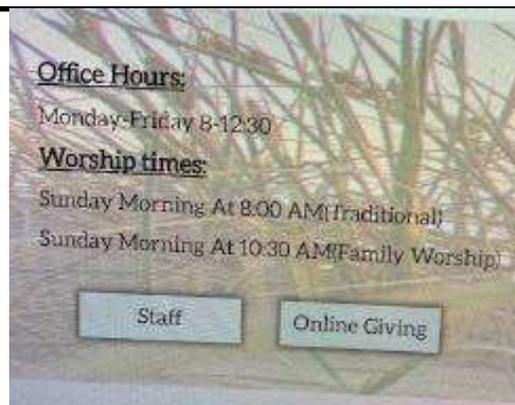
Find the link on our website, [memorillutheranchurch.net](http://memorillutheranchurch.net).

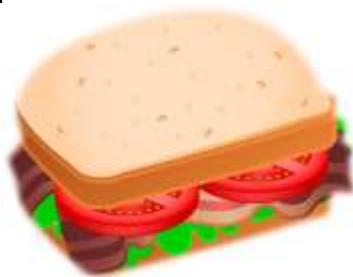
Hit the button is in the lower left hand corner.

Instructions for giving will appear when you click this link. There will be a menu asking for method of payment, e-mail address, and options for where you want your donation to go( member, non member, etc)

How about texting a financial gift? The text number is 73256. Then, the code is MLCGIVING (not case sensitive). Follow the prompts, entering the information indicated above.

We will track each gift and note it on individual giving records. The office staff is always happy to answer your questions about this new feature. God bless you and your giving spirit!





## Dining With Dignity News

The next time our cooks from Memorial Lutheran Church will feed the homeless for Dining with Dignity is Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022. Supplies will be handed out after the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for another year of service to this important mission of the church.

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS

*Sunday*  
**CHAPEL**

SUNDAY MORNINGS | 9:30am in the Sanctuary  
*With Ms. Linda & Pastor Dow*

Word & Sacrament experience designed for families with children

# church council MEETING

## BRIEF NOTES November 14, 2022 Church Council Meeting

- Pastor Dow opened the meeting with a devotion from Mark 7
- Agenda passed
- Minutes from October 10 Church Council Meeting approved
- 
- **Financial Report**

We are behind about \$16,000. The Budgeted amount for giving for 2022 was \$174,758.
- **Committee Reports**
  - ~ Budget Comm: All expenses are up including the inspection costs and the insurance costs are way up. Postage going up in Jan.
  - ~Increased Staff salaries by 5% for 2023
  - ~Sponsoring the wreath gets our name out there. We need to network more.
  - ~KC will double check lines 38, 81, 115, 110 and 111 with the church office and the council will have to vote on the Budget via emails.
  
  - ~*Family Ministry*: 16 in Youth Group, 11 in Confirmation Class. Looking at writing a grant for the new Sunday Chapel Service costs. Youth helping with Kid Zone with Hope and Deliverance Ministries on Thanksgiving Day.
  
  - ~*Hospitality*: waiting for committee chairmen to respond to Budget Committee on their needs for 2023. Would like more money for the cups for visitors.
  
  - ~*Stewardship*: 32 cards turned in on Consecration Sunday. \$99,420 pledged. 50 commitment cards mailed out on Nov. 14 to members who could not attend.
  
  - ~*Worship and Music*: Putting up the Christmas tree and decorating it will take place on Nov. 25.
- **Quorum for Annual Meeting**: 36 members needed
- **Christmas Day Service** will be one service at 9:30 a.m.
- **New Year's Day Service** will be one service at 9:30 a.m. with Lessons and Carols and Communion.





## Chapel School News

*"Get ready, get ready, get ready for the baby. Get ready, get ready, for little Baby Jesus!"*

*"He came down that we may have love (light, joy, peace), Hallelujah, forever more!"*

*"Go Tell it on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!"*

*"Holy infant, so tender and mild!"*

These song verses are from our Chapel Time songs for Advent. They include lots of sign language the children love to learn. The children and their families are excited about our "12 days of Advent" celebration. Each morning during Chapel we will light up another light on our Advent path as we "get ready" to welcome the Light of the World! We will celebrate our Lord's birth during our special Christmas Chapel & Brunch on Thursday morning, December 15 beginning at 8:30am with our families – you are invited to join us!

Especially during the holidays, we remember those in our community who are in need. At the St. Johns County Homeless Coalition, there is a continuous need for diapers. As we have done in the past, Chapel School will be collecting diapers during this special time when we remember a special baby born to bring peace, love, and joy to the world. We will be collecting diapers during Advent (in a basket in the narthex) and during the 4pm Christmas Eve service in the Outdoor Chapel.

