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Annual Congregational Meeting
July 26, 2011
6:00 pm Refreshments / 6:30 pm Meeting

Gathering Song

Call to Order

Devotion

Attendance Check

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from July 2010 annual meeting

New Business

Call for Congregational Council Nominees

Reports

Pastors

Sanctuary Vision Team

Senior Pastor Call Committee

Child Life Ministries

Youth Ministries

Personnel Board

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the 2010-2011 Budget

Closing Prayer

Sending Song

**McFarland Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
July 26, 2010**

1. **Call to Order** - Sandy Chalmers called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM

- Pastor Tews began the meeting with a devotion and prayer.
- A quorum of over 80 voting members was in attendance.

2. **Old Business**

Approval of Minutes from July 2009 Annual Meeting

- Moved by Sandy Hall; seconded by Karen Emerson to approve the minutes from the July 2009 Annual Meeting as recorded. Motion Carried.

3. **New Business**

a. **Call for Church Council Nominees**

Nominations were open for a person to complete a two year term of office.

- Bill Langel nominated Marilyn Vandenberg to serve as a member of the Council for this two year term; seconded by Sandy Hall. Hearing no other nominations, a vote was taken and Marilyn Vandenberg was elected to serve a two year term as a member of the church council.

The Nomination Committee presented Eileen Brost; Jon Landen; Scott Potts and Deb Wellman as nominees for the four open positions on the Council.

- Moved by Sheri Gehrke; seconded by Angela Schwartz to elect these four candidates to three year terms on the Council.
- Moved by Norma Kohl, seconded by Sheri Gehrke to close nominations. Motion Carried.

Nominees were elected to Council on a voice vote. Motion carried.

These four individual will serve three year terms as members of the church Council.

b. **Reports**

Pastor Tews

- Thanked all members for the warm welcome he received while serving as our interim senior pastor.
- Recognized that our church has a very positive defined set of values based upon creativity and a focus on our future.
- Encouraged everyone to attend the planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 7th.
- Announced that a special “service of letting go” will be celebrated on Sunday, August 8th inviting everyone to let go of things of the past, in personal and congregational life, that are not helpful which will then free our ability to focus with creativity and joy on the future.

Pastor Pribbenow

- Called for continued support of programs that have served the special needs of our members and the community of McFarland. Announced the revitalization of the Social Ministries Committee.
- Reminded us that McFarland Lutheran Church is having an impact on congregations throughout the world.
- Encouraged start-up of adult bible study classes that would be led by graduates of the Bethel Bible Series.

Visioning

Members are reminded of the visioning session that will begin at 8:30 AM on Saturday, August 7

Child Life Ministries

Deb Nygaard thanked the congregation for their continued support of their many programs.

Youth Ministries

Bonnie Duerst expressed her thanks to the many volunteers who have served as chaperones for summer events. A newly established Youth Board will begin over-seeing the Youth Ministries program and work to expand the activities for our youth.

Personnel Board

Sandy Hall reported that they have completed a final draft of the revised employee handbook and have referred it to the Council for their review and adoption. This year, they have also reviewed and as necessary, revised job descriptions for all staff positions. They are now focused on interviewing and hiring individuals to fill vacant music positions.

Treasurer's Report

Dennis Knutson highlighted the many activities of the Finance Committee this past year, especially the development of a written policy which will guide future investments. Special thanks were given to Rita Jenkins for her dedication to ensuring the financial records of our church are accurate. He then presented the final budget report from the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Major highlights include:

- An operating reserve has been established.
- Purchase of a mini-bus for use by Child Life Ministries.

c. Approval of the 2010-2011 Budget

Dennis Knutson presented the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

- ↳ Moved by Deb Hettrick; seconded by Karen Emerson to approve the proposed 2010-2011 budget as presented. Motion Carried.

4. Announcements

1. Amy Lawrence updated the congregation on the CLM Board.
2. A suggestion was made to consider scheduling the annual meeting at a time when more individuals may be able to attend; possibly a week-night.
3. Thanks and a special recognition was given to Pastor Pribbenow for his dedication and many hours of service to McFarland Lutheran Church throughout this past year; and to the interim team of Pastor Tews and Pastor Finney for their outstanding leadership.
4. Thanks and appreciation was given to members of the church Council for their support and leadership throughout this past year.

5. Closing Prayer

- ↳ Moved by Dennis Knutson; seconded by Kris Bell to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

Sandy adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM and led members in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Tom Scharine, Secretary

**Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting
McFarland Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 13, 2011**

Present: See attached listing.

Call to Order – Sandy Chalmers called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

Items for Discussion and Action

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on calling Katya Ouchakof to serve as an interim associate pastor.

Terms of the Call

The associate pastor will be filling a part-time position that is described as 30 hours per week. This position will end 6 months after the employment of a senior pastor. The person filling this position will be responsible for all of the typical pastoral duties, including faith formation for all ages. Special emphasis will be on the Sunday School program, Vacation Bible School, and co-teaching confirmation students with other pastors.

Compensation

The total cost for this associate pastoral position is \$52,000. This includes the cost of salary, insurance, housing allowance and retirement.

Katya Ouchakof

A summary of Katya's education and work experience was included in the recent newsletter and highlighted for members at this meeting.

Moved by Sandy Hall, seconded by Marilyn Vandenberg to offer a call to Katya Ouchakof to serve as a part-time associate pastor until 6 months after the senior pastor position is filled.

Questions:

Clarification on the association pastor position.

This call will end 6 months after the arrival of a senior pastor. At that time, the congregation will be asked to make decisions about the associate pastor position, including if it should be full or part time and the major duties that will be assigned to this position.

A call committee would be established and if they would like to consider Katya for this position, she would be interviewed and a vote would be taken without consideration of any other candidates. If Katya chose not want to apply for this position, the call committee would seek candidates using a similar process that was followed in hiring a senior pastor.

