

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**McFarland Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregation Meeting  
Sunday July 27, 2014  
9:15 a.m.**

Call to Order

Devotion and Gathering Song

Attendance Check

Old Business

- Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2013 Annual Meeting

- Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2013 Congregational Meeting

New Business

- Call for Congregational Council Nominees

- Building Committee Update

- Pastors Reports

- Treasurer's Report including approval of 2014/2015 Budget

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Sending Song

**Report from the Congregational President  
July 2014**

Dear Fellow Members of McFarland Lutheran Church;

The following is a story by Max Lucado from "A Gentle Thunder: Hearing God Through the Storm"

Once there was a man who dared God to speak.  
"Burn the bush like you did for Moses, God and I will follow.  
Collapse the walls like you did for Joshua, God and I will fight.  
Still the waves like you did on Galilee, God and I will listen."

And so the man went and sat by a bush, near a wall close to the sea and waited for God to speak.  
And God heard the man, so God answered.  
He sent fire, not for the bush, but for a church.  
He brought down a wall, not of brick, but of sin.  
He stilled a storm, not of sea, but of a soul.

And God waited for the man to respond.  
And he waited.....And waited.....And waited.....

But because the man was looking at bushes, not hearts; bricks, not lives; seas and not souls, he decided that God had done nothing.

Finally he looked at God and asked, "Have you lost your power?"

And God looked at him and said, "Have you lost your hearing?"

I like Max's story because it helps illustrate that as Christians, we try to build a relationship with God by praying and listening. When we listen to God he will tell us his will for us and if we're going in the right path. We need to desire to do God's will and not our own. We need to trust in him and that he will guide us in the right path.

What are you hearing when you listen to God? Did you hear about the new missions we might begin when our new worship space is complete? The possibilities this new space will provide? And the possibilities for the existing spaces such as the Family Life Center? New missions, programs, or ideas that may now be possible?

A great way to hear God's voice is by reading the bible. Here is a verse from Romans 10:17: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

I am thankful for our many existing programs and committees along with the excellent staff and members that make this church go. I am excited to not only see what the new worship space will look like but also the new ways in which we as a church and a community can serve God's world. Listen closely, as blessings abound! Thanks be to God!

In God's "Gathering" Peace,

Jeff Gehrke

## **Financial Report**

The Finance Committee would like to thank all the members of McFarland Lutheran Church for their generous giving of their financial resources this past fiscal year. We are continually amazed at the generosity of the members of this congregation. McFarland Lutheran Church is truly blessed.

### **2013/2014 SUMMARY**

For the Church year just completed, our revenue was \$1,057,847. This was \$87,883 less than our budgeted revenue of \$1,145,730.

Actual expenses were \$1,056,079. This was \$89,652 less than our budgeted expenses of \$1,145,730.

Once again, 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 \$106,900. Total expenses to conduct the program were \$88,352. This gave the church net income of \$18,548.

The Church's operating reserves began the year at \$150,000 and finished the year at \$150,000. We continued to add to the Mortgage Reserve this past fiscal year. The balance now stands at \$24,000. Next fiscal year, we will add an additional \$6,000 to reach a total of \$30,000. The mortgage loan agreement with Thrivent requires us to maintain a reserve of three months of mortgage payments. Based on the projected cash flow needs of the Church for early July, we were able to transfer \$38,000 from the checking account to the Building Maintenance & Repairs savings account. This reserve had a balance of \$89,456 at the end of the fiscal year.

Late in 2013 and into early 2014, we did a review of the Church's insurance coverage. We interviewed three insurance agents/brokers and reviewed their proposals. Of the three, we chose American Church Group. This agent represents Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company. Brotherhood Mutual specializes in insuring churches and their related ministries. Besides being reasonably priced, they will provide valued added services that the Church can take advantage of in the future.

Also, late last year, we interviewed three potential lenders for the Church's building project. Of the three, we chose Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. They provided the best interest rates and terms for the Church's borrowing needs.

### **2014/2015 BUDGET**

The proposed 2014/2015 budget is \$1,079,844 for McFarland Lutheran Church. The proposed 2014/2015 budget is \$101,620 for the 4K program.

Once the Mortgage Reserve reaches a balance of \$30,000(in December of this year), we will be depositing \$1,000 a month into the Building Maintenance & Repairs savings account. This account would be used for any large unexpected expenses that may occur in the future.

The 2014/2015 budget reflects mortgage payments starting in December of 2014.

I would like to thank the many committees of McFarland Lutheran Church for their efforts in putting together next fiscal year's budget. Their thoughtful consideration of my requests was greatly appreciated and helped to make possible another balanced budget for next fiscal year.

I would also like to thank Pastor Tim and Pastor Kelli, the MLC Finance Committee, the Church Council, Rita Jenkins, and Dennis Knutson for their input and assistance this past fiscal year.

Yours in Christ,  
Mike Devine, CPA  
MLC Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

## Minutes of Congregational Meeting of McFarland Lutheran Church July 21, 2013

Snacks and beverages were furnished by MLC Council members.

**Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by President Jeff Gehrke.

**Devotion:** Pastor Tim shared a devotion focused on “Building up the body of Christ” by “Speaking the Truth in Love”.

**Verification of Quorum:** A quorum was verified. 70 members were in attendance.

**Gathering Song:** Chris Malueg led everyone in singing “A New Hallelujah”.

### **Old Business:**

Approval of the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting on July 22, 2012. **Motion to approve: Sandy Hall, Seconded: Harlan Hettrick. Motion passed.**

Approval of minutes from Congregational Meeting on September 23, 2012. **Motion to approve: Scott Potts, Seconded: John Berg. Motion passed.**

### **New Business:**

**Call for MLC Council Nominees:** The Nominating Committee consisted of Dennis Knutson, Sarah Schutt, Marilyn Vandenberg and Ernie Thieding. The nominees were presented to the membership: Deb Alber, Keith Voelker, Tom Blau, and Sandy Hall. No other nominees were offered from the floor.

