



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

## McFarland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 24, 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, Christina Hughey, treasurer Mike Devine

**Absent (excused):** Doug Buechel

**Devotions:** Jane led the devotions by reading from "A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance" published by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

**Call to order.** President Scott Potts called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Pastor Kelli asked everyone to write an FAQ on a green card. Vice-president Sharon Mylrea asked council members to tell us if they saw God today.

**Minutes.** Paul moved and Wayne seconded a motion to approve the September 26 Council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried. The Stewardship report was amended to state that the committee would emphasize "automatic giving as this was more widely accessible to members."

**Pumpkin Fest.** Jon said it was great and included a bouncy house, pumpkin bowling, guess the artifact, a putting green, basketball, pumpkin carving, a cake walk, candy, hot dogs and lots of smiling and laughing kids. There was a good turnout with about an even number of member and non-member families.

**Pastor Kelli's report.** Our bridge pastor was with us for a couple weeks and then she accepted a call. Pastor Kelli found a new bridge pastor – Pastor Kirsten Worzala-Dumke who will give the sermon on November 11 and 12 and into December. Pastor Kelli organized a new temporary Worship and Music Committee that will meet next week. Members include Deb Nygaard, Jeff Gerhke, Linda Ellested, Jane Mitchell and Jane Licht. Pastor Kelli developed a contingency plan because she has small children who may bring home viruses from school. If her children get Covid but she tests negative she will preach and wear a mask. If she gets Covid too late to obtain another pastor, she will have the Service of the Word script, power point and assisting ministers already organized. There would be a service but no sermon and no communion. She reminded us to give Anne Janelsins support after the death of her husband Janis. There was one student last Saturday and twelve on Sunday who participated in their Affirmation of Baptism. This coming Sunday is Reformation Sunday and everyone is encouraged to wear red. The next Sunday we will be naming and lighting a candle for saints of this particular faith community who died in the past year. This includes members of MLC and those with whom Pastor Naomi and Pastor Kelli had the privilege of leading the funeral liturgy. There will also be an opportunity for families and individuals to come forward and light a

candle for their own personal saints. November 11 and 12 there will be Giving Quilts and November 25 and 26 we will bless the solar panels.

**Financial Report.** Mike said that the September checking account balance was \$63,800 which is down a bit because of the CLM van purchase. The first payment for 4-K was \$52,000. Giving was down about \$4000 from budgeted and expenses were as expected. Sara Phelan reported that federal grants for CLM will be extended through June 2025. The piano player issue was resolved and it reminded Mike that a review of our insurance coverage is in order.

**Google Account for Policy Documents.** Jon has a rough idea of how this will be accomplished. He will create our own Google account, confer with Dennis Knutson, develop various category folders and migrate 16 different policy documents. A procedure will be developed for filing documents correctly so people can locate their desired document. Who is given access and how to remove access will also need to be determined.

**Continuing Resolutions.** Sharon said that the Synod has approved our Continuing Resolutions and she showed the cover to everyone. Sharon will send the final document to council members.

**Stewardship Committee.** Sarah said that we need a centralized point of communication to tell our story and we need an upgrade of the website. The website needs a content refresh, better design and organization to increase effectiveness. The committee also discussed how do we communicate externally and internally. Social media is important. We need an overall strategy. Jon said there are firms that do this but they are expensive. Perhaps we need a professional paid staff person rather than relying on volunteers. Wayne offered his format for news releases. Sarah will look at other churches and Jon will also investigate this issue further. Sarah said that the second point the committee discussed was how do we recognize donors and volunteers. Sarah will send out a draft proposal that will likely be discussed in November.

**Care of Creation.** Jane said that about 12 members spread wheat seeds in our church garden on October 15. The seeds have germinated and are about 1.5 inches high. Planting wheat for communion wafers was Pastor Jerry Pribbenow's suggestion many years ago. There are photos of COC activities on a church bulletin board.

**Global Missions.** Erin asked for permission to have a Bake Sale on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and this was approved by consensus. Wayne said that members will be traveling to Guatemala in January and to Uganda in March.

**CLM.** Matt said we can purchase Butter Braids from the church website and he will send council members a link.

**Personnel.** Matt, Carri and Paul serve as council liaisons on the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee is recommending an additional compensation for Rita Jenkins since she has taken on more responsibility because of the full-time administrative assistant vacancy. The Committee will do a market analysis for support staff. Wayne moved and Erin seconded a motion to provide extra compensation for Rita as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Motion carried. Sharon will tell Jane Blank about this action.

**Administrative Assistant.** Sarah said there should be a banner on our website about this position. Pastor Kelli said she would contact Carrie about this.

**Boy Scouts.** Scott said that Troup 53 wishes to renew their charter with us. We do this every year. Paul moved and Carri seconded a motion to sign their charter document. Motion carried.

**Background Checks.** Pastor Kelli distributed a Background Check Policy for our church children's ministry. It was developed in 2017.

**Adjournment.** Christina moved and Paul seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:20 pm.

Scott led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Licht, Secretary