

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Annual Congregational Meeting  
July 26, 2010  
11:30 am Potluck / 12:30 pm Meeting

Gathering Song

Call to Order

Devotion

Attendance Check

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from July 2009 annual meeting

New Business

Call for Congregational Council Nominees

Reports

Pastors

Visioning (tentative)

Child Life Ministries

Youth Ministries

Personnel Board

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the 2010-2011 Budget

Closing Prayer

Sending Song

## Report from the Congregational President July 2010

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God -- what is good and acceptable and perfect.*  
(Romans 12:2)

Dear Family and Friends of McFarland Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the congregational Council, thank you for your generosity, service, and prayers.

We are grateful to the pastors and staff of this congregation, especially to Pastor Jerry Pribbenow for his gentle, devoted leadership.

Last September, the Council and church staff met for prayer and discussion to discern God's plans for us. We centered our prayers and discussion around this question: "What is God calling us to do and to be?" At the time, we had no idea of the changes and transitions that lay ahead. Listening to God's call provided us with our direction and priorities for the council year:

First, we believe God is calling our congregation to know and share Christ – to follow his example, and to be faithful witnesses to the world.

And second, we believe God is calling us to build unity of spirit within our community of faith.

After developing priorities and goals for an interim ministry, we asked Pastor Jerry Tews to help us through the transition following the departure of our senior pastor, to renew our sense of mission, and to help prepare us to call our next senior pastor. We asked Pastor Finney to help us renew connections within our faith community, to find new ways of reaching out into the greater community, and to help us grow spiritually.

We are now about half way through the interim period. On August 7, we will meet as a congregation to discern God's vision for our future. We are ready as a congregation to focus on the future, and to begin the process of calling a pastor.

This year has been one of transition and change, and also one of renewal, refreshment, healing, and excitement about the future of our congregation. New ministries are being started up, and long-time ministries are being revitalized. Every day, the body of Christ is being built up as we connect with one another, encourage one another, and work together in his name.

God is forming, reforming, and transforming us. Thanks be to God, and thanks be to his son, the living Christ.

Sandy Chalmers  
Congregational President

## Financial Report

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

Thank you to all of you that shared your gifts of time, talents, prayers and treasures. McFarland Lutheran Church could not exist without these special gifts.

### **2009-2010 Summary**

Overall, our 2009/2010 total church budgeted income was \$626,990; \$2,132 short of what we had budgeted. Our 2009/2010 church budgeted expenses was \$591,948; \$41,379 less than budget. Although giving was less than anticipated, the Committees and Staff did an excellent job of controlling the expenses.

We were able to attain the Council Goal of establishing a Cash Reserve of 1 month expenses. The Cash Reserve is at \$83,010. This money is in a savings account and can be used if the church expenses exceed the church income in any month.

The Church Staff were paid full wages this year. 90% of the Church Staff wages were paid from the budget and 10% were from the Salary Special Appeals Fund. Thank you to those who contributed to this fund.

The Building Fund was re-established this year thanks to gifts from the Ruby Larson Estate and the Clara Peterson Estate. The Building Fund has a balance of \$67,829. This fund can be utilized for expenses relating to remodeling the existing structure, adding on to the existing structure or to build a new structure.

The Church Council approved the following policies that were presented:

- Gifts and Memorial Fund Policy
- Investment Policy for McFarland Lutheran Church
- Incorporation of McFarland Lutheran Church

McFarland Lutheran and Child Life Ministries purchased a mini-bus to replace the "Old Van". Thank you to those who contributed to this fund.

### **2010-2011 Planning**

We expanded on the method of budgeting that was followed last year. 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. But more important, the budget must also clearly reflect the church's priorities and allow it to further its mission. With this in mind, budget decisions were 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 the 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 will 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.

### 2010-2011 Budget

The proposed 2010-2011 budget is based on income of \$608,241, which reflects current trends in giving, pledging, and worship attendance. This is \$38,499 less than actual income received in 2009-2010.

The Council also makes the following recommendations and changes:

- In 2010-2011, benevolences will again be given as first fruits. In 2009-2010, this practice was followed and we were able to attain the budget.
- In 2010-2011, ten percent of regular envelope offering, special offerings and loose offering were given to benevolences. We will continue the practice started in 2009-2010.
- Staff salaries will be paid from the Church Budget. The Staff salaries will be at the 2009-2010 rates. This follows the recommendation of the South Central Synod.
- Effective October 1, 2010, full time staff will begin to pay 10% of the Health Care Benefits Cost.

