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**McFarland Lutheran Church
Annual Congregation Meeting
Sunday, July 21, 2013
11:45 a.m.**

Call to Order

Devotion and Gathering Song

Attendance Check

Old Business

-Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2012 Annual Meeting

-Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2012 Congregational Meeting

New Business

-Call for Congregational Council Nominees

-Reports

Pastors

Building Committee

Child Life Ministries

Program Ministries

Treasurer's Report

-Approval of 2013/2014 Budget

Closing Prayer

Sending Song

**Report from the Congregational President
July 2013**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes". Luke 12: v. 22,23

Dear Fellow Members of McFarland Lutheran Church,

McFarland Lutheran has been blessed with many riches-our church pastors and staff, our buildings and grounds, and our ministries with many caring congregational members helping to reach out to the community and beyond. Together we shape the ministries that Christ has commanded us.

And to help grow these ministries our building is about to grow and change. With guidance from the Sanctuary Building and Capital Campaign Committees, MLC is planning to grow-new worship space, improved acoustics and sound, new places to sit! It is exciting to think about the new space and also the new ministry and program possibilities.

But do we trust where God is leading us? In the verses from Luke above (I encourage you to read Luke 12: v. 22-31), is Jesus commanding us not to worry? It seems that Christ is giving us an invitation to rest in the arms of a loving father. As humans, it is our nature to fret and worry-but Jesus is commanding us to trust. He is inviting us to trust in the Father as a guiding principle, not as another law to worry about.

As I end my first year on council and as president, I am thankful for our existing ministries and the many members that make these ministries go. And now we need to be reminded to take the time to trust and follow where Jesus is leading us. We may not know what our new worship space will look like, or how the music will sound, or even where we will sit. And we do not know what ministries or programs that now may be possible. But if we trust in the Lord, we know that He will provide and lead us the way.
Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Jeff Gehrke
Congregational President
McFarland Lutheran Church

Financial Report

The Finance Committee would like to thank all the members of McFarland Lutheran Church for their thoughtful giving of their financial resources this past fiscal year. McFarland Lutheran Church is truly blessed.

2012/2013 SUMMARY

For the Church year just completed, our revenue was \$972,276. This was \$39,007 less than our budgeted revenue of \$1,011,283.

Actual expenses were \$983,973. This was \$27,310 less than our budgeted expenses of \$1,011,283.

This past year McFarland Lutheran Church had contracted with the McFarland School District to conduct an age 4 kindergarten program – a class in the morning and a class in the afternoon. This program was completely funded by the school district. Total revenue received from the school district was \$106,850. Total expenses to conduct the program were \$96,023. This gave the church net income of \$10,827.

Fortunately, during the 2012/2013 fiscal year, we did not have to use the \$7,900 from the Church's operating reserves that was approved at last year's annual meeting. The Church's operating reserves began the year at \$130,641 and finished the year at \$150,000. Based on the projected cash flow needs of the Church for early July, we were able to transfer \$25,000 from the checking account to the Building Maintenance/Repairs savings account. This account would be used for any large unexpected expenses that may occur in the future.

2013/2014 BUDGET

The proposed 2013/2014 budget is \$1,045,730 for McFarland Lutheran Church. The proposed 2013/2014 budget is \$100,000 for the 4K program.

I would like to thank the following for their help and guidance during my first year as Treasurer of McFarland Lutheran Church:

- Pastor Tim
- MLC Finance Committee
- Church Council
- Rita Jenkins
- Dennis Knutson

Last, but not least, the many committees of McFarland Lutheran Church. Their thoughtful and Spirit led efforts helped to make possible next fiscal year's balance church budget.

Mike Devine,
MLC Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

Minutes of Congregational Meeting of McFarland Lutheran Church July 22, 2012

Before the meeting was called to order, the 6th grade Sunday School class gave presentation on the history of McFarland Lutheran church.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 12:02 by President Sarah Schutt.

Devotion and gathering song – The meeting began with a devotion by Pastor Tim Dean and a gathering song.

Verification of Quorum - A quorum was verified. 85 members were in attendance.

Old Business

Moved by Rick Hall; seconded by Jerry Hrovat to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2011 annual meeting. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Karen Emerson; seconded by Jon Landen to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2011 Congregational meeting. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Bill Langel; seconded by Ron Vandenberg to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2011 Congregational meeting. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Call for Church Council nominees – The Nominating Committee consisted of Jerry Hrovat, Kris Bell and Tom Scharine. Jerry introduced the individuals presented by the Nominating Committee: Holly Heuer, Kathy Westby, Bill Gross and Jeff Gehrke. No other nominations were offered from the floor. **Moved by Betty Showers; seconded by Christine Pribbenow to approve these candidates for Council. Motion carried.**

Reports

Pastor Dean

- Stated he is glad to be here (first year). The Spirit is leading us in all that we do.
- Recognized the Council, everyone that is serving on a committee or in worship and the staff. Stated that the people are the church and that we all serve together in mission.

