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**McFarland Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, July 22, 2012
11:30 a.m. Refreshments / 12:00 p.m. Meeting**

Special Presentation

Call to Order

Devotion and Gathering Song

Attendance Check

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from July 26, 2011 Annual Meeting

Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2011 Congregational Meeting

Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2011 Congregational Meeting

New Business

Call for Congregational Council Nominees

Reports

Pastors

Capital Campaign Committee

Associate Pastor Call Committee

Child Life Ministries

Youth Ministries

Personnel Board

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the 2012-2013 Budget

Closing Prayer

Sending Song

Report from the Congregational President July 2012

Dear Family and Friends of McFarland Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Congregational Council, thank you for your continued faithfulness, service, generosity and prayers. By the grace of God, we've been richly blessed this year with new opportunities to grow together in the body of Christ. Building on the strong foundation of last year's planning, we moved forward together in mission and faith in some significant areas.

We're blessed by pastoral leadership in a new Senior Pastor and the infusion of faith-centered vision, positive energy and the strengthening of relationships. Worship and ministries have been lifted up, nourished and will continue to evolve. Individuals serving in the Associate Pastor role shared their gifts which sustained the congregation through transition, shaping and refining that role. Their presence among us has helped show us a stronger, Christ-centered future as we move toward a permanent call.

Guided by faith and the Spirit, we opened ourselves to new ministries which draw us closer to Christ's work in the world. New programs for young children have begun in Child Life Ministries, inviting more families into the body of Christ and the community of the church. A revitalized program for high school youth ensures the faith journey continues after confirmation and into adulthood. And a new community meals program has found its home in our midst, a living embodiment of service in Christ's love.

The thoughtful and thorough work of the member-led Sanctuary Vision Team culminated in taking the next step in the planning process for renovating the worship space. The formation of a member-led capital campaign committee is an affirmation of our mission, and the aspiration to grow and expand the ministries of McFarland Lutheran Church.

Finally, throughout the year, staff and volunteers have shared their gifts in countless ways to support the mission and ministry of the church. Through projects like the nursery and a new computer network as well as activities like teaching, baking, mowing, shoveling, cooking, quilting, gardening and much more, members preserve and enrich the fabric of our church community. For that we give thanks.

We are richly blessed. With God's grace, in Christ's love, and guided by the Spirit, we're fully equipped to continue to live our mission – Share God's Word, Show God's Love, Serve God's World. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,

Sarah Schutt
Congregational President
McFarland Lutheran Church

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.

2011-2012 Summary

Overall, our 2011/2012 total church budgeted income was \$623,068; \$42,711 short of what we had budgeted. We planned to transfer \$70,007 from Operating Reserve. We transferred only \$12,000 from Operating Reserve. The giving was higher than budgeted. Our 2011/2012 church budgeted expense was \$642,508; \$19,440 less than budget. The Committees and staff did an excellent job of controlling the expenses.

The Operating Reserve balance was \$103,010 on July 1, 2011. We transferred \$12,000 to pay MLC expenses and \$20,932 to pay the expenses of the Capital Campaign Appeal. The current Operating Reserve Balance is \$70,078. The \$20,932 will be paid back to the Operating Reserve from the donations to the Capital Campaign Appeal. This money is in a savings account and can be used if the church expenses exceed the church income in any month.

In the Wegner, LLP Independent Accountants Report as of December 31, 2010, they made a recommendation, “the Church reviews the classification of its job positions”. The Personnel Committee has reviewed the job positions and is in the process of implementing changes to address this recommendation.

2012-2013 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.

Committees and ministry teams were encouraged to plan their 2012-2013 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.

2012-2013 Budget

The Finance Board reviewed the format of the Financial Statements based on the recommendations of Pastor Dean to have reporting based on the current Committee Organization. As a result of this review, the following changes have been made to the Financial Statements:

Education Committee changed to Faith Formation

Social Ministries changed to Health & Social Wellness

Added the following committees: Care of Creation, Council, Finance Board, Global Mission and Information Technology

Lines are included in different committee's to get "like" expenses together

CLM Revenue and Expenses have been incorporated into MLC

The proposed 2012-2013 budget is \$1,011, 283.

The Council also makes the following recommendations and changes:

- In 2012-2013, benevolences will again be given as first fruits. In 2011-2012, this practice was followed and we exceeded the budget by \$1,796.
- In 2012-2013, 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 2012-2013 Budget and wants to retain the funding for all programs as proposed by the Committee's.
- Council recommendation, if an income shortage persists, the plan is to offset the shortage with funds from the Operating Reserve. Council feels the approach is worth using the Operating Reserve. Money used from the Operating Reserve would be repaid when funds become available.
- Council recommendation, the establishment of a Mortgage Reserve Fund (previous Mortgage Payment).
- Council recommendation, the establishment of a Capital Maintenance Fund to be used to pay for Capital Improvements.

The 4K Program (School District funded) that McFarland School District has contract MLC to conduct is in a separate budget. This will enable the tracking of revenue and expenses to make sure MLC at least breaks even.

Thank you to Rita Jenkins for all her work related to the changing formats of the Financial Statements.

**McFarland Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, July 26, 2011**

1. **Call to Order** - Sandy Chalmers called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed all members in attendance.
 - A quorum of voting members was present. Attendance was 73.
 - Pastor Tews and Pastor Ouchakof began the meeting with a devotion, song and prayer.