|                             | <b>2009-2010<br/>(actual)</b> | <b>2010-2011<br/>(proposed)</b> | <b>Increase/decrease</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Budgeted Benevolences | \$61,012                      | \$55,890                        | (\$5,122)                |
| Total Church Personnel      | \$364,697                     | \$347,166                       | (\$17,531)               |
| Total Youth                 | \$7,987                       | \$17,025                        | \$9,038                  |
| Total Properties            | \$114,430                     | \$104,280                       | (\$10,150)               |
| Total Office                | \$20,787                      | \$30,750                        | \$9,963                  |
| Total Worship               | \$12,799                      | \$15,830                        | \$3,031                  |
| Total Social Ministries     | \$2,782                       | \$1,400                         | (\$1,382)                |
| Total Member Care/Outreach  | \$4,118                       | \$6,650                         | \$2,532                  |
| Total Fellowship            | \$8,327                       | \$9,750                         | \$1,423                  |
| Total Education             | \$8,675                       | \$12,750                        | \$4,075                  |
| Total Stewardship           | \$2,756                       | \$6,750                         | \$3,994                  |

**McFarland Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, July 26, 2009**

**Opening:**

Council President, Jerry Hrovat called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm.

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin led with a devotional prayer.

Council Member, Sheri Gehrke verified the attendance and indicated that the required quorum was met.

Jerry Hrovat introduced David Moore, the parliamentarian from the synod office, who will assist in conducting the meeting in good order.

**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 27, 2008. The motion carries. The minutes are accepted.

**New Business:**

Introduction & Affirmation of the Congregation Council: There are 4 council positions open. The three nominees for this year's council are Catherine Puisto, Marilyn Vandeberg, and Jim Boshers. President Jerry Hrovat accepted nominations from the floor. The open nominations were as follows:

Kris Bell nominated Dennis Knutson; seconded by. Bill Langel. Dennis Knutson accepts the nomination.

Norma Kohl moved to close the nominations. Carolyn Gehrke seconded the motion. Motion does not carry.

Bonnie Duerst nominated Bob Kalhagen, seconded by Carrol Vollmer. Bob Kalhagen accepts the nomination.

Jim Summers nominated Sarah Schutt, seconded by Sandy Hall. Sarah Schutt accepts the nomination.

Bill Langel moved to close the nominations, seconded by Harlan Hettrick. Nominations were closed. Ballots were taken. Each voting member selected four of the six nominees. The new council members are Catherine Puisto, Dennis Knutson, Bob Kalhagen and Sarah Schutt.

President, Jerry Hrovat thanked all the nominees. The motion was made and seconded to accept these new council members. The motion carries.

Pastor Jeff Tomberlin, Pastor Jerry Pribbenow, Director of Family Ministry-Meg Nielsen, Youth Ministries Coordinator- Bonnie Duerst.

The pastoral team presented a video, which can be viewed on the MLC website

Child Life Ministries: Becca Ziety shared a video about CLM.

Chris Olson, CLM President thanked the past board members that have completed their terms: Jeff Gehrke, Sheri Gehrke, Stephanie Martino, and Chris Olson. Current members are Susan Heckel, Heidi Ackley, Heather Flemming, Dawn Blau, and Amy Lawrence. New board members

are Jeff Bartz, Mark Watt, and Ken Landolt. Chris Olson made a motion to affirm these new board members. Sheri Gehrke seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**Natural Church Development Report:**

Dean Pribbenow reported on NCD. The NCD continues to look at the health of the church and tries to focus on the qualities of the church. Throughout the year the team has been working on building small groups within the church community. Over the next year they will continue to build small groups and involve more members. There will be another survey to be taken next spring.

**Worship Schedule:**

The regular worship schedule will resume on Sunday, September 13, 2009. The services are 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30. The time of Sunday school for the fall has yet to be determined.

Motion by Harlan Hettrick to form a task force to look at the safety issues in the hallway which is used for the coffee hour. There is a code violation with the tables and people that are in the hallway area. Jim Summers seconded the motion. Dean Pribbenow called the question. Jane Blank seconded. Motion carries.

**Personnel Report:**

Angela Schwartz refers to page 19 of the annual report. Angela thanked the members on the Personnel Board. Personnel will continue to work toward better communication with the staff, council, and members of the congregation. Angela thanked the staff for all that they have done, and continue to do, for the community of MLC.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Sandy Chalmers thanked the Finance Board and the Stewardship Committee for their work this year. The proposed budget for the 2009-2010 has a surplus of \$4,255.00.

In recent years, the church's shaky financial health has consumed much time and energy of councils and the congregation, and keeps us from focusing on ministry. Congregational giving this year was almost \$60,000 less than we expected, and expenses had to be reduced.

The philosophy behind this proposed budget is to be realistic on both income and expenditures, to give the congregation a breather from budget conflict. The hope is that council will be able to review giving trends halfway through the next fiscal year and adjust spending up, if possible.

The motion is on the floor to accept the budget with a surplus of \$4,255.00. Stanley Dodson made the motion to accept the 2009-10 budget. Sandy Hall seconded. After much discussion Bill Langel called the question. Jeff Gehrke seconded. Motion carries, budget approved. Chris Olson called for a hand count on the vote. Motion carries.

