



THE BEACON

Morning Star Lutheran Church

CHURCH OFFICE: 704.847.4502 www.mslcnc.org

Our Vision - To Empower People to Practice Discipleship at Home & In the Community

Our Mission - We are imperfect disciples, walking together to embody Christ's perfect love in our community.

Our Core Values: Christ-Centered, Faith-Affirming, Accepting, Discipleship

Issue 18, Vol. 25

September 22, 2025



AN HISTORIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Morning Star held a unified outdoor worship at the Morning Star Chapel on Sunday, September 21 in continued celebration of 250 years of ministry. There was special period music, period clothing (lots of hippies at MSLC!), an ice cream truck and

fellowship under the trees to wrap up the celebration. We were surrounded by saints that have gone before us and proclaimed the Gospel faithfully through ever-changing times. Thank you to everyone who helped set up for and serve during this special service!



Sunday, Sept 28 ~ Commitment Sunday

On Sunday, Sept 28 and beyond, Morning Star members and friends will financially commit to build our 2026 ministry. The annual Plan for Ministry begins with YOUR pledges and commitments. After praying for guidance and generosity, please fill out your form using the QR code or paper form. Funding requests and ministry plans from the Mission Teams, Personnel Team, etc. are then considered. A Plan for Ministry is put together for Council to approve and then it'll be brought before the congregation at the Annual Meeting in November.

Return Your 2026 Empowered Discipleship Form

Your 2026 Empowered Discipleship Form is the foundation for many of our ministries throughout the year. Everyone Jr. High and older is invited and encouraged to consider how to participate in our shared ministry. Paper or online forms both work. Paper forms can be returned to the church office by hand, post, or the offering basket. You may complete yours online using this QR code. Thank you!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Two week calendar	2
MSLC News	1, 2 & 3
Worship Assistants	4
Prayer List	5
Message from Pastor John	6

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

9 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Worship Online

~ Temporarily Suspended ~

YouTube: Morning Star Lutheran Church -Matthews, NC

Webpage: MSLCNC.org/WatchLive

Your Generous Stewardship Means the World to Our Ministry

Your generous Tithes & Offerings make Ministry possible at MSLC! Thank you for your cheerful giving through mailed envelopes, our website, auto-draft through your bank, disbursements from retirement savings & the Vanco Mobile app, available on Google Pay & Apple App Store. Scan QR code to financially support our shared ministry.

VANCO
FAITH



MINISTRY AT MORNING STAR

September 22 - October 5

September 22 - September 28

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Rooms
7:00 p.m. ~ Minister of Music Interview via Zoom
7:00 p.m. ~ Coming to the Table via Zoom

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

11:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer, Living Room 134 & Zoom
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
6:00 p.m. ~ Women's VdC Reunion Meeting, Administrative Conf. Room
6:00 p.m. ~ Men's VdC Reunion Meeting, FLC Conference Room
6:15 p.m. ~ Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal, Worship Center
7:00 p.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
7:00 p.m. ~ Call Team Meeting via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:00 a.m. ~ Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), FLC Conference Room
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
1:00 p.m. ~ Staff Meeting, Administrative Conference Room
2:00 p.m. ~ Spirit Bells, Adult Bell Choir, Worship Center
6:00 p.m. ~ All levels YOGA, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Time with Meal, FLC Gym & Kitchen

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Bible Study with PJ on Facebook
10:30 a.m. ~ AM Stars Luncheon, FLC Gym & Kitchen
7:00 p.m. ~ Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
7:00 p.m. ~ Call Team Interview via Zoom

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

~ Church Office Closed ~

9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
5:00 p.m. ~ Youth Activities, FLC Youth Room 110
5:00 p.m. ~ Resurrection Presbyterian using parking lot for overflow

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

ALL DAY ~ Resurrection Presbyterian using parking lot for overflow
10:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

~ Commitment Sunday ~

~ BIG RED BUS Blood Drive ~

9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. ~ Big Red Bus Blood Drive, Worship Center parking lot
9:00 a.m. ~ Non-Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for All Ages, various classrooms
10:20 a.m. ~ Congregational Town Hall Meeting, Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
12:30 p.m. ~ Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

NEXT BEACON OCTOBER 6

ATTEND THE AM STARS LUNCHEON



Join AM Stars on **Thursday, September 25 at 10:30 a.m.** in the FLC Gym for a potluck, devotion, fellowship and entertainment. Bring a covered dish to share!

