

President's Report to our St Mark Congregation

February 2018

Below is another report on monthly council and board activities. I hope you find it useful in keeping you an informed member of our church.

Pastors are reporting that college campus ministry is starting back up - after the winter break. Pastor Naumann is collaborating with our Synod board on future plans for campus ministry. Lion Hearts and Morning Moms - among other Bible classes, are going well.

Elders are discussing the possibility of changing our Advent/Lent services from 11AM to 4PM. For this year, our current schedule of 11AM and 6:30PM remains in effect. This is only a discussion point at this time. A much more major item on the Elders agenda is the pastoral staffing effort. They are working on documenting current pastoral duties and how they will be divided between the current staffing and the proposed additional staffing. As the team works through this understanding, they wish to gather input from the Trustees and the congregation. Trustees will be meeting with the Elders team for a discussion at the end of this month (February 27th). A **congregational meeting on March 11th (between services)** is being planned. Please watch for announcements and mark your calendars. The goal of this meeting is to explain to the congregation the reasoning behind the request of additional pastoral staffing, the process we will be going through to obtain additional staffing (if voter approved). Elders wish to answer any questions that anyone may have regarding the call process or existing staffing challenges in this area. Please try to make the effort to attend as the council will be asking for congregational support to increase our staffing and budget expense in this area, if approved. There is urgency to make a solid and congregation-backed decision on our path forward. If an option is to call a graduate, we will need to submit that request to our District President at the beginning of May. The goal is to gather input, formalize direction, and make an Elder recommendation for voter approval on April 15 - our next quarterly voter's meeting. Based on that vote, we will have time to include the option to issue a call to a graduate at the beginning of May. Stay tuned, ask questions, get involved, and make your opinion and voice heard at the March 11th congregational meeting. Your involvement and continued support is very much appreciated and needed as the council very much wishes to represent your wishes and direction on this matter.

Stewardship is wrapping up their sealed pledge drive. The team also wishes to support a fund drive to support an additional pastor's budget - based on voter decisions on this matter.

The Board of Education is continuing an effort to update the look and feel of our website. They will most likely be asking a group of people to work areas of consideration for an update. The team is also looking into next year classroom accommodations. Because of a large class size, the team is suggesting the use of the large meeting room for classroom space. Since we've done this in the past with success, the council approved the use. Meetings may have to be restructured to meet in various classrooms as a result. However, this was considered to be a minor inconvenience compared to the need of classroom space for our grade school operations.

Our Principal, Peter Micheel, reports that parent-teacher meetings have completed. He also reports that Jennifer Carter has accepted her 1 year Call. This report may not reach you in time, but it is hoped that the congregation supports our February 25th open house. The students will be presenting various Social Studies projects for the congregation to review. PTP will be serving refreshment and snacks.

Thank you to Peter for allowing us all a glimpse into the hard work and learning process of our students. Peter also reports that he has returned his Call to First German, in Manitowoc. We wish him continued success in his service here at St Mark!

Building and Grounds continue working the LED light conversion process. You will notice that our lights are being slowly replaced under careful supervision and effort from this team. As reported earlier, we will slowly be recuperating the cost of this project via electricity savings. The team estimates that over a two year period, we will fully recuperate this cost and start saving money going forward. The bell tower continues to be worked - now with a paid architectural plan. The project is complex enough to involve an architecture plan in order to secure more accurate quotes for the bids on building the project. Stay tuned as this team works on solidifying plans.

The Technology Board continues to focus on increase organization and documentation in their area. Working closely with the Board of Education and school staff, the team also is planning a phased replacement plan to be included in our budget process for our critical computer equipment and Chromebooks. Chromebooks and some staff laptops are now getting aged enough to be out-of-support for critical software and security updates. Planning to cycle these older Chromebooks to lower grades for typing training is planned so that maximum use out of our equipment can be had.

The Treasurer noted that he would be dispersing funds from our 50 in 50 fund to complete the donations to the hurricane relief fund and to our debt retirement. Offerings are nearly identical to this month a year ago.

On a closing note, the outgoing council members have met and will soon be asking for volunteers to replace their seat on their respective boards. If you are called by one of these gentlemen, please consider trying to find a way to make time to serve on one of these boards. Elections will be held on 04/15. If you would please make the time in your schedule to serve with gladness, I'm sure you'll find it a very rewarding part of your life. I thank the outgoing board members for their service!

I'll include my standard closing statement with you: If you ever need more information on any of the work the boards are performing, let me know. I'll work to find the answer or raise a suggestion for discussion. Contact information for me: Email (fischerfull@gmail.com), Cell (715.497.5264) - feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss anything we're working on, if you have ideas, can help, or just want to chat. Your council values your ideas and support.

In God's service,
Eric Fischer, President

Please note: Upcoming quarterly voter's meeting date: 04/15/2018 @ 6:30PM / <http://www.stmark-wels.org>