Capital Campaign Committee

Sandy Chalmers and Joe Schwartz thanked the Steering Committee and Jackie Voight for all their work. Upcoming events: October 6, 2012 is Kickoff Sunday, November 11 is the congregational banquet and December 2 is Commitment Sunday. Setting the tone for this campaign is the question “What is God calling this church to do?” There will be opportunities for everyone to serve in some way.

Associate Pastor Call Committee

Steve Schoch reported that work is progressing quickly since much of the work was completed less than a year ago for the senior pastor call process. Three interviews are lined up with candidates. Committee members John Berg, Dawn Blau, Linda Ellestad, Jon Landen, Brenda Moen, Kaitlyn Summers and Keith Voelker were recognized.

Child Life Ministries

Rebecca Ziety highlighted her written report.

- Enrollment at CLM this past year: 65 PreK children, 33 – 3 year old Preschoolers, 11 Tots-3s Preschoolers, 12 full day childcare and 27 after school children.
- The Tuition Assistance program and the Heckel Scholarships have been able to support nine students.
- This fall CLM will host a 4K program for the McFarland School District and will add an enrichment program for 4 year olds.

- Generous donations have led to new playground equipment and a new front door for the Rainbow Center.

Youth Ministries

Chris Landerud stated he was glad to be here on a permanent basis. He is thankful for confirmation teachers, breakfast makers, and helpers with youth events and field trips. In September, 21 students will be confirmed. There are currently 40 in the confirmation program. Chris will also be starting the Synod Youth Ministry Certification Training.

Member Care Coordinator

Huldah referred us to her written report. She feels blessed to have a wonderful faith family. God designed us to have support of each other.

Director of Music

Chris Malueg thanked all the music volunteers here at MLC and referred us to his written report.

Personnel Board

Betty Showers referred us to the written report and stated that they are still working to hire an organist.

Treasurer's report

Dennis Knutson highlighted the 2011-2012 financial report.

- Benevolences were "first fruits giving" of 10% of contributions for a total of \$55,543.00.
- \$12,000 was used from the operating reserve.
- The mortgage has been paid off.
- The audit report from December, 2010 recommended a review of job descriptions which Personnel Committee has been implementing.

Moved by Tom Showers; seconded by Steve Schoch to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Approval of the 2012-2013 Budget

Pastor Dean explained the combining of the Child Life Ministries budget into the McFarland Lutheran Church budget instead of having two separate budgets. The Council sees CLM as a ministry of the church. Jesus says, "I am the vine and you are the branches." CLM has grown out of the branch of MLC. To address concerns, Council will set up a task force to look at the structure of the MLC / CLM functions.

Dennis Knutson then explained the process of the various committees in setting the budget. The budget includes:

- A 2% raise for all staff and a 2% raise for the senior pastor
- Full time associate pastor
- Dedicated maintenance reserve
- Dedicated mortgage reserve
- Separate 4K budget (part of the McFarland School District)
- All committees received what they proposed.

Worship attendance has also continued to increase. A question about actual cash in the bank is listed on the first page of the financial report with the checking account balance and the savings account balance. Questions were asked about the CLM and MLC staff salaries and the number of hours worked. Names were not listed but positions are easily identified. At CLM some teaches hold multiple jobs. The budget lists all this to be open with the congregation about the actual costs of our salaries and programs.

Moved by John Berg; seconded by Jeff Gehrke to approve the 2012-2013 Annual Budget.

Bill Langel thanked Dennis Knutson for three years of working as treasurer.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Gillespie led us in closing prayer.

Moved by Scott Potts; seconded by Dennis Knutson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Vandeberg, Secretary

**Minutes of Congregational Meeting of McFarland Lutheran Church
September 23, 2012**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Gehrke.

Verification of Quorum: A quorum was verified. 96 members were in attendance. Jeff explained that the Congregational Council of MLC supported the decision of the Call Committee to present Kelli Schmit for a call to McFarland Lutheran Church for the position of Associate Pastor. He then asked Kelli to give a devotion and opening prayer.

After the prayer, Jeff introduced the Chair of the Call Committee, Steve Schoch.

Steve introduced the members of the Call Committee and thanked them for their service during the call process. Steve then introduced Kelli and asked her to share her background with the members.

Kelli graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in May 2012 and this would be her first call. She shared more of her background including where she grew up and her ministry experience during seminary. She then answered questions from the congregation after which she was escorted out of the room so that members could discuss calling Kelli as our Associate Pastor. Pastor Tim shared that he felt confident in Pastor Kelli's abilities and enthusiasm and that he felt they would make a good team.

