

Memorial Lutheran Church Mission Statement

“to share God’s love, word and grace with all people”



February 2023



Ash Wednesday and Some Creepy Stuff and some Encouraging Stuff

Here is a picture of Elisabeth Russell. She had small parts in a lot of 1940’s movies, all of them scary. In *The Curse of the Cat People* she was the scary old lady’s weird daughter. In *The Seventh Victim* (1943) she was a woman who ran up a flight of stairs at the end of the movie. She met another woman mid-staircase, and they briefly spoke to each other. Elizabeth said “I’m going upstairs to die.” The woman going down the staircase said, “I’m going outside to live.” I know that this sounds like overly dramatic nonsense, but it reminds me of the meaning of Lent, and especially Ash Wednesday. It’s the meeting of life and death going in different directions and meeting in the middle, not the creepy photo to your left. And it means something.

Ash Wednesday is one of the holiest days of the church year for Christians, who go to church to have ashes mixed with oil traced on their heads in the shape of a cross. The idea comes from the Bible, and two places specifically. In one, Abraham told God, 'I am but dust and ashes' (Genesis 18:27), a reference to his human mortality. Jeremiah described death as a 'valley of corpses and ashes' (Jeremiah 31:40). ‘Ashes are an ominous sign, and we use them on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own impending deaths. Death may come sooner, or it may come later, but it will surely come’ says the Roman Catholic source material I quote here. Abraham and Jeremiah. The Bible doesn’t say which one is going up the stairs and which is going down. In any case, both of them have the “ashes and death” idea pretty much under control here.

What about us? Thinking about death too much is morbid. It’s depressing. But sooner or later, we all end up on that life and death staircase. We go out into the world to live, but we will return to go up with God and make our peace with death. So, Jesus joins us. He dies as we do. There were rumors, after his crucifixion, that he wasn’t really dead at all and the disciples carried him off somewhere so that he could come back and surprise everyone. No, he actually, really died. Just as we do, eventually. So, the ashes go on our forehead every spring on a certain Wednesday night. It’s because we know we are mortal. Because the ashes are in the shape of a cross, like that staircase lady. We live now unafraid of loss, of losing, of scarcity, of the pain that comes with living or the awesome mystery that goes with our deaths.



church council MEETING

Brief Notes, January 9, 2023 Church Council Meeting

Pastor Dow led the devotions from Isaiah 42

The Agenda was accepted.

The Minutes from the Nov. 14, 2022 Church Council Meeting accepted. The Minutes from the brief Dec. 4, 2022 Church Council Meeting following the Annual Meeting, accepted.

Numerous questions about the Financial Report. Treas. John Amrhein will explain the report next month.

Old Business:

- We need more trained offering counters. We will ask Debi Wood if she could train the new counters.
- Parking lot is finished; the Parking Lot Fund is no longer needed.

New Business:

- A photo of a new Baptismal Font for the family Memorial in Honor of Ken and Nancy Barnard was passed around; this purchase authorized as well as a new chalice.
- Council Members signed up monthly Offering Prayers and Devotions.
- Current committees were discussed along with Council Liaisons for 2023
- Committee Reports presented from Adult Ministries, Chapel School, Youth and Family Ministry, Hospitality, Worship and Music.
- Roof Update: Roof Pros will be meeting with insurance company to inspect the roof.
- Pot Luck Fellowship: initially set up to get members to come back to the Hall after the 10:30 Service.
- Need sign-up sheet for Fellowship, better brand of coffee and usable electrical outlets
- Discussion followed about Sexton's job. Sheryl Gifford will be meeting with the sexton next week





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.

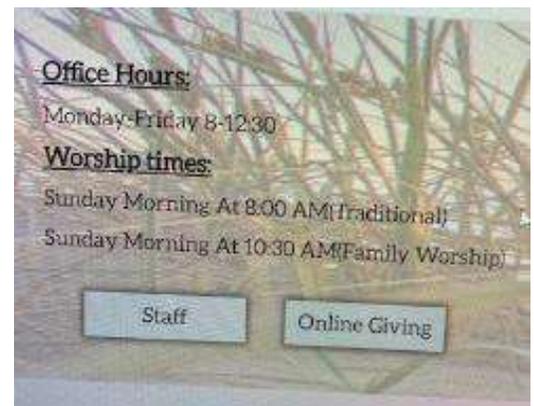
Find the link on our website, memoriallutheranchurch.net.

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!



Family Ministry News

What a wonderful Advent and Christmas season we had at Memorial Lutheran Church!

We started the day after Thanksgiving with our “Step into Christmas Decorating Party.” So many of our youth and their families showed up in their Christmas shirts and we got to work decorating the huge tree in the sanctuary, putting up the candlesticks, and writing notes for our shut-ins and nursing home residents. The following weekend we participated in Florida’s largest



Christmas Parade in downtown St. Augustine! Huge thanks to Old Town Trolley Tours for once again donating the use of their trolley, which was decorated by our Chapel School families. We had a blast shouting Merry Christmas and sharing our love with the community.



