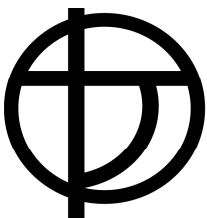


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**McFarland Lutheran Church
Annual Congregation Meeting
Sunday, July 22, 2018
11:15 am**

Agenda

Call to Order

Devotion and Gathering Song

Attendance Check

Old Business

-Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2017 Annual Meeting

New Business

-Call for Congregational Council Nominees

-Reports from Pastors and Staff

-Treasurer's Report including approval of 2018/2019 Budget

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

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Report from the Congregational President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Trying to summarize all the ministries, services, activities and initiatives that our congregation has been involved with over the last year is an extremely daunting task, and for that challenge I can only say, "Thanks be to God"! God has richly blessed our church family, He continues to support and love us, and His promises and His presence give us strength to focus on sharing His word, showing His love, and serving His world.

During 2017, we joyously celebrated the 150th Anniversary of congregation. When we sit in our beautiful sanctuary today, we can only imagine the dedication and faith our ancestors demonstrated back in 1867 when they began meeting for worship in a small primitive cabin! Our 150th Anniversary Committee did a truly excellent job of organizing events, providing us with historical perspectives, and creating commemorative materials. Our worship service on October 31, 2017, on Reformation Sunday, was a special time for us to be "Renewed in Christ to Serve" and to celebrate "150 Years of God's Grace in Action."

And now our challenge is to move forward into the next 150 years! In early 2018, our Council and pastors developed a forward-looking statement titled "Future Directions 2018-2020." This summary reflects our church's continuing mission and vision, and focuses on ways we can move forward to "share, show and serve." We will continue to use our seven faith practices to guide our daily work.

The ministries and activities that are congregation supports are as varied and rich as the gifts given to our members who dedicate their time and talents consistently, generously and with joy. In addition to all our recognized committees and groups, many individuals volunteer to serve basically wherever there is a need and/or an opportunity. This work is done on a local, national and international basis. When a devastating hurricane struck our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico in September 2017, our congregation responded with an outpouring of prayers and donations. Locally, we celebrated the dedication of the Habitat for Humanity house in Fitchburg that we helped construct on March 8, 2018. Our "Shared Table" dinner every Thursday night gives an opportunity to serve our community neighbors.

Perhaps the thing that I find most special about our congregation is how EVERYONE is welcomed, supported and surrounded by God's love. No matter what age or stage of life someone is at or what issues people may be facing, our members lovingly reach out to draw them in and share with them the good news of Christ!

With God's presence and support, let's move forward together to honor and serve Him for the next 150 years!

Your Sister in Christ,

Sharon Mylrea
Congregational President
McFarland Lutheran Church

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee would like to thank all members of the McFarland Lutheran Church for their generous giving of their financial resources this past fiscal year which has enabled us to remain financially secure. We are continually blessed by the generosity of our members in supporting the day to day operations of the Church, but more importantly the activities which enable us to carry out the various missions in sharing God's word, showing God's love and serving God's world. The Finance Committee would also like to thank the members of MLC for the trust placed in the committee members to manage the finances of the Church.

2017/2018 SUMMARY

For the fiscal year just completed (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) total revenue was \$1,299,509. This was \$14,314 less than our budgeted/projected revenue of \$1,313,823.

Actual expenses were \$1,288,031 which were \$25,793 less than our budgeted/projected expenses of \$1,313,824. In addition, actual expenses were less than actual income resulting in a surplus of \$11,478. This income is carried over into the next fiscal year and used, to the extent needed, for July expenses and/or transferred into the building maintenance/repairs savings account for future maintenance projects.

The MLC again contracted with the McFarland School District to provide 4 year old kindergarten classes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The classes were funded entirely by the school district. Total revenue received from the school district was \$105,120 while total expenses to operate the classes were \$87,815 resulting in income of \$17,305 for the Church.

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 that three months of mortgage payment be maintained in reserve.*)

The two mortgages for the remodeled sanctuary totaled \$1,343,032 at the beginning of the fiscal year. The principal balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$1,248,217. Monthly payments for the two mortgages were \$7,226. This reflects the monthly amount saved (\$607) that resulted from re-amortizing our loan the previous FY. However, we continued to make the same monthly payment (\$7,833) as in the past before the reduction, with the \$607 in savings being applied to further reduce the principal amount of our mortgage each month.

Though the Capital Campaign ended (December 2015), some members have chosen, on a regular or periodic basis, to continue to contribute toward the new sanctuary. These contributions are applied each month to further reduce the principal amount of the mortgage. MLC is blessed and thankful for their continued generosity. From July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 the principal was reduced \$54,020 by these additional contributions.

In April, as in the previous FY, we again re-amortized our loan. This resulted in additional savings of \$283 in our monthly mortgage payment, thus reducing our monthly payment to \$6,943. The Finance Committee added this savings to the savings realized last year and applied this combined savings of \$890 to reduce our principal. It is our intent to continue to have these savings, along with any additional member contributions to the capital building fund, applied to reducing our principal in FY 2018-19.

Capital Campaign funds were used to make the principal payments, and the interest payments were made using general revenue budgeted under the Finance Committee.