Motion was made and seconded to call Kelli Schmit as the Associate Pastor of McFarland Lutheran Church. **Vote was taken and passed unanimously.**

Kelli was called back to the meeting where she was informed that the vote to call her to serve at MLC passed. She was also informed that she could take up to 30 days for discernment and then give the congregation her answer. Kelli accepted the call immediately. She is planning to start at MLC in mid-October with an ordination to be scheduled for later in the fall.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Tim closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Showers, Secretary

MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Members completing their Council term:

Eileen Brost	Scott Potts
Jon Landen	Deb Wellman

Members beginning their 3rd year:

Amy Lawrence	Betty Showers
Brady Showalter	Dave Waller

Members beginning their 2nd year:

Jeff Gehrke	Holly Heuer
Bill Gross	Kathy Westby

PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2012

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Members at the End of 2011	2138	1427
Baptism	14	
Members Received	35	
Confirmation Class		22
Transferred in / Reinstated	12	
From other sources and statistical adjustment	2	
Deaths	13	
Transferred out / Removed	34	
Statistical Adjustment	<u>0</u>	<u> </u>
Members at the End of December 2012	2154	1449

Senior Pastor's Report

**“Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him
who is the head, into Christ.”
(Ephesians 4:15)**

Thanks be to God: Christ is the head, and we are his body! The New Testament book of Ephesians describes the universal church as one body, in which we all have different gifts, but serve the same purpose of following the one head, mind and heart, Jesus Christ. All of our gifts are for making the body healthy and strong, so that Christ's love is made real in the world.

I give thanks for the community headed by Christ at McFarland Lutheran Church! With many gifts of the Spirit, we are well equipped to share God's Word, show God's love, and serve God's world. At this 2013 annual meeting, let us give thanks for the past year of worship, service and witness, and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us along new paths of ministry together in the coming year.

Called to Grow into Christ

1. One of the highlights for me this past year was the “Called to Grow” Capital Campaign. This fund-raising ministry was a focal point for us from October-December 2012, with follow-up phone calls in January 2013. It was an inspirational, positive campaign, and we received 169 generous three-year pledges for a total amount of \$890,107.53. These pledges, combined with \$71,515 in funds already dedicated to the renovation, have put us in a strong position to build a new Sanctuary. Thanks be to God!

Yet more important than raising money, the “Called to Grow” campaign strengthened our faith connections in this church. We published a booklet of amazing faith stories written by congregational members, heard a number of “faith talks” in worship, and celebrated our communal work with a Mission Fest and Celebration Banquet. We have been rejuvenated in God's mission to share the Living Word of Jesus Christ. This mission emphasis was the broader goal of the capital appeal.

Another benefit of the Capital Campaign was the unity of many people working together on a shared vision. I am so deeply grateful to Sandy Chalmers and Joe Schwartz, for their dedicated, faithful service as co-chairs of the Capital Campaign. Also on the Executive Committee were Linda Langel, Jane Licht, Scott Potts, and our consultant, Pastor Blair Anderson. There were dozens of others involved on different teams—it would take me too many pages to thank everyone by name! But I do want to give a special “shout-out” to Jackie Voight, who served tirelessly as the administrative assistant on the capital appeal. Thank you, Jackie, for your good cheer, hard work, and commitment to this project!

2. In 2013, we have had a special emphasis on ministry with children, youth and families. One of Pastor Kelli's top priorities has been to work with the Children and Family Ministry Team to offer events once a month—and these events have drawn families who are members and visitors, as well as people of all ages, for greater inter-generational connections. Chris Landerud, our Youth Ministries Coordinator, will be developing leadership teams to plan monthly service trips, fellowship events, and other opportunities for middle school and high school youth to grow in faith.

In addition, our Child Life Ministries (CLM) is a wonderful outreach ministry of the whole church. Through preschool and full-day programs, CLM staff members share the love of God with children and families. I continue to have the vision that CLM is a unique and vital ministry that is

part of our congregation's identity. I also continue to see that CLM is best served within a unified MLC budget, so that everyone works toward strengthening our shared mission.

The CLM Task Force, created by Church Council, has affirmed that CLM is an outstanding ministry of the whole congregation, and has been working to clarify CLM's relationship within our overall church structure. At the task force's recommendation, Council formed a new CLM Committee, to work with Becca Ziety, CLM Administrator, and the Personnel and Finance Committees on budget and personnel matters. A new CLM Committee will start meeting this August.

3. God continues to bless us with new members! In 2012, 35 people affirmed their baptism and joined our congregation, and so far in 2013, an additional 35 new members have joined. Many are young families with children. In addition, 22 young people were confirmed in September 2012, and we have baptized 23 people since the beginning of 2012. The Holy Spirit is gathering new people into our life as the body of Christ, and these newest members bring gifts that will strengthen our work together!

