

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JULY 27, 2008

12 Noon Potluck / 1 PM Meeting

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best...” Philippians 1:9

*Gathering Song

Call to Order Stanley Dodson, Council President

Devotion Pastor Tomberlin

Attendance Check Susan Brodd, Council Vice President

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from July 2007 Annual Meeting

New Business

Call for Congregation Council Nominees Stanley Dodson, Council President

Introduction & Affirmation of
Congregation Council Nominees Stanley Dodson, Council President

Congregation's Call to Discipleship
Pastor Jeff Tomberlin, Senior Pastor
Pastor Jerome Pribbenow, Associate Pastor

Child Life Ministries Report Becca Zietz

Natural Church Development Report Dean Pribbenow

Special Properties Appeal Report Jerry Hrovat

Director of Family Ministry Meg Nielsen

Youth Ministries Coordinator Report Bonnie Duerst

Personnel Report Angela Schwartz

Treasurer's Report Jane Blank

Approval of the MLC Mission & Ministry Plan for 2008-2009 (budget) Jane Blank, Treasurer

Proposal to amend the Bylaws (these changes recognize the fact that the annual meeting is now in July rather than January). Sheri Gehrke, Council Member

SECTION IV-THE ANNUAL MEETING the first section to read: 1.The annual meeting shall be the fourth Sunday of July. If the annual meeting is canceled due to unforeseen circumstance, the annual meeting will be held one week later if possible.

SECTION VI- NOMINATION COMMITTEE the second section to read 2. The initial nomination committee meeting shall be not less than three months prior to the annual meeting. Nominees' names shall be presented to the church council at the June meeting if known.

SECTION VII- REPORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS. All committees and organizations handling funds within the congregation shall submit accounts to the treasurer or church office by May 30.

Closing Prayer Pastor Tomberlin

*Sending Song

*Please stand if able.

President's Report

It was a great honor, a blessing, and a learning experience to serve as president of the Church Council over the past year. I made it through the year only with the most able assistance of the Executive Committee, the Council members, the chairs of our several committees, the invaluable assistance of the office staff, led by Rita Jenkins, and regular prayer.

The Church Council is responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation. We were feeling confident at the beginning of the year, looking forward to having a "balanced budget" for the first time in years. We felt even more confident when we were able to buy new parts for the heating system components that failed early in the winter, and still be within our budget. However, when the roof began leaking we realized it was going to be a more challenging year than we had anticipated. The pastoral staff, led by Pastor Jeff, and the custodial staff, led by Rita Bussian, continued to meet emergency after emergency, while the office staff worked in a deteriorating environment, and everyone scrambled to find a solution. The Council charged the Executive Committee to find short and long term solutions to the various properties issues. After lots of discussion and information gathering, the Executive Committee presented the plans to the Council, which approved them, and we called a special congregational meeting to seek approval of a request for special requests to pay for the new roof, an accelerated mortgage payment schedule, and a properties fund in anticipation of additional repairs to the physical plant. The requests were approved, and you have seen the results of the appeal effort spearheaded by Kevin Strattan -- a generous response by the congregation.

At the 2007 annual congregation meeting, the congregation "*directed the new church council to study the results of the recent survey and make recommendations within six months*". In response to this charge, we quickly completed a time-and-talents survey and invited increased participation in several lay ministries. For example, Pastor Jeff trained several Befrienders for hospital visitation. At the annual council retreat, we elected to participate in the Natural Church Development program. This program provides a systematic way of collecting information about the health of the church; information that will be used in planning for the future growth and health of our church.

The 2007 survey identified a desire for improved communications within the MLC community. To this end, the Council made a special effort to get the meeting minutes approved and distributed in a timely manner in the newsletter. Thanks are particularly due to Angela Schwartz, the Council Secretary. Pastor Jeff and Dennis Knutson have worked tirelessly to update our church web site.

This year we have explored running the Council meetings in a business-like manner, by preparing an agenda ahead of time, separating reports from action items, making sure all members had a voice, and keeping discussions on track. We experimented with not having treats in the middle of the meeting, which may have contributed to shorter, more focused meetings, but which also cut down on fellowship opportunities. However, we seemed to have lots of fellowship, and we are all blessed by the many deeper relationships that have grown up over the last year.

In Christ's name,
Stanley Dodson, President of the Church Council

McFarland Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report July 27, 2008

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth..." Matthew 6:19

Thank-you to all of you who have shared your gifts of time, gifts of prayer, gifts of talents, and gifts of treasure. All of the ministries of McFarland Lutheran Church could not exist without these special gifts.

Last July, we passed a deficit free budget. We were able to do so without causing significant impacts to current ministries. As our year progressed, we faced a financial challenge as a result of the weather and a failing roof. Despite this challenge, we are still able to propose to you, a deficit free budget. We projected our giving based on current giving trends. We then projected our expenses based on spending trends and with some anticipated increased expenses. All of this was done with an underlying objective of maintaining a balanced budget and of sustaining our current ministries.

Overall, our 2007/08 offerings totaled \$606,919; 3% short of what we had budgeted. Our 2007/08 expenses totaled \$679,668; 4% less than what we had budgeted. So, although giving was less than anticipated, we limited our spending to continue towards our goal of balanced budgets.

The winter weather not only impacted the attendance and giving, it also contributed to the failure of two of our roofs. Our insurance carrier ruled that our roof failures were not a direct result of the weather. Consequently, we were held financially responsible for the repairs. Our 2007/08 approved budget was unable to support the significance of that expense which resulted in a Special Congregation Meeting. At the March meeting, we voted to commit to a fund raising plan, above and beyond our regular giving commitments. We shared enough to pay each of the 3 installments of the anticipated roof repair expense without ever having to draw on the McFarland State Bank Loan!!

