

Minutes of McFarland Lutheran Church Council

May 24, 2016

Members Present: Pastor Tim Dean, Pastor Kelli Schmit, Carol Munch, Vice Pres., Cheryl Scharine, Treas., Deb Alber, Sec., Joe Schwartz, Lee Thorson, Brent Odell, Keith Voelker, Tom Blau, Dave Nelson

Members Excused: Amanda Gevens, Sandy Hall, Pres., John Berg, Tiffany Kvalheim

Carol Munch, Vice Pres. presided over the council meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Carol Munch, Vice Pres.

Devotion: Pastor Kelli led us in devotion on Luke, Chap. 8 “Stories about the Body”. Chapter 8 contains several real life stories. She led us in a discussion on how our baptism or faith has reaffirmed our identity and/or faith and how God has pulled us back into a relationship with him. Pastor Kelli ended with prayer. The next devotion will cover Luke, Chap. 9.

The agenda was reviewed for additions or changes: Joe Schwartz will present information from the Properties and Finance Committee on fixing the church roof.

Treasurer Report: Cheryl Scharine presented the financial summary through April 30, 2016 and the proposed 2016-2017 church budget. The check book balance is \$45,222.00 and the total savings funds balance is \$686,934.00. Our expenses exceed our income. Income from envelopes and loose offerings are higher than last year's but less than budgeted. Money received for the Building Fund in April was \$2,758. Most of the committees are still below budget. The church budget is projected to increase to 1.279 Million from 1.175 Million. Projected envelope offerings are remaining the same. CLM is expanding some programs and increasing tuition. 5 additional part-time positions will be added. The additional revenue from CLM exceeds the expenses, due to maximizing space they already use. Pastor Tim presented the church benevolence expense changes. The expenses will remain the same but the amounts contributed to some of the benevolences are changing, for example, the ELCA will receive a larger % while World Hunger and Habitat for Humanity will receive slightly less. A few committees' budgets are increasing. All staff, including the pastors, are receiving a 2% salary increase. Questions were raised about the telephone cost under staff expense and what consumables consist of under Preschool and 4K budgets. Cheryl will check on both of these items. Thank you, Cheryl and the Finance Committee, for your work on the budget.

A motion was made by Keith Voelker to approve the 2016-2017 church budget and the change in the budgeted benevolence formula. Brent Odell seconded the motion. The motion carried. The budget will be brought forward for the congregation at the annual meeting on July 24, 2016.

Properties and Finance Committee update on the roof: Joe Schwartz reported the leaks in the Church roof will be repaired. This needs to be repaired before carpet is replaced in the Narthex, hallway and possibly the FLC. The grease trap in the floor of the kitchen will also be fixed. The Finance Committee has included in their budget under building/maintenance a portion of money for the repairs.

By-Laws and Continuing Resolution approval: Revisions to the By-Laws and Continuing Resolution since the last Council meeting were presented by Brent Odell. The Continuing Resolution, which contains or explains where to locate the descriptions and duties of the church committees, task forces, and other church groups, is part of the By-laws. The Church publication, “Opportunities to Participate”, describes the task forces and other church groups and is referenced in the Continuing Resolution. This publication is being updated. Brent explained the committee template. Church committees must have a description of duties and responsibilities and the names of their members, which may be updated yearly. Examples of the committee's purpose, duties, composition, time of meetings, and names of members is shown in the template. The committee template will be reviewed and voted on at the next Council meeting. Thank you, Brent, for your hard work on both projects.

A motion was made by Deb Alber, Sec. to approve the Continuing Resolution. Lee Thorson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A motion was made to recommend the revised By-laws to the congregation by Dave Nelson. Joe Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Further discussion of age of First Communion: Pastor Kelli said in the By-laws we follow the “Means of Grace” sacramental theology and practice. No specific age for First Communion is in the “Means of Grace”. Presently 5th graders are offered First Communion. 2nd grade for First Communion was suggested. Parents have the option of waiting until the child is older. 3rd graders receive Bibles and 4th grade would not be much of a change from 5th grade.

The Council affirmed what the Pastors recommended to offer First Communion to 2nd graders beginning in the spring of 2018.

The Pastors will let the congregation know about the change.

Pastor’s Reports:

Pastor Tim: In April and May, 15 people were baptized. Thanks be to God for the gift of baptism in our congregation! The 150th Anniversary Task Force is planning several events for 2017 which will celebrate the 150th McFarland Lutheran Church Anniversary and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The theme is “Renewed in Christ to Serve”. January, 2017, is the kick off. The events include: possibly building a house for Habitat for Humanity, special music events including a hymn sing and talent show, and in the fall of 2017 a festive worship service with brunch in the FLC. Former pastors and their families would be invited to the festive worship service and brunch. By the fall of 2016 information on the events should be available. Several service opportunities will be available to the congregation. Basement renovation is moving along well. The electrical work will begin soon and then the dry wall. Eventually there will be an open house. A move back date is planned for summer. By Rally day in September, the basement should be finished.

15 confirmation students will attend Pine Lake Camp June 12-17 with Chris Landerud, our Youth Ministries Coordinator. Pine Lake is near Waupaca.

On Thursday, June 16, at 2:00 PM, all MLC members living at Skaalen Home in Stoughton are invited to a Coffee and Kringle Event hosted by Pastor Tim. Family members of the Skaalen residents and other MLC members are invited as well!

A church staff retreat will be held on May 25 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at Chris Landerud’s house. The theme is “4 spiritual paths and how they are lived out in the congregation”. Pastor Jack Finney will be the speaker.

Pastor Kelli: Sunday, May 15 was the last day of Sunday school. Over 100 children were registered this year. Planning for VBS is going well. Registration forms are at the Welcome desk and by the bulletin board that has pictures of last year’s VBS. VBS leadership training event is Sunday, June 5 in room 210.

17 5th graders had First Communion on Sunday, May 15.

Pastor Kelli will be on vacation June 14-19.

Annual Meeting and Budget/By-Laws listening sessions: Annual meeting is July 24 at 11:15 am in the FLC.

Budget/By-law listening sessions will be Sunday, June 26 and Sunday, July 10 at 9:15 am. Cheryl Scharine, Treas., Brent Odell and a member of the Finance Committee will be at one or both of the sessions.

Motion to Adjourn: Dave Nelson, second: Keith Voelker. Motion passed. Council was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Closed with prayer and the Lord’s Prayer led by Pastor Tim.

Council meeting dates: June 21 (3rd Tuesday of June).

The annual church meeting is Sunday July 24, 2016 at 11:15 am.

Congregation members are encouraged to contact council members with any questions or concerns.

April council minutes were approved by council members by e-mail.

The next council meeting is Tuesday June 21, 2016 (3rd Tuesday of June) at 7:00 pm in room 113.

Respectfully submitted by: Deb Alber, Sec.