Next was the “Merry Grinchmas Movie Night” behind the church. We had a beautiful cool evening to show the movie, “The Grinch,” on our big outdoor screen. Everyone brought chairs and blankets to enjoy the show. Our youth served pizza, drinks, and cupcakes. The families had so much fun! Santa Claus (our own KC Kramer) even

came and gave out candy canes.

Our Chapel School Christmas Chapel & Brunch was fun and we filled the church hall with every chair in the building! The Youth Group enjoyed their Christmas Party and we played so many fun, silly games. We are so blessed to have 16 amazing kids who attend our middle and high school youth group.



Our youth practiced often for the Christmas pageant we did during the

Christmas Eve Family Worship service. It was called Living Word and children from the congregation were invited to participate. It was just lovely! The youth group also came early to place the luminaries in front of the church for the 7pm service.



Sunday Chapel continues to grow – last week we had 48 attendees and we baptized 4 children!! Next month we plan to baptize 6 more children. God is SO GOOD – all the time!

Peace,

Linda Chambers, Director of Family Ministry

Chapel School News



The holidays were a blur of fun and fellowship at Chapel School as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We returned to school on January 4 ready to start 2023 and this month we are learning about math concepts and things we can do in the winter. We have already made our own snow, ice skated on paper plates, and freed small animals trapped in ice!

We enjoyed so many fun events in December which culminated in the beautiful Christmas Eve Family Service which was well attended by current and former Chapel School families. Many of you were able to pick up a Christmas craft made by our Chapel School kids just before Christmas. The crafts that were left were taken by Rony & Sara Lane to local nursing home with love and we received the nicest card from one of them. Our Chapel School kids are excited to make Valentines that will also be delivered by Rony & Sara – we appreciate their help sharing our love!



Dozens of Chapel School families fill the pews in our sanctuary each morning during Chapel Time. Each morning we have 12-20 more family members join us on Zoom from all over the world. There is clearly a thirst for Jesus, and we are so happy that many of our current and former Chapel School families are now filling the pews on Sundays for the new 9:30am worship experience - Sunday Chapel. On January 8 we baptized the 4 children in the Ferro family during Sunday Chapel and in February we will be baptizing 6 more children. Thank you for supporting our families in their faith journey. We appreciate the opportunity to make Christ known in our community while providing high quality early education at an affordable price.

Linda Chambers, Director





FEBRUARY

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 Youth Rocks 4:30 p.m. Choir 5:30	2 AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	3 Bible Study 10 a.m. AA 6 p.m.	4	
5 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family Worship 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class Potluck following the 1030 service	6 AA District Meeting	7 Orchid Society 5 pm. BBSS 6-8 pm	8 Confirmation Class 5 pm. Choir 5:30	9 AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	10 Bible Study 10 a.m. Parents Night Out 5 - 8 p.m. AA 6 p.m.	11	
12 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family Worship 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class "Souper Bowl Sunday "	13 Council Meeting 6 pm	14 BBSS 6-8 pm	15 Youth Rocks 4:30 p.m. Choir 5:30 Deadline for March Steeple-	16 Men's Break- fast 9 a.m. AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30	17 Bible Study 10 a.m. AA 6 p.m.	18	
19 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family Worship 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class	20 Presidents' Day Office Closed	21 MLC Youth Group Pancake Supper BBSS 6-8 pm	22 ASH WEDNESDAY' Noon and 7 p.m. Services Confirmation Class 5 pm. Choir 6 p.m.	23 L4 Lunch 12 noon AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	24 Bible Study 10 a.m. AA 6 p.m.	25 All Church mini retreat 9 a.m to noon	
26 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family Worship 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class	27 Ladies Night Out 6 p.m.	28 BBSS 6-8 pm Private HOA meeting in hall 6:30 p.m.					



January Birthdays

- 2/6 Barbara Glace
- 2 / 16 Barbara Ryder
- 2/17 Jean Hartkemyer
- 2/18 Elisabeth Schaefer
- 2/19 Nicklaus Tremayne
- 2/21 Ann Scott
- 2/25 Sally Conway
- 2/29 Eunice Howes

January Anniversaries

- 2/17 John and Arlene Sanders

L4 Ladies

Women Ministries



All Memorial Lutheran Ladies are invited to our next lunch on February 23, at noon at Red Lobster.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us. If you have never attended our Thursday lunches at Red Lobster this event will provide you with an opportunity to meet a group of lovely ladies. If you should have any questions please email me at: etrem15901@icloud.com.

Bonnie Tremayne

Ladies Night Out

The next Ladies Night Out will be on February 27 at Cap's On the Water, 4523 Myrtle Street St. Augustine We meet at 6 p.m. for cocktails, dinner to follow. Contact Ann Warner if you are coming and or have any questions 651-442-5043. All are welcome for an evening of fellowship and fun.



Just a friendly reminder...

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!



April Gunness
 Steve Stephens
 Bob Gavilo
 Joyce Jones
 Allys 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

Approved Funds/Projects to date:

Chapel School	Dining with Dignity
Food Pantry	FL Bahamas Synod
Sound System Project	Church Parking Lot
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	gas and food gift cards.



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 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!

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 2nd and 5th 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



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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

**Upcoming
DEADLINES**

Deadline for March Steeple Talk will be February 15. 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.

2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ex officio, Pastor Richard Dow
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