Twice this past year, McFarland State Bank re-financed our mortgage. The current interest rate is now 5.45%. This is a monthly payment reduction of \$160 (\$1,681 to \$1,521). Our Building Fund gifts continue to be applied towards the principal balance of the mortgage. Additionally, as soon as we pay our final payment for all roofing and roof related repairs, our special fund raising efforts will be put towards the principal of the mortgage.

I am pleased to report that throughout our financial challenges, we continued to fully support our benevolences. We shared over \$61,000/10% of our treasures through our budgeted benevolences. We will continue to tithe (10%) our envelope income towards budgeted benevolences.

Despite the challenges faced by the Child Life Ministries (CLM), as a result of the roof issues, we continue to provide an exemplary Christian environment for our children to spend the majority of their weekly hours. We will be supporting the continued growth of CLM with a proposed budget of \$426,222.

Our church staff also was challenged with the roof issues. Yet, despite these CLM shared challenges of moving offices, the regular placement of tarps to protect work space and smelling of odors, they persevered without an impact to the ministries of our church. Many church member volunteers have shared their time and talents to ease the church workload. The combined proposed Church Personnel and Office budgets total \$455,912. The only increase from last year to this budget proposal is an increased cost of health insurance.

Overall, the various ministries available at McFarland Lutheran Church will be minimally impacted by the 2008-09 proposed budget.

	2007/08 Budget	2008/09 Proposed Budget
Youth	\$14,310	\$11,310
Worship	\$12,450	\$12,450
Social Ministries	\$25,379	\$26,710
Evangelism	\$4,300	\$2,100
Fellowship	\$7,250	\$5,300
Education	\$11,530	\$9,300
Congregational	\$1,100	\$600
Stewardship	\$4,100	\$3,850
	\$80,419	\$71,620

Thank-you for all you do and share here at McFarland Lutheran Church (MLC). MLC is our “other” family. As we struggle during this economic downswing, let us not forget about supporting our “other” family as well. Without family, our lives would not be the same.

Your sister in Christ,

Jane Blank

**MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2007**

Opening:

Council President, Jim Summers, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin led with a devotional prayer.

Susan Brodd, Council Vice President, verified the attendance and indicated that the required quorum was met.

Old Business:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting held on July 23, 2006. The motion was carried.

New Business:

Jim Summers announced the current nominees for the MLC Church Council. They are Linda Langel, Dick Moen and Jerry Hrovat. The second female nomination is pending.

Christine Pribbenow announced the nominees for the Child Life Ministries (CLM) Board. They are Amy Lawrence, Susan Heckel and Stephanie Martino.

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin Report:

Pastor Jeff refers to his report on page 12 of the Annual Report.

This past year was filled with many difficult times, joy for some, change, sorrow and struggle, sickness, tragedy and death. There were many difficult issues presented to the Church Council and the congregation. God lead us through all of these and we were comforted by one another. Thanks be to all at MLC, the Church Council, Executive Council and the CLM Board who especially worked well together to resolve some difficult issues.

- This past year also provided new opportunities for Pastor Jeff who joined the Board of Directors for the Skaalen Retirement Services.
- Pastor Jeff acknowledged our privilege to be part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Through this organization we are able to support one another and accomplish great things.
- Gratitude was expressed for the attendance and input by the congregation at the many listening sessions.
- MLC financial struggle was prominent. God provided for us and brought forth generosity.
- Pastor Terry's retirement prompted a joint decision that MLC was not able to afford a new Pastor with benefits. A plan was devised on a trial basis that Pastor Jeff will act as the Lead Pastor with Pastor Jerry contributing 15 hours per week. MLC is a congregation of many gifts and talents. The use of trained lay people will be added to some of the ministries where practical.
- More opportunities for education will be provided through a year- long program titled "Exploring God's Word Together". The emphasis is "Study", one of the seven faith practices.
- The ELCA has expressed a desire to hold a Regional Global Mission Event at MLC proposed for the spring of 2008. A larger Global Mission Event will be held in the summer of 2008 at La Crosse, WI.

Pastor Jerry Pribbenow:

Pastor Jerry refers to his report on page 14 of the Annual Report.

Pastor Jerry's is in his 10th year with MLC. He is thankful for the privilege to serve God in many capacities.

- The annual Mini Global Mission Event will be held this October 6th and 7th, 2007.
- The storage building is full with donated household items and furniture for Interfaith Hospitality Network needs.
- The two 2nd Chance families supported by MLC members are doing well. We continue to monitor their progress.
- Worship attendance has been a focus. Encourage one another to be "worshippers, studiers, prayers, and givers." Support one another of our commitment to God.

President Jim Summers:

Jim Summers gave a summary of the results of the recent survey and listening sessions conducted by the Church Council. There were many who worked very hard on this project. A big thank you goes out to all congregation members who participated, the Music Team, Dennis Knutson, Pastor Terry, and Pastor Jeff.

Child Life Ministries:

Becca Ziety, CLM Administrator, refers to her report on page 19 of the Annual Report.

- The continued support from MLC, the teachers, those who shared their many talents for special projects and the CLM Board make it possible for CLM to grow in their ministry to young children.
- The 2007-2008 year will bring new challenges as CLM works towards their Accreditation with the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association.

Director of Family Ministry:

Meg Nielsen refers to her report on page 16 of the Annual Report. It was a busy year with many highlights.

- The Sunday School transformation was successful due to the dedication of many.
- The Care of Creation team organized several activities and continues to care for God's creation in many ways.
 - a) There is a congregational garden with 15 plots.
 - b) A prairie restoration area has been started and the Earth

Day worship service was well received.

- A third ministry trip to Puerto Rico brought deeper spirituality to both youth and adults as they worked with our brothers and sisters of the Reconciliation Lutheran Church. The next mission is slated for 2009.

Youth Ministry Coordinator:

Bonnie Duerst refers to her report on page 18 of the Annual Report.

