



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

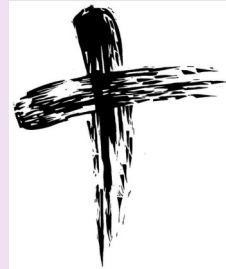
Issue 5 Vol. 25

March 10, 2025

MORNING STAR'S LENTEN HAPPENINGS SCHEDULE

March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2 & April 9

- ~ 5:15 p.m. dinner in the FLC Gym
- ~ 5:45 p.m. Rapid-Fire Choir in the FLC Gym
- ~ 6 p.m. Faith Formation for all ages in various classrooms
- ~ 7:15 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer in the Worship Center



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SUNDAY, March 16

9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

SUNDAY, March 23

9:00 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Worship Online: *YouTube:*

Morning Star Lutheran Church - Matthews, NC

Webpage: MSLCNC.org - Connect/ Watch Live

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, through 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.



MORNING STAR'S HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

April 13 ~ Palm Sunday

- 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. services in the Worship Center

April 17 ~ Maundy Thursday

- 7 p.m. service in the Worship Center

April 18 ~ Good Friday

- 7 p.m. service in the Worship Center

April 19 ~ Easter Egg Hunt & Crafts

- 10 a.m. on the Morning Star grounds

APRIL 20 ~ EASTER Sunday

- 7 a.m. SONRise service in the Morning Star CHAPEL
- 7:45 a.m. EASTER BREAKFAST served by LMIM in the FLC Gym
- 9 a.m. EASTER Non-traditional service in the Worship Center
- 10:15 a.m. EASTER BREAKFAST served by the LMIM in the FLC Gym
- 11 a.m. EASTER Traditional service at in the Worship Center



MINISTRY AT MORNING STAR March 10 — March 23

March 10—March 16

MONDAY, MARCH 10

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 10:00 a.m. ~ La Leche League Meeting, FLC 134 Living Room
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 6:30 p.m. ~ Youth Ministry Team Meeting, FLC Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Coming to the Table via Zoom

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer, FLC Room 134 & via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 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 Praise Ensemble Rehearsal, Worship Center
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Radiance Ringers, Bell Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), FLC 108
- 10:00 a.m. ~ WELCA Faith Circle, FLC Room 128
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 3:00 p.m. ~ Spirit Bells Adult Bell Choir, Bell Room
- 5:15 p.m. ~ Lenten Meal hosted by Worship & Music, FLC Gym & Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Faith Formation for All Ages throughout building
- 6:00 p.m. ~ YOGA for all levels, Fellowship Hall
- 7:15 p.m. ~ Holden Evening Prayer, Worship Center

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Bible Study with PJ on Facebook
- 5:00 p.m. ~ Room in the Inn (RITI) FLC Gym & FLC Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Joyful Noise Ringers rehearsal, Bell Room
- 6:30 p.m. ~ HLA Charlotte Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- 6:30 p.m. ~ Boy Scouts Etowah Round Table, Admin. & FLC Conf. Rooms
- 7:05 p.m. ~ Praise Choir & Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 5:00 p.m. ~ Youth & Parent Interest Meeting, FLC Gym & Kitchen

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:00 a.m. ~ KAIROS Meeting, FLC Gym & Kitchen
- 10:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 2:00 p.m. ~ KAIROS Worship, Worship Center

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

~ Deacon Tammy Jones West Preaches at Both Services ~
~ Lutheridge Support Campaign ~

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Non-Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
- 10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for Children & Youth, various classrooms
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship, *nursery available*

March 17—March 23

MONDAY, MARCH 17

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 4:45 p.m. ~ LMIM leave for men's shelter, MSLC parking lot
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Finance Team Meeting, FLC Conference Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer in FLC Room 134 and Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 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 Praise Ensemble Rehearsal, Worship Center
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Connect Team Meeting, Administrative Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Radiance Ringers, Bell Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), FLC 108
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 1:00 p.m. ~ Staff Meeting, Administrative Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. ~ Spirit Bells Adult Bell Choir, Bell Room
- 5:15 p.m. ~ Lenten Meal hosted by the Christian Ed Team, FLC Gym & Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Faith Formation for All Ages throughout building
- 6:00 p.m. ~ YOGA for all levels, Fellowship Hall
- 7:15 p.m. ~ Holden Evening Prayer, Worship Center

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Bible Study with PJ on Facebook
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Joyful Noise Ringers rehearsal, Bell Room
- 7:05 p.m. ~ Praise Choir & Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Men's Beer, Poker & Outreach (BPO) at Dave Kobe's house