**Motion to accept the nominees: Harlan Hettrick, Seconded: Susan Brodd. Motion passed.**

### **Reports:**

**Pastor Tim Dean:** Pastor Tim spoke of his excitement with the building of a new sanctuary and reminded us all that the building is about mission. Pastor Tim also shared his excitement about our new worship schedule, which he feels is also about mission as it gives us all the opportunity to grow our faith through adult education. Beginning on August 11, 2013 the 8:00 a.m. worship service will remain as our traditional service and continue in the sanctuary until it becomes necessary to vacate that space. The worship service that used to be at 9:15 a.m. will now be an educational hour for all ages and at 10:30 a.m. the contemporary service will be held in the Family Life Center. The Saturday 5:00 p.m. worship service will be held in the Gathering Space. Pastor Tim then thanked the Council officers for their service over the past year. Pastor Tim gave thanksgiving and joy to have had the opportunity to serve with Pastor Kelli for most of the past year and also shared his gratitude to the entire congregation for their dedication and willingness to serve.

**Pastor Kelli Schmit:** Pastor Kelli thanked the congregation for calling her to MLC as Associate Pastor and for welcoming her so warmly. This was a year of “firsts” for Pastor Kelli and she feels very blessed to have been a part of all the baptisms, Confirmation, Affirmation of Baptism, weddings, Council meetings, special holiday services and so on. She is grateful for the opportunities she had to meet regularly with the Global Missions, Health and Social Wellness, and Family and Children’s Ministry Committees. Pastor Kelli is looking forward to her year of seconds.

**Sanctuary Building Committee:** Bill Langel, chair of the Sanctuary Building Committee gave an update of the progress made towards our new sanctuary. We have moved into the development stage as plans are being drawn and should be ready by the end of August. The committee is working to keep the project cost at or below \$2million without changing the scope of the project. We need to realize that the original bid is over 2 years old and inflation has caused an increase in many of those costs. The committee made decisions to cut some costs by: sprinkling only the new building and adding fire doors, and leaving off the ceremonial entrance. These 2 cuts saved over \$250k. A sprinkling system may be added to the remainder of the building at a later date and the ceremonial entrance may also be added later if desired. The committee will be getting bids from subcontractors

and from financial institutions for a mortgage and building loan. Bill stated that this committee is fortunate to have a group of people that bring much expertise in all the necessary areas for this project. Committee members are: Dennis Knutson, Don Schutt, Tim Bell, Kathy Westby, Andrea Wendorf, Mark Winter, Tom Showers, and Tom Wellman. Sub-committees are being formed and will need congregation members to volunteer to serve on them. Members may contact Andrea Wendorf to help with colors and Marilyn Vandenberg to help with Liturgical furnishings. Don Schutt may be contacted to help with reusing, recycling building materials and furnishings from the old sanctuary. Bill ended by reminding us that any of our members with questions, concerns, input, should feel free to contact anyone on the Sanctuary Building Committee. Pres. Jeff Gehrke informed the congregation that there will be a congregational meeting to make decisions about the new sanctuary probably in September.

**CLM:** Becca Ziety, CLM Administrator thanked the congregation for supporting Child Life Ministries. She was excited to report that CLM will have 3 times as many children enrolled in their PreK program as last year. They completed their first year of public school 4K and felt that it went well and is looking forward to another year.

**Coordinator of Lay Ministry and Adult Education:** Huldah Ellestad shared that one of the highlights of her position is to witness firsthand the Befriender program at work. She feels privileged to have watched and shared as Befrienders and Befriendees have come together and developed relationships. She spoke of how we are all sometimes in need of Befriending and other times are able to be the Befriender and also how hard it is to know who gets the most out of these situations as everyone benefits through these relationships. Huldah informed us of some upcoming adult education opportunities: the DVD series will continue and there will be the "Bible from Scratch" offered. Rally Sunday is September 8. The Faith Formation Committee will continue to work on topics to offer. Huldah thanked the congregation for the opportunity she has to serve at MLC and also thanked everyone for sharing their gifts so generously.

**Youth Ministries Coordinator:** Chris Landerud reported that 10 High School kids had recently returned from camp and 16 kids attended confirmation camp. Chris felt honored to be a part of these camps and could see the transformation in the kids from beginning of the week to end and he feels these camps are a great time for the kids to "be still and know God". Chris completed "Bishops Initiative Certification School" for youth ministry coordinators. He developed a plan for the youth ministry as a result of the training which has a goal teaching youth to WORSHIP - Worship God our Creator; LEARN – Learn Jesus' Teachings; SERVE – Serve with Guidance from the Holy Spirit. Chris believes that this will be accomplished through relationships and experiences. His goal is to form leadership teams to help create and guide the youth programming. Chris also wants to create and complete a VISION every year. He closed by thanking the staff of MLC, the parents and the youth.

**Director of Music Ministry:** Chris Malueg shared that he feels MLC is very blessed with talented musicians who voluntarily share their gifts with the congregation. He is grateful for Hanna Lee, organist, who he admits is over qualified for the position. Chris feels we are fortunate to have Hanna share her gifts with us and grateful for the beautiful pieces she plays for the prelude and postlude at our worship services. Chris is excited about the new sanctuary as he knows it will improve the quality of all the music and feels we will have a great opportunity to experience new music from the piano while we are without an organ.

**Treasurer:** Mike Devine informed us that a balanced budget is being proposed for the first time in many years. He thanked all the committees that worked on their budgets to project actual spending. \$305K of our savings account is designated to the new building which includes \$283,000 from the Capitol Campaign and \$22,000 from designated memorials. \$520,000 is set aside for reserves which include a \$150,000 for operating reserves, \$53,000 for building/maintenance repairs and \$12,000 for a mortgage reserve. There is a balance of \$121,000 for designated and undesignated memorials.

This gives the church a total of \$641,000 in savings. Toward the end of June, \$25,000 was transferred from the checking account to the building/maintenance repairs account. This amount (\$25,000) included \$10,827 that was earned from the 4K program. The proposed budget includes mortgage payments for 3 months and money for the construction loan interest. The proposed budget also includes a 1.5% raise for church staff. We are continuing with a dedicated mortgage reserve fund by setting aside \$1,000 per month. Mike added that 4K performed well financially and that the Finance Committee will continue to monitor that program on a monthly basis. Questions: Sylvia Krepski - Where in the printed budget does it show the money designated for the building? Answer: Under Finance Committee on the middle of page 10. Bonnie Dirks – On page 7 in the Personnel budget, who is the Administrator and Administrator pension in the middle of the page? Answer: Becca Zietz, CLM Admin. **Motion to approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2013 – 2014: Bill Langel, Seconded: Dennis Knutson. Motion passed.**

Sandy Hall commented that she was glad to hear from staff reports that there is laughter at the staff meetings.