Bonnie is grateful for the support of the pastors, staff, and the congregation of MLC.

- The Affirmation of Baptism and Mentoring Programs continue to provide educational opportunities for our youth.
- The students that attend the weekly High School Breakfast are grateful for this outreach ministry.
- The mission trip to Puerto Rico was a great opportunity to make a deeper connection with people from the MLC congregation and the people of the Reconciliation Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico.

- The Jr. and Sr. High Summer Festival Camps were well attended.
- The first mission trip to New York City to help with Vacation Bible School at Advent Lutheran Church took place the week of July 4th. It opened the eyes of many to the needs outside of our community and emphasized the importance of ministries to help others.
- A 6 week High School bible study for girls was conducted. It went well and the next course will also be offered to boys.

Personnel Board:

Rick Hall refers to his report on page 22 of the Annual Report.

- All of the Board members are grateful that they were able to work within the budget constraints. No staff reductions were necessary.
- Only two more board members are needed to fill the vacancies of the members completing their term of service.
- Four or five volunteers are still needed to complete the weekend custodial rotation.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Jane Blank refers to the budget report on page 5 and 6 of the Annual Report.

- This past year had many ups and downs. The Listening Sessions that were conducted were very interesting and helpful in many areas of our church, including the budget concerns. The congregation was very supportive in contributing to the listening sessions and providing offerings of monetary and non-monetary gifts.
- An overview of the proposed budget was given and questions from the attending congregation members were addressed.

President Jim Summers asked for action on the following issues:

- 1) Motion to accept the nominees of Linda Langel, Dick Moen and Jerry Hrovat to the Church Council. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.
- 2) Motion to accept the Child Life Ministries nominees of Amy Lawrence, Susan Heckel and Stephanie Martino. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.
- 3) Motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Len Lane and seconded by Dennis Knutson. Motion carried.

MLC member Harlan Hettrick addressed the church Council to suggest that the 9:15 worship service, currently being held in the Family Life Center, be moved back to the sanctuary since the attendance has dropped. By opening up the FLC, other functions that have been displaced would be able to use the space. He suggests that a survey of the 9:15 worshipers be conducted for more information.

MLC member Ginny Dodson proposed the following: "A motion is proposed tonight to direct the new Council to study the results of the recent survey and make recommendations within 6 months". Motion was seconded by Carolyn Gehrke. Motion carried.

Closing:

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin led us in prayer.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm. Minutes recorded by Jackie Voight, Council Secretary.

MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Members completing their Council term:

Jane Blank	Stan Dodson
Susan Brodd	Dean Pribbenow

Members beginning their 3rd year:

Sheri Gehrke	Greg Smith
Angela Schwartz	John Wells

Members beginning their 2nd year:

Colleen Baird	Linda Langel
Jerry Hrovat	Dick Moen

PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2007 - 12/31/2007

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2007

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Members at the End of 2006	2027	1397
Baptism	29	
Members Received	29	16
Confirmation Class		7
Transferred in / Reinstated	13	10
From other sources and statistical adjustment	37	1
Deaths	11	9
Transferred out / Removed	20	15
Statistical Adjustment	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>
Members at the End of December 2007	2095	1402

Senior Pastor

“After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was to come.” Luke 10:1 RSV

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am thankful to God for calling me into the ministry and for calling me here. I give thanks to God for you the members and friends of this congregation. I give thanks for all our lay leaders and all who have served through our ministries here. I give thanks for all of our staff. They bring a passion for Christ and they are all hardworking, flexible and faithful servants. I commend the CLM & MLC staff and all of you for your perseverance and flexibility to carry on ministry through the extended roof crisis.

This year has been filled with many blessings. As a congregation, we have celebrated more baptisms and had more people transfer their membership here than any time in the last five years. This year we have had more people get involved in adult educational opportunities than in the recent past. Our Sunday School has begun to grow. We have, for the first time, been blessed to have members get involved in hospital visitation. We have been blessed with ecumenical partners in the Befriender training. We have had great participation in fellowship opportunities such as the Pumpkin Fest and the Care of Creation Event. We have been blessed to have MATC choose to design and build us a new website for our outreach into the community. We have been blessed to hire two quality church musicians to help lead our worship and praise in the years ahead. We have been blessed through the beginning of a Men's Prayer Breakfast and a 24hr. Prayer Vigil. We have been blessed to begin a self-sustaining scholarship fund for the schooling of young people in Liberia through our *Thank you, Lord* offerings of the past. God has blessed us, and through your generous giving of those blessings we have been able to pay all of our bills, not use any money from our line of credit, replace the lower entrance doors, and put us on our way to paying off the roof. We have much to celebrate! Let us give God thanks and praise!

This year has also been filled with many challenges in our life together. We have grieved the retirement of a longtime faithful pastor. We have been challenged to do ministry in new and different ways. We've been stretched trying to minister in the same ways with less staff. We have been challenged to respond to God with our time, our talents and our treasure. We have battled through the challenges of the roof crisis, replacing the lower entrance doors, and replacing a number of furnaces. We have faced together the challenges of suffering, sickness and death. But isn't it true that God has provided for us? Yes! God has been with us as an ever present help. Through the hearing of God's Word and the celebration of the sacraments God continues to bless us and challenge us to trust and obey God above all.

As individuals and as a congregation, our future growth depends on God alone. Jesus calls us and sends each of us out to sow the seeds and blessings of faith "two by two". Our job is clear. We must open our hearts and listen to God and to our neighbors. God is calling us to act upon what we hear and to follow the leading of the Spirit. God is calling us to care for and help our fellow members and neighbors in whatever way we can. God is calling us to plant and water the seeds of faith by sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ and by each of us personally inviting our family members, our fellow members, and our neighbors to gather with us in worship, study and service. We don't have to wonder if we are heading in the right direction if we follow God's plan for our future.