2. **Old Business**

Approval of Minutes from July 2010 Annual Meeting

 - ↳ **Moved by Sandy Hall; seconded by Karen Emerson to approve the minutes from the July 2010 Annual Meeting as recorded. Motion Carried.**
 - ↳ **Moved by Ron Vandeberg; seconded by Sue Miller to approve the minutes of the special Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 13, 2011. Motion Carried.**

3. **New Business**
 - a. **Call for Church Council Nominees**

Sandy introduced the individuals presented by the Nomination Committee: Amy Lawrence, Brady Showalter, Betty Showers and Dave Waller as nominees to serve 3-year terms and Ernie Thieding to complete a one year term on the Council. No other nominations were offered.

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

 - b. **Reports**

Pastor Tews

 - Thanked all members for the warm welcome he has received and commended the leadership and management skills of our Council.
 - Recognized the talents of the administrative staff and the tremendous amount of work they have accomplished over the past year.
 - Recognized the many staff changes that have taken place throughout this past year and described the good work that everyone has done in order to make these changes successful.
 - McFarland Lutheran Church continues to move forward in planning for an exciting future built on individual leadership and support by everyone.

Pastor Ouchakof

 - Expressed thanks for the warm welcome she has received since being selected to serve as an associate pastor.
 - Will be increasing her hours from 60% to 80% and will focus on faith formation, including training Sunday school teachers, leading devotions, and other faith growth activities. She looks forward to working with everyone throughout the coming year.

Sanctuary Vision Team

Bill Langel reported on their research and proposal for remodeling our Sanctuary. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 11th during which the details of their proposal will be presented. This will also be a time to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions. A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 25 to act upon their proposal.

Senior Pastor Call Committee

Jim Summers, President of the call committee and Jon Landen, council liaison began by introducing the members of the committee. They received five possible candidates and after phone interviews four were selected for personal interviews. Before interviews could be scheduled, one of these four accepted another call. As of today, two personal interviews have been completed and the last interview will be held on August 17th.

Child Life Ministries

Becca Ziety presented a brief summary of their successful programs this past year. She expressed thanks for the new van. She described an additional program for 2 ½ year olds that will begin this fall, and a Lunch Bunch program for both Pre-K and 3 year olds. She then highlighted a handout that described the growth plan that Child Life Ministries has shared with the council and the continued meetings with the McFarland School District dealing with adding 4-year-old kindergarten. Additional information regarding this 4-K program and how it will possibly affect CLM will be presented August 14th at 11:30 AM.

Youth Ministries

Chris Landerud expressed thanks for the support he has received as the temporary Coordinator of Youth Ministries and reported on the recent summer activities of the youth program at MLC. Plans continue for many summer activities and he has begun work on the development of curriculum for confirmation.

Director of Music

Chris Malueg expressed thanks for the welcome he has received since assuming his responsibilities. He highlighted the many accomplishments included in his written report.

Personnel Board

Cheryl Scharine began by recognizing the dedication and hard work of all administrative staff during this time of changing job duties and the individuals who have been hired this past year. She noted that job performance evaluations have been completed on all employees.

Over 90 surveys were completed dealing with the Coordinator of Youth Ministries position. This information was used to clarify duties that are included in this job description and priorities for Youth Ministry activities. Chris Landerud has been hired as a limited term employee in this position. The job opening has been posted and they hope to have the position filled early this fall.

Treasurer's Report

Dennis Knutson highlighted the financial report contained in the 2010-11 financial report, including:

- ➔ Giving slightly over 10% in benevolences
- ➔ Having controlled expenses and even though giving was slightly less, the year ended with a balance of slightly over \$12,000
- ➔ Operating reserve will be maintained in order to cover unexpected expenses or a time when giving is lower than expected.
- ➔ The mortgage should be paid off next year.
- ➔ CLM is in very good financial position.

Moved by Sandy Hall; seconded by Harland Hettrick to approve the 2010-11 Treasurers Report. Motion Carried.

c. Approval of the 2011-2012 Budget

Dennis reviewed changes included in the proposed budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year that were detailed in the annual report. The budget includes an estimated \$70,000 shortage that will be funded by money from the reserve account. With a recent increase in attendance and a new senior pastor expected soon, the Finance Board expects worship attendance to continue to increase with a corresponding increase in giving.

Moved by Len Lane seconded by Harlan Hettrick to approve the 2011-2012 budget as prepared by the Finance Board. Motion Carried.

4. Announcements & Recognition

- ★ Up-coming summer events were announced and members were encouraged to participate.
- ★ Both Pastors received “Thanks” for their dedication and efforts in creating McFarland Lutheran Church as a wonderful place to worship.

5. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

↪ **Moved by Bill Langel; seconded by Scott Potts to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.**

Pastor Ouchakof offered a prayer and Sandy adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted
Tom Scharine, Secretary**

Minutes of Congregational Meeting of McFarland Lutheran Church September 11, 2011

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 11:55 am by President Sarah Schutt.

Devotion – A devotion was led by Pastor Timothy Dean.

Verification of quorum – A quorum was verified. 149 members were in attendance.

Summary of process – Sarah Schutt summarized the process of the meeting to issue a call to the senior pastor candidate.