**Thank You!** Pastor Tim asked the 4 Council members who have completed their terms; Deb Wellman, Eileen Brost, Jon Landen (had already left the meeting), and Scott Potts to come forward. Congregation thanked them all with applause. Pastor Tim presented each of them with a gift from himself and Pastor Kelli. He also shared some of the things that he & Pastor Kelli appreciate about each of these people.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Kelli led us with a closing prayer and the congregation joined in on the Lord's Prayer.

**Sending:** Chris Malueg led us with a closing song.

**Motion to adjourn the MLC 2013 Annual Meeting: Scott Potts, Seconded: Dennis Knutson.**

**Motion passed.** Respectfully submitted, Betty Showers, Secretary

## Minutes of McFarland Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Sunday October 6, 2013

**Devotion:** Pastor Tim Dean

**Prayer:** Pastor Tim Dean

**Quorum:** Betty Showers, Council Secretary reported that we had a quorum with 98 members present.

**Opening:** Council President Jeff Gehrke welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Jeff then introduced Bill Langel, Sanctuary Building Committee Chair.

**Sanctuary Building Committee Presentation:** Bill L. introduced and thanked the members of the SBC; Mark Winter, Don Schutt, Kathy Westby, Tim Bell, Andrea Wendorf, Tom Wellman, Dennis Knutson, Tom Showers, Marilyn Vandeberg, and Pastor Tim. Bill reminded us that we are building for the future and for growth. Bill gave a brief overview of the project which began in October 2010 with the initial meeting of the Sanctuary Vision Team then progressed to the Sanctuary Building Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee being formed in November 2011. The Capital Campaign began in October 2012 and was completed in December 2012. A conceptual drawing was presented in March 2013. Construction would begin in March 2014 which will save some money by not having to winterize during the project and be completed in October 2014. Bill explained that the initial building cost came in over what we had planned on so the Building Committee cut things out of the project that would considerably lower the project cost but could still be added later. The SBC worked to keep the footprint of the original plan to add 20' on the Marsh road side which will add 80 – 100 seats. The SBC is confident that all of the things the congregation asked for in the new sanctuary have been addressed; fix the floor, improve the lighting, improve the sound, get rid of the posts, increase the flexibility of the space, improve efficiency of the HVAC and lower energy costs, and give a modern atmosphere. Bill then went through the costs: Findorff Construction - \$1,807,341; “must have” costs that are not included in Findorff’s contract - \$331,900, for a total of \$2,139,241 for a total project cost. There is also a list of “nice to have” costs that will most likely be handled with special appeals of \$195,000.

**Finance:** Mike Devine, Council Treasurer gave an update on the Capital Campaign funds. With a total pledged amount of \$890,000, \$301,000 has already been given and \$19,000 has been given that was not pledged. There is also \$22,000 in dedicated funds for the project. Mike, Tom Showers and Tom Wellman have met with 3 lenders and also submitted an application to Thrivent for a mortgage loan. They are projecting an initial loan of \$1.85 million which should be paid down to \$1.4 million after the Capital Campaign pledges are received. Using an estimated interest rate of 5.0% they project the monthly mortgage payments to be about \$8,000 per month (\$96,000 annually).

### **Questions from the congregation:**

Carol Naze: Is Findorff’s estimated project cost at the high or low end? Answer: Findorff feels pretty confident in their bid.

Hugo Stoffel-Rosales: Is there a plan to do anything with the large cross on the outside, light it up, paint it? Answer: don’t know

Jim Boshers: Will the government shut down have any effect on the project? Answer: no

Bonnie Dirks: Is the narthex included in the sanctuary? Answer: wording in handout was wrong; “window coverings and furnishings for the *narthex*” should have said *sanctuary*.

Todd Naze: What would be the deciding factor as to which lender to use? Answer: If it came down to one thing it would be the interest rate.

Ballots were handed out to each member present.

**Motion:** 1. To accept the Sanctuary Building Committee's recommendation to approve Findorff as the general contractor for the building project and 2. To approve an estimated total cost for the sanctuary building of \$2.2 million and authorize the MLC Council to secure a loan for the sanctuary building not to exceed \$1.9 million. **Motion to approve by Scott Potts and seconded by Linda Swenson.** Sylvia Krepski asked about the total cost vs. the mortgage amount. She is concerned that we may end up with a final mortgage higher than the \$1.4 million we are projecting and if that happened, would we be able to afford the payments? Answer: We need to borrow the project cost initially until the Capital Campaign pledges are collected. Yes, if we don't collect all of the pledged money, we could possibly end up with a higher mortgage. Pastor Tim reminded us that we are going forward in faith.

While the ballots were being collected and counted, Marilyn Vandeberg asked for a show of hands as to how many would like to have a communion rail.

Ballots were collected and counted by Council members Amy Lawrence, Sandy Hall and Kathy Westby. Pres. Jeff G. announced that the **motion passed 95 to 2.**

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Kelli Schmidt

**Motion to Adjourn: Bill Langel, Seconded: Scott Potts**

Everyone was invited to stay for an MLC Brat Fest.

## MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

### Members completing their Council term:

Amy Lawrence	Betty Showers
Brady Showalter	Dave Waller

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

Jeff Gehrke	Holly Heuer
Bill Gross	Kathy Westby

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

Deb Alber	Sandra Hall
Tom Blau	Keith Voelker

## PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2013

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Members at the End of 2012	2154	1431
Baptism	20	
Members Received	41	
Confirmation Class		22
Transferred in / Reinstated		
From other sources and statistical adjustment	2	
Deaths	17	
Transferred out / Removed	20	
Statistical Adjustment	<u>0</u>	<u>        </u>
Members at the End of December 2013	2180	1453

## Senior Pastor's Report

**“With the Spirit’s gifts empower us, for the work of ministry!”  
(Hymn #579)**

The Church is gathered and powered by the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, the Church was born of and filled with the Spirit, so that men and women could share the good news about Jesus, the Lord of all. (See Acts 2!)

