



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

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

Present: Pastor Kelli Smidt, Wayne Corey, Jon Schadeberg, Paul Hundt, Scott Potts, Jane Licht, Sarah Schutt, Erin Kraemer, Matt Lancaster, Sharon Mylrea, Carri Wolff, Doug Buechel, Christina Hughey, treasurer Mike Devine

Devotions: Carri led the devotions by reading a prayer about God's peace and reminding us that there is no place for pretense because we are fully understood and in a relationship saturated with His grace.

Call to order. President Scott Potts called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Vice-president Sharon Mylrea asked council members to say one thing that made them happy today.

Minutes. Paul moved and Wayne seconded a motion to approve the August 22 Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor Kelli's report.

Past Month:

- Rally Day was wonderful! 75 kids in Sunday School and 44 in Confirmation
- Celebrated Kinsley Main's baptism
- Honored to walk with families during the time of grief and funeral services: Tom Schwersinske, Marilyn Kalhagen, & Don Berryman. Also Patricia Swenson's funeral service is this Thursday.
- Please keep the families in your prayers as they grieve and entrust their loved one to God's promise of resurrection and new life

Looking Ahead:

- Pet Blessing - Sept 30 @ 5pm service
- Stuffed Animal Blessing - Oct 1 @ 8am and 10am services
- Assisting Minister Training/Informational Conversation - Oct 1 @ 9:15am
- High School Youth Campfire - Oct 1
- High School Breakfast - Oct 4
- Pumpkin Fest - Oct 21 11am-2pm
- Affirmation of Baptism with Chris Landerud preaching - Oct 21 & 22, 14 students will affirm their baptismal promises

Financial Report. Mike said that August collections were similar to July but down by about \$2,000. Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD's) come in lump sums and have helped our cash balance. Giving is slight over budget and expenses were as expected. The CLM van cost \$33,500 as negotiated by

Scott. Harland will take the old van to auction and the revenue will be set aside for CLM van maintenance. Everyone thanked Scott for accomplishing this favorable transaction for CLM.

Continuing Resolutions. Sharon said that the September 20, 2023, draft has been reviewed by the council and committee chairs. The committee descriptions will be helpful for committee members and those considering serving on a committee. The continuing resolutions can be added to, changed and deleted by a simple majority of the council. Wayne moved and Sarah seconded a motion to approve. Motion carried. Pastor Kelli volunteered to send an email to the Synod Secretary, Pastor Wendy Moen, to be expecting our Continuing Resolutions document.

Solar Implementation Task Force. Sarah said the custodial closet now has the electrical and inverters installed. Ryan from Synergy estimates the solar panel installation will occur over the next 3 weeks. Then approvals from the Village and Alliant Energy are required. Sarah is working on a press release. The committee discussed ideas for the celebration weekend.

Care of Creation. Communion wafers will be provided the third weekend of the month. Wheat berries that have been stored are nearing an end and the committee will plant another wheat plot on October 8th with help from a Sunday School class. Gardens must be cleaned by October 31st to prepare for tarps laid over the gardens. Look for COC photos of activities on the bulletin board.

Global Missions. Wayne said that Walk for Water event made enough money for another well in Uganda plus we can replace the roof on a church in Sesera, Uganda.

Local Missions. Christina said they will again sponsor the Giving Tree and people can sign up for 60 gifts. McFarland High School needs dry snacks, toilet paper and other items. There are also jail ministry cards to be signed.

CLM. Matt thanked the council for the new used van for CLM that his own son uses. They will be selling butter braids in the next couple weeks and will continue with the fall fest again this year.

Properties. Doug said that the LED light installations and the new air conditioner have reduced our electrical usage by 13%.

Personnel. Matt said the committee is now comprised of three non-council members and three council members.

Committee Recruitment. After discussion, the council agreed that prospective Finance and Personnel members should be vetted to make sure they are qualified but no vetting is necessary for the other committees.

Stewardship. Sarah said the focus will be on monthly and automatic giving as this is not cumbersome to administer. The committee is discussing what the message will be.

Council Retreat. Scott said the Council Retreat was postponed due to a conflict with the Community Festival. Council members decided to reschedule when the new pastor is on board.

Facility Usage Policy – request to waive. Pastor Kelli explained a request from a member to waive the requirement for liability insurance for a non-member. The council decided against this action. Scott and Sharon will contact the person making the request. Sarah moved and Wayne seconded a

motion to ask the Finance Committee to review our Facility Usage Policy, including the liability requirement. Motion carried.

Special Offering Policy. Sharon and Sarah drafted a policy for discussion. After discussion, the council tabled the proposed policy. As of now, only the temple talks must be coordinated.

Call Committee. Scott drafted a thank-you note for all the Call Committee members to recognize the tremendous time and effort they are investing in getting the right fit for our church. Wayne suggested removing the sentence about the timeline. Kelli will send it to Carrie. Wayne said that we will like the bridge pastor.

Office Matters. Sharon said that the office will close on Friday afternoon due to the staffing situation. Scott said we are working on getting an Administrative Assistant.

Adjournment. Wayne moved and Christina seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:53 pm.

Scott led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Licht, Secretary