

Memorial Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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

January 2023



What Happened 500 Years ago this year and is it interesting?

My children are fairly certain that 500 years ago I was in grade school (ha, ha, kids). In 2019, we were remembering that the Lutheran Reformation was 500 years ago. It was all about Martin Luther that year, and various facts about Lutheran history and religious teachings.

So, now that it's 2023, let's find out what happened 500 years ago.

Here we go. Gustav Vasa was elected King of Sweden, ending something called the Kalmar Union. And Swedes became Lutherans in 1523! What else? The Anti-French League of Cognac (a bunch of Italian city-states and the pope) was formed, and King Charles I and England signed an anti-French covenant. I say, "Zut alors" (a mild French phrase meaning "drat" or "shucks!"). Hey, I like the French. Think of pastry, or Brie.



How about some Reformation stuff? Luther published the German translation of the Bible in 1522, so we can bet that the new Luther Bible was under a lot of Christmas trees in 1522-23 (Luther also invented the Christmas tree.)



(continued on pg 2)

What does it mean to think back 500 years? **The next step is to think forward** by at least a few years, if not the full 500. What would you want to look like say, 5 years from now? Thinner? Younger? Happier? More at peace with things? Keeping company with family and friends? Working harder? Exercising more? (OK – maybe not those last two, but still, you never know.)

How about our congregation? The obvious 5 year projections are maybe these: bigger, more pews filled, more generous offerings, and so on. These goals may shine in our imaginations, but how about some goals for service to others mixed in?

500 years ago, Luther’s forward-looking goals were things like getting every Christian in on being something called the “priesthood of all believers,” which means that everybody has a calling and gifts for service from God, and God knows how he would like to make all our gifts work to make a more compassionate community. He starts it out in us when we are baptized. Just add water.



Priests, in Luther’s time, were the only ones who could do things at the altar, where God promised to be in the person of Jesus. What would those 1523 Lutherans say if they could see us now, with many of us having important roles at our altar area and the service that grows from our worship? I think they would

say that they can’t wait for the next 500 years. I hope you feel the same way, because the future is in your hands.



Pastor Dow



Adult Ministry

November and December were busy and exciting months for L4 Ladies. On Thursday November 17, 2022 we met at the Red Lobster for our annual Christmas ornament exchange.



Saturday, December 3rd the L4 Ladies hosted a Holiday High Tea Party in the Fellowship Hall at Memorial. Table centerpieces and tea sandwiches were provided by Sara

Laine. The ladies and gentlemen in attendance were treated to music by Elisabeth Schaffer, an excerpt reading from



the book "High Tea With Ophelia" by Eleanor Tremayne, a drawing for a gift basket filled with holiday goodies valued at over \$100, as well as a delightful assortment of finger foods, desserts and of course a selection of teas, coffee and hot cider.

Fancy hats were available for a photo booth opportunity and we had a delightful afternoon.

In addition, the L4 Ladies decorated a Nutcracker themed evergreen wreath which was displayed at the Lightner Museum Festival of Trees and auctioned off for the Port in the Storm charity fundraiser.



church council MEETING

Brief Notes from Dec. 4, 2022 Church Council Meeting:

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Church Council Members met for the only item of business to be conducted as directed by our Constitution. The election of Officers are:

President: Sheryl Gifford
Vice President: Ron Scott
Secretary: Cheryl Mampe
Treasurer: John Amrhein

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 11:59 AM.

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.

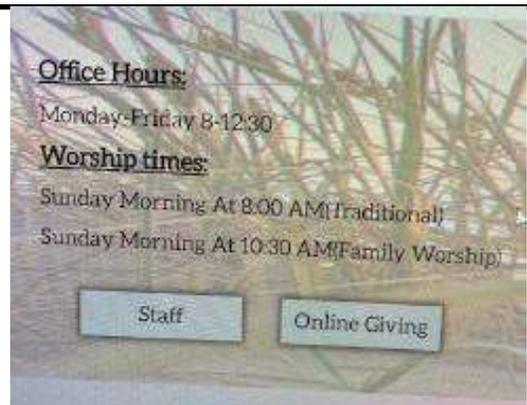
Find the link on our website,
memorillutheranchurch.net.

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

We left the church at 5:16 PM on December 11th with 105 prepared meals by 13 cooks.