Presentation of Senior Pastor Candidate - Reverend Timothy W. Dean was introduced to the congregation by Jim Summers, chair of the Call Committee as the candidate recommended by the Call Committee and the Council. **Moved by Jeff Gehrke; seconded by Susan Brodd to call Pastor Timothy Dean as senior pastor of McFarland Lutheran Church.**

Questions from the Congregation – Pastor Dean answered questions from congregation members. Further questions were discussed after Pastor Dean left the room. **Moved by Scott Potts; seconded by Jim Boshers to call the question.**

Ballot – A written ballot was taken and the decision was unanimous in favor of offering a call to Pastor Timothy Dean. The vote was 141 in favor and none opposed. Pastor Dean was informed of the vote and he stated that he accepted the call.

The members of the Call Committee were recognized and thanked with applause. They are Todd Bolstad, Bonnie Dirks, Gail Herrmann, Jerry Hrovat, Lori Shackett, Jim Summers, Kristen Yearm-Wise and Jon Landen.

Adjourn – A closing prayer was led by Pastor Dean. The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Vandeberg, Secretary

Minutes of Congregational Meeting of McFarland Lutheran Church October 23, 2011

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 11:50 by President Sarah Schutt.

Opening prayer – Pastor Tim Dean opened the meeting with a prayer.

Verification of quorum – A quorum was verified. 109 members were in attendance.

Summary of process – Sarah Schutt explained how voting on the resolutions would work.

Resolution #1 – Moved by Bill Langel; seconded by Tim Kalamarz. **“I support the conceptual plan of the Sanctuary Vision Team for the remodel of the sanctuary of the McFarland Lutheran Church.”** Discussion and questions followed. Scott Potts called the question. A written ballot was taken and the vote was 92 agree; 14 disagree.

Resolution #2 – Moved by Beth DiVita; seconded by Kris Bell. **“I support the formation of a committee to begin a capital fund appeal to fund the sanctuary remodel of the sanctuary of McFarland Lutheran Church.”** Discussion and questions followed. **Rick Strauss made an amendment; Linda Othrow seconded. “Ask the building committee whether we should do nothing because of finances, just fix the floor or get someone to redesign the proposed sanctuary to fix the faults with the proposed design. In either case, voting on a recommendation should be delayed until the building committee is able to do the above.”** Discussion on the amendment followed. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The vote was 5 for; 104 against. The vote for the resolution was taken by written ballot. The vote was 95 agree; 13 disagree.

Resolution #3 – Moved by Tom Showers; seconded by Steve Schoch. **“I support the formation of a building committee to proceed with developing architectural plans for the remodel of the sanctuary of McFarland Lutheran Church.”** Discussion and questions followed. A written ballot was taken. The vote was 97 agree; 12 disagree.

Adjourn – A closing prayer was led by Pastor Dean. Motion made to adjourn by Beth DiVita; seconded by Steve Schoch. The meeting was adjourned at 1250.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Vandenberg, secretary

MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Members completing their Council term:

Dennis Knutson Ernie Thieding
Sarah Schutt Marilyn Vandeberg

Members beginning their 3rd year:

Eileen Brost Scott Potts
Jon Landen Deb Wellman

Members beginning their 2nd year:

Amy Lawrence Betty Showers
Brady Showalter Dave Waller

PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2011

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2011

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Members at the End of 2011	2109	1414
Baptism	25	
Members Received	23	
Confirmation Class		34
Transferred in / Reinstated	4	
From other sources and statistical adjustment	2	
Deaths	8	8
Transferred out / Removed	17	
Statistical Adjustment	<u>0</u>	<u> </u>
Members at the End of December 2012	2138	1440

Senior Pastor's Report

**“I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.”**

(Philippians 1:3-5)

Paul's words to the church in Philippi sum up my words to you in this first annual report. I am filled with thanksgiving to God, for calling me to serve as your Senior Pastor. My overriding prayer is one of joy for you, for us, for McFarland Lutheran Church, for the blessings God has poured out on us. What a faith-filled journey we have experienced in less than one year!

Almost exactly one year ago I had my first face-to-face interview with the Call Committee, and as we talked, I felt we were moving together, in synch, as we discerned the Spirit's call to ministry. I give thanks for those eight people who served on the committee, for they gave me a wonderful introduction to MLC. They represented you faithfully, honestly, and with great care! From that first interview through my first months here among you, I have experienced affirmation, support and partnership from you, the people of God. Thanks be to God for our shared call to ministry in Christ' name!

Thanksgivings

Inspired by Paul's words from Philippians, I will share some of my thanksgivings about our ministry at MLC—not an exhaustive list by any means!

1. There is an emphasis on worship here. Each week we gather to hear and to respond to God's Word, and to receive the life-giving meal of Holy Communion. This is where our call to ministry begins, and worship is where we return to receive forgiveness, strength and peace, again and again. I celebrate God-given diversity in our worship as well—different voices, different songs of praise, different instruments to praise God. Yet, though we have different gifts, we are united in Christ, in his Word and in his Supper.

2. Along that theme of unity and diversity, I give thanks for the many and varied ministries under our “one tent.” People here serve in many ways, within our congregation, and outside the walls of our congregation. I can't possibly list all the ministries here, but this book of annual reports should give you a taste. And behind the many ministries are people who are excited, passionate, open and eager to be involved, to serve as part of the body of Christ. I am thankful for the “many gifts, one Spirit” theology that lived out here at MLC. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

3. One of the gifts of the Spirit is leadership, and we are blessed by the lay leaders who continually give of themselves for the sake of our ministry. The Church Council this year has been wise, thoughtful and committed to the good of our ministry. I especially want to highlight our officers this past year: Sarah Schutt, president; Scott Potts, vice president; Marilyn Vandeberg, secretary; and Dennis Knutson, treasurer. These four servants of Christ have blessed us with their abilities and time, and have moved this congregation forward in faith. I have been blessed by their faithfulness and support!

