



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 10 Vol. 25

May 19, 2025

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY & VISIT BY NC SYNOD BISHOP, REV. DR. TIM SMITH

NC Bishop Tim Smith preached on Sunday, May 18 and spent a wonderful morning with us. We appreciate his insight, vision and faithful service. He also helped Morning Star celebrate 250 years of ministry in a changing world and shared that us being a Reconciling in Christ congregation means a great deal to our community and to our mission as disciples of Jesus. Bishop Tim will be concluding his call as NC Bishop after his successor is elected at the NC Synod Assembly in another couple of weeks.

A special offering for RIC Sunday was taken and a generous gift will be sent to support other ELCA congregations as they study, learn, pray and discern.



THANK YOU FOR FEEDING KIDS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER



The Social Ministry Team cereal boxes for children at risk for hunger over the summer. The cereal boxes were delivered to one of our partner schools, Mint Hill Elementary, for families in need, and sent home with parents for the summer. This helps their families combat hunger during the summer months when the children do not receive school meals. Thank you, Morning Star, for your continued generosity!

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SUNDAY, MAY 25

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

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

Worship Online

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, 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.

VANCO
FAITH



MINISTRY AT MORNING STAR May 19 - June 1

May 19 - May 25

MONDAY, MAY 19

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. ~ Finance Team Meeting, FLC Conference Room

TUESDAY, MAY 20

- 11:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer, Living Room 134 & 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. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), FLC Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 1:00 p.m. ~ Staff Meeting, Administrative Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. ~ Spirit Bells Adult Bell Choir, Bell Room
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Time with Meal, FLC Gym & Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. ~ YOGA for all levels, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting, Admin. Conf. Room

THURSDAY, MAY 22

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Bible Study with PJ on Facebook
- 10:30 a.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study Planning Meeting, FLC Conf. Room
- 7:05 p.m. ~ Praise Choir & Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, MAY 23

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 5:00 p.m. ~ HS Youth activities, FLC 110 Youth Room

SATURDAY, MAY 24

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

SUNDAY, MAY 25

~ Pastor Carrie Bishop Preaching ~

- 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*

~ **NEXT BEACON JUNE 2** ~

DEADLINE for submission or article request is MAY 28 by NOON

May 26 - June 1

MONDAY, MAY 26

~ Memorial Day ~ ~ **Church Office CLOSED** ~

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

TUESDAY, MAY 27

- 11:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer in FLC Living 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. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. ~ Spirit Bells Adult Bell Choir, Bell Room
- 6:00 p.m. ~ YOGA for all levels, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Time with Meal, FLC Gym & Kitchen

THURSDAY, MAY 29

~ Synod Assembly in Greensboro ~

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Bible Study with PJ on Facebook
- 10:30 a.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study Planning Meeting, FLC Conf. Room
- 7:05 p.m. ~ Praise Choir & Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

FRIDAY, MAY 30

~ Synod Assembly in Greensboro ~

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Choir Rooms
- 5:00 p.m. ~ HS Youth Activities, Youth Room 110

SATURDAY, MAY 31

~ Synod Assembly in Greensboro ~

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

~ Blood Drive ~

~ Graduation Milestone Celebration ~

- 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. ~ OneBlood Big Red Bus in parking lot
- 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
- 2:00 p.m. ~ Girl Scout Troop 387 Meeting, FLC 106, 109, 110 Youth Room, FLC 128, FLC 135, FLC Gym & Kitchen

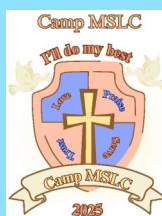
DONATE YOUR EYEGLASSES!



The Social Ministry Team is requesting donations of used or new prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses, and over-the-counter reading glasses. Members of the Social Ministry Team will bring them to participating optometrist offices in the Charlotte area. After collection, the frames are recycled by non-profit organizations, such as Lion's Clubs, to provide glasses for those in need.

You can place glasses in the basket in the narthex, or bring them to the church office. Please contact Jan Durr at janrobbinsdurr@gmail.com for more information.

REGISTER FOR MSLC DAY CAMP!



Registration for Morning Star's Day Camp "I'll Do My Best" is open! Camp runs **June 23 - 27** from **9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** and includes music, crafts, Bible study, games, good food and fun. The camp fee is **\$50** and open for rising kindergarteners through rising fifth graders. **We have now opened registration to friends**

and neighbors!

