

## **McFarland Lutheran Church Council**

**Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

**7:00 p.m. Council Meeting**

### **Agenda**

#### **Call to Order**

By Sharon Mylrea at 7:03 p.m.

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

Members not present: Tiffany Kvalheim (Sec.), Mary Grell

**Agenda review and changes** -- No changes to the agenda.

**Devotion, Bible Study** -- Pastor Tim focused on Ephesians 4:4-16 and led a discussion of the many different types of gifts that have been given to members of our congregation which together result in “promoting the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Some of the gifts that Council members use to do the group’s work include faith, reliability, responsibility, persistence, steadiness, stability, unity, and the abilities to share, listen, show respect, and exhibit love for all God’s people. Additional gifts that we see demonstrated throughout our congregation include mutual support, trust, openness, attention to detail, seeing the big picture, tolerance, excitement, enthusiasm, using the gift of time for service, and a sense of humor.

**Treasurer/Finance Committee report, budget review and recommendation – Brent Odell**

#### **Review of Financial Summary dated May 31, 2018**

- Cash Balances
  - Checking Account balance is \$83,095
  - Total Savings Account balance is \$460,977
- Mortgage
  - Additional Capital Building fund contributions totaling \$2,737 that go to reducing the principal of the church mortgage were received. The total YTD additional amount received for the building fund is \$52,393.
  - Mortgage balance is \$1,253,010 (*reduced \$5,882 from previous month*).

- Church Giving / Income and Expenses
  - Offerings received this month were \$39,646 bringing YTD total offering to \$558,523 which exceeds our YTD budgeted/projected offering amount by approximately \$10K.
  - YTD church income (*which includes offering income*) is \$1,098,330 an increase of approximately \$86K from last month which is below our budgeted/projected YTD amount.
  - Expenses for the month were approximately \$96K bringing the YTD expense total to \$1,087,876. While expenses continue to be lower than the budgeted/projected YTD amount they are also lower than actual income received by approximately \$10K, and we are current with paying our benevolences and bills.
  - Committees and programs are operating consistent with or below budgeted amounts.
  
- 4K Income and Expenses – Page 3
  - Current 4K expenses are lower than income received to date.
  
- Pass Thru Summary – Page 4
  - Designated and undesignated giving totaled \$12,921.
  
- Memorials
  - No memorials were received. YTD memorial amounts received are \$2,800.

### **Review of Proposed Budget for 2018-2019**

After review and discussion, a motion was made by Norma Kohl to recommend the Proposed Budget for 2018-2019 to the congregation for approval. The motion was seconded by Jeff Gehrke, and it was passed unanimously. A “Budget Preview” will be published in the “News You Can Use” as well as in the Newsletter. The Annual Report will contain the complete proposed budget, and will be available in early July. Budget forums are scheduled for July 8 at 9:15 and for July 15 at 11:15.

### **Pastor’s report -- Pastor Tim**

- ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, along with several other religious leaders, issued a statement dated June 7, 2018, on “Family Separation”.  
<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7939>

- The Lutheran Refugee Service maintains a presence in border situations and provides resources. <https://www.lirs.org/> Their mission statement reflects the work they are dedicated to: *“As a witness to God’s love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.”*
- The Welcome Committee is encouraging participation in the July 20 “Relay for Life” to benefit the American Cancer Society. Sandy Hall is coordinating the effort and has MLC tee shirts available for participants. Participants can also sign up on-line for Team MLC at: [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY18NOR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=87839](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY18NOR?pg=entry&fr_id=87839)
- On July 8, Roger Marty will share a “Mission Moment” at worship services focused on the Habitat for Humanity trip to Louisiana scheduled for November 2018.
- Adult education plan for fall includes “Mark as Story” (a literary perspective of the book of Mark) and a focus on “Social Justice” with presentations from outside speakers from various organizations.
- Carrie Kruzan recently started her position as our Administrative Assistant. One of her priorities will be to use her skills related to website design/development to enhance the MLC website.
- Pastor Tim will be on vacation from July 3 through July 13.

### **Pastor’s Report -- Pastor Kelli**

- The Health and Wellness Committee conducted a very successful campaign in our congregation to collect and donate personal care items to the Madison “Off the Square Club” operated by Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. THANK YOU to all who very generously donated to this initiative!
- “Post resurrection” was a focus of two Adult Education offerings in June.
- Vacation Bible School is underway with 55 children enrolled. The success of VBS is due in large part to the excellent adult leaders and youth leaders who participate with the children and make this program so successful. THANK YOU to all those involved!
- A new group is being formed to support families living with babies. The group will be referred to as “You’re Not in This Alone” and will meet on Sundays from 9:15 to 9:45.
- A new group focused on younger members (in their 20’s, 30’s, 40’s) is being formed. The first event will be attending a Mallards baseball game on July 28.