4. I believe that our congregation has a gift for reaching out to the poor, the vulnerable, those beyond our walls, those who are different than us. The Council's openness to the weekly community meals on Thursdays is an example of this. Another example is our mission trip to Puerto Rico in March, and the connections to our sisters and brothers in the Lutheran Church

there. Another example is the on-going support for the McFarland Food Pantry. This congregation has a heart and willingness to feed the hungry, in both body and spirit.

5. Finally, I am thankful to be in ministry with such a dedicated, hard-working staff. Rita Jenkins, our Office Manager, serves conscientiously and with distinction in her work with the church's records, bookkeeping, and many other areas. Our Administrative Assistant, Renae Feldner, graciously and competently keeps on top of many projects and tasks around the office. The building is lovingly maintained by Ken Brost, Head Custodian, and Susan Brodd and Dick Kohl, Part-time Custodians. They all keep the church office and facility in tip-top shape, and have a heart for the congregation's mission in all they do!

For programmatic staff, I give thanks for the two named "Chris"! They now share an office, so it's natural to think of them together. Our Director of Music, Chris Malueg, is now in his second year, and shares wonderful gifts of music with our diverse styles of worship. I enjoy planning worship with him! With the Personnel Committee, Chris and I continue to look for a part-time organist, but both of us are very grateful for the help of our substitute, Peter Johnson. Chris Landerud just completed his first year as Youth Ministries Coordinator, and we are blessed by his gifts in this role! Beyond the programs of confirmation and high school youth ministry, Chris models Christ-centered faith for our young people, and builds a positive sense of community among all those with whom he works.

Another major ministry program is the Child Life Ministries preschool (CLM). Becca Ziety, the CLM Administrator, brings a love for children and great experience to her job every day. Becca and Deb Nygaard, the CLM Program Director, help to infuse wonderful joy and faith into this ministry. I also give thanks for all the CLM teachers and staff, who lead their classes and programs with enthusiasm, skill and child-like faith.

Our church is also blessed by the ministry of Huldah Ellestad, Member Care Coordinator. Huldah provides excellent, faithful leadership with a variety of ministries, such as Befrienders, hospitality, the nursery, and new members. In addition, she provides office support to Renae and Rita. Huldah is a wise and trusted disciple of Jesus in our congregation, and I continually give thanks for her ministry gifts!

Finally, I am thankful for sharing the office of ordained ministry with an Associate Pastor. Pastor Katya Ouchakof served our congregation well in the interim and the first 6 months of my time here. In March, we said farewell and asked God to bless her with new paths of ministry in the wider church. In April, we called an interim, Pastor Sara Gillespie, to serve while we go through the call process for a new Associate Pastor. Pastor Sara has been a great help to me as a co-worker in the Gospel, and a colleague to share day-to-day pastoral work.

God-given Future

I believe that God is leading us into a bright, challenging, and life-giving future as a congregation. Here are some exciting opportunities for ministry on the horizon.

1. Our Capital Campaign to support the vision of a new sanctuary will be a major focus for the fall. The campaign will begin on the weekend of October 6/7, and will conclude with Commitment Sunday on December 2, when we will offer our pledges toward a new worship space. Yet this ministry is about so much more than fundraising and bricks to me. I believe it is about the vision God has for us for the future—a vision to grow in faith and to serve with Christ's love. A renewed worship space can powerfully strengthen our mission to "show God's love and serve God's world."

Thanks to the many people who have stepped forward to help with the Capital Campaign! I am especially grateful to the campaign's Executive Team: Sandy Chalmers and Joe Schwartz, co-chairs; Linda Langel; Jane Licht; and Scott Potts. Their faith and vision for this project has inspired me. Pastor Blair Anderson, our consultant from Kairos, has been a blessing to me personally as a colleague, and his wisdom and experience are invaluable.

The actual details of the worship space have yet to be decided. This is what the Building Committee, chaired by Bill Langel, will help facilitate once the Capital Campaign is completed. We will seek a lot of input from the congregation about the various details that will mark the worship space.

2. I see a renewal of our children, youth and family ministries. I am confident that a new Associate Pastor, called to bring special attention to children and family ministries, will bring new ideas and energy to this area of our life together. There is so much potential for growth, as we seek to foster and strengthen the faith life of our families and young people.

The Child Life Ministries (CLM) plays an important role in this as well. I have sensed that there is broad agreement with the vision of CLM as an outreach ministry of our congregation. CLM has shared the love of Jesus with children and families over many generations, and continues to reach new families who have never walked through our doors. CLM will be lifted up and supported by our congregation as it engages in this ministry of outreach.

The exact structural relationship between CLM and the whole church needs to be better clarified in the year ahead. I think a task force charged by Church Council will be the best vehicle for working on definitions of accountability and structure. But the vision of CLM helping to carry out our mission as a congregation is perhaps what is most important. God is blessing us through the CLM ministry, and we are to be good stewards of this gift within our congregation.

