

St. Mark Chairman's Monthly Newsletter

October 2022

Greetings St. Mark Members,

As you may or may not know our space here at St. Mark is very limited. We have 131 students enrolled in our Lutheran Elementary school for the current school year. We are maxed out in some classes and classrooms. Every classroom and meeting room is being used during the school day, which makes it hard to find space for other groups to meet for bible study and other functions. At the recent voter's meeting the first steps were taken to create more space for our church and school daily activities. Before the voter's meeting those assembled viewed a presentation by the Vision Committee and their findings on how to go forward. At the voter's meeting, after some lengthy discussion, the following motions were approved by the voters:

- The Expansion Committee will discontinue reporting to the Vision Committee and now will report to council
- The creation of a fundraising committee which will be under the Board of Stewardship guidelines
- The hiring of Excel Engineering of Fond du Lac, WI as architect to start the process of an expansion to either church, school or both
- The approval of \$22,500 to be used for Master Plan services

It was great to see a total of 60 men and women attending with questions and concerns. Hopefully that number will grow as other meetings are scheduled. We want all members to be involved as we go through this process.

Other items that were discussed at the voter's meeting are as follows:

Our long-time bookkeeper, Lori Maassen, has informed us that she will be retiring at the end of December. Lori has served St. Mark as bookkeeper for 27 years, with some of those years also serving as church and school secretary. We thank Lori for all of those years serving God and the members of St. Mark. The trustees are taking applications for qualified persons that would be interested in this position. If interested a job description is available from Ashley at the church office or contact Paul Jastrow, church treasurer.

As of this writing Peter Micheel is still praying over his decision of the call he received to St. Paul's Lutheran School in Stevensville, MI, as principal and 7th and 8th grade teacher. We of course would like to see him stay and continue with the excellent work he is doing for God's children and the members of St. Mark.

Funds were made available to professionally produce a promotional video, with drone footage, that would showcase both church and school. This video would be used at events to help spread and promote our St. Mark Ministry.

Building and Grounds reported that the Naumann property has had some updates. This past month the landscaping was updated, a fresh coat of paint was applied and a new roof was put on the garage.

Board of Elders are considering adding communion to the 5th Sunday of those months that have five Sundays. They are also looking for volunteers to help with contacting delinquent member,

additional help for the alter guild and ushers. There is talk of planning a youth mission trip for the summer of 2023.

Board of Education reported that there were over 900 people that went through the line for the St. Mark annual Trunk or Treat event. Did you know that some of our current students had their first contact with St. Mark through the Trunk or Treat event? An example of God doing his work through a simple event of handing out candy.

Board of Finance reported that the weekly budget requirements to operate St. Mark Church and School is \$14,742.

Cornerstone Lutheran High School also had a big month. They extended their first call to Justin Gut to be their first called worker. Justin is currently at Trinity Lutheran in Waukesha, WI. Please remember Justin in your prayers as he ponders this new opportunity to serve the Lord. God willing Cornerstone Lutheran will hold their first classes in the fall of 2023. Classes will be held at Our Hope Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls. At this time, they are expecting 13 children to enroll.

There are plenty of things going on at St. Mark. If you have questions about anything please contact me or any of the other Trustees, Board members or Expansion Committee members.

May God bless you all and hope you have a great Thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Roekle
St. Mark, Chairman