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Annual Congregational Meeting
July 26, 2009
11:30 am Potluck / 12:30 pm Meeting

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Gathering Song

Call to Order Jerry Hrovat, Council President

Devotion Pastor Tomberlin

Attendance Check Sheri Gehrke, Council

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from July 2008 annual meeting

New Business

Call for Congregation Council Nominees

Jerry Hrovat, Council President

Congregation's Call to Discipleship
Report of the Pastors

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin, Senior Pastor
Pastor Jerry Pribbenow, Associate Pastor

Child Life Ministries Report

Becca Ziety

Natural Church Development Report

Dean Pribbenow

Director of Family Ministries Report

Meg Nielson

Youth Ministries Coordinator Report

Bonnie Duerst

Personnel Report

Angela Schwartz

Treasurer's Report

Sandy Chalmers

Approval of the MLC Mission Plan (budget) for 2009-10 Sandy Chalmers, Treasurer

Closing Prayer Pastor Tomberlin

Sending Song*

*Please stand if able

Report from the Congregational President July 2009

It has been a privilege to serve as your council president this past year and a pleasure to serve with the dedicated members of council. Angela, Sandy, and John, it was an honor serving with you on council executive team. Thank you for your support and friendship. I extend a heartfelt thank you to Pastor Jeff, Pastor Jerry and the church staff for your hard work, patience, devotion to our congregation and for your kind and wise words.

This past year you can see God in action in our church with Natural Church Development (NCD) and the creation of small groups. These small groups foster a deeper relationship with Christ, the small group members and ultimately our congregation.

The Moving Forward Together in Faith process is nurturing relationships and dialogue between members, creating opportunities for members to put their faith into action.

The continued giving by members to our Special Appeal has greatly reduced our mortgage and is evidence of long term commitment.

We strive to improve communication with use of email and our new and improved web site (council minutes, newsletter, News You Can Use and more).

This past year has also been a challenging year for our congregation. We are reminded that we must depend on God, always. In the midst of our challenges, God will strengthen us and draw us closer to him and each other. Paul tells us this in Romans 5:1-6

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

W.I.S.E. G.P.S.

Worship, **I**nvoke, **S**erve, **E**ncourage, **G**ive, **P**ray, **S**tudy. These are the seven faith practices shown on the etched glass displays hanging in our church windows. Allow God to be your WISE GPS and he will lead and guide you. If we allow him, God will also lead, unite and guide our congregation, God's church.

To God be the Glory,
Jerry Hrovat

Financial Report

“...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”
Ephesians 4:12

2009-2010 Planning

We are entrusted by the congregation to be wise stewards of the church’s resources. We believe that wise stewardship requires prayerful planning, including setting priorities within the mission of the church, identifying specific goals and objectives, and evaluating current activities.

Our annual operating budget is a complex financial document and represents a great deal of work and planning. But more important, the budget must also clearly reflect the church’s priorities and allow it to further its mission. Budget decisions should be based on church priorities, not the reverse.

With that in mind, committees and ministry teams were encouraged to plan their 2009-2010 budget requests by reflecting and praying on the Great Commission and Great Commandment of Christ, by evaluating current programs and ministries, and by setting specific goals and objectives that are tied to Christ’s mission for his church.

Using this process in the future will help us in decision-making. It will also help ensure that the budget is built from a biblical foundation, and assist the congregation in understanding how the church is directing its precious resources to accomplishing Christ’s mission.

2009-2010 Budget

The proposed 2009-2010 budget is based on income of \$622,887, which reflects current trends in giving, pledging, and worship attendance. This is \$45,962 less than actual income received in 2008-2009.

To bring forward a no-deficit budget, we propose to reduce church staff salaries and benefits, and to leave the parish nurse position vacant. The Council also makes the following recommendations and changes:

- In 2009-2010, benevolences will be given as first fruits. In 2008-2009, the paying of benevolences was postponed so the church could meet its payroll obligations and pay bills.
- In 2008-2009, ten percent of regular envelope offering went to benevolences. This budget will increase giving to benevolences by also including ten percent of special offering and loose offering.
- Staffing is at 2008 levels, with church staff salaries (except for music staff) reduced ten percent. Pension contributions for all full-time staff is reduced from the current 12 percent to the ELCA minimum contribution of 6 percent for lay staff and 10 percent for pastors.