3. Another area that needs some attention is community-building—building relationships that foster our shared identity and ministry. I thought of this many times during the “Get to Know Pastor Tim” gatherings. Many people remarked on how much they enjoyed learning about others during these gatherings. People are hungering for genuine Christian community—support, prayer, learning and serving together. One way to build community is to strengthen our current small group ministries and invite new ones to be formed. The need to develop a small group ministry was identified in the Strategic Plan of August 2010, and I believe we need to start moving in that direction.

4. Another focus in the Strategic Plan was “equip and encourage involvement.” I would like to strengthen lay involvement and leadership in our various ministries. We need to provide opportunities for members and visitors to identify their spiritual gifts, and put those gifts into practice. We also need to develop lay leadership in developing new ministries and renewing current ministries. I see this as an area of focused attention for Council in the year ahead.

Jesus Is in the Boat

In my first year of ministry here, one of my guiding images is our congregation as a boat: we are putting up the sails, and ready to let the winds of the Spirit lead us to new ventures of ministry together. Mark tells a story of the disciples in the boat, afraid of storms raging around them (Mark 4:37-41). Jesus calms the storms, saying “Peace! Be still!” Then he challenges the disciples: “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

God's Word is for us in the MLC boat: Have faith, not fear. We need to have faith that Christ is with us in our work and witness, giving us his saving peace, inviting us to share his love with

those around us. We need to trust that the power of the Holy Spirit is at our back, giving us direction and purpose. We need to trust that the God we know in Jesus Christ is gifting us with a future filled with promise and hope.

Thanks be to God, for this gift of faith! Thanks be to Jesus Christ, whose love unites us and guides us into the future! Thanks be to God, for the Gospel, the Good News of Christ, that we share as a community!

Pastor Tim Dean

Interim Associate Pastor

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

I am excited to be here at McFarland Lutheran Church as your Interim Associate Pastor. I joined the ministry staff on April 10, 2012, right after Easter.

My main ministry focuses are:

- * Sharing worship leadership with Pastor Dean
- * Faith Formation Teams.

As I write this, the Child and Family Faith Formation Team is preparing for Vacation Bible School. I am working on adding traditional Lutheran teaching to our Rotational Workshop Model format for our Sunday School. Taking Faith Home will be a new ministry targeted at young families, but is a resource that will be available to everyone, and can benefit everyone. We will be introducing this during Vacation Bible School.

The Adult Faith Formation Team is a new committee since our last Annual Meeting. We are working on the Ministry Fair in October, with a special focus for our Capital Campaign. We are planning a "Living with Alzheimer's" workshop in late September.

- * Global Missions Team
- * Health and Social Wellness Team

I look forward to working with these teams to define our vision and goals for the future.

I am having a great time doing ministry with you and the talented and committed staff and volunteers at McFarland Lutheran Church!

In Christ's Grace,

Pastor Sara Gillespie

Member Care Coordinator

As I think about this fiscal year drawing to a close, I am amazed by how much can occur in 12 months' time. As I start to put this year's events into words, I am reminded that *why* we do something is often more meaningful than *what we do*. McFarland Lutheran's mission statement is: Share God's Word, Show God's Love, Serve God's World. The challenge, for me, is to restrain my enthusiasm for expounding on why we share, show and serve; lest I end up writing a book rather than an annual report.

Share God's Word

Engaging in the Child Life Ministry Devotion/worship time continues to be a rewarding experience. Finding new and interesting ways to share God's Word with the varying ages who attend CLM is both challenging and fulfilling. The children are so ready to listen and respond to the Word. They listen; ask questions, and then act. They provide a model that is worth emulating.

Ephesians 4: 16 ...Christ, ¹⁶from 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. We welcome 35 new companions to the journey as we seek to share God's word and build up MLC in love. We give thanks for their presence at worship and their participation in the mission and ministry of McFarland Lutheran Church. I am also thankful for all of you who share your knowledge, experience and friendship through the role of new member sponsor.

Show God's love

This year has been a joy as we "Get to Know Pastor Tim". His Christ centered, cheerful and caring approach makes working together to discern and carry out God's plan for MLC a positive experience. Many of you have participated in the 10 "Get to Know Pastor Tim" Gatherings. At the same time you learned about him, you have helped Pastor Tim "get to know MLC". The gatherings have been a wonderful opportunity for you to welcome Pastor Tim and for him to share a little about himself.

The Befriender ministry at McFarland Lutheran Church continues to be a ministry of Showing God's Love. Befrienders have cared for fellow members through prayers, listening, visiting, preparing and delivering meals, providing transportation, carrying communion to those that are home bound, and through many other acts of love. The benefit of utilizing these well trained and caring Befrienders does have a positive overall impact on our congregation. I hope that in the future you will participate in the Befriender Training (expertly facilitated by Betty Showers) either as a refresher, or, for the first time. You may also want to pick up a Befriender pamphlet and familiarize yourself with the Befriender Ministry to see if Befrienders would be of help for you or someone you know.

Serve God's World

This year, thanks to a dedicated nursery task force and your generosity, the nursery received new life with a thorough space renovation, new furnishings and a new look. With double the space, a new play kitchen, and other new-to-the-nursery toys, there is an increase in the number of children who enjoy spending time there. The nursery serve's a vital function here at MLC. Families are able to experience a meaningful worship time secure in the knowledge that their children are happily engaged in healthy activity in a safe environment.