Job Responsibilities

Sandy presented a more detailed job description, including activities of a future faith formation team that Katya would work with. Pastor Tews emphasized that the job will remain a work in progress and duties will continue to change as the transition from our current interim pastoral team to a full-time senior pastor takes place.

Starting Date

Katya's current duties will end in the middle of February and would be expected to begin her associate pastor position in March.

A secrete paper ballot vote was taken and the decision was unanimous in support of offering a call to Katya Ouchakof to serve as an associate pastor at McFarland Lutheran Church. The vote was 108 in favor, and no one opposed. Motion Carried

Announcements

Bill Langel distributed information about the Visioning Workshop that will be held on Sunday, February 27, 2011 from noon until 2:00 PM. The purpose of this workshop is to gather ideas about changes that members would like to include in the remodeling of our worship space. Contact information for all members of this team was included in the handout and members were encouraged to contact any of these individuals to share their ideas if they are unable to attend this workshop.

Adjourn

A benediction was lead by Pastor Tews and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Scharine, Secretary

Report from the Congregational President

Dear Family and Friends of McFarland Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the Congregational Council, thank you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, service, and prayers.

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.

Last summer, more than 70 members of our congregation, joined by pastors and church staff, met to put together a strategic framework for our next five years of ministry. We developed an updated mission statement -- Share God's Word, Show God's Love, Serve God's World -- which reflects our calling as followers of Christ.

We agreed that our highest priority is to provide a variety of dynamic and joyful worship opportunities. Worship is at the center of our life in Christian community, so let's lift it up. We recommend that our next pastor be able to lead a dynamic and joyful worship service. We also asked a group of members to gather input and then develop options to renovate the existing worship space.

A second area of strategic focus is to equip and encourage lay involvement in ministry. Every member of the body of Christ is called to serve the world in Christ's name. If we are to live out Christ's mission for us, we must not only believe, we also must act and serve in our community and in the world.

We also agreed to nurture and strengthen the relationships in our congregation. We learn to love God as we worship in community, hearing the word and eating at the Lord's Table. And we learn to love one other as we build relationships within our community. As we worship, learn, and serve side by side, we not only build relationships with one another, we also build and strengthen the body of Christ.

Our fourth area of focus is to encourage and expand ministry to youth and families. This year, we began a new confirmation program, in which students learn how their faith connects to real life. We also began a new Bible-centered Sunday School curriculum.

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 who shared your gifts of time, talents, prayers and treasures. McFarland Lutheran Church could not exist without these special gifts.

2010-2011 Summary

Overall, our 2010/2011 total church budgeted income was \$604,289; \$3,952 short of what we had budgeted. Our 2010/2011 church budgeted expense was \$591,364; \$16,877 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 increase the Operating Reserve to \$103,010. This exceeds the Finance Committee goal of \$100,000. This money is in a savings account and can be used if the church expenses exceed the church income in any month.

Wegner, LLP completed an independent Accountants Report as of December 31, 2010. A copy of the report is attached at the end of the Annual Report (see green page). They made a recommendation, “the Church review the classification of its job positions”. The Personnel Committee is reviewing the recommendation.

2011-2012 Planning

We continued 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 2010-2011 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 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.

2011-2012 Budget

The proposed 2011-2012 budget is based on income of \$595,772, which reflects current trends in giving, pledging, and worship attendance. This is \$8,517 less than actual income received in 2010-2011.

The Council also makes the following recommendations and changes:

- In 2011-2012, benevolences will again be given as first fruits. In 2010-2011, this practice was followed and we were able to attain the budget.
- In 2011-2012, ten percent of regular envelope offering, special offerings and loose offering were given to benevolences. We will continue the practice started in 2009-2010. The Council reviewed the distribution and made some changes.
- Council has reviewed 2011-2012 budget and wants to retain the funding for all programs as proposed by the Committee's.
- Council recommendation, if income shortage persist, the plan is to offset the shortage with funds from the Operating Reserve. Council feels the approach is worth using the Operating Reserve for 1 year. Money used from the Operating Reserve would be repaid when funds become available.

	2010-2011 (actual)	2011-2012 (proposed)	Increase/decrease
Total Budgeted Benevolences	\$55,194	\$53,747	(\$1,447)
Total Church Personnel	\$340,683	\$392,202	\$51,519
Total Youth	\$11,001	\$14,450	\$3,449
Total Properties	\$104,273	\$118,205	\$13,932
Total Office	\$27,610	\$30,750	\$3,140
Total Worship	\$11,852	\$12,975	\$1,123
Total Social Ministries	\$4,737	\$8,900	\$4,163
Total Member Care/Outreach	\$1,295	\$4,600	\$3,305
Total Fellowship	\$6,279	\$9,750	\$3,471
Total Education	\$15,540	\$14,450	(\$1,090)
Total Stewardship	\$2,803	\$5,750	\$2,947
Total Sanctuary Vision Team	\$10,097	\$0	0

Thanks to Kevin Strattan for being the Chairperson and providing the leadership to the Finance Committee for the past 2 plus years.

MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Members completing their Council term:

Kristine Bell	Tom Scharine
Sandra Chalmers	Meng Thikim

Members beginning their 3rd year:

Dennis Knutson	Marilyn Vandeberg
Sarah Schutt	

Members beginning their 2nd year:

Eileen Brost	Scott Potts
Jon Landen	Deb Wellman

PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2010

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Members at the End of 2009	2080	1380
Baptism	18	
Members Received	38	
Confirmation Class		10
Transferred in / Reinstated	6	
From other sources and statistical adjustment	5	
Deaths	17	17
Transferred out / Removed	21	
Statistical Adjustment	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>
Members at the End of December 2010	2109	1385

Interim Senior Pastor's Report

A Rolling Stream

There are many pictures I could use to describe McFarland Lutheran Church. The one that is present for me as I write this annual report is that of a rolling stream. You and I are standing on the banks of such a stream and looking to the left we see for a bit where the stream has come from, and then shifting our gaze to the right we see, for a bit, where it is headed. Looking straight ahead we look at what we can see of the stream right in front of us. (I'm standing on the west side of a stream flowing north to south, in case you are wondering!).

