



Memorial Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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

March

2023

Easy or Good

Lent has lots of lessons to teach us. How it’s good for you to go to church on Wednesday night. How the hymns change and the little pieces of cloth on the altar, too. How the cross is about hope and life, even if it looks like death. Lent has a lot to teach us.

These lessons are everywhere. At about age 10 I was riding my bike through my neighborhood. This guy pulled up beside me in his car and rolled down his electric window. “See that house over there?” It was the one that they just built. “I need someone to water the grass every day. I’ll pay \$5 a day. Interested?” Destiny was calling. Afraid of being tied down to a daily job but tempted by the money, I still said no. Was I wrong? What would Lent say? Should your choices be easy or good? How do you know?



I guess as an adult I’ve developed the habit of talking about God’s calling all the time. What is God calling you to do at Memorial? How do you hear God’s voice? Now, on top of that, Lent is saying “is God calling you to things that are easy or good?” Good probably means hard. Hard to do. Difficult commitments. Long hours. Lent needs to figure out a different way do ask us to do things for God. I want to listen, but really....

It gets even more intense when you think about Jesus. God called Jesus to do a lot of things. All of them were good. None of them were easy. Rats!

Maybe we could change Lent around a little to make the deal a bit sweeter. One way would be to have us talk about how, when we do what’s good instead of easy, it means God is aiming us at people who need us. Not just keeping the church nice (which is hard, but kind of safe and predictable) but going out into the world where Jesus the resurrected guy is right now, and doing stuff with people who aren’t churchy but whom he really loves.

I know that doesn’t make the choice between easy and good any clearer. But it does make it more interesting. What if this calling/cross/serving stuff was all about serving people who can’t do you any good, but whose lives might perk up considerably with you in the picture, being like Jesus?

Let’s talk about it. Easy or good. Midweek Lenten worship this time is going to be about how a guy named Dr. Reggie McNeal found out how this works, and how much he likes it. A different topic every week. Easy or good? Your choice. God will always aim us in the right direction. Here’s our chance to talk about it. Be there. It might not be easy, but it will always be good.

“What’s YOUR Purpose Statement?”

We are currently having a **resurgence** of our committees as shown at a meeting in January and as we look forward to our All-Church Retreat on Saturday, February 25th.

During the January meeting, committees were tasked to come up with a motto-or purpose statement that described their committee’s function. Here are some of them:

- Fellowship: “To meet the fellowship needs of the church membership, whether it be on a weekly basis or during a time of loss.”
- Property: “Be Lutheran Proud-Have Pride in Our Property.”
- Adult Ministries: “Dedicated to : Growing together, reaching out and rooted in Christian ideals.”
- Youth and Family Ministries: “Connecting and collaborating with parents to build a better future for our children.”
- Worship and Music: “Anchored in Faith, Called to Serve, Open to Change.”

RESURGENCE. Good old Merriam-Webster defines the word as *rising again into life, activity, or prominence. A resurgence of interest.*

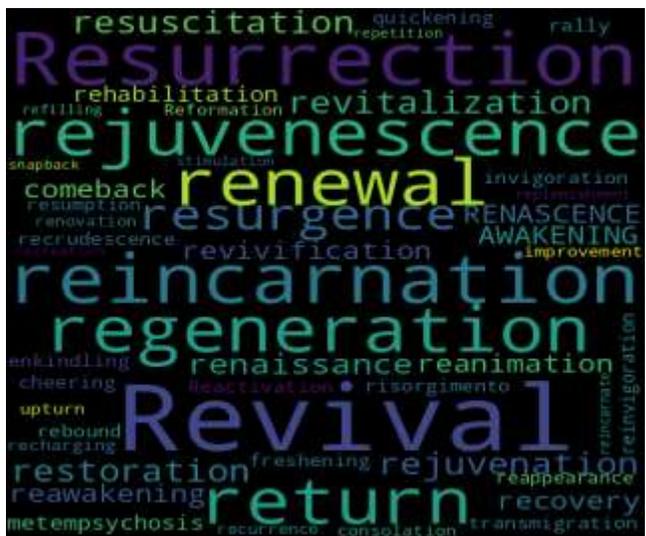
I love synonyms. These are some of the synonyms I came across for RESURGENCE:

Renewal, revitalization, rebirth, rejuvenation, restoration, rebound, renaissance, reawakening, and comeback.