As you know, the MLC library materials are currently in storage. The ideal for any church library would be to have relevant, accessible, user friendly materials that will promote and enhance the spiritual life of the congregation. The Library Task Force is a group of dedicated and hardworking people who, after polling the congregation, are thoughtfully preparing a plan of action to put before the Church Council. I cannot say enough about these individuals and what a pleasure it is to work with them as the future of the MLC library evolves.

How does coffee fit into mission? The concept of hospitality is biblically based. One instance of this is Hebrews 13:2 *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.* This congregation strives to be a place of welcome for familiar and unfamiliar faces. Everyone who participates in providing MLC hospitality is following His Word, extending His love, and serving His world. Yes, the new coffee-on-demand system in the central hallway is a small piece of the picture, it is also a piece that makes hospitality that much easier.

So far this fiscal year, 99 people have made a recordable commitment to service by submitting a Time and Ability form. Submitting a form greatly increases the possibilities for connecting willing hands and hearts with needs of every kind. We are blessed to have so many opportunities to be actively involved in ongoing ministry and service. The willingness to give of your Time & Abilities is a blessing to the continuing life and health of this congregation.

As I reflect on you, the people of this faith community, on the accomplishments of the past year, and on our continuing mission; I am reminded yet again of what a blessing the Body of Christ really is. We are indeed "Blessed to be a blessing".

Huldah Ellestad
Member Care Coordinator

Youth Ministries Coordinator

For we walk by faith, not by sight • 2 Corinthians 5:7

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

In June I completed my first year as the Youth Ministries Coordinator at MLC. I am committed and invested in supporting our youth in the pursuit of our mission. My support and guidance for our youth emerges in many forms and can be very different for every individual. In this report, I will highlight the youth programming over the last year and I will also outline new goals and initiatives for the next year.

Youth Ministry Programming for 2011-2012

Confirmation - Our Confirmation Program is a two year commitment for 7th and 8th grade students. The program includes annual requirements in the areas of worship, education, service, and fellowship. Students are encouraged to worship weekly. The education curriculum consists of a Small Catechism Year and a Bible Year. Students are asked to help serve their church, community, and the world. The goals are to joyfully worship, learn, and serve. The program prepares individuals to willingly be received as members of the church.

Some highlights of the Confirmation Program over the past year include:

- Weekly small group classes lead by at least two adult members
- Monthly large group classes lead by me or the pastors (families are invited)
- Synod Confirmation Extravaganza Event (held at the Alliant Energy Center)
- Movie Night with Bible Connections and Discussion
- Christmas & Easter Card Making Events
- Bibles & Dodgeball Fellowship Event
- Sunday Morning Hospitality Helpers & Nursery Assistants
- Global Mission Event Helpers
- Salvation Army Bell Ringers
- Super Bowl Sunday Food Drive
- Baseball Mitt Donation Drive
- Pine Lake Summer Confirmation Camp Experience (Waupaca, WI)

HS Youth Group - The "McFarland Youth FAITH Group" has a mission to Learn God's word, Share time & talents, and Live every day in faith. This group belongs to the youth members of MLC. The group is directed and supported by the youth and their families, the ministry staff, and the congregation. The participants and events of the group are ever-changing, but the group grows around the central mission of learning, sharing, and living in faith.

Some highlights of the high school ministries over the past year include:

- Sunday Morning Youth Group Classes (Nooma video series with Bible Study)
- HS Youth Weekly Wednesday Breakfasts
- Ski Trip Fellowship Event
- Baccalaureate Service
- Habitat for Humanity House Framing Project
- Summer Festival Gathering (Gustavus Adolphus College – St. Peter, MN)

Youth Ministries Goals and Initiatives for 2012-2013

- Create a 'Pre-Confirmation' curriculum for 6th graders
- Enhance all youth curriculum not only for the students, but to enrich the experience for adult and family involvement
- Explore additional summer experiences, retreat opportunities, and mission trips

I am privileged to be an integral part of the youth ministries at MLC. I am passionate about our mission at hand. I continue to pray for our MLC community and our youth.

<>< Chris Landerud

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

Our God is an Awesome God,
He Reigns from Heaven above
with wisdom, power and love,
Our God is an Awesome God
-----“Awesome God” by Michael W. Smith

We sing with joy for another year of blessings at Child Life Ministries!

We reached out to so many families this year: 65 PreK children, 33-3 Yr. Preschoolers, 11 Tots-3s Preschoolers, 12 full day child care children, and 27 after school children. I am pleased to report that our new programs—Tots-3s Preschool and our Lunch Bunch Program were successful this year too. The Tots-3s class was full all year with a waiting list and the Lunch Bunch numbers grew and grew (serving 48 children, many multiple times!)

The success of CLM is largely rooted in the dedication and passion of teaching by the staff. We are SO VERY BLESSED to have the teaching staff we have at CLM. Their dedication, love and passion of children and teaching make this program what it is. So, I say thank you to the CLM teaching team, for all you do—seen and unseen it reaches the children you work with daily and we can see it on the smiling faces and dancing feet.

Another key component of CLM's successfulness is the support of the congregation. The shared facility is wonderful ~ we love going to church and the Family Life Center. Additionally, we have been able to support 9 children with the Tuition Asst. Program and the Heckel Scholarship(s). The support has been utilized in all of our programs (preschool, child care and school age care).



