



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 16, Vol. 25

Augusts 25, 2025

MORNING STAR HELPS OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS KICK OFF ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR!

MINT HILL ELEMENTARY RECEIVES NEEDED BACKPACKS

THANK YOU to the generous Morning Star members who filled 30 backpacks for our School Tools Drive, AND donated so many more school supplies to be used as needed throughout the school year. The backpacks and



supplies will be distributed to Mint Hill Elementary students in need. The administration, staff, and teachers of MH Elementary were overwhelmed and delighted at Morning Star's generosity. The Social Ministry Team, along with Servant's Heart, coordinates this effort every year. If you didn't get a chance to donate to this cause, there will be many more opportunities to support our partner schools throughout the year.



MINT HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS RECEIVE LOVE AND LUNCH

On Monday August 18, the Social Ministry Team served approximately 90 Mint Hill Middle School teachers and staff members lunch to help them kick off the 2025-2026 school year and let them know that Morning Star supports and cares for them. The staff appreciates all that Morning Star does to share the love of Christ with them and their students.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Two week calendar	2
MSLC News	1, 2 & 3
Worship Assistants	4
Prayer List & Birthdays	5
"God's Work. Our Hands." Projects	6

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

9 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

"God's Work. Our Hands."

Sunday

10 a.m. **UNIFIED 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

August 25 - September 7

August 25 - August 31

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Rooms
- 12:30 p.m. ~ Backflow Preventer Installation, **NO WATER TO FACILITIES**
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Finance Ministry Meeting, FLC Conference Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. ~ All levels YOGA, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

- 10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Bible Study with PJ on Facebook

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

~ 250th Dinner Setup in FLC Gym ~

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
- 2:00 p.m. ~ Light Fixture Work, Worship Center
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Girls' Retreat, MSLC Chapel

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

~ 250th Dinner Setup in FLC Gym ~

- All Day ~ Youth Girl's Retreat at Morning Star Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. ~ Light Fixture Work, FLC Gym
- 10:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

~ 250th Dinner Setup in FLC Gym ~

- All Day ~ Youth Girl's Retreat at Morning Star Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. ~ Non-Traditional Worship, *nursery available*
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship, *nursery available*

~ NEXT BEACON SEPTEMBER 8 ~

UPDATES FROM MSLC

The Call Team has completed their training and the NC Synod will soon be sharing three candidates' names and information with them. We are working hard to be patient with a new NC Synod Bishop in the office and changes within the Synod Staff (including Pastor Mills, our contact). Each of the candidates will have an online interview with the Call Team and Pastor John, keeping down travel expenses at early stages of the call process. Names are confidential at this part of the process so the Call Team won't share that information.

The Search Team has posted the job opening for the Interim Minister of Music/Director of Music Ministries. The Search Team will receive all applications/information, discern who to interview, and then conduct interviews as appropriate. This process is Morning Star's to conduct and will be led by Pastor John as Head of Staff and the Search Team. Thank you for your patience.

September 1 - September 7

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

~ LABOR DAY, OFFICE CLOSED ~

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the Gym, FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Stewardship Team Meeting, via Email

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

~ 250th Dinner Setup in FLC Gym ~

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Tuesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

~ 250th Dinner Setup in FLC Gym ~

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Floor buffing, all FLC Classrooms
- 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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

~ 250th Dinner Setup in FLC Gym ~

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

~ 250th Dinner Setup in FLC Gym ~

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the Gym, FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. ~ 250th Anniversary Banquet, FLC Gym & Kitchen

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

~ "God's Work. Our Hands." Weekend

- 8:30 a.m. ~ LMIM Quarterly Breakfast, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
- 9:30 a.m. ~ Rice Road Cleanup, meet on patio
- 10:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting, Choir Room

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

~ "God's Work. Our Hands." & 250th Anniversary Sunday ~

- 10:00 a.m. ~ **UNIFIED** Worship, *nursery available*
- 11:20 a.m. ~ "God's Work. Our Hands." Projects, FLC Gym

UPDATES FROM THE SYNOD

At the recent NC Synod Assembly, the **Rev. Emily Hartner** (former pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church) was elected the next **Bishop of the NC Synod**. She began her six-year term on August 1, 2025.

Pastor Carolyn Hayford, has been named Interim Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Charlotte. Pastor Carolyn will help guide Holy Trinity through the transition and call process for a new pastor.