The building maintenance/repairs savings account started the year at \$92,859. During the year, \$55,488 was added to this account which ended with a balance of \$127,681. Notable expenses incurred during the year included: resealing and striping the parking lots at a cost of \$10,700; and replacement of one of our HVAC units for \$7,980. The Finance Committee wishes to acknowledge and offer special thanks to Diane Wells for her work related to the resealing of our parking lots, Bruce Kimball for his assistance in the procurement of our new HVAC unit and to Ken Brost for overseeing its installation. Further, the Finance Committee wishes to thank all members of the Properties Committee for their assistance with these and other property related projects. In addition, an upgrade to the church sign on Broadhead Street with LED lighting and the new church logo was made possible by a generous donation from an anonymous donor in combination with church funds.

2018/2019 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The proposed 2018/2019 budget is \$1,232,508 for the McFarland Lutheran Church and \$102,230 for the 4 year old kindergarten program for a total budget of \$1,334,738. This budget allows MLC to continue all programs and activities we currently have.

The personnel budget for this year reflects a 3% raise for staff, including the pastors.

Mortgage payments of \$6,943 will be made using a combination of Capital Campaign funds and budgeted revenue. We will continue using the existing Capital Campaign funds to pay the principal of the mortgage payment each month with the interest portion of our monthly payment paid using general revenue budgeted under the Finance Committee. In addition, the \$890 in savings from re-amortization of our mortgage loan will continue to be paid and applied directly to further reduce the principal amount of our mortgage making monthly payment equal to the amount of our payment prior to re-amortization (\$7,833). Any new contributions identified as "Capital Campaign" or Building Fund" will continue, along with the mortgage savings, to be used to further reduce the principal. Should the financial status of the church change such that we could no longer afford to pay the extra amount in savings to reduce the principal, we could reduce the extra amount being paid each month in order to meet our monthly mortgage obligation.

We should be mindful of the fact that one of the two notes of our mortgage is for a 7 year term with an interest rate adjustment to be made in 2021. Thus, it is important that we pay down the principal of this note as much as possible before that rate adjustment goes into effect.

A new line item for technology consultant/support in the amount of \$6,000 has been added under Information Technology. For many years Dennis Knutson has provided this IT support. He will be reducing his time at being able to provide this support in the future. We wish to thank Dennis for all the time and work he has devoted over the years to troubleshooting, maintaining and upgrading the church's computers and infrastructure. Consequently, funds have been included in the budget for any IT consultation/support that may be needed to maintain the efficiency of our computer network and infrastructure technology.

It is anticipated that funds from the building maintenance/repair savings account will be used to repair and replace a section of the roof in an effort to remedy the leaking that occurs in the winter, upgrade CLM lavatories, and replace the carpeting in the Gathering space/narthex and hallway. This account will also be used for any large unexpected expenses that may occur during the year. To the extent funds are available during the 2018/2019 fiscal year, additional money will be deposited into this savings account for future fiscal year projects. Future projects include, among other things, replacing the kitchen flooring and replacing the carpet in the Family Life Center.

An Information Technology infrastructure/server upgrade for an estimated cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000 is also planned to occur in FY 2018-19. This upgrade will be paid using existing funds from our savings account specifically designated for this purpose.

The Finance Committee would like to thank the many committees and ministry teams of McFarland Lutheran Church for their work in putting together next fiscal year's budget. Their thoughtful deliberations and considerations helped to make possible another balanced budget for next fiscal year. Special thanks to Diane Wells and the Properties Committee, and Sara Phelan and Deb Nygaard of Child Life Ministries.

On a personal note I'd like to thank Finance Committee members for their assistance and encouragement this past year. I would especially like to thank Rita Jenkins for all that she does related to finances in ensuring the smooth operation of our church, and for me personally for her continued tutelage about church finances. I would also like to thank Pastor Tim for his guidance and support, as well as that of the Church Council this past year.

Brent Odell

MLC Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

Committee Members: Mike Devine; Jeff Gehrke; Cheryl Scharine; Tom Wellman; Pastor Tim Dean (ex-officio); and Rita Jenkins (ex-officio)

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**Minutes of the MLC Annual Congregational Meeting
July 23, 2017, 9 a.m.
McFarland Lutheran Church Family Life Center**



Meeting called to order at 9:03 by Joe Schwartz, Pres.

Devotion: Pastor Kelli lead us in devotion and prayer..

Gathering Song: "We Are All One in Mission"

Attendance Check: 86 members were in attendance, Quorum verified

Old Business:

**Approve Minutes from July 24, 2016 Annual Meeting. Motion to approve: Bruce Kimball,
Seconded: Jeff Gehrke. Motion passed**

New Business:

Call for congregational nominees for Church Council:

Pres. Joe Schwartz brought forward 4 names from the Nominating Committee for Church Council (3-year terms): Todd Bolstad, Pete Ellestad, Cheryl Brown, Mary Grell. Nominations from the floor: none.

**Motion moved to approve new council members by Jane Licht, seconded by Ernie Thieding.
Motion passed.**

Reports from Pastors and Staff:

Pastor Tim: It has been a tremendous year! Thanks to Pastor Kelli for her devotion and prayer, reminding us of the Holy Spirit's energy, momentum and gifts. Anniversary year update and summary of celebrations thus far, details are in annual report. Bishop Mary Froiland will be with us on Oct 29th along with former pastors from this congregation to continue our celebration of 150 years. He acknowledged the Anniversary Task Force for their hard work and dedication to make this year's celebrations so amazing. A generous donation from members of congregation will go toward new artwork for our south wall (facing Broadhead Street). A stainless steel cross, with stained-glass pieces, will be mounted on that wall. Acknowledged the staff, church council, committee chairs, congregation members for their dedication, generosity, and work they give MLC.