This was a year full of invisible changes:

- CLM will be making additional program changes in the fall; adding an Enrichment Program for 4yr olds and After Care for 4yr olds. Also, the district passage of 4K means changes will be coming and there has been a substantial amount of work behind the scenes to have CLM become a collaborating partner for fall 2012. These changes, though positive, are changes and we ask that everyone be prayerful for our programs and staff during these new beginnings. ☺

And visible changes:

- Our fundraising efforts with Parents Group Organization (PGO) earned some new playground equipment—a dome climber and monkey bars—fun, fun!
- And with a large financial gift we have been able to make improvements on the playground~ landscape curbing and (coming soon!) a shade structure. These upgrades improve the safety and decrease the necessary maintenance in our play area.
- Rainbow Center had a “front door lift” with the donation of a new door and volunteer “elbow grease” for installation.

Signing off with“.....With wisdom, power and love” because of Him,

Becca Ziety, Child Life Ministries

Music Director

“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 would like to open this report with a “Thank You!” to all of our musicians at McFarland Lutheran Church. 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 performing their whole lives. All these musicians volunteer their time and talent to help move our hearts and minds as we worship. They are an incredible group of people. I thank you all for what you do.

Here is a break down of musical groups at McFarland Lutheran Church:

- McFarland Lutheran Choir
- McFarland Lutheran Bell Choir
- Worship Band
- Saturday Evening Music Ensemble
- Sunday School Music
- Christmas Program Children’s Choir
- Vacation Bible School
- Brass Choir

The most noticeable change this year was the resignation of our organist/pianist, Kristie Halverson, at the end of September. We have been actively seeking a new organist since that time. We have auditioned several musicians, but have yet to find a suitable replacement. I would like to thank Peter Johnson for serving as our substitute organist during this time of transition.

All of the music groups continue to explore both old and new music. They are all extremely versatile and often offer up ideas for pieces they would like to perform. We explored several pieces this year that challenged us. It is very satisfying to perform a piece that you spent many weeks preparing. It is a pleasure to work with such accomplished musical groups.

Pastor Tim has been a great addition to musical life at McFarland Lutheran Church. He comes with a great background in church music. I enjoy planning worship with Pastor Tim and finding new songs and settings we can use.

We have continued to explore what our hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship or ELW, has to offer. We used several different communion settings this year, changing with the church seasons. We also have sung many new hymns and songs from other sources.

I am excited about the possibilities the renovation of the church sanctuary presents. If you attended a Christmas or Easter service this past year, you saw that all of our musicians were a bit cramped. The acoustics in the sanctuary are also, to be kind, subpar. In fact, I believe it inhibits congregational singing. The sound system is also in need of a major upgrade. I am looking forward to discussing all of these complications as we move forward.

I feel blessed to have been called to serve at McFarland Lutheran Church. The spirit of fellowship, volunteerism and service here is very strong. I look forward to an exciting future of music making.

“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.

Christopher Malueg
Director of Music

CARE OF CREATION

Members-Dawn Bolstad, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Connie Showalter

The Care of Creation Team has had a wonderful year leading the congregation on a path to nurture Our Lord's creation.

We have continued to maintain the compost bins and rain barrels. Both of these help decrease the use of resources for the community garden. The MLC community garden once again offered 20 plots to congregation and community members. This year all 20 plots were quickly taken and are being used for organic gardening. The COC maintains 4 of these plots and takes fresh produce, herbs and flowers to the McFarland Food Pantry. Check out our plot behind church, it has a beautiful garden arch and scarecrow. A small section of the garden is being tended by CLM teacher Sandy V and her class. The entire garden was fenced last year and this has proved successful. We have also continued to have the Sunday "Garden Market" during the summer months so those who have extra garden produce bring it in with donations going to the McFarland Food Pantry.

The prairie and rain garden areas have increased in their diversity thanks to donations of prairie plants from Ginny and Wes. Every year the flowers and grasses are more beautiful as they fill in. The donation of benches that were placed and blessed last year in memory of Sharon Thieding makes it even more enjoyable to sit in the shade by the prairies.

Last August we offered a campfire sing along. With the help of Pastor Katya, Len Lane, Chris Malueg, and Kathy Westby it was a great night of singing by the fire while enjoying campfire snacks. We plan to hold this event again this summer. The next morning we canoed the Yahara River after a hearty breakfast.

Last September we planted a winter wheat plot behind church. The plot has matured and soon will be ready for harvest. We plan to dry and separate the wheat kernel that can then be ground into flour. The flour then can be used to make communion bread for a special occasion.

Other events/projects we have coordinated this past year include a "Full Moon Walk" to Edna Taylor Conservation Park, having special prayers for Earth Day, offering a sustainable Advent calendar for Christmas, and writing a monthly "green" article for the newsletter. We plan to again have a Blessing of Animals service in September.

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

The Faith Formation Team is an off shoot of the past Education Committee. We began meeting the first of this year on the third Monday of the month at 6:30. After discussing the purpose of the committee and developing a mission statement we are currently in the process of putting together an Alzheimer's program to be presented on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at McFarland Lutheran. Our committee will also be involved with the orchestration of the Ministry Fair to be held in October in conjunction with the Capital Campaign.

We look forward to bringing more pertinent educational and informative programs dealing with health, teens and drugs, retirement planning, social issues, Bible studies and other topics the committee may find to be informative and useful to our congregation and or the community. We welcome new members to the committee or ideas that may be of significance to our church and community.