The focus of the group will be to schedule “pop-up” events that are identified by and are of interest to this age group.

- On July 15, Pastor Kirsten Fryer will be our guest preacher and will also participate in adult education. Pastor Fryer is the pastor at St. Andrews United Church of Cairo, Egypt, and is involved with StARS -- St. Andres’ Refugee Service. Following worship services, a lunch with Pastor Fryer at Skaalen Home is being scheduled.

### **Safety & Security – Sharon Mylrea, Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli**

An informational session will be conducted at MLC by the Dane County Sheriff’s Department on Wednesday, October 10, from 6:30 to 8:30. More details about announcements and invitations will be discussed as the October date approaches. Council members are encouraged to read the recent article, “Staying Safe in Church,” which appeared in the June issue of the Living Lutheran magazine.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/06/staying-safe-in-church/>

### **2018-2019 Church Council Nominations – Sharon Mylrea, Pastor Tim**

Three members have agreed to be nominated as members of the 2018-2019 Church Council: Renee Rodeck, Ruth Poutanen, Kevin Stratton. The nominating committee is still working to identify one additional male nominee. Also, Jeff Gehrke has generously agreed to serve as a Council member for 2018-2019 to fill the final year for a Council member who was unable to complete his three-year term. The Council discussed the possibility of having a youth member as part of future Council groups. This youth member would provide a valuable perspective, and the individual would gain experience through their participations that could prepare them for future leadership positions. Pastor Tim will discuss this idea with Chris Landerud and report back to Council at a future meeting. It was also noted that Council members should consider presenting a “Mission Moment” focused on roles of Council members and encouraging members to consider serving in this capacity. This presentation should be scheduled in April 2019.

The Council recognizes all the valuable contributions made by Council members whose terms are ending, and sincerely THANKS them for their faithful service. Those members are Lee Thorson, Norma Kohl, Tiffany Kvalheim and Jeff Gehrke.

### **Annual Meeting – Sunday, July 22 at 11:15 a.m.**

All Council members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, July 22, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The Council will provide food/refreshments for attendees at the Annual Meeting, and Jeff Gehrke generously volunteered to coordinate the food contributions from all Council members. Continuing Council members, as well as new Council members, should plan on a brief Council meeting following the Annual Meeting to get acquainted and to elect officers for 2018-2019.

## **Strategic Plan Initiatives**

### **CLM**

Todd Bolstad reported that the group working on this initiative will be meeting in September to continue their work.

### **Member Interests and Gifts**

Norma Kohl reported on the discussion from the group that recently focused on this topic. THANKS to Angela Schwartz, Hulldah Ellestad, Linda Ellestad, Cheryl Brown and Norma Kohl for their recommendations. Using bulletin boards, Facebook, and newsletter articles could help identify member interests. Congregation members have a lot of interests and are involved in a lot of activities/groups that are not identified on the "Gifts and Talents" form, so providing a process for identifying and sharing these interests will be important in working on this initiative. The Council identified next steps related in the "Member Interests and Gifts" initiative:

1. Review the "Gifts and Talents" form and process. Cheryl Brown will meet with Hulldah Ellestad to discuss possible form modifications and process improvements. The return/completion rate for the "Gifts and Talents" process will also be investigated.
2. Include an agenda item on the August 28 Council agenda to familiarize new Council members with this initiative and to identify next steps. Hulldah Ellestad will be invited to the Council meeting to provide information and answer Council members' questions.
3. The importance of "Personal Invitation" and steps to encourage members to use this consistently to encourage participation will be specifically addressed in Fall of 2019. Ideas include providing workshops, study/discussion opportunities, including in Adult Education, providing dialogue/techniques to use in intentional invitation, identifying barriers to personal invitations, focusing on personal invitation with Council members and including related discussion on Council meeting agendas.

4. The “Opportunities to Serve” document that is currently distributed to new members will be distributed to and reviewed by Council.

Council members also commented that providing descriptions of service opportunities and time commitments involved are important to encouraging participation. Service opportunities should include both long-term commitments and short-term opportunities.

### **Adjourn and Closing Prayer**

Pastor Tim led the group in the Lord’s prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.