Pastor Jeffrey Tomberlin

Associate Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am coming close to the end of eleven years that it has been my privilege to serve as a pastor among you. I am truly grateful for the opportunity given to me to be partners with you in the gospel. Certainly there have been times of disappointment but many times of joy as we experience God's presence among us. This is the longest stretch of time that I have been in one place during my 48 plus years in the ministry. Thank you for allowing me that gift.

There have been exciting times for me this past year. It is always a joy to gather with you on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening or Saturday evening to offer our worship to God. The time of worship is essential to the health of our community of faith. It is important that we take responsibility to encourage one another in this important expression of our love and deep respect for God. It is also important for us as a congregation to not neglect meeting together. Fellowship is an ingredient of church life that cannot be forgotten. When I gather for worship and see familiar faces and share greetings, concerns and cares, I am strengthened in my faith by your decision to come and worship together.

Your response to the adult educational offerings this year was very encouraging for me personally and for the life of the congregation. I gained much from your participation and sharing in these classes; my faith was boosted because of that time together. I have been away from Affirmation of Baptism classes for quite a few years. It was a challenge for me to reboot into that field but it was also a plus as I came to know more of the young people in the congregation.

The men's breakfast and bible study was offered to fill a gap in the life of the congregation. I was heartened by the number of men who have chosen to actively involve themselves in this fellowship and study event. My prayer is that this will be a growing ministry as the group reaches out and invites others into this experience. I especially pray that post confirmation young men and other young adult men will be drawn in to see and experience that real men do study the Bible and are able to pray together.

Goals for 2008-09 that I would like to see are the development of more small Bible study groups. It is only as we become people of the Word and Prayer that we will be open to all that God wants to do through us. We must focus on Bible Study and Prayer in order to secure the future of our congregation and to insure that we are about God's business.

Certainly we will continue to provide study opportunities on Sunday mornings. If there are particular topics you would like to explore or questions about the faith or teachings of the church speak up so that the offerings will match your needs.

We must never forget that we are called by God to be God's presence in the world. Social ministry is not an option but it is the way that we bring the Kingdom of God to bear upon the world. One theologian said that "God doesn't need our good works, our neighbors do." The world is hurting and you and I have what will bring healing to that hurting world.

May we faithfully listen for God's call and be open to the Spirit's leading.

Director of Family Ministry

Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire. Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord and see what God will do. Ps. 37:4-5

As we finish our second full year of rotational Transforming Sunday School at 10:30 a.m., I extend a special thank you to the teachers, shepherds and helpers who have served during that hour. I also thank Brenda Moen for organizing and leading the 8:00 a.m. traditional Sunday School and for the other teachers who have served at that time. I am eternally grateful to Catherine Puisto, one of our Lay School of Ministry graduates, for helping me plan and lead special events during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday School as well as for First Communion preparation and Third Grade Bible presentation and to Brenda Moen for organizing Vacation Bible School.

Our Sunday School enrollment has increased slightly each year, and we hear good comments about the rotation format. Almost all of our teachers are returning again in the fall and many shepherds will be back for a second or third time. I am constantly delighted by the initiative and dedication of the teachers as they plan for lessons and special projects and by the shepherds who give of their time and energy. This year the Sunday School, with the help of the Christmas program offering, sent \$600 to Pr. Boymah in Liberia to purchase a cow. Most of the cows in Liberia were killed in the civil war. The Holy Spirit is working among the youth who attend Sunday School and among those who teach/shepherd them throughout the school year. Thanks to all of you.

This year our new member classes were again well attended. I always enjoy getting to know these new members of the Body of Christ at MLC. They bring such gifts to our congregation. I also give thanks for those who served as new member sponsors.

We recently began planning our fourth trip to Puerto Rico in March/April 2009. The connection between the congregation of Reconciliation Lutheran Church of Levittown, Puerto Rico and our MLC congregation has grown over the years. We truly feel they are our brothers and sisters in Christ and look forward to joining with them in serving the people of Puerto Rico next spring.

Our Care of Creation team continues to be a joyful exploration of stewardship of the earth. During the past year we have started a prairie and encouraged Boy Scout Evan Chalmers in creating Noah's Rain Garden. Our Garden of Eatin', now in its second year, continues to provide an earth-friendly experience for those who can "dig it". All of these activities indicate a willingness to lovingly care for God's amazing creation. (Please refer to the COC report for more information.)

During the past year I have been both pleased and humbled by the invitation to preach regularly. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to dig into God's living Word on a regular basis as I seek to discern a message for our worshipping congregation. Thank you for encouraging me to grow and serve in this way.

In the coming year, I hope to work with the AOB Mentoring program to encourage the spiritual growth of our young people and their mentors. I will continue to plan and organize a Lenten Devotional Booklet, and to work with the Hospitality Ministry Team. I look forward to serving among you in whatever capacity you deem necessary, and I give God thanks for the opportunity to be part of this ministry to God's people here at McFarland Lutheran Church.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone the glory)
Meg Nielsen, AIM, Director of Family Ministry

Youth Ministry Coordinator

The Lord replied [to Jeremiah], "Don't say, 'I am too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!" Jeremiah 1:7-8

Our youth ministry here at McFarland Lutheran Church continues to remain active and vital, involving young people in worship, study, mission and ministry.