I give thanks to God that the Holy Spirit continues to empower the Church today, and specifically is empowering our ministry together at McFarland Lutheran Church. From my position as Senior Pastor, I see the working and gifts of the Holy Spirit, through this community, on a daily basis. The Spirit pours out abundant gifts in our midst to share Christ’s love, and to serve with Christ’s love.

As we gather for this annual meeting, let’s keep in mind the first meeting of the Church on Pentecost. Let’s pray for the Spirit to be our guide, help and power, so that together we may continue to do God’s work!

Below are my highlights from our ministry this past year, and some directions where I see the Spirit leading us in the year ahead.

### Gifts Offered for Ministry

#### 1. Building a New House of Prayer

The renovation is an exciting new chapter in MLC’s long history. Findorff is a very competent, helpful construction partner on this project, and they are working speedily toward completion. I am quite hopeful that we can begin worshipping in our new space by early fall. Thanks be to God!

I expect the new Sanctuary to have a sturdier floor, more light, more pleasing to the eye, with vastly improved acoustics for both organ and praise band music. We will be able to hear the Word of God more clearly, and see the focal points of worship and one another more clearly. I am excited about how this space will transform us through God’s liberating, grace-filled Word!

Many people have worked hard to turn this dream into reality, but particularly, I give great thanks for the faithful work by the Building Committee. The members of this committee are: Bill Langel, chair; Tim Bell; Dennis Knutson; Don Schutt; Tom Showers; Marilyn Vandenberg; Tom Wellman; Andrea Wendorf; Kathy Westby; and Mark Winter. They have offered much time and many gifts to lead this renovation, and please join me in thanking them heartily for their ministry!

As I have said many times, facilities facilitate mission! That’s the big picture for this renovation. We are building a new Sanctuary to empower and facilitate our mission to share, show and serve with God’s love in Jesus Christ.

#### 2. Jumping into the Word

Our Faith Formation Hour at 9:15 on Sunday morning is a wonderful opportunity to enter into God’s Word. I am excited about the opportunity to teach the adult class, especially in partnership with Huldah Ellestad, our lay ministry coordinator, and other lay leaders. We are sharing thoughtful, faith-filled conversations around God’s Word and what it means for our daily lives. In addition, Pastor Kelli and I enjoy this time to connect every couple months with the confirmation students, and Pastor Kelli has a good amount of time to teach and be involved with Sunday School.

The Adult Faith Formation Team, under the leadership of chair Karen Emerson and Huldah, is doing an excellent job of planning study series for the upcoming year. Rally Day is Sunday, September 7,

and the start of Sunday School, confirmation, high school youth group, and adult faith formation classes. Mark your calendars for new opportunities for all ages to grow more deeply into God's Word of grace, truth and life!

I also have a vision for more classes being offered simultaneously for adults during the Faith Formation Hour. Perhaps we could start offering a small group for young parents, or a class for people interested in learning faith-based practices for personal finances, or a Bible study for people in their 20s and 30s. The opportunities are endless for a dedicated hour of study and community-building!

### 3. Mission Moments

This past year, a rejuvenated Stewardship Committee started Mission Moments twice a month during worship to highlight the many ways we carry out God's work in this place. I think of the Mission Moments as a way to have a "mini-mission fest" every couple of weeks. The Stewardship Committee, under the leadership of chair Mary Winter, will be coordinating Mission Moments again this coming year with the focus on personal testimonials about the difference our ministries make in people's lives.

The Stewardship Committee also hosted our fall celebration meal on the theme "Sharing God's Gifts." We had a lively gathering of over 100 people who heard an inspiring talk on stewardship by Pastor Dave Larson of Lutheran Social Services. Pastor Dave grew up in this congregation, and it was a blessing to have him return "home."

### 4. New Members, New Gifts

We are growing as a congregation! In 2013, we received 41 new members, and we also had 20 celebrations of Holy Baptism. God's new creation is happening among us—thanks be to God! Huldah and I are evaluating our new member classes, and seeing how we could invite even more people to join our congregation.

### 5. Gifted Staff

We are blessed to have the gifts of our staff members to help empower the work of the congregation. (Read Ephesians 4:11-16 to see how God's gifts empower the whole body of Christ.) Office Manager Rita Jenkins and Administrative Assistant Renae Feldner keep the whole machine with its many parts running well! I am very grateful for their assistance, skills and dedication to the mission of MLC. In the same way, our custodial staff of Ken Brost, Dick Kohl and Sharon Strattan are incredibly helpful for setting up and taking down ministry events, as well as keeping the building in good shape. Their hands carry out God's work!

The Child Life Ministry (CLM) is an important, vibrant part of our life together at MLC. I love having the halls and rooms filled with the joy and delight of children as they learn and experience God's loving presence. I thank our administrator Becca Ziety, program director Deb Nygaard and all the CLM staff for offering their gifts of nurture and faith-formation for children and families from the wider McFarland community.

I am grateful to our director of music, Chris Malueg, for his efforts to enhance worship with singing and instrumental offerings. I also appreciate Chris' involvement in planning a new worship space with improved acoustics for all styles of worship. The organist position has been vacant since the departure of Hanna Lee in December 2013, and we have decided to keep it vacant during the renovation process. The Personnel Committee has been discerning the next steps toward filling this position once the organ is ready to hum again.

Huldah Ellestad is a gift to our staff and congregation in her position as Lay Ministry and Adult Education Coordinator. There are many facets to her job, including coordinating the Befrienders, new member classes, and Sunday morning adult classes, but she carries out all them with a solid faith, positive outlook, and a commitment to grow spiritually.

Chris Landerud is doing an excellent job reaching out to our young people and families as Youth Ministries Coordinator. He builds wonderful relationships with our confirmation and high school age youth, and organizes many faith-filled experiences including summer camps and mission trips. One very exciting ministry this coming year is the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI, in July 2015. Imagine our young people joining over 30,000 other youth to put their hearts, heads and hands to work for God! I am thrilled!

I give special thanks to God for bringing our associate pastor, Kelli Schmit, to join the staff at MLC. She is a gifted minister of Word and Sacrament, and brings enthusiasm and life to all our ministries. I am blessed to share the pastoral office with her, and our teamwork is a joy!

