

Memorial Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



November



2022



Watch Out For Jacob's Ladder !

What's a reference to this story from the Book of Genesis doing in a Thanksgiving church newsletter?

You may know the tale: Jacob, errant younger son of Isaac and Rebekah, steals the blessing from the older son Esau. Then, Jacob runs away and marries the daughter of Laban after pledging a kind of slave service to him. Jacob wants to marry Rachel. He has to marry the oldest daughter, Leah, first to accomplish this. The plot thickens.

On his way out of town after he takes the blessing or rights of the oldest son from Esau, he stops, sleeps, and has a dream (Genesis 28:10 and following). He sees a ladder going up to heaven. God speaks, and Jacob hears once again the promise given to God's people (**"Know that I am with you," God says, "and will keep you wherever you go."**). **Get it? We start and end life's journey with God's promise and blessing, no matter our spiritual condition.** This came in handy for Jacob. I know I can always use a promise like that.

Then, after all this falls into place, Jacob heads for home and the still pending trouble he created by cheating his brother out of the birthright. This is pretty racy stuff, even for the Bible, and you can find it in Genesis 27-33. **Look for a couple of things as you read.** First, when Jacob goes home, he sends his family, servants, and possessions across the river to meet Esau, but stays behind, probably because he is leery of that long delayed meeting, and dealing with the conflict he left behind. Involving others in communication to lessen the tension of speaking directly is called triangulation. It's in the Bible. I've done it many times. It may seem familiar to you, too. It doesn't belong at the Thanksgiving table.

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Second, **before Jacob goes home, he prays at night and ends up wrestling with God**, dislocating his hip, getting a blessing from God, and going home.

What are your plans for Thanksgiving this year?

Are you enjoying the blessings of having a full contingent of family around the turkey table? I hope so. I pray so. That won't be the case for me this year, for a couple of reasons (some good, some not so much). It may not be the case for you either. Loss and grief may have changed the aspect of your holiday table. I know it has for some.

As I come to the table, I try to handle it like coming to communion. What were my transgressions? Where is the tension in family relationships? I confess them, and am sorry for them. I vow to speak directly and lovingly to all. I vow to nurture the relationships I've been granted. Then, I allow God to take over. And I thank God that he is really the host of the meal.

I will probably say the prayer at Thanksgiving dinner, as is custom for the head of the household. I may well remember Jacob's prayer, where he asked for God's blessing and when he got it, it changed him. Dislocated hip? Maybe not. Ego out of joint, and willing to put love of others before any grudge or bitter memory? Yes. That's part of the Bible story, too. **The blessings we pray for – the vast array of gifts we tell God we are thankful for this season of thanksgiving – have the power to change us, like Jacob.**

At the Thanksgiving table this year, **watch out for Jacob's ladder!** It brings God to us and us to God. So, as we meet, we know prayers have been answered, we have been cared for yet again, and we encounter God's power to change us into more grace-full people, more thankful people. Let it change us, God. This is our prayer.