4. I give thanks to God for our incredibly gifted and energetic staff! One of the newest additions to staff is our Organist, Hanna Lee, who started in December 2012. I am so thankful for Hanna's inspiring musical abilities. Chris Malueg, our Director of Music Ministry, also offers his considerable musical talents for the sake of our mission, and does a great job incorporating the choirs, praise teams and soloists into our worship services.

Another member of our program staff is Huldah Ellestad, who offers her gifts in abundant ways! This year we revised Huldah's job description and gave her a new title: Coordinator of Lay Ministry and Adult Education. Huldah is instrumental in empowering many lay ministries of our church, including Befrienders, the Library Team, and New Member Classes. But we have added a new focus on adult education, which includes working with the Faith Formation Team. I am blessed to work with Huldah on new adult education ministries!

Thanks to the ministry of Chris Landerud, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, our middle school and high school youth are nurtured and empowered in faith. Chris provides stable, strong, and faith-centered leadership with our various youth ministries.

CLM Administrator Becca Ziety and Program Director/Lead Teacher Deb Nygaard provide joyful, Christ-centered leadership of our preschool ministry. The other teachers and daycare staff also serve with compassion and care, and provide a safe space for children to learn and grow in God's love.

A huge thank you to our church administrative staff: Rita Jenkins, Office Manager, and Renae Feldner, Administrative Assistant. Rita and Renae have both served on staff for over 20 years, and continue to be the "glue" that keeps the office running efficiently. I am deeply grateful for their help in many ways! In addition, our custodial staff of Ken Brost, Dick Kohl and Sharon Strattan keeps the physical building in tip-top shape, and always offer their assistance on new projects with good cheer!

Finally—last, but certainly not least—I am thankful for the gifts, enthusiasm and partnership of our Associate Pastor Kelli Schmit. Pastor Kelli has jumped into ordained ministry at MLC without reservation, and offers herself and her gifts in a way that brings new energy to our mission. I offer great thanks for her partnership in the Gospel, and look forward to sharing this faith journey together as your pastors!

Called to Follow Christ into the Future

1. The vision of a new Sanctuary is taking shape! The Sanctuary Building Committee (SBC) has been working closely for the last 6 months with our architect, Paul Barribeau, and Findorff, our construction company, to move toward the goal of renovation. We have taken the next step of having our architect develop detailed documents, as we move from the conceptual stage to a more detailed plan. Three sub-committees are now forming to involve members of the congregation: 1) an audio-visual group to address acoustical issues in the new space; 2) a liturgical arts group to make recommendations on worship furnishings, such as altar and baptismal font; and 3) a group that will make recommendations on the colors and material choices for the new space.

I am excited about worshipping in a new space! But I am even more energized by how the new place of worship will facilitate our mission. That is the vision: facilities facilitate mission! Worship that is directed to God will empower us to serve others in Jesus' name. Thank you to Bill Langel, SBC chair, and all the members of the committee who faithfully work to keep our "eyes on the prize": a new Sanctuary! (See Philippians 3:14)

2. Anticipating the renovation in the year ahead, we have decided to try a new Sunday morning schedule: 8 a.m. Traditional Worship, and 10:30 Contemporary Worship in the Family Life Center, with a Faith Formation Hour for all ages at 9:15. During the renovation, we won't be able to worship 3 services in the Family Life Center, so council, Pastor Kelli and I discerned that this would be a good time to try out a Faith Formation Hour for Sunday School, confirmation classes, and adult education opportunities. The new schedule will get started on August 11, and the Faith Formation Hour will begin with Rally Sunday on September 8. This year will be a "trial period" to see how the schedule helps our mission.

I see this as a wonderful opportunity for everyone to grow in God's Word. Adults will have a chance to spend time in group bible study each week, while children and youth are also getting into the Word. Huldah Ellestad will be coordinating the adult offerings, and I will take part in the teaching. We will start with one adult class Sunday morning, but my vision is that down the road we could offer multiple classes at the same time, such as beginning and advanced bible classes, parent discussion groups, and more—the possibilities are endless!

I see this as a great opportunity to grow in faith, and I encourage you to participate in our Faith Formation Hour starting Sept. 8!

3. I also am interested in developing additional small groups in the next year. I think small group ministry is a wonderful way to involve more people, deepen our discipleship, and grow our faith community. Huldah and I have started looking at a resource entitled, "Unbinding the Gospel," which combines small group bible study with a focus on evangelism. I believe that we need to focus on evangelism—sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in words and actions—and this resource is one way to energize people to "let loose" the Gospel in their lives.

4. Finally, we have a renewed "Super" Stewardship Team. (Watch for the Superman t-shirts!). This team will help us to grow by trusting that God generously blesses us, and invites us to respond by offering our gifts of time, abilities, and money for the sake of mission. We will be highlighting "Mission Moments" throughout the year as a way of lifting up the many ministries that our church supports and directs. Thanks to Mary Winter, chair, and John Berg, Callie Mauersetter and Carol Munch, for serving in such a "super" way!