One of the most meaningful ministries our youth participated in this past year was the New York Mission Trip. The four adults, two college students and five high school students who traveled to NYC had the opportunity to serve others by assisting the staff at Advent Lutheran Church with their Vacation Bible School (VBS). Through this amazing experience we shared and received God's love with the children in this racially, culturally and economically diverse neighborhood. We worked with members of Trinity Lutheran Church cleaning and organizing for their upcoming VBS. This church operates a homeless shelter for teens, which MLC now supports by collecting hats, mittens, scarves and Christmas gifts for the young people in the shelter. We also worshipped with our friends at Salam Arabic Lutheran Church in Brooklyn and heard about the hardships of their relatives in the Middle East during these tumultuous times. Other trip highlights were a tour of the U.N. Building, a presentation at the Lutheran Office for World Community in the Church Center for the United Nations, and a meeting with Executive Director Pastor Sudbrock of the Seafarers & International House in NYC where we learned about a ministry of outreach, welcome and encouragement to seafarers in port.

Junior and Senior High Summer Festival Camps continue to be the best attended experiences we offer our youth. This year twenty five students will attend Sr. High Camp, which is now being held at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota and twenty seven students will attend the Junior High Camp now held on the UW-Stout campus. I deeply appreciate the young adults and parents who use a week of their vacation to share their faith by serving as chaperones for these events.

Another important part of our youth ministry is our involvement in the community through ecumenical events. Perhaps the most visible is the Baccalaureate service which is planned, organized and implemented by Christ the King Catholic Church, the McFarland United Church of Christ and MLC. This year speakers Jerry Mandli and Caley Polipnick did an amazing job, as did MLC's Crossover Praise Band who provided the music. Other ecumenical youth events this past year include: Moonlight Madness – a fall evening event where high school students made pizzas, watched a movie, carved pumpkins and went to an outdoor corn maze; a presentation to middle school students by a retired soldier who served in Iraq, followed by making Valentines and assembling packages for McFarland servicemen and women; and a fellowship event at Kalahari Indoor Water Park for middle school students.

In the spring of 2009 the youth and adults of MLC can look forward to the next Puerto Rico Cultural Immersion Trip. Plans are already underway that include working with our friends at Reconciliation Lutheran, exploring the beauty of God's creation and celebrating in worship with our brothers and sisters in a different culture.

I continue to be grateful for the ongoing support from our administrative staff, Rita Jenkins, Renae Feldner and Huldah Ellestad who kept everything running as smoothly as possible throughout the year as they dealt with all the phases of the MLC roof repair ~ dripping and sometimes streams of water coming from the ceiling, buckets everywhere, various shades of plastic tablecloths covering their desks, Renae had to relocate and is still not back in her office, numerous interruptions from people working on repairs, not to mention the loud banging noises with the constant roof snow removal and then the roof repair. Thank you Rita, Renae and Huldah!

God's peace, Bonnie Duerst

Child Life Ministries of McFarland Lutheran Church



Nationally Accredited 
Christian Preschool, Daycare, School Age
kidsofclm@hotmail.com

5529 Marsh Rd., P.O. Box 24
McFarland, WI 53558
(608) 838-4425

Dear Lord,

Thanks be for your blessing on another wonderful year of ministry for the children in our community. It is through you that we are able to provide opportunities for growth and faith for the staff and students who are all part of the Child Life Ministries family. Praises of thanksgiving to you for a safe and successful year. Amen.

It is with much gratitude to many that we complete another year of preschool and school age education and care for numerous children in the McFarland and surrounding community.

- This year CLM served 132 children in our preschool and child care. The opportunity for education is reciprocal, staff and students growing in faith through each other's questions and stories. Our goal is for each child to learn that Jesus loves them and that they can go out and tell all of His good news!
- Three children were able to attend CLM because of the wonderful blessing of Tuition Assistance. This program provides financial support for children who would otherwise be unable to attend our school. Thank you to all of the members who have contributed, as well as families that have dedicated memorials to CLM, and make this opportunity possible for the children. An additional thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the matching funds that supplement Thrivent member's donations to CLM. What a gift to give!
- We are blessed to have support in other ways, such as sharing musical talents throughout the year and program time, as well as program set-ups. Thank you to Deb Nygaard and Luanne Platt for sharing your musical talents with us. Also, thank you to Larry Nygaard for making sure we can hear all the wonderful music at our programs!
- Thank you to the MLC staff for their work to assist CLM in various ways throughout the year. Rita Bussian, Huldah Ellestad, Renae Feldner, Rita Jenkins, Dennis Knutson, Pr. Pribbenow, Linda Mahlberg, Bonnie Duerst, Meg Nielsen, and Pr. Tomberlin.
- The CLM Board gives time and talent to help CLM meet goals, set policies and procedures, and support us. This year's members were: Christine Pribbenow, Lisa Aubey, Sheri Gehrke, Jeff Gehrke, Jon Landen, Chris Olson, Susan Heckel, Stephanie Martino and Amy Lawrence. Your time and input is much appreciated.
- Our teaching staff is amazing and I feel so blessed to work with each one of them, they all bring unique and important gifts. We are one body with many parts, working together to serve Him. Thank you to: Sara Asche, Heather Anderson, Rachel Clark, Chris Cole, Beth Daoust-Miller, Jessica Galbraith, Rachel Hamilton, Jess Moen, Janell Moran, Deb Nygaard, and Vicki Radloff. I appreciate their time, dedication and enthusiasm to make our programs great. Thank you to all of the staff for your understanding and flexibility while we worked through the difficulties of roof damage and repair; each of them played a key part in making sure we were able to continue to provide care and education for our children.

We look forward to another busy year of growing and serving the community in 2008-2009.

Becca Ziety

Parish Nurse

*Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health,
just as it is with your soul. 3 John 1: 2*

My ministry as your Parish Nurse continues to deepen with each passing year. I am grateful for the work and opportunities for service that continue to call me.

An exciting development as a result of the work of the Health & Wellness Committee has been establishing a connection with the McFarland EMS department. Our building has been designated a Red Cross shelter and we've agreed to provide storage for cots. We continue to explore ways our church could be of further service in the event of a community emergency.

