

McFarland Lutheran Church Council

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order

By Sharon Mylrea at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, Sharon Mylrea (Pres.), Diane Wells (V.P.), Tiffany Kvalheim (Sec.), Norma Kohl, Steve Schoch, Jeff Gehrke, Lee Thorson. Pete Ellestad, Todd Bolstad, Mary Grell, Cheryl Brown, Brent Odell (Treasurer)

Absent: Randy Hansen

1. Devotion, Bible Study – Seven Faith Practices Pastor Kelli

- Worship: an active experience during which we are active participants
 - There is an organized and intentional structure to worship
 - Worship has 4 parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending

2. Agenda review and changes – Sharon Mylrea

- Properties: Ken removed gutters to try and prevent water and ice damage
 - Heating unit for gathering space was installed. Rainbow got new front steps, still looking for bathroom contractor

3. Synod Mission Moments – Norma Kohl

- In Dec. we will vote on the particular synod ministry we will support with the funds we have collected.

4. Treasurer/Finance Committee report – Brent Odell

Cash Balances

Checking Account balance is \$53,030

Total Savings Account balance is \$454,139

Mortgage

Additional Capital Building fund contributions totaling \$5,944 that go to reducing the principal of the church mortgage were received. For FY 2016-17 the total additional amount received for the building fund is \$14,362.

Mortgage balance is \$1,311,176 (*reduced \$10,089 from previous month*).

Church Giving / Income and Expenses

Offerings received this month were approximately \$52K bringing YTD total offering to \$192,997.

YTD church income is \$381,009, an increase of approx. \$113K from last month, which is less than the budgeted YTD amount. However, YTD income is more than income received last year at this time by approx. \$38K.

Expenses for the month were \$105K bringing the YTD expense total to \$392,169. Expenses exceed income by approx. \$11K, however expenses continue to be lower than the budgeted YTD amount.

Committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amounts.

4K Income and Expenses – Page 3

Current 4K expenses of \$19,423 are below income to date.

Pass Thru Summary – Page 4

Designated and undesignated giving totaled \$20,976.

Memorials

No memorials were received. YTD memorial amounts received are \$1,070.

5. Pastors' reports –

● Pastor Tim

- Advent starts Dec 3, mid week services start this week 11 am and 6 pm
- Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th are Advent services Theme: Advent Hunger
- Dec 10th at 10:00 service is music themed service, “Advent Lessons and Carols,” led by music groups at MLC
- Christmas Schedule: 4th Sunday of Advent is Dec 24th. 10 am morning service, no 8:00 service.
- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. 3 services at 3:00, 5:00, and 9:00. 3:00 and 5:00 have children’s sermons. All services include Holy Communion and candle lighting. Dec 25th one service at 10:00.
- We will be raising money for first couple weeks in Dec., Dec. 3rd and 10th, to send Christmas present to congregation at Reconciliation Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico. Mattresses and refrigerators are biggest need.
- Stewardship Committee: pledge forms need to be filled out and returned. Dedicating pledges this weekend, Dec. 2 and 3.
- On Jan. 21, 2018, the Stewardship Committee will be offering a 9-week course from Financial Peace University and Dave Ramsey.

The goal of the class is to help families manage their finances. Joe D'Amato and Renee Rodeck will be leading these classes from 11:15-12:15 p.m. on Sundays for 9 weeks. \$50 for a family to get all the materials.

- **Pastor Kelli**

- Nov 12th celebrated giving 11 3rd graders their bibles
- Confirmation students help run Advent activities. Training for ushers, lectors, communion distributors, and AV work will happen on Nov 29th.
- Giving Tree is up and tags are gone after one Sunday!!! We have requested more tags. Gifts returned to the church Dec. 10th
- Global Mission bake sale is Dec. 10th. Proceeds to McFarland food pantry and food pantry at Puerto Rico.
- Christmas Program; rehearsal Sat Dec 16th 9-11 am. Show is Sun. Dec. 17th at 3 pm
- Continuing Ed.: reading She: Five Keys to Unlock the Power of Women in Ministry By: Karoline Lewis

6. Same Gender Marriage Statement

- Overall response to the open forums from congregation members was positive. Members appreciated the opportunity to listen and to share thoughts and feelings in respectful ways. The forums were healthy, open, honest and loving.
- Pastor Tim led a bible study for council on two Scripture passages in the New Testament.
- Council will take some time to discern and pray for God's guidance in responding to what was shared in the open forums and in conversations with individual members, and is planning follow-up communication with the congregation in early to mid-January 2018.
- Thank you to the congregation for attending the forums and sharing your thoughts about this issue. The council appreciates your input!

7. Strategic Plan Development – Sharon Mylrea

- There has been contact with local consultant to run this event, Melanie Schmidt. Consulting firm is called Timpano Consulting.
- Next step is for Sharon and Pastor Tim and Pastor Kelli to meet with consultant and explain what we want from our retreat and this process
- Planning retreat will be taking place soon. Most likely at Skaalen Village.

Adjourn and Closing Prayer- Pastor Tim

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 by Norma Kohl, seconded by Mary Grell, approved by all

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: No scheduled Council meeting in December.

Council Retreat scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, location to be determined.