

# The Guided Light

Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

January 2019

## 2021 29<sup>th</sup> Street North, Texas City, TX 77590

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Facebook Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian Churches

**Mission: "Growing the faith, connecting with the lost,  
and helping those in need as we share God's Word  
through education, sacraments, worship,  
praise, and fellowship"**

## Happenings...

### Every Sunday

Sunday School for All 9:15

Worship Service 10:15

Faithful Metrics Exploring 11:15

### Every Tuesday

Busy Bunch: 9-12:00

### Every Wednesday

Choir Practice 5:30

Youth Group 6:30

### Every Thursday

Men/Women Bible Study 10:00

### January 1

New Year's Day

### January 6

Epiphany of Our Lord

### January 6

C.O.H.

### January 8 & 22

Faithful Metrics 5:00

### January 12

Facial Blessing 10-12

### January 13

Baptism of Our Lord

FPC Congregational Mtg, 11:15

### January 17

MLCW Board Meeting 6:00

### January 19

Chili Cook Off 10-3

### January 21

MLC Council Meeting 6:00

### January 27

MLC Annual Congregational Mtg 11:15

### January 28

Bunko 6:30





## Kari's Corner

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Luke 2

Now that Jesus has come, we know God stands with us in every season of our lives. We know because Jesus lived life just as we do. He was not a celestial visitor who just dropped in for a casual visit. He was a human being who worked long and hard, faced temptation, knew joy and sorrow.

Now that Jesus has come, we know we are not alone when we face the terrors of our existence – loneliness, pain, and death. We know because Jesus faced each of them in turn and suffered the full measure of their power.

Now that Jesus has come, we know that nothing the future holds can overcome the love God has for us. We know because God raised Jesus from the tomb, and through him gives us the promise of eternal life.

It does matter that he has come. For people of faith, the future is the same unknown quantity as it is to people with no faith. Bright Sunday afternoons lengthening into dark, cold Sunday evenings may still trigger a remembrance of childhood fears.

But there is something else. It is the assurance that God holds the future in loving, powerful hands. It is the assurance that victory over all that threatens us – a victory begun in Jesus Christ – will be completed in God's own good time.

This is the gift God offers us, a gift that is possible only now that he, the Holy Child, has come. Come! Welcome him! -Pastor Liz

**Sunday Worship: 10:15am**

**Education Hour for all ages: 9:15**

Merry Christmas! God is with us, always in unexpected people and places, but indeed God is with us in the crazy world, working to reconcile and redeem it! As we move into the season of Epiphany, the season of light and the manifestation of God to the whole world, we at Memorial and First will celebrate God's light and love in our congregation history and in our own faith stories. The **Faithful Metrics** team has been praying, preparing and planning throughout Advent to celebrate the Epiphanies of God's presence in and through this congregation.

Many of you have been wondering what is **Faithful Metrics** and what has the team been up to? Arthur Lowe, Shirley Kirk, Karen Bernhardt, Mike Allison, and Alexis Jacobs and I meet every two weeks to explore how God formed leaders and communities that shared God's light and love in the bible, how God has and continues to form leaders and this faith community to share God's light and love, and where God is working reconciliation, liberation, and redemption in Texas City and Galveston County. Together we are stepping outside the hustle and bustle of church and everyday life to take a balcony view of how we do life together as a faith community and to ask whether we are fully allowing God to use us as individuals and a faith community to share God's light and love to fulfill God's mission of reconciliation, liberation, and redemption. In January, we ask all of you to join us in prayer and exploration.

**Prayer/Reflection/Action: Pray for the Faithful Metrics Team and our Congregation-wide Exploration. Discern whether God is calling you to join the team. Plan on joining the congregation activities during the fellowship hour in January & February.**

Join us for an exploration of God's light and love in our congregation history and in our own faith stories following worship during the fellowship hour....

