



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

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

November 28, 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, Doug Buechel, treasurer Mike Devine

**Devotions:** Sarah led the devotions. She thought about the current wars and the desperate need for peace. She read from Colossians, Chapter 3 that says to forgive as the Lord forgave you and to put on love which binds everyone together.

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

**Minutes.** Paul moved and Wayne seconded a motion to approve the October 24 Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Pastor Kelli's report.** She reported two baptisms and one funeral for the month. She led the confirmands in making their own prayer beads. Last Sunday was All Saints Sunday. Pastor Kelli serves on the temporary Worship and Music Committee that developed the Advent and Christmas schedule. There will be three children's Christmas programs and three Advent services. The committee's last meeting is Thursday. Vicki Holten is leading the Advent suppers. Confirmation students will be worship leaders and there will be prayer stations for the Advent services. Our bridge pastor, Kirsten Worzala-Dumke will preach this weekend and one other weekend in December.

**Financial Report.** Mike said that the cash balance was higher in October than September mainly due to the first school district payment for our K-4 program. In addition, the district cost per student saw an increase of 7.25% which in our case, amounted to \$5,000. Church revenue is under budget by about \$6,000 but were better than in past years. Our income for October was higher than expenses by \$58,000. About \$32,000 of this was due to the unfilled positions of senior pastor, music director, and assistant administrator. Mike looked into our insurance policy that is held by Brotherhood Mutual. He spoke with representatives from that company to get risk management guidance. Overall, they feel we have good coverage. They did provide a page of suggestions that Mike would like an attorney to review when it comes time to update our policy.

### **Worship and music committee report:**

\* Developed the Advent and Christmas schedule

\* Determined music (Holden Evening Prayer) and prayer stations for Wednesday evening Advent services. Youth will help with the Advent worship services. Meals will be from 5:30 to 6:30 PM

### **COC (Care of Creation) report:**

- \* Discussed possible plantings and structures for the church's campus plan initiated by Properties
- \* The Synod COC will host a Zoom meeting on solar energy and asked for our help.

### **Properties committee report:**

- \* Working with Care Of Creation and CLM on developing a campus plan for the grounds of MLC to be used for future landscaping / playground additions. Ken Brost provided a 8.5 x 11 certified survey map, with the help of Gary Landerud we will be creating CAD file of the grounds. Gary and I will be adding placements of all gardens and trees to the CAD file.
- \* Discussions have begun on a kitchen remodel of Rainbow South per Sara's request.
- \* Solar Implementation - Per Ryan Harkins all internal work has been completed. We now need an electrician to become available to install the solar panels on the roof and then call for an inspection with Alliant Energy.

### **Family & Children's Committee update:**

- Planning for the Christmas Play is underway and coming along well!
- The committee was notified, after Pumpkin fest, by a member that they needed to step away for personal reasons. A similar conversation was had during the last committee meeting that another member would be leaving after the completion of the Christmas Play.
- Discussions were briefly held regarding succession planning, and how to entice more involvement in the committee.

### **Local missions update. Nov. 14 meeting**

#### o Giving Tree

-Tags are out, 4 tags left on table for church members to take if they don't want to complete the Google sheet

-Sign up otherwise is live on Google sheets

#### o Jail Ministry Winter Clothing Drive and Greeting Card creation

-Great turnout – over 50 cards signed

-Many clothing donations

-Bin will remain in lobby until 11/27 as other churches are dropping off at our site until that date

#### o DAIS Bin

-Brought and removed by Police Officer Sydney Peterson ([Sydney.Peterson@mcfarland.wi.gov](mailto:Sydney.Peterson@mcfarland.wi.gov)).

Looked like people donated nicely to this (bin was emptied 3 times)

### **Stewardship Committee Report - November 8 Meeting**

1. Discussed annual activity plan for Stewardship-sponsored initiatives

- Giving Tuesday (November) for single identified priority

- Day of Giving in May for "budget support"

- Volunteer and Donor Recognition event in the Fall

- Opportunities to Serve (Time and Talent) in January/pre-Lent

- Impact storytelling year-round

2. Sought and received approval from Council \to promote Giving Tuesday on November 28, 2023 with focus on mortgage reduction

3. Working on enhancing the Giving/Serving page of the MLC website with new content, priorities

4. Will explore the possibility of benign part of Scripts gift card fundraising program

### **Global Missions Committee Report: Nov 20 Meeting**

1) Bake Sale Planning

## 2) Guatemala trip

- Fundraising
- Goods collection
- other activities

## 3) Uganda mission trip

- W-4-W total after expenses, there is approx \$16,500 for wells. Safe water was recently found in Petta Central North, the village where the next well is being dug, and this will bring the total number of our Walk for Water wells in Uganda to ten.
- Waiting word from H-4-K to identify village where 2nd well will be located (assuming funds from another W-4-W will be combined with ours to fully fund another well).
- Silent auction proceeds were \$2105. Money to be sent to Pastor Peter Obbo for Sesera projects (church roof repair, etc).
- Goods collection, March trip planning, etc.

Erin reported that there will be lefse making on Saturday, December 2.

### **CLM Committee Update (no meeting in November or December)**

- Family Fall Fun Night and Butter Braids fundraisers were both very successful.
- Sara met with the finance committee and raised the tuition rates for next year, but still competitive when compared with other providers in the area.
- The old van was sold at auction!

**Personnel Committee.** Carrie reported that the committee has been searching for an Administrative Assistant. Their offer to Heather Wedan was accepted and she will start December 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Jane Blank and Kathryn Buechel for conducting interviews. Carrie said the committee is very pleased to have Heather join our staff.

**Call Committee.** Pastor Kelli reminded us to trust our very dedicated and savvy Call Committee to make the best decisions for our church family. Wayne said that our global missions and solar project help make us attractive to pastoral candidates.

**Recognition of Gifts.** Sarah sent out a draft policy to provide a consistent approach to recognizing gifts of money and volunteer work. The consensus was against plaques and the like but rather recognize people through the church bulletin, newsletters and during special events. Wayne said that people do appreciate recognition. Sharon moved and Paul seconded a motion stating that we do not give plaques either inside or outside as recognition for gifts. Motion carried. Sarah will fine tune the overall policy and it will be voted on at the next council meeting.

**Committee Recruitment.** Scott sent out a draft document suggesting that Operational Ministry Committees such as Finance, Personnel, Properties and CLM should have a recruitment policy such that the Nominating Committee or committee chair select candidates based on their experience appropriate for the skills needed for these particular committees. Programmatic Ministry Committees such as Worship & Music, Welcome, COC, Global, Local, etc. could have an open recruitment. This policy could be defined in a Continuing Resolution. Sharon will work on a draft.

**Committee Reports to Council.**

Scott said that brief committee reports should be sent to the entire council by email. Continue using the email chain established by him prior to the council meeting and “reply all.”

**Adjournment.** Paul moved and Carrie seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 7:55 pm.

Pastor Kelli led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Licht, Secretary