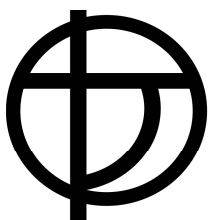


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Financial Report (2015-16 Actuals & 2016-17 Budget)

Yellow Pages



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**McFarland Lutheran Church
Annual Congregation Meeting
Sunday July 24 2016
11:15 a.m.**

Agenda

Call to Order

Devotion and Gathering Song

Attendance Check

Old Business

- Approval of Minutes from July 26, 2015 Annual Meeting

New Business

- Approval of By-Law Revisions

- Call for Congregational Council Nominees

- Reports from Pastors and Staff

- Treasurer's Report including approval of 2015/2016 Budget

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Sending Song

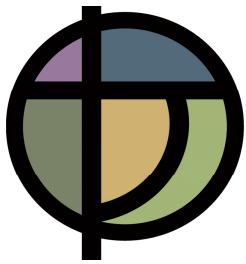
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New McFarland Lutheran Church Logo Approved

The Church Council approved a new church logo at its February 23, 2016, meeting! This logo was designed by MLC member Andrea Wendorf, at the request of the Building Committee, following our Sanctuary renovation. In the fall, we had opportunities to give feedback on two logo designs by Andrea, and this was the overwhelming favorite of congregational members.

We transitioned toward using this new logo for our publications such as the newsletter and church letterhead. Our goal was to roll-out this new design for our mission and ministries beginning May 1, 2016.

We thank Andrea for sharing her artistic gifts with our faith community, and for all her time and effort! May we continue to be empowered, through the gift of baptism, to share God's good news in Jesus Christ!



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MLC Logo: Our Baptism Into Christ **Description written by Andrea Wendorf**

Symbolically, the circle depicts the unending, the unknowable, the un-measurable and indefinable aspects of eternity. In other words, the circle is the symbol of divinity—God. And because the circle is a symbol of divinity it is also a symbol of perfection, regeneration, completeness and unity which encompasses all space and time.

The circle, cross, and its off-center placement reflects that of our previous logo. With this new mark, it is now representative of baptism, incorporating elements from our new font, and not the former building.

In the new mark, the inner circle represents the bowls in our font from which baptismal water flows. The movement around the cross symbolizes our baptism into Christ. It is not a static mark yet feels very stable and secure. It has balance and movement, radiating the warmth and character of McFarland Lutheran Church.

The shapes and colors chosen for this mark are representative of the new colors in our worship space as well as the style of our stained glass windows, tying in the old with the new.

The typeface that was chosen is very simple in its design. Its letterforms are very symmetrical and timeless. This mark is versatile and can be used in many ways and not lose its presence. It was designed to be scalable and repurposed for any project. This logo was designed to be able to be used in a single color as well as in full color. It's still beautiful, artistic and meaningful without all of the colors.

The symbol itself can be used on its own. It can be used with or without the supporting tagline. The tagline can be used on its own as well, such as for banners or on the newsletter or website. This was equally as important to design as it really does represent who we are as a congregation.

Report from the Congregational President July 2016

Dear Fellow Members of McFarland Lutheran Church,

Since we last met we saw continued work on a couple of initiatives started last year. The Welcome Committee continued to work hosting a Picnic on Rally day last September, delivering bread to visitors and writing notes to folks who have recently moved to the McFarland area inviting them to attend a service at MLC. The Council now has established the Welcome committee as a permanent standing committee of McFarland Lutheran Church. We also saw the retirement of long time staff member Renae Feldner; – wishing her all the best in her retirement. And we then welcomed Shelley Nerothin, picking up many of Renae's duties plus some more!

A new church logo was established, as well as permanent nametags and the nametag holder; thanks to the gifts of members of our congregation. We smoothly and officially moved to the new worship schedule, continuing with the adult education time.

At the Council retreat this past January, after reaffirming the previous year's accomplishments, the Council identified the need to review and update our By-laws, update the facilities use policy and establish a taskforce to assist the congregation to celebrate our 150 years. I am happy to report the By-laws have been thoroughly reviewed and updated (thanks to Brent Odell). They have been available for everyone's review and will need your approval at the Congregational meeting July 24th.

The Taskforce for the 150th has been established and will be sharing plans for a variety of activities by September. The property committee has reviewed and updated a new facilities use manual that will soon be approved by Church Council.

Themes to be considered in the future should be: continuing and enhancing our service to the community, improving our visibility, strengthening and creating new opportunities for relationships within God's church, continued growth of the membership, our children, and sharing God's love. Some specific activities to follow these themes include: a taskforce to develop and implement more community involvement, consideration of expanding CLM, and developing an outdoor worship space.

I have totally enjoyed my time on the council. It's been great to get to know a number of my fellow MLC members beyond the greeting on Sunday morning. I have also appreciated everyone's support during my tenure as Council President. In particular, I have truly enjoyed getting to know staff better and seeing them carry out our mission, and God's mission on a regular basis. We are truly blessed. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,
Sandy Hall
Congregational President
McFarland Lutheran Church

Financial Report

The Finance Committee would like to thank all the members of McFarland Lutheran Church for their generous giving of their financial resources this past fiscal year. We are continually amazed at the generosity of the members of this congregation, both to the operations of the Church and to the Capital Campaign.

2015/2016 SUMMARY

For the Church year just completed, our revenue was \$1,135,225. This was \$39,792 less than our budgeted revenue of \$1,175,017.

Actual expenses were \$1,136,022. This was \$38,994 less than our budgeted expenses of \$1,175,017.

This past year, McFarland Lutheran Church again contracted with the McFarland School District to conduct an age 4 kindergarten program, one class in the morning and one class in the afternoon. This program was completely funded by the school district. Total revenue received from the school district was \$100,035. Total expenses to conduct the program were \$79,687. This gave the church net income of \$20,348.