Pastor Kelli: Expressed her appreciation for the staff and their hard work and willingness to have fun. Our Health and Wellness and Global Mission Committees created 9 welcome boxes to support the synod's Refugee Resettlement ministry and updated our flags on the back wall of the Family Life Center to include Tanzania, Uganda, Egypt, and Puerto Rico. Sunday School involved over 100 kids and 30 leaders, and VBS included members and non-members. The Holy Spirit moves through this congregation and allows us to do wonderful things. Thankful for MLC staff. Pastor Kelli and Mike are so grateful for the congregation for their love, support and care for Theo.

Huldah Ellestad: Wonderful year with wonderful new members who have become a vital part of our faith community. Befrienders is quiet and behind the scenes but is a very active ministry that reaches out to our community. Betty Showers will be having a befrienders training this fall, but this

can also be used as a refresher. Faith Formation provides many opportunities throughout the building and will continue this upcoming year. All are encouraged to join.

Chris Landerud: The remodeled basement space is an extreme blessing to accommodate all of our programs. Basement has remained DRY!!! Thankful for all of the youth ministries and adults who help support them. High school and middle school camps as well as VBS went well.

Deb Nygaard: Thank you to congregation for your support of CLM ministries. Thank you to the council for asking for input on CLM on its current mission and future planning. We are installing safety doors in the hallways. They will be locked during the day and can be entered using a keypad.

Chris Malueg: Staff is amazing. We work hard but have a lot of fun. We are blessed with amazing musicians in our congregation. He encourages all to join our music ministries!

Treasurer's Report including approval of 2017/2018 Budget

Joe Schwartz thanked Brent Odell for his hard work and the laughter that he provided this year on council as our treasurer. Tom Wellman from the Finance Committee is presenting the Treasurer's Report for Brent Odell, who is out of town with his family.

Tom Wellman: it was a very good year for the church. We had excess revenue so we are in the black. We have an operating reserve of \$150,000. We have \$30,000 in our mortgage reserve. We have not had to touch either of those reserve funds. We also have a line of credit should we need it. We renew that every year. Capital Campaign ended but some members have continued to make donations. We reduced the mortgage principal by \$75,000 in January. This allowed us to reamortize the mortgage loan. We will continue to make mortgage payments at the previous amount, so that we can reduce the principal balance as quickly as possible.

Congregation member question: Where can I find the basic upkeep numbers for the facility?

Answer: Under Property Committee section of the budget.

Motion to approve the proposed 2017-2018 budget was made by Sheri Gehrke, seconded by Dave Nelson. Motion passed.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Tim and Pastor Kelli acknowledged and gave thanks to outgoing members: Joe Schwartz (Pres.), Carol Munch (VP), Brent Odell (absent), Dave Nelson. We appreciate their voice and talents offered during their time on council. Pastor Tim closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:55 by Jeff Gehrke, seconded by Carol Munch. Motion passed

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Tiffany Kvalheim, Sec.

Senior Pastor Annual Report 2018

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
(Romans 15:13)

“Blessings abound!” You probably have heard this phrase spoken many times by Len Lane; it’s one of his trademark sayings! It’s a saying that comes to my mind as I think about our life and ministry together at MLC over the past year. Blessings abound through our ministries of worship, learning, serving and giving. Blessings abound, as God gives each of us gifts for ministry, and as we share them for the sake of our common mission. Blessings abound at MLC!

In this verse from Romans, Paul connects the abundance of blessings to the power of the Holy Spirit. I see this day in and day out in our faith community. The Spirit is at work in us and in our shared ministries, so that we and others may have hope. I give thanks for how the Spirit moves in our faith community, directs and empowers our ministries, and gives us the message of Christ’s love.

I will be naming some of these abundant blessings that I see here as your Senior Pastor. But as with anything involving the Spirit, it is impossible to name all the blessings. Better just to say, “Blessings abound! Thanks be to God!”

Blessings of Joy from the Past Year

Probably the biggest blessing was our 150th Anniversary Celebration on Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2017. Bishop Mary Froiland, in her sermon that day, quipped that with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, “the whole world is celebrating your anniversary at McFarland Lutheran Church!” It was a joy and privilege to preside at this celebration, and to enjoy the brunch and program that followed in the Family Life Center. With all of the ups and downs throughout the congregation’s history, we have been sustained by God’s merciful presence and guided by God’s steadfast love.

I am so grateful for the 150th Anniversary Task Force, and all of their dedicated efforts throughout the anniversary year: Sheri Gehrke, Ron Larson, Renee Rodeck, Gudrun Sindermann, Donna Thompson, Ron Vandenberg, and Keith Voelker. Not only did we plan and lead many activities throughout 2017, but we worked cooperatively together, with a wonderful communal spirit. I want to give a special thank-you for the work of our historian, Ron Larson, who wrote, edited and updated our congregational history. I hope you have had a chance to read it! Because of Ron’s work, we also dedicated a new archives area for our congregation, which is located in the corner of the Adult Education room (113).