All of these speak loudly to me of what I see happening at our beloved Memorial Lutheran Church. We are *coming back, reawakened to God’s ever-flowing river of blessing flowing through this congregation. We have rebounded from the years of Covid shut down and we have been revitalized to begin again, stronger and ready to serve the God we love.*

Be watching for more signs of new life here at Memorial. You are all a part of it, and we’re just getting started!

Missy Dow,
on behalf of the Hospitality Ministry Team



church council MEETING

Brief Notes, February 13, 2023 Church Council Meeting

- There will be a new format for reporting the Financial Report in the Steeple Talk. The format will be for Expenses and Income only for the previous month.
- Discussion of the Church Wide Retreat was held-- What we will be doing and what we hope to accomplish. The Retreat will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25 th from 9:00 AM to Noon. Lunch is planned.
- Reading Program in the Elementary Schools was discussed. We need more volunteers.
- New Baptismal Font in Memory of Ken and Nancy Barnard was discussed and more samples were passed around and voted on.
- Balance Weight System for the Sanctuary Candle was discussed.
- Recommendation from the Property Committee that we switch over our air conditioner maintenance plan to All American Air was discussed. Motion made and passed
- Committee Reports from Adult Ministry, Fellowship and Worship and Music had been emailed to council members ahead of time. Some discussion followed.
- The Cake idea from the Fellowship Committee needs to go back to the committee for more discussion and rework the idea so that more members can be included.
- Pastor Dow and Linda Chambers are working on writing up a proposal for a Lilly Grant for Christian Education. The grant increases the potential involvement of more families in the life of Memorial Lutheran Church. The grant, if received, is spread out over 5 years.
- Ron Marhanka asked for permission to store and work on his sound equipment in the church. This equipment will take some time to get it up and running and it is used during VBS to enhance the program MLC will be purchasing to use this summer.



Actual Income, MLC January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023 ---\$26, 009.69

Actual Expenses, MLC --- \$ 24, 086.00

Difference Between Income & Expenses, January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023 ---\$ 1,923.69



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.

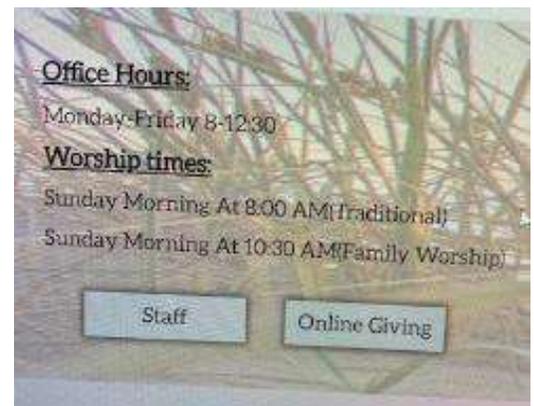
Find the link on our website, memoriallutheranchurch.net.

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!



Worship & Music

The Worship & Music Committee participated in Committee Night on January 25th. Although many of our regular committee members either could not attend or were sitting with other committees, we had five parishioners sit with us and participate in the evening's activities.

We discussed the various activities of Worship & Music, as well as the supporting committees. Volunteers are needed for the audiovisual supporting committee. An open invitation was made for communion assistants and lay readers. We discussed various ideas and projects, including the possibility of sponsoring concerts in honor of our 100th anniversary year. Barb also mentioned the possibility of revisiting a liturgy commission in honor of our 100th anniversary. Barb contributed the following motto: Anchored in faith, called to serve, and open to change.

Thank you to Missy Dow for leading Committee Night! As I write this, we are looking forward to the retreat at the end of February, and hope that many church members will attend! If Committee Night is any indication, the retreat is going to be a blast!

In other worship/music matters:

The 9:30 a.m. Sunday Chapel service is really taking off! This past Sunday (2/12) we had 50 in attendance. Many thanks to Linda Chambers and Pastor Dow for their leadership with this service. Four baptisms were held at this service in January, and six more baptisms will be held in February.

- Changes in communion distribution have been put in place. This should take some of the pressure off the altar guild members. If you can help with communion distribution, please let me or Pastor Dow know.
- Ash Wednesday services were held at noon and 7:00 p.m. on February 22. Mid-week services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent. We will be doing Holden Evening Prayer.
- Bill Hoge and Sheryl Gifford will be council liaisons for the Worship & Music Committee this year.
- If you would like to join the Facebook (FB) group, please let me or Linda Chambers know so that we can send you an invitation.
- The new hymnal supplement, All Creation Sings, will be in the pew racks very soon. It is a soft cover purple hymnal. Many thanks to those of you who contributed funds to purchase these hymnals.