The Church's operating reserves began and ended the year at \$150,000. The Mortgage Reserve began and ended the year at \$30,000. Thrivent Financial requires us to maintain three months of mortgage payments in a reserve. The Building Maintenance and Repairs savings account started the year at \$71,519. During the year, we added \$21,175 to this account, and it ended the year with a balance of \$19,356. Expenses incurred during the course of the fiscal year included the replacement of the roof and skylights over the Great Hall at a cost of \$62,000; replacement of the front doors for \$4,700; and replacement of a furnace in the Rainbow Center at a cost of \$5,600.

The two mortgages for the Sanctuary remodel totaled \$1,503,956.10 at the beginning of the year. The principal balance at the end of the year was \$1,480,638.02. The monthly payments for the mortgages total \$7,833. The Capital Campaign funds are used to make the principal payments, and the interest payments are made from general revenue and budgeted under the Finance Committee.

The three year Capital Campaign ended on December 31, 2015. Some members have chosen to continue to contribute toward the new sanctuary, and these contributions are applied each month to further reduce the principal amount of the mortgage. From January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016, the principal has been reduced \$25,500 by these additional contributions.

The proposed 2016/2017 budget is \$1,177,083 for McFarland Lutheran Church, and \$102,430 for the 4K program, for a total budget of \$1,279,513.

We will continue using the existing Capital Campaign funds to pay the principal portion of the mortgage payment each month. Any new contributions marked "Capital Campaign" or "Building Fund" will be used to further reduce the principal.

2016/2017 Budget

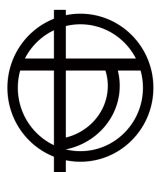
The Building Maintenance and Repair savings account will have money deposited into it on a monthly basis during the 2016/2017 fiscal year, if sufficient funds are available. This money will be used to replace the kitchen grease trap and flooring, and to replace the carpet in the narthex, hallway, and possibly the Family Life Center. This account will also be used for any large unexpected expenses that may occur in the future.

The Personnel budget for this year reflects a 2% raise for all staff, including the pastors.

I would like to thank the many committees of McFarland Lutheran Church for their efforts in putting together next fiscal year's budget. Their thoughtful consideration helped to make possible another balanced budget for next fiscal year. Special thanks to Susan Brodd and the Properties Committee, and to Sara Phelan and Deb Nygaard from CLM.

I want to thank Mike Devine for making possible a smooth transition from his term as treasurer to mine, and Rita Jenkins for answering my endless questions about the bills, budget, and finances of our church. I would also like to thank Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, the MLC Finance Committee, and the Church Council for their input and assistance this past fiscal year.

Cheryl Scharine
MLC Treasurer and
Finance Committee Chair



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
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MLC Annual Congregational Meeting – Minutes

July 26, 2015

9:15 am, McFarland Lutheran Church



Snacks and beverages were provided by the MLC Hospitality Team

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:26am by President Sandy Hall.

Devotion: Pastor Tim Dean shared devotion.

Verification of Quorum: A quorum was verified. 103 members were in attendance.

Gathering Song: Chris Malueg led the attendees in singing.

Old Business: The July 27, 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes were approved.

Motion to approve: Scott Potts, seconded: Susan Miller. Motion was passed.

New Business:

Call for MLC Nominees: The nominating Committee consisted of Betty Showers, Dave Waller, and Brady Showalter. The nominees were presented to the membership: John Berg, Tiffany Kvalheim, and Lee Thorson. Member Amanda Gevens self-nominated when President Sandy Hall asked if there were any other nominations to be presented as Council was in need of one additional female member. Amanda Gevens' nomination was accepted and presented to the congregation along with the other nominees.

Ballots were used to elect the new members of council. The following people were elected to three-year terms: John Berg, Amanda Gevens, Tiffany Kvalheim and Lee Thorson.

Reports:

Senior Pastor Tim Dean: Pastor Tim shared his excitement and his thankfulness for a blessed year at MLC. The highlights, of course, included the completion of the new sanctuary, a new member directory, and the beginning of the new Welcoming Committee led by Tom Scharine and Brian Rodeck! He also mentioned, as a part of the Welcoming Committee, the new ministry to deliver loaves of bread to our guests, and what a wonderful idea and gesture to MLC visitors this will be! He thanked this group, led by Sandy Franklin, for sharing their time and talents for this ministry.

Pastor Tim also announced the Sunday, September 13th, Rally Day Picnic "Holy Smokes"! He invited the entire congregation to attend this picnic after 10:00 am worship. More details to follow.

He also said a special thanks to our organist, Jess Salek, as he will be leaving late August. With great pleasure, Pastor Tim shared with the congregation that long time CLM teacher, Sara Phelan, has accepted the Administrator position at CLM.

Associate Pastor Kelli Schmidt: Pastor Kelli shared that the past year has centered around our new worship space and that it has been a wonderful year! She commented that a quick review of the Annual Report is a year book AND a picture book of our church! The pictures show what a collaborative effort we have at MLC and the strong support of our ministries and the good work of the committees is wonderful!

Director of Music Ministry, Chris Malueg: Chris shared a heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers that give their time and musical talents to MLC. He has appreciated the energetic help and flexibility all have shared over the past 18 months during the Sanctuary renovation.

Coordinator of Lay Ministry & Adult Education, Huldah Ellestad: Huldah thanked all who have been involved in the Faith Formation time, nursery responsibilities, and other ministries. She's been happy with the growth of the Adult Faith Formation education and invited all to visit a session or two, especially if you have not had a chance to do so in the past.

CLM Administrator & Preschool Teacher, Sara Phelan: Sara shared that it has been a year of great transition and growth for CLM and she looks forward to her new role! She was excited to also share that most classes are full and many have waiting lists! It's going to be a wonderful year at CLM!

Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Chris Landerud: Chris shared his appreciation for those who assisted in youth ministry, especially those involved in the ELCA Youth Gathering and the Pine Lake confirmation camp. Chris also mentioned something for us to think about as a congregation... the MLC youth are not the future of the church, they are the present church!