Another blessing of the past year was our ministry with the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build in Fitchburg. We partnered with 5 other congregations (1 other ELCA, 1 Missouri Synod Lutheran, and 3 United Methodist) and with the home-owner, Rosario Odegard. We blessed her home in March 2018, and she was scheduled to move in May. Thank you to Ron Vandenberg, who coordinated our participation. We have another opportunity to work with Habitat in November, in a trip coordinated by new member Roger Marty. I hope we will continue to partner with Habitat in the future—it has a wonderful mission to provide affordable housing for all people!

Our faith formation ministries from Sunday School to the Face Time parenting group to adult study classes continue to go well. I enjoy the preparation and ministry of teaching, primarily with adults but also occasionally with the confirmation class. Over the past year, I was able to teach classes on Luther and the Reformation, Isaiah, and different ways to pray during Lent.

The Holy Spirit infuses new life into our community with new members. Since the last Annual Meeting in July 2017, we have received 50 new members into our community! This does not include the new members we have received through Holy Baptism. What a tremendous blessing to have the gifts, perspectives and experiences of new members at MLC! The Welcome Committee has started a follow-up event for recent new members, inviting them to a breakfast and conversation about how to become better connected to various ministries in the congregation. The committee hopes to do this 1-2 times every year to encourage new members to get more deeply involved in our life together.

I also give thanks that we are a diverse community, grounded in the steadfast love of God in Christ. Because of this grounding in the life, death and resurrection of Christ, we can raise and have discussions about any topic, even ones which are potentially divisive. In November, Church Council sponsored open, respectful, honest conversations about same-gender marriage at MLC. I am grateful for these open forum times, as well as individual conversations with a number of members. There was a lot of listening taking place, and respectful discernment and conversation, even when we didn't agree on every point!

After these listening sessions, Church Council unanimously approved a statement that trusts our called pastors to make decisions about whom they will marry as part of a Christian worship service. While acknowledging diverse convictions about same-gender marriage, Pastor Kelli and I are moving forward to include couples of the same gender to receive our pastoral care and blessing as they enter into a lifelong, monogamous and faithful covenant.

Some of our members may not agree with this direction, but we continue to have our door open for respectful conversation and dialogue around the topic of what our faith says about human sexuality. I am thankful that we as a faith community can agree and disagree in Christ's love, and remain united in our mission to share, show and serve in Christ's name.

Blessings of Hope for the Year Ahead

In January 2018, the Church Council had its annual retreat, focusing on long-range planning. First of all, the council affirmed that there is good energy in our congregation and ministries right now, and we identified that the key is maintaining momentum. God's blessings are abundant and life-giving in our midst!

Secondly, following the retreat, the council unanimously approved a document called "Future Directions 2018-2020." This document has been published in our newsletter and placed on our website. Please check it out!

Two short-term initiatives were identified: a) convene discussions with congregational members, staff and families about what "growth" looks like for our preschool, Child Life Ministries (CLM), and b) develop some strategies for identifying, cultivating and inviting people to become more active in our life and ministries. The council has already set up a task force for each of these initiatives, and we will be communicating some directions in the months to come.

In addition, the “Future Directions” document named some long-term initiatives. The one that grabbed my heart and mind is: “determine the next community impact effort, continuing to take ministry outside of the church walls.” My vision is to take the hope we have in Christ and extend into the wider community through acts of service and compassion. We did this in 2017 with the Habitat Faith Build, and we will be doing it in September through the Walk for Water, led by our Global Mission Committee, to raise money to support a new well for clean water in Uganda. I give thanks that the Spirit leads our congregation to venture “outside the walls” in different ways to care for neighbors local and across the globe.

One of our wider-church partners that does this is Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Every year we send part of our offerings to support the mission of LSS. **I am excited to announce that the new president and CEO of LSS, Hector Colon, will be our keynote speaker at our Stewardship Celebration Lunch on Sunday, Nov. 4, 11:15 a.m., in the Family Life Center.** Mark your calendars! I heard Hector address our synod assembly in May, and he is a dynamic, engaging speaker!

This coming year I would like to resurrect an idea from a couple years ago to create an outdoor worship space on our property. We have received a generous gift to support this kind of space. I envision this to be a place where groups can gather for campfire sing-alongs, pet blessings, or a simple prayer service under the stars. I don’t yet have specifics, but would like to work with the Care of Creation Team to design something over the next year. God has blessed us with beautiful spaces for gardens and restored prairies, and I think it would be lovely to have something outside where we can gather to praise the God who has created the universe.

Blessings of Faith Within Community

God blesses us with peace, joy and faith through people and community. I am so grateful that we have a gifted, hard-working and reliable staff through whom God works to empower our mission! Our CLM preschool ministry is going strongly under the leadership of Administrator Sara Phelan. Sara has a welcoming presence for new families as well as staff, and does a great job making sure all the “CLM bases” are covered for each program. The programs are at capacity! This August will mark Sara’s 20th anniversary on our CLM staff—thanks be to God! In addition, I am thankful for Program Director Deb Nygaard, and her continuing support and love for CLM and its outreach to families and children. We are blessed by all the CLM teachers and their dedication to this ministry!

Our Director of Music, Chris Malueg, leads our singing and music ministries throughout the year. I have enjoyed planning our 150th Anniversary worship with him, and am grateful for his passion for congregational singing and cultivating the musical gifts of congregational members. We have had a steady presence on the organ and piano with Jeffery Rowley over the last three years. I appreciate his ability to work with our diverse styles of worship and music.

Chris Landerud, our Youth Ministries Coordinator, has just reached his 7-year milestone on staff. Chris builds strong, Christ-centered relationships with our confirmation and high school youth, and is skilled at organizing many ministries of outreach, fellowship and service. It is a gift to serve alongside him!