- The proposal would add funding (above 2008-2009 actual spending) for evangelism, fellowship, worship, stewardship, youth, and education.
- Council requests that appropriate committees and ministry teams develop an endowment/memorial fund policy, as well as spending recommendations for specific designated giving accounts (including International Youth Camp and Thank You Lord funds).

	2008-2009 (actual)	2009-2010 (proposed)	Increase/decrease
Total Budgeted			
Benevolences	\$58,937	\$60,533	\$1,596
Total Church			
Personnel	\$391,966	\$364,339	(\$27,627)
Total Youth	\$7,480	\$11,310	\$3,830
Total Properties	\$103,480	\$113,655	\$10,175
Total Office	\$23,153	\$26,750	\$3,597
Total Worship	\$13,313	\$14,950	\$1,637
Total Social Ministries	\$19,144	\$1,400	(\$17,744)
Total Evangelism	\$1,443	\$5,300	\$3,857
Total Fellowship	\$6,421	\$9,750	\$3,329
Total Education	\$7,023	\$9,800	\$2,777
Total Congregational	\$50	\$50	\$0
Total Stewardship	\$80	\$5,050	\$4,970

**McFarland Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday, July 27, 2008**

Opening:

Council President, Stanley Dodson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin led with a devotional prayer.

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

Old Business:

A motion was made by Sandy Hall and seconded by Susan Brodd to approve the minutes from the previous Annual meeting held on Sunday, July 29, 2007. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Sandy Hall and seconded by Jerry Hrovat to approve the minutes from the Congregational Meeting held on March 30, 2008. The motion carried.

New Business:

Introduction & Affirmation of the Congregation Council: The nominees are Tom Scharine, Meng Thikim, Jim Miller, Sandy Chalmers, Kris Bell and Karen Emerson. Karen will serve a two year term. The motion was made and seconded to accept these new council members. The motion carried.

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin:

Pastor Jeff refers to page 10 of the annual report.

- Pastor Jeff acknowledged the ELCA and all the great things this organization has accomplished and has aided our church.
- Pastor Jeff is very thankful and blessed for the McFarland Lutheran Church staff. God has blessed our church with a great staff and if you ever have a question about what they do, please ask them.
- Pastor Jeff thanked all the outgoing and incoming council members.
- Pastor Jeff thanked all the members of McFarland Lutheran Church.
- At the council meeting in June he told the members that the current situation Senior Pastor position was not sustainable or the best situation for McFarland Lutheran Church. Pastor Jeff asked for support in new and healthy ways to change.
- Pastor Jeff mentions that the Natural Church Development (NCD) will be looking at ways for our church to make new connections by believing and belonging. Life is meant to be shared. NCD will help us to invite, care, pray and study.

Pastor Jerry Pribbenow:

Pastor Jerry refers to page 11 of the annual report.

- The National Program Tents for Hope will be at MLC on August 17, 2008. People are needed to help paint and decorate tent squares.
- The global mission event will be October 18, 2008 from 8-noon. This is the same day as the Pumpkin Festival.
- The first Saturday of each month, he continues to have men's breakfast and bible study at 7:00 am.
- McFarland Food Pantry is looking for Board Members
- In the fall there will be opportunities for Adult Education. There will be a four week study on the Holy Spirit. Len Lane and Rick Strauss will be doing a study on Salvation.
- For the coming year, we are looking at small group bible studies, prayer teams, and a reconnection visit with every member. Plans are in the works for prayer vigils 4 times a year. These are just a few ideas to assist in the life and growth of this congregation.

Child Life Ministries:

Becca Ziety refers to page 14 of the annual report.

- CLM served 132 children this year.
- Becca thanked all who support the program.
- Becca thanked the entire staff of CLM, the CLM Board, and the staff of McFarland Lutheran Church.