Treasurer Report, Mike Devine: Mike reviewed the new mortgage, detailing the two notes that comprise the mortgage. He reviewed the cash balances of the Church, specially that - \$67,900 is in the Capital Campaign, \$150,000 is in Operating Reserves, \$30,000 in the Mortgage Reserve, \$71,500 set aside for Building/Maintenance Reserves, and \$289,600 in designated and undesignated savings.

During the prior fiscal year, \$6,000 was added to the Mortgage Reserves and \$6,000 was added to the Building/Maintenance Reserves.

The 4K Program was a success again with \$97,400 in total revenue.

The 2015/2016 MLC budget being presented is a balanced budget, with \$1,175,017 in total revenues. Of that total, the 4K program revenue is \$96,840.

The 2015/2016 budget reflects a 2.0 % raise for the lay staff and a 3% raise for the pastoral staff.

Mike provided a review of the Annual Reports budget highlights, especially the new mortgage (see yellow sheet in booklet). In addition to the new worship space, MLC had a few needed replacements/repairs including: HVAC and roof.

Motion to approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016: Made by Tom Showers. Seconded: Sheri Gehrke. Motion passed.

In his concluding remarks, Pastor Tim gave thanks (and a special book) to the outgoing Council members, Jeff Gehrke, Bill Gross, Holly Heuer, Kathy Westby, and Treasurer, Mike Devine.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Kelli led us with a closing prayer and all joined in to recite the Lord's Prayer together.

Sending: Chris Malueg led us with a closing song.

Motion to adjourn the MLC 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting was made and seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Heuer, vice president.

MCFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Members completing their Council term:

Deb Alber	Sandra Hall
Tom Blau	Keith Voelker

Members beginning their 3rd year:

Carol Munch	Brent Odell
Dave Nelson	Joe Schwartz

Members beginning their 2nd year:

John Berg	Tiffany Kvalheim
Amanda Gevens	Lee Thorson

PASTORAL ACTS 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015

Based on ELCA Parochial Report year ending December 31, 2015

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Members at the End of 2015	2202	1445
Baptism	30	
Members Received	48	
Confirmation Class		12
Transferred in / Reinstated	6	
From other sources and statistical adjustment	1	
Deaths	9	
Transferred out / Removed	5	
Statistical Adjustment	<u>25</u>	<u>-1</u>
Members at the End of December 2015	2248	1456



McFARLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Annual Report

**“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)**

Paul's words in his second letter to the Corinthians remind us of the promise that human beings can be made new. When we are joined to Christ in Holy Baptism, we die to our old selves, and we receive the resurrection life of Christ. We live in him.

The life we are given is daily dying and rising to God's mercy, love and grace revealed in Jesus Christ. This is true for our corporate life in the church, as well as our personal lives.

Whenever we gather as the communal body of Christ at McFarland Lutheran Church, we live out this daily promise of newness and renewal: in our weekly worship, as we remember our baptism, as we share the bread and wine of Holy Communion, as we offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure, as we befriend the hurting and outcast. I am privileged as one of your pastors to see throughout the year how we live out God's new life in baptism. This book of reports of our shared ministries hopefully records how we die and rise with Christ to serve a world in need.

So as we join together for the 2016 annual meeting, let us give God thanks and praise for renewing our life and mission at MLC!

Renewed in Christ: Highlights from the Past Year

1. Our Membership is Growing

In 2015, we added 55 new members by affirmation of baptism and transfer from other congregations. In addition, we celebrated 30 baptisms over the last year. I give thanks to the Holy Spirit, for drawing new people into our congregational life and enlivening our ministries with their gifts!

A major emphasis of Church Council this year has been welcoming and inviting guests. The newly-formed Welcome Committee has been very active and energetic this year. Brian Rodeck has organized a team of people to write welcome notes to people who move into the Village of McFarland and surrounding areas. He also organized a team that sent hand-written invitations to inactive members for Easter Sunday 2016.

In addition, the Welcome Committee, led by Tom Scharine, organized a Rally Day picnic last September 2015. Finally, Sandy Franklin and many others have started a Bread Ministry of delivering loaves of bread to first-time guests in worship. These are Spirit-filled ways to provide hospitality for those who have moved into our neighborhoods and walk through our doors. May God help us to continue to open our doors and ministries to new people and their spiritual gifts!

2. Renewing Our Facilities

After our Sanctuary renovation in 2014, we have continued the renovation work downstairs. We are nearly finished with the area underneath the Sanctuary, which will enhance many ministries in our congregation. This coming programmatic year, beginning on Rally Day, Sept. 11, 2016, we will have enhanced space for confirmation and youth ministries, our musicians, our banner ministry, and our quilter ministry, "The Piece Corps." A full kitchen will also be operational. Thank you to Chris Landerud and Mark Winter, for spearheading this effort!

This past year we also added a new logo, which is described on page 3 and pictured throughout on staff pages. The new logo is entitled "Our Baptism into Christ," and reflects the artistic themes from our new baptismal font. We have started using this new logo on our church letterhead, newsletter, and other publications. We are very grateful to Andrea Wendorf for designing the new logo on our behalf!

Projects with our facilities will continue in the next year. I have started to gather some ideas for outside artwork on the south wall of the new building (facing the south parking lot). This is possible because of a generous donation by members of our congregation! I also hope we can add new carpet/flooring in the Gathering Space this coming year, and down the road, possibly an outdoor worship space in our backyard.

I really do believe that our facility facilitates God's mission to share, show and serve with Jesus' love!

3. Staff Empower Ministry

This past year had some significant staff transitions and milestones. Our former Administrative Assistant, Renae Feldner, retired after 25 years of meaningful work and service on behalf of MLC's mission. We hired our new Administrative Assistant, Shelley Nerothin, in October 2015, and she is a great addition to the office team! I give thanks for Rita Jenkins, who also celebrated a 25-year milestone on staff last year. Rita continues to provide strong administrative gifts for our finances, and provides wonderful office support for our ministries.