In last year's report I shared with you an emotional history of some of the myriad of things that have happened "up stream"--since 1867--focusing on those happening most recently, say in the past 30 -40 years. Many beautiful gifts have come from the past--your faith foundation, the land on which your buildings sit, the buildings themselves, and most importantly the generations of families, and individual people that call MLC their church home. Many beautiful gifts. But of course, no stream is pure or absolutely clean. You also have "inherited" things that are not so desirable—those pieces that come along with misunderstandings and conflicts.

During this interim, we together have attempted to identify those pieces as well as raising the qualities that make up a healthy congregation. In the spring of 2010 the Council and I spent time understanding how anxiety plays a critical role in all relationships. We looked at what this might mean for MLC and discovered, not surprisingly, that the absence of a specifically defined mission statement and the strategic focuses to carry out that mission statement was creating anxiety and hampering our ability to move into an exciting future. The "stream" was flowing all right, but without much direction!

To get the help we needed we connected with Allen-Olsen Consulting and during August of last year over 70 members of MLC helped to adopt a mission statement and to develop strategic focuses and initiatives to carry out the mission statement. The mission statement is: **SHARE GOD'S WORD, SHOW GOD'S LOVE, SERVE GOD'S WORLD**. The four focuses and the nine initiatives with projected time goals are:

- **Provide a variety of dynamic and joyful worship**
 - Maintain a variety of worship styles (9/2011)
 - Develop worship space and facility for all worship styles (9/2011)
 - Involve more age groups in worship leadership (3/2011)

- **Equip and encourage involvement**
 - Help people identify, develop and use spiritual gifts (12/2011)
 - Increase awareness of opportunities to serve (7/2011)
 - Develop, mentor, and train members of all ages (10/2011)

- **Encourage and expand ministry to youth and families**
 - Develop and implement age appropriate opportunities (activity and educational) for ages 0-22 incorporating family events (3/2011)

- **Nurture and strengthen relationships**
 - Develop and build small groups (2/2013)
 - Implement visitor and member follow up programs (1/2013)

It is exciting to watch the “stream flowing” at this time. To see the ways in which you are addressing many of these initiatives I would ask you to read carefully the other reports in this Annual Report. I encourage you to read Pastor Finney’s and Pastor Katya’s reports along with the ones written by our Director of Music Ministry Chris Malueg, Huldah Ellestad our Member Care Coordinator, and our new Coordinator of Youth Ministries Chris Landerud. In these five reports you will see specific and tangible plans and efforts directed at fulfilling the above strategic focuses and initiatives which are helping your MLC “stream” to flow today. In addition, your Sanctuary Vision Team will soon be presenting their recommendations to the Council and then to you as a congregation. They will be offering opportunities to improve your sanctuary space and with it your worship life. In and through all of these activities, your Call Committee is faithfully working toward bringing to MLC your next Senior Pastor.

All of these things, along with the countless other activities done by so many people on a very faithful basis, make it fun now to look a “little bit downstream”. While no one knows exactly what lies ahead around the next bend in the “stream,” I believe MLC is poised for an exciting future. Beginning with the soon to be completed call process, coupled with the growth and development of each person on your staff, supported by a laity that has strong leadership skills and a growing commitment to serve—it is hard not to be excited.

Your challenge, as I see it, will be to remain faithful to the core purpose of the church which is to bring people to Christ. God will then continue to bless you abundantly. The “stream” may get rough at times, perhaps even provide you with an occasional stretch of “white water” but because of your faithfulness you will be successful. Thanks to your paid staff and your volunteer leadership core—together you are moving your congregation into a hope filled future that promises to be exciting.

Peace,
Pastor Tews
Interim Senior Pastor

Minister of Spirituality and Community Life

From February 1, 2010 – July 15, 2011 I served as a part-time interim pastor (10 hours a week). My responsibilities were to deepen spirituality via classes and monthly sermons; grow community via small groups; and do pastoral ministry as needed.

In a large congregation it is helpful to be a member of one or more small groups, committees, or circles, in order to get to know others at a deeper level. I suggested that the first way to become more connected is to begin with the groups already in existence. In addition to beginning each meeting with a devotion, also take time for checking in/community time. Invite the participants to share a joy or concern, a prayer request or a recent God Moment.

I met once with a small group of retirees thinking that might become an ongoing small group. Not then. Perhaps in the future. I had a few sessions with stay at home moms, but we disbanded when only two showed up. Not then. Perhaps in the future.

The small groups that have started began with the grass roots – springing up because of the initiative of one or more members. Those include: Mom's Night Out, Women's Bible Study/Breakfast; Men's Board Game Night; Meet 'N Eat: Prayer Shawl ministry, a Grief Group, and a Golf Outing.

I introduced Guess Who's Coming to Dinner – a one time event when about eight people meet in a member's home for a meal. About 60 people participated. I envision you continuing that once or twice a year. When the new Sr. pastor arrives you might want to set up meetings of 8-15 people each in homes to get to know him or her and share your hopes and dreams for MLC.

I attended weekly staff meetings. In June I led a staff retreat. You are blessed with a fun loving, hard working diverse staff.

I led New Member Orientation four times. Three times we had three one hour sessions at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday and the fourth time was a two hour session on a Wednesday evening. It's a tribute to the vibrancy of the congregation that these people joined during an interim.

I initiated an emphasis on visiting members we missed at worship. About fifteen people agreed to serve, each making about three calls. I hope you'll keep that going as the needs arise.