Called to Share the Love of Christ

The point of being part of the body of Christ is to reach out to others with the steadfast, life-giving love of Christ. As Ephesians puts it, God blesses us with many, diverse gifts to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” and to promote “the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:12,16) The national ELCA mission statement says it this way: “God’s work, our hands.” Christ is the head, we are the hands, heart and the body!

I am grateful for all our ministries that promote outreach and growth in Jesus’ name. It is a joy and privilege to serve as your Senior Pastor as we work together as one body, serving one Lord, Jesus Christ, rooted in his love. Thank you for the inspiration and affirmation that you give me as we live, act and worship as the body of Christ! Go, Team MLC!

**“We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all!”
(Hymn #576)**

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tim

Associate Pastor

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Called to this Part of the Body of Christ

I admit that while this is *my* report, the highlights of this past year and the things I am looking forward to all include you, members of the Body of Christ. It is an understatement to say that one of the biggest highlights for me was my ordination and the call to be your Associate Pastor. Your warm welcome and generous hospitality continue to be a blessing. I am glad to be beginning my journey of ministry and my year of “firsts” with this part of the Body of Christ.

Engaging with Individual Members of the Body of Christ

I have enjoyed establishing relationships with members of the congregation and staff. It has been a delight to participate in significant milestones of faith with you this year. We have been gifted with the presence of new members and the ritual of officially welcoming them into this part of the Body. Talking about the sacraments is one of my favorite things, so it has been a joy to meet with families as they prepare to bring their child forward for baptism. I am overwhelmed each time I dip my hand into the font and join you all in welcoming the newest member of the family of God. It has been an honor to journey with some families as we celebrate a loved one’s life and commend them to God’s promise of resurrection.

New members, baptisms, funerals: a year of firsts for me with this part of the Body of Christ. Whether we are chatting in the halls at church, talking about the baptismal liturgy, praying in hospice and hospital rooms, or planning scripture and hymns for a funeral – it is an honor to be invited into those places and to hear stories of life and faith. Standing with you, surrounded by God’s grace, is truly sacred ground.

Worshipping with the Body of Christ

Joining you for worship every weekend is one of the highlights of my call. I find presiding over Holy Communion and preaching to be vivifying parts of my weekend. I am blessed to share these leadership roles with Pastor Tim. I have enjoyed the diverse styles of worship services arranged by our Worship Planning Team. A wide variety of services have been held here at McFarland Lutheran Church and it is fun to help lead such creative and expressive worship experiences. Plus, this was my first Christmas and Easter as your Associate Pastor and I loved being a part of it. I am excited for the building project and to see what ministry opportunities will be revealed that we haven’t even dreamed of yet.

During the Easter season I had the pleasure of joining 24 of your students and their family members in First Communion instruction. Amazing questions were asked and we discussed the life-giving and grace-filled elements of bread and wine. And thanks to the Care of Creation team we were able to get “hands-on” with making the communion wafers. A few “firsts” I am looking forward to include my first Confirmation service and meeting with three-year-olds and third graders in the fall when the church distributes Bibles.

Working Side-By-Side with Small Groups of the Body of Christ: Ministry Teams and Staff

My first Sunday here at McFarland Lutheran Church was also Mission Fest. I don’t know if it was the Holy Spirit or not, but what wonderful timing! It was a gift to be able to walk around and see all that happens in this place and outside these walls. I was (and continue to be) amazed by the wide variety of ministries in which this congregation engages.

I have enjoyed participating with three ministry teams specifically: Health and Social Wellness, Global Mission, and Family and Children's Ministry. The Health and Social Wellness team continued to coordinate various ministries that are vital to our congregation yet unfold once a year or as need arises. As a team we are embarking on a new path. I am excited by our conversation about where the Spirit is leading us and envisioning how we might take steps in that direction together.

The Global Mission team felt called to be a part of God's gift of life-giving water. After researching organizations and brainstorming various details of the plan, the efforts to raise funds to build a clean water source in Africa began on Pentecost. At the time of printing the team is in the middle of their fundraising plan. I have been encouraged by and am grateful for the generous spirit dancing through McFarland Lutheran Church.

I joined the Family and Children's Ministry team in time to be a part of Christmas Program planning. The team's dedication to this ministry led to the decision of hosting, at the best of our ability, monthly events. We partnered with Chris Landerud, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, and the Care of Creation team for a showing of The Lorax. Whether it was The Lorax, Bingo Night, the Talent Show, or any of the other events, these have been fun and wonderful opportunities for families and friends to connect and strengthen relationships. I am looking forward to my "first" Vacation Bible School this summer and Rally Day to kick off the 2013-2014 Sunday School year.