Sign up now to reserve your child(ren)'s spot in this great summer program. You can register by going to mslcn.org and clicking on the **CAMP MSLC** button.

JOIN US FOR TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY!

Our Tuesday Night Bible Study meets weekly on **Tuesdays** from **7 - 8 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We host dynamic Bible study with fellowship, friendship and conversation. Come and learn something new about the Bible. You can come for an entire series, or pop in when it is convenient for you!

The following schedule is also listed on the bulletin boards in the narthex and outside of the church office:

- **Martin Luther and His Reformation Friends**, led by Beverly Elwell and Bob Small
 - May 20: Challenging the Establishment
 - May 27: Luther's Later Life
 - June 3: Extension of Reformation
- **Why Am I a Lutheran?** led by Art Szmuriga
 - June 10 (one week class)
- **Book of Job: Why We Suffer**, led by Mitch Mackinem
 - starting June 17

Series planned for later in 2025:

- **Life of the Apostles, Part 2**, led by Doug & Gail Frankenburg
- **Lessons You Can Learn from Paul's Letters to the Churches**, led by Matt Roe-Bise and David Bise
- **Life Lessons from Ebenezer Scrooge**, led by Cindy Fliss & Celeste Denecke

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is...

- Dogwoods, mulch and flowers to beautify the church campus, attracting guests and pleasing members.
 - A neighbor discovering a quiet meditative walk and time of prayer at the labyrinth and peace in the colorful butterfly garden.
 - The power of the choir, the bells, and the organ to make hallelujahs lift and spirits soar, thanks to effective acoustic panels and well-tuned instruments.
- Andrea Towner, MSLC Member
- Being able to de-stress, pray and just enjoy God's creation at The Labyrinth on the Morning Star Chapel grounds - a place of beauty and peace!
 - Being blessed to be amongst art and installations that provide beauty, diversity, and expressions of love within our community at The Gallery at Morning Star.
 - Going beyond our walls to spread the good news and to love our neighbors as ourselves by providing weekly home communion to shut-in folks.
- Beverly Elwell, MSLC Member

SEEKING SECURITY TASK TEAM PARTICIPANTS

The Property Team has set up a Security Task Committee to review best practices, make recommendations to Council, and implement changes needed for the benefit of our membership and guests.

The Security Task Team will be comprised of two groups - Cyber Security and Physical Security. We are asking for volunteers with prior IT experience or relevant physical security background. If interested, please contact the church office with your contact information.

Your participation is crucial as we strive to ensure the safety and security of our church environment, while still maintain a welcome atmosphere. By joining the team, you will play a pivotal role in improving our defenses against potential cyber threats and physical vulnerabilities. We believe that a collaborative effort will yield the most effective strategies and solutions.

THANK YOU

I want to thank your members and the members of the Social Ministry Team for the lovely breakfast treats this past week. It was so nice to be greeted by their smiles and goodies as I arrived at 7 a.m. Thank you to all who helped! PS - I would love more volunteers in our 6th grade hall next year! (hint, hint)

— Jill Spencer, Mint Hill Middle School



DONATE BLOOD

Morning Star Lutheran Church
Sunday, June 1
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All donors receive*:
 - **\$20 eGift Card**
 - **Trucker Hat**
 - **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


\$20
eGiftCARD

Walmart
amazon
...and more!

- 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

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULES

MAY 25 SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM

Altar Guild Rosie Fuller
Communion Roger Lyman
 Robin Logan
 Rosie Fuller
 Dick Swiontek
 Patti Szmuriga
 Deb Allen
 Ralph Edelman

11 AM

Andrea Comer
 David Kobe
 Diane Doak
 TBD

Counters Al Carr & Doug Covell

Greeters Gail Frankenburg
 Mike Medlin

Lay Reader Grace Baker

Ushers Rick Fliss
 Cindy Fliss
 Bob Burnell
 Mike Medlin

JUNE 1 SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM

Altar Guild Liz & Grace Baker
Communion Mitch Mackinem
 Phyllis Medlin
 Celeste Marcone
 Deb Allen
 Brook Swartz
 Beverly Elwell
 Tim Goldbach