Join us for the biggest Christmas Parade in Florida – the St. Augustine Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 3 at 9am downtown! We have a beautiful trolley donated by Old Town Trolleys and it will be decorated by our Chapel School families. Please come and join us for the fun, we will meet in the parking lot behind Dunkin Doughnuts on San Marco Ave. at 8am. If the trolley has moved, text me at (904) 669-8333 and I will let you know where we are. At the end of the parade the trolley will bring us back to this parking lot.

Other fun events this month include our fun Merry Grinchmas Christmas Movie Night – this year we will be doing the movie drive-in style outside in the parking lot! During the party we all get to wear our favorite Christmas sweaters, and drink hot chocolate, and eat popcorn - while watching segments of the "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." We're even expecting a visit from our own Memorial Lutheran Church Santa (aka KC Kramer)! There will be fun learning activities for all ages - Friday night, December 9.

Baby Jesus has arrived in our preschool classrooms. Each year we place a handmade manger in each room underneath a shining star hanging from the ceiling. In the manger we have a cuddly baby Jesus for the children to rock, sing to, read to, or just cuddle. I am always deeply touched to see the many ways our Chapel School kids share their love with Jesus. Look on our Facebook, Instagram, or website for pictures!

November was a fun month, everyone was so happy to have our Thanksgiving Feast back on our last day before Thanksgiving. It was a huge potluck luncheon and all our little Chapel School turkeys loved it!

It's going to be a very exciting month as we prepare for a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year. Please keep our children, our staff and their families in your thoughts and prayers as we work together to "Make Christ Known" during this busy time!

Yours in Christ - Linda Chambers, Director

Chapel School Advent  
Diaper Drive



## **Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday 12/4 – Second Sunday of Advent**

*Single Service at 9:30 a.m. followed by Annual Meeting*

*Choir meets at 8:30 a.m.*

### **Sunday 12/11 – Third Sunday of Advent**

*Worship at 8:00, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.*

*Choir at 7:30 / 9:30*

### **Sunday 12/18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Worship at 8:00, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.*

*Choir at 7:30 / 9:30*

### **Saturday December 24—Christmas Eve Services:**

- ♦ 4 p.m. *Family Service*
- ♦ 7 p.m. *Traditional Service with Choir*

### **Christmas Day Sunday December 25**

**Christmas Service 9:30 a.m.**

### **January 1 – Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion**

*Single Service at 9:30 a.m.*



*May the peace and hope of  
Christ's birth  
be with you now and in the days ahead...*



# 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 AA 6:30 p.m. ACA 6:30 p.m.	2 Bible Study 10 am. AA 6 p.m.	3 Christmas Parade  Holiday Tea 3-5 p.m.
4 <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 Joint Worship Service 9 :30 Family service	5  AA District Meeting	6 Orchid Society 5-9 pm  BBSS 6-8 pm	7 Confirmation 5-6 p.m.  New Member Class 6 p.m.	8 AA 6:30 p.m. ACA 6:30 p.m.	9 Bible Study 10 am. AA 6 p.m.  Polar Express movie night 5-8	10 Ham Radio 9:45—12 p.m.
11 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family service Diaper Collection Dining with Dignity	12 Council Meeting 6 p.m.	13 BBSS 6-8 pm	14 Youth Christmas Party 4:30 p.m.  Dinner and a Movie	15 Men's Breakfast 9 a.m.  Chapel School Christmas Brunch 8-10 a.m.  AA 6:30 p.m. ACA 6:30 p.m.	16 Bible Study 10 am.  AA 6 p.m.	17
18 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family service	19	20 BBSS 6-8 pm	21 Pot Luck dinner and Carol Sing	22 L-4 Ladies Christmas Party AA 6:30 p.m. ACA 6:30 p.m.	23 AA 6 p.m.	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> Family Service 4 pm. Tradition Service 7 p.m.
25 <b>Christmas</b> Service 9:30 a.m.	26	27 BBSS 6-8 pm	28 No Classes No Choir Rehearsal	29 AA 6:30 p.m. ACA 6:30 p.m.	30A AA 6 p.m.	31 AA New Years Eve Event



←←←← Church Offices Closed until January 2 →→→→





**December Birthdays**

- 12/04 Kim Bogert
- 12/5 JaDee Huber
- 12/06 James VanGilder  
Hatsue Wright
- 12/07 Brenda Walton
- 12/16 Barrie Daniels
- 12/28 Jerry Lakemaker

**December Anniversaries**

- 12/02 Jerry & Linda Lakemaker
- 12/19 Tom & Jo Curvel

**L4 Ladies Women Ministries**

On Saturday, December 3, 2022 L4 Ladies are hosting a Holiday Tea in the fellowship hall. This will be a traditional tea, so dress up in your fancy attire with hats. We will also have Chamber music, Gift Basket raffle valued at over \$100, and pictures. Award winning author Eleanor Tremayne will be speaking about her novel High Tea with Ophelia. Signed copies will be available for purchase, with 20% profits going to Memorial Lutheran. This is a free event, however we are asking everyone attending to sign up to have an accurate count. Children are welcome and encouraged to attend.



