



# News You Can Use

January 5/6, 2019

**Altar flowers** are given to the glory of God.  
**Communion wine** is given to the glory of God.

**Last week's attendance:** 258

**This week we thank** those who provide monthly blood pressure checks to keep us healthy!

Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

**FAITH FORMATION**



**January 6** – Today: Pastor Tim begins the series "Life Together". Dietrich Bonhoeffer's powerful writing on life in the community of Christ. Room 113 at 9:15 am.

**January 13** – Dietrich Bonhoeffer's realistic practices for living life as a follower of Jesus in a world often less than receptive to Christian principles. *Next Week:* Do you find yourself filling silence with music, electronics, or other sounds? How can time alone, in silence, be a gift? Room 113 at 9:15 am.

*Growing Disciples – Growing Faith*

**Epiphany Prayer** - God of mystery, we are in awe of the countless ways that you reveal your love to us. Thank you for the people, moments, songs, and images that point us to your presence - that point us to Jesus. Inspire and equip us to reflect your grace so that we may be like the star drawing attention to your love in the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ginny Dodson invites her church family and friends to help her **celebrate her 75th birthday** on Sunday January 6, 2019 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Skalen Village Clubhouse.



No gifts, please. Instead, please bring a canned good or donation for the McFarland Food Pantry.

**Seasonal affective disorder** is a form of a major depressive disorder that occurs during the same season each year and is commonly referred to as the winter blues or winter depression. The Holiday and winter months can bring joy and excitement, but the lack of light can affect anyone. It usually starts in the late fall and early winter and goes away during the spring and summer. Some people do have episodes of depression that start in the spring or summer, but that is a lot less common. Take a look at the Health and Social wellness bulletin board for further information on Seasonal affective disorder (SAD).



**FOR OUR PRAYERS**

Our synod bishop, Pastor Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, shared the news this week that former MLC pastor, the Rev. Jeff Tomberlin, is being treated for a brain tumor. Please keep Pastor Tomberlin and his family in your prayers, for God's strength and healing presence as he undergoes medical treatment.



**COMING: BETHEL SERIES**

Wednesday evenings  
7:30 - 8:45 pm  
January 9 – May 22

Teacher: Pastor Jerry Pribbenow  
For 60 years this congregation has been enriched through the Bethel Series. It will give you a "total picture" view of the Bible and will impact your life in unexpected ways. The returns on your "time invested" will be worth it! Discover for yourself why people are so enthusiastic and grateful for this study. Questions or Register - see Huldah Ellestad



Blood Pressure checks will be available **today** in the Gathering Space from 9:15 - 10:30 am.





# MCFARLAND LUTHERAN NEWS

## NEW FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASS IN JANUARY 2019

The Stewardship Committee is again offering a 9-week class on managing finances with materials provided by Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). This is a DVD-led class, and will be coordinated by MLC member Joe D'Amato. The class will begin on Sunday, Jan. 20, 11:15-12:45 p.m., in the office conference room (210). Child care will be provided. The Stewardship team is subsidizing the cost of the materials, so the cost per family unit will be \$100. There is a sign-up sheet in the Great Hallway.

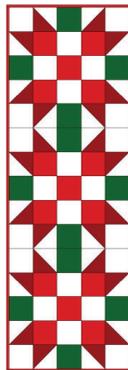
"Don't hesitate. Don't delay. Sign up, bring an open mind, and be ready for God to work on your heart and mind through his program. It's a game changer!"

Contact Joe D'Amato or another member of Stewardship Committee (Sarah Schutt, Steve Schoch, Carri Wolff, or Pastor Tim)

if you are interested or have questions.



## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHURCH QUILTERS



The quilting ladies have been providing quilts to "Lutheran World Relief" for several years. We usually make over 300 quilts a year. It is our way of giving comfort and warmth to someone in need. There is a way you can be a part of our worthwhile mission.

We have a beautiful quilt that will be our fund raiser for purchasing batting and fabric. The quilt will be on display the first week of February. You can start thinking how it would make a wonderful gift, or a start to redecorating a bedroom, and your support of the quilters mission.

The quilt is a queen size: 86" x 104". It is also reversible, and both sides are beautiful! Machine quilted to give it stability to last and washable.

The quilters will appreciate your generosity!

## UGANDA MISSION TRIP MEETING

To all Uganda 2019 Mission Trippies and those considering being a part of the team: We will have an organizational meeting on Sunday, January 13 at 9:00 am in the Family life Center. Hope to see you there!



## OPTIONS FOR MAKING OFFERINGS

With the start of the New Year the Finance Committee would like to highlight a couple of options for your continued financial support of the McFarland Lutheran Church. In addition to placing your offering in the collection plate during weekly services, there are two other possibilities you may wish to consider.

The first is to arrange an automatic transfer from your financial institution directly to the church. Members who use this arrangement do so because they find it more convenient than writing checks. Using this option allows you to continue your financial support when you might be on vacation or otherwise not attending services. With this option you direct how much is to be transferred and when it is to be transferred without any additional cost to you or the church. You are always able to modify your withdrawals or alter this arrangement at any time. Forms authorizing automatic withdrawals are located on a table in the hallway or can be obtained from the church office.



The second option applies to our members' age 70 ½ or older who have IRAs and are required to take an annual RMD (required minimum distribution). With recent changes in federal tax law it is now possible to make your offering using your RMD directly from your IRA. The advantage of doing this is that money given to the church or other charitable organizations directly from your IRA is NOT taxed. This may be an option worthy of consideration since the federal standard deduction has been increased and claiming charitable contributions as itemized deductions for tax purposes may no longer be a viable option. If you are interested in taking advantage of this option you are encouraged to check with your financial advisor or tax accountant to better understand the best way to make this transfer and the impact on your tax liability.

We thank you for your continued financial support of our church and programs that have a positive impact on our community and programs around the world. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of your Finance Committee.

**SHARE**  
GOD'S WORD

**SHOW**  
GOD'S LOVE

**SERVE**  
GOD'S WORLD