I also am honored to serve alongside Huldah Ellestad, our Lay Ministry and Adult Education Coordinator. Huldah coordinates many ministries, including our Sunday morning adult faith formation class, new member classes, and the work of Befrienders. Huldah brings a calm, faithful and grounded presence to all dimensions of her ministry!

The anchor of our office is Rita Jenkins, Office Manager, who has served on our staff for 28 years! She continues to be a reliable and trustworthy keeper of our financial records as well as custodian of office activities. Rita keeps the office humming! Parker Vander Ploeg served as Administrative Assistant this past year, and unfortunately (for us!) resigned on June 1, 2018, because of a move with her family to South Carolina. Thankfully, we have hired Carrie Kruzan to this position. Carrie has good skills with bulletin and newsletter design, communications, and an understanding of how Lutheran churches operate.

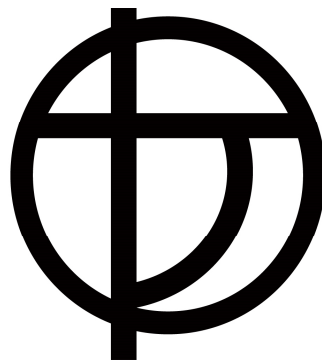
We continue to be blessed by the hard work of Ken Brost as our Lead Custodian. Ken is a willing helper for many ministries around here, and I appreciate the spirit and joy he brings to his tasks. I am thankful for Dick Kohl, who has been serving as Part-time Custodian for 19 years! Thanks also go to Sharon Strattan for all her work as Part-time Custodian for MLC and CLM!

What a blessing to share the pastoral office with Pastor Kelli Schmit! Her gifts of Word and Sacrament bring light and life to our work together, and I appreciate the gifts of organization, planning and faithfulness she brings to the ministries she leads. We have a healthy, supportive and collaborative relationship—and for that I give daily thanks to God!

I believe that one of the reasons our faith community is thriving right now is that we have a good balance between staff leadership and lay leadership. Thanks be to God, for the leadership of our council officers: Sharon Mylrea, president; Diane Wells, vice president; Tiffany Kvalheim, secretary; and Brent Odell, appointed treasurer (appoint him for life???). All of these council officers hold the mission and health of our congregation and staff in their prayers and in their minds and hearts. I cannot fully express my gratitude for the ways they serve and lead!

In addition, I give thanks for our council members ending their terms: Norma Kohl, Tiffany Kvalheim and Lee Thorson. Jeff Gehrke was appointed to finish the term of John Berg, who needed to step down because of commitments at work. Fortunately, we will have Jeff back for another year, since he is willing to be elected to finish Randall Hansen's term on council. Thank you, Jeff, for being our "relief pitcher" on council! Thank you to all who have served on council and provided steady leadership over the past year!

Finally, thank you to all our faithful members who serve, give, worship, lead, teach and mentor in the name of Christ here. I am blessed to serve as your Senior Pastor, and alongside of you in the ministry together. May the abundant blessings of faith and hope remain with you and empower your serving and witness in the year ahead! Blessings do abound at MLC! Thanks be to God!



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Associate Pastor

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.”

(Romans 12:4-8 NRSV)

The Body of Christ is a wonderful and helpful image when thinking about the Christian community and our role in that mission. The members of the Body of Christ are interconnected. Each is reliant on one another. The Body of Christ is not whole or complete if a member of the Body is disconnected – we’re not complete without all the other members. And together we are the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in the world.

I have said it before and I will say it again: McFarland Lutheran Church is engaged in an incredible amount of activities and ministries! But MLC is not just me or just the staff. MLC is everyone – all members of this portion of the Body of Christ – participating in the life of God’s kingdom. No one person has to do *everything* because not all members have the same function. We are beloved individual children of God, but together we are the Body of Christ.

What Members of the Body of Christ Have Done This Year

The members whose function it is to work with our youngest disciples had another busy year! The **Family and Children’s Ministry Committee** hosted VBS last summer and welcomed around 50 kids and 25 helpers. The kids also collected non-perishable items for the McFarland Community Food Pantry that aren’t covered by food stamps. (VBS 2018 is June 24-28) These members also welcomed over 100 kids to the Sunday School program, along with over 30 leaders. The 11th Annual Pumpkin Fest was a great success again this year with over 250+ people stopping by to play games, get their face painted, and to carve a pumpkin. (Pumpkin Fest 2018 is October 27) These ministries would not be what they are if it weren’t for the wonderful kids and incredible leaders willing to give their time to the young people in our congregation.

The members of the **Health and Social Wellness Committee** worked on a number of projects this year. We shared information on a variety of topics, such as Hunting Safety, Colon Cancer, and Human Trafficking. At the end of 2017 we partnered with the McFarland Police Department and the McFarland Community Food Pantry. We supported the police department’s Shop with a Cop program and participated in the food pantry’s Giving Tree outreach. MLC continues to be incredibly generous; we ran out of tags (listing an age and requested gift) again this year! At time of printing, we are wrapping up a drive supporting a Lutheran Social Services ministry called Off the Square Club, which is a day center for those people who have mental illnesses and/or are homeless.