We offer a Service of Healing and/or Remembrance in January, March, May, July, September, and November, usually on the first Sunday of the month. We especially focus on healing in January, May, and September. These services are designed to focus on comfort, care and reflection for those of us searching for a restoration to wholeness.

Our Book Club continues to meet monthly. We read a variety of books and always have fun and good discussions. We usually meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 10 AM in Old Fellowship Hall. Join us when you can – even if you haven't read the book.

Our walkers (Walking in the Word) walk for about 30 minutes twice a week in the late spring, summer, and early fall. We walk in most types of weather and have a fun time walking and talking. We always welcome new walkers.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to deeply touch others. Because of generous knitters and crocheters who make the shawls, in the past year, we have given away 36 prayer shawls to those who are in need of prayer. The notes of thanks we receive always mention the beauty of the shawl and being lifted with the prayers. Our knitters and crocheters have also made and donated hundreds of bandages for tropical wound patients. They've also sent 72 baby blankets and 27 baby caps over the past 8 months to Global Health Ministries.

I have offered CPR certification for the CLM staff and the congregation. Our AED is still ready and available, though thankfully we haven't needed to use it. The battery is good for another 2½ years.

I continue to average about 30 people each month when I check blood pressures. It's a great opportunity to monitor your blood pressure and also ask me any thing you might have questions about.

One of the critical parts of my ministry, I often sum up with the words, "I continue to visit members in their homes, at church, in the hospital and by phone." That phrase is dreadfully inadequate to describe the rich, meaningful sharing I have experienced during my visits. These encounters can range from sharing a laugh to being with someone as they describe their terror of a diagnosis, their despair over a devastating loss, or their helplessness in a complex family situation. Most of the time there's nothing to do to fix the situation, make it better or go away. That doesn't mean that there's no healing or restoration. The fact that someone is present to listen and care somehow helps to ease the burden and give the person strength to continue to face what is before them. This work is only possible because the Spirit is present and God's tender strength seems more available. Together, we continue to hope and wait in Christ.

I give God thanks for this year of service I have been a part of as your Parish Nurse. I continue to hold this ministry in prayer as we seek God's call for wholeness as individuals and as a congregation.

Linda Mahlberg, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Care of Creation Ministry Team

"Just ask the animals, and they will teach you. Ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Speak to the earth and it will instruct you. Let the fish of the sea speak to you." Job 12:8

Members: Ken Anderson, Loretta Bailey, Anne Barker, Jane Blank, Ron Blank, Dawn Bolstad, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Crystal Lokken, Rick Petzke, Barb Porter-Quam, Steve Schoenberger, Brady Showalter, Connie Showalter

Team Chairperson/Council Liaison: Jane Blank
Staff Liaison: Meg Nielsen

The Care of Creation Ministry Team rejoices in the many projects we have underway here at McFarland Lutheran Church. Last year we initiated a congregational garden. Both last year and this year all of the plots were taken and a Garden of Eatin' blooms now in our very own back yard.

A Garden Market organized and supported by our team graced the Great Hall last summer offering the abundance from both home gardens and the congregational garden. Proceeds were given to help feed the hungry in both our own community and throughout the world through the ELCA World Hunger network.

Late last summer, with the help of Wes Licht and Ginny Dodson, our team learned about the benefits of prairie. Excitement grew as we planned to initiate one here at MLC. We gathered prairie seeds, dried and sorted them, then, in November, planted them on the north side of the driveway that leads to the back parking lot. The seeds have sprouted and are up and growing. Our 'Good Earth Prairie' area is expanding, too. More sod was cut this spring and the good soil underneath is waiting. We say a big "Thank-you" to Crystal Lokken for crafting the 'garden' signs and for Lee Ackley for making the wood sign-posts.

It was our joy this year to encourage Evan Chalmers as he worked on his Eagle Scout project: creating a rain garden now dubbed Noah's Rain Garden. The plants Evan nurtures will provide beauty for our community, but will also serve the more important purpose of drawing the excess moisture into the earth instead of sending it into our storm drains.

A word of thanks to Anne Barker and Sarah Schutt for creating and directing the original play, A Promise Kept, the story of Noah, that was presented at our second annual Earth Day Event here at MLC. This year's event also included painting cloth shopping bags, rolling peanut butter coated pine cones in bird seed for homemade bird feeders, and sharing ways to recycle and to home compost.

The Care of Creation continues to "speak to the earth" and to learn from the beauty and abundance of God's creation as we seek to preserve and care for this great and amazing gift.

Health and Wellness Committee

Purpose: ***Health and Wellness Committee is responsible for identifying needs of the congregation and surrounding community relating to physical, mental and spiritual health and to provide opportunities for ministry in these areas.***

During the past year, Health & Wellness Committee was involved in the following:

- Supported and participated in Healing Services and Services of Prayer and Remembrance; offered social gatherings with refreshments following each of the services
- Sponsored two six-week sessions of Tai Chi classes led by Ginny Dodson
- Walking in the Word, led by Parish Nurse, Linda Mahlberg, continues on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Assisted Linda Mahlberg with the annual flu shot clinic in fall of '07
- Linda Mahlberg offered CPR training
- Encouraged congregation members' participation in various knitting projects (prayer shawls, cotton bandages and infant items)
- Health & Wellness Committee met with representatives of the McFarland EMS and Police Departments to discuss possible collaborative efforts.

Potential future activities:

- Continue exploration of acquiring a modified van for helping meet transportation needs of people with mobility limitations who are unable to drive—either temporarily or permanently
- Continue discussions and joint efforts with Village services as appropriate

Health & Wellness, 2008

If you would like to discuss any of these or other possible committee ministries, you are invited to visit a committee meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. If you have specific questions, please contact Linda Mahlberg, Pastor Jerry Pribbenow, or any committee member.