We had 37 homeless waiting for us when we arrived. Some of them helped us set up 15 tables and chairs. Tony Ardito led the group in a prayer before we started serving at 6 PM. We served 84 for the first serving. The 21 remaining meals went quickly at 6:15 for those who needed or wanted seconds.

Our drivers were Kim Bogert, Tony Ardito and Cheryl Mampe

Thank you all for your help and continued support
Cheryl and John Mampe

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

A
New Year
IS GOD'S GIFT

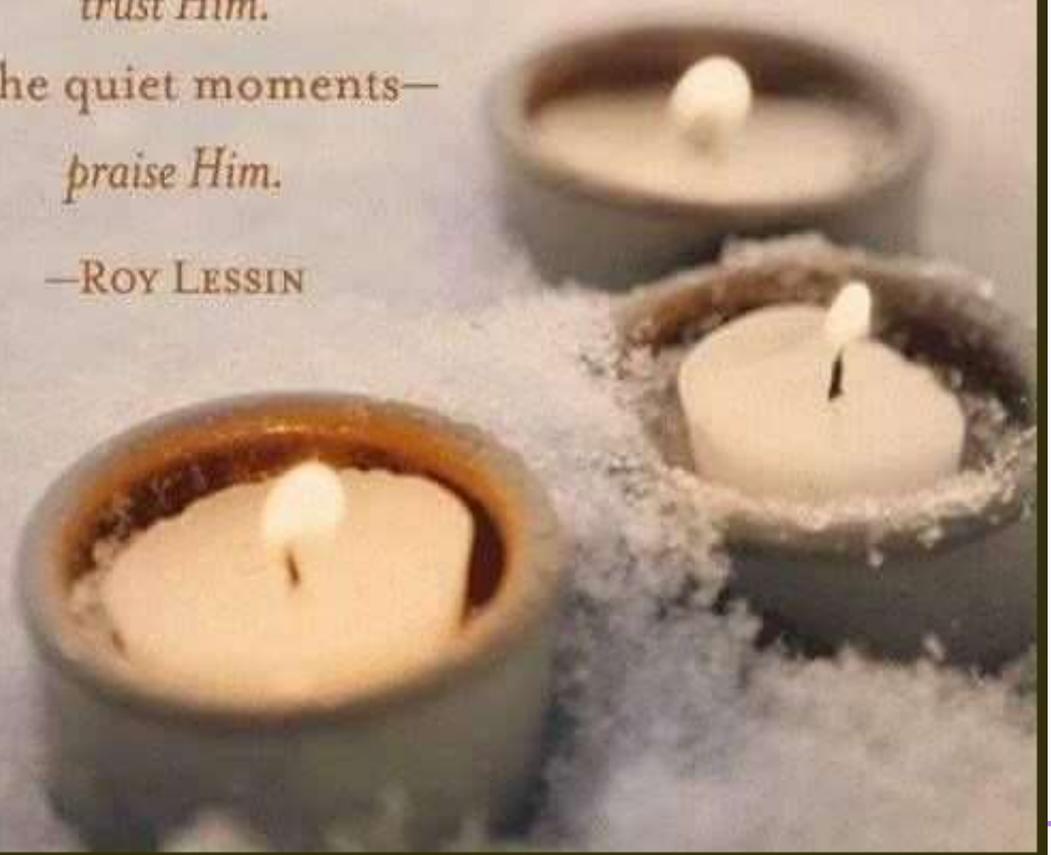
In the joyful moments—
thank Him.

In the busy moments—
bless Him.

In the trying moments—
trust Him.

In the quiet moments—
praise Him.

—ROY LESSIN



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!"

These song verses are from our Chapel Time songs for Advent. They include lots of sign language that the children love to learn. The children and their families enjoyed our "12 days of Advent" celebration. Each morning during Chapel we lit up another light on our Advent path as we "got ready" to welcome the Light of the World! We celebrated our Lord's birth during our special Christmas Chapel Program on Thursday morning, December 15, followed by a Christmas Brunch.



Other fun events in December included our fun Merry Grinchmas Movie Night and the annual Christmas Parade! During the movie night we had over 100 people on our back lawn on a beautiful night and our Youth Group served pizza and juice. During intermission we had yummy desserts and families created their own Nativity Sets to take home. After the movie we had a special visit from Santa Claus who brought candy canes for all the kids, and we even had some Florida SNOW! Special thanks to KC Kramer for his appearance as Santa!