In addition, Child Life Ministries (CLM) Program Director Deb Nygaard celebrated 30 years of work with our preschool. Thanks be to God, for Deb and her care, gifts and passion for the ministry of CLM!

We have been blessed with new leadership in CLM with Sara Phelan serving as part-time Administrator. Sara has transitioned very well into this position, and brings gifts of enthusiasm and organization to our preschool ministry. Sara oversees a talented and dedicated staff of CLM teachers! We are all very excited about the growing numbers enrolled for next year's CLM programs.

Our building receives faithful care from our custodial staff: Ken Brost, Dick Kohl and Sharon Strattan. They continually show their willingness to help with projects and events at "the drop of the hat"! I appreciate their good work, flexibility and positive outlook.

I am very thankful for our program staff and their many gifts! Huldah Ellestad, our Coordinator of Lay Ministry and Adult Education, provides gifts of compassion, knowledge and insight for the ministries she oversees. Chris Landerud, our Youth Ministries Coordinator, nurtures our young people in God's Word of grace and acceptance. Chris Malueg, our Director of Music Ministry, supports the many musical offerings with dedication and vibrancy. And finally, Jeff Rowley began as our organist/pianist in September 2015, and serves as a gifted accompanist for both traditional worship and as part of the contemporary worship band.

Pastor Kelli and I have a strong, life-giving relationship as your pastors. We are blessed to have Pastor Kelli's gifts as a preacher, teacher, leader of our family and children ministries, and pastoral care-giver, among many other gifts for Word and Sacrament ministry! She is instrumental in helping our ministries grow in sharing God's Word and serving God's world!

Renewed in Christ: New Opportunities Ahead

1. MLC's 150th Anniversary (1867-2017)

I am looking forward to 2017, when our congregation celebrates its 150th anniversary, and the whole Church celebrates the 500th anniversary of the reforming movement begun by Martin Luther in 1517. The MLC Anniversary Task Force has been formed, and is already hard at work planning events for the whole year.

The theme will be **"Renewed in Christ to Serve: 150 Years of God's Grace in Action."** This theme lifts up a call that I believe is central to the good news of Jesus—that we are freed to be servants of others in Jesus' name. Throughout our history, the people of MLC have served our neighbors in a variety of ways, through diverse ministries—neighbors across oceans and geographical boundaries, as well as neighbors down the street.

A major emphasis of our anniversary year will be a call for every member to serve people outside our walls. This can be through current ministries, such as the McFarland Food Pantry or quilting for Lutheran World Relief, or through new events that will happen throughout 2017.

One of the new projects we hope to launch in 2017 is a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a family in need in Dane County. Our congregation has a history with this kind of ministry, and I believe the time is ripe for us to do it again. Habitat has a program called a "Faith Build," in which 12 congregations work together with a family to build a new home. Keep your eyes open for more details on a Habitat build sometime in 2017!

The Anniversary Task Force has some dates to share as well. **Our big 150th MLC anniversary celebration will be on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017.** We will have one anniversary worship service that day at 9 a.m., followed by a festive brunch and program in the Family Life Center. Please add it to your calendars today!

In addition, the task force is planning a “pre-anniversary” event on **November 12-13, 2016**. We will be chartering a bus to take a group of MLC members and friends to the Minneapolis Institute of Art to view a special exhibit, “Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation.” You will soon be hearing more details about this opportunity to experience the Reformation as well as a fun outing with other congregational members.

I see this 150th anniversary of McFarland Lutheran Church not only as a time to give thanks for our history and heritage, but also to look ahead at the new opportunities God gives us to serve him and our neighbors in need. 2017 will truly be a year of thanksgiving and praise!

2. Being Renewed in God’s Grace

Related to the anniversary will be opportunities to dig more deeply into the history of the Reformation and Martin Luther’s theology and faith practices. This fall, in Adult Faith Formation class, we will have a series on the life of Luther and the history of the reforming movement he sparked, and a series on Paul’s letter to the Romans, which inspired Luther’s theological outlook and witness. In Lent 2017, which begins on March 1, we will focus on Luther’s Small Catechism and how this work continues to provide a meaningful theological framework for our lives today.

3. Opportunities to Invite Others

As evidenced by housing developments north of Siggelkow and east of Holscher, this part of Dane County is growing. God is giving us many opportunities to invite others to the new life of Christ as part of our faith community. The Welcome Committee will be working on some new ideas for reaching out and connecting with others, and I look forward to new ventures for us to grow in the faith practice of inviting others.

I believe that current ministries such as our CLM preschool, Pumpkin Fest and Vacation Bible School provide wonderful ways of opening our doors to guests. In addition, I believe we need a revised website to enhance our mission. A new website, along with our Facebook page, can help us to share our faith with our neighbors in new ways.

May the Holy Spirit empower our witness so that others know the riches of God’s grace in Christ Jesus!

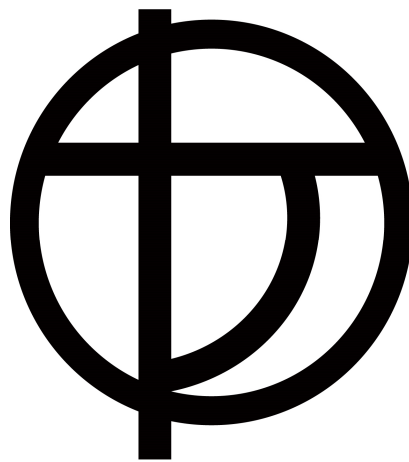
Renewed in Christ: Thank, Love and Celebrate God’s Gifts

I want to close by thanking you, the members of our congregation, for offering your gifts of time, talent and treasure in such amazing ways. Your generous gifts enable ministry to happen, and make visible the renewing Spirit of Christ.