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:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Karen Emerson | Linda Langel |
| Jerry Hrovat  | Dick Moen    |

### Members beginning their 3<sup>rd</sup> year:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Kristine Bell   | Tom Scharine |
| Sandra Chalmers | Meng Thikim  |

### Members beginning their 2<sup>nd</sup> year:

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Bob Kalhagen   | Sarah Schutt      |
| Dennis Knutson | Marilyn Vandeberg |

## PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2009

|   | <u>Baptized</u> | <u>Confirmed</u> |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Members at the End of 2008                    | 2100            | 1390             |
| Baptism                                       | 35              |                  |
| Members Received                              | 14              |                  |
| Confirmation Class                            |                 | 10               |
| Transferred in / Reinstated                   | 22              |                  |
| From other sources and statistical adjustment |                 |                  |
| Deaths  | 15              | 15               |
| Transferred out / Removed                     | 43              |                  |
| Statistical Adjustment                        | <u>33</u>       | <u>5</u>         |
| Members at the End of December 2009           | 2080            | 1380             |



## Interim Senior Pastor's Report

In Ephesians 4, Paul gives us the scope of the purpose and the desired functioning of the church: we must use our gifts ***“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ....we must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”*** (Ephesians 4:12, 14-16 NRSV)

Paul's description of the church describes relationships within the church. Like the human body, the Body of Christ needs continuity and sameness, and at the same time needs to be able to express differences and demonstrate flexibility. He also states clearly that the church is a system created to have all of its individual parts working in harmony with one another for the benefit and greater good of all.

Understanding the church as a system asserts that change in one part of the body affects the whole body. Change produces anxiety in any body, including the Body of Christ. And, anxiety exists in all relationships. Anxiety can cause emotional pain, can lead to growth, and can be, in itself, an invitation to change. It can interfere with our relationships by limiting our capacity to be open, caring, and loving people. Heightened anxiety causes us to lose our capacity for creativity and imagination, and when threatened, in the pursuit of “keeping everything normal” may even tempt us to compromise our Christian values and faith.

The antidote for heightened anxiety is vision. Vision is the key factor in how a congregation embraces change, moves beyond the intense pain of loss, and rediscovers the capacity to hope. A congregation that remains in the grip of loss and grief and anxiety is unable to see the present clearly—or to envision the future.

Before saying more about McFarland Lutheran Church's vision and future let me, along with Pastor Jack Finney, say “thank you” to the congregation for inviting and welcoming us into your midst. At a time of heightened anxiety you have been gracious and warm in receiving us and accepting our ministry among you. We appreciate greatly your willingness to accept our gifts which, combined with your strengths, we are confident will once again aid your congregation to be the strong witness to Christ that it has been in the past.

### Voices from the past...

The key to becoming a stronger and healthier congregation lies in having a clear and mutually accepted vision of **worship, learning, and service**. These are the three legs that support any healthy congregation. Where does such a vision come from? It comes from a variety of sources chief among which are the voices and traditions of the past, the uncovering of existing values.

In my brief time with you I have been listening to the stories you have shared from the past. I especially thank those individuals who took time to write out their reflections, those who shared their stories in hallways, during meetings, over lunch, or wherever. Additionally, there is a special group I want to thank and that is our Quilting Ladies. On two separate weeks, while they

assembled their quilts, they allowed me to “interrupt” their normal procedures by asking them four questions:

- When did you feel most proud of your congregation?
- When did you individually feel most alive, engaged, or motivated in the life of the congregation?
- When did you feel sad for your congregation?
- In everything what is the DNA, what is at the heart of the matter for you as you think of your congregation?

The following lists are very incomplete, but they do give a snapshot of the past from which a clear statement of present values can be drawn.

These are things that I heard which made some of you proud of your congregation:

- The supporting of Pastor Bagonza and other missionaries
- When the dedication of the new sanctuary happened
- When Pastors Bergson and Tomberlin ministered in one to one relationships
- When Pr. Bergson related to the youth and young people
- When Pastor Smrcka was here we held services in Lewis Park and also at the High School auditorium
- While Pastor Johnson was here
- When the contemporary music teams began and brought people in
- When Pastor Lund was working here, especially the Befriender’s group
- Pastor Peterson created a warm, welcoming church, good preaching, messages for everyday life, openness.
- Pastor Pribbenow’s steady and reliable ministry especially in the area of Global Missions

These are times some felt most alive, engaged, and motivated in the life of the congregation:

- When on council and held office
- When I join a special group—like the Quilter’s group, choir, handbells, altar guild
- When I taught Sunday School or served on a committee
- When Pastor Diemer was here and we had direction again and healing came back—he helped us stay together
- When Pastor Bergson was here—his sermons, connection with youth and young families
- Wednesday evening services

When did you feel sad for your congregation?