AM Stars is Morning Star's Ministry to anyone 55+. You are invited to our monthly luncheons, normally held on the fourth Thursday of each month. We also travel throughout the year for a variety of shows and events. Everyone 55+ is welcome! You can sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or email Rosie Fuller at rifuller@carolina.rr.com.

September 29 - October 5

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the Gym, FLC Gym
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

11:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer, Administrative Conference Room
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
6:00 p.m. ~ Women's VdC Reunion Group, Admin. Conference Room
6:00 p.m. ~ Men's VdC Reunion Group, FLC Conference Room
6:15 p.m. ~ Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal, Worship Center
7:00 p.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:00 a.m. ~ Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), FLC Conference Room
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
1:00 p.m. ~ Staff Meeting, Administrative Conference Room
2:00 p.m. ~ Spirit Bells Adult Bell Choir, Worship Center
6:00 p.m. ~ All levels YOGA, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Time with Meal, FLC Gym & Kitchen
7:00 p.m. ~ Executive Team Training via Zoom

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Bible Study with PJ on Facebook
10:00 a.m. ~ Women's Book Club, Administrative Conference Room
7:00 p.m. ~ Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

~ BYG @ St. John's Salisbury ~

9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the Gym, FLC Gym
11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
6:00 p.m. ~ TOPS Annual Meeting Setup, FLC Gym & Kitchen

SATURDAY, October 4

~ BYG @ St. John's Salisbury ~

9:00 a.m. ~ TOPS Annual Meeting, FLC Gym & Kitchen
10:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Choir Room
4:00 p.m. ~ Youth Campfire Night, FLC Youth Room 110

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

~ BYG @ St. John's Salisbury ~

9:00 a.m. ~ Non-Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for All Ages, various classrooms
10:15 a.m. ~ Spiritual Gifts Class, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
10:15 a.m. ~ Family Life Mission Team Meeting, Admin. Conf. Room
10:15 a.m. ~ Property Team Meeting, FLC Conference Room
11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
2:00 p.m. ~ Girl Scout Troop 387 Meeting, FLC Gym & Kitchen

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES RESUME SEPTEMBER 28

Sunday Faith Formation classes for children and Youth will begin on **September 28** between services (**about 10:20 a.m.**) in various classrooms. Adults—look for announcement (like below!) Mark your calendars!

LEARN ABOUT YOUR UNIQUE SPIRITUAL GIFTS!

Do you know what your God-given spiritual gifts are? Everyone has unique spiritual gifts so we might live into discipleship and share God's love. Join us **Sunday October 5 and October 12 at 10:20 a.m.** (between services) in the Fellowship Hall for a Spiritual Gifts class and find out yours! The Stewardship Team is leading this class.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING 250TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Join us as we celebrate Morning Star's 250th Anniversary!
Mark your calendars for the for upcoming events this fall:

Sunday, October 26 ~ Reformation Sunday celebrating ALL
MSLC confirmands through the generations.

Sunday, November 2 ~ All Saints Sunday and an afternoon
prayer service at the Chapel Cemetery & Columbarium



TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

Join us on **Tuesday nights at 7 p.m.** In the Fellowship Hall as we start a new class discussion on "The Beatitudes" starting in Matthew 5:3. The Beatitudes are part of the Gospel, the good news that Jesus, the Messiah, has come. Join us as we study the first 5 Beatitudes on September 23 and 30, with the remainder of the Beatitudes to be studied in 2026. Pastor John will lead an open discussion on October 7.

PLEASE SHARE WITH THE (LOCAL) YOUNG ADULTS IN YOUR LIFE

"Gather" is a new Young Adult (19-30) ministry in Charlotte and around NC based on getting to know each other and building community through relationships.

