

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

*September 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 report a busy start to the school year. Campus ministry is now in full swing. Participation in this ministry remains strong. 22 students attended the welcome barbecue dinner and 14 have attended the start of the campus Bible study. There is a strong attendance to our Monday evening services by college students also. Catechism classes are also now taking place. The curriculum is changing up a bit as we introduce the ESV version of Luther's Catechism. The curriculum is focused on tracing the Catechism back to Bible sources - always a great basis and practice for the class. Bible classes are also starting up again. Please note our Bible class offerings as our pastors put a great deal of effort into these classes. Take advantage of one of these classes! Also note that Pastor Naumann has received a Divine Call to serve at Greenleaf, WI. Your thoughts and comments on his service to St Mark would be appreciated by Pastor Naumann as he deliberates his future and his family's future.

The Elders have arranged a bus for transport to Madison, WI to attend our 500 year Synod anniversary. The cost is only \$15/person - there and back. Elders are also evaluating putting more structure around our Tender Shoots programs and other member contact services we offer. There is cost associated with the materials that they feel should be better planned and the effort organized a bit more. They feel these are important offerings to our members and warrant the effort on their part to organize properly. Elders have also discussed our service offerings around our anniversary services and Reformation services. Please watch the bulletin for these announcements to plan your attendance. 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.

Stewardship reports that they have completed the reconstructing our policy for our MLC matching-grant tuition assistance. This policy will most likely be presented to our voters for approval in October.

The Board of Education reports that the school year has started off successfully. Monitoring the workload of our staff is a high priority. The existing staff has picked up this extra workload and operating well and efficiently. The board also reports that content on our website is being updated. They also are seeking a member to become PTP president. They also plan a summary of accreditation benefits and direction at our next voter's meeting - as requested by our voter's from our last meeting. On a last note, our new TADS system is now operational. The system provides a steeper ramp through our school registration but is now paying off in terms of ease of report generation and management going forward. The team believes having the ability to carry over existing registration data will greatly streamline our school management going forward into the coming years.

Our principal, Peter Micheel, reports enrollment starting 2017 at 103 students. The new Hot Lunch coordinator is turning out to be a great addition as meal planning stress is now removed for our parents for hot lunch events. New school basketball uniforms have now been fully funded and have been purchased. St Mark will also be participating in the upcoming Eau Claire Fall Festival parade. Another item that was reported was the before/after school care program - now operating much more smoothly and fiscally even. Peter reports that this program is going well.

Buildings and Grounds reports that construction on the Hamilton house basement area is going well. Much volunteer effort is going into the room. They are also working on procuring a solid plan for our LED lighting project to present to the voters for approval in October. This team is also playing a key role in our anniversary project goal planning. Stay tuned for more information on our anniversary event goals for St Mark.

The Technology Board reports a couple of items that need purchasing: A color printer and laptop for our accounting work. They are working on finding the best options on these items. They completed the installation of our gym speaker - but will be adding a volume dial for finer control. They will be looking to replace some wiring in our sanctuary (a big job) shortly. Also, a new smart board has been installed and is now functional in our large meeting room.

The Treasurer reports that our giving is tracking nearly exactly the same as the previous year. He reports that we have a significant opportunity this year to position ourselves financially such that when we hire another teacher, we can do so without losing ground. This is not the year to coast with generating revenues, cutting expenses, and renegotiating contracts. The Treasurer, Trustees, and council, will continue to strive to use our budget as efficiently as possible going forward.

The Anniversary Committee is near completion of their many-meetings of planning for our 50th anniversary events. Please watch your bulletin for announcements of these events. A special voter's meeting was held on September 24th that finalized their recommendations.

On a closing note, I believe St Mark will need to carefully consider our next steps in terms of properly staffing both our pastoral and teacher needs. As one of your Trustees, I will be working with the boards and council to utilize our resources as efficiently as possible in these areas. Before making a recommendation to our voters, we will be working a data-driven process to determine how best to staff in both of these areas going forward. Please be patient as your council works through the steps we feel we need to make a proper recommendation to our voters in this area of staffing both our school and pastoral staff needs.

*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

**Please note: Special Voter's Meeting 09/24 @ 7PM / Upcoming quarterly voter's meeting date: 10/22 @ 06:30PM**  
**<http://www.stmark-wels.org>**