

April 2021

Chairman's Report to St. Mark Congregation

Happy Spring to All,

This past Sunday St. Mark held their April quarterly voters meeting. Along with the regular reports from the various church's boards, updates were reported on our divine calls, elections were held for the 2021-2022 church boards and approval of some standards for accreditation were voted on. Here is a summary of some of the activities.

As you remember back in March, we placed divine calls to Ellen Zank to teach full time 5K and Jackie Plant for 1/2-time 4K. As was reported in the ministry page, Jackie Plant has accepted the call for 1/2-time 4K. As of the start of the meeting Sunday night we hadn't heard back from Ellen Zank. About 30 minutes into the meeting Peter Micheel received a call from Ellen informing us that the Lord has guided her to stay at her current calling. To fill the full time 5K position the voters have directed the Board of Education to place a request to the WELS assignment committee for a graduate from Martin Luther College. The MLC graduation service will be held on Saturday, May 15 at 10:00 am CDT and the call service at 2:00 pm CDT that same afternoon. Both services will be live-streamed at www.MLC-WELS.edu. May the Lord bless our request to fill our need.

Elections were also held. Here are the results of those elections:

Trustee Secretary - Paul Buenger

Board of Elders - Scott Krueger, Tom Kuzenski, Ryan Hoefler

Board of Stewardship - Mark Nettle, the board of stewardship is short one member to fill a two-year term, if interested to serve please let the church office know

Board of Education - Nate Hefti

Board of Buildings & Grounds - Travis Walker, Dan Riebe

Board of Technology - Phil Moldenhauer

Board of Finance - Lance Ruffledt

Thanks to everyone for offering their time to serve.

Brought to the voters for approval were accreditation standards needed for 4K and are required to go forward with the Wisconsin Choice Program. They included a discipline policy, requirement when a teacher aide is needed based on the size of the class, 4K teacher job description and a policy to cover teacher's aide expectations. Approved at the January voter's meeting was the position of St. Mark School Choice Director. A job description was drawn up and needed approval by the voter's, which was done. The Board of Education interviewed three candidates. Barb Langreck was chosen and approved by the congregation. Also required by the School Choice program is we need to hire an auditor. Chosen to serve in this position is the Hawkins Ash Accounting Firm. Hawkins Ash performs auditing services for Choice Programs in many WELS churches in the La Crosse area.

Reported was that our third quarter offerings from 2021 to 2020 was up by \$5,448. We had some good news about the PPP loan that we received last year. The full amount of \$119,000 was forgiven. The bad news is that we have eaten into \$50,000 of that money. If we hadn't received the PPP loan, we would be \$50,000 behind on our general fund expenses. The Lord was looking out for us and supplied us with a way to stay out of debt during Covid. We don't want to count on government money so please keep your churches needs in mind. All the financial numbers can be viewed on Paul Jastrow's treasuries report.

I am glad to report that a family has moved into the State St. house. Besides the parents they have a 6-year-old and a 2-year-old. The husband works at the Nucleus on Water St.

Note that St. Mark School has two teachers that are retiring after the end of this school year, Connie Anason and Jenny Riebe. There is a retirement party planned for both of them on Thursday, May 13 at 7:30 pm in the Shaker Center gymnasium. This will be held immediately after the Ascension evening service.

The voters agreed to join in a program with the WELS Kingdom Workers to begin a foster parent service program. The purpose of the Foster Care Support Program is to help foster parents fulfill important roles providing temporary homes to disadvantaged youth. Please watch the ministry page for more information.

If anyone has any questions about St. Mark Church or School please direct them to me, any of the trustees or any board members. If we are not able answer your question, we will get it for you.

Serving the Lord.

Mark Roekle
Chairman