- When Pastor Bergee was unhappy in his leaving
- When Pastors Smrcka, and Baucom could not seem to get along
- When Pastor Smrcka was asked to leave
- When the pastoral staff was not willing or able to provide leadership for the congregation
- When Pastor Bergson left angry and frustrated, as did Pastor Tomberlin

- Too many of our pastors—not all—but too many left in frustration and confusion from the 1980's to the present day
- When I didn't know what was going on and asked questions but still did not get an answer
- When I feel an undercurrent that I cannot identify.

In everything what is the DNA, what is at the heart of the matter for you?

- McFarland Lutheran Church has been and remains a friendly, welcoming congregation
- Too many of our Pastors have left frustrated and confused
- Our Befriender's Group has taught us how to care for one another
- If you are not directly involved, i.e. on council, you do not know what is going on
- Unclear leadership increases uncertainty in the followers.

The voices and traditions of the past, uncovering existing values, seem to be saying:

McFarland Lutheran Church values people getting along with each other, being able to help in ministry with each other, having clear access to the decision making process, being told the truth even when it is difficult to hear, having clergy who can lead publicly and live in harmony with other staff personnel, good preaching, good music, a variety of worship experiences, strong emphasis on doing mission work either here at home or abroad, capable and understanding office personnel, taking good care of their building, and a strong educational structure for both youth and adults.

Voices from the past...**help lead us into the future....**

McFarland Lutheran Church needs to cast a vision for its future that builds on the best of the past. We are seeking help from outside resources to do this. Allen-Olson Consulting have experienced skill in helping congregations like ours learn from the past and set measurable mission and visioning goals which give direction and aim to the congregation. While they cannot do our work for us they will help us "connect the dots" between what you have held as values in the past and what you are seeking to happen in the future.

There are things which must be let go of from the past or they will continue to weigh down the congregation going forward. Chief among them would be how previous pastors were treated by the congregation (or portions of it) and how those same previous pastors provided (or did not provide) leadership and vision for the congregation. Because we tend to find truth in our perceptions, cliques and groups can form around those holding the same perceptions while excluding those who do not. Now is the time to let go of what is not helpful from the past. Situations and happenings from the past can never be corrected to satisfy all affected by them. Forgiveness is needed. Forgiveness is not just a religious word; it is the very life blood of every congregation seeking to thrive. We do not forget the past; we learn from it and move forward. Our Vision Process may include a service of forgiveness aiding us to lay to rest what is hurtful and not helpful today, thereby giving our future its opportunity to emerge. This Visioning process is critical to the life of your congregation; I encourage you to participate as fully as you can.

Voices from the past...help lead us into the future...**listening to what God's vision is for our congregation.**

Aligning our vision with God's vision is the only way to inspire the hearts of people. And it is the most faithful. What can energize us more than a vision for our future that is focused in Scripture, relevant to its historical and contemporary contexts, and faithful in its service to God in the future? An inspiring vision will enable us to see beyond the painful losses and overwhelming challenges that have caused us to flounder; it prepares us to find a new way.

It is in our visioning that we will be able to embrace change and make choices. We do so as the people of God in this time and place remembering and living by what Paul said to the people making up the congregations of Galatia,

***“speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”***

May God bless our memory and our planning.

Peace,  
Pastor Tews  
Interim Senior Pastor

## **Minister of Spirituality and Community Life**

I think it is more than a coincidence that two pastors who did not know each other both retired from the Chicago area to Stoughton. Bishop Burnside noticed our complementary gifts and asked us to co-lead a one day congregation council retreat. That led to him suggesting Pastor Tews and me as an interim team here at MLC, each bringing our areas of gifts and strengths and enabling us to make a contribution in our retirement years. I see the Holy Spirit at work in how this came about and am so pleased to have this opportunity to work with you.

My job description is Minister of Spirituality and Community Life. The main way I have carried out the spirituality area so far is through preaching, beginning with the Lenten series on prayer. I hope to lead some workshops in the future.

Community Life has taken on three dimensions for me. First is member care. The renewal of the Befriender ministry is central to this. Betty Showers coordinated two Befriender reunion meals which sixty people attended. Those attending committed to being a Befriender to members and friends of the congregation in specific areas. Betty, along with Huldah Ellestad, is yoking Befrienders interests with the needs of the people.

A second area I am involved in is Outreach to visitors. I am presently the one who calls frequent visitors. In June I led a three session Membership Class. We'll do another one in the fall and spring. Huldah Ellestad is also working with me in this area.

A third area is small group ministry. I am encouraging all committees and groups to have some community time at their meetings – giving people an opportunity to “check in” if they have any joys or concerns, have experienced a “God Moment” or have a prayer request. This is one more way to get to know one another. I've also offered group sharing time after the evening mid-week Lenten services, two times for Coffee with Pastor Jack; a luncheon for retired folk; and am presently meeting with members to plan a morning support group for moms in the fall; quarterly family events; a monthly evening meeting for moms; and some Marriage Enrichment programs.