Amy Lawrence, CLM board member thanked the past board members that have served their term, John Landen, Lisa Aubey and Christine Pribbenow. Amy made a motion; Sandy Hall seconded the motion to affirm the new members of the CLM board. The new members are Heidi Ackely, Dawn Blau, and Heather Fleming. The motion to affirm these new members passed.

Natural Church Development Report:

Dean Pribbenow reported on the NCD surveys. NCD is a process and a tool. It looks at the health of the church and tries to focus on the quality of the church. The team continues to look at the results with Rolfe Nervig. The NCD team will continue to communicate with the council and the entire congregation about the next steps of this process.

Special Properties Appeal Report:

Jerry Hrovat refers to page 20 of the annual report. As of June 30, 2008 the congregation has contributed a total of \$86,683.00. Thank you Lord! We have met our short term appeal, and our roof replacement expenses of approximately \$68,000 are paid in full. A bank loan taken out to cover roof repair expenses was never used. Additional funds received will be applied to pay off our mortgage, which is approximately \$112,000.00 as of June 30, 2008. If we retire our mortgage by our 2010 Annual Congregational meeting (this is the goal of our long term appeal) we will save over \$22,000 in interest expense

Director of Family Ministry:

Meg Nielsen refers to page 12 of the annual report. Meg is grateful for the Sunday School Staff. Meg enjoys teaching the new member class and seeing how the Care and Creation Committee has evolved. The first annual Pumpkin Fest was just an idea. Meg's suggestion is to be open and listen to the voice of the spirit.

Youth Ministries Coordinator Report:

- Bonnie Duerst refers to page 13 of the annual report. July was a busy month for the youth program at MLC. Summer Fest for Senior and Junior High and a trip to New York with 8 youth.

Personnel Report:

Angela Schwartz refers to page 18 of the annual report. Rick Hall continues to lead the weekend custodial crew. Rick is always looking for volunteers. Please give him a call if you can assist this group.

Treasurer's Report:

Jane Blank refers to pages 4 and 5 of the annual report. Jane presented a balanced budget for a second year in a row. Motion to accept the approval of the MLC Mission and Ministry Plan for the 2008-2009 was made by Susan Brodd and seconded by Glenn Nielsen. Motion carried.

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

SECTION IV- THE ANNUAL MEETING the first section to read: 1. The annual meeting shall be the forth Sunday in 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 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 the church office by May 30.

Sandy Hall made the motion to accept the above bylaws, Ginny Dodson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion on the current church services at MLC:

Jane Licht made a motion, Jim Boshers seconded the motion to review the number of services and in what location of the church the services should be held. The results of this report are to be completed by June 30, 2009. There was a friendly amendment to change the date to December 31, 2008. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with a song and the Lord's Prayer.

In Christ's Name,
Angela Schwartz

MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Members completing their Council term:

Sheri Gehrke	Jim Miller
Angela Schwartz	John Wells

Members beginning their 3rd year:

Karen Emerson	Linda Langel
Jerry Hrovat	Dick Moen

Members beginning their 2nd year:

Kristine Bell	Tom Scharine
Sandra Chalmers	Meng Thikim

PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2008

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Members at the End of 2007	2095	1402
Baptism	19	
Members Received	26	14
Confirmation Class		7
Transferred in / Reinstated	12	8
From other sources and statistical adjustment		
Deaths	11	11
Transferred out / Removed	14	13
Statistical Adjustment	<u>27</u>	<u>17</u>
Members at the End of December 2007	2100	1390

Senior Pastor

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out." Romans 12:2 (MSG)

O my soul, bless God. From head to toe, I'll bless his holy name! O my soul, bless God, don't forget a single blessing! 3 He forgives your sins - every one. He heals your diseases, every one. He redeems you from hell - saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy, a paradise crown. He wraps you in goodness, beauty eternal. He renews your youth, you're always young in his presence. Psalm 103:1-5 (MSG)

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord! I am thankful to God for calling me to serve as a pastor. I am thankful and blessed by all the people who I have worked alongside of this year in Christ's ministry here. I give God thanks for YOU, the people with whom I have been called to share the Gospel in good times and hard times. It has been a privilege to share in the ministry of Word and Sacrament this past year.