During the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, **Pastor Lucille "CeCee" Mills** was elected to serve a six-year term as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pastor CeCee has served as an Assistant to the Bishop in North Carolina since 2019. She will be the first ELCA secretary of African descent.

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:

Friday, September 5 ~ Anniversary Weekend Candlelight catered dinner in the FLC Gym. The deadline to purchase tickets has passed.

Sunday, September 7 ~ "God's Work Our Hands." Sunday and Anniversary Sunday

Sunday, September 21 ~ "Historic" Outdoor Worship at the Chapel. An ice cream truck will be available afterwards

Saturday, October 18 ~ Outdoor Festival for ALL with games, bounce houses and live music

Sunday, October 26 ~ Reformation Sunday celebrating ALL MSLC confirmands

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

EMPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP FORMS MAILED THIS WEEK

Share your gifts, talents and passions with MSLC's ministry! The **2026 Empowered Discipleship Forms** are in the mail this week and now online.

Please take time to prayerfully consider your participation in Morning Star's ministry in 2026, then complete the online form OR return the paper copy on September 7 ("God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.)

If you will not be in worship on September 7, you may complete them earlier. Help make ministry happen at Morning Star with your participation. We appreciate your willingness to serve and reach our congregation and the community outside of our walls.

Check out the YouTube link to Tom Eure and Amelia Osborne's video of the crankie for the song "Love Compels Us To":

"Tom Eure & Amelia Osborne - "Love Compels Us To" (Gods Work Our Hands)-The Crankie!"

Go to YouTube and type in the above song title to view it!



MSLC'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Ticket-holders, join us **Friday, Sept 5** for our **250th anniversary celebration** in the FLC gym. (Purchase deadline has passed.) Childcare is not provided – thank you for planning accordingly.

Dress as you would to a nice dinner out. Please enter the event through the Family Life Center doors at the Gallery entrance. **Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with social time from 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

During social time, enjoy a festive beverage, see historical items on display, and take a memorable photo at the photo booth. Photos from Morning Star throughout the years will play on the big screen.

A buffet dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Amelia Osborne has also prepared a beautiful visual timeline along the hallway to the FLC classrooms. Honored guests who have made a significant impact on our history will attend. A historical video and messages from previous members who cannot attend will be shared.



TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

Join us **7 p.m. on Tuesdays** in the **Fellowship Hall**. "Life of the Apostles - Part 2," led by Doug and Gail Frankenburg, will continue **through September 9**.

Beginning **September 16**, 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 16, 23, and 30, with the remainder of the Beatitudes to be studied in 2026.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are imperfect disciples, walking together to embody Christ's perfect love for our community. We are Christ-centered, faith affirming, accepting and reflect God's love through discipleship.

In this spirit, we are asking volunteers to visit our Homebound members. Depending on the member's needs, a visit may be once a month, twice a year, over the holidays, and/or through cards and phone calls.

Our homebound brothers and sisters can often feel distanced from the church, and hearing from a fellow church member can brighten their day and help them feel loved and more connected.

If you are interested, please contact the church office or check off the box on the Empowered Discipleship Form titled "1707 Visit Homebound Members" under the Social Ministry category, return it to the office, and someone will contact you.

JOIN THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Ladies, join us the **first Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.** in the Administrative Conference Room. Read the book listed and join us for discussion.

♦ **Sept 4** ~ *Memorial Days: a Memoir* by Geraldine Brooks

♦ **October 2** ~ *When We Had Wings* by Ariel Lawhon

Please email Katie Perry at kperry59@carolina.rr.com with questions.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULES

AUGUST 31 SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM

11 AM

<u>Altar Guild</u>	Donna Miller	Sarah Burgoon
<u>Communion</u>	Tim Smith Lauren Smith Heather Baerga Katie Perry Ruth Valpreda Liz Baker Diane Kluttz	Leigh Pittman Diane Doak Dave Kobe
<u>Counters</u>	Cindy & Rick Fliss	
<u>Greeters</u>	Tim Smith Lauren Smith	Jackie Willard Dan Willard
<u>Lay Reader</u>	Elaine Edelman	Jackie Willard
<u>Ushers</u>	Rick Fliss Cindy Fliss Celeste Marccone Pat McLaughlin	Jackie Willard Dennis Burgoon

SEPTEMBER 7 SUNDAY WORSHIP

~ "God's Work. Our Hands." & 250th Anniversary Sunday ~

10 AM UNIFIED

<u>Altar Guild</u>	Paula McLaughlin Patrick McLaughlin
<u>Communion</u>	Robin Logan Ralph Edelman Celeste Marccone Roger Lyman Dick Swiontek Jean Swiontek Grace Baker
<u>Counters</u>	Cindy & Rick Fliss
<u>Greeters</u>	Katie Perry Patrice Wynn
<u>Lay Reader</u>	Joe Pittman
<u>Ushers</u>	Tim Smith Lauren Smith Dave Denecke Curtis Morehead

THE PUZZLE ROOM IS OPEN!