In particular, I am continually thankful for the strong lay leadership in our congregation. We are blessed by the officers who have served this past year: Sandy Hall, president; Carol Much, vice president; Deb Alber, secretary; and Cheryl Scharine, treasurer. I cannot say enough about their leadership and commitment! I also share my gratitude to the council members who have completed their three-year terms with this annual meeting: Deb Alber, Tom Blau, Sandy Hall, and Keith Voelker. Working on council with them has been a fun and rewarding experience for me!

Thanks be to God for the body of Christ at MLC! May we be enriched, renewed and enlivened by Christ, who really does make all things new!

With his love and grace,
Pastor Tim Dean



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GOD'S WORLD

Associate Pastor Annual Report

Jesus said to the disciples, “[The crowd] need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled...” (Matthew 14:17-20 NRSV)

The story of Jesus feeding five thousand people is one of the few stories to be recorded in all four gospels. They have just a little bit of bread and a few fish and yet thousands of people to feed. These resources don't seem like a lot, but then Jesus shows up and incredible things happen. What at first doesn't seem like much ends up being more than enough to leave all people being filled.

This story comes to mind when I look back at the previous year and dream for the future. Sometimes work days go by so quickly that it doesn't seem like much, but when I step back and look at the whole year I can see where Jesus has shown up and the incredible things that have happened. My prayer is that Jesus is using the ministries of McFarland Lutheran Church to help people be filled. I am amazed at what the Spirit has done here in the past year.

Looking back...

MLC's Family and Children's Ministry committee just wrapped up another year of Sunday School. Over 100 kids registered and we had 30+ incredible adults hold leadership positions. Our Sunday School ministry would not be what it is without these great families, teachers, shepherds, and substitutes. I had an idea from some Continuing Education reading last summer and created a new resource for both leaders and families. The "Newsflash" had elements like background/history of the Bible stories being explored in class, prayers to use at home, and information about the current liturgical season.

The team also hosted the 9th Annual Pumpkin Fest and we welcomed over 150 people to carve pumpkins, play games, and jump in the bounce house. At the time of printing we are doing final preparations for Vacation Bible School (Reminder: June 26-30!). Last year we had over 50 kids participate and, including our kitchen crew, had 40 leaders help make the week a great success. Sunday School, Pumpkin Fest, and VBS – these may not seem like much, but God has done amazing things in these ministries and with these relationships.

I have the privilege of working with our Health and Social Wellness committee. A different topic was highlighted each month on our bulletin board in the Grand Hallway and through Newsletter articles. We provided information and resources about Breast Cancer, Alcoholics Anonymous, Heroin Use, Quitting Tobacco, and more. Keep an eye out for future topics like Men's Health and Summer Safety. This past Christmas we had the chance to take on the leadership role of the annual Giving Tree for the McFarland Food Pantry and we supported the "Shop with a Cop" program through the McFarland Police Department. Also, our very own Kristin Hildebrandt hosted a Hands-Only CPR class for 15-20 people in February, which is Heart Health Month.

God used the Global Mission committee's bread and fish to accomplish some incredible things. With the Faith Formation committee we hosted "Our Neighbor's Faith." It was a series of speakers who are Jewish, Sikh, and Muslim who came and shared information and stories of their faith with us on various Sunday mornings. We also took on two significant fundraising projects. First: Bonnie Dirks hosted a benefit concert for a Moringa Tree Project in Uganda, raising just under \$3000. Second: to help fund a church remodeling project in Sesara, Uganda. (The same village in which "our" well was dug.) Our goal was to raise \$2300 but the generosity of the Spirit moved and over \$2600 was sent to support our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I witnessed Jesus do incredible things with these committees, but I also saw Jesus work through the bread and fish of various milestone ministries. On the first day of Sunday School I led a “class” with nine of our 3-year-old students and handed out story Bibles. Later in the fall I led a morning-long class with 13 of our 3rd graders and gave them a full NRSV Bible in worship. A third milestone was to lead our First Communion class with 17 of our 5th/6th graders. It’s always a fun morning – the highlight being making communion wafers with our Care of Creation team.

This year I was also able to participate in some great continuing education opportunities. The most enriching was “The Celebration of Biblical Preaching: The Courage to Preach” at Luther Seminary. I was able to hear lectures and sermons by some of the “big names” in contemporary preaching; it was an incredible week!

I am in awe of the ministry that unfolds through the hands and hearts of the staff. MLC has assembled a staff that focuses on disciples of all ages: children at CLM, youth, and adults; staff that supports worship through music and the financial side this congregation’s work; staff that keeps up to date with our multiple modes of communication and maintains the safety and cleanliness of our property. I am thankful for the spirit of collaboration and mutual encouragement that is shared across the table during our staff meetings.

Working with Pastor Tim continues to be a joy. Taking on the responsibilities of the pastoral office is a particular calling and I am grateful for his collegiality and support as we engage those particularities as MLC’s pastors. His genuine concern for the staff and congregation’s well-being, his leadership in times of transition and visioning, and his ability to bring everything back to God’s grace is a gift to this congregation.

Looking forward...

I trust that Jesus will keep showing up and doing incredible things with our bread and fish, and there are a few things I’m particularly excited about. The first is the opportunity to lead a three-part class on the Lord’s Prayer at our Adult Faith Formation class in July. Also, the Health and Social Wellness and Global Mission committees are teaming up and joining efforts with the synod’s Refugee Resettlement Task Force. We will help the synod prepare an apartment for refugees seeking a safe place to live. Keep an eye out for more information later this summer!

Also, the congregation’s Council just supported a suggestion put forward by Pastor Tim and myself. We proposed moving the advertised age of First Communion Instruction from 5th grade to 2nd grade beginning in the spring of 2017. According to scripture, Lutheran theology, and Lutheran liturgical practices, there is no prescribed age for First Communion. Having a set age to advertise lends to an effective curriculum for the instructional component (i.e. teaching a 5th grader is different than teaching a 2nd grader). Speaking in broad strokes, Baptism is the introduction to the family of faith and Communion is the family feast. Pastor Tim and I are excited to welcome members of the family of faith to the table – to the feast of God’s grace and forgiveness – at an earlier age!

