

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

*September 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 Borgwardt. The voters met again and issued a Divine Call to Pastor Mahnke. The current status is that Pastor Mahnke is deliberating this Call to serve us here at St Mark. Several council members have been in contact with Pastor Mahnke - answering questions and providing insight into the work needed to be done here at St Mark. Pastors have discussed their involvement with this process and highlighted that they will be meeting with him at an upcoming conference for additional discussion. Pastors have also reported that Bible classes are now in full swing - with good attendance. Campus ministry kickoff started with about 25 college students - another good start to our upcoming school year.

Elders are reporting the start of an Evangelism effort that could generate some excitement in the community. Tying this effort into our Synod effort, called "C18" (Christmas 18), strives to reach many people with the message of Christmas at the end of year. They report upcoming dates of October 21 (Mission Sunday) and October 23 (new member welcome with Elders).

Stewardship reports that Pastors are doing the brunt of the work in this area by delivering stewardship-centric sermons to our congregation. The importance of incorporating our love and appreciation for what our God has done for us and the return of this thanks to Him is the important message from this team. The committee reports that there will be a need for two candidates to serve on the Stewardship Board for our next election.

Our Board of Education reports that Matt Smith has taken on the role of Sunday School Superintendent. They thank him for his service in this position. They also report they are working on the second state security grant. They are also working on deploying the first state grant (of nearly \$20,000) in our school. Voter recommendations/motions will be made in October to kick off their planning on several items. The school accreditation, targeted for review in 2019, is already being planned by an internal team formed to plan for this process and event. There will be several policies that will need to be put in place along with some financial auditing that is being planned to accomplish this goal for accreditation.

Our Principal, Peter Micheel, reports that school is underway with 89 students. Grandparents Day has been completed as a huge success - around 100 visitors were in attendance. Peter reports that some key dates - Fall Festival Parade and a Forensics session are being planned. Also noteworthy is a robotics team has been started across several grade levels.

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 for proper run off. John Rau (a St Mark member) has donated his

machinery to do this work, but will require volunteers to assist. Watch your bulletin as this effort will save us nearly \$8000. We thank John for his expertise and help! The team is also involved with our Board of Education on installation of our state security grant plans. Again, watch for motions to our voters to begin this process and security upgrades to our facilities. They also report that updates/repairs to our Patton Street property are well underway. Several volunteers are making this work move along nicely. The major update will be the downstairs bathroom (this has not been started as of yet).

Board of Technology has completed the purchase of updated laptops for some of our staff. They will be getting these online. Also purchased were Chromebooks for our students - and thanks to our PTP for making a significant purchase for these upgrades for our students.

Our Treasurer reports that our financial operational books now are showing a positive margin after Voters voted to utilize our donor-entrusted funds to balance our internal debt. He reports that current trends on our only remaining debt, our mortgage, are trending to be paid off in 33 months (about 2.5 years). He points out that we will have a balloon payment due in July of 2019. We may want to consider organizing a concerted effort to pay as much as possible from our funds to refinance the smallest amount possible at that time (or pay off our debt completely). Watch for more information on this item as we move into and through this fiscal year.

*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: Upcoming quarterly voter's meeting date: 10/21/2018 @ 6:30PM / <http://www.stmark-wels.org>*