We had a Spiritual Gifts emphasis, including the opportunity to attend one of five, one hour workshops. The intent was to identify the gifts that we share at work or school, with friends and family, in the community and at MLC. Huldah Ellestad, as the member care staff person, matches the gifts of the members with the needs of the congregation.

I taught a few classes on Sunday mornings at 9:15 and 10:30. The attendance was usually less than hoped for. My observation is that as long as adult education is held during worship, attendance will be low. If you are serious about adult education, you might want to consider two worship services with an education hour for all ages between the services. Or offer adult education opportunities during the week. The excellent attendance at midweek Advent and Lenten services, as well as the large number of participants in Bethel and Befrienders classes, indicates a willingness to come out during the week. I think there is interest in an evening book group and weekday Bible study groups.

I felt stretched to put together a liturgy for the Blessing of the Animals and for Pumpkifest. I foresee more creativity at weekend worship as you grow a new staff. It was a positive move to offer Children's Time at all four services, even if there are times when there are only "big kids" attending. I wish we had name tag Sunday during our first month here. That might be something you'll want to do once a month.

A strength of this congregation – not found in many – is having a Care of Creation, Wellness and Global Mission Committee. I see them all continuing and growing.

We had two Befriender reunions, inviting those folks to offer their time and gifts for the congregation as well as the community. Betty Showers and Huldah Ellestad match Befrienders with those in need. I would encourage occasional gatherings for Befrienders to share their stories and enrichment. I would also encourage having the same for the prayer chain and those who bring communion to the homebound.

Had I been here longer:

I would have facilitated quarterly fun events for families with children in the 5th grade and under.

I would have organized a ministry of preparing, freezing and delivering meals to people returning home from the hospital.

I would have called each person who gave a request to the Prayer Chain (I hope someone is doing those follow up calls.) By the way thanks to Cleo Eliason for agreeing to coordinate the prayer chain.

I would have encouraged more participation of 7th-12th graders at worship – acolytes, musicians, skits, etc.

I would have encouraged having regular paid nursery attendants during Sunday morning worship.

I would have identified, called forth and cultivated leadership among the many members under age 40.

On June 5, I preached about generosity – how most of us are richly blessed from a global perspective. My parting hope and prayer for you is that you dream big dreams and then vote YES with generous hearts. You have a bright future.

In Christ's Name,
Pastor Jack Finney

Associate Pastor

Thank you for welcoming me into your community these past few months as your new Associate Pastor. It has been a pleasure to get to know individuals within the congregation, and to participate in various committees and ministry groups. I am glad to be a part of the McFarland Lutheran Church community.

As a part-time pastor, much of my time is necessarily spent on specific pastoral responsibilities. I preach once or twice a month, am involved in worship in whatever role is needed on Sundays when I am not preaching, and I usually cover hospital visits two days a week. Additionally, I will preside at weddings and funerals as the needs arise. The pastoral staff has begun a more intentional meeting and education program for baptism preparation, and I am happy to participate in that program, including finding new resources to share with baptismal families to help them understand the meaning of baptism and incorporate it into their daily life.

My area of specialty is Faith Formation. This includes education, service and mission projects, and fellowship events for all ages. Much work still needs to be done to develop this area of MLC's life together, but a few things are in the works already. I am working with members to plan a mission trip to Puerto Rico next spring (open to all confirmed members, high schoolers through senior citizens!) and a Mini-Global Mission Event for this fall, October 8-9. I have also begun a monthly Prayer Shawl group, with the help of Kaitlyn Summers and several generous non-members who donated yarn. Anyone is invited to these meetings to learn how to knit or crochet, or simply to share the prayers and company of others while making prayer shawls. One out of ten completed and blessed prayer shawls will be donated to area hospitals or care facilities.

As I continue to learn about McFarland Lutheran Church, I have been meeting with various members to gain more ideas and suggestions regarding Faith Formation. Hopefully in the fall some education programs will be available for adults. I am always open to hearing your ideas for the programs you would like to see in your congregation, so please do let me know if there is an area you think could use attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Katya Ouchakof
Associate Pastor

kouchakof@mcfarlandlutheran.org

Member Care Coordinator

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5 NIV

Peace to you brothers and sisters in Christ. I give thanks for the opportunity to not only attend worship with you, but also to serve you as Member Care Coordinator. For me, the past months as part of the MLC staff has been a year of change and transition into new and exciting areas.

I have been blessed and privileged to work with Pastor Jack as he led us, through a series of classes, to explore and discover the Spiritual Gifts that God has given to each of us. In the coming months I hope there will be more opportunities to explore with you the concept of God given gifts, whether they are gifts of Spirit, time, talent, or skill.

Forty-one individuals have participated in membership sessions to become members of McFarland Lutheran Church in the past 12 months. It has been a joy to meet and get to know a little about each one of them; initially as visitors and then through the New Member Classes. I am grateful for each congregation member who extended a welcome, and guidance, by acting as a Sponsor of new members.

One of the more rewarding aspects of these last months has been to share worship talks with the children of the Child Life Ministries program. They have a unique view of God's world and some of the older children have offered some truly inspiring prayers.

There have been some quality group experiences happening here at MLC. Early in the year a small group of members came together and reached out to fellow members who over time had experienced a distancing between themselves and their church family. All of you who participate in any of the many aspects of Worship Assistance have met as a group or will be meeting in the months ahead.

There have been events of fun and fellowship. Some that are more long standing, such as Pumpkin Fest and various events for Mom's, and some that are new, such as "Who's Coming to Dinner?", and the golf outing that will take place this summer. I look forward to the new groups and experiences that will come in the months ahead and I encourage you to be involved in at least one area that interests you.

The many ongoing ministries here at McFarland Lutheran Church continue to be an inspiration. From projects like the Health & School kits, to Caring ministries like the Befrienders the members of this congregation continue to step out in discipleship every day. I am blessed to be a part of this congregation and I give thanks to God for this community of believers.

