

President's Report to our St Mark Congregation

June 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.

The first item I'd like to make sure we're all informed on is our pastoral Call status. As you know, the voters had decided to call a graduate pastor at the end of May. We did not receive a placement for a graduate pastor for our church due to the lack of graduates available. Because of this, the voters met again and reviewed proposed candidates for this position from our District President, Pastor Jensen. The voters (led by the Holy Spirit), voted to place a Divine Call to Pastor Zeitlow. After that meeting ended, I placed a phone call to Pastor Zeitlow (currently serving at a congregation in Crivitz, Wisconsin) to inform him of his Call. A packet was delivered to him for information to aid in his deliberation of this Call. I can tell you that when I talked with Pastor Zeitlow, I made sure to inform him that he first has received a Call to serve at St Mark, here in Eau Claire. I spent a bit of time explaining our church make up and why we needed him to consider serving here at St Mark. I offered that he could call me to ask questions during his deliberation - and also offered the Trustees and the Elders services - should he require them. Please keep Pastor Zeitlow in your prayers as he considers this decision during his Call deliberation. I can only estimate that we should hear back on his decision in about a month's time. Much depends on his deliberation and time needed to get through that process. I'll be sure to keep you all posted as we hear back on this process and eventual decision.

As from last month's newsletter, stay tuned for work being planned on the Patton Street property. There will need to be some updates made to the property to house our newest pastor and his family. I'm sure our Buildings and Grounds board will need some of your help and design expertise to get the property back in shape prior to moving in a new family.

Another summer item to update is our Bell Tower project. You'll notice that a tree has been removed. Plans have been cleared and approved by our city officials. The bell is now being restored in Pennsylvania by an expert company. The plans are to prepare the grounds and bell tower structure to receive the bell when it returns to Eau Claire.

We have also completed our voter approval of our next fiscal year (July-June) budget and ministry plans. This plan includes the increased cost of supporting an additional pastor, Patton Street improvements, a Synod-recommended salary increase of 0.75%, and some increases in costs of providing health care to our staff. Without these additional costs, we were very comparable to last year's operational costs. After some information-based discussion by our voters, this operational budget was approved by our voters and will be carried into operation starting this July.

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 annual voter's meeting date: 07/22/2018 @ 6:30PM / <http://www.stmark-wels.org>