

Madison Christian Community

Advent Lutheran Church

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An Ecumenical Partnership

Community of Hope, UCC

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Greetings MCC families,

In nature, autumn brings changes which symbolize an ending of growth before winter.

At the MCC, this is our time of renewal. We will be **calling attention to our blessings** this season.

Each year we faithfully examine our relationship with the MCC in how we plan to give to the MCC spiritually and financially. We challenge ourselves to grow personally, grow the relationships we share here, and benefit our community and beyond.

Our renewal this fall includes some traditions (such as cottage meeting discussions) and also introduces new processes, such as using the online volunteer system to indicate your Time and Talent commitments.

We invite you to join us as we **call attention to the blessings** that we enjoy at the MCC and beyond.

Spiritually

As people of God, we are inspired and guided to carry the Spirit inwardly and outwardly. Whatever we think becomes what we believe. It becomes our reality and is the basis for our hopes, fears, and choices. Calling attention to our blessings is part of the nourishing process that enables our lives to bear fruit for God's goodness in the world.

The Spirit is like water, fluid, soft, and yielding. It overcomes what is rigid and hard.

Thus we are able to live by the fruits of the Spirit:

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

– Galatians 5:22.

New This Year!

- Information materials on website, including Time and Talent info booklet
- Time and Talent selections will be done in the existing online volunteer system, with plenty of assistance available
- This means better stewardship for printing, paper, postage, and staff time!

Important Dates

- 10/1, 10/15, & 11/5 - stewardship reflection moments in worship
- Mondays & Fridays - Sharing Blessings brief email reflections
- 10/14, 10/22, 10/25, 11/5 - Cottage meetings and a multi-generational art activity (sign up in Shalom Room or contact the church office)
- 11/12 - Pledges received in worship

Financially

The 2018 budgeting process is getting underway and your financial support shapes what the MCC can expect to do next year.

Our Staff & Building: To continue in 2018 and maintain the ministry that was budgeted in 2017, overall we expect expenses to increase approximately 2 or 3%, given adjustments in staff and utility costs. This continues striving to fairly compensate our vibrant and hardworking staff and also begins to account for the needs of being a sanctuary congregation, with initial expected expenses of around \$3000 (0.5% of the 2017 budget). Other upcoming projects may include making the Shalom Room more welcoming.

Programs, Outreach, & Communications: We have been fortunate to have growing Sunday School classes and a large new group of Confirmation students, and in 2018 there will be a youth service and encounter trip to Guatemala. Technological resources continue to ease and expand our opportunities, like the online volunteer scheduling tool, and the movement toward more and better electronic communications, including the process for a brand new church website.

Background Information

For more information on the general shape and purpose of our congregation's budget, please refer to the Narrative Budget sheet that was included in the annual report and is available at church and will be posted on the stewardship page of the website. That webpage will have digital copies of all of this year's materials, including instructions on how to update your preferences online for Time & Talent.

We are blessed with so many gifts at the MCC. And all of us bring our energy, talents and support to make our sacred space transformative and enrich our common lives. Please stay tuned to www.madisonchristiancommunity.org and announcements in the Shalom Room for opportunities to engage in **calling attention to our blessings!**

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committees of Advent Lutheran and Community of Hope

Martha Frey, Edd Hellmer, Natalie Hellmer, Ken Johnson, Max Koch, Lois Komai,
Carol McDonald, Bonnie Spindler, Pastor Sonja Ingebritsen, and Pastor Nick Utphall



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