Yours in Christ,
Huldah Ellestad
Member Care Coordinator

Youth Ministry

The goal of our youth ministries here at McFarland Lutheran Church is to provide a variety of opportunities for young people to walk with Jesus and grow in faith. Sharing God's Word, Showing God's Love, & Serving God's World remains the central mission for all ages at MLC.

This summer has been a time of transition for the Youth Ministries Coordinator position. After seven years of dedicated service, Bonnie Duerst resigned as Youth Ministries Coordinator and took a new job in May. By the beginning of June, I was selected to serve as the temporary Youth Ministries Coordinator for the summer. My name is Chris Landerud and I have been an active member here at MLC for nearly my entire life. I have been involved with youth ministries for the past 15+ years. I have taught Sunday School, High School Bible Studies, and I am currently a Confirmation Teacher. My wife Erika and I have two children – Kayla (3½) and Clinton (1½). I am thrilled for this new opportunity.

This summer is filled with camps, activities, and planning initiatives for the upcoming 2011-12 school year. In June, I made the trip north with 26 confirmation students to Pine Lake for a week at confirmation camp. This was a week packed with singing, worship, Bible studies, camping, and various activities for the kids and leaders. A reunion for the kids is scheduled for the end of July with Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, West Middleton Lutheran Church, St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Middleton, and Covenant Lutheran Church in Stoughton.

In the second week of July we are headed to Gustavus Adolphus College with 11 high school students and three chaperons for the annual Summer Festival trip. This high energy trip is packed with fun, friends, and faith. Thanks go to all the chaperons and involved families for dedicating time and energy to prepare for this journey.

Vacation Bible School takes place the third week of July and it is the last of the three major summer camps. These three summer camp opportunities cover all ages of our youth and aim to complement the teachings and curriculum of the school year.

In addition to a handful of smaller activities planned, the second half of the summer will be spent preparing and planning for the upcoming school year. The confirmation program will be the primary focus. Finalizing schedules, enhancing the curriculum, working with the pastors, and meeting with the leaders will be essential to the experience for the students and teachers. Improving the confirmation program by providing additional social programs, service projects, and mission work will be another goal.

Many of the above stated initiatives can carry over to the senior high youth students. By building upon some of the successful programs like Summer Fest, High School Breakfasts, the Baccalaureate Service, and the LYO Lockout, there is new opportunity for educational workshops, Bible studies, service activities, and social outings. Taking the momentum of our confirmation program and extending it to our senior high students is golden opportunity for our youth program.

This summer is a time for building a strong foundation for the confirmation and youth programs. In addition to coordinating all the camps and activities, planning for the upcoming school year is vital for the initial success of the permanent Youth Ministries Coordinator. I am grateful for this opportunity and I am passionate about our mission at hand. I pray for our community and our youth program here at MLC.

Chris Landerud

Director of Music Ministry

“O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! Psalm 95:1-2

I began as Director of Music at McFarland Lutheran Church on November 1, 2010. This was a new position at McFarland Lutheran and it was a time of transition for not only myself but the staff, musicians and congregation alike. Your warm reception toward my family and me made us feel very welcome. That was one of my first impressions of McFarland Lutheran Church as your new Music Director; you are quick with a “hello”, a handshake and a kind word. It helped us all to transition quickly into our new church home.

McFarland Lutheran is blessed with an incredible wealth of talented musicians. There are some who just love to sing or play and be involved with the group and enjoy the fellowship. There are also professionals with degrees in music who have been honing their craft their whole life. All these musicians volunteer not only their time but also their talent to help move our hearts and minds as we worship. The first several months of my tenure at McFarland Lutheran were spent getting to know our musicians and how music was being used for worship.

Here is a break down of musical groups that I am involved in:

- McFarland Lutheran Choir
- McFarland Lutheran Bell Choir
- Praise Band
- Saturday Evening Music Ensemble
- Brass Choir
- Christmas Program Children’s Choir

All of these groups, but one, were well established before my appointment. The Choir and Bell Choir have a core of veterans who have been involved for many years (in some cases, with both groups). We also have, and encourage, new comers. While we work hard preparing our music, we also have a lot of fun. Both groups were very welcoming and patient as I learned the traditions and “ways of doing things” that have been established over the years. They also know how to throw a great party.

The Praise Band, or bands, is a well-seasoned group of what I will call professional musicians (though they themselves would probably take issue with me). They have performed in many different variations over the years, but as of late we have been working in two different groups, alternating each Sunday. I try to get us together as one large group at least once a month. One change that we’ve made has been to include a piano player. We are looking for additional piano players to help out when possible. It is truly a blessing to work with these musicians.

Sometimes we're never quite sure how something is going to work out during service, but I feel that the music we create is moving and inspiring.

The Saturday Evening Music Ensemble also has a long tradition of providing music for the Saturday evening service. Like all the ensembles here at McFarland Lutheran this is a fun group of musicians who love to sing and praise our Lord. As with the Praise Band, one addition to the service as been to incorporate piano.

Performing with the Praise Band and Saturday Evening Music Ensemble has been a wonderful learning experience for all of us. We all have a wealth of music that we love and have played in the past. Sharing new music with each other and finding new songs to perform has not only broadened our repertoire but brings us closer together as a group.

I have never served at a church that has such a large number of brass players. Alleluia! The Brass Choir here at McFarland Lutheran is a solid group of performers. They can play through any four part hymn at first glance. Having brass at worship always lifts up the service. It is a blessing to have such a professional and reliable group of musicians.

I had the opportunity to work with the Sunday School children during November and December as we prepared for our Christmas Program. This is a very fun and enthusiastic group of children. We had to learn our program music very quickly as I had come in so late. They all did wonderfully during their performance. My plan was to continue to meet with them on a regular basis and learn new music. Unfortunately, my schedule did not allow for this. I am hoping that we will be able to adjust my schedule so I will be able to work with the children more regularly next fall.