I look forward to continuing to walk with you with hope, prayer and anticipation as you move toward calling a new senior pastor.

Peace,  
Pastor Jack Finney

## Associate Pastor

Dear Members of McFarland Lutheran Church,

The fiscal year of 2009-10 was not one that went by without some significant personal events. The fulltime ministry that I gave from the end of September through January, then the vacation time that forged into a forced vacation with my back and leg pain, and finally the joyful celebration of my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. Each one had a major impact upon my life. I thank you for your support and encouragement through each of them. McFarland Lutheran is very special to me, and you are McFarland Lutheran.

I participate in the following ministries:

- The Health and Wellness Committee
- The Global Ministry Committee
- The Stewardship Committee
- Adopt-A-Highway
- Skaalen Retirement Services Board
- Home and Hospital Visitations
- Adult Education and Occasional Leading of Worship
- Worship Services at Harmony Assisted Living
- Worship Services at Avalon Nursing with Len Lane
- Oversee Worship at Mary Ann's Assisted Living with Jon Landen
- Working with the Refugee Committee

I believe it is important that we find someone or a group to begin the updating of our church history before we lose important segments of it. We are grateful to Pauline Larson for overseeing that for years. Someone else needs to step up now.

I would also like to work at organizing a Social Ministry Committee. I had started this last fall and then events happened that caused it to be set aside. Social Ministry, the reaching out to the community around us and keeping up to date on legislation items that need to be addressed is an important part of ministry. How we present ourselves to the community and bring the kingdom to bear upon the community is what social ministry is about.

We have many opportunities to make a difference in our community and around the world. We have made some significant differences in many locations already. Not everyone is going to be challenged to participate in all, but there is something for everyone to find an interest in participating. Opportunities for participation and support will continue to be offered and you may pick and choose.

Thank you for your love and support, and for the opportunity to do ministry with you. McFarland Lutheran has been my home for almost 22 years. My prayer is that we will grow in our worship, educational, and service life to the honor and glory of God.

To God be the glory!  
Pastor Jerry Pribbenow

## Youth Ministry

*The scribes asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."* Mk.12:29-31

The list below gives a quick snapshot of how our McFarland Lutheran Youth have lived out Jesus' commandments during this past year. They have learned to love the Lord through worship and study. They have learned to love each other and themselves as they build relationships. And, they have learned to love and serve others both here in our community and through actions that reach out to others in other parts of the world.

- Affirmation of Baptism
- Baccalaureate
- Bake Sale for Haiti
- Boxcar Loading for Lutheran World Relief
- Confirmation Extravaganza
- High School Breakfast
- High School Lock Out
- High School One Step Beyond Worship
- Hat, Mitten, Scarf Tree
- Homemade Dolls for Orphan Children in Uganda
- Jr. High Summer Festival
- Jr. High Winter Festival Retreat
- LEAD Conference
- Youth Lenten Devotions
- Mentoring
- McFarland Food Pantry Helpers
- Mini Global Mission Event
- Moonlight Madness
- Post High School Mailings
- PRAISE
- Preschool Devotions
- Pumpkin Extravaganza
- Refugee Assistance
- Restoring Hope Transplant House
- Servicemen/Women Mailings
- Souper Bowl Food Collection
- Sr. High Summer Festival
- Sr. High Winter Festival Retreat
- AOB Sunday School
- Support for Trinity Place Homeless Shelter
- Synod Lutheran Youth Organization
- Ukrainian Egg Decorating
- Youth "Faith Conversations" ~ McF House Cafe
- Youth ecumenical events with Christ the King/UCC

I'm looking forward to working with the new Youth Ministry Board, the excitement of rebuilding the confirmation program and the important ministry opportunities available to our young people in the year ahead.

Joyfully,  
Bonnie

# 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

14 When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. 15 I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." 16 Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. Mark 10: 14-16

## **McFarland Lutheran Church Child Life Ministries (CLM) is an outreach ministry of McFarland Lutheran Church to the young children of our community and their families.**

- This year 65 Pre-K children, 48 Three Year Old children, and 22 school agers were involved in our programs.
- 5 children in preschool utilized the Tuition Assistance Fund. This monetary support for families comes from generous gifts of congregational and community members.
- This year's Jackson Paul Heckel Memorial Scholarship recipient participated in our Pre-K program. This scholarship is funded by the Annual Scrap From My Heart Event, a scrapbook/card making crop during Valentine's Day weekend. The goal is to send one child to preschool annually with this event, however, this year was so successful that a Pre-K and a 3 Yr. Old will be granted the scholarship! Thank you to the Heckel family for the gift of early, Christian education in memory of Jackson and the time and energy this event requires.
- Thank you to McFarland Lutheran for sharing this wonderful space and staff with CLM again this year.

