

## **President's Report to our St Mark Congregation**

*October 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.

As you're aware by now, our Divine Call was returned from Pastor Mahnke. The voters have met again and issued another Divine Call to Pastor Vanderhoof. The current status is that Pastor Vanderhoof is deliberating this Call to serve us here at St Mark. The pastors and several council members have been in touch explaining our congregation and our mission goals. After now doing this several times over several Calls, it's clear that St Mark is a vibrant and alive congregation with many opportunities ahead of us. It's quite easy to get excited about St Mark's future and pass that excitement along to others.

At our last council meeting, Pastors are reporting their involvement with the C18 Evangelism Program. More information to the congregation will be coming from them and from our Synod. Pastors also discussed the Christmas season services and times. Elders are involved and will be publishing a schedule of services and events shortly. They also report the start of an Evangelism team. This is a small team of people that are more focused on "doing" over planning and meeting. Pastor Prah reports the continuation of BIC - ending and starting new classes as requested by potential members.

Elders report that they have decided to ask non-Elder members (probably previous Elders) to help with communion distribution. Expect to see others helping out with the distribution as assigned by our Elders team.

Stewardship reports efforts in continuing to promote Simply Giving, our electronic offering method. This will help even out our offering so that our "uneven" offering incoming can pay our "even and regular" bills such as utilities and salaries. They acknowledge it can be somewhat odd to not put an envelope in the offering plate but the benefits are worth the small inconvenience. The Stewardship Board was also asked by the Trustees to consider formulation of an announcement to the congregation that our balloon loan will be due in July 2019. We may have an opportunity to consider paying off our entire loan. Planning will be decided by our Stewardship Board on how to proceed.

Board of Education reports that our newly formed Robotics Team is looking for some financial support. Contact Peter if you're willing to assist. Getting the program up and running would be the initial goal. They also report that Dan Degner will be moving - a replacement will be needed to serve on the board. The team continues to work on policies for accreditation and presentation to the voters for approvals. The team has received an additional \$10000 to total \$30000 of state school security improvement grants. Our voters have approved installation of security cameras (and an associated policy). Door security is also being addressed with these funds.

Our Principal, Peter Micheel, reports about 40 members have helped out with our participation in the Fall Festival Parade. Peter reports that the accreditation steering committee has been formed and will be working on preparing for our review next year. Peter is also working on organizing an audit per accreditation requirement. One date to report is November 8th to where our Veteran's Day event will be held in the Shaker Center at 6:30PM.

Buildings and Grounds report that landscaping work is needed on our Hamilton-side sanctuary. There is significant ground "sinking" that will require work to remove stone, provide fill, install drainage, and piping to proper run off. John Rau (a St Mark member) has donated his machinery to do this work, but will require volunteers to assist. The team has decided to hold off until next spring. Stay tuned for more information on how to help next spring. The board also reports that the Patton Street home has been repainted. The last major task will be to remodel the downstairs bathroom.

Board of Technology is focused on our security camera installation and policy. The goal will be to cover our main entry and exit doors. The team also is completing the updated website for our church and school. They will be reviewing the site changes with the Elders for approval and eventual approval by our voters.

Some other items discussed were the establishment of our Kwik Trip cards - now available at our office for purchase. St Mark obtains 5% of the sales of these cards from Kwik Trip refunds.

Another discussed item was the Board of Education proposing the addition of another full time teacher. The main reasoning was that Char Prah was planning retirement at the end of this school year. Discussion centered on the possibility that our upper grade teacher, Phil Gustafson, would be accepting a Principal's Call after his continuing education completes. It was felt by the council that this position had higher priority in terms of consideration. The council directed our Principal to bring a more detailed report to council. Consideration of a part-time teacher was preferred. I'll keep you all up-to-date on our staffing planning as we move forward.

*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](mailto: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

<http://www.stmark-wels.org>