The portion of the Body of Christ that is our **Global Mission Committee** had an exciting year. For a more complete account, please see Ron Vandenberg’s incredible report. In December we hosted the annual Bake Sale with the proceeds being divided between the McFarland Community Food Pantry and the food pantry associated with our sister congregation, Reconciliation Lutheran Church, in Puerto Rico. (Bake Sale December 9, 2018) We also have a number of exciting events coming up. Pastor Kirsten Fryer, serving in Cairo, Egypt, will be preaching and leading the Adult Faith Formation class on Sunday, July 15. Tom Eggum, founder of Hope4Kids, will be visiting and preaching on September 15 & 16. The following weekend, September 22, we are hosting a 3-mile walk to raise funds for another clean water well in Uganda. In early November, our very own Roger

Marty is leading a Habitat for Humanity trip to Louisiana. We are also planning a trip to Uganda in Spring 2019 and looking into how we can remain connected to our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico.

I was blessed to celebrate various **faith milestones** with a number of members of the Body of Christ. I had the privilege of sharing Bibles with nine three-year-olds and eleven of our third graders. I was also able to spend a morning with 24 second graders and their families to talk about communion and to make wafers with the Care of Creation team. It is an honor to participate in these milestones every year.

Each member of the **staff** has their own area of expertise and together we have a lot of fun. The love of God, the love for MLC's mission, and the love for collaboration and laughter is the undercurrent running through the office hallway. I am continually amazed by how much this staff takes on and how much they are able to accomplish. When their efforts are joined with that of the congregation's leaders – watch out, because anything is possible! I could not be more appreciative of or impressed by our staff. And as each part of the Body of Christ has a different function, the pastoral office has unique responsibilities and blessings. I continue to be thankful to share these particularities with Pastor Tim. The power of the gospel combined with his dedication to MLC's members continues to shape his leadership and vision for this congregation. Our positive working relationship, mutual respect, and open communication style support our ministry together.

What Members of the Body of Christ are Looking Forward to Doing

The mission of the Body of Christ isn't only seen in the rearview mirror. I am looking forward to a number of things, in addition to those already mentioned. I was asked if I would be interested in leading the **Adult Faith Formation** class a few Sundays in the summer, to which I gave a resounding "Yes!" In June we will see what Jesus is up to when he visits those he loves after his resurrection.

Pastor Tim and I are adjusting how we approach baptismal preparation. Instead of one-on-one meetings with families, we will be hosting quarterly classes for those interested in baptism. Not only will this help with a number of practical logistics, it will have the opportunity for families to connect with one another. Save the Date: the first **Baptismal Preparation Class** is Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30pm. Childcare will be provided.

A few lay leaders and I are starting a new ministry for people in their **20s/30s/40s**. Our kick-off event will be a Madison Mallard's game on Saturday, July 28. We're also looking into a two-part book club for women in the fall. We have a number of other ideas so stay tuned for future events!

I have been graced by and entrusted with conversations around life with a new baby. This has happened with members of MLC and non-members in the larger community. Recognizing there is a need for new parents to talk about all aspects of life with a baby (the good, the bad, and the cuddly), I am hosting a **Baby Group** during the Sundays in July and August. This is a trial experience and the ministry will take shape as I learn what parents are wanting. We will meet in the Family Life Center from 9:15-9:45am with no agenda other than mutual support and comradery.

The Body of Christ is busy responding to where the Spirit is leading. I am excited to see how God shapes the ministries in which we are engaged and what new opportunities are yet to be revealed. Thanks be to God for the many members and their varied expertise and interests!

God's Blessings,
Pastor Kelli

Coordinator of Lay Ministry & Adult Education

Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. John 12:26 NLT

Jesus' call is for *anyone*. No matter the ethnicity, race, or economic status, the invitation to serve the Lord is extended to all. In this congregation we answer the call to - be where Christ is leading - in a myriad of ways.

Together, we follow Jesus through the Befriender ministry; by seeking to grow in Faith Formation; as New Members become a part of the faith community; utilizing and serving in the Nursery, preparing, serving and enjoying wonderful of the Hospitality ministry, selecting new areas to serve through Time & Talent, delivering Home Communion, purchasing Fair Trade products, crafting and gifting Prayer Shawls and baby blankets; donating to and using the MLC library. These areas are only a sampling of the many ways this congregation serves both inside and outside MLC walls.

The Befrienders engaged in relationships of all kinds this past year. Befrienders Ministry continues to be an important bridge between this congregation and the wider community; as well as a relationship builder between members. Befrienders have provided transportation, meals, light housekeeping, yard work, companionship and caring support many times over the last 12 months.

A variety of formats and topics has been offered in Faith Formation for Adults this past year. The Faith Formation committee is dedicated to fostering an atmosphere where spiritual growth can happen. A heartfelt thankyou to Karen Emerson, Sheri Gehrke, Judi Strauss and Lee Thorson! Anyone who made their way downstairs to room 113 between worship services experienced such topics as: Luther's writings, book of Isaiah, Many Ways to Pray, the DVD Clash of Kingdoms (Paul's efforts to spread the good news of Jesus Christ), and other topics. All led by excellent guest presenters as well as our own pastors and knowledgeable lay leaders.

Looking ahead to this summer, presenters will include Pastor Kelli, seminary student – Halle Siebert, Pastor Kirsten Fryer, and weather authority - Bob Lindmeier. You may find dates and times of these notable offerings in the bulletin insert, the announcement slides before worship, the bulletin board in the central hallway, and on the poster boards around the building. All of these offerings are open to everyone on a drop-in, "come as you are able" basis – with no prior knowledge needed.