Three committees, a few particular milestones, and a gathering of disciples...these are just a few fish and some bread, but time and time again Jesus showed up and incredible things happened. These items may not seem like much but because of God’s grace and life, they are an important part of people being filled.

Looking forward to what incredible thing God will do next,
Pastor Kelli

Coordinator of Lay Ministry & Adult Education

Galatians 5:13 (NLT)

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Jesus calls us to live in the freedom that he won for us. As his followers, we seek to live in that freedom as he taught us; by loving and serving. Acts of love and acts of service are plentiful here at MLC.

I see this first hand in all of the ministries that I am associated with. The Befrienders, Faith Formation Team, New Members, Nursery, CLM children's worship, Hospitality ministry, Time & Talent, Home Communion, Fair Trade, Prayer Shawl Ministry and the MLC library are only a portion of the ministries that exemplify how the people of MLC use their freedom to serve and to love.

The Befrienders of MLC are engaged in constant Befriending, both officially and unofficially. Those involved in a Befriender relationship, experience the joys of serving, and receiving, in love. I often hear from those engaged in a Befriender relationship that it is a powerful expression of Jesus' love in everyday circumstances.

The members of the Faith Formation Team: Karen Emerson, Sheri Gehrke, Len Lane, Judi Strauss, Lee Thorson and Kathy Westby, were able to provide many different avenues for faith formation and growth this year, and are looking ahead to some exciting possibilities for next year.

Through New Member Orientation, we welcomed 55 new brothers and sisters into our faith community this year. It is a joy to know them and to witness the impact of their Spiritual gifts as we join in ministry together.

The nursery continues to be a warm, safe and loving environment for children under the care of Elisabeth Klumppan. We are blessed by Elisabeth, and by the many volunteers who care for the children while parents and guardians attend worship, Facetime and Adult Faith Formation.

The children of CLM exhibit their faith with both questions and insights during those weekly worship times that I take part in. They frequently go well beyond the "teachable moment" and become the teachers themselves. This congregation is truly blessed to have such a rich ministry growing and serving in our community.

I offer a heartfelt "Thank you" to all the people involved with the Hospitality ministry here in this congregation. They are quiet behind-the-scenes people who truly make Sunday morning, and other occasions, a "Treat". From cleaning and maintaining the kitchen to baking, providing and serving treats and meals; these indispensable servants show us their love in tangible, and delicious, ways.

Thank you to all who returned the Time & Talent forms this year. If you checked an area of involvement, and have not had a request for your servanthood, please contact me. Together we can make the connections and ensure that you are able to serve in your areas of interest.

I have been privileged to participate in many congregational ministries and events; and I give thanks for the witness that you provide as you serve and love in your Christ-given freedom!

Huldah Ellestad

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

Youth Ministries Coordinator: Annual Report 2016

‘Worship with our Heart, Learn with our Head, and Serve with our Hands’ - Our faith in Christ is founded on a commitment to worship, learn, and serve. In community with our youth, we aim to make this personal commitment to God. We believe that affirming our baptism is a daily pursuit; not just a one-time event.

Confirmation – Middle School Ministries Confirmation is a three year program for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The first year is a ‘Pre-Confirmation’ aimed to establish a faith foundation before accepting the full commitment of Confirmation. The formal commitment of Confirmation begins in 7th grade. Confirmation prepares individuals to willingly be received as members.

Highlights of the Confirmation Program over the past year include:

- Sunday small group classes led by Chris Olson, Don Schutt, Lee Thorson, Marty & Tiffany Kvalheim
- Monthly large group classes lead by Pastor Tim, Pastor Kelli, & Chris Landerud
- Weekly Wednesday events that include hands-on classes, projects, and games
- Synod Confirmation Extravaganza Event (Alliant Energy Center)
- Advent Wednesday worship sermon skit and worship assistants
- Lenten Wednesday worship sermon skit and worship assistants
- Winter Break & Summer Break ‘Faith Talks’ with confirmation students
- Shared Table Hosts – 3 tailgate themed grill-out dinners
- Crossways Pine Lake Summer Confirmation Camp Experience (Waupaca, WI)

Youth Group – High School Ministries Our Youth Group gathers every Wednesday morning for high school breakfast (open to all students) and every Sunday morning. Our weekly study hour is centered on the living word and weekly lectionary, but conversation and inspiration is often guided by the week’s events and what is on student’s hearts and minds.

Highlights of the high school ministries over the past year include:

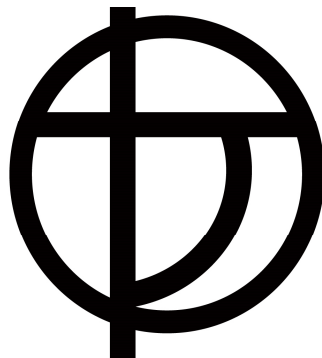
- Sunday Morning Youth Group Hour, & Wednesday HS Breakfast
- Puerto Rico Mission Trip, Shared Table, Breakfast, & Worship Service (10 students & 13 adults)
- Baccalaureate Service (in partnership with Christ the King Church and the UCC)
- Volunteer leaders for Vacation Bible School
- Students serve as worship assistants and operate the AV equipment
- Youth Group fall kick-off campfire event
- HS Summer Festival Gathering (Gustavus Adolphus College – St. Peter, MN)

I want to highlight two generous gifts our youth received this past year: 1) The Damon & Slattery Families gifted \$3,200 in memory of Amy Damon and Brandon Slattery, and 2) Russ & Sheila Wolff gifted \$5,000 in memory of Ally Wolff. These two generous gifts were given directly to students that attended mission trips and camps. Participation in our PR Mission and summer camps spiked this year! These gifts give kids the experiences to serve and witness the risen Jesus in other people and places. Thank you!