### **Gifts for God's Future Mission**

#### **1. Evangelism and Outreach**

I see evangelism as a major focus this year. The Spirit empowers us to share the good news of Christ in word and deed with those around us. The dedication service this fall for our new worship space can be a kick-off to this evangelism effort. Let's invite our neighbors to not only "come and see" the new worship space, but also to "come and see" Jesus' love and presence in their lives. I would like to send out invitations to our neighbors in McFarland and elsewhere to join us for an open house with refreshments and conversation near the day of the dedication service, perhaps even the same weekend.

I also encourage council and committees to see their work as outreach. Every ministry event can be an opportunity to reach a guest with the life-giving news of Christ. I hope to have opportunities throughout the year for the congregation to study the "best practices" of evangelism practiced by other congregations. The Holy Spirit gives us many opportunities to share God's love in Christ!

#### **2. Small Group Ministry**

Over this next year I will be initiating a new ministry that focuses on evangelism called "Unbinding the Gospel." Several ELCA churches in this synod have done this ministry with positive results. This ministry begins with leader training in small groups, and then these lay leaders form their own groups. Eventually every member of the congregation will be invited to join a small group to study the Bible, pray together, and support each other as we strive to share the gospel or "good news." Pastor Kelli, Huldah and I will be involved in leading this, and I hope that we as a congregation can grow in how we tell the story of Jesus in our daily lives. I plan to begin this small group initiative in the winter of 2014.

#### **3. New Picture Directory November 2014**

This can be a form of outreach as well, as we strengthen our community ties. "Blest be the ties that bind!" We will be working with the company Lifetouch during the weeks of November 11-15 and November 18-22 to put together the directory. All members will be invited to have their pictures included. I am looking forward to having pictures of the new Sanctuary and our various ministries in this directory as well.

#### 4. Outreach with Technology

In reading I've done on the "millennial" generation (born after 1982), new social media tools are vital for outreach in Jesus' name. These tools, such as Facebook or Twitter, are not perfect forms of communication, but they do reach a younger generation. I see electronic communication and social media as tools, that we can use in a positive way to communicate the most important message: God's presence, love and hope in Jesus Christ.

With our new worship space, I see us doing more with technology, such as putting our worship services on the internet (podcasts) and improving our social media connections with people. I also would love to improve our website and how we communicate with members electronically.

#### **Empower Us with Your Spirit**

The promise is that the Holy Spirit is always with us, and gives us strength and power to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead. I am hopeful and confident that by God's grace, McFarland Lutheran Church will continue to serve faithfully and energetically as the body of Christ in the future. I give thanks for the many and diverse gifts of the Spirit, and I am humbled and privileged as your Senior Pastor, to see these gifts working in our midst. Empower, direct and motivate us, dear God, that we may worship you with gladness and serve in your name with joy and love!

In Jesus' name,  
Pastor Tim

## Associate Pastor

*“While [Cleopas and his companion] were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went [to Emmaus] with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. [...] When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’”*

*Luke 24:15-16, 30-32 NRSV*

### **Where the journey has taken us**

This has been an incredible year at McFarland Lutheran Church! Many times my “eyes were opened” and my “heart has burned” with the excitement of God’s presence in our midst. I have the pleasure of journeying with three ministry teams in particular: Global Mission, Health and Social Wellness, and Family and Children’s Ministry. A big “Thank You” to the dedicated volunteers on these teams and to those who help and support these ministries. The energy of these groups and their efforts is exciting.

The Global Mission team had a desire to be a part of God’s gift of clean water. Knowing that full sponsorship of a well with Water4Kids was just over \$10,000, we set a goal of \$5,000. The spirit of generosity danced through this place and we exceeded our goal and were able to sponsor an entire well! In the words of Ron Vandenberg, the chair of our team, we hoped for half a hole but raised enough for a whole hole! Three members of MLC even traveled to Sesara, Uganda to be present as the well was dedicated. This project was truly an Emmaus moment for me.

The Lenten season was a busy time for the Global Mission team. Through coin boxes and calendars we focused on raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger ministry. We were excited to learn that, together with CLM, \$1200 was raised. We also had missionaries travel to Puerto Rico during Lent. It was a fantastic intergenerational group who traveled and constructed a canopy to the entrance of the Reconciliation Lutheran Church. My “eyes were opened” to God’s gracious presence as photos and stories were shared at worship.

I felt my “heart burn within me” on my journey with the Health and Social Wellness team. Together we created a new formula for how we, as a team, feel called to do ministry. We continue to be the umbrella group for a number of outreach ministries while, at the same time, highlight a new topic each month. Information and resources are shared on our bulletin board in the Grand Hallway and through the church’s printed publications. Some of the topics we have focused on include: grief during the holidays, bullying, and Alzheimer’s/Dementia care.

During the month of June we are focusing on the synod’s Refugee Resettlement ministry and are collecting household items for those new to Dane County. It is especially exciting to have guest speakers, George and Solveig Carlson, come for an Adult Form and share with the congregation about this ministry.

The members of the Family and Children’s Ministry team continue to be joyful companions on this journey. We have repeated classics such as Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Pumpkinfest, and the Christmas Program. We also tried out new ideas like a Winter Lock-In (with fantastic help from our youth) and a Rock and Roll Easter event. With the adjustment to the worship times last summer, I was able to teach the Bible Rotation for Sunday School. Thanks to these opportunities, I have been able to enjoy developing relationships with more of MLC’s children and their families.

MLC celebrates various milestones of faith including gifting story Bibles to 3-year-olds, a full NRSV Bible to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and First Communion classes with 5<sup>th</sup> graders. On the first day of Sunday School, I had the opportunity to lead a brief “class” with our 3-year-olds. I was also able to spend a Saturday morning with 12 of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their families for an introductory course to the Bible,

including a scavenger hunt with clues leading to different areas of the church. Teaching a First Communion course to 14 students and their families was a treat. Not only did we spend a morning talking about one of my favorite things, the sacraments, but we also joined up with the Care of Creation team to make communion wafers. These milestones of faith were intended for the children but they were a highlight on my journey this past year.