In His Service,

Cleo Eliason, Chair
Susan Brodd
Jon Landen
Linda Langel
Tom Radloff
Linda Mahlberg, Parish Nurse
Pastor Jerry Pribbenow

Personnel Board

Members: Sandy Hall, Dennis Knutson, Amy Lawrence, Angela Schwartz, Greg Smith, Velma Strander, Rita Jenkins and Pastor Jeff Tomberlin

Members Completing Term of Service: Velma Strander

The Personnel Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Responsibilities: The Personnel Board's responsibilities include:

- Review and recommend compensation and benefits for church staff including administrative staff, custodial staff and music staff.
- Submit an annual budget to the Church Council.
- Maintain current job descriptions.
- Make recommendations for church staff positions to Church Council.
- Plan and assist recruitment of staff positions.
- Interpret policies in the Employee Handbook and assist in resolving staff issues
- Assure appropriate notification of office staff, pastoral staff and the congregation of all church staff hires.
- Perform other tasks as directed by the Church Council.

2007/2008 Accomplishments:

- Provided staff recognition.
- Rick Hall headed up and continued filling the weekend custodial position with a dedicated volunteer crew.
- Continue to update staff job descriptions as the need arises.
- Researched the purpose for confidentiality agreements among the Staff, Council and Personnel.
- Filled the organist position with Johanna Fabke and Terry Peterson.

2008/2009 Goals:

- Continue to review job descriptions.
- Support the results of the Natural Church Development if it impacts the Personnel Board.
- The Personnel Board will look for direction from the MLC Council.

We are grateful for Rick Hall for he has committed to another year of heading up and overseeing that MLC has custodial coverage during the weekends. If anyone is interested in being a part of this ministry and would like to give a few hours on the weekends, please contact Rick Hall. In keeping with the balanced budget, we were unable to give any pay increases again this year. We appreciate the staff and everything that they do. The members are truly blessed with a great staff and pastoral team for this community of McFarland.

Properties Board

The members of the Properties Board are Ken Anderson, Dick Kohl, Loretta Bailey, Susan Brodd and Rita Bussian.

The Properties Board strives to see that the church property is well maintained. The size of the property and the tremendous use of the property keeps the custodial staff extremely busy. Thanks to the custodians for all they do throughout the year.

The Board has completed numerous projects throughout the year to maintain the property in the best condition possible. The Board dealt with two major projects this past year. First, the old entrance to the church was replaced along with the sidewalk leading to the entrance. Second, the Board spent considerable time dealing with the water damage caused by the flat roof along with the major project of getting the roof repaired. The Board appreciates the support of the congregation in seeing that these major improvements were completed.

Any person with concerns about the church property is encouraged to speak with one of the members of the Board.

Ken Anderson, Chairperson

Special Appeal Committee McFarland Lutheran Church

Members:

- Kevin Strattan (Chairperson)
- Jerry Hrovat (Council Liaison)
- Rita Jenkins (Accountant)
- Bonnie Duerst (Thermometer Manager)
- John Wells (Committee Member)

Resigning Members:

As this is a committee that has just been formed there are no resigning members.

Purpose:

The purpose of this committee is to oversee and manage the fund raising for the Church's special appeal as agreed upon by the congregation in March, 2008. These donations are above and beyond what each family normally gives to the church. This appeal is dedicated to keeping and maintaining the integrity of this building we call our Church.

The first part of this appeal is to ask for a short term commitment to pay off the roof repairs. The deadline for this appeal is to be done by the next congregational meeting in July, 2008. Initially the roof repairs were estimated at \$105,000. By the date of this Annual report the bills received for the repairs to the church have totaled \$67,802 with a few internal repair bills outstanding. It is apparent that the actual costs of the roof repair will be less than the initial estimate and anything raised in excess of this part of the appeal will go towards the next part of the appeal.

The second part of our appeal is to pay off the remaining mortgage our Church owes. It is the goal of this appeal to pay off the mortgage by July 1, 2010, or in other words 2 years after the first appeal's deadline passes. At this point the balance on the mortgage is \$132,290, and if the committee is able to achieve its goal on this part it will save the church \$22,717.42 in interest expense over the remainder of the life of the mortgage.

Any funds raised above and beyond the roof loan and mortgage will be applied toward anticipated building-related expenses. The calculations are that our church will have \$300,000 in building-related expenses over the next 5 years, such as replacing other portions of our church that are either approaching the end of their life, or already beyond their normal appreciable life.

As soon as the roof loan and mortgage are paid off, the amount we have been budgeting toward the mortgage will continue to be set aside untouched toward the long-term building fund.

When team/committee meets:

The committee meets only as necessary. Primarily the committee will rely on email unless something must be done by a formal meeting. The committee did meet once initially to establish the purpose of the special appeal and the process the special appeal should follow.

Accomplishments of This Year:

So far the committee formed and gathered the founding members on recommendation of the Leadership Council. The committee has isolated the three parts to the special appeal to understand its purpose and has adopted the numbers recommended by the Finance committee as a goal for the estimated portions of the special appeal and has monitored the mortgage for that portion of the special appeal. The committee has come up with a commitment package which was sent to the congregation. It is the hope that this committee will witness the success of completing the first part of its mission, specifically paying off the repair to the roof and associated costs. Finally the committee has created a Thermometer to track the progress of this special appeal.

Goals for Next Year:

The goal for next year is to continue along the path of the second part of the special appeal, namely to raise funds to pay off the mortgage on the church. To be on target the Committee should have half of the mortgage paid off by the next annual report or roughly have \$61,000 left in principal on the mortgage. Also it is the goal of this committee to keep Council and the Congregation updated as often as is warranted and to update the Thermometer as the goal progresses.

*Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house.
Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the LORD. Hag 1:8*

Worship Planning

Since the 2007 Annual meeting, the Worship Planning Ministry Team has been meeting weekly to plan worship services.