Hosted by Gather CLT

ALL YOUNG ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

27
SEPT



12:30
-3PM

OPTIMIST HALL (OUTSIDE YARD)
1115 N BREVARD ST, CHARLOTTE, NC 28206

As we kickoff Gather CLT Young Adult
Ministry, come hang out and have lunch on
us!



Thank you for holding our Call Team (for Associate Pastor) and our Search Team (for Minister of Music) in your prayers. Each team is prayerfully discerning God's call for MSLC and for the candidates with whom we are having conversation.

IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Dear Mornings Star Members,

We want to share an important update following our meeting on Monday, September 15th, with our insurance representatives and a team of experts who have been working closely with us. Present at the meeting were Pastor John, Mel Hawke, David Kobe, along with Mike Toman and Christian Torres from Tardigrade, Melissa Lin, our insurance company's breach attorney, and Steven Greenawalt, the cyber-crime expert from Cybir representing our insurance company.

We are grateful to report that all experts have confirmed there was **no unauthorized access or breach** of MSLC's IT systems. We are thankful for the vigilance of our team; our systems remain secure and uncompromised—there was no hacking via our Wi-Fi or any other means. Further, all financial systems and member's personal information were not compromised and remain protected. Consequently, the insurance company will be closing the claim.

Melissa Lin expressed appreciation for the quick action taken by Pastor John in promptly filing the claim and taking the necessary steps to safeguard our technology infrastructure. She also praised the dedicated work of Tardigrade and our faithful volunteers, who acted swiftly to protect both the financial and personal information of our staff and congregation members.

We also officially welcomed the support of AT-Net as our ongoing IT provider on September 15. They will be on-site Wednesday, September 17 to begin the installation and configuration of enhanced security systems and protocols to further protect our church's digital environment.

Lastly, we are in the process of formally withdrawing the FBI and Police Reports previously filed concerning Beacon Technology.

Thank you all for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout this challenging time. It is a true blessing to serve alongside each of you at MSLC. Rest assured, our IT systems are now fully secure and operational. We are on track to restore the worship center's audio-visual systems and live streaming capabilities by October 5th so that we can continue to connect and worship together.

*With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,
Pastor John and David Kobe, Council President*

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULES

SEPTEMBER 28 SUNDAY WORSHIP

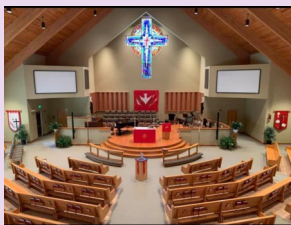
	9 AM	11 AM
Altar Guild	Donna Miller	Sarah & Dwight Hollingsworth
Communion	Robin Logan Ruth Valpreda Celeste Marcone Roger Lyman Dick Swiontek Cindy Fliss Grace Baker	Richard Turner Tom Eure Amelia Osborne
Counters	Sarah Hollingsworth & Art Szmuriga	
Greeters	Lauren Smith Patrice Wynn	Tom Eure Amelia Osborne
Lay Reader	Diane Klutzz	Richard Turner
Ushers	Lauren Smith Tim Smith Dave Denecke Curtis Morehead	Sarah & Dwight Hollingsworth

OCTOBER 5 SUNDAY WORSHIP

	9 AM	11 AM
Altar Guild	Liz & Grace Baker	Doug Doak
Communion	Cindy Fliss Rick Fliss Lisa Turner Rosie Fuller Della Sperlbaum Charles Messer John Perry	Jackie Willard Kim Thibault Ray Brooks
Counters	Sarah Hollingsworth & Art Szmuriga	
Greeters	Marsha Marcelli Alberta Melchiorre	Barbara Carter Betty Jackson
Lay Reader	Bob Small	Diane Scheid
Ushers	Tom Freeburn Bob Burnell Michael Woods Elizabeth Woods	Buddy Swayney Debbie Swayney

Thank
YOU

TOWN HALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 28



Please join us in the Worship Center on **September 28 at 10:20 a.m. (between services)** as Pastor John and Council lead a Town Hall Meeting to give the congregation an update on the technology issues at Morning Star, including the

Worship Center AV and streaming. We will discuss where we are currently, and our plans to move forward.