## **Academic growth evolves through Christian care, worship, music, art, play, sharing and story.**

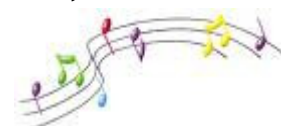
- This was another wonderful year in which we (children and staff) learned through play, activities, and music. We learned how He wraps us in his care and how to share it with others. We were also able to learn from some fun outings---the pumpkin patch, the zoo, and much more!
- The van we use to transport children was deemed unsafe this winter and we had to work out a replacement plan. Thank you to Denise and Matt Kuehl for making a van available to us until we were able to purchase a new-to-us vehicle, it was much appreciated. Thank you to the Van Committee for their expedient, efficient work in replacing the van with an ultra-safe mini-bus. With this addition we are able to provide transportation after *and* (new!) before school....and promote programming at McFarland Lutheran Church!

## **Our school and childcare center embody a Christian atmosphere of love, acceptance, grace and forgiveness to each individual child.**

- The CLM Board volunteers their time to assist in setting policies and goals. Thank you to this year's members: Amy Lawrence, Sarah Schutt, Heidi Ackley, Mark Watt, Dawn Blau, Ken Landolt, Jeff Bartzen, Heather Flemming, and Susan Heckel.
- I offer a heartfelt thanks to this amazing staff for all they do for the "kids of CLM" and one another. They *"have not kept the good news of your justice hidden in their hearts; They have talked about your faithfulness and saving power. They have told everyone in the great assembly of your unfailing love and faithfulness."* Psalm 40:10. Staff for 2009-2010 are Heather Anderson, Rachel Hamilton, Chris Cole, Deb Nygaard, Sara Phelan, Jessica Galbraith, Beth Daoust-Miller, Vicki Radloff, Rachel Clark and Jess Moen.

In His Name,  
Becca Ziety

**We love Jesus, We love our School!**





# SPECIAL APPEAL REPORT

June 30, 2010

*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, was 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, generously gave \$38,989.72 towards the long term appeal. These funds were 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 6/30/09

From July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 an additional \$17,678.75 has been received to apply against the principal of the mortgage. As of June 30, 2010 the mortgage is \$45,417.77.

Please continue your joyful and generous giving as we work together to retire our mortgage.

To God be the Glory!

The Special Appeal Committee:

Kevin Strattan-Chair

Rita Jenkins-Church Office Manager

Bonnie Duerst

John Wells

Jerry Hrovat

## CARE OF CREATION

*“The Lord reigns...Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.”* Psalm 96:10,12

Members: Jane Blank, Ron Blank, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Rick Petzke, Connie Showalter  
Team Chairperson: Dawn Bolstad

The Care of Creation Team has nurtured and raised awareness about God’s creation by the many projects we have organized and supported this past year.

We have continued to offer the “Garden of Eatin” plots to encourage organic gardening. For the 2010 gardening year we have 11 gardeners using 20 plots. The COC team tends a plot that supplies produce to the McFarland Food Pantry. Last year we donated 1050 pounds of fresh produce to the community as well as cut flowers that were well received. We also continued to organize the Garden Market on Sunday mornings allowing others who had an over abundance of garden goodies to donate them with the proceeds going to the McFarland Food Pantry and the ELCA World Hunger Fund. We continue to encourage the use of the compost bin and rain barrels in the back of church. Last fall we were able to use the compost to enrich the “Garden of Eatin”.

We were excited to work with the Sunday School children this year. In the fall, fifth and sixth graders helped collect prairie/rain garden seeds and then helped plant the third prairie area. We also contributed to the “Earth Day” rotation for all Sunday School children this spring. The prairie and rain garden areas have grown and matured. Throughout the seasons they offer beautiful blooms and grasses for viewing and donating for bouquets.

This year we have started several new ministries. In March we offered a Prayer Labyrinth. We hope to continue to offer a labyrinth on a yearly basis. We also have begun to offer Full Moon Walks. These multigenerational walks are meant to raise awareness of the wonders of God’s creation and provide fellowship. We also are planning on having a “Blessing of the Animals” service in August.

This year we lost two very active members of our ministry team. Crystal Lokken was appreciated for her eye for detail and artistic abilities and Meg Nielsen, the founder of our team, for keeping us on track caring for God’s creation.

## **EDUCATION VISION**

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.* *Romans 8:28*

Members: Karen Emerson, Bonnie Duerst, Brenda Moen, Connie Schowalter, Diane Wells

During the past year the Education Vision Team has been involved in the following:

- Sunday School – finding teachers, shepherds, getting rooms ready
- Kids Krafts during Advent and Lent
- Pumpkin Fest
- Christmas Program
- Youth Events
- Easter Special Events
- Ministry Fair
- Vacation Bible School

We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We welcome thoughts and/or comments. Contact any member.