The search for new and meaningful music is never ending. We are blessed with many wonderful resources for worship at McFarland Lutheran. Christian Copyright Licensing International or CCLI continues to be our greatest outlet for contemporary Christian music. They also provide the greatest amount of copyright coverage for the music we do at our contemporary services. Our other copyright coverage is provided by onelicense.net.

The new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, or ELW, was released in the fall of 2006 as a replacement for the LBW ("green book") that was published in 1978. While it contains many of our most beloved old favorites and traditional hymns, the publishers have included a great deal of new hymns and songs. We have explored some of these new songs at our 8:00 am and 10:30 am services. The ELW also includes 10 Communion Settings to the LBW's 3. We have been learning some of these new settings and during Lent introduced Setting 2 into our service repertoire. The goal is to rotate Communion Settings during the different church seasons. I have also tried to find new and meaningful Psalm settings. We have included these in service when they were available and suited the readings for the day.

As Director of Music, I am blessed to have the council of many different people as I prepare and plan music for worship. The pastors, our organist Kristie Halverson, the musicians who perform at our services and the Worship Planning Committee are valuable resources in helping shape the music for special events and the church seasons.

One of the projects I have in the works is to build a cantoring program. I began cantoring here during my first week, but again, my schedule makes it difficult for me to attend every service. I would like to create a group of cantors who will be able to help lead service elements and hymns at our 8:00 am and 10:30 am services.

We are in the midst of preparing for Vacation Bible School or VBS. I always have a lot of fun at VBS. It gives us an opportunity to really do some fun music with the children. We get to act a little crazier than usual; jumping and dancing and praising God in a way the children don't see on Sunday morning. We want them to be singing and humming these songs when they go home.

There are a variety of other jobs that have needed my attention over the past months. General maintenance of our instruments is of course a concern. Kristie Halverson and I have made sure the organ continues to be in good shape. We have also made sure the pianos stay in tune and received repairs when needed.

The sound systems in both worship venues also directly affects our ability to produce good music for services. I would like to thank Larry Nygaard for his help and knowledge of the system in the Family Life Center. I would also like to thank all of the people who help run sound in the Worship Center. The sound systems are functional, but I look forward to having a more unified system in the future.

There are many things that I look forward to doing in the future. Because of my arrival so late in the fall last year, the Advent Concert unfortunately was cancelled. I look forward to bringing that back this year. In conjunction with the Advent Concert is the opportunity to work with our neighboring churches ecumenically. We had the opportunity to work with our friends from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Monona during our Good Friday service and most recently perform with the Director of Music from Christ the King Catholic Church at our Baccalaureate. I hope to have more occasions to work with our fellow musicians from the different faith communities in our area.

It is my hope to have more youth involved in the music for worship. We have so many talented young adults and children I want to create opportunities for them to be involved in and provide music for services. I am still getting to know the people of McFarland Lutheran so this process has been somewhat slow. I am always on the look out for anyone who would like to share their gifts with our faith community.

The past 6 months have gone by very quickly. I feel blessed to have been called to serve at McFarland Lutheran Church. The spirit of fellowship, volunteerism and service here is palpable. This makes my job much easier when there are so many people who want to be involved in all of the different aspects of music during worship. I look forward to what the future will bring.

“O, give thanks to the Lord, call on his name. Make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful works.” Psalm 105:1-2.

Chris Malueg

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

God is Great, God is so Good!

Greetings from Child Life Ministries! We have been blessed with another wonderful year here, full of fun, learning and growing in the Son-shine!

Blessings abundant!

- We had a **full, returning staff** again this year. **An enormous thanks** to: Heather Anderson, Rachel Clark, Chris Cole, Jessica Galbraith, Jess Moen, Beth Daoust-Miller, Deb Nygaard, Sara Phelan, Vicki Radloff, and Rachel Scott for the work they do for children and families in this community (and beyond!)
- **We were able to welcome 57 Pre-Kindergarten, 48 3 Year Old children, and 21 School Aged to our family this year.** With support from the congregation, memorial funds and the community support a total of 4 children attended our programs with partial Tuition Assistance~what a blessing for children and families! Additionally, 2 children attended our Preschool Program on full scholarship from the Jackson Paul Heckel Memorial Fund. A big thank you to the Heckel family for their continued support of our ministry by hosting the Annual Scrap From My Heart event to fund scholarships for preschool aged children ☺
- **Thank you to McFarland Lutheran Church and Staff for their continued support of our ministry.**
- **A new, safer van was purchased jointly with MLC this past spring.** We now have a 9 passenger mini-bus to get us here, there, and everywhere (well, actually mostly back and forth to the Waubesa Intermediate School ☺) It is beautiful with child friendly graphics and the church and school's information on it!
- We are so, very excited to begin **new programming in Fall 2011!** We will be offering preschool programming for children beginning at 2 ½ years old on Thursday and Friday mornings, in addition to our 3 Year Old Program and Pre-Kindergarten program expanding hours. And, for all of the preschool age children we will be hosting a lunch bunch. Children may "drop in" during their preschool week for an hour lunch time with their friends and then head home or off to afternoon preschool. This new option will be a great social experience for children and hopefully offer families additional time in their schedules.

In His Service,
Becca Ziety

SPECIAL APPEAL REPORT

June 30, 2011

Our congregation approved a 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 was to retire the mortgage for our church building by our July 2010 annual congregational meeting. As of June 30, 2011 the mortgage is \$17,233.75.

Please prayerfully consider giving joyfully and generously to our long term appeal as we work together to retire our mortgage. Mark your contributions *Special Appeal*.

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

Members: Dawn Bolstad, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Rick Petzke, Connie Showalter

The Care of Creation Team has nurtured and raised awareness about The Lord's creation through many projects this year.