I hope you will join with me in giving thanks to God for the 52 (approx.) people who have become part of the McFarland Lutheran faith community this past year (July to July). We welcome their unique gifts and companionship on the Journey of faith.

I am connected, in a small way, to many MLC programs and ministries. Through that connection, I am blessed to be a witness as you faithfully emulate Christ. Your prayers and Spirit driven actions are what make these ministries thrive and grow. Befrienders, New Member Sponsors, Faith Formation for adults, the many Time & Talent offerings, Fair Trade, prayer shawls and baby blankets, the nursery, CLM children's worship, hospitality, and the Library, are only possible because of your willingness to serve, follow, and obey, Jesus our Savior.

Thanks be to God,
Huldah Ellestad

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Youth Ministries: Annual Report 2018

‘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. As a community, 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 takes place in 7th & 8th grade. Confirmation prepares individuals to willingly be received as members.

Highlights of the Confirmation Program over the past year include:

- Sunday classes led by Chris Landerud, Pastor Tim, and Pastor Kelli
- Wednesday events that include hands-on classes, projects, and games
- Advent & Lenten Wednesday worship sermon participation and worship assistants (ushers, communion assistants, AV operators, and lectors)
- Winter Break & Summer Break ‘Faith Talks’ with confirmation students
- Shared Table Hosts & Triangle Ministry Meal Hosts
- Crossways Pine Lake Summer Confirmation Camp (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; 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
- HS Summer Festival Gathering (Gustavus Adolphus College – St. Peter, MN)
- Volunteer leaders for Vacation Bible School
- Youth participation in the 2nd Annual MLC Talent Show
- Hosting our Puerto Rico Breakfast Fundraiser
- Students supported the Christmas bake sale by making lefse & rømmegrøt
- Students serve as worship assistants and operate the AV equipment
- Cascade Mountain Trip in partnership with Christ the King Church
- Social outing including: dinners, bowling, and movies
- Baccalaureate Service in partnership with Christ the King Church & UCC
- Youth Group fall kick-off campfire event

The Holy Spirit continues to guide and lead our students and families here at MLC. As we look ahead to a new programmatic year, we will be enhancing existing traditions and launching new programs in attempt to inspire and grow our faith through this journey together. We give thanks for all God has provided us with, and we continue to follow Jesus through worship, word, and service.

<>< Chris Landerud

Director of Music Ministry

“Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul, it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.”

“My heart, which is so full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary”

“As long as we live, there is never enough singing.”

These are the words of Martin Luther. Their far-reaching significance will be true now and forever. There will always be music. And McFarland Lutheran Church is full of music. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who share their gifts with us each Sunday we share in a vibrant and broad musical experience. To all of them I say “Thank You!” We are blessed with incredibly talented and dedicated musicians. They are an incredible group of people. You all make my job so much easier!

Here is a breakdown of the musical elements at McFarland Lutheran Church:

- McFarland Lutheran Choir
- McFarland Lutheran Bell Choir
- Worship Band
- Saturday Evening Cantors
- Sunday School Children’s Choir
- McFarland Lutheran Wind Ensemble
- Polka Band
- Summer Special Music

Some of these groups provide music every Sunday. Some perform at annual events. Some provide music at various times throughout the year. Musicians range in age from 3 years old to 90. Their gifts are a blessing.

There are many musical events that happen throughout the year. Our Advent Concert, held during our 10 am service, continues to grow with the inclusion of several musical ensembles and music performed in a blended style. Our Polka Service continues to grow as well, including additional performers and new pieces.

We celebrated our 2nd Annual McFarland Lutheran Talent Showcase this year. We saw some familiar faces and some new ones. There were over 40 performers and 20 + acts! It was a beautiful array of varied performances that truly struck at the heart of the wonderful and talented people here at McFarland Lutheran Church! Thank you all for sharing your talent and imagination with us! (And Pastor Tim for being such a good sport!)

Unless we have proper sound and visuals, much of our work would not be heard, or seen. “Thank You” to our dedicated team of soundboard operators and power point presenters. They are the unseen engineers behind our musical amplification and power point presentations. Each of them has put in extra time learning how to operate our AV equipment. Thank you for being there each Saturday and Sunday.

Our 5 pm Saturday evening service now has a regular group of cantors. Each of them give up a few hours Saturday afternoons to provide musical leadership during this service. Thank you for your time, talent, and dedication to leading us in song.

There are many opportunities to become involved in music at MLC and I encourage you to find a way to participate. I try to make that as easy as possible. I continue to employ a revolving door policy with the MLC Choir. Many members have conflicts and are absent from rehearsals and performances. But they soon are back again with us as we continue to learn music and perform every other Sunday. I encourage you to join us even if you have conflicts. Singing in a choir is a wonderful way to take part in the service and the musical life here at MLC. Rehearsal begins after Labor Day, every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. We had several new singers join us for special events this past winter and spring and I hope to see them again, and many new people, this fall!

McFarland Lutheran Church should be very proud of its volunteer musicians and generous use of differing musical styles. Each of our services offers a unique musical “flavor” for worship. We are very blessed to have these wonderful musicians to help lead our singing or provide a song, an anthem or hymn for meditation.

