Milwaukie Lutheran Church

Highlights

November 2026

Worship Announcements

- **MLC Adult Education:** Our new topic for Adult Sunday School is the Crusades! We are looking at the social, political, and religious threads that lead to one of the most violent periods of Christian history, as well as the consequences, both historical and current.

- **Sunday School:** Join Jamie and Max at 9:30am on Sundays for a study on the lessons for the day as well as a fun craft project to help understand the story.

- **Blessing of the Quilts:** On Sunday, November 22, we will be celebrating our Piecemakers ministry by blessing all the quilts that they have made in the year prior. That morning, we will also have a special Adult Education presentation on the history of our Piecemakers ministry.

- **Midweek Advent Opportunity for Women:** Advent is a time for waiting and expecting, but so often it is a time of busyness and is sometimes overwhelming – especially for women.
  As part of our Advent season here at MLC, we will offer a time for women to gather to discuss and share our insights from Advent Unhurried by Micha Boyett. From the book jacket we read, “though the witness of Mary, who models what it means to say yes to love even when faith is hard to come by…(the devotional) invites us to slow down, make space for wonder, and find a more contemplative path toward Christmas.” We will meet in the church library from 10-11:30 a.m. on the Wednesdays of Advent – December 2, 9, 16, and 23 – before our Advent worship services.
  If you are interested in being part of this gathering, please let Sheryl Ann know. Her cell number is 503-421-5230 or email at rswaage@myctl.net.
  Twelve (12) devotionals have been purchased and will be available after worship on Sundays (and we can always order more!)

Community Announcements

- **Leaf Raking, December 5, 8:30am:** We will be raking leaves around the church on Saturday morning, December 5 at 8:30 a.m. It's a lot of fun and we would love to see you there. Please bring a rake and/or leaf blower. Our sponsored Scout troop, Troop 259, will be there to help out.

- **Rowe Middle School:** Rowe needs backpacks. Neutral colors, black, grey, and navy blue are great, but any backpack new or gently used would be appreciated. Donations may be put in the tubbie under the pew in the gathering place.

- **MLC Book Club:** November's reading choice is *Mona's Eyes*, by Thomas Schlesser. There will be no December meeting; we will resume in January, to select a reading list for the new year! The book club meets on the last Tuesday of each month, 12:00pm, in the church library.

- **Lectionary Study:** A weekly study where we look at the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. We meet at 10:00am every Tuesday at Shirley Meyer's house: 14075 SE Hines Dr., Clackamas, OR 97015.

- **Clackamas Service Center:** The Clackamas Service Center is in need of gently worn clothing and household goods - towels of all sizes, adult sneakers, sturdy shoes, t-shirts, and shorts are in high demand right now. Lightweight jackets and sweatshirts are also greatly appreciated. Please leave your donation on the pew in the Gathering Area, or place underneath inside the bin. Thank you for thinking of others!

- **80th Anniversary Merch!:** The merch store will continue to be open for the foreseeable future. Follow this link: https://www.bonfire.com/mlcs-80th-anniversary-shop/



Pastor's Letter

Milwaukie Lutheran Church Community-

Blessings and peace to you all. I'm interrupting my new series of monthly letters highlighting different aspects of the life and ministry of our MLC Community to talk about some significant changes happening in our church office.

Josef Meyer has served over two years at MLC as the office administrator. He came here in the fall of 2024 and has been producing bulletins and answering your phone calls ever since. Notably, Joe has taken great care in beautifying our space, creating a rotation of artwork on our walls, including information on each piece displayed. Additionally, he pursued training and certification as a public notary, and has offered those services to many of our members. Personally, I enjoyed "shooting the breeze" with Joe, although I think I often distracted him from his work. I will miss our conversations on the world and politics and sharing TV and movie references. Joe's last day is Friday, November 6. Godspeed and blessings to him.

The reason Joe is leaving MLC is that we have hired a new Parish Administrator with expanded duties which will replace the Office Administrator role that Joe occupied. This summer our council formed an exploratory committee to discern how to meet the growing needs of our congregation. Specifically, we have an increasing amount of building administration and support that needs to be done as a result of the expanding usage of our space. The exploratory committee, after research and deliberation, determined that the best path forward was to merge several different responsibilities into one job description, which will be the Parish Administrator.

(Pastor's Letter, cont.)

The Parish Administrator's responsibilities will include Office Administration (office hours, phones, bulletins, etc.), Building Administration (use contracts, building maintenance and management, security management), and a grab bag of other duties including communications/media and some payroll/bookkeeping. The job description is a big one, and I and the leadership council are aware that the position may need to evolve as we adjust

expectations and duties based on how things go. This Parish Administrator will be salaried at 30 hours per week, which will include at least one Sunday a month

as well as attendance at council meetings. Office hours will be expanded significantly as well, from the current 12 hours per week to around 20-25.

These past couple of months have been very busy with the council approving the recommendation of the exploratory committee, and then subsequently forming a hiring team to seek out a candidate. This past month the hiring team listed the final job description and vetted candidates, finally interviewing three. The team unanimously settled on one candidate, and we are pleased to announce that Amy Harshfield has accepted the position as Parish

Administrator at Milwaukie Lutheran. Amy is a mother of two, and a former member of St. Paul Lutheran Church until their recent closure. Amy served at St. Paul as a Building Coordinator, and has significant previous experience as a Case Manager and Coordinator in Senior and Family Care. Her start date is Wednesday, November 18. I am looking forward to working with Amy in this new and expanded role.

Note that there will be a gap of about two weeks where there will be no one in the office. As such, the office will effectively closed during that time. Bulletins will still be printed and produced, and I will be returning calls and voice mails and emails that come to the church, but please be patient as communication will be temporarily interrupted. (Jeez, I sound like I'm working for PGE or something).

Anyhow, thank you to all of you for your time and your patience during this transition. I want to extend a gigantic thank you to Laura Schroeder, who used her office staff to facilitate the hiring process. Additionally, thank you to Sheryl Ann Waage and Scott Stauffer who both served on the hiring team.

Blessings to all of you,
Pastor Jesse Christopherson