Lastly, the construction and finishing of our old/new basement space is a project I am proud of and one that will dramatically facilitate ministry! With the addition of classrooms, a gathering area with stage, and a new kitchen, we (the church and our youth) will be able to gather, learn, and serve in a new and improved ways!

The growth of our youth ministries and community is worth celebration! The growth and gifts that we share in God's house are life-giving. With passion, we continue our mission to worship, learn, and serve – both in this building and outside these walls. With great excitement, I look forward to shaping our youth ministries in the year ahead! <>< Chris Landerud

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17



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GOD'S WORD | GOD'S LOVE | GOD'S WORLD



Child Life Ministries of McFarland Lutheran Church

5529 Marsh Rd., McFarland, WI 53558

(608) 838-4425

kidsofclm@mcfarlandlutheran.org

What a blessing to be part of CLM and witness His love everyday through the eyes of a child! This year we have welcomed over 100 families into our CLM family!

- Pre-K class was a group of 12 children who loved having Mrs. Stube and Mrs. Molenaar as their teachers this year.
- The 4K class was full of giggles this year with 38 children....with Mrs. Schaaf and Mrs. Miller as their teachers you were sure to hear giggles from their room!
- We had 39 3K children this year who loved playing with their teachers Mrs. Phelan, Mrs. Stube, Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Radloff.
- The Tot Spot class was full of energy with 8 boys and 2 girls...they kept Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Anderson on their toes! ☺
- Rainbow Center is always busy depending on the day. They care for 11 children to 13 children with the love of Mrs. Heather and Mrs. Chris watching over them.
- Lastly, 26 School Age friends look forward to coming after school to see what Mrs. Jessica and Mrs. Rachel have planned for them.
- We also had a very successful Lunch Bunch program this year. Mrs. Baum is always here with a smile ready to socialize and eat lunch with her friends.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful staff at CLM. The dedication and love the teachers have for the children made this program what it is today! We are also blessed to have MLC be part of our team! They help support us daily but also with their weekly leadership in worship for the children.

A big thank you to the congregation! The congregation supports us by sharing their space and financially contributing to our scholarship funds. I would also like to thank all who have given through the Thrivent Program or by personal donations. This year we were able to support four families with our scholarship funds. It's a blessing to have their families have the opportunity to be part of our CLM family! We are also updating our outside playground!

It has been a great year getting to know and working with the CLM committee! Their devotion and volunteered time has helped us through another successful school year! We also thank all the other committees who serve CLM in so many ways! We're all a TEAM and we all SERVE!

I'm excited to share this fall we will have a Rainbow Center South and a Rainbow Center North! This way we will be able to keep our low ratios and still have be able to serve more families! The CLM team is ready for another great year and new beginnings!

Sara Phelan
CLM Administrator

Director of Music Ministry

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” Martin Luther’s quote expresses his deep love of music and is revealed in the new church he created 500 years ago. His impact on worship and music has reverberated across the centuries. Luther was an accomplished musician and composer; he was an excellent singer and lute player. He advocated for musical reforms that included congregational singing and music written in the prevailing style of the day. Luther paved the way for a broader use of music in the church and influenced some of the greatest musicians and composers in the world.

It is upon this tradition that we at McFarland Lutheran Church “make music to the Lord”. Psalm 27

Next year, 2017, marks two significant anniversaries for our church; McFarland Lutheran will celebrate its Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary), and the greater Lutheran church will be celebrating the Quincentennial, or 500th anniversary, of the Reformation. How unique that we share these two celebrations in the same year. It is with an eye towards our anniversary year, that I review the most recent.

This past fall we said farewell to our keyboardist Jess Salek. Jess not only provided his keyboard skills, but also played percussion, rang in the Bell Choir and sang in the Choir and Worship Band. We were blessed to have had him for the short time we did.

Soon after Jess’ departure, we were pleased to welcome our current keyboardist, Jeff Rowley. Jeff brings a wealth of musical knowledge and talent to the McFarland Lutheran music department. His gifts at both the organ and piano enrich our worship experience each week. Thank you Jeff for being a part of our musical family.

This past December, at the Saturday evening service, we celebrated the end of an era. After a decade of planning and performing music for Saturday worship, Len Lane officially led his last service. Len is still active in many musical areas of MLC and has mentioned an occasional Saturday evening return. I would be remiss if I did not mention his singing partner and percussionist for the majority of those years, Kathy Westby. Thank you both for your years of service! I would also like to thank Clarke Schroeder and Bonnie Dirks for helping lead songs at the 5 pm service during this new year.

We worshiped in several unique ways last year. Last summer we introduced the Dixieland Jazz Service. With several musicians from MLC and the remainder made up of our friends from McFarland’s own “Almost In Time Dixieland Jazz Band”, we had an uplifting and inspirational Sunday morning celebration! Plans are currently in the works for a return visit. The Polka Service reprised their previous performances last October and was wonderfully received. It is truly a “Wisconsin way” to praise God and is always a lot of fun. It will also be returning again this fall.

The past several years have seen many wonderful improvements to our worship space and equipment. Currently the music department excitedly awaits the finishing touches to be completed on the Music Room renovation. Improvements include increased storage for music and equipment, better acoustics and noise mitigation between the Music Room and the Sanctuary. Move-in is slated for late summer.

I am very excited about our anniversary year and the many opportunities to celebrate the history of McFarland Lutheran Church. We are planning several musical events throughout the year and, as I mentioned this spring, would like to encourage as much participation as possible. If you are interested or have any questions, please take time to fill out the “MLC Music Group Interest Survey” or speak to me directly. It will be a great year of glorifying God and acknowledging our wonderful heritage.

And as always, “THANK YOU” to all of our volunteer musicians. You give of your time and your gifts to enhance our worship. McFarland Lutheran is so blessed to have you.