God uses the Apostle Paul to remind us to "*fix our attention on God.*" As we reflect on the past year, and look forward to the future, it is so important that we fix our attention on God. God knows that we are so easily distracted. God knows that we are a forgetful people.

What has God done among us this past year? I've seen God work an unbelievable miracle and so much more. What have you seen God at work doing? What has God done in your life and in the lives of your friends and neighbors this past year? I've witnessed God give peace and courage to the dying. It's been amazing. What have you seen? What have you experienced? How often have you shared the story of what you've seen God do with you or with someone else? What has God said to you in his Word that has changed you from the inside out? How has God grown your faith? I've seen God bring growth to a seed of faith planted in someone long ago. What worries and doubts have you placed at the feet of the Lord? How did God answer you? How did God lead you? How have you seen God leading someone else?

In large groups and in small groups let us talk with one another about the work our Lord is doing. This requires us to focus our attention on God, in all that we say and do. Let us bless God's holy name now and in the year to come! Let this be our song for the coming year:

*We are called to be God's people,
Showing by our lives his grace,
One in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for the human race.
Let us show how he has changed us, and remade us as his own,
Let us share our life together as we shall around his throne.*

*We are called to be God's servants, working in his world today;
Taking his own task upon us, all his sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to his summons, dedicate to him our all,
that we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now his call.*

Thomas A. Jackson

Your Co-worker in Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Associate Pastor

To the Saints at McFarland Lutheran;

Grace and peace to you from God, the father and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15:5-6)

This has been a tough year for all of us. Tough times or times of pain move us to rally the wagons for protection and protection of our territory. There are no easy answers to the problems that are facing us, but there are solutions to those problems if we can remember that “together with one voice we are to glorify the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.” How to do that requires first of all a commitment to one another, to the Lord of the church, and to that which will be for the common good.

A while back I shared an editorial with the council and the church staff from one of my magazines entitled “Majority rule?” A key phrase within that editorial was “the way churches make decisions is as important as what decisions are made.” It was the conviction of the editor that church decisions should be made by consensus and not by vote.

“Churches often put things to a vote for the same reasons that countries go to war: voting is the way one side can impose its will on the other side. We vote because we don’t have the imagination to think of other ways of making decisions or resolving conflicts. We vote because we don’t have the patience to live with ambiguity, or the grace to live with differences, or the endurance to commit ourselves to a long process of seeking a consensus.” (Christian Century, June 16, 2009)

I still believe we need an every member visit and a solid stewardship education emphasis where we do not necessarily talk about money but about what it means to be the church and how we take care of everything that God has entrusted to us.

An excellent program is available entitled “Make it Simple.” It focuses in four areas: 1) Following Jesus 2) Facing the Truth 3) Acting Together, and 4) Sharing Enough. Everything that is needed to offer a successful program is available for only \$25. All else that is needed are people who are willing to come together and put wheels on the program.

God bless us and lead us in getting back to the basics, striving for unity and peace, and offering our lives for the sake of the Gospel.

Director of Family Ministries

“Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.” 2 Cor. 4:1

The Apostle Paul uses the phrase, “we do not lose heart” twice in the fourth chapter of second Corinthians. Paul was going through some rough times when he wrote those words. He had been accused of being cunning and of falsifying God’s word. He was even accused of letting his sufferings veil his message about Jesus, thus leading to the rejection of the Gospel he proclaimed. And yet he says, “we do not lose heart.”

Paul’s passion was sharing the Gospel with others. The theology crafted in his letters laid the groundwork for the early Christian church. He was a Jew, a Roman citizen, and a scholar who knew Greek – the language of the times. He was of the utmost importance to the early church. He was bold and brave and he was an evangelist. But even he had critics. In addition to the persecutions he faced from the Roman government, he faced accusations from within the Judeo-Christian community as well.

While we are not even close to being in the same league with Paul and the early church, we have experienced conflict during the past year. More importantly, we realize that we embrace the same ministry as the early Christians: to share the love of God in Christ Jesus with others.