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving,



Pastor Dow

~~~~~  
*November 27, 2022*



## Family Ministry News



We have had a FUN and busy month of activities! Our Youth Group, called MLC Youth ROCKS! met for the first time this school year and we have 15 – yes, FIFTEEN, active youth members!! They are a wonderful group and we had fun playing silly games like Chubby Monkey (stuffing marshmallows in your mouth and saying Chubby Monkey – the winner stuffed 10 regular marshmallows!), hiding your hands, and seeing who could make the most words out of a bowl of alphabet soup! We also created a 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. Our first Parents Night Out was last Friday and we had 6 youth members, 3 Chapel School staff, and 25 kids! 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 November, then February, March, April, and May.



Another two-year Confirmation journey has started. We have 9 youth in our class, which is more than we have had in over 20 years – it's so exciting! 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 class has 8 boys and 1 girl, so we needed something fun to keep everyone engaged. So far it's working!



I am very excited about the upcoming "Sunday Chapel" service that will begin on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. This weekly short service is designed for families and features an interactive Word & Sacrament worship experience. I am looking for volunteers to help me set up the projector and screen in the sanctuary as soon as the 8am worship service is over and then I will need volunteers to help take down the projector and screen before the 10:30am worship service. I would also love to have greeters from our congregation making our families feel welcome when they enter. 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 are back!**

Every first Sunday of the month we will have a Potluck after the second service.

On Sunday November 6th the Youth Group will be hosting the potluck and providing drinks.

Please join us and bring your favorite dish to share!



## **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.

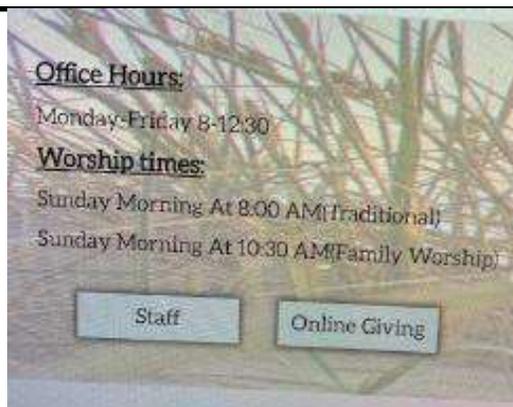
Find the link on our website, [memorillutheranchurch.net](http://memorillutheranchurch.net).

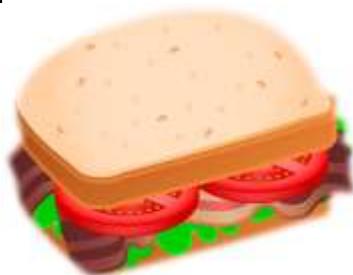
Hit the button is in the lower left hand corner.

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

Thank you all so very much for your great meals we served to the homeless on October 9th. We had 11 cooks plus 3 co-workers of Marie Bates who also cooked for us.

There were hungry people waiting for us and some of them helped set up tables and chairs. We arrived with 118 meals, plus 3 shopping bags full of sandwiches and cookies, thanks to Joyce Jones and Missy Dow.

Thank you also to our drivers Alain Hentschel, Kim Bogert and Tony Ardito. We couldn't do this without everyone working together.

The next time we will serve the homeless is Dec. 11.

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS

COMING NOV. 6

*Sunday*  
**CHAPEL**

SUNDAY MORNINGS | 9:30am in the Sanctuary

*With Ms. Linda & Pastor Dew*

Word & Sacrament experience designed for families with children

# church council MEETING

## • **Brief Notes October 10, 2022 Church Council Meeting**

- Meeting opened at 6:00 PM with the council members going out to the parking lot so that Irv Stockdale could show us the area that is marked off as the area to be replaced.
- Meeting resumed in the conference room at 6:18 PM.
- Pastor Dow leading the devotion from Luke 17: 5-6
- Roof Update: more tarp was placed on the North side of the roof.