Want something to do but it's too hot to spend time outdoors? Looking for a quiet space to reflect or spend some quality time with friends? Come to **Room 128 in the Family Life Center** and choose a puzzle to work on! There are tables, chairs and recliners for a relaxing respite from the heat. We don't have room for any more puzzles, but you can exchange them. If you bring one, please take one home with you. Please email Katie Perry at kperry59@carolina.rr.com with any questions.

AUGUST COUNCIL NOTES

Your Morning Star Council met this past Sunday, August 24. Your Council is hard at work, and we have several events we want to bring to your attention.

1. Mark, your calendars for the 250th Anniversary Dinner on September 5! It will be a grand evening celebrating our life together in ministry.
2. God's Work our Hands weekend in September 5, 6, with "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday on September 7. Please note we will have a **UNIFIED** worship service that morning so that we ALL can put our hands to work. There will be plenty of opportunities on that weekend to support this important national weekend.
3. Autumn Get-Togethers are just around the corner so plan on joining us on Wednesday evenings for a meal and Faith Formation in October and November. There will be more announcements in the following weeks.
4. The Call Team continues to make great progress. They will meet on August 27 to begin reviewing potential candidates.
5. The Minister of Music Search Team is also making excellent progress. The team has advertised for the position and has several candidates in the pipeline. Interviews will begin in the coming weeks.

Please keep your Council in your prayers as continue to support the ministries of Morning Star.

Respectfully Submitted
David Kobe

The Gallery At
Morning Star

-CALL FOR ARTISTS-

'AND THE SOUL FELT ITS WORTH'

IN THIS FAST PACED WORLD WE CAN RECEIVE SACREDNESS IN THE ORDINARY MOMENTS WHEN THE SOUL PAUSES—JUST LONG ENOUGH TO REALIZE IT MATTERS. THERE ARE FEW TIMES IN LIFE THAT ILLICIT AS MUCH BEAUTY, JOY OR WEIGHT AS WHEN, THE SOUL FEELS ITS WORTH. WE INVITE ARTISTS OF ALL MEDIUMS TO INTERPRET AND EXPRESS THIS POWERFUL THEME 'AND THE SOUL FELT ITS WORTH'

WHETHER YOUR SOULS RECOGNITION CAME THROUGH GRIEF, JOY, HEALING, REBELLION, SURRENDER, RESILIENCE, OR SILENCE—WE WANT TO SEE IT. SHOW US... THE MOMENT YOU REALIZED YOU WERE ENOUGH, WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN THE SOUL RETURNS TO ITSELF, WHEN A DIVINE WHISPER SAID... YOU ARE MINE, OR ANY OF THE LIMITLESS AND INDIVIDUAL WAYS OUR SOUL SPEAK TRUTH TO THE WORLD. THE THEME IS MORE THAN A PHRASE. IT'S A RECKONING. A RECLAMATION. A REMEMBERING.

-ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM OPENS: FRIDAY-AUGUST 1
WWW.THEGALLERYATMORNINGSTAR.COM

-SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 21 AT MIDNIGHT

-NOTIFICATIONS BY: WEDNESDAY-SEPTEMBER 24

-DROP OFF/PICK UP: SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 28-1PM-3PM

-EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY-OCTOBER 17-6PM-8:30PM
12501 IDLEWILD ROAD, MATTHEWS, NC 28105

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS



Allison Morris ~ strength & healing , moving
Barbara Byram ~ cancer, comfort & strength
Bruce Klein ~ continued strength and healing
Cathy Thomas ~ liver & kidney function to improve
Covell family ~ on the passing of Melanie's father
Don & Donna Winslow ~ caring for one another
Gary Grefrath ~ continued healing, hip replacement
Gisela Kluge ~ severe neuropathy in feet
Jerry Sutton ~ prostate cancer, radiation
Linda Thompson ~ recovery, pacemaker implanted
Lou Morris ~ Parkinson's disease, moving
Marilyn Keesler ~ continued strength & healing
Phyllis Medlin ~ continued strength & healing
Rosemarie Gates ~ strength & healing