Thanks to the organizing efforts of Chris Landerud, our Coordinator of Youth Ministries, a new portion of my journey included incorporating youth in worship leadership roles for our mid-week Lenten services. I was invited to lead a class on being a lector and communion distributor. It was fun to discuss not only the logistics behind these responsibilities, but also the significance these roles have for the worship experience. To see the youth treat these roles with such seriousness and excitement was an Emmaus moment for me.

This journey would not be complete without worship. My heart is often “burning within me” as I preach and help lead worship. Joining you to prepare for a special occasion, such as a wedding or funeral, is sacred ground to me. It is an honor to meet extended family and to be entrusted with favorite stories and special memories.

Lastly, I cannot celebrate this past year without mentioning some very important travel companions: the staff. This congregation has assembled an incredible team; each member is dedicated and passionate about their area of ministry. God’s presence is revealed in their flexibility and their support of one another’s efforts. It has been a joy to partner with these disciples as the need for joint ministry events have arisen through the year. Also, a big thank you to Pastor Tim. It is a blessing to share the pastoral office with him. His vision for MLC and his excitement for the Gospel are gifts to this congregation.

### **Where the journey is leading us**

An Emmaus moment I am very excited for is the completion of our building project. How we do ministry and how we reflect the love we were first given continues to literally change shape right before our eyes. Seeing the sanctuary be deconstructed, piece by piece, and then built anew has been exhilarating. I look forward to seeing how the new space facilitates what we hope to do and, maybe even more so, what new opportunities will emerge that we haven’t dreamed of yet.

Due to my participation in the Sunday School rotation schedule, I was unable to attend many of the Adult Faith Formation classes. That said, I am looking forward to attending more sessions during the summer months and having the opportunity to lead a class in August.

It is a treat to join these three ministry teams as we envision future projects. For example, Heath and Social Wellness discussed which monthly topics we feel called to address. My “eyes were opened” when the spirit of creativity danced through the room and we outlined the rest of 2014’s topics, including Diabetes and Domestic Abuse Awareness. This is an incredibly fun journey to be on, whether our energies reach down the block or go around the world.

I am looking forward to Christ’s presence with us as we repeat ministries that have become familiar standards, such as VBS, a new Sunday School year, and various milestone events. I, along with my ministry team travel companions, will continue to build upon and fine-tune the events that have been well received.

This past year has been an incredible journey, filled with delightful travel companions and many Emmaus moments. I look forward to how and where God will be revealed in the days and months to come.

Blessings,  
Pastor Kelli

## **Coordinator of Lay Ministry & Adult Education**

When asked how one could inherit eternal life, Jesus replied “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” When viewed through this lens, the priority of each day’s activities becomes clear. I give thanks to God for the privilege and the blessing of serving on staff at McFarland Lutheran Church.

The interaction with you, the people of this faith community, continues to be an inspiration to me. The Befriender ministry has been very active this year. You who are Befrienders, embody the mission of “loving your neighbor...”. People of varied circumstances, in both the congregation and the community, have been blessed by a Befriender relationship. Befrienders have engaged in numerous partnering-activities in the last twelve months. The dedicated Befrienders of this congregation continue to serve and make a real impact on many people. Are you a Befriender looking for an opportunity to engage in a Befriender relationship? Please contact me; the opportunities abound. If you would like to participate in the Befriender Training sessions or, if you would like a refresher – I urge you to talk to Betty Showers, the facilitator of the Befriender Training program.

Our congregation continues to be enriched with the addition of new individuals and families. 35 people took part in New Member Orientation Classes during the year. A total of 51 people entered the membership of MLC through baptism, transfer of membership, or new member classes. The new gifts of life and spirit brought by these special people, will enliven our community of faith.

Many of you have participated in the Adult Faith Formation sessions during the 9:15 hour on Sundays. There has been an exciting array of topics in a variety of formats. It has been both rewarding and fulfilling, as together we seek to grow in our understanding and continue on an individual and collective spiritual journey. Your feedback and suggestions on topics, formats, even location, are welcome and necessary in order to make Adult Faith Formation relevant and fruitful. Pastor Tim, the Faith Formation Team, and I, are always eager to hear from you.

In the coming year I look forward with anticipation to more opportunities to both serve, and be a witness to, faith in action through the many willing servants who minister through the Sunday morning Nursery, Time & Talents, Prayer Chain Ministry, Prayer Shawl ministry, Newborn blanket ministry, Worship Assistants, Hospitality ministry, Fair Trade, CLM children’s worship time, and Home Communion.

Blessed be this community of Christian disciples,

Huldah Ellestad

# Youth Ministries Coordinator: Annual Report 2014

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

## **Confirmation – Middle School Ministries**

Our Confirmation Ministry is a three year program for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The first year is a 'Pre-Confirmation' aimed to establish a faith foundation before accepting the full commitment of Confirmation. The formal commitment of Confirmation begins in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation prepares individuals to willingly be received as members.

Highlights of the Confirmation Program over the past year include:

- Sunday classes led by Karen Emerson, Jim Summer, Don Schutt, Marty & Tiffany Kvalheim
- Monthly Sunday large group classes lead by Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, and me
- Weekly Wednesday evening events that include hands-on classes, projects, and games
- Synod Confirmation Extravaganza Event (held at the Marriot West)
- Advent Wednesday worship sermon skits and children's nativity craft project hosts
- Lenten Wednesday worship assistants
- Shared Table Hosts – 2 tailgate themed grill-out dinners
- Crossways Pine Lake Summer Confirmation Camp Experience (Waupaca, WI)

## **Youth Group – High School Ministries**

Our faithful Youth Group gathers every Wednesday morning for high school breakfast (open to all students) and every Sunday morning. Our weekly study hour was centered on the living word and weekly lectionary. Conversation and inspiration was often guided by the week's events and what is on student's hearts and minds.