- Leak in one classroom during hurricane
- Agenda accepted
- Minutes from the Sept. 12, Church Council Meeting accepted
- Financial Report: \$25,000 taken out of Money Market put in checking account Approximately \$32,000 in Checking account at this time. Financial Report accepted.
- Update on Hospitality by Missy Dow : meeting scheduled for committee chairs and liaisons on Nov. 13
- Ron Scott needs the list of the Nominating Committee members
- The Greatest Need is a fund raising drive for those suffering from Hurricane Ian, from the FB Synod. Motion accepted to have a special collection on Nov. 6, All Saints Sunday
- Budget Committee needs to be formed, Motion made, 2nd and passed to have KC Kramer chair the Budget Comm. and put together his members.
- Audit Committee: we forgot to select this committee at the Annual Meeting in 2021. More discussion is pending.
- Chapel School and Family Ministry Report given:
  - Trunk or Treat, Oct. 28., Chapel School will work Thanksgiving Day with Hope and Deliverance Ministries at the Kid Zone.
  - Christmas Parade Dec. 3, Movie Night Dec. 9.
  - 15 Youth in Youth Group, 9 Youth in Confirmation Class
  - Sunday Chapel School Service starts Nov. 6 at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary
- Worship and Music committee: would like to have a processional on Oct. 30, Reformation Sunday. Also looking into Carol Singing on December 21st .  
New Baptismal Font Memorial to Nancy Barnard: Pastor looking into this.
- Report given on L4 Ladies. Next meeting, Oct. 27 at Red Lobster
- Quorum for Annual Meeting: We have 148 members; we need 37 for a quorum



## Chapel School News

*“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.” Psalm 23*

As we learn more about God’s saving love during Chapel each morning, the kids are getting excited about miracles and learning to trust God’s promises. One of their favorite songs (Stories by the Go Fish Guys) is about “a boy named David” who “put one little stone in the sling, and the sling went around and around” and then “the giant came tumbling down.” When we read about David in our Spark Story Bible they were excited to learn that he was chosen by God to lead and they cheered when David bravely stepped up to fight Goliath because he knew God would protect him. This week we learned about the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, and they were very interested to find out that David wrote this. As their faith grows they are learning that, even in the darkest places, we don’t have to be afraid.

Have you heard the great news? This month we are trying something completely new to our church – a third worship service designed for families with children. Beginning Sunday, November 6 (All Saints Sunday) I will be leading “Sunday Chapel” and Pastor Dow will come in for Holy Communion. This new service will be held in the sanctuary and there are ways that you can help us welcome families to Memorial Lutheran Church. I will need help setting up the projection equipment each week following the 8am service, and I will need greeters to make our families feel welcome. After the service I will need help taking down the projection equipment, and I need volunteers to hand out the crafts families will take home for that week’s lesson. If you are interested in helping, please let me know. Text me at (904)669-8333.

Last month our Chapel School families enjoyed the Pumpkin Festival and Trunk or Treat, we hope you did too! Special thanks to **Sheryl Gifford** and **Jim Van Gilder** for securing Thrivent grants for our events!! It helps so much!