Even though the past year has been trying for both staff and congregation, really wonderful ministry continues to happen here: a vibrant Sunday School, an active Care of Creation ministry, welcoming Sunday morning hospitality, an inviting ministry to OWLS (older wiser Lutherans), an encouraging New Members process, opportunities for family fellowship at Lenten and Advent meals, and serving our brothers and sisters around the globe through the assembling of Midwife and Hospice Kits. These are just a few ministries with which I have been involved. These and many more continue to proceed as before – using the many and varied gifts of hundreds of volunteers (yes, hundreds) for whom I thank God daily.

We may be stressed by divisions within, but we continue to share Christ’s love. My greatest regret is that the conflict within MLC has taken time away from creating new ministries to help others in our congregation and community. We have looked inward too much over the past year and have sometimes chosen to trust ourselves and not God. It is hard not to lose heart.

But Paul didn’t. Or, maybe, like me, he did for a while. And then, the Holy Spirit, or the ever-living Word of God, or the loving support of those around us, got us jump-started again in spite of everything. Second Corinthians, which outlines Paul’s woes, was written during the most theologically productive period of his life. God can use our hard times to good advantage.

None of us knows where God’s call may lead us. But, Paul tells us that “all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose.” (Rom. 8:28) And we have God’s promise that “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Rom. 5:3-5) So, we do not lose heart. **We hope** for understanding and consensus and new beginnings and renewal.

Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone be the Glory),
Meg Nielsen, AiM
Director of Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you”. Philippians 4:7-8

This past year has been challenging, thought provoking, and yes, in some strange way inspiring. Most importantly it has forced us to look more closely at what God is calling us to do as a church. Through the struggles, adversity and numerous sacrifices it has stirred in us the desire and urgency to pray for God’s guidance and support.

The goal of youth ministry is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming and modeling the hope of the gospel. We have the opportunity and are called to “declare God’s power to the next generation, God’s might to all who are to come” (Psalm 71:18). To do this we must build relationships of trust by embracing our youth where they are and invite them to join us by living as a community in which all members need and belong to one another as a church. I’m grateful for the many adults at MLC that are willing to roll up their sleeves, listen to our youth, share their faith, teach, chaperone, mentor, drive, bake, and unconditionally care for them. This past year was evidence that while MLC struggled with budget issues we maintained strong support of our youth through the sharing of our faith, time/talents, and financial support. Our youth continued to grow in their faith through the following ministry, study, service and fellowship experiences: Affirmation of Baptism, Sunday School, PRAISE!, Summer Festival, Luther Fest, High School Breakfast, Baccalaureate, Souper Bowl Food Collection and Mentoring.

This past year I was invited to participate in a mission trip to Uganda with Bonnie Dirks. The highlight of the trip for me was a tea party we hosted for the women living out in the “bush.” Before our trip we collected over 100 scarves that were to be given as gifts to these women with the help of MLC youth, family and friends. When they arrived we greeted them and escorted each woman to one of the folding chairs set up in a circle in the shade. Each chair had one of those small blue swimming tubs in front of it with clean water (they use them for washing clothes). To their complete amazement we went around the circle and washed their legs/feet, massaged on lotion, and polished their toenails. There were tears, looks of disbelief and then smiles and laughter as they began to feel God's love for them through this experience. You can only imagine how they then felt when we continued by polishing their fingernails and applying lipstick on their lips. It was an emotion-packed event as we witnessed both the bewilderment and excitement they felt by being cared for in this very intimate way by women from "America" (a place they have been told is like Heaven where people have everything they want). Each woman was also given a Sanitary Kit and a scarf. The scarf was a big deal! They immediately put on their scarves, hugged us (a lot!) and danced around as they waited to get a glimpse of themselves in the mirror (by the looks on their faces it was clear some of them rarely or never have seen what they look like).

The added and unknown bonus to all of this was somehow these women's social status, which is considered the lowest in society, was viewed differently because they had been "favored as they saw it" by American women. Strangely, they were no longer shunned and instead others started buying the items they had made to sell. These women were able to start supporting their children. Who would have thought something like this would have benefited these women is so many ways?!

I’m grateful for this amazing experience and being able to share this incredible journey with our youth.