Pastor Sara Gillespie
Karen Emerson, Chairperson
Ernie Thieding, Council Liaison
Sheri Gehrke
Tom Scharine

Respectfully Submitted
Karen Emerson

GLOBAL 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 become involved in the global mission of the ELCA they will be sharing with and supporting Christians throughout the world in fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Our premier event of the year was the Global Mission Event in October. Six speakers from 4 countries led 13 sessions on Saturday and Pastor Sanchita Kisku from India preached on Saturday night and Sunday morning services. As always the attendees were awakened by some of the struggles our Christian brothers and sisters endure in other parts of the world. A special thank you goes out to the Thapa family (refugee family from Nepal) for preparing lunch for the event.

This past year we supported Brian Konkell in his youth missionary work in South Africa. As Brian is finishing his one year assignment, in the coming year we will provide mission support to Brian and Christine Palmer who are serving in Liberia.

Various members of our congregation and committee have personally acted to spread the good deeds of Christ around the world. Some examples are:

- Mike Catterall and 21 others: Puerto Rico Mission trip
- Bonnie Dirks: Hope 4 Kids and Uganda Mission trip
- Janet and Dennis Knutson, Judi Strauss, Carrol Vollmer – Disaster Relief trip to North Dakota

Thanks to all of you, and others not mentioned, for spreading the good news of Christ through your deeds.

This has been a year of transition for the Global Mission Committee with our long term committee member Janet Knutson and chairman Rick Strauss leaving the committee. We wish to thank both for their many years of service on the committee, and wish them God's peace in their future endeavors. We also wish to thank Pastor Katya Ouchakof for her dedication and enthusiasm for the work of the Global Mission Committee.

Current members of the Global Mission committee are Mike Catterall, Bonnie Dirks, Jon Landen, Arn Vollmer and Ron Vandenberg, with Pastor Sara Gillespie providing pastoral guidance. Please contact one of these committee members if you wish to join this committee or just get more information.

PERSONNEL BOARD

Members: Sandy Chalmers, Bill Gross, Cheryl Scharine, Sarah Schutt (Council Representative), Betty Showers (Council Representative), Deb Wellman (Council Representative), and Pastor Tim Dean.

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

Accomplishments of our board during this fiscal year include:

- Hired Chris Landerud to fill the position of Coordinator of Youth Ministry
- Ensured that performance evaluations were completed for the lay church staff
- Created the position of nursery attendant to address the need to have nursery care consistently available for children during worship
- Reviewed and updated the job descriptions as necessary, and reviewed and updated the contract for the Director of Music
- Made several improvements in computer hardware and software and in office policies to enable staff to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively

We will be working to fill the organist and nursery attendant positions, and to ensure that staffing levels meet the needs of our church.

Cheryl Scharine, Chairperson

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

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

The size of the church property and the tremendous use of the property keeps 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 included the addition of a catch basin near the church and the Rainbow Center. The basin contains the water coming off the church roof during the winter which reduces the freezing of the water on the sidewalks in the area of the rainbow center and the church entrance. In addition, a riding lawnmower was purchased to replace the former riding mower which was requiring continual maintenance costs.

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

Ken Anderson, Chairperson

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The Elizabeth Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. March through December. We are using various Bible study series.

Our circle annually sets up and decorates the Christmas tree in the sanctuary using Chrismons made and maintained by circle members. Our 18th annual December bake sale raised \$1,002 for the McFarland Food Pantry along with Thrivent's matching funds of \$280. We also put out a "Change for Skaalen" cup at the bake sale and collected \$65 for Skaalen. During this last year, we contributed to the Good Samaritan Fund here at McFarland Lutheran and to the ELCA Disaster Fund.

Our circle members are Thelma Allen, Ginny Dodson, Carolyn Gehrke, Heleen Hayden, Gayle Huston, Janet Knutson, Sandy Larson, Iris Othrow, Barbara Porter-Quam, Judi Strauss, Nancy Vick and Anona Zumstein.

RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at members' homes. We continue to use the DVD series "Faith Lessons" as our Bible study and just finished viewing and discussing "Faith Lessons on the Early Church".

We provided and maintain the activity bags that parents can use for their young children at Sunday services. We support one month of 4 year old preschool tuition assistance at CLM. We also support and manage the Splash! monthly newsletter for more than 25 of 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

Boy Scouts of America

Boy Scout Troop 53 thanks McFarland Lutheran Church for its continued support in sponsorship for the 73rd consecutive year. You may have seen us in the past year camping in front of the church during the community campouts in September. Or attending Scout Sunday services the first Sunday in February. Or collecting canned goods for Scouting for Food in April. Troop 53 stays active year-round. Max Jackson is our newest Eagle Scout. You can enjoy the broad crushed gravel trail bed he put down in the Indian Mound School Forest. We have several other Scouts in the process this summer of working on their Eagle Scout projects. Summer camp is once again at the Ed Bryant Scout Reservation (formerly Camp Castle Rock) in June. Our high adventure trip in 2012 is a weeklong backpacking trip on Isle Royale National Park. The troop camps at least one weekend every month of the year, winter, spring, summer, and fall. In the process of having fun, leadership skills are developed, citizenship skills nurtured, and self-reliance skills strengthened. Boy Scouting is for boys who are 11 years of age, but not yet 18. We meet on Monday nights in the Family Life Center at 7:00 p.m. Check us out if you are interested, or contact, Brock Chalmers, Scoutmaster, 838-7823. The Scout Law: A Scout is: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.