**January 6th:** Exploring the History of Memorial & First with a Congregation Timeline

**January 13th:** Discussion: God is Faithful! Where We've Been...

**January 20th:** Explore Your Personal Faith Story

- January 27th:** Annual Congregation Meeting
- February 3rd:** Share Faith Stories
- February 10th:** Exploring Spiritual Gifts & Take a Congregation Survey
- February 17th:** Continue Exploring Spiritual Gifts & Take a Congregation Survey
- February 24th:** Congregation Values Exercise

On a personal note, my journey toward ordination continues as I finished my fall class and look toward the last two classes of my seminary journey this winter and spring. Additionally, I will be preparing material this winter for my ELCA Candidacy Approval panel that will meet at the end of March. Please join me in prayer and joyful anticipation as I work toward these final steps.

In the hope and peace of Christ,

Kari Niedermaier  
Pastor Intern



**Thank You!**

A very special Thank You to everyone for the cards, gifts and wonderful seasonal greetings during the Christmas Season. We thank you too for the special Christmas monetary gift from Memorial and First. What a surprise on Christmas Eve! Your generosity and graciousness are overwhelming. We feel so blessed to be serving with you in ministry. Know that you are always in our prayers. *Pastor Liz and Intern Kari*



**JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

December 27, 2018

Dear Members of Memorial Lutheran Church,

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 immediately following the 10:15 a.m. church service.

This is an important meeting to vote on the church budget and church council members. You are an important part of the church and the church council hopes you will attend.

If you have anything to add to the agenda, please contact Joyce Palmer by Sunday January 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please contact one of your council members. We are here to serve you.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| President           | Arvin Holland       |
| Vice President      | Joyce Palmer        |
| Secretary           | Janine Luke         |
| Treasurer           | Barbara Silvertooth |
| Administration      | Karen Bernhardt     |
| Education           | Rick Dickson        |
| Fellowship          | Peggy Dietel        |
| Outreach            | Mary Snarr          |
| Property/Long Range | Phillip Welch       |
| Stewardship         | Don Pollock         |
| Worship             | Sue Edrozo          |
| Youth               | Danny Schoppe       |

Looking forward to seeing you at morning worship every Sunday!



**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**



## Memorial Lutheran Annual Congregational Meeting

***Sunday, January 27, 2019, immediately  
following worship service.***

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### **Are You Interested in Serving on Memorial's Church Council?**

If so, please contact Woody Silvertooth or Cindy Totty. The Council has four open positions. The council meets at 6:00 pm on the third Monday of each month. Serving on the Council is a very important part of the church. Prayerfully consider serving. Election of the officers and council members will be at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2019 following the church service. Thank you.



## First Presbyterian Congregational Meeting

***Sunday, January 13, 2019, immediately  
following worship service.***



Please help us update your contact information and communication preferences! Look for your Family Communication Card Sunday January 6th or 13th in the narthex. Review and update all your information and communication preferences. Just drop it in the communication basket (also in the narthex) so that we can distribute the 2019 Memorial & First Directory in early February.

**New members, please make sure we have your information!!**



### **In Our Prayers...**

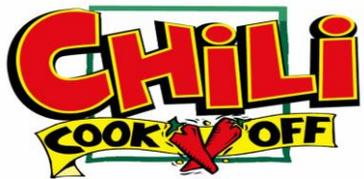
- Donna Allison
- Fred & Wanda Applegath
- Joyce Beard
- Catherine Brown
- Bev Churchwell
- Imogene Christian
- Paula Dickson
- Linda Duncan
- Kathryn Franks
- Mary Guajardo
- Evelyn Jolly
- Dave Palmer
- David Robinson
- Woody Silvertooth
- Lorraine Stubblefield
- Martha Welch
- Kristy Bogus
- Barbara Bradford
- Mary Bradford
- Shirley Cato
- Carolina Diaz
- Beth Eslinger
- Ben Gayle
- Barbara Heckendorn
- Maryem Holt
- Erica James
- Steven King
- John Lawrence
- Shirley Long
- Molly Matthewson
- Danny Meyer
- Alice Metcalf
- Noah Morris
- Madeline Pitts
- Merle Stephens
- James Thompson

#### **Military:**

- Isaac Christman
- Alexis Copeland
- Marshal Fundling
- Georgie Rodriquez, Jr.
- Peri Schoppe

#### **In the world:**

- Pray for the future of Memorial Lutheran and for 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian as we both continue to discern God's will for us.