The people of Uganda say it best "God is good...all the time!"

God’s Peace,
Bonnie Duerst, Youth Ministries Coordinator

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

What a blessing to be part of CLM and witness His love everyday through the eyes of a child!
For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation. Psalm 100: 5

This year at CLM we were able to serve 64 Pre-Kindergarten, 48 3 Year Olds, and 25 School Agers. Five of these families were able to attend or continue attending through the generosity of donations and matching funds available from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans that make the Tuition Assistance Fund possible. What a blessing for families and a witness to the reaches of faith in this community and outreach ministry of McFarland Lutheran Church.

We have an amazing, dedicated teaching staff that delights in sharing “the good news” with children. (From the Family Evaluations, 2009) *We have been so pleased with our CLM experience. The teachers seem to enjoy working here and you get the sense that it isn't just a job, but that they really want to be here.* Thank you to Heather Anderson, Sara Asche, Rachel Clark, Chris Cole, Jessica Galbraith, Rachel Hamilton, Beth Daoust-Miller, Jess Moen, Janell Moran, Deb Nygaard, and Vicki Radloff , who went above and beyond this year taking on cleaning responsibilities when services were removed and drastically reducing spending in the face of budget difficulties. The time and talents of this staff are immeasurable!

Others support the CLM programs by serving on the CLM Board. The function of the board is to help set policies and goals. This year the board was responsible for making difficult budget related decisions, which led to many long meetings, and focused on keeping CLM the wonderful program and place it is. Thank you to Chris Olson, Amy Lawrence, Sheri Gehrke, Jeff Gerhke, Susan Heckel, Heather Flemming, Stephanie Martino, Dawn Blau, and Heidi Ackley who served on the board this year.

With a grateful heart we also thank McFarland Lutheran for including us in their ministry. We are blessed to share personnel and working space. We are also thankful for the many volunteer hours that Dennis Knutson offered in the way of computer up-keep and financial spreadsheets for budgeting. Thank you MLC!

We look forward to moving into 2009 with our faces to The Son. *For the Lord is good. ...Psalm 100:5.*

Blessings,

Becca Ziety

Care of Creation – 2008/2009

"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, Ron Blank, Dawn Bolstad, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Crystal Lokken, Rick Petzke, Barb Porter-Quam, Steve Schoenberger, Brady Showalter, Connie Showalter

Team Chairperson: Jane Blank
Staff Liaison: Meg Nielsen

The Care of Creation Ministry Team rejoices in the many projects we have completed here at McFarland Lutheran Church.

A Garden Market, organized and supported by our team, offered financial gifts to help feed the hungry in both our own community and throughout the world through the ELCA World Hunger network. In the spring of 2009, the Garden of Eatin' expanded by several more plots. Some of that growth is attributed to the COC Team managing 4 plots for the local McFarland food pantry. The Team is coordinating with the local food pantry and looks forward to sharing the treasures reaped from the garden. In addition to the produce, the Team planted flowers. The Team is hopeful that flowers from the Garden of Eatin' and from the 'Good Earth Prairie' may soon grace the presence of the altar of our worship space.

The compost bin and the rain barrels continue to provide "free" nutrients for the gardens while simultaneously enhancing our recycling practices.

The Team conducted multiple hands-on teaching/learning Sunday school classes. We worked inside and outside with the 'Good Earth Prairie' and for several weeks with a general overview of the benefits of Caring for God's Creations. MLC now has 3 Prairie plots each in different phases of growth.

Please take a look at the 'Good Earth Prairie' and the 'Garden of Eatin'. You can't miss them out back as they are marked with the beautifully handcrafted signs made by Crystal Lokken. You will also see, in the middle of the 'Garden of Eatin', an awesome archway handcrafted by Wes Licht. Take special note of the Christian symbols intertwined in the archway!

The Team is working on some exciting activities to share with the congregation this fall and winter. Some of these activities include education and recycling projects/outings. If you are interested in joining the Care of Creation Ministry Team, please contact any one of the members.

