

McFarland Lutheran Church Council

Tuesday February 28, 2017

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Agenda

1. Call to Order

By Joe Schwartz at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, Joe Schwartz (Pres.), Carol Munch (V.P.), Tiffany Kvalheim (Sec.), John Berg, Randy Hansen, Norma Kohl, Brent Odell, Steve Schoch, Diane Wells, Sharon Mylrea, Dave Nelson, Lee Thorson Guest:Huldah Ellestad

2. Agenda review and changes

Joe added:background check policy

3. Devotion/Bible Study—Please read the Gospel of Luke, chapter 21 (Pastor Tim)

Apocalyptic writing but “Signs of Hope” among doom and gloom. There will be struggles and destruction and fear but there are signs of spring that bring us hope. Jesus kingdom is like that. Things will always change but my word will never go away. What brings us hope in dark times?

4. New Membership Process-Huldah Ellestad

*New Member classes; 3 times/year (spring, fall, winter). Classes are 2 hours long, 2 options for taking classes childcare is available spring, fall

*Invitations go out to visitors that ask for newsletter. Info received through communion cards. Letters and phone calls made to contact people who express interest. Invitations can be extended multiple times

*Class: faith and what it means to be a Lutheran, background stories, MLC background, stewardship, photos, tours, fill out paperwork, what it means to be a Lutherans handout, denominations and what it means to be part of ELCA and synod info hand-outs, fellowship and faith opportunites, name tags, time and talent (encouraged to pick one thing they would like to help with) and opportunities to participate sheets, financial sheets all in a lovely folder.

*New members get a sponsor family, they can choose and/or have say in who that is.

*Sponsors: get a call from Huldah, talk about date and expectations, get a new member guide, they can sponsor however it works for them, they stand up with family when they are received, get to know the family and introduce them to people in the congregation.

*Huldah sent invitation to faith formation because many in new classes have no background in Lutheran faith

***Ideas for Improvement:**

- ~Welcome committee take on getting in touch with new members after a couple months for a check-in,
- ~Asking new member over past year for ideas for new member activities,
- ~Group to take on checking in with new members after 4 months,
- ~Send more letters inviting people to fellowships act.,
- ~Mission moments about nurturing relationships with people you do not already know,
- ~Invite mix generation group of people to intentionally seek out new Members and from some friendships,
- ~Offer events that would be fun for new members that have joined in last few years,
- ~Mission moment about being a sponsor and what that means,
- ~Be intentional about inviting new members sit on all committees or just sitting in to see what committee work is like

5. Treasurer/Finance Committee report (Brent Odell)

Mortgage:

Balance is \$1,367,454 (reduced by \$77,540 from Dec.)

In Jan. additional \$12,700 was received for the building fund which went to reduce the principal on the mortgage. For FY 2016-17 an additional \$45,804 has been received for the building fund.

Using additional Capital Building contributions received Dec. and Jan., including a \$10K donation from the estate of Corrine Niedenthal, along with \$50K in Capital Campaign savings a \$75K payment was made to reduce the principal of our mortgage. This reduction enabled MLC to re-amortize our loan and reduce our monthly mortgage payment by \$607. This savings will be applied each month to further reduce the principal of our mortgage.

Cash Balance:

Checking acct balance is \$42,011

Total Savings acct balance is \$442,622

Church Giving/Income and Expenses:

YTD total offerings received is \$347,113. This is less than the budgeted YTD amount by approx \$1K.

YTD total income is \$667,527 (increase approx \$102K from last month), is below budgeted amount of \$683,995. However, YTD income is more than income received last year at this time by approx. \$75K.

Jan expenses were \$99K bringing YTD actual expense total to \$681,234. Expenses exceeded income by approx. \$14K which is (as was last month) a decrease from the previous month when expenses exceeded income by approx \$17K. However, expenses continue to be lower than budgeted for this time of year.

All committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amount

4K Income and Expenses

Current 4K expenses are lower than income received to date from the school district

Pass Thru Summary

Designated and undesignated giving for Jan. totaled \$20,441.

Memorials

\$145 in memorials were received in Jan. bringing the YTD memorial amount rec'd to \$3,940.

6. Background Check Policy: this is a proactive move, not reactive.

MLC has a history of doing background checks but that fell through the cracks with staff turnover before Pastor Tim and Pastor Kelli arrived. It has risen again...needs to be a priority of the council and congregation.

Goals of the policy: keep kids and volunteers safe, create a safe environment, Yearly checks, start date is VBS. \$7 per check

Motion to approve background check policy: Dave Nelson, Seconded by Randy Hansen. Approved by council

7. Pastors' reports

Pastor Tim:

Sat., March 11th (8:30-3:30), Synod event, LEAD. "Growing Together Bearing Fruit", Chris Landerud is going, open to council members.

Synod assembly coming up, April 29-30. We are allowed 3 lay voting members.

Ash Wednesday is 3/1/17 services at 11:00 and 6:30 and Wed. series begins.

Theme for Lent is "Back to the Basics: Luther's Small Catechism and What It Means for Today." Ron Larson has done some display case work with old catechisms.

Everyone who comes to the class gets new edition of catechism and you can get a free downloadable app of Luther's small catechism (ELCA)

We need helpers for the soup suppers. Please encourage congregation.

150th anniversary Events:

Talent Show was a lot of fun, over 100 people, 24 acts, over 2 ½ hours. Thanks to Chris Malueg for coordinating and MC'ing

T-shirt sale: March 5th- March 27th all on-line through Badger Sporting Goods. Website: bsgsports.com. Our codes is: MLCA17. 6 styles of T-shirts. People order and pay for themselves but shipped to church and pick up here. Not a fundraiser. Sample table will be out during Sunday services.

March 12th kick off Habitat Haith Build. Fundraising campaign. We committed to \$7500. So far we have \$1300 pledged.

April 20th we are hosting Luther College's Collegiate Chorale Choir. Free will offering and we will be asked to host college students from Luther College.

Pastor Kelli;

First Communion was very successful, over 360 people in worship that day, 26 kids communed

Confirmation students will be lectors, communion distributors and ushers
Uganda trip March 21-April 3rd. 10 people from MLC going

Latrine update: MLC raised \$7000 and goal was \$3000, Uganda facing drought so any money above and beyond will go to food program for kids.

Sunday school kids singing at 8:00 am this Sunday 3/5/17

8. Status for Shelley Nerothin replacement

Need council approval for Parker Vander Ploeg, who lives in Oregon WI. 5 years working in churches, extensive volunteer with Hillcrest bible church. Great people and technical skills. 35 hr/week schedule is in progress. References are excellent. With council approval Parker can start March 6th, training with Shelley. Motion to approve hiring Parker Vander Ploeg brought by Norma Kohl, seconded by Lee Thorson, approved by council.

Council would like to thank Shelley for her work.

9. Proposed Agenda Topic; review/prioritize the Retreat meeting goals:

- a. Short Term Goals: Refer to the Retreat "Action Plan"
 - i. Review list and come with ideas that we want to focus on
 - ii. What groups can we ask to address these and who will take them to the committee?
- b. Long term Goals: Refer to the "Brainstorming Goals for 2017"
 - i. Review for next meeting and brainstorm how to make these happen

- ii. Bring ideas to next meeting to prioritize the goal
- iii. Next meeting come up with a game plan to make these happen

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 by Brent Odell and seconded by Norma Kohl approved by all.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: March 21, 2017 7:00pm