I cannot say enough positive things about the staff. It is a joy and a privilege to work with such dedicated disciples. In addition to the many laughs we have at our weekly staff meeting, I enjoy this time together because it is inspiring to hear the amazing things that unfold with each person's specific area of ministry. I could go into detail but will save you time and, instead, encourage you to read their reports. Also, it is an honor to share the pastoral office with Pastor Tim. His leadership, vision for the congregation's ministry, and commitment to the Gospel are a blessing. We have established a great working relationship and I look forward to continuing to build on that foundation.

As you may be able to tell, a big highlight for me was working with such dedicated and creative people – both staff leaders and lay leaders. It is a joy to be one of the voices around the table at a staff, Council, or team meeting where there is energy and mutual support. I look forward to where the Spirit is leading the ministries of this place (and the ministries not yet dreamed) and strengthening relationships with these members of the Body of Christ.

Listening to Where the Body of Christ is being Called

This has been a wonderful year of "firsts" and I am eager to begin my year of "seconds." I look forward to strengthening relationships with members of the staff and congregation and trust that new ones will emerge as well. The Spirit will continue to call us as individuals, as ministry teams, and as a congregation as we embark on another year of discipleship and ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Kelli

Member Care Coordinator

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

As I look back on this past year, there has been much to be joyous about and thankful for.

Give thanks for new beginnings:

In May, the MLC Children & Family Library opened and is now a resource for all ages to utilize and enjoy. For Bible resources, there are children and youth Bibles in the library and a variety of adult Bibles are available in the Central Hallway. Please feel free to browse, and check out books from the library or the hallway Bible cart whenever the building is open.

Families with young children can always be confident childcare will be available while they attend adult education opportunities or worship. Quality nursery care is provided every Sunday morning by Mikaela Richter (part time nursery attendant staff), volunteer Cora Stube, and the many faithful congregation volunteers.

I am excited to be a part of the Faith Formation Team as we explore new ways to grow through adult education. Virtual Travel to the Holy Land via DVD proved to be an enjoyable way to experience the Bible visually. Look for more of that discussion series in the future. Planning is underway for a variety of learning opportunities this fall, including delving into Bible basics as well as other in-depth studies.

Many people, who come to know MLC through worship, Child Life Ministry, or other areas, make the choice to become a part of the fabric of this worshipping community. MLC has welcomed 52 new members during the course of the year. We are blessed by the multitude of ages, personalities and God given gifts this group of individuals and families brings into our faith community.

Give thanks for on-going mission & programs

Traveling to Minot, ND to assist with rebuilding flood damaged homes was, for me, a highpoint of this past year. Our group not only got to know the homeowners, we came away with a deep appreciation for each other as well. Many of you traveled with us in spirit through your prayers and offerings. You generously contributed \$1200; \$850 of which was used to cover housing at Hope Village in Minot; the remaining \$350 has been given to Hope Village to assist in the rebuilding efforts. The Global Mission Committee covered the gas expenses for the trip. The Minot service trip was a beautiful example of how working together, all contributing in our own way, we achieve far more than if we worked alone.

I am thankful for all of you who serve so ably in the many worship assistant roles: Communion Helpers, Doorkeepers, Greeters, Lectors, Nursery volunteers, Sacristans, Ushers, Welcome Center volunteers, Saturday Worship assistants, and those who coordinate these areas. This congregation's Befriender program continues to be a source of inspiration, and growth. Again this year, many of us have found that there is joy, comfort, healing and fulfillment to be found accompanying each other as *Befriended and Befriender*.

As I think of the many people who devote countless hours in service by: providing treats and organizing hospitality on Sunday mornings, delivering Holy Communion to our members who are not able to attend in person, faithfully praying through the Prayer Chain, and so much more; I am reminded again of what a privilege it is to be a part of this faith community.

Looking forward to the upcoming year is an exciting prospect – we will be sharing existing spaces in new ways even as we look forward to the time when we will be worshipping in a new space. It is with joy that I give thanks to God for the many blessings of this past year and of the year ahead.

Huldah Ellestad
Coordinator of Lay Ministry & Adult Education

Youth Ministries Coordinator



Worshipping
with our heart



Learning
with our head



Serving
with our hands

Our faith in Christ is founded on a commitment to worship, learn, and serve. 'Worship with our Heart, Learn with our Head, and Serve with our Hands' has been our mission this year. In community with our youth, we aim to make this personal commitment to God with our heart, head, and hands.

Confirmation – Middle School Ministry

This year we included 6th graders as part of our Confirmation Program. 6th grade is a 'Pre-Confirmation' year, while 7th and 8th grade is the formal 2 year commitment that includes a Bible and Small Catechism year. Wednesday events have transformed into 'event nights' where we approach learning and serving in a more hands-on way. We explored prayer projects during Lent and this winter we added a daytrip to Lutherdale Camp for some fun and learning. This year the Care of Creation Team helped us make communion bread, and we teamed with the Family and Children's Ministry team to host the Lorax (Earth Day) Movie Night. Sunday mornings continue to be our education hour for both small and large group classes. One of the annual highlights is our week long summer camp at Pine Lake.