"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth" Genesis 9:16

Global Mission Committee – 2008/2009

The Global Mission Committee is pleased to announce the addition of a new member, Ron Vandeberg. New members are always welcome and please feel free to contact any committee member if you are interested in joining us in our mission. The Global Mission Committee's three main purposes are:

1. Promote the global mission of the ELCA.
2. Educate the congregation about global mission issues.
3. Enable the congregation to participate in the global mission of the ELCA.

The Annual McFarland Lutheran Mini Global Mission Event was held in October 2008. I felt this was the best we have held. Our guest visitors were Pastor Thomas Paye from Liberia, Pastor Dalton Levi-John from Sierra Leone and Sanchita Kisku from India (who was also the keynote speaker and who preached at McFarland Lutheran on that Sunday). The visitors were able to give us a better understanding of the extreme problems that exist in their parts of the world and at the same time share with us how their faith has enabled them to continue to have hope and how that same faith empowers them to continue to minister to people in spite of what we would consider "impossible" circumstances. Those who attended the event got so much out of it that they want to see if we cannot get more people to attend next year (especially from our congregational family) so that others get to share the experience we were blessed with. The Mini Global Mission Event is a great time to learn about all the things our church and others are doing to help Christians around the world and at the same time receive the blessing that comes with hearing others share their story and faith with us. It also helps put our own problems in perspective.

Our Tanzania outreach continues and this year was mainly directed at providing tuition for students to attend the Imani School we helped pay for. The school has developed an excellent reputation and many children apply with the hope of being able to attend it. Special thanks goes out to all those who help with these expenses. We have also continued support for Bishop Begonza's children, Mission and Vision as well as help support the widow and children of Pastor Jackson.

Bonnie Dirks continues to be involved with Hope 4 Kids and went to Uganda several times over the past year. She would be glad to talk to anyone who is interested about her experiences there. Also Meng and Kim Thikim were able to take a trip to Cambodia, the country of their birth, and while there distributed food and school supplies. Anyone who has not heard the inspiring story of their trip or seen their slides should ask them for a repeat presentation for the congregation.

Pastor Boymah from Liberia continues to be in our thoughts and we were able to send him money for another cow this year. His herd continues to grow and is something our whole church can take pride in. Thoughts of his herd should be kind of special to us in Wisconsin, what with us being the dairy state. Perhaps this is one of God's little "coincidences". We also helped in the purchase of sewing machines (and a generator to operate them) for women in Liberia.

Our sister relationship with the Synod in India has more meaning to us now that Sanchita Kisku shared so much with us during the Mini Global Mission Event. We are excited that Sanchita has decided to continue her studies at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago after her graduation in May.

Also graduating in May from Wartburg Seminary were Pastor Thomas Paye, Pastor Dalton Levi-John, Toromare Mananato and Pastor Mekennen Abakore, all of who participated at one of our Mini Global Mission Events. Rick Strauss was able to attend the graduation and represent our congregation. We will be posting a picture taken at the graduation.

Finally our new relationship with Pastor Charles Fredrickson who is in the mission field in Japan continues to go well. He spoke at our church on July 30th and continues to send very interesting letters on his ministry in Japan.

Please check out the Global Mission Committee bulletin board in church occasionally to see these letters and many other interesting pictures and letters we get from our brothers and sisters overseas. It is a great way to learn about different cultures. It is also inspiring and one cannot leave the bulletin board without being grateful for how much these contacts with Christians from other countries have enriched our own congregation. It is the old story of how those who give receive more in return.

Committee members Bonnie Dirks, Janet Knutson, Rick Strauss, Meng Thikim, Ron Vandeberg, Jack and Pat West, and Arn Vollmer continue to be thankful that God has led them to serve in reaching out to the global community. We also thank Pastor Jerry Pribbenow for his continued assistance to our committee. It is a delight to be able to work with him on global missions. He provides inspiration to us at every committee meeting through his faith, dedication and hard work on the part of those living in our world community.

Submitted by Rick Strauss, Chairperson.