Christopher Malueg



McFARLAND
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHARE | SHOW | SERVE

Care of Creation

2015-2016 report

Members- Dawn Bolstad, Ginny Dodson, Wes Licht, Barb Voelker

Our team has had another exciting year. We give thanks to Our Lord for making us stewards of his beautiful creation. Every year the prairie and rain gardens increase in diversity both in the flowers and grasses that grace the gardens but also in the insects, birds and animals that use the areas. This year we have seen, for the first time, plants emerge from seeds we planted 3-4 years ago. It's amazing how nature works. This spring, the McFarland Fire Department assisted with burning of the 3 prairies and rain garden. Make sure you take time to see what is in bloom!

All of the plots of the "Garden of Eatin'" community garden have been taken by gardeners that wish to garden organically but have no space to do so. Our group occupies several of the plots and grows produce for the McFarland Food Pantry. Every year we donate hundreds of pounds of produce for the McFarland community. We also donate flowers from the prairie areas. They are greatly appreciated by the patrons. Along with the garden, we also maintain the compost bins and rain barrels. Each summer we manage a "garden market" on Sunday mornings to allow members to donate or use excess garden produce. Any donations from the market are given to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

From the wheat that we grew here years ago, we continue to grind that wheat into flour and use the flour to make the communion wafers for the services of the second weekend of the month. We also assist with the First Communion instruction every year by working with the students to make the wafers for First Communion Sunday.

Last August we held a campfire/sing along and in the fall helped with the pet blessing service.

GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Global Mission Committee seeks to show Christ's love and understanding to others throughout the world. We do this in a number of different ways, with some of our projects described below.

This was the year of our biennial trip to Puerto Rico. 11 youth and 12 adults attended this year's trip, which occurred during Holy Week. The group attended Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services at Reconciliation Church in Puerto Rico. Many of the youth attended a second service on Good Friday. The group served others by making and distributing food and handing out clothes to homeless people, helping congregation members maintain their homes, and performing cleaning and repair around Reconciliation Church. Between a fund raiser by Culver's and donations from our congregation, \$1163 was sent to Reconciliation Church for their food pantry.

Support of ministries in Uganda continued. In September, Bonnie Dirks arranged and performed a concert raising funds to establish an orchard to grow and harvest moringa trees as nutritional supplements. Bonnie's concert raised \$2931 to establish a moringa operation.

Pastor Peter in Uganda began construction of a new church in Sesera (same village where our well is) made from bricks rather than banana leaves. To help finish the building, we had a fund raising campaign and raised \$2624 for a concrete floor, doors and windows. The congregation in Sesera, Uganda is extremely grateful for our support.

As a congregation, we continue to provide mission support to Pastor Brian Palmer in Liberia. Brian teaches at Totota Lay School as well as at the seminary in Gbarnga. He also uses his engineering background to provide technical support for a myriad of projects to help the local community.

In support of the Faith Formation committee and the educational series 'Our Neighbor's Faith', we arranged and coordinated speakers for Islam, Hindu, and Sikh religions.

Other donations included providing some tuition assistance for Taines, (niece of Pastor Phares from Tanzania) and \$500 for St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) in Egypt.

One of the activities we are looking at for the coming year is additional support for refugees. You may begin to help by praying for the 10's of millions of people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes because of armed conflicts. Also a trip to Uganda is being planned in the spring of 2017 and will be open to anyone in our congregation who wishes to go. Watch for more information.

Please consider joining our committee. Current members of the Global Mission committee are Mike Catterall, Bonnie Dirks, Chris Preston, Jane Blank, Ron Vandeberg, Tom Blau as council liaison, and Pastor Kelli Schmidt providing pastoral guidance. Please contact one of these committee members if you wish to get more information or join us.

Submitted by Ron Vandeberg – Global Mission Committee chairman

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The members of the committee are: Ken Brost (Lead Custodian), Dick Kohl, Vicki Holten, Bill Alber, Joe Schwartz (Council Liaison), Diane Wells and Susan Brodd (Chairperson). We begin by thanking all of you for caring for the building and the grounds. We are all caretakers of the McFarland Lutheran Church and working together brings a sense of community that extends around the world.

The size of the church property (inside and out) and the tremendous use of the property and grounds would not be possible without the dedication of the staff at MLC, CLM and the numerous volunteers. Volunteers tend the many flower beds and complete grounds keeping projects. The custodial staff and properties committee members wish to personally thank each and every one of you who helped to set up/take down chairs, mow the lawn, shovel the snow, paint, mulch, open and close the building and maintain the cleanliness of the building. Ken B., Dick K. and Sharon S. continue to care for the building and assist people whenever requested. We believe many congregation members made numerous contributions that go unseen especially in regard to the new renovation taking place in the basement. We wish to thank Pastor Tim and Pastor Kelli and the MLC Church Council and office staff for all their assistance, communication and patience to consistently maintain the grounds and the building. We stayed within the funds budgeted for this fiscal year. All are welcome to join us. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. We do not have a meeting in July nor December. Any person with a concern about the church property, safety issue or wishing to notify us of a potential problem is encouraged to speak with a committee member or a custodial staff person.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Brodd, Chairperson

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The Elizabeth Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. from March through December at members' homes. We have been using the Bible studies found in the "Gather" women's magazine.

Our circle annually sets up and decorates the Christmas tree in the sanctuary using Chrismons made and maintained by circle members. Our 22nd annual December bake sale raised \$1,197 for the McFarland Food Pantry with Thrivent providing an additional \$250 in start-up funds. During this last year, we contributed additional funds to the Food Pantry and also gave funds to the Special Needs Fund here at MLC, the Quilters, the Moringa Uganda Project and Shared Table. We continue to provide food and serve for Shared Table two to three times a year. Recently our Circle has been assisting Frida Bagonza with living expenses while she works toward her master's degree at St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Our circle members are Thelma Allen, Ginny Dodson, Marian Ellis, Carolyn Gehrke, Mary Grell, Heleen Hayden, Gayle Huston, Janet Knutson, Sandy Larson, Donna Leverentz, Iris Othrow, Barbara Porter-Quam, Judi Strauss, Nancy Vick, Barbara Voelker, Carolyn Wendorf, and Anona Zumstein.