Youth Group – High School Ministry

Our faithful Youth Group gathers every Wednesday morning for high school breakfast (open to all students) and every Sunday morning. Our weekly Bible Study this year was centered on the Lectionary readings, but conversation and inspiration is often guided by what is on student's hearts and minds. During Lent we explored pray projects and we helped the Family and Children's ministry team with the Lenten Fair. We nearly got stuck in the snow during our annual ski trip, but we made it home safely with some stories to share. We celebrated this year's senior class with the annual Baccalaureate service, and we made the trek to Saint Peter, MN for Summer Festival!

A Youth Ministry Plan

This past year I was able to complete the Bishop's Youth Ministry Certification School. The final project was a youth ministry plan crafted for McFarland Lutheran Church. The 5 to 8 year plan is aimed to grow our middle and high school ministries. Below is an outline of the plan. This coming year we will focus on creating more relationships and experiences with our youth. We will assemble leadership teams that will help shape our annual vision. We will plan youth events that build faith forming relationships and provide inspirational experiences.

Goals:



Worship – **Worship God Our Creator**



Learn – **Learn Jesus' Teachings**



Serve – **Serve with Guidance from the Holy Spirit**

Strategies: God's Creation, Jesus' Teachings, & the Holy Spirit's Guidance are all understood through **RELATIONSHIPS** and **EXPERIENCES**

Actions: Assemble **LEADERSHIP TEAMS** that help create and guide our youth programming
Create and complete a **VISION** every year that enriches our mission

Update **FACILITIES** that are inspiring for youth to learn and gather

Effective **COMMUNICATION** with youth and families

I am privileged to be an integral part of the youth ministries at MLC. I am passionate about our mission at hand, and I look forward to shaping our youth ministries in the year ahead!

<>< 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

.....Extra! Extra! Read All About it!

CLM is blessed with another amazing year!

The year of change continued into this year and though we were not sure how it would all go, it turned out great.

- Pre-K was a group of 10 children who enjoyed growing and learning with Mrs. Miller.
- 4K was a success with the leadership of Mrs. Schaaf and Mrs. Phelan, serving 38 children.
- Tots, all 11 of them, bloomed under the care of Mrs. Nygaard and Mrs. Roth.
- 3 Yr. Old Preschool was full of fun with Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Radloff, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Carmichael and the 44 children they taught.
- Rainbow Center was bubbling with energy from 12 children, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Cole.
- And School Age, was busy with 26 children, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Roth and Ms. Sandy.

The success, in large part, was because of the support of our programs from the church, community and our staff!

- We have an amazing teaching staff that dedicates their time and energy to our children and their families, providing nurturing and growth opportunities.
- It is a blessing to be lifted up by the church staff: who help lead worship, complete administrative tasks and clean (...off thousands of tiny finger prints (for example)).
- The congregation supports us by sharing their experiences, embracing our share space and financially contributing to our scholarship funds. I am pleased to say that we were able to support 4 children this school year... a blessing for their families and CLM to have the opportunity to provide an early, Christian education experience for them ☺

The future looks bright!

- I am SUPER excited to tell you that our enrollment for CLM's Pre-K program is more than double last year's registration. We even added an afternoon session to accommodate additional families! With the districts passage of 4K, we assumed that many families would make alternate plans for their 4 yr. olds needs. Well, I am glad that we assumed incorrectly because our PreK ministry has big plans for the future...whoohoo! Additionally, our Tots, AM 3 Yr. Olds and School Age rosters are packed. God is good all the time.

Peace,

Becca Ziety

Music Director

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” Colossians 3:16

I would like to begin, as I have in the past, with a “Thank You!” to all of our musicians at McFarland Lutheran Church. McFarland Lutheran is blessed with an incredible wealth of talented musician. 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 breakdown of musical groups at McFarland Lutheran Church:

- McFarland Lutheran Choir
- McFarland Lutheran Bell Choir
- Worship Band
- Saturday Evening Music Ensemble
- Sunday School Music
- Brass Choir
- Wind Ensemble

We had an addition to our musical family this year with the hire of our new accompanist, Hannah Lee. Hannah joined us the first week of December. It has been a delight and a privilege to work with her. Hannah comes to us with not only an abundance of musical knowledge and skill but with a great desire to learn differing styles of hymnody, traditional and contemporary liturgical settings (not to mention polka) and new and old choral settings with an emphasis on Lutheran tradition. Her preludes and postludes have become key musical moments during our services with congregants regularly staying after services to hear the entire piece. We are happy to welcome you Hannah and thank you for your dedicated service.