Highlights of the high school ministries over the past year include:

- Sunday Morning Youth Group Hour
- Wednesday HS Breakfast
- Puerto Rico Spring Break Mission Trip
- Baccalaureate Service (in partnership with Christ the King Church and the UCC)
- Skaalan Home Sunday worship assistants and special music guests
- Volunteer leaders for the Winter Lock-in and Vacation Bible School
- Youth Group camp fire event and Christmas party
- HS Summer Festival Gathering (Gustavus Adolphus College – St. Peter, MN)

## **Puerto Rico Mission Trip 2014**

Over spring break, 15 adults and 9 youth traveled to Puerto Rico to do mission work, worship with our brothers and sisters from the Reconciliation Lutheran Church, and see sights on the island. The mission work included painting the entire exterior of their church and constructing an entryway to their sanctuary. Many lifelong relationships and bonds were formed during this journey. We were inspired by the many experiences we shared. The Puerto Rico Mission Trip is a tradition that is alive and well thanks to hard work, financial support, and prayers by our entire community. Thanks be to God!

## **Rise Up! Growing in the year ahead.**

We will grow our youth ministries by continuing meaningful programming, and also venturing out on new journeys. One of our primary focuses for the upcoming year will be the preparation and attendance at the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit Michigan. We look forward to worshipping learning, and serving with 30,000+ of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ around the country.

I am privileged to be an integral part of the youth ministries at MLC. I am passionate about our mission, 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

It's been a year filled with blessings at Child Life Ministries and I am happy to be able to share a few of those blessings with you!

We were blessed with a fabulous enrollment. The PreK class had an afternoon session, growth from the previous year's enrollment of 9 children. This growth is notable since the enrollment was uncertain with the arrival of 4K in McFarland. The Tot Spot and Three Year Old classes also had full sessions and waiting lists ☺ We are happy to be adding an additional Tot Spot class next fall! School Age also had a solid enrollment. The 4K Program at CLM continues to be a popular choice for many of the families completing our 3 Yr. Old Preschool programs. It is great to be able to serve so many families.

I believe that an enormous part of why our enrollment continues to be strong is the amazing staff. I cannot say enough about them! They are dedicated, hard-working, caring, Christian teachers who want to make a difference in the lives of young children. They help fulfil to following passage from 1 Timothy 4:12

*Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity.*

An enormous thank you to: Heather Anderson, Chris Cole, Deb Nygaard, Jessica Roth, Rachel Scott, Katie Schaaf, Beth Daoust-Miller, Vicki Radloff, Sara Phelan, Kate Molenaar and Jean Stube. The staff is the face of CLM and we are blessed!

With the generosity of the Parents Group and a wonderful donation we are hoping to replace one of the climbers on the playground. We are looking forward to new equipment for all of the children to enjoy ☺

As we transition into a new year, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support.  
We look to this new year with hope, joy and love.

The CLM Staff

## Music Director

“Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.” Psalm 47.6

I would like to begin, as I usually do, 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 of 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 Children’s Choir
- McFarland Lutheran Wind Ensemble
- Summer Special Music

The most dramatic change this year was the loss of Hannah Lee this past December. She is a singularly gifted accompanist and musician and it was a delight and privilege to work with her. She will be greatly missed. We wish her and her family all the best.

I would like to thank all of the substitute accompanists who have been available to provide music during our busiest time of the year. Complex schedules and lives do not make it easy or convenient to play Sunday after Sunday. We have been blessed by many gifted (and available) accompanists these past 8 months. We thank them for their continued service to McFarland Lutheran Church.

We have recently begun the search for a new organist and accompanist. As of this time we do not have anything to report, however, please keep the search committee in your prayers as we continue to look for new candidates.

A wonderful change for me this year was the ability to work with our Sunday School students. The new service times allowed greater flexibility in my schedule so I could rehearse with the Children’s Choir between services. They are always a fun group of children (if not sometimes tired at 9:15 am) who are ready to jump or march around as they sing. The Children’s Choir performed monthly this year and took the lead in our 10:30 am Palm Sunday Procession.

The transition of our Sunday services into the Family Life Center during the sanctuary construction went quite smoothly. While offering the most “change” for our Traditional worshipers, I feel that the musical integrity and spirit of worship that McFarland Lutheran offers has remained strong. In fact, knowing what we are in the process of creating, has not only made the change necessary, but has

provided us with a built in time of expectancy, hope, faith and promise of achievement. This is not only very exciting, but incredibly satisfying. Watching the work unfold before our very eyes is a solid example of what we are accomplishing here at McFarland Lutheran Church. All of the planning and hard work is leading to a concrete conclusion (pun intended).

I would like to thank the Choir, Bell Choir, Worship Band, Saturday Evening Music Ensemble, Wind Ensemble and all musicians who have adapted to our changing worship spaces during this time. You have all made adjustments with uncommon grace.

It is hard to miss the continued progress of our new sanctuary. And it is with much patience and anticipation that we wait for the day to “Sing praise to God” in our new space. The new sanctuary will allow for a larger 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.

This is an exciting time and over the next few months, as we see the finishing touches completed, we will undergo another round of transition as we explore what our new sanctuary has to offer. “Sing praises to our King” indeed!

I feel blessed to have been called to serve 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 COMMITTEE**

Members-Dawn Bolstad, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Barbara Voelker, Diane and John Wells

We have continued to offer activities that raise the awareness of God's creation and our need to care for it. We once again have offered organic garden plots in the community garden behind church. This year we have 6 gardeners using the plots. We use several of the plots ourselves to grow fresh produce and flowers that are donated to the McFarland Food Pantry. Last summer we donated almost a ton of produce. We also set up the Garden Market table in the hallway where the congregation can bring or take produce during the summer months with the free will offerings given to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

We maintain the compost bins and rain barrels. Both of which needed some minor repairs this year. The prairies and rain gardens continue to mature and beautify the back property. We have seen an increase in insect and animal life since these areas were planted. The flowers from these areas are donated to the McFarland Food Pantry. We are told the flowers are a special "treat" for patrons. Every second weekend we make the communion wafers for the services with the wheat we harvested from our wheat plot. We have enjoyed making wafers with First Communion and Confirmation students.

We have and will again this year hold several events. In June we offer a relaxing canoe/kayak trip to view God's creation from the water, we will be holding our campfire/sing along in August and a pet blessing service in October.

## GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE

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.