AUTUMN GET-TOGETHERS

Autumn Get-Togethers are a chance for us to build community and grow in faith and discipleship. Meals will begin at 5:15 p.m. in the FLC Gym, followed by Faith Formation Classes for all ages around campus at 6 p.m. Look for more information in the following weeks.

Wednesday Nights

October 15, 22, 29 and Nov. 5, 12, and 19

5:15 Dinner in the FLC Gym

Kids \$2, Youth/Adults \$4, Family Max \$20

RSVP in Church Office on Sunday or by Monday of the week

6:00 p.m. ~ Faith Formation Programs

Children & Youth:

- Preschool activities & stories, PreK rooms
- Confirmation Class with PJ for Jr. High, FLC Conf. Room
- Senior High Class, Youth Room 110

Adult Faith Formation Programs

- Luther's Catechism, Administrative Conference Room
- Yoga for all levels, Fellowship Hall
- Quilt Making for LWR, Quilting Room in FLC
- New Members Class, FLC Conference Room

We will post the meal menus served by the Mission Teams on the bulletin board in the Narthex and outside the church office, in the Beacon and the Thursday eNewsletter as soon as we get them set.



DONATE BLOOD

for Childhood Cancer Awareness!

Morning Star Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 28
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **Cancer Awareness T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 54951**



ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.



oneblood
Share your power.

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS

Allison Morris ~ moving to a new house
Barbara Byram ~ cancer, comfort & strength
Bruce Klein ~ continued strength and healing
Cathy Thomas ~ liver & kidney function to improve
Dana Butler ~ low iron platelets, bone spurs
Ettie Mae Wheeler ~ continued strength & healing
George Walker ~ comfort & strength
Jerry Sutton ~ prostate cancer, radiation
Lisa Turner ~ procedure for broken vertebrae
Lucille Brooks ~ back pain, tests
Michael Kluge ~ recovering from broken femur
Ray Campelo ~ cancer treatments, strength & healing
Ryan Edwards ~ Hodgkin's Lymphoma, chemotherapy

Andy Turner ~ vascular dementia, respiratory infection recovery
Brian Traylor ~ continued strength & health
Caroline Payler ~ hospice care at home
Cindy Kerekes ~ neuropathy in feet, covid cough
Don & Donna Winslow ~ caring for one another
Gary Grefrath ~ continued healing, hip replacement
Gisela Kluge ~ severe neuropathy in feet
Katie Perry ~ recovering from broken ankle
Lou Morris ~ Parkinson's, moving to new house
Mary Jackson ~ stomach & leg problems
Phyllis Medlin ~ continued strength & healing
Rosemarie Gates ~ strength & healing
Sarah Baucom ~ upcoming surgery

HOMEBOUND/SEMI HOMEBOUND & LONG-TERM LIVING FACILITIES

Andy Turner, Caroline Payler, Donna & Don Winslow, Ettie Mae Wheeler, Freddy Holtkamp, Gisela Kluge, Janet Killough, Kathy Kincaid, Marilyn Bohn, Marita Smith, Rosemarie Gates, Sam & Marilyn Keesler, Mary Hafner

Carol Bumbulucz ~ 2210 Belle St., Apt. 27, Indian Land, SC, 29707; 803-228-0172

Caroline Payler ~ 1001 Southwest Drive, Davidson, NC, 28036 (reach out to Ginny, her daughter, via cell 704.641.8683)

Janet Killough ~ Pruitt Health Skilled Nursing & Rehab., 261 S. Herlong Ave., Rock Hill SC 29732

Kathy Kincaid ~ 12920 Dorman Rd., Apt. #229, Pineville, NC 28134

Marilyn Bohn ~ living with her daughter at 8729 Dartmoor Place, Mint Hill, NC 28227

Mary Hafner ~ living with her daughter, Jane at 3324 Harvey Lane, Monroe, NC 28134; Jane: 704-576-8158



You are Invited to the NC Women of the ELCA 2025 Fall Conference!