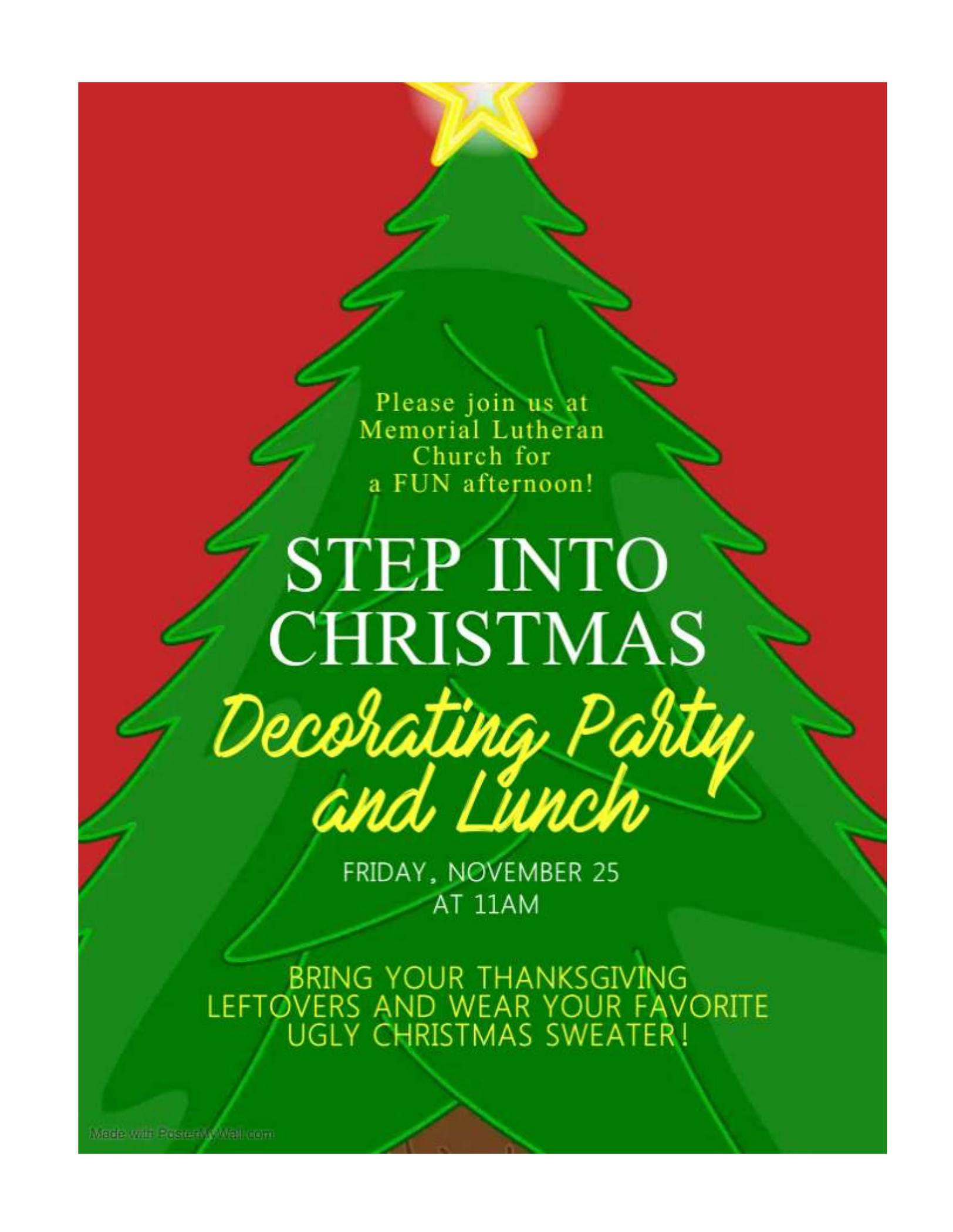
Our Chapel School staff attended the FLAAYC Early Education conference in Jacksonville last month. We spent the weekend learning about the best way to serve our families and were energized with so much great new information we are already implementing. God has called amazing, hard working staff members to our ministry and we are so grateful for their dedication to our mission of “making Christ known.”

This year Chapel School is partnering with **Hope & Deliverance Ministries** to provide a KIDS ZONE during their 20th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner downtown. We need volunteers to help supervise during the event from 10am to 2pm on Thanksgiving Day. If you would like to have fun with children while helping in the huge and important community outreach event, please follow this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4baea2aa0ff2-community>



We will be participating in the St. Augustine Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> downtown. You can ride along in our trolley (donated by **Olde Town Trolleys**) and sing Christmas carols with us! I promise you will have a BLAST and begin the holiday season on a high note.

Joyfully,  
Linda Chambers, Director



Please join us at  
Memorial Lutheran  
Church for  
a FUN afternoon!

# STEP INTO CHRISTMAS

*Decorating Party  
and Lunch*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25  
AT 11AM

BRING YOUR THANKSGIVING  
LEFTOVERS AND WEAR YOUR FAVORITE  
UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER!



# 2022

SUN                      MON                      TUE                      WED                      THU                      FRI                      SAT

|                                                                                                                                                                |                                      |                                                                             |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                |                                      | 1)                                                                          | 2)<br>Confirmation<br>5-6 p.m.<br><br>New Member<br>Class 6 p.m.          | 3)<br><br>AA 6:30 p.m<br>ACA 6:30 p.m.                                                                                                                                     | 4)<br><br>Bible Study<br>10 am.<br><br>AA 6 p.m.                                                                                                                                 | 5)<br><br>Service for Ken<br>Barnard 11 a.m. |
| 6)<br>All Saints Sunday<br>Exec Council meeting<br>7:30 & 930 Choir<br>9:15 Adult Class<br>8 & 10:30 Worship Service<br>9 :30 Family service<br>Pot Luck Lunch | 7)<br><br>AA District<br>Meeting     | 8)<br><br>Orchid Society<br>5-9 pm<br><br>BBSS 6-8 pm                       | 9)<br>Youth Group<br>4:30-6p.m.<br><br>Wednesdays<br>Together 6 p.m.      | 10)<br><br>AA 6:30 p.m<br>ACA 6:30 p.m.                                                                                                                                    | 11)<br>Veterans Day<br><br>Bible Study<br>10 am.<br>AA 6 p.m.<br><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Office Closed</div> | 12)                                          |