The three prairie areas and rain garden have continued to mature and have produced an abundance of grasses and blooms that have not only beautified the property but have attracted many butterflies, insects and birds to the area. MLC was a stop on the "Better Lawn and Gutters Garden Tour" last August showing these areas.

We have continued to offer plots in the MLC Community Garden for those who want to be able to garden organically. We have 20 plots available for members of the congregation or community. We held our first "gardeners meeting" and with input have constructed a fence around the entire garden and will have a communication board at the garden. The COC team has our own Garden of Eatin Plot that we grow fresh produce and flowers to donate to the McFarland Food Pantry. This year we were acknowledged on a plaque for our donations. Along with the garden we monitor the inside and outside compost bins and the rain barrels next to the garage. We also have continued to organize the Garden Market on Sunday mornings so those who have extra produce can donate it with the proceeds going to the McFarland Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger Fund.

This year we also offered several new events including a "Blessing of Animal" service in September, several "Full Moon Walks" during the summer and fall and a canoe trip down the Yahara River in August that was enjoyed by members and families. We also helped the church sign the "WI Interfaith Power and Light Covenant" that promotes congregational energy conservation and efficiency.

We enjoyed our work with the confirmation students during one of their mini retreats as well. We worked with them to decorate and place recycling bins in the church, reseed part of the rain garden and spread compost on the community garden. We are in the planning stages of having the confirmation students help plant and harvest a wheat plot that we could then grind the wheat into flour to use for communion bread.

GLOBAL MISSION

The Global Mission Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Pastor Katya Ouchakof to our committee. She comes to us with a real passion for global mission and we are looking forward to working with her as we reach out to fellow Christians around the globe. We are especially glad to have Katya join our group as Pastor Jerry Pribbenow, who has been an inspiration to our committee since its founding many years ago, retired last year and left McFarland Lutheran Church to pursue new work in Christ's name. We wish him God's blessing as he enters his new phase in his walk with Christ and thank him for his years of service. As always we want to remind the congregation that new committee members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us in our mission please contact any committee member or just come to one of our meetings, which are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

As the Global Mission Committee of McFarland Lutheran Church, we seek 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 are sharing with and supporting Christians through out the world in fulfilling both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. We pray that through sharing with congregations in other parts of the world we all 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 gives resources to others to help them spread the mission Christ has given us and we attempt to be Christ's hands in helping neighbors in need.

Last fall, in place of our Annual McFarland Lutheran Mini Global Mission Event, we had Pastor Phares Kakulima from Tanzania preach to us about global mission. We did this as a change of pace since attendance has been decreasing in recent years at the Mini Global Mission Event. However, after a year's break, we are again enthusiastic about having a Mini Global Mission Event. On October 8th and 9th, we will be having our Twelfth Mini Global Mission Event, something we believe the whole congregation should take pride in being part of. In our area we are looked upon as the church with a passion for global mission and with most Christians living outside of the United States what better reputation can we have. Sometimes a short break is needed to come up with new ideas and to renew one's passion. We excitedly look forward to the 2011 Mini Global Mission Event as once again being 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 to receive the blessing that comes with hearing others share their story and faith walk. Please join us on the 8th and 9th of October to take part in this special outreach of McFarland Lutheran Church. We promise you will be glad you did and we promise you will strengthen your own walk with Christ.

Our Tanzania outreach continues and this year was mainly directed at providing tuition for students to attend the Imani School that we helped build by providing some of the funds. As we mentioned last year 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 tuition support for Bishop Bagonza's children, Mission and Vision and Pastor Phares's niece.

Bonnie Dirks continues to be involved with Hope 4 Kids and went to Uganda two times this past year. You may remember the dresses made out of pillow-cases (some of which were made by our church members) that were shown during the service in March when Rachel Eggum-Cinadar of Hope 4 Kids spoke. Over 17,000 dresses have been distributed in thirty-five countries since October 2009! This shows the power of even little ideas and hints at what changes Christians can make both here at home and around the world as representatives of Christ.

Pastor Boymah and Pastor Payne in Liberia are now well into their ministries at small country side churches. You may remember that last year we raised money to allow them to buy motorcycles as that is the only way to travel into the country side since Liberia has only one major highway. Contact with them is more difficult due to their location in the country but we will continue to keep you informed on how their ministries are going as we receive information from them.

Our sister relationship with the Synod in India of course is well known to many of you as Pastor Sanchita Kisku has visited our church many times and shared so much with us during past Mini Global Mission Event. Sanchita is continuing her studies at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and we continue to keep her in our prayers. We hope to have her here again soon to update us on her hopes and dreams for the future of Christianity in India.

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. As a result of our church's Jonah Club, through which we support missionaries with donations by church members, will be sponsoring Brian Konkel from South Africa in place of Charles Fredrickson. Brian spoke to us in May and is very excited about our assisting him in his work in South Africa. We will be getting updated correspondence from Brian on what his ministry is doing and where Christ is leading him.

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. Recently information on the work Brian Konkel is doing was highlighted. 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, some which have been mentioned above, will continue to be focused on fulfilling Christ's Mission through our congregation. 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.

Finally it has been decided that the Global Mission Committee will be the lead group on our ongoing relationship with the Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico. We are lucky to have Mike Catterall on our committee as he has been actively involved in this relationship for several years. Mike went with a Bethel group earlier this year to work at the Lutheran camp we have been involved with as well as working on some housing for those in need. Another work trip to Puerto Rico by our church is scheduled for early next year, with sign-up tentatively planned in October of this year. More information will be coming out shortly and so if you think this mission trip might interest you, be sure to watch for the additional information. Of course the trip will not be all work. There will be time to meet new friends and visit local sights.