Ladies, you are invited to join us at the 2025 Mecklenburg-Union Fall Conference Gathering, where women from the Charlotte area will gather for food, fellowship, and a Bible Study of Peter and Cornelius, as well as a Candlelight Service of Remembrance.

When: September 27
 Registration at 9:30 a.m.
 Program at 10 a.m.

Where: Living Saviour Lutheran Church
 6817 Carmel Road, Charlotte, NC 28226

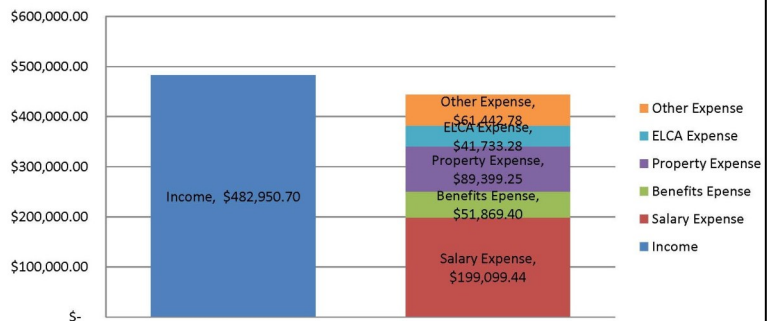
Register: Pat Snodgrass
pat.snodgrass57@gmail.com or 704-560-0155
Deadline: September 22

Cost: \$10 for lunch

Offerings: Regular offerings to *ELCA Good Gifts*; 2025 Pennies offering divided between *Robeson County Church & Community Center*, and *Fuller Center for Housing*, aimed at disaster recovery; In-Kind offering to *Smithfield Elementary Schools Backpack Program* - items needed: protein snack bars, granola bars, peanut butter, instant grits and oatmeal.



Financial Results January-August 2025



THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Are you a seamstress or love to help with sewing projects? From design to cutting and sewing, all participants are needed. Please consider working with our Team to help design and construct a banner to celebrate and honor our 250th MSLC Anniversary.



Please contact Diane Kluttz at dbkluttz@gmail.com OR Diane Scheid at dyyanblue@gmail.com to be a part of this memorable project!



Morning Star Lutheran Church
12509 Idlewild Road
Matthews, NC 28105

Autumn Get-Togethers & 2026

I hope to see lots of you on Wednesday nights beginning October 15 for **Autumn Get-Togethers!** We have something for everyone, and you are welcome to join us as you're able. Put AGT on your calendar for October 15, 22, 29 and November 5, 12 & 19.

At **5:15 p.m.**, we share **dinner** in the FLC gym. Meals are \$2/\$4 and you can RSVP at the church office on Sundays or during the week. Sign up for a week at a time or all six Wednesdays, if you'd like.

At **6:00 p.m.**, we will have **activities for all ages**: Preschool kids have stories and activities, Elementary-aged kids will have faith-building activities, Jr. High Youth will have Confirmation, Sr. Youth will gather, Adults have Luther's Catechism, Yoga, and Quilt Assembly for Lutheran World Relief and a New Members' Class in preparation for New Member Sunday in late November or early December.

Every household and individual at Morning Star is encouraged to prayerfully consider how we can each financially support our 2026 Plan for Ministry. **2026 Commitment Cards** were mailed to each home, and hard copies are available around church. You can even fill out yours online using this code. Now is the time to generously and joyfully fill out those cards and build our 2026 Plan for Ministry. I'm excited about what's in store for this faith community! Commitment Sunday will be September 28 if you'd like to drop your Commitment Card in the offering baskets during worship.



Your support of our ministry allows God's gifts to be multiplied for the sake of the Gospel. Whether you commit to \$100 or \$1000 per month, every commitment builds up our ministry. We might not all sing in the choir, trim shrubs in the yard or hang out with the youth, but we can all do our part to let's God's blessings flow through us and bring the Good News to the world.

We've got lots going on in the coming weeks and I pray that you are a part of it. This wonderful congregation wouldn't be the same without your participation *and* your support.

Pastor John