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

- 10:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

~ Tim & Mary Caniff Kuhn discusses Lutheridge Support Campaign ~

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Non-Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
- 10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for Children & Youth, various classrooms
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
- 12:30 p.m. ~ Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. ~ Girl Scout Troop 387 Meeting, FLC 106, 109, 110 Youth Room, FLC 128, FLC 135, FLC Gym & Kitchen

NEXT BEACON MARCH 24

JOIN US FOR 5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP AND DOCUMENTARY

Did you know that there was one coup in the United States? Did you know it was in North Carolina? Interested? Come to Matthews United Methodist Church on **Sunday, March 30 from 12:15 -2:30 p.m.** for a covered dish meal and a screening of *"American Coup: Wilmington 1898"*. This documentary uncovers the untold story of the only successful coup d'état in U.S. history, when white supremacists overthrew Wilmington's multiracial government in 1898.

Bring a covered dish and join us in The Commons at Matthews United Methodist Church. To access The Commons, park to the right of the church building. Enter the door marked "The Commons".

Reservations close at midnight on Tuesday, March 25.

To register call 704-847-6261 or go to the following link:

[5th Sunday Fellowship - Community Potluck & Documentary "American Coup: Wilmington 1898" | Matthews UMC](#)



LENTEN WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASSES

At 6 p.m. every Wednesday evening during Lent (**March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 9**) you are invited to Faith Formation classes after the Lenten meals. The following classes are available:

- **Preschool**-aged children in the nursery
- **Music Mania** for elementary-aged children in the Music Lobby
- **Confirmation** class for 6th-8th graders in the Administrative Conference Room with PJ
- **Sr. High Youth** activities in the Youth Room 110
- **Rapid-Fire Choir** @5:45 p.m. in the FLC Gym
- **Yoga** for all levels in the Fellowship Hall; bring a mat & a water bottle
- **Quilt assembly** in the Quilting Room located in FLC Gym
- **Hymn Study** in the FLC Conference Room
- **Gift Planning** ~ **March 26** in FLC Conference Room



QUILTING OPPORTUNITIES

Join us at 6 p.m. in the Quilting Room during our **Wednesday evening Lenten Happenings** at 6 p.m. to make beautiful quilts and share in fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

There is a new batch of sheets, backing, fabric, finished tops, and in the quilt room, ready to be assembled. There are also completed quilts ready to be tied. No experience necessary. Contact Elaine Edelman at 704-534-5167 with any questions.

JOIN US FOR A LENTEN STUDY

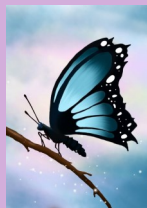
What is your favorite phrase in a hymn? Join us at 6 p.m. in the **FLC Conference Room** during our Wednesday evening Lenten Happenings for a special Lenten Study on the language of hymns.

This study is based on the book *"Unrevealed Until its Season, a Lenten Journey with Hymns"* written by Pastor John C. Howell. We will ponder of familiar hymns and discuss how they deepen our faith and relationship to God. For more information text Beverly Elwell at 980-939-4385 or Betsy Case at 704-560-3352.

JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP

Every Wednesday during Lent (**March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 8**) Morning Star will host a Holden Evening Prayer service at 7:15 p.m. in the **Worship Center**.

The service will be using the Lenten devotion *"Life Renewed"* as a focus. Please join us after Faith Formation classes for reflection and a beautiful musical setting for all voices and abilities.



JOIN US FOR RAPID-FIRE CHOIR!

Neal Hayes and Dr. Katie Ann McCarty will lead a quick 15 minute choir sing (at about 5:45 p.m.) in the **FLC Gym on Wednesdays after each Lenten meal**. Everyone, not just choir members, is invited to sing with the group and learn some new music. Finish your fellowship meal each Wednesday evening and join us!



STEWARDSHIP IS...

Stewardship is....

A teacher feeling relieved by knowing that a meal is being provided by Morning Star for a teacher workday.

A man who is without permanent housing, knowing that night he is safe, warm, and fed at Morning Star through our participation in the Room in the Inn (RITI) program.

Keeping our church viable, financially supported and alive in the community, so our children and grandchildren learn that church is so much more than a physical building.

~ Cathy Thomas, Stewardship Mission Team Member

A SPECIAL CLASS DURING LENT

Join us at 6 p.m., **March 26 in the FLC Conference Room** during Lenten Happenings Wednesday. The Stewardship Mission Team is hosting a one-time class. Learn how to think about your legacy, the next 250 years of Morning Star's ministry, and care for family and loved ones in the present.

Stephanie Burke, ELCA Regional Gift Planner for the Carolinas, will present how you can plan to leave legacy gifts for those you love, your church and God's work in the world! Estate planning isn't about extravagant wealth but is about making decisions that reflect what's important to us.