By far our largest project was finishing fund raising for a well in Uganda. In the summer of 2013 we started collecting funds with the goal of raising funds for a half of a well. The spirit became evident as you contributed over \$10,000 which was enough for an entire well. The funds were distributed to Hope-4-Kids who ultimately coordinated digging the well in Sesera, Uganda. In November 2013, Bonnie Dirks, Chris Preston and Janet Knutson traveled to Uganda for the well dedication. They reported a fabulous trip that also included volunteer time at a hospital, a school and an orphanage plus dedications of other wells that Hope-4-Kids dug. The people of Sesera were extremely thankful for the well and its clean water. Mere words cannot express enough thanks for your contributions which brought so much joy and promise of better health to so many people.

Another far reaching mission event under the Global Mission umbrella was the Puerto Rico mission trip. 9 youth and 16 adults visited Puerto Rico in March. The painting projects and building a canopy over the church entrance were great accomplishments. But getting to know our Christian brethren in Puerto Rico, experiencing their worship style, and building relationships between youth and adults was even more fruitful. A big thank-you goes out to all those who contributed to make this trip a success.

During Lenten season we used Global Barnyards and 40 days of Lent calendars to gather funds for ELCA World Hunger. Once again the Spirit was bright. Between MLC and CLM activities you gave over \$1200 to combat World Hunger. Thanks be to God!

As a congregation, this past year we provided mission support to Brian and Christine Palmer. Brian and Christine serve in Monrovia, Liberia as teachers in a Lay Training Center. We also provided tuition assistance for Taines, niece of Pastor Phares from Tanzania.

Our committee is currently exploring future projects, with one possibility being a McFarland wide coalition of churches raising funds for another well. This brings 2 Global Mission concepts together; getting to know our Christian brethren in McFarland and serving those in other parts of the world who are less fortunate than us.

Current members of the Global Mission Committee are Mike Catterall, Bonnie Dirks, Chris Preston, Jane Blank, Ron Vandeberg, Tom Blau as council liaison, and Pastor Kelli Schmidt providing pastoral guidance. Please contact one of these committee members if you wish to join this committee or just get more information.

Submitted by Ron Vandeberg – Global Mission Committee chairman

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members: Brock Chalmers (Chairperson), Betty Showers (3<sup>rd</sup> yr. Council Representative), Bill Gross (2<sup>nd</sup> yr. Council Representative), Sandy Hall (1<sup>st</sup> yr. Council Representative), Jane Licht, Jeff Gehrke (Council President), Willi Sindermann (CLM Liaison) and Pastor Tim Dean

The Personnel Committee is responsible for securing lay staff to carry out the work of our congregation. We recommend salaries and benefits for all lay staff for approval by MLC Council. We also fulfill other responsibilities related to personnel matters.

Accomplishments of our committee during this fiscal year include:

- Chose a Health plan for employees due to the changes on the healthcare system
- Ensured that performance evaluations were completed for all lay staff
- Worked on revising and updating MLC Employee handbook to ensure benefits are equitable for all employees and that all policies are clearly stated
- Recognized birthdays and special anniversaries for all staff
- Performed exit interview with Hanna Lee, organist
- Recommended wage increase for lay staff for 2014 – 2015 fiscal year

We will be working to fill the organist position and to ensure that staffing levels meet the needs of our church and remain within our budget.

Brock Chalmers, Chairperson

## PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The members of the committee are: Ken Brost (Lead Custodian), Dick Kohl, Jim Miller, Vicki Holten, Bill Alber, Brady Showalter (Council Liaison), Susan Brodd (Chairperson). We wish to extend a huge thank you for the years of service to this committee by Ken Anderson and Loretta Bailey who recently retired.

The size of the church property (inside and out) and the tremendous use of the property and grounds would not be possible without the dedication of the staff at MLC, CLM and the numerous volunteers including the Boy Scouts and Care of Creation Ministry. The custodial staff and properties committee members wish to personally thank each and every one of you who help to set up/take down chairs, mow the lawn, shovel the snow, paint, clean, mulch around buildings, opening and closing the building and maintaining the many flower beds. We also wish to thank the custodial staff: Ken, Dick and Sharon for always being available to help whenever needed and going above and beyond as they go about caring for the building and the people who are requesting assistance.

We stayed within the funds budgeted for this fiscal year. There were significant changes in the cost of insurance. The highlighted maintenance issues dealt with this year include: canopy run off diverted, new water heater for kitchen/CLM area, new roof top unit for FLC. The purchase of a second rooftop unit (CLM/Offices) and boiler replacement (CLM/Offices). We will continue to work together in regard to the new renovation.

All are welcome to join us. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. We do not have a meeting in July nor December.

Any person with a concern about the church property, safety issue or just to notify of a potential problem (could be a spill) is encouraged to speak with a committee member or custodial staff person.

Susan Brodd, Chairperson

## **ELIZABETH CIRCLE**

The Elizabeth Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. from March through December at members' homes. We have been using the Bible studies found in the "Gather" women's magazine.

Our circle annually sets up and decorates the Christmas tree in the sanctuary using Chrismons made and maintained by circle members. Our 20<sup>th</sup> annual December Bake Sale raised \$1,010 for the McFarland Food Pantry with Thrivent contributing \$500 in matching funds. We also collected an additional \$70 for Skaalen in our "Change for Skaalen" cup at the bake sale.

During this last year, we contributed to the Special Needs Fund here at McFarland Lutheran, the Jail Chaplaincy Program, and Shared Table along with providing food for and helping serve at Shared Table.

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

## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 53**

The past year was a banner year for Boy Scout Troop 53. We have grown to 45 Scouts. In the past year, the troop sent Scouts to the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and summer camp at the Ed Bryant Scout Reservation on Castle Rock Lake. Four new Eagle Scouts were minted. The Troop logged 32 nights of camping, and collected over 300 pounds of food for the McFarland Food Pantry. This summer, we are sending Scouts to the Florida Seabase for sailing and scuba diving as well as summer camp.

2014 marks the 75th anniversary of Troop 53 being chartered by McFarland Lutheran Church. Scouting promotes: citizenship, service to others, and physical fitness. Troop 53 is grateful to McFarland Lutheran Church for providing us a home for Scouting going back to 1939. The congregation is invited to attend our 75th Anniversary celebration behind the church, Saturday, August 16. We are planning a day of fun showing off Scout skills and meal in the evening. Please RSVP at <https://sites.google.com/site/troop53anniversary/home>

Brock Chalmers  
Scoutmaster