| 13)<br><br>Stewardship Sunday<br><br>7:30 & 930 Choir<br>9:15 Adult Class<br>8 & 10:30 Worship Service<br>9 :30 Family service                                 | 14)<br><br>Council Meeting<br>6 p.m. | 15)<br><br>BBSS 6-8 pm                                                      | 16)<br><br>Confirmation<br>5-6 p.m.<br><br>New Member<br>Class 6 p.m.     | 17)<br>Men's Breakfast 8<br>am @Village Inn<br><br>L4 Lunch @ Red<br>Lobster<br><br>AA 6:30 p.m<br>ACA 6:30 p.m.                                                           | 18)<br><br>Bible Study<br>10 am.<br><br>AA 6 p.m.                                                                                                                                | 19)                                          |
| 20)<br><br>7:30 & 930 Choir<br>9:15 Adult Class<br>8 & 10:30 Worship Service<br>9 :30 Family service                                                           | 21)                                  | 22)<br><br>Chapel School<br>Thanksgiving<br>10am -1 p.m.<br><br>BBSS 6-8 pm | 23)<br><br>No Classes<br><br>No Choir<br>Rehearsal                        | 24)<br><br>Thanksgiving<br>AA 6:30 p.m<br>ACA 6:30 p.m.<br><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Office Closed</div> | 25)<br>Step into Christ-<br>mas 11 a.m.<br><br>AA 6 p.m.                                                                                                                         | 26)                                          |
| 27)<br><br>1st Sunday of Advent<br>7:30 & 930 Choir<br>9:15 Adult Class<br>8 & 10:30 Worship Service<br>9 :30 Family service                                   | 28)                                  | 29)<br><br>BBSS 6-8 pm                                                      | 30)<br><br>Youth Group<br>4:30-6p.m.<br><br>Wednesdays<br>Together 6 p.m. |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                              |



### November Birthdays

11/09 Pr. Richard Dow

11/17 Rev. Mike Blaker

11/24 Joseph Sarnowski

11/29 Declan Gaines

### November Anniversaries

11/23  
Ron & Deby Marhanka

11/30 Art & Ruth Goehler

## L4 Ladies Women Ministries

L4 Ladies have an upcoming energetic and exciting agenda for the remaining year. If you missed our lunch on Saturday September 24, 2022 at the fellowship hall, you won't want to miss our November and December events.



November 17, 2022 we will meet at The Red Lobster at noon. This will be our holiday lunch. Please bring an ornament to exchange. Wrap the ornament but do not place your name on it. The ornament does not need to be a new one. Use your imagination and let's make this a fun tradition. If you have never attended L4 Ladies Lunch this is an excellent time to start. Bring a friend, or come yourself. We are a great group of ladies.

We will also be meeting on Friday, November 25, 2022 to help decorate the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. Bring your leftovers from Thanksgiving to share for lunch.

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 Old will be on hold for November & 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 safe & happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas.  
Ann Warner

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!



**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  
 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

**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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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 December Steeple Talk will be November 16th .** 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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**Secretary, Cheryl Mampe**  
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**Treasurer, Kim Bogert**  
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