

Care of Creation Team meeting minutes
August 17, 2010

Present-Dawn, Connie, and Rick
Guest-Evan Chalmers
Regrets-Jane
Devotion-Dawn

Rain Garden- Evan Chalmers came to the meeting and informed us that since he will be leaving for college in a few weeks he would like the COC to take over care of the rain garden. The team thanked him for all his work on the garden and for helping at the garden tour last Saturday. Dawn asked him if he had a drawing of the garden to share with the team and he was able to give us a drawing. Dawn is in the process of writing a history of the rain garden.

McFarland Garden Tour (Better Lawns and Gutters)- Dawn, Meg and Evan helped as guides for the tour at MLC. We had about 27 visitors to our site. Everyone was impressed with our achievements. Wes had weeded and fenced all 3 prairie areas prior to the tour.

Blessing of Animal Service- Jane had informed Dawn that she had set up a meeting with Pastor Tews on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 5:30 to talk about the service.

Update from meeting on Aug 18- The service will be Saturday September 25 at 3pm, with Oct. 2 as a rain date . Pastor Tews is out of town that day so he will ask Pastor Jack to perform the service. The service will take place in the east parking lot behind church. All pets/animals will be welcome. We hope to have this as a multi-generational event. Jane had a service from the ELCA site that can be used as a whole or can have parts of it used. Pastor Tews has a friend at another congregation that performs a service every year and also may have a service that we can use. He will contact him . Pastor Tews/Pastor Jack and Jane will plan the service via email. Jane will ask the praise team of Beth, Dean, and Steve if they would like to provide music for the service. Dawn will advertise the service in the newsletter and news you can use.

Canoe Trip- Saturday, Aug 28 10-12. Dawn will contact Wes and see if anything needs to be done.

Update from Wes - There are 4 families/individuals that have RSVP that they are interested. Dawn and her family will be attending as well. Wes has secured a canoe rack as well as canoes for those who need one. Wes will contact those who indicated they would like to attend next week and verify information with them. We will meet at the Jaeger Road launch at 10 am. Dawn placed a sheet to advertise the trip on the teams trifold that is currently in the gathering space. She will make signs to place near the doors as well.

Garden – There are not any current needs. Dawn, Wes, Rick and Dawn Weber currently come every Monday and harvest the produce and take it to the Food Pantry. Connie was wondering if the plots this year were taken care of or if they were weedy and unkempt. Most plots are cared for, there are a few that have a lot of weeds. She thought it would be a good idea to send out an email to the gardeners reminding them to take care of their plots. We also decided to remind gardeners of how to use the compost bin- to cut up large plants and to not place diseased plants in the bin. Dawn will send out an email.

Shed at Crystal's House- Dawn and Wes saw Crystal's daughters at the food pantry this last Monday and they offered the COC team the use of a shed at Crystal's house. The shed is in need of cleaning and is not locked but we could store gardening/planting supplies in there. They also offered some gardening tools for us to use. Wes was going to follow up with this.

ELCA Parochial Report - Meg sent Dawn information on the annual parochial report that congregations send back to the synod. The report gives information about the congregation's activities. This year there are new questions being added. See below. It's exciting to see that ELCA sees these as important and also that we at MCL are already doing or have done many of these activities.

- have a recycling program
- integrated care of creation into worship
- had a green team to educate and encourage actions
- held adult forums on environmental issues
- did an energy audit
- measured it's carbon footprint
- reduced it's consumption of electricity
- reduced it's consumption of heating fuel
- a final approved question

Next meeting Sept 21 at 7pm