Other items were accomplished this year but space will not allow the mentioning of all of them. However we would like to at least thank the congregation for the money they gave to the friends of Kea and Meng Thikim to take to Cambodia to help needy families. If you have never seen slides Kea and Meng took in Cambodia on their 2009 trip there, be sure to ask them to show them to you.

Committee members Mike Catterall, Bonnie Dirks, Janet Knutson, Jon Landen, Pastor Katya Ouchakof, Rick Strauss, Meng Thikim, Ron Vandenberg, and Arn Vollmer continue to be thankful that God has led them to serve in reaching out to the global community. We also want to take this chance to thank the members of our congregation for supporting us on our mission and hope that all of our members will take advantage of the opportunities they will be given in the year ahead to know and work with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Submitted by Rick Strauss, Chairperson.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

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

The Health and Wellness Committee is responsible for supporting the Healing Services, and Services of Prayer and Remembrance. The committee is also responsible for coordinating the annual flu shot clinic, monthly blood pressure screenings, as well as cell phone, hearing aid and eye glass collection. The committee has also been involved with the creation and distribution of prayer shawls, and baby blankets for newborns. The Committee is also responsible for health related temple talks, such as Diabetes, Wellness, and MedDrop programs sponsored by the local pharmacy community.

Future projects may include coordinating a Tai Chi class, and coordinating CPR/AED training for congregational members.

If you would like to discuss any of these, or other possible committee ministries, you are invited to visit the Health and Wellness Committee meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Radloff

PERSONNEL BOARD

Members: Sandy Chalmers (Council Representative), Chris Landerud, Cheryl Scharine, Betty Showers, Pastor Tews, and Deb Wellman (Council Representative).

The Personnel Board is responsible for securing lay staff to carry on the work of our congregation. We recommend salaries and benefits for lay staff, and fulfill other responsibilities related to personnel matters.

Accomplishments during this fiscal year include:

- Hired a new organist
- Hired a music director
- Finalized revisions to the Employee Handbook
- Ensured that performance evaluations were completed for the lay church staff
- Reviewed job descriptions and revised as necessary due to changes in staff or in responsibilities
- Implemented an employee contribution to the cost of family health insurance

We will be working to fill the youth coordinator position, and to ensure that staffing levels meet the needs of our church.

We look forward to working with a new senior pastor in the future.

Cheryl Scharine, Chairperson

PROPERTIES

The members of the Properties Committee are Ken Anderson, Dick Kohl, Loretta Bailey, Jim Miller, Ken Brost, Kris Bell, Rick Petzke, and Scott Potts

We started the year out with Ken Brost as our new Lead Custodian. He has done an excellent job in over seeing the maintenance of the property.

The size of the church property and the tremendous use of the property keep the custodian staff extremely busy. Thanks to the custodians for all they do throughout the year. Thanks also for the volunteers who maintain the flower beds, lawn care, snow removal, paint, and help with cleaning the inside of the church.

With the size of the church building there are always maintenance issues that need to be dealt with. Fortunately, we have been able to live within the funds budgeted for our committee. A couple of major expenses this year were the replacement of an air conditioner compressor on the roof of the Family Life Center and repairing leaks in the gas lines on the flat roof of the church. In addition, ten windows in the sanctuary were replaced. We were very thankful for an individual who donated the money to cover the window replacement.

The committee is currently discussing how to handle the water that comes off the flat roof the church. Currently, melting snow and rain in late winter and early spring runs off the property and across the sidewalk by the church and Rainbow Center. This runoff freezes on the sidewalks and causes a safety concern.

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

Ken Anderson, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

For our 2010 fall stewardship campaign, members were asked to renew their commitment to active involvement in the life of McFarland Lutheran as well as renew their financial commitment for 2011. The challenge to commit three hours per week by giving one hour to worship, one hour to study, and one hour to service came from the Stewardship Committee. Each of us has 168 hours in the week and we were challenged to give three hours for God, God's creation, and God's people.

In October over 70 members gathered for an evening of fellowship, fine dining and delightful music as part of the stewardship campaign.

This year the Stewardship Committee was excited to partner with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and offer educational opportunities to our members on Sunday mornings. We would like to thank Tim Kalamarz (member of MLC) and Steve Erickson for their time and for their informative presentations.

Don Schutt, Lee and Cheryl Ackley, Pastor Jerry Pribbenow and Jerry Hrovat have completed their commitment on the Stewardship Committee. We thank them for their dedication and many hours of service to this ministry.

We invite you to join this ministry team as we encourage and invite members of this congregation to serve our risen Lord. Please contact the church office or a committee member for more information.

The McFarland Lutheran Stewardship Committee
Bob Castleberg, Rick Petzke, Marilyn Vandenberg and Pastor Jerry Tews

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The Elizabeth Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. We continue to use the Bible Study in the Lutheran Women Today magazine.

Our circle annually sets up and decorates the Christmas tree in the sanctuary using Chrismons made and maintained by circle members. Our 17th annual December bake sale raised \$848 for the McFarland Food Pantry along with Thrivent's matching funds of \$350. This past year we also donated to the Good Samaritan Fund here at MLC and postage money for the Hospice health kits.

Our 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.

RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at members' homes. We continue to use the DVD series Faith Lessons as our Bible study. Currently we are viewing Faith Lessons on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah.

We provided and maintain the activity bags that parents can use for their young children at Sunday services. We support two months of 4 year old preschool tuition assistance at CLM. We also support and manage the Splash! monthly newsletter for McFarland Lutheran Church's baptized infants and toddlers. A music CD is also included. This gives parents ideas on how they can bring Christ into their child's life before they are old enough for Sunday School. We also provide Christian bookmarks for the fifth graders at their first communion.

Members are: Vicky Beyler, Linda Ellestad, Huldah Ellestad, Su Hartman, Linda Schiefelbein, Betty Showers, Marilyn Vandeberg, Deb Wellman and Mary Winter.