11 AM

Doug Doak
 Richard Turner
 Buddy Swayney
 Debbie Swayney

Counters Al Carr & Doug Covell

Greeters Ruth Valpreda
 Karen Weiner

Lay Reader Brooke Swartz

Ushers Roger Lyman
 Angelo Baerga
 John Perry
 Cindy Fliss

WORSHIP ASSISTANT GUIDELINES

In an effort to streamline scheduling Worship Assistants and publishing substitutions, please note the following helpful guidelines:

- You **MUST** find your own substitute for your assigned duty and let the office know asap. You can reach out to one of the Worship Assistants listed in the back of the yellow 2025 Parish Directory to start your search.
- You will be notified in an **email** from the Worship & Music Team the week before you are scheduled to serve.
- The **deadline** to let the office know of substitutions is **Wednesdays noon** for the following Sunday. Otherwise the incorrect name will be listed in Sunday's bulletins.

You can find **Worship Assistant schedules** in **SIX** places:

1. Sunday bulletins
2. Thursday weekly eNews
3. Page 4 of the bi-weekly Beacon
4. Bulletin boards in the narthex and outside of the office
5. Last 10 pages in the yellow 2025 Parish Directory
6. Morning Star website, under "*News to Use*" at mslcn.org. Click on the "2025 Worship Assistant Schedule" button.

CELEBRATE GRADUATES WITH US

Join us Sunday, June 1 during both worship services to bless and celebrate the Graduation Milestone every stage. High school, degree programs, college, certification, etc.—Let us congratulate you and your accomplishments!

SHARE SCRIPTURE IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE ON PENTECOST!



Can you read the lesson from Acts on **Pentecost Sunday, June 8** in another language? We'd love you to do so!

Acts 2: 1-4: "*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*"

The images of fire and wind are used by the Christian church to symbolize Pentecost. Fire, or tongues of fire, in these verses refers to the Holy Spirit resting on the disciples as

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LUTHERIDGE!

I want to thank each and everyone of you who made a pledge of any amount to the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Campaign. Morning Star Members pledged a total of **\$46,345** to the campaign!!!

If you still want to make a pledge, there are pledge cards and envelopes on the credenza in the narthex. Simply drop those in the offering plate, and they will be sent to the office. Funds from the campaign will be used to make upgrades and improvements to the present facilities as well as pay down debt. Just think how future campers will be able to enjoy Lutheridge for many years to come through this campaign and your generosity!

~ In gratitude to each of you, Diane Kluttz
 Lutheridge 75th Birthday Campaign Chair for Morning Star

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS



Allison Morris ~ continued healing
Andy Turner ~ vascular dementia
Bill Comer ~ healing from retina surgery
Brian Traylor ~ continued strength & health
Caroline Payler ~ hospice
Celeste Denecke ~ treatment for blood condition
Cindy Kerekes ~ neuropathy in feet
Don & Donna Winslow ~ caring for one another
George Walker ~ comfort & strength
Glenn Wynn ~ upcoming cataract surgery
John & Katie Perry ~ safe travels overseas
Lou Morris ~ living with Parkinson's disease
Ray Campelo ~ cancer treatments
Ron Sperlbaum ~ Asbury Rehab, strength & healing
Stacy Appleyard ~ recovering from fall

Amy Clipston ~ outpatient surgery, 6/11
Barbara Byram ~ cancer, comfort & strength
Bob Burnell ~ answers for eye problems
Bruce Klein ~ continued strength & healing
Cathy Thomas ~ liver & kidney functions to improve & stabilize
Christy Case ~ CMH Hospital, pneumonia
Dana Butler ~ blood sugars & blood pressure issues
Ettie May Wheeler ~ Wilona Health Rehab, broken hip
Gisela Kluge ~ severe neuropathy in feet
Jill Minder ~ healing from broken vertebrae in neck
Katie Perry ~ tests for breathing & heart issues
Phyllis Medlin ~ healing
Ron Porter ~ recovering from pneumonia
Rosemarie Gates ~ strength & healing
Tim Smith ~ recovering from colon cancer surgery

HOMEBOUND/SEMI HOMEBOUND & LONG-TERM LIVING FACILITIES

Caroline Payler, Dean Allen, 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

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

THANK YOU MORNING STAR!