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” Martin Luther

Christopher Malueg
Director of Music

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

Child Life Ministries

Greetings from Child Life Ministries! We have been blessed with another wonderful year at CLM full of smiles, singing and learning through play! It's been a FUN filled year! The success of Child Life Ministries is because of the support of our programs from the church community and the staff!

-The CLM teaching staff is a dedicated and passionate teaching team! We are truly BLESSED with some amazing teachers! A huge thank you to: Kelli Breuer, Madeline Bovre, Chris Cole, Beth Miller, Deb Nygaard, Jessica Roth, Katie Schaaf, Rachel Scott, Jean Stube, Kate Molenaar, Skyler Asche, Jessica Moen, Vicki Radloff and Jane Updike for all the work they do each and every day for the children and families of this community!

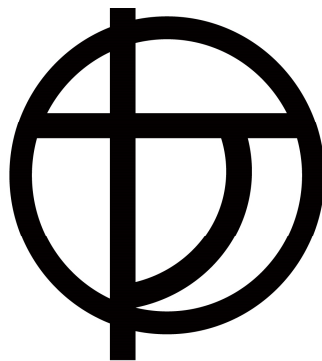
-We couldn't do it without the continued support of the MLC staff! They help support CLM in so many ways from leading worship to cleaning off all those tiny little finger prints. (Just to name a couple!)

-With the support of the congregation a total of 5 children were able to attend our programs with partial Tuition Assistance. We also were able to give 1 family a full scholarship for the second half of the school year from the Jack Heckel Memorial Fund. A big thank you to the congregation and the generosity of donations available from Thrivent Financial!

-Others who support CLM is the CLM committee. Their volunteered time and devotion helped with another successful year! We also want to thank all the other committees who serve CLM in so many ways!

I am excited to share that enrollment for all preschool programs including Rainbow South and Rainbow North were all filled this past year! Our rosters for fall are already packed too! God is good!

Blessings,
Sara Phelan



SHARE
GOD'S WORD

SHOW
GOD'S LOVE

SERVE
GOD'S WORLD

GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Global Mission Committee seeks to show Christ's love and understanding to others throughout the world. Our activities are only possible because the Holy Spirit is working in all of you to share the many gifts we have all been given. Sometimes - especially this year - we do not end up where we originally planned, but rather the spirit led us in new directions. Some details and highlights of our activities are described below.

Completing a transition that started last year, Global Mission was the prime coordinator of the annual bake sale in December. Many from the congregation, especially members of Elizabeth Circle, baked goods to be sold. Approximately \$1400 was raised, with half of the proceeds going to the McFarland food pantry and half going to Puerto Rico for hurricane recovery efforts.

As a direct result of the hurricanes that devastated Puerto Rico, our mission trip planned in March was cancelled. In early December we had to decide whether or not to go. At that time much of the island did not have electricity, the camp where we stayed in the past was not habitable, communications were difficult at best, and even though the need for aid was great it was not clear that our presence would actually help or just be a hindrance. Even though we did not have the mission trip, we did not abandon the Puerto Rico ministry.

In January we raised about \$2600 by hosting a breakfast with proceeds going to P.R. relief efforts. Some congregational members have continued to give donations for P.R. hurricane relief. To date we have sent about \$16K to Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Reconciliación in Levitton, P.R. for their use in benefiting the local community as they see best meets the need of the people, and about \$10K is available to send as needs arise.

As a congregation, we continued our mission support for Pastor Kirsten Fryer working at St. Andrews Refuge Services (StARS) in Cairo, Egypt. StARS support refugees from the Middle East and northern Africa with everything from basic schooling to legal aid. Pastor Kirsten will be at MLC on July 15, both preaching and leading the Faith Formation hour.

Support of our ministries in Uganda continued. Bonnie Dirks visited Uganda in October, touching base with Hope-4-Kids and teachers they support, Smile Africa, and the Moringa expansion project. \$500 from our budget was given to Pastor Obbo and Pastor Sabiit to expand the Moringa growing and harvesting operation in a successful effort to improve nutrition of the people. The group that visited Uganda in 2017 presented twice during Faith Formation hour.

Some congregation members provided tuition assistance for Frida Bagonza (wife of Bishop Bagonza) from Tanzania, who received her Master's Degree in May 2018 in Finance from St. Teresa College in St. Paul.

There was not a call to support refugee resettlement in our area this year, and given the low number of refugees being allowed into our country it is unknown whether there will be a need in the coming year.

Major activities planned for the coming year include a Habitat /Thrivent mission trip to Louisiana in November 2018 (contact Roger Marty), Tom Eggum from Hope-4-Kids visiting in Sept. 2018 (contact Bonnie Dirks), a Walk-4-Water in Sept 2018 to raise money for a well in Uganda (contact Kallan Swenson), and a mission trip to Uganda in April 2019 (contact Bonnie Dirks). The possibility of a mission trip to Puerto Rico is also being investigated by Mike Catterall and Chris Landerud. And of course we will have the annual bake sale in December to support the food pantry and another cause.

Current members of the Global Mission committee are Jane Blank, Mike Catterall, Wayne Corey, Bonnie Dirks, Pete Ellestad as council liaison, Beth Gilpin, Randy Hansen, Roger Marty, Janine O'Rourke, Pastor Kelli Schmit providing pastoral guidance, Kallan Swenson and Ron Vandeberg. We typically meet the 2nd Monday of each month.

Please consider joining us - the more hearts, hands and ideas, the better.

Submitted by Ron Vandeberg – Global Mission Committee chairman



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