Since I became Director of Music we have been delving deeper into our “new” hymnal (this October marks its 8th year of publication), Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Over the past 2 1/2 years, we have sung Communion Setting 2 (by Marty Haugen revised from Renewing Worship), Setting 3 (LBW Setting 1), Setting 4 (LBW Setting 2), Setting 5 (based on LBW Setting 3 and SBH Setting 2) and Setting 10 (hymn based setting). We have augmented several of these settings with substitutions from the Service Music section of the ELW (#151-238). We have also used Marty Haugen’s communion Setting “Now the Feast and Celebration” (many parts of which appear as individual pieces in the ELW). You should be very proud as a congregation of the number of Communion Settings you use in regular rotation. Gone are the days of LBW Setting 2 every Sunday.

We have sung many new hymns this past year as well. While the majority of hymns we do are familiar and old favorites, we have been broadening our hymnody with less familiar music. There are many new and beautiful hymns in the ELW. These new hymns are chosen for worship with particular attention paid to text, message, and theme of the day. While it is

sometimes difficult and less comfortable to sing something new, I offer you this; all hymns were new once. The more we sing the less familiar hymns, the sooner they will be old favorites.

I am very excited about the renovation of the church sanctuary. The new space will allow for a large number of musicians to comfortably perform. The acoustics will no longer hinder congregational singing but encourage it. The sound system will receive a well-deserved upgrade that will allow everyone to hear the spoken word and music more clearly. The organ will also receive the continued care it needs and the sound will be greatly improved by the new space.

All of this means we are moving into a time of transition. When the traditional service moves into the FLC, we will no longer have the organ to serve as our accompaniment. It will sound different as well as feel different. However, this does not mean that it is bad. On the contrary, I feel that this presents us with an opportunity. We will explore our piano driven settings and hymns, traditional and new alike. The new service schedule will provide us with the flexibility for our choirs to perform at not only our traditional service but the contemporary service as well. Yes, there will be some changes, but I feel they are all positive and will continue to allow us to worship in a musically fulfilling and meaningful way.

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.

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” Martin Luther

Christopher Malueg
Director of Music

CARE OF CREATION 2012-2013

Members - Dawn Bolstad, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Barbara Voelker

Our mission is to increase awareness of God's love for all creation and to recognize our call to participate in the care of God's creation.

Our community garden is in its sixth year of being used for organic gardening. We have 6 gardeners using 20 plots this year. The COC team is using 4 of the plots plus the large plot north of the garden to grow produce for the McFarland Food Pantry. Last year we donated over 750 lbs. of fresh produce, herbs and flowers. This year with the increased space we plan on increasing our donation. We hold the "Garden Market" during weekend services during the summer where the congregation is welcome to bring extra produce they have to offer that others can use. Free will donations are given to the Food Pantry. We have maintained the rain barrels and compost bins in the back of church. The compost bin needed minor repairs this spring. We have used the compost and water resources for the community garden.

The prairie and rain garden areas have blossomed and are quite diversified. Many of God's creatures can be found enjoying these areas.

Last July we harvested and then dried, threshed and winnowed our winter wheat that was grown in a plot behind the back parking lot. Sunday School, Confirmation and First Communion students have all helped grind the wheat into flour, and make and bake communion wafers. We provided wafers for Commitment Sunday, First Communion Sunday and now provide wafers monthly for services on the second weekend of the month.

We hosted several events this past year including a nature walk and pet blessing service .We offered activities at the Lorax showing for Earth Day. This summer we are planning a canoe trip on July 20 and a campfire/sing-along Aug. 24. We were unable to hold these events last summer due to the weather. We hope to again have a Pet Blessing service in Sept. or Oct.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

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

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 major project involved the repair of the back parking lot near the church entrance and the waste management bins. We were also required to update the church plumbing to meet state standards. Plumbing fixtures had to be updated to prevent water from returning to the village water supply. We were able to complete this project and certify compliance with the state prior to the July 1st deadline.

Any person with concerns about the church property or who are interested in being a member on the committee 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 19th annual December Bake Sale raised \$1,104 for the McFarland Food Pantry along with Thrivent's matching funds of \$950. 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, the school kits for Lutheran World Relief, Shared Table and the Minot Mission Trip.

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

RACHEL CIRCLE

Rachel circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. from September thru May. Members volunteer to host the meetings. We are still using a DVD series "Faith Lessons" as our Bible study and find it very interesting and informative.

We provide the "Quiet Bags" that are available outside of our worship spaces for children to take into worship with them. We support one month of 4 year old preschool tuition assistance at CLM. We also support and manage the "Splash!" monthly newsletter for the many MLC baptized infants and toddlers which also includes a CD. This program gives parents ideas on how they can bring Christ into their child's life before they are old enough for Sunday school.

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

We would welcome anyone who might be interested in joining Rachel Circle; just contact one of our members.