JOIN US FOR YOGA

Join us **Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall** for a Yoga class lead by Morning Star Member Andrea Towner. This class runs throughout the year, and is also available as a Faith Formation class during the Lenten Happenings. No experience necessary! Bring an open mind, a mat and a water bottle.

KAIROS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

KAIROS has been building Christian community in prisons since 1976. This spring, two MSLC members will be ministering to young men in prison during Kairos Weekends at Alexander Correctional Institute in March, and at Foothills Correctional Institute in April. While you may not be joining them in prison, you can take part in the ministry through prayer, making placemats, baking cookies or through a monetary donation. Please see Steve Kerekes and John Perry for more information. Information is also available on the credenza in the Narthex.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULES

MARCH 16

9 a.m. **11 a.m.**

<u>Altar Guild</u>	Paula McLaughlin Paula McLaughlin	Doug Doak
<u>Communion</u>	Deb Allen Gail Frankenburg Liz Baker Lisa Turner Missy Thomas David Kluttz Diane Kluttz	David Kobe Buddy Swayney Diane Scheid
<u>Counters</u>	Doug Doak & Gary Grefrath	
<u>Greeters</u>	Paula McLaughlin Patrick McLaughlin	Janet Kobe David Kobe
<u>Lay Reader</u>	Al Carr	Diane Doak
<u>Ushers</u>	Tom Freeburn (H) Mitch Mackinem Michael Wood Elizabeth Wood	Dwight Hollingsworth Sarah Hollingsworth

MARCH 23

9:00 a.m. **11:00 a.m.**

<u>Altar Guild</u>	Paula McLaughlin Paula McLaughlin	Doug Doak
<u>Communion</u>	Deb Allen Gail Frankenburg Liz Baker Lisa Turner Missy Thomas David Kluttz Diane Kluttz	David Kobe Buddy Swayney Diane Scheid
<u>Counters</u>	Doug Doak & Gary Grefrath	
<u>Greeters</u>	Paula McLaughlin Patrick McLaughlin	Janet Kobe David Kobe
<u>Lay Reader</u>	Cherie Little	David Kobe
<u>Ushers</u>	Tom Freeburn (H) Mitch Mackinem Michael Wood Elizabeth Wood	Dwight Hollingsworth Sarah Hollingsworth

MEET US ON SUNDAYS

The Christian Education Mission Team invites adults to gather during the weekly Faith Formation time (**10:15-10:50 a.m. between services**) in **Room 134** for conversation and fellowship.

The discussion topic is wide-open ... the weekly readings, or whatever is on your mind. We'll have coffee and donuts and would love to have you join us.

HELP SUPPORT LUTHERIDGE

With gratitude for **75 years** of strong camping ministry, we celebrate Lutheridge's 75th birthday and the ways God has formed faith, developed leaders, and built community in that special place.



Learn about the campaign during the Sunday worship services in the next few weeks and hear how you can help ensure Lutheridge's next 75 years of ministry. There are inserts in the bulletins and flyers on the credenza in the narthex and outside of the church office.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER FOR RITI



Morning Star's **Room In The Inn (RITI)** homeless ministry runs bi-weekly December through March. Our next RITI event is **Thursday, MARCH 13.**

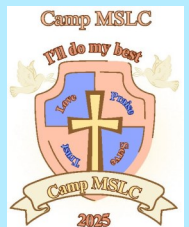
Morning Star provides 10-12 homeless men with fellowship, dinner, laundry services, showers and a warm place to sleep for the night. Find out how you can be a vital part of this ministry! For more information, call/text Pam Freeburn at 704-488-9795, or talk to Cindy Fliss, Angelo Baerga, or Nicola Taylor.



You can sign up to volunteer for MSLC's RITI nights using the QR code above or by clicking on this link:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BJ0vevWYZeK8EKm2OPaxVR0AftfYHzQvEVPsVvw3kZU/edit>

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Start planning summer camp and other activities for your (grand)children. **"I'll Do My Best."** Morning Star's summer camp program is **June 23 - 27**. Five days of music, crafts, Bible study, games, good food and fun, The camp is open for rising kindergartners through rising fifth graders. A group of MSLC Youth and young adults are currently working on the curriculum and activities. Watch with registration information coming soon!



LMIM SPRING GOLF OUTING

The spring golf outing is now set. The men of Morning Star are playing Emerald Lakes on **Thursday, April 10, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.** The cost is **\$45 due by March 31.**

Put a check in the LMIM mailbox or send to Rick Fliss. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. All Morning Star men are invited!



CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS



Allison Morris ~ continued healing
Barbara Byram ~ cancer, comfort & strength
Bruce Klein ~ continued strength and healing
Cindy Kerekes ~ shingles, neuropathy in feet
Don & Donna Winslow ~ caring for one another
Gisela Kluge ~ severe neuropathy in feet
Gretchen Agner Erwin ~ benign brain tumors
Lou Morris ~ living with Parkinson's disease
Mea Kleinschrodt ~ healing of broken wrist
Ray Campelo ~ cancer treatments
Rosemarie Gates ~ home after rehab, strength
Sally Catoe ~ recovering from 2nd cataract surgery

Andy Turner ~ vascular dementia
Brian Traylor ~ tests, continued strength & health
Caroline Payler ~ hospice, housing concerns
Denise & Randy Pope ~ Covid
George Walker ~ comfort & strength
Ginger Glenn ~ hospice, pain management
Kristen Mouritsen ~ upcoming surgeries
Marita Smith ~ Atrium West Hospital, Covid
Melanie Covell ~ good test results
Ron Sperlbaum ~ home after rehab, strength
Ruth Valpreda ~ good results for cardio version on 3/11
Stephanie Bauer ~ continued strength & healing

HOMEBOUND/SEMI HOMEBOUND & LONG-TERM LIVING FACILITIES

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

Caroline Payler ~ 7429 Mariner Cove Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031 (reach out to Ginny her daughter via cell 704.641.8683)
Ginger Glenn ~ Wood Ridge Nursing Home 2515 Fowler Secrest Rd. (room 222) Monroe, NC 28110
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 ~ NEW: living with daughter, Jane at 3324 Harvey Lane, Monroe, NC 28134; Jane: 704-576-8158

DONATE BLOOD

Morning Star Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 30
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All donors receive*:
 - **\$20 eGift Card**
 - **Long-sleeved 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.

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.

THANK YOU MORNING STAR

Dear Morning Star family and Pastor John,
 Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers upon the passing of our sister, Sonya. Your card was very comforting . We appreciate all the love that has been shown. We know that our sister is at peace in the loving arms of our Loving Lord!

~ Buddy and Debbie Swayney

THANK YOU LADIES!

Thank you so much for the prayer shawls and the blessings they received. We have prayed with them every day and the shawls have brought great comfort. Your hard work and compassion fill us with gratitude. We look forward to you seeing you on Sundays.

~ All our love, Christy & Betsy Case

HAA TEACHES FIRE SAFETY

Matthews Fire and EMS team members will be at the HAA meeting on **Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. Learn how Fire & EMS is accommodating the hard of hearing citizen. Learn about smoke alarms designed for the hard of hearing, how to place and manage a 911 call for Fire or EMS emergencies, and how to identify yourself with hearing needs in a fire or EMS situation.



CANDY AND TRINKETS NEEDED

The Youth and Christian Education Teams need trinkets and individually-wrapped candy (no chocolate) to stuff eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt this year. Please drop these off on the credenza in the narthex or bring them to the church office.

Morning Star Lutheran Church
12509 Idlewild Road
Matthews, NC 28105

The Journey that is a Lenten Season

I'll be honest: I don't know how long winter or spring really are. I don't know how many days any of the seasons are or whether one is longer than the other. Yes, I know Google is a few keystrokes away but I'm ok living in the unknown. ☺

I do, though, know that the season of Lent is always 40 days long (not counting Sundays because they're mini-Easters so you treat them differently). Lent is a special season, starting on Ash Wednesday, for you and me and the entire Church to journey with Jesus toward Holy Week, during which we celebrate Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

During the Lenten journey, Christians may give something up to be more mindful of all that Christ gave up for the sake of God's people. Christians may also take on acts of devotion (additional daily prayer time or devotional reading, for example) or service (gathering additional food for the 2nd Sunday collection or volunteering at the local school, possibly) to enrich their walk of discipleship. Lent is a time when we are invited and encouraged to orient our lives towards God so that we might experience a change in heart, mind, and spirit. As the world greens up around us here in Charlotte, Lent is a season for spiritually 'fertilizing' our lives as children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ, letting the Holy Spirit lead us.

I hope that you are able to join us for Lenten worship both on Wednesday evenings ("Life Renewed" at 7:15 p.m.) and Sunday mornings (9 and 11a.m.). I pray that you and your family connect with Faith Formation opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings and throughout the week. I pray that you and your household would feel the guiding power of the Spirit to enrich and expand your faith life. I pray that this special season gives you a chance to live within the overwhelming love of God that comes to us in Jesus Christ. These 40 days indeed each have a purpose – for you and me and all of God's children.

Pastor John