Dear Pastor John & the Morning Star family,

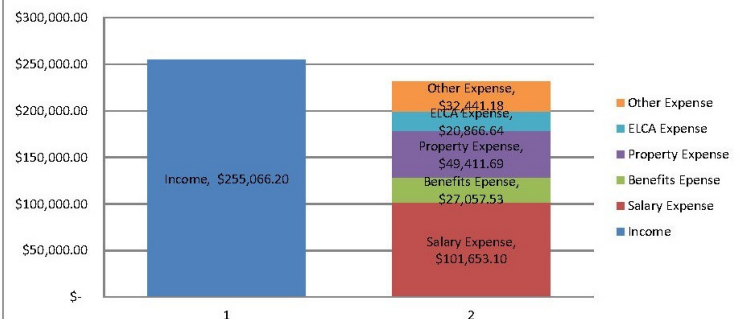
What a wonderful surprise it was to receive the donation from your **Lenten Wednesday night dinner offerings** of **\$3, 742** to support our affordable housing initiative!

We are so grateful for the partnership we share and for your continued commitment to being a steadfast advocate for affordable housing. Thankyou for ALL you do—for us, and others in our community.

*~ With gratitude, Natisha Rivera-Patrick, President & CEO
 Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity*

THANK YOU MORNING STAR

Financial Results January-April 2025



WELCOME MORE NEW MEMBERS

Morning Star welcomed 23 New Members on Sunday, May 4 (including the Miente family, below). We are excited to welcome all of them into the MSLC family.

All of our new members' pictures are in the narthex and outside the church office. Please give all of them a BIG Morning Star welcome when you see them!



**Jennifer & Tom Miente
 Christopher & Joshua**

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB NEWS

Please join us on the **first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Administrative Conference Room**. At May's Book Club meeting, we had a great discussion of *"The Caretaker"* led by Joyce Reed, and then an impromptu discussion on the history of Morning Star Lutheran Church. It was an insightful lesson on our church history, and we encourage Joyce to record her memories and knowledge to share with others.

June 5 discussion ~ *"The Devil at His Elbow: Alex Murdough and the Fall of a Southern Dynasty"* by Valerie Bauerlein

July 3 ~ no meeting

August 7 discussion ~ *"Her Hidden Genius"* by Marie Benedict

September 4 discussion ~ *"Memorial Days: a Memoir"* by Geraldine Brooks

Morning Star Lutheran Church
12509 Idlewild Road
Matthews, NC 28105

Faithful & Meaningful Hospitality

From the good folks at Alban at Duke Divinity School: “Many churchgoers would describe their congregation as “friendly,” but we should make a clear distinction between “friendliness” and “hospitality.” Friendliness is a fine starting point, but its embrace may not be as wide or as deep as Christian hospitality. Through the lens of Christian faith, hospitality becomes a countercultural expression of love that elevates us above fear of the “other” and compels us to welcome the stranger.

One of the post-resurrection stories in John offers a glimpse of how Christian hospitality bears witness to Jesus Christ. In John 21, a ‘stranger’ found Jesus’ disciples fishing without success, and he encouraged them to try again. When they did, the disciples hauled in a miraculous catch (21:6). Not long after this, the stranger asked the disciples to eat breakfast with him; he had already prepared a fire of burning coals to cook the fish. Through the hospitality of a shared meal, the disciples recognized that the stranger was Jesus.

When we offer compassion and generosity to people in our congregations and communities — especially in a socially and politically polarized climate — we bear witness to the presence of Christ among us.

As we strive to be hospitable, the goal should be to make everyone feel more seen, included and valued. One challenge for leaders is to think about what this means in worship and congregational life.

Who is in our community? Who is missing from our community? What are the barriers in our congregational structures that keep people from experiencing the love of God? A faithful reading of Scripture tells us that hospitality is not a destination. Hospitality is a spiritual practice that invites us to reflect and then act.”

(May 19, 2025 email — Alban at Duke Divinity School)

I am so proud of and grateful to all of you at Morning Star for working hard to be both friendly AND hospitable to *every* person in our community. In a time of division and uncertainty, you are witnessing to the stalwart love of God given to each and every one of us in Jesus Christ. This is powerful ministry!

Pastor John