



**SHARE GOD'S WORD SHOW GOD'S LOVE SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

## **McFarland Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

March 19, 2024

**Present:** Pastor Kelli Smidt, Wayne Corey, Jon Schadeberg, Paul Hundt, Scott Potts, Jane Licht, Erin Kraemer, Sharon Mylrea, Carri Wolff, Doug Buechel, treasurer Mike Devine

**Absent (excused):** Christina Hughey, Matt Lancaster, Sarah Schutt

### **Devotions:**

Wayne said he has been in a total of seven churches and feels ours is in a relatively good place. Faith is not a solo activity - it is a community activity. We serve one another and the world. Ours is a global Lutheran community with all the brothers and sisters addressing poverty, hunger and proclaiming the good news.

### **Call to order:**

Scott opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

### **Minutes.**

Paul moved and Sharon seconded a motion to approve the February 27 minutes. Motion carried.

### **Pastor Kelli's Report**

We are near the end of the Midweek Lenten services. Those attending the Wednesday services seemed to appreciate the different types of prayer. Pastor Kelli is grateful for Lent and for the servers and temporary worship team. This weekend is Palm/Passion that will start in the Gathering Space. The scriptures are long and will be read by three readers with a song in between. Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm there will be washing of hands and the altar will be stripped. Friday there will be a noon service and a 7:30 pm service of prayers around the cross. Saturday and Sunday we will celebrate the empty tomb for Easter. Our missionaries that went to Uganda will return March 26 and will present the sermon on April 6 and 7. Pastor Kelli will attend an antiracism seminar sponsored by the Synod.

### **Worship Assistants Needed**

Sharon said we are struggling for audio visual coverage and need both short term and long-term solutions. We often have no one to do the Facebook recordings. Pastor Kelli said no one is signed up for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Currently, only two people feel confident in doing the visuals and Facebook recordings. Doug said running the service visuals is not difficult, but the Facebook recording is. It is best to have people get Facebook training with Ron Vandeburg for several weeks. Jon expressed willingness to help and will check his schedule. He could probably do it for the Good Friday noon service. Paul said that asking individuals for help is more effective than making an announcement. Erin said learning new stuff is rewarding. Jon said people need many reminders. Wayne said live-streaming is essential and we should probably use You Tube instead of Facebook.

Small details matter. Pastor Kelli said the pool of volunteers is too small. We don't want people to feel guilty about going on vacation. Sign-up Genius is working well.

### **Finance Report**

Mike said that we are in about the same position as last month. Our checking account is healthy and mortgage payments have been made. Our pledges are only off by about \$2,600. 4-K received the final payment that was higher than expected. A member gave money in December that was used to install a new furnace. Ron completed three IRS forms required for a federal grant of about \$20,000 and Mike mailed them to the IRS. At the end of the fiscal year - late June - Mike will be working with Rita to see what the Church's cash needs will be for the month of July. Based on the forecast, unspent cash will be moved to the Building Maintenance/Repairs Savings Account. These funds will be needed for projects that have been delayed/deferred for years. For example, the South parking lot and the windows in the CLM and Office wing of the building. The building is approximately sixty years old. Wayne moved and Paul seconded a motion that accumulated funds in the checking account be transferred to building maintenance repairs. Motion carried.

### **Director of Music Position Description**

Sharon said the representatives from choir, bells and praise band met March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will work on completing a template. The chair of Personnel, Jane Blank, and Scott also attending the meeting. The tone of the meeting was very positive. The next meeting is April 3.

### **Stewardship Committee**

Paul said they are trying to be more inclusive. Some people still prefer the boxes of envelopes but many of our congregation members do not use checks and operate in a digital world. They use credit cards and ACH. Forty percent do not put anything in the plate, and this could make them uncomfortable. How do we respect these people? Amanda Geisinger created cards that can be put in the collection plate. The cards contain QR codes that people can use to give online. These cards will be in use the end of April. Council members gave several suggestions about the card. The scripts gift card program proposal was presented to Finance on March 14; more information was requested.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Paul said that two people have agreed to serve on the Council beginning in July of this year, leaving one more vacancy to be filled. Sharon asked if committee chairs know that they can get help from the Nominating Committee.

### **Senior Pastor:**

Scott did temple talks at all three services. Scott's letter to the congregation was sent out Saturday and council members indicated that they did receive it on Monday. Scott has been in communication with our called senior pastor. Some paperwork must be completed. Help will be needed for the congregational meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Scott will inform the pastor of the results of the meeting. Typically, the pastor takes 30 days to prepare his congregation for his move and then he leaves. Scott assumes he would arrive here mid-May. It will be his responsibility to find lodging. The Lights invited him to stay with them for the first week if necessary.

### **Adjournment**

Paul moved and Carri seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm. Motion carried.

**Next meeting is April 23 and Doug Buechel will give the devotions.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Licht, Secretary

## **Other Committee Reports:**

### **Welcome Team**

The Welcome committee has held a couple of meetings discussing what was previously known as "New Member Classes". These classes now tentatively will be called Welcome to McFarland Lutheran Church orientations or Welcome to McFarland Lutheran Church sessions. The first one is tentatively scheduled for Sunday April 28th at 11:15 am to 12:30 pm with the second one tentatively scheduled for Tuesday April 30th at a time yet to be determined (possibly 6:30 pm?) for those wishing to attend the Sunday April 28th session but were unable to. The introduction and welcome to the congregation recognitions are tentatively scheduled for services held Saturday evening May 11th and the two Sunday morning services held May 12th.

### **Child Life Ministry Committee**

Registration for Summer and Fall went very well. Full/with waitlists in most classes. The preschool class has a few spots open, and word will be out on social media. Planning for summer field trips has already started. Plans will be made for "teacher appreciation week" (May 6) during next meeting.

### **Care of Creation Committee**

The COC meeting was Monday evening. Our butterfly station was well received at the Lenten Fair on Saturday morning but there were only about 20 to 25 children and their parents/grandparents who attended. Apparently, there was competition from some egg hunt events in the Village. The "COC Sunday" will be July 28 instead of August 4. We viewed the backyard and talked more about the landscape plan.

### **Personnel Committee**

We met Thursday March 14, 2024, and discussed the music director position description process. Information from representatives is being gathered. We are exploring different options regarding the facilities/custodian position. A market analysis is being completed for MLC staff positions. We are working on the budget to meet the upcoming deadline. Next meeting is Thursday, April 18.

### **Local Missions Committee**

There was a great turnout and success with Feed My Starving Children. Our group had 20 volunteers of all ages. We worked 2 hours, and the group packaged enough food to feed over 80 children's meals for a year. We are considering adding a line-item to our budget to support FMSC events in the future. We plan on working Brat Fest this year (Saturday, May 25th from 10 am-2pm). Each volunteer is paid \$10/hour that goes directly to support MLC. Look for an article in the newsletter. Individuals sign up independently. Registration opened 3/15/24. McFarland Community Service Day – April 27, 2024, 8am-12pm. List of service opportunities are posted on the village website. Likely will do a cemetery cleaning - look for more information soon. Our next Triangle Ministry Meal – June 12, 2024. We are hoping to apply for Thrivent funding. Next meeting: April 15th at 6pm. All are welcome!

### **Family and Children Ministry Committee**

We continued discussions about strengthening our committee. We reviewed plans and the volunteer list for Lenten Fair/Spring Fling. We also picked dates for Vacation Bible School. Our events:

Lenten Fair/Spring Fling, Vacation Bible School (VBS - July 22 through July 25), Sunday School, Pumpkin Fest, Christmas Program. We will create a list of volunteers for each event and have step by step instructions for each event.