

About this season of Interim Pastoral ministry

For the next 12-18 months, our Interim Pastor Jeff MacLurg will do the 'usual pastoral ministries' such as preaching, staff oversight, visitation, training, planning, weddings, memorials, and more. However, a key part of his ministry will be to lead us through a 5-Step process designed to strengthen Maranatha's effectiveness in preparation for our next Senior Pastor.



1. CONNECT WITH PEOPLE:

Jeff will conduct 'listening interviews' with many of Maranatha's people to discern key issues that may need addressing. Please be willing to share your thoughts when contacted for an interview.

2. ASSESS CHURCH HEALTH:

A Transition Team will use various tools and activities to get a clear, up-to-date picture of Maranatha and surrounding community, and to celebrate what God has done in and through the church.

3. FACILITATE ACTION:

The church will determine the most appropriate steps to deal with issues that may be hindering fruitful ministry.

4. LEAD STRATEGIC PLANNING:

The church leadership team works to clarify or develop our biblical mission and a compelling vision, discover our core values, and craft a strategy to put them into effective ministry.

5. COACH PASTOR SEARCH:

When the church has achieved sufficient health, unity and vision clarity, the Interim Pastor can be a key resource in the search for our next Senior Pastor.


MARANATHA
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
3340 S MAIN STREET, RICE LAKE, WI 54868 • 715-234-8313

11/30/2025

Advent Surprised at Christmas: They Didn't Get it

WELCOME TO MARANATHA

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Worship Service

Join us for worship at 9:00 AM. Families are welcome, and enjoy coffee fellowship immediately following service in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15AM

Children's, Youth & Adult Sunday School

10:45AM—11:45AM

Nursery

Available for children 2 and under in the south hallway. We also have a pre-school area for children in the Conference Room

Children's Activity Kits

Available on the table on the south wall in the lobby.

Tithes & Offerings

Give through the offering box located between the sanctuary doors or use the QR code for easy, online giving. Envelopes are available.

Connect with Us: Fill out a CONNECT CARD and drop it in the offering box or at the Welcome Desk.

GIVE HERE



FOR CALENDAR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT MARANATHAFREE.COM/EVENTS

OUR VISION: To reach *all* generations for Christ

OUR MISSION: According to God's Word, we proclaim the *joy of salvation* in Christ to people in need and encourage His followers in their devotion to Him.

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Founded on Christ
- Grounded in Scripture
- Powered by Prayer
- Committed to Evangelism
- Responding in Worship
- Intentional in Discipleship
- Characterized by Love

Opportunities to Participate:

- **Christmas Program:** Happening Sunday, December 14th at 9:00 AM. There will not be Sunday School.
- **Women's Christmas Tea:** Saturday, December 6th | 9:00-11:00 AM. *Specialty coffee served from 8:30-9:00 AM only.* Come enjoy a time of fellowship and delicious "tea" foods. Bring your favorite cup or wear a festive tea hat if you have one. Speaker: Joan MacLurg. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.
- **Pastor's Listening Interviews:** Pastor Jeff would like to meet with individuals and couples to listen, learn, and understand your thoughts about Maranatha. These 40-minute conversations can take place in your home or at the church. Please contact the office to schedule a time.
- **New Adult Sunday School:** class begins TODAY to learn about the Muslim worldview and apologetics led by Otieno Oduor.
- **New Auburn Community Choir:** will be performing "One Silent Night" at Maranatha on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 PM
- **Christmas Eve Service:** we will have one service at 4:30 PM

HAPPENING TOMORROW AND TUESDAY:

CHRISTMAS DECORATING



Can you help hang lights, garland, or ornaments?
There are two opportunities to get Maranatha
ready for Christmas! Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Surprised at Christmas: They Didn't Get it

Message #1 of 5 of *Surprised at Christmas*
Pastor Jeff MacLurg, November 30, 2025

People in Trouble (Isaiah 9:6-17)

Isaiah's Sermon High Points

- A Child
- A Son
- His Name
- His Greatness
- On David's throne
- King of an unending Kingdom

God's message: *God is sending you*_____!

Judea heard: God is sending us a _____!
Isaiah 9:9-13

Why they didn't get it: Spiritually_____.

A Girl in Turmoil (Luke 1:26-33)

Gabriel's Sermon High Points

God's message: *God is sending you*_____!

Mary heard: God is making me a _____!

Why she didn't get it: Personally_____.

A Leader in Tension (John 18:33-46)

Jesus' message: *I was born to bring*_____.

Pilate's concern: I can't afford to _____.

Why he didn't get it: Fearful _____.

A Teacher in Transition (1 Timothy 1:12-14; Philippians 3:4-6; 2 Corinthians 8-9)

Why Paul didn't get it: His religious _____.

When he finally got it: Jesus is God's _____.

A Learner in Testing