## **FINDING JOY MOM'S GROUP**

The Finding Joy Mom's Group of McFarland Lutheran Church meets the first Thursday of the month in Room 113 at 9:00 AM during the school year. We actively participate in service projects. We provide Hospice Kits, Midwife Kits and Health Kits for those in need in Africa and Haiti. Our work is in coordination with Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries. We also provide meals for families who recently had babies who are members of MLC, attend CLM or are baptized at MLC.

Additionally, we read and discuss a book that is Christian based. We like to have fun! Join us for a Spa Night or a New Year's brunch. We welcome all Moms.

Members of the Finding Joy Group include: Mindy Marty, Lynn Posick, Carol Naze, Amy Soderman, and Sharon Strattan

## GLOBAL MISSION

The Global Mission Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Mike Catterall to our committee. New members are always welcome and please feel free to contact any committee member or just come to a meeting on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm if you are interested in joining us in our mission.

The Global Mission Committee seeks to fulfill Christ's Mission through our congregation by promoting the global mission of the ELCA. By having members support and become involved in the global mission of the ELCA they will be sharing with and supporting Christians throughout the world in fulfilling both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. We hope that through sharing with congregations in other parts of the world, we will come to know that we can learn much about Christ's teachings from one another and also learn how much we are all neighbors. Through supporting global mission the congregation will give resources to others to help them spread the mission Christ has given us and the congregation will also be helping neighbors in need.

The Annual McFarland Lutheran Mini Global Mission Event was held in October 2009. I felt this was the best we have held, but then I always feel that way. Our guest visitors were Pastor Jutta from Germany and Pastors Sanchita and Chaks from India. The visitors from India were able to give us a better understanding of the 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. The Pastor from Germany discussed the need to build up the church in Germany. The Mini Global Mission Event was 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 helped put our own problems in perspective. However, the committee has been disappointed in the attendance at our annual Global Mission Event, especially in light of all the advance advertising on our theme "It's a Small World". We will therefore be trying a different way this year to inform the congregation what is going on in the global mission of the ELCA. Rather than have just a one day event that one must make a conscious effort to attend we will set aside two Sundays in October for Global Mission speakers. The goal is to raise global mission issues during the actual services, during the times on Sunday when people are not attending a service but are still at church, and early Sunday afternoon.

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 Bagonza's children, Mission and Vision, as well as help support the widow and children of Pastor Jackson. Bishop Bagonza was able to visit us last fall and it was exciting to hear all that was going on in Tanzania.

Bonnie Dirks continues to be involved with Hope 4 Kids and went to Uganda twice this year for an extended time. She would be glad to talk to anyone who is interested about her experiences there.

Pastor Boymah from Liberia continues to be in our thoughts. Unhappily a cow and calves died but he was able to trade the remaining cow for two calves so growing a small herd is still possible. Other animals including pigs, lambs, Guinea hens and rabbits are being raised with our help. Pastor Boymah visited with us in May and gave an excellent slide presentation that

showed all the things our congregation is involved with in Liberia. He shared that he and Pastor Paye will be starting new ministries in the country side. We are trying to raise money to enable them both to buy motorcycles, as that is the only way to travel into the country side

Our sister relationship with the Synod in India has more meaning to us now that Sanchita Kisku again shared so much with us during the Mini Global Mission Event. Sanchita is continuing her studies at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago after her initial graduation last May.

Pastor Charles Fredrickson, who we have supported in Japan, is now back in the U.S. and is looking to become pastor of a church. We hope to get him to our church later this year to tell us of his experiences while a pastor in Japan.

We were also blessed this year in having additional money for student scholarships. Money was sent to help children in Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia and our own CLM.

Please check out the Global Mission Committee bulletin board in church occasionally to see the letters and pictures we have received from our brothers and sisters overseas. Besides helping us learn about different cultures, the letters and pictures are also very 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, as well as helped Christians in need. It is the old story of how those who give receive more in return.

Our plans for the coming year will continue to be focused on fulfilling Christ's Mission through our congregation by promoting the global mission of the ELCA. The Global Mission Committee feels the best way to fulfill these objectives is to get the congregation to know Christians from other parts of the world on a personal level. When we get to know someone personally, it is easier to relate with them, to treat them as neighbors', to want to help any that are in need and to work with them on fulfilling both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Committee members Mike Catterall, Bonnie Dirks, Janet Knutson, Jon Landen, Rick Strauss, Meng Thikim, Ron Vandeberg, 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

*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, the Health & Wellness Committee was involved in the following:

- Supported and participated in Healing Services and Services of Prayer and Remembrance. A social gathering with refreshments is offered following each of the services
- Annual flu shot clinic
- Encouraged congregation members' participation in various knitting projects (prayer shawls and baby blankets)
- Card station ministry for military personnel, youth away at college, monthly member birthday list and cards for all occasions
- Monthly Blood Pressure Screening
- Cell phone, hearing aid and eye glass collection
- Provide home communion to those who are unable for any reason to attend worship services
- Developed a caregiver support group
- Monthly temple talk about a health related topic
- Skaalen Retirement Services presentation
- Homebound Tape Ministry
- Promoted Sabbath Time (1 in 7)
- Participated in the Ministry Fair

Potential future activities:

- Participate in the McFarland Family Festival
- Tai Chi in the fall
- CPR/AED training
- Continue discussions and joint efforts with Village
- Workshops: twitter, facebook, estate planning

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 Pastor Jerry Pribbenow, or any committee member.