During the last week of school, our STEAM afternoon kids hosted a special STEAM Christmas Store filled with items and crafts they have been making for the last month. Everything was priced from 35 cents to \$2 and all the prices included pictures of the money needed to purchase so that kids count themselves. Families enjoyed shopping and all the proceeds benefit our STEAM program. When the kids return in January, we will be continuing our unit on commerce to learn more about money as they count their sales.

At the beginning of Advent, the children were very excited to find a manger in their classroom underneath a beautiful shiny star hanging from the ceiling. In the manger was baby Jesus wrapped in a blanket. During the month the children had interactions with baby Jesus and to watch the reverence that the children naturally had was truly amazing. Even the rough and tumble boys who would never play with a doll spent time gently picking up baby Jesus and giving him hugs and kisses.

Special thanks to everyone who purchased holiday candles to benefit our school!! The Glow Scented Candles were a wonderful product, and we had a very successful fundraiser. We were able to purchase 2 new table/bench sets for our Outdoor Classroom. Now our classes can eat snack outside and do Small Group projects in the fresh air!



It's going to be a very exciting 2023 for Memorial Lutheran Chapel School. Please keep our children, our staff and their families in your thoughts and prayers as we work together to "Share God's LOVE" during this busy time!

Yours in Christ,

Linda Chambers, Director



New Year, New Opportunities to SERVE!

Happy 2023!!

As we begin anew, we look forward with eager anticipation of what we can become as the body of Christ here at Memorial Lutheran Church.

God has journeyed right beside us all the way. He has guided us through the years of Covid lockdown and brought us through with showers of blessings.

We have a new church Council. We have a new worship service specifically designed to reach our families with young children and meet them where they are in their lives—many who were previously unchurched!

We have over FIFTEEN youth in our youth group and Confirmation class. We have active Bible studies and a men's breakfast group, two- and soon three ladies groups. We have a beautiful music program. We have a dedicated office and ministry staff.

We have resurrected our committees and are making plans for regular, monthly committee meetings on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

We are SO BLESSED!

Please prayerfully consider offering your time and gifts to volunteer to help. PRAY about it. ASK God where He would have you serve.

It takes ALL of us. We ARE a family. We are also the hands and feet of Jesus in this lonely world. We can be a powerful force for wonderful things if and when we work TOGETHER. "Come and See".

Missy Dow

904-955-9967 / meldow14@gmail.com

January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols	2 AA District Meeting	3 Orchid Socie- ty 5 pm BBSS 6-8 pm	4 New Member Class 6pm Choir 5:30 -	5 AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	6 Bible Study 10 am. AA 6 p.m.	7
8 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family service	9 Council Meeting 6 pm	10 BBSS 6-8 pm	11 Confirmation 5 pm New Member Class 6 pm	12 AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	13 Bible Study 10 am. AA 6 p.m.	14
15 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family service	16 Martin Lu- ther King Day Office Closed	17 BBSS 6-8 pm	18 Youth Rocks 4:30 New Member 6 pm Choir 5:30 -	19 Men's Break- fast 9 am AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	20 Bible Study 10 am. AA 6 p.m.	21
22 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family service	23	24 BBSS 6-8 pm	25 Confirmation 5 pm Choir 5:30 - 6:30	26 L4 Ladies 12 pm AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	27 Bible Study 10 am. AA 6 p.m.	28
29 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family service	30 Ladies Night out 6pm	31 BBSS 6-8 pm				





January Birthdays

- 1/8 Sharon Weingartner
- 1/11 Gilbert Ross
- 1/13 Emma Marhanka
- 1/20 Shery Gifford
- 1 /23 Karissa Holdeen
- 1/31 Linda Hubbard

January Anniversaries

- 1/1 John and Karen Amrhein
- 1/02 John and Cheryl Mampe

L4 Ladies

Women Ministries

All Memorial Lutheran Ladies are invited to our next lunch on January 26, 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 January 30th at Carrarba's Italian Grill, 155 Sr 312 West .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.



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

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



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

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

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CHAPEL SCHOOL

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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



Deadline for February Steeple Talk will be January 12. 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

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