



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

## **McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

March 28, 2023

**Present:** Pastor Naomi Garber, Pastor Kelli Smidt, Wayne Corey, Jon Schadeberg, Doug Buechel, Katherine Miller, Paul Hundt, Scott Potts, Jane Licht, Carri Wolff, Carol Quinlan, Christina Hughey, Sharon Mylrea

**Absent (excused):** Sarah Schutt

**Call to order.** President Scott Potts called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

**Devotions.** Doug read a prayer asking God's help for us to work as a team.

**Minutes.** Wayne moved and Paul seconded a motion to approve the February 28 minutes. Motion carried.

**Pastors' Reports.** Pastor Naomi explained that the final version of the church constitution and bylaws should have the approval by the congregation on November 13 and the words revised by Pastor Wendy Moen on December 6 on the front cover. All other editions should be discarded. The next Monday evening classes will be the popular TV show "The Chosen" seasons one, two and three. This coming week is Holy Week with Sunday being the Palm Passion, then Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Pastor Naomi has been making lots of phone calls. She responded to a question about how the constitution and bylaws were handled and explained that they are numbered differently in this most recent version. Pastor Kelli said that the Lenten services on Wednesdays with the theme of "Writing Our Story Through the Cross," have been a great series. This week the semicolon is highlighted and both pastors will give the sermon (but it will remain the usual length). About 50 people participated in the Lenten and Easter Fair doing various seasonal activities. Pastor Kelli will officiate at Donna Leverentz's funeral and has uncovered interesting facts about this feisty lady. Her visitation is Palm Sunday between 1 pm and 3 pm with a service at 3 pm and lunch to follow.

**Finance Report.** Katherine reported that our regular checking account is about \$150,000 which is good and the other account has just under \$600,000. We are \$57,000 shy of our pledged income but we have collected more in pledges at this time than in 2021 and 2022. The 9.3% increase in fuel costs is really taking its toll on the Properties budget. The Committee proposes that we create a focused approach to giving. When people wish to present special donations to the church they may choose from the following areas:

- (1) Building fund/Debt reduction
- (2) Property and grounds
- (3) Undesignated
- (4) Youth Ministry
- (5) CLM tuition
- (6) CLM van replacement
- (7) Scholarships (Luther College Seminary)
- (8) Technology
- (9) Mission
- (10) Worship ministry
- (11) Reducing carbon footprint

The above categories are for all new memorials and bequests. If an individual chooses the undesignated category, Rita will track each donation separately. Letters will be sent to all individuals who choose the undesignated category each March. The letter will encourage the use of one of the other categories and if there is no response by May 15, the Finance Committee will make the determination on their behalf. The Treasurer's report for the annual meeting will provide a list of individuals remembered via memorial or bequest. Additionally, each July a letter will be sent to all individuals who contributed during the year. The letter will discuss what was purchased and/or accomplished with the funds.

The 2023-24 budget process. It is expected that all committees will present their proposed budgets by April 1<sup>st</sup>. So far, all budgets are equal or less than prior year's budget. The Properties Committee projects are on hold for now. Paul moved and Carri seconded a motion to approve the Finance Committee report. Motion carried.

**Local Missions:** Pastor Kelli reported that 19 people from our church packed food bags at Good Sheppard Lutheran this month as part of the Feed My starving Children program.

**Call Committee.** Wayne said that the committee completed their report and it is a powerful document. Both pastors explained that the required format is challenging because of limited space for each item. Pastor Naomi said this is the rare time that coveting is acceptable. We can "covet" promising pastors from other churches.

**Nominating Committee.** Paul said their first meeting is Wednesday. Members are Paul, Carri, Huldah Ellestad, Cheryl Brown, Rick Hall, Tonya Lancaster.

**Properties Committee.** Doug said that Gary Toboyek has basically finished the LED lightbulb replacements except that help is needed for the stairways because of the height of the fixtures. Gary's wife Claudia helped him with this time-consuming task. Gary took the initiative to find places to dispose of the old lightbulbs.

**Care of Creation.** Jane said that this committee was formed about 20 years ago by Meg Nielsen. Crystal Lokken and Ginny Dodson were among the dedicated members. Their first project was to remove sod and prepare a large garden. 25 by 25 foot plots were available for rent. The COC maintained six plots for the Food Pantry. Later they constructed a wheat field, prairie plots and helped an eagle scout with a rain garden on church property. The wheat was harvested and the wheat berries used to make communion wafers. Church youth helped with many of these projects. The committee now consists of Barb Voelker, Renee Rodeck, Wes Licht and Dawn Bolsted who is the chair. Dawn reported that she received a letter from the Food Pantry thanking them for 584 pounds of produce in 2022. They plan to replace the back fence of the large garden. The committee discussed possible outdoor activities for this season, including working with the CLM.

**Global Missions.** Paul wondered if the Fair Trade items should be promoted more. Pastor Naomi said that Kerri keeps an inventory and replenishes supplies. Wayne said that one of the new wells we paid for in Uganda is now open. There will be another Walk for Water held again this year.

**Continuing Resolutions.** Scott said that Sandy Franklin has done a great job soliciting the committee information sheets and they are almost completed. These are needed as part of the continuing resolutions.

**South Central Synod Assembly.** Pastor Naomi said that it will be held Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Most churches get to have 2 voting members but because our church is large, we can have 3 voting members. Wayne went last year and said there were about 350 to 400 people in attendance. Council members gave suggestions of people who might be good candidates for attending the Synod Assembly.

**Adjournment.** Wayne moved, Paul seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 7:40 pm

**Devotions.** Pastor Naomi lead us in the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is April 25 at 6:30 pm. Respectfully submitted, Jane Licht, Secretary