In His Service,

Cleo Eliason, Susan Brodd, Jon Landen, Linda Langel, Tom Radloff, Tom Scharine, Pastor Jerry Pribbenow

## **PERSONNEL BOARD**

The Personnel Board reviewed and updated its own guidelines (role and responsibilities) which were then approved by Council. The members of the Personnel Board met with all MLC staff to better understand each position. We also reviewed the results of a time study completed by the lay ministry staff. Based on this information the Board reviewed and updated all of the position descriptions to reflect what staff currently are doing. The Board considered the relationship between itself and the CLM Board. We arranged for or assisted with several celebrations of staff for 5 year anniversaries and departures. The group held at least six additional meetings to work on the employee handbook. An updated and revised handbook will be completed and sent to Council for approval by July. The Board reviewed labor costs and made recommendations on benefits and wage package for staff. Finally we have advertised for both music and custodial positions and will be making recommendations for hire.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Hall

## **PROPERTIES**

The members of the Properties Committee are Ken Anderson, Dick Kohl, Loretta Bailey, Susan Brodd, Jim Miller, Rita Bussian, and Kris Bell (Council Representative).

The Properties Committee is responsible for ensuring that the church property is well maintained. The size of the property and the tremendous use of the property keep the custodian staff extremely busy. Thanks to each of the custodians for all they do throughout the year. Thanks also for the volunteers who maintain the flower beds, lawn care, snow removal, painting, and help with cleaning inside the church.

The Properties Committee has completed numerous projects throughout the year to maintain the property in the best condition possible. The major improvement this past year was the replacement of the steps leading to the church from the original parking lot. The kitchen was updated with two new stoves and two freezers. The stoves were purchased with memorial funds and the freezers were donated by Sub-Zero. The committee is currently working on repairing cracks in the sidewalks and damage done to areas of the blacktop in the parking lots.

Rita Bussian is resigning her position as "Facilities Manager" effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate the devoted service she has given to McFarland Lutheran Church the past several years.

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

Ken Anderson, Chairperson

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This year the Stewardship committee used the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) stewardship theme *Make It Simple*. Individually and as a congregation we strive to be better stewards, with the emphasis of our committee being worship, giving and serving. In addition to the fall pledge campaign, this year we had a theme of stewardship for each month of the year, each theme representing opportunities for you to share your gifts and be active in the life of this congregation.

On Sunday, May 16, the Family Life Center (FLC) came alive with the Ministry Fair. This rewarding event was sponsored by the Education Vision, Health and Wellness, and Stewardship committees. Participants were able to try their hand at ringing a handbell, tie knots (under the supervision of Boy Scouts), play a board game, eat an assortment of treats, as well as learn about many other ways to be active in our congregation.

Over the next three years, Thrivent Financial services will be in our congregation three times each year to hold forums connected with the economy and information that will affect and help all of us. Also, the Stewardship emphasis for this year will be held the last part of September into the middle of October under the theme "Faithful Living Practices for the Church." It is hoped to have a congregational meal to conclude this year's program as well as opportunities for all to participate in cottage meetings and other forums.

We welcome you to join this ministry team as we encourage and invite members of this congregation to serve our risen Lord. Please contact Jerry Hrovat for more information at [hrovatj@wsmamusic.org](mailto:hrovatj@wsmamusic.org)

God's Peace

The 2009-2010 Stewardship Committee: Pastor Jerry Pribbenow, Cheryl and Lee Ackley, Bob Castleberg, Holly Heuer, Jerry Hrovat and Marilyn Vandeberg.



## **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 \$760. Of this amount \$700 was given to the McFarland Food Pantry with Thrivent giving matching funds of \$231. This past year we also donated to the Good Samaritan Fund here at MLC, the Haiti Relief Fund, the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Food Pantry, and Claramae Sherry memorial.

Circle members are Thelma Allen, Ginny Dodson, Carolyn Gehrke, Heleen Hayden, Gayle Huston, Janet Knutson, Norma Kohl, Sandy Larson, Iris Othrow, Barbara Porter-Quam, Judi Strauss, Kea Thikim, Nancy Vick, 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 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, and Sue Wiemer