Health and Wellness Committee– 2008/2009

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

During the past year, the 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 sessions of Tai Chi classes led by Ginny Dodson
- Just Eating adult educational opportunity
- Assisted with the annual Flu Shot clinic in fall of '08 and Blood Drive
- Encouraged congregation members' participation in various knitting projects (prayer shawls)
- 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
- Pharmaceutical services and Blood Pressure checks are provided on Health and Wellness Sunday's
- Home Communion services and providers
- Fund raising for the Special Needs fund

Potential future activities:

We are in the process of developing new ministry opportunities (making **Baby Quilts** for local EMS) and a **Caregiver Support Group** (is being coordinated).

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 any committee member.

In His Service,
Susan Brodd, Chair
Cleo Eliason
Jon Landen
Linda Langel
Tom Radloff
Pastor Jerry Pribbenow
Tom Scharine, Council Liaison

Personnel Board – 2008/2009

Members: Sandy Hall, Angela Schwartz, Jim Summers Dick Moen, Heidi Ackley, Jerry Hrovat, Rita Jenkins and Pastor Jeff Tomberlin

The Personnel Board meets the 3rd Thursday 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.

2008/2009 Accomplishments:

- Provided staff recognition.
- Continue to update staff job descriptions as the need arises.
- Gather information for the Wedding Coordinator position.

2009/2010 Goals:

- Continue to review job descriptions.
- Contracts for the paid music staff
- 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 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 had a very difficult year reducing positions, reduction in the staff salaries and pension plans. We appreciate the staff and everything that they do. The MLC staff has worked very hard in trying to keep the council and members of the congregation informed. Their commitment to the mission of McFarland Lutheran Church has stayed strong these past few months.

Properties Committee– 2008/2009

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

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

The Properties Committee has completed numerous projects throughout the year to maintain the property in the best condition possible. We greatly appreciated donations and volunteer work by members to assist with the improvements made to the church property and equipment. The insurance on the property was updated to reflect current values. A review and update was completed on the rental fee charges for individuals and organizations that use our facilities.

Currently, the committee is considering two projects. First the repair of the sidewalk and steps that lead into the north entrance of the church. The concrete steps are breaking up and will need to be repaired this summer or fall. The second repair is the broken areas of asphalt in the parking lots and restriping the parking lots.

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

Ken Anderson, Chairperson

Special Appeal Report June 30, 2009

*Every time it rains it rains,
Pennies From Heaven.
Don't you know each cloud contains,
Pennies From Heaven.*

At our July 27, 2008 annual congregational meeting, these lyrics from a popular song of the Big Band Era were used to describe this congregation's joyful and generous response to a short term appeal and long term appeal.

Our congregation approved the short term appeal and long term appeal at our March 30, 2008 congregational meeting. The goal of the short term appeal was to pay for the new roof and related expenses by the July 27, 2008 annual congregational meeting. You, as a congregation, responded joyfully. This goal was reached and the expense of the new roof, \$63,270 and related expenses not covered by insurance, \$6,803.71, were met.

The goal of the long term appeal is to retire the mortgage for our church building by our July 2010 annual congregational meeting. As of June 30, 2009, you, as a congregation, have generously given \$38,989.72 towards the long term appeal. These funds have been applied towards the principal of the mortgage. If the mortgage is retired by July 2010, we will save over \$22,000 in interest expense. As of June 30, 2009, the mortgage was \$77,892.22

In summary:

\$109,063.43 – total congregational giving towards short and long term appeals

\$63,270 – new roof expense

\$6,803.71 – related expenses not covered by insurance

-\$70,073.71 – total of expenses listed above

= \$38,989.72 – remaining funds applied towards the principle of the mortgage as of
6/30/2009

Please continue your joyful and generous giving as we work together to reach the goal of our long term appeal and retire our mortgage by July 2010.

To God be the Glory!

The Special Appeal Committee:

Kevin Strattan-Chair

Rita Jenkins-Church Office Manager

Bonnie Duerst

John Wells

Jerry Hrovat

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 service people, support of various youth projects, and donations for the food pantry. 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 November and December.

Officers are:

Rita Bussian - President
Linda Schiefelbein - Vice-President
Cheryl Ackley - Secretary & Treasurer
Yvonne Swanson – Service people

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, Sue Wiemer