Andy Turner ~ vascular dementia
Brian Traylor ~ continued strength & health
Caroline Payler ~ hospice care at home
Cindy Kerekes ~ neuropathy in feet, covid cough
Dana Butler ~ low iron platelets
Ettie Mae Wheeler ~ continued strength & healing
George Walker ~ comfort & strength
Janet Kobe ~ continued healing from retina surgery
Katie Perry ~ pulmonary tests
Lisa Turner ~ broken wrist, continued healing
Lucille Brooks ~ back pain
Mary Jackson ~ stomach & leg problems
Ray Campelo ~ cancer treatments, strength & healing
Ryan Edwards ~ Hodgkin's Lymphoma, chemotherapy

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

MSLC'S SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1 ~ Mike LaFata
September 2 ~ Kristina Baker, Jamie Givens, Benson Taylor
September 3 ~ Dave Kobe, Matthew Ward
September 4 ~ Elizabeth Edwards, Evan Kunz
September 5 ~ Ginny Smith
September 6 ~ Ciara Jackson
September 7 ~ Bob Burnell, Payton Carr
September 8 ~ Jim Cupples, Donna Miller, Mark Stanton
September 10 ~ Tanya Tucciarone
September 12 ~ Bonnie Kaul, Jenny Reill
September 13 ~ Brenda Clark, Donna McGraw
September 14 ~ Brooke Swartz
September 16 ~ Ginny Blythe
September 17 ~ Grady Baucom, Ron Porter
September 21 ~ Griffin Appleyard, Tom Eure
September 22 ~ Rich Ballantine
September 25 ~ Mary Grinnell, Steve Kerekes, Jeff Miller
September 26 ~ Peter Swartz
September 28 ~ Lauren Smith
September 29 ~ Gretchen Agner
September 30 ~ Barbara Carter



MORNING STAR SHARES THE LOVE OF CHRIST AT PRIDE!



Morning Star members and friends joined the Charlotte Pride Festival in Uptown on Saturday, Aug. 17 and Sunday, Aug. 18. We had a booth to greet festival participants where we shared communion and the love of Christ with them.



Morning Star Lutheran Church
12509 Idlewild Road
Matthews, NC 28105

JOIN US FOR “GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” PROJECTS

This year, “God’s Work. Our Hands.” weekend is **Sept. 5, 6 and 7**. Morning Star’s Mission Teams are organizing service projects for the members of Morning Star to participate.

1. The Social Ministry Team will be creating **SLIME KITS FOR LEVINE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**. All supplies will be provided thanks to a Thrivent Action Team card. Participants will assemble a zip lock bag with what is needed so the children at the hospital can make the individuals slime themselves. Meet them in the FLC Gym after the UNIFIED service.
2. **RICE ROAD CLEANUP** is Saturday, Sept 6 and everyone is invited to help make our part of Matthews look beautiful. We meet on the patio at 9 a.m. to get our visibility vest, bags and grabbers. It takes about an hour and makes a huge difference!
3. The Property Mission Team, the Youth Mission Team, and Lutheran Men in Mission are organizing a church-wide effort to support **ROOF ABOVE MENS SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE**. Morning Star’s LMIM have been supporting the shelter for over 30 years. Please donate personal care kit items, including toothpaste, wash cloths, 3-1 body wash, and deodorant.

The clothing needs are NEW colored tee shirts, and NEW boxer briefs.

The group already took some personal care kits to the shelter on their monthly service night, but still need the items listed above. Please place items on the tables in the Narthex by September 7. On September 7, the congregation is invited to the FLC Gym after the UNIFIED service to assemble the care kits and write personal notes of encouragement to be included.

4. The Worship & Music Team will be **POLISHING HANDBELLS** on Saturday, September 6 at 10 a.m. in the Bell Rehearsal Room. All are welcome to help!

“God’s Work, Our Hands.” is a service effort throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is an opportunity to demonstrate we are one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbors. As Lutherans, one of our most basic beliefs is that every act of service - in every day and in every corner of life - flows freely from a living confidence in God’s grace.