I am looking forward to a peaceful, reflective Lenten season.

Peace,



Midweek Lenten Worship, You're Invited!

7 p.m. on March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and March 29th

:

Each Wednesday we will gather to worship with Holden Evening Prayer and discuss a short presentation about "Church or Kingdom" from Dr Reggie McNeal's book. Come to exchange interesting ideas about where God is leading us.



Adult Ministry includes L4 Ladies, Ladies Night Out, Men's Ministry, and WELCA (Women of the ELCA). A Couples Group is also planned for the future.

L4 Ladies will be participating in Secret Pals again in 2023. If you would like to learn more about this fun activity contact Bonnie Tremayne. We will be doing the Secret Pal Reveal at the April Lunch and selecting new Pals. Join us in April at the Red Lobster to be a Secret Pal.

On Valentines Day, Sheryl Gifford delivered gifts, candy, stuffed animals, cards, and baby items to St Gerard for the teenage girls and their babies. Thank you for everyone who contributed to this loving event, and Missy Dow for creating the lovely boxes and gift bags.

If you are interested in being part of a book club please send me a text or an email. We are still in the organization stage and will post days and locations for those interested in joining us.

Please join us on Thursday, March 16th, at 9:00AM for Breakfast at The Village Inn for Fellowship and Conversation. A sign up sheet will be in the vestibule, or please let Rollie Loske or Irv Stockdale know if you plan to attend. You can leave Irv a message at 904 315 3773. Look forward to seeing you there.



MARCH

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Youth Rocks 4:30 p.m. Choir 5:30 Lenten Service 7 p.m.	2 AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	3 Bible Study 10 a.m. AA 6 p.m. Parents Night Out 5-8 p.m.	4
5 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family Worship 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class <i>Potluck following the 1030 service</i>	6 AA District Meeting	7 Orchid Society 5 pm. BBSS 6-8 pm	8 Confirmation Class 5 pm. Choir 5:30 Lenten Service 7 p.m	9 AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	10 Bible Study 10 a.m. AA 6 p.m.	11 
12 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family Worship 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class	13 Council Meeting 6 p.m.	14 BBSS 6-8 pm	15 Choir 5:30 Lenten Service 7 p.m	16 Men's Breakfast 9 a.m. AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	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 	21 BBSS 6-8 pm	22 Youth Rocks 4:30 p.m. Choir 5:30 Committee Night 6:30 Lenten Service 7 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
26 8 & 10:30 Worship Service 9 :30 Family Worship 7:30 & 930 Choir 9:15 Adult Class	27 LNO 6 p.m.	28 BBSS 6-8 pm	29 Confirmation Class 5 pm. Choir 5:30 Lenten Service 7 p.m	30 AA 6:30 p.m ACA 6:30 p.m	31 Bible Study 10 a.m. AA 6 p.m.	



March Birthdays

3/12
Cassandra Cook Carter

3/13 Peter Weingartner

3/17 Ruth Goehler

3/19 Irene Higgs

3/23 Richard Turk

3/25 Corinne Voparil

3/31 John Mampe
Linda Chambers
Valerie Francois

March Anniversaries

3/2
Hank and Tiffany Haley

3/10
Bill and Bette Macdowell

L4 Ladies

Women Ministries

All Memorial Lutheran Ladies are invited to our next lunch on March 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 March 27th at Applebee's, 225 St Rd 312. 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!



Marissa Zagorski
 Bonnie Frazer
 Joyce Jones
 Allysn Edginton
 Phoebe Lutes
 Barbara Radef
 Roland Hecht
 Lucie Coyle
 Lisa Nickel
 Collin Kirk
 Patty Kuykendall
 Donna Anderson
 Josephine Lenhart
 Kitty Shay
 Peter Morin
 Family of W.Leviska
 John Delaney
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Turk
 Yvonne Schimmel
 Bob Gavilo
 Mark Flamino
 April Gunness
 Steve Stephens
 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
 Chad Kutlik
 Tyler Woodard
 Reginald Best
 Carl Seim
 Justin Rae
 Molly Prins
 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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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

Upcoming
DEADLINES

Deadline for the April Steeple Talk will be March 17 If you would like to submit an article or other information for inclusion in the newsletter please send it to mlcstaug@gmail.com. Please also submit Worship Assistants: Readers, Altar Guild, Greeters, etc. by the deadline. Information or Articles arriving after the deadline may 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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r.warren.dow@gmail.com

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352-283-2665
giffors@hotmail.com

Vice President

Secretary, Cheryl Mampe
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