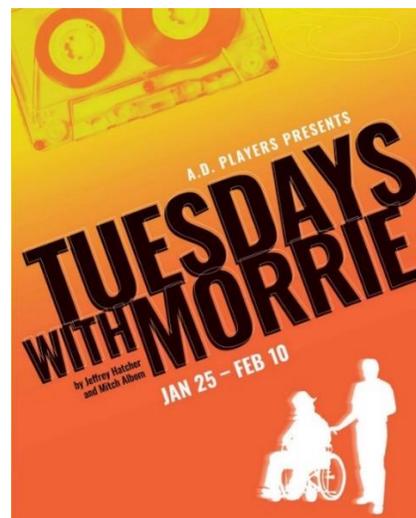
Please get your recipes ready for the Women's 3rd Annual Chili Cook Off, scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, here at Memorial Lutheran Church. Check in time for contestants is 10:00 am. Entry fee is \$10 per team. Please find entry forms and more information in the Narthex. Turn in time will be 1:00 pm and everyone is invited to join in the chili eating after the contest. Family Fun and lots of COMPETITION! Anyone interested in judging, please see Sylvia Jewell. Thank you.



UFA Monthly Collection Items: Since food stamps can't be used to buy non-food items, the United Faith Alliance is asking churches to collect non-food items on a rotating basis. **Baby Products (wipes, baby powder, baby lotions) have been designated for the January collection.** Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the church narthex.



Ladies, join us for pampering and fun on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12 noon. Julie Turner will host a Mary Kay benefit in the fellowship hall. For a \$10 donation to the Mary Kay Foundation you will receive a facial. Registration and payment are encouraged ahead of time. Come join the fun, registration forms are in the Narthex. For information see Sylvia Jewell or Julie Turner.



**Larry Edrozo is getting a group together to attend the February 10<sup>th</sup> matinee. Cost about \$35-\$40 per person. If interested in going, please sign up by January 6<sup>th</sup>.**



**Gwen Schroeder**, long time member of Memorial Lutheran Church, passed away on December 20, 2018 in Plano, Texas. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 26 at 3 pm. Ted Dickey West Funeral Home is in charge of the service. Please keep the Schroeder Family in your prayers

Ted Dickey West Funeral Home,  
7990 President George Bush Turnpike  
Dallas, Texas  
972-407-6070.

**Rudy Halvorsen**, beloved member of MLC, passed away on December 29, at his home. A visitation will be held from 4-7:00 pm on January 1<sup>st</sup> at Crowder Funeral Home in La Marque. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 am at Memorial Lutheran Church In Texas City.



## Service Reminders for January

### Lay Assistant:

January 6: Doug Caldwell  
 January 13: Carol Rhodes  
 January 20: Kaleb Jacobs  
 January 27: Mike Allison

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Communion Assistant:

January 6: Joyce Palmer  
 January 13: Arthur Lowe  
 January 20: Lindsay Hood  
 January 27: Kim Kaiser

### Ushers for the Month:

Cheryl Rose, Mary Snarr,  
 James Froebel, Rocky Schaper

### Sound System for the Month:

John Hackbarth, Larry Edrozo,  
 Lloyd Jewell

### Computer Tech:

January 6: Shirley Kirk  
 January 13: Paula Smith  
 January 20: Janine Luke  
 January 27: Kaleb Jacobs

### Altar Guild for the Month:

Shirley Kirk & Bev Churchwell

### Children's Talk:

January 6: Joyce Palmer  
 January 13: Peggy Armstrong  
 January 20: Lindsay Hood  
 January 27: Carol Rhodes

### Tellers for the Month:

Billie Hansley, Kim Hall,  
 Cindy Totty, Paula Smith

### Cookies & Cleanup:

January 6: Sylvia Jewell & Velma Bage  
 January 13: Arthur Lowe & Peggy Dietel  
 January 20: Frances Fundling & Carmen Pollock  
 January 27: Tilli Herrera & Paula Smith