The Goals of the Worship Planning Team are to:

- Help all worshippers to focus on God.
- Evaluate MLC's worship life from the Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith.
- Plan how to best proclaim the good news of God's salvation in Christ through Word, Sacrament, music and art.
- Plan worship in a form and manner that is both physically and mentally accessible to all ages.
- Bring together input from both lay and MLC staff as a resource for planning and carrying out the worship life of MLC.
- Be good stewards of the gifts and talents of the membership and the resources we have or have access to.

Highlights of the worship year have included:

- Mini Global Mission Sunday
- Advent services
- Lenten liturgies (Taize)
- Easter week services
- Periodic changes in liturgies depending on the season
- Careful selection of hymns, incorporating old as well as new hymns
- Use of song leaders to help introduce new songs and liturgy in worship
- Increased use of psalms
- Better coordination of all aspects of worship

The worship planning team consists of Pastor Jeff Tomberlin, Bonnie Dirks, Deb Nygaard, Len Lane, Glenn Nielsen, and the organist(s).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The Elizabeth Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We continue to use the Bible Study in the Lutheran Women Today magazine.

The circle annually sets up and decorates the Christmas tree in the sanctuary using Chrismons made and maintained by circle members. Our annual December bake sale raised \$716.50. Of this amount \$500 was given to the McFarland Food Pantry with Thrivent giving matching funds of \$300 to the Pantry; \$150 was given to MLC to be used for IHN expenses; and \$66.50 was given to Second Harvest Foodbank.

Each July we continue to send \$100 to Frieda Bagonza's women's group in Tanzania. This money is sent in memory of Judy-Zuelke-Pribbenow and enables women in Karagwa to start their own businesses. In February we also gave memorial funds to MLC following the death of our member, Anita Anderson.

Circle members are Thelma Allen, Ginny Dodson, Carolyn Gehrke, Heleen Hayden, Gayle Huston, Janet Knutson, Sandy Larson, Barbara Porter-Quam, Claramae Sherry, and Anona Zumstein.

REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at members' homes or at church. There are 21 members. Our Bible Study this year is *It's NOT About Me* by Max Lucado.

Projects this past year were Lutheran Social Services; correspondence with and Christmas gifts for the servicepeople; support of various youth projects; and donations for the holiday baskets, food pantry and the new roof appeal. Judy Olson is the liaison to Skaalen Home. Judy coordinates the publishing of a cookbook as a fundraiser for the Skaalen Auxiliary. Recipes are received from members and the cookbook is sold in December.

We are always looking for new members. If interested, please contact Rita Bussian at 608-695-0436.

Officers for 2008-2009 are:

Rita Bussian - President
Linda Schiefelbein - Vice-President
Cheryl Ackley - Secretary & Treasurer
Yvonne Swanson - Servicepeople

Members are: Cheryl Ackley, Carol Brandt, Eileen Brost, Rita Bussian, Judy Catterall, Bonnie Duerst, Marvel Edwards, Betty Kalhagen, Judy Olson, Pat Rossman, Dorothy Schiefelbein, Linda Schiefelbein, Emily Schmoll, Lucille Shorette, Delyla Smith, Jane Southern, Carol Stoeckmann, Yvonne Swanson, Sharon Thieding, Susan Tuecke, and Sue Wiemer

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle began in 1968. Through the years we have worked at various services of Christian ministry: Outreach to elderly women of MLC, visits to Skaalen Home residents, assembly of layettes, health kits, and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. At one time we merged with Christian Nurture Circle and supported their work with the new church library. When part of the MLCW, we contributed to programs and special events such as the Mother-Daughter Teas and Brunches.

We still continue to contribute \$200 annually toward the purchase of "Word in Season" devotionals. We meet monthly for nine months of each year in our homes for Bible Study in Lutheran Women Today and for Christian fellowship.

Members include: Arlaine Haugsby, Millie Kelley, Iris Othrow, Katie Scharf, Ruth Wendling, and Carolyn Wendorf. Millie and Carolyn have been continuing members for all 40 years.

This report includes a compilation of our activities for 40 years in tribute to members who have worked diligently and with Christian love for many of the 40 years.

TABITHA CIRCLE

After 75 years, Tabitha Circle voted to disband on October 23, 2007

Our final members included: Sylvia Krepski, Margarete Johnson, Betty McConnell, Dorothy Schiefelbein, Barbara Sperle, Donna Leverentz, and Nancy Vick. Extended members included Kathryn Cain and Martha Sperle.

About 100 Baptismal towels were given to the church. Our final treasury was given to McFarland Food Pantry and to IHN.

We are in the process of collecting all the old records and will be giving them to the McFarland Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Krepski

**MLC Council Meeting
Agenda for 27 June 2008
Meeting is at 1PM**

Devotion led by Dick Moen

Commitment for the next devotion.

REPORTS ETC.

Reminder: There will soon be three, maybe 4 vacancies on the Executive Council, so please begin planning on the next set of officers.

Update from the Roof Appeal, Fund Drive Commitment Committee. (Jerry Hrovat)

CLM Board report (Sheri Gehrke)

Update on the Natural Church Development (NCD) process (Dean Pribbenow)

Update on the progress of the Nominating Committee (Susan Brodd)

Update on the special retreat (Susan Brodd)

Finance report and proposed budget (Jane Blank).

The Pastor's report (Pastor Jeff Tomberlin).

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of the revised guidelines for the Personnel Board. The revision adds:
two new items:
 - A. The role of the Personnel Board is to serve as an advocate for the church staff;
but not to manage the staff and
 - B. Recognize staff anniversaries and
birthdays. The other specific items are renumbered, and the revision date
is now June 2008. (Susan Brodd).

2. Approval of having the Sunday June 27, 2008 Annual Meeting at 1PM, after a potluck
in the Family Life Center. (Jane Blank)

Closing Prayer