**Ladies Night Out**

Ladies Night Out will be on hold for December. It is a busy season for us all. We will meet again after the first of the year on January 30. Place to be announced at a later date. We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas. ~ Ann Warner



The Church's ongoing practice is that anyone wanting to use the hall, pavilion or any other room for an activity should please first check the calendar for open dates and then contact the church office to schedule your activity to avoid any conflicts. The calendar is printed in every SteepleTalk, is posted and updated regularly on the website and events are noted in the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!



**Approved Funds/Projects to date:**

Chapel School	Dining with Dignity
Food Pantry	FL Bahamas Synod
Sound System Project	Church Parking Lot



April Gunness  
 Steve Stephens  
 Bob Gavilo  
 Joyce Jones  
 Allysn Edginton  
 Phoebe Lutes  
 Barbara Radef  
 Roland Hecht  
 Lucie Coyle  
 Lisa Nickel  
 Collin Kirk  
 Patty Kuykendall  
 Marissa Zagorski  
 Donna Anderson  
 Josephine Lenhart  
 Kitty Shay  
 Peter Morin  
 Family of W.Leviska  
 John Delaney  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Turk  
 Yvonne Schimmel  
 Mark Flamino  
 John Sanders  
 Donna King  
 Barbara Ryder  
 Jon Murphy  
 Tim Goxem  
 Gene and Debbie Boba

**Please Notify the Church Office**  
 When You or a member of your family is hospitalized. \ You have a change of address. \ Your phone number has changed. \ Your email address has changed. \ Your board or committee changes a meeting date or time. Your help with all of the above is very much appreciated!



Joseph Flores  
 Mike Kappelmann  
 Eddie Davis  
 Johnny Kelly  
 Sara Fogle  
 Chad Kutlik  
 Tyler Woodard  
 Reginald Best  
 Carl Seim  
 Justin Rae  
 Molly Prins  
 Kyle Melnick  
 Alex Carames  
 Cody Holmes  
 Chase Warner  
 Courtney Kelly  
 Dylan Harris

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Names on the congregation prayer list are removed each month unless the church office is notified they should remain.

If you see a name on either list (congregation or military) that should not be there, please let the church office know that as well. Thank you for your help in keeping these lists accurate.

The second collection should not replace your regular giving first collection. It is only for the funds chosen.

All money collected on Sundays (other than the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) goes into the general account. If you would like to give to a fund *other than* an approved fund, please bring or mail the check into the church office, with the name of the fund noted on the check and your envelope



## MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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St. Augustine, FL 32086  
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FX: 904-794-5083  
Email: mlcstaug@gmail.com  
Web: www.memoriallutheranchurch.net

## CHAPEL SCHOOL

Ph: 904-797-8777  
FX: 904-797-5083  
Web: www.LutheranChapelSchool.com

### MLC Staff:

**Pastor:** Rev. Richard Dow

**Minister of Music:** Barbara Mattingly

**Chapel School & Family Ministry  
Director:** Linda Chambers

**Sexton:** Barbara Howerton

**Parish Administrator:** Debi Wood

**Administrative Assistant:** Nancy Murphy



The logo features the word "Upcoming" in a large, rounded font, with a clock face integrated into the letter "o". Below it, the word "DEADLINES" is written in a bold, black, distressed font.

**Deadline for January Steeple Talk will be December 13th .** If you would like to submit an article or other information for inclusion in the newsletter please send it to mlstaug@gmail.com. Please also submit Worship Assistants: Readers, Altar Guild, Greeters, etc. by the deadline. Information or Articles arriving after the deadline will not be included.

Information for inclusion in the **Sunday bulletin** is due by close of business each Tuesday. Please send any announcements or other information you wish to put in the bulletin via email to mlcstaug@gmail.com by Tuesday of each week.

If you have any questions, please contact Debi in the Church office.

## 2022 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Ex officio, Pastor Richard Dow**  
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r.warren.dow@gmail.com

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**Vice President, Sara Waters**  
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**Secretary, Cheryl Mampe**  
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