

President's Report to our St Mark Congregation

October 2017

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 our church and school year is now in full swing. The anniversary celebration was an uplifting and successful event! The planning by the committee was greatly appreciated and the day's events proceeded smoothly. Bible classes are underway. Seeing a decreased attendance at the Friday 6:30AM men's morning Bible study. Attendance/support of this opportunity is again requested - this is a great opportunity for men in our congregation. Two Bible Information Classes (BIC) are in progress. Catechism classes are well underway, some utilizing a newer version of our Catechism. For our congregation use, pastors are starting to consider our best options as to which Bible version we use in our ministry. (Our current translation – NIV 84 – is no longer available / out of print.) Please talk to our pastors for more information on their considerations. Elders are also involved in the formulation of this direction. Pastor Naumann also reports that he has returned his call to serve the congregation at Greenleaf, WI. We pray that this is the best for both his service here and the future of who serves at Greenleaf, WI.

As reported in my last letter, Elders have arranged a coach bus for transport to Madison, WI to attend our Western Wisconsin District Rally celebrating the 500th year anniversary of the start of the Lutheran Reformation. The cost is only \$15/person roundtrip. There are still some seats available. Contact the church office today if you wish to reserve one or more seats. Elders have planned our observance of Reformation 500 with one worship service at 9:00am on Oct 29 in the Shaker Center gym. Elders also reported consideration of missionary guest speakers in order to highlight our Synod's work in the mission field. Stay tuned for more information as these are possible offerings to our members in the future. Another noteworthy mention is that the Elders team has been tasked by our council to investigate the current and future pastoral staffing needs. Their goal is to return a recommendation to the council in the near future.

Stewardship reports the start of our "\$50,000 in 50 days" anniversary fund drive. The official start of the 50 days is October 11th. The end will be 50 days later on November 30th which is the actual anniversary date for St Mark. Why do this? Because we are thankful for all the blessings which God in his grace has shown to us in countless ways day after day, year upon year! Stewardship will also be proposing an approval for our voters for our scholarship matching gift tuition policy. This will align us much better with a MLC matching gift policy so that our students can better take advantage of this opportunity. The team feels that any amount of encouragement for our called worker training is well worth our effort.

The Board of Education has carefully considered staffing for our 2017-18 school year. As a result, they are advising the council that they wish to maintain their current staffing for the current school year. The team feels that considering the need of additional pastoral staff is at higher priority than immediate staffing needs of our school. Because of this resolution, our Elders team was tasked by the council with investigation of our pastoral staffing needs (as mentioned above). The proposal to increase teacher staffing will most likely be considered sometime next year after more careful deliberation by the team. As for our voters meeting, we will be approving the role description of our Sunday School Superintendent.

Our principal, Peter Micheel, reports that MAP testing is underway. The school is just about done with the first phase of these Synod-required tests on grades 3-8. Peter continues to report that before/after school care programming is running smoothly and efficiently.

Building and Grounds reports that they are nearing the completion of the Hamilton house basement recreation room. From the pictures presented to the council, the internal construction project by this team looks substantial and very well done. This will be a great addition to the property and very useful for Pastor Naumann and his family. For the voters' meeting, the team is bringing forward a finalized LED conversion lighting quote for voter approval. The ~\$8500 spent on this project (LED lights are significantly more energy efficient compared to current florescent lighting) is expected to be recovered in reduced electricity costs in less than 2 years. Again, the team is expecting to perform the installation with member volunteers. If you're willing to assist, please contact me or one of the B&G members. The team also reports continued investigation on Power Hour storage needs.

The Technology Board reports the purchase and installation of a new color printer. They continue to work the loudness adjustments of our new speaker system in the Shaker Center. They also continue to work the sanctuary projector system and anticipate the need to rewire the system with alternate cabling for correct connection of the system. They also report a needed phone software update as they continue to investigate the requirements to maintain our phone and voice mail system going forward.

The Finance Board reports that \$7200 was given for our "50 in 50" drive on the anniversary day. They feel we are on track (but more to go) to meet our anniversary gift goals by November 30. Offering envelopes for this special effort are available on the entry signup shelf and the Member Center.

On a closing note, as the council and Elders consider needs of our pastoral staffing, we should also consider how best to support a possible decision to increase staffing in this area. As our operational budgets may be stretched in this area, possible mitigation planning will be discussed to limit impact to our budget going forward. Please stay tuned for more information and prayerfully consider your support in this area. I will do my best to keep us all informed so that we can all make the best decisions on the stewardship of St Mark's assets to carry out our mission statement: GLORIFY the Triune God, GROW in grace and knowledge, GO to proclaim God's truth to one another, the campus, the community, and the world.

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: 10/22 @ 06:30PM
<http://www.stmark-wels.org>