**Helping Hands:** Frances Fundling & Violet Lowe

**Good Cheer Committee:** Tilli Herrera

**Coffee Cup Outreach:** Elaine Lewton



January 18: R.H. & Wacille Sanders  
 January 29: Tim & Debbie Healy



January 2: Vicki Heath  
 January 9: Lorraine Stubblefield  
 January 14: Jose Garcia  
 January 16: Sophia Hander  
 January 17: Billie Hansley  
 January 18: Taylor Clausen  
 January 19: Tyler Hood  
 January 26: Kristian Dietel  
 January 27: Gary Bage  
 January 31: Arvin Holland  
 January 31: Mary Snarr



*Deadline for February news submissions is  
 Tuesday, January 29th*



*Committee is looking for volunteers for 2019. This committee serves a meal for bereaved families. If you served in the past or want to serve as a new member, please let Elaine Lewton know. Thank you.*

## **Memorial & First Communion Retreat**

Do you have children or grandchildren who have yet to receive Communion instruction?

Could you use a refresher on the promises and blessings of the Holy Meal?

**Join us for a Communion Retreat for all ages!**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 am-1 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall**

We will explore the many rich promises and blessings offered when the Body of Christ, the church, is formed and sustained by sharing and receiving the Body of Christ, God's abundance in Holy Communion. We will also make bread and decorate chalices. Light snacks will be provided.

We will do a Communion Celebration for all participants during worship on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## JANUARY COUNCIL CORNER

- The Congregational Meeting was set for January 27<sup>th</sup> immediately following the worship.
- All committee reports, pastor reports and congregational president reports are due into the church office by January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- A Job Description was accepted for the new combined Council position of Education/Youth Committee

### Inquiring Minds Want to Know

*Welcome to a new article for the newsletter. Here questions will be answered as they are put forth to either Pastor Liz or Intern Kari. We look forward to your questions and encourage you to submit them to us either directly or through the church office.*

#### **Question: Why do we have Holy Communion every Sunday?**

The Bible never tells us exactly how often to have communion. Of course, the Bible never tells us how often to have church services either. And the Bible never tells us how often to receive absolution. The Bible never says at exactly what age to baptize children.

There is a reason for this.

You can't place laws and rules upon the gifts of the gospel. God tells us that we are saved in our baptism, in the Gospel and the Lord's Supper. He never tells us how often to hear his word. He just figures that we will hear it as often as we can. He does not place rules on how often we should be absolved of our sins. He figures that we will take the forgiveness as often as we can. He simply forgives us through the gospel all the time. He never tells us how soon to baptize our babies. He just tells us how much they need it and what a blessing we have in Baptism. He figures we will baptize as early as possible.

So also, with Holy Communion. Jesus never tells us to receive it daily, weekly, monthly, yearly or once in your life. We are simply told how much we need it and how great it is, and He figures we will act accordingly. Then He tells us to do it often. He figures we will receive the Lord's Supper as often as we can.

Through Holy Communion God gives us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through the body and blood of Jesus. We need and want these blessings all the time. So, the question should not be, "How often should we take communion?" Rather we should ask, "How often do we get to receive communion."

In the Scriptures, in the practice of the early church, at the time of the Reformation, in the Lutheran Confessions, and until quite recently the answer has always been, "We give the Lord's Supper at every Sunday Service." (It has only been here in the USA due to outside influences that Communion has been limited to less than every Sunday)

Within Lutheranism and Presbyterianism in America the frequency of communion has gradually increased over the last half century. Many life-long Lutherans born in the 20s or 30s can remember when communion was offered quarterly. By the sixties and seventies most Lutheran Churches celebrated the Supper at least monthly. Today almost all churches offer the Sacrament every Sunday.

Memorial Lutheran at one time offered Communion every Sunday until the Church was without a full-time Pastor. Relying on supply Pastors, Communion was limited to the Sundays when a Pastor was available. Now that Memorial/First has an ordained Pastor available and Kari has received permission/authority from the Bishop to preside over the sacrament, Communion can once again be offered every Sunday.

Should the churches of Christ celebrate the Sacrament every Sunday? The Bible teaches it. The confessions of our church require it. The Gospel expects it. The history of the church shows it. The liturgy demands it. Our children need it. Our faith thrives on it. Our heritage gives it. Our God provides it. Come. Taste and see that the Lord is Good.