

St. Mark Chairman's Monthly Newsletter
April 2022

Dear St. Mark Members in Christ,

This month we will start out with breaking news. After serving forever, Barb Krass has decided that it is time for her to retire her position as secretary of St. Mark Church and School. Actually, she has been sitting in that secretary's chair for the past 18 years making sure that everything runs smoothly at 3307 State St. Her retirement is effective at the end of the school year. I personally thank her for all the work she has done for me over the past three years, making sure that all that is needed for council meetings and voter's meeting along with other projects that get put in front of her get done. May God bless her as she goes forward on her permanent vacation.

That of course leaves us with some big shoes to fill. I think Barb is a size 10. The trustees ask that anyone that is interested in the secretary's position at St. Mark please contact one of us. I will put our contact information at the end of this letter. If you would like a job description of the position you can contact Barb or one of the trustees.

This past Sunday the voter's met for one of our longest meeting in years. There was quite a bit of great discussion on many topics along with elections of new board members. Here are some hi-lights for you.

Pastors reported that a new pastor has accepted a call to fill the vacancy at St. Paul's in Menomonie. Over the past months our pastors along with a couple other area pastors have been helping out with services at St. Paul's. Depending when the new pastor arrives, they may have to fill in one more Sunday. This past week both pastors and their wives were in San Antonio taking part in the Renewed In Faith seminar that the WELS put on for pastors as they reach certain milestone of their careers. Milestones reached are 10 years in the ministry for Pastor Naumann, but two years late because of covid, and three years in the ministry for Pastor Hollmann. Hope God blessed their studies and the catching up with old classmates.

There was a very good discussion that the Elders brought to the congregation about whether or not we should continue with live broadcasts of our Sunday morning church services or go back to our pre-covid format of taping and putting parts of the service available for viewing. Many opinions were brought forward on both sides of the issue. There was no change made by the voters. Elders were asked to study it further and come back to council in the next few months. We will again discuss at the annual voter's meeting in July. If you have any thoughts on the continuing of live church service broadcasts please talk or email the pastors, elders or trustees with your thoughts.

Another important topic was fulfilling the wishes of the congregation to go to all day 5K. Back at the January 2021 voter's meeting the congregation voted to start up all day 5K in the fall. We were not able to secure a full-time teacher at that time to fill the position so our 5K stayed at half days. Jackie Plant has been the 5K teacher this past year. She informed the Board of Education that she would be willing to teach 5K as a full-time position. At the voter's meeting the congregation confirmed that they still wanted to go the route of offering all day 5K. As approved in January 2021 students in 5K can choose between all day or half day 5K. The voter's then approved Jackie's divine call from a half day call to an all-day call.

Of course, we couldn't go through the meeting without spending some money. Two projects were approved.

Approved was \$35,000 to update the landscaping rocks from near the bell tower, along the north side of the church, continuing on the south side of the church and gym to the athletic field. Also included will be improving some water drainage issues and new shrubbery. Council has been talking about this project for over a year. We have been holding \$20,000 from last year's Donor Entrusted Fund for this project. **As you can see we still need \$15,000. Voter's decided that we will ask the congregation for donations to cover the extra \$15,000 needed.** Any questions on the project please contact a member of Building and Grounds.

The other item approved was updating some of our bathrooms. Back at the January voter's meeting \$7,200 was approved to update the bathroom dividers in the narthex and lower grade wing bathrooms. After that meeting council was informed that we have been experiencing numerous plugged toilets. The toilets in the narthex and lower grade wing bathrooms are 40 years old and the toilets in the Shaker Center are 20 years old. We really didn't want our staff having to spend their valued time unplugging toilets, maybe that is why Barb is retiring, so it was decided that we should be replacing many of the toilets. The amount of \$12,000 was approved by the voters to purchase and replace 10 new toilets, 6 new faucets, and since most of the fixtures will be out of the bathrooms, to give some of the rooms a new paint job. Bathrooms being updated are the ones in the lower grade wing, narthex and Shaker Center. Funding was approved to pay the balance of the \$7,200 project and the \$12,000 project through the donations already received, Donor Entrusted Fund and general fund. The work will be done during the summer months.

Board elections were also held. Here are the results of those elections.

Elders - Mark Fictum, Jake Spiess, Steven Buss

Building and Grounds - Zach Jastrow, Kevin Fuhrman

Board of Education - Adam Chaulklin

Board of Stewardship - Kyle Staebell to fill a three-year term, Jacob Fuhrman to fill a one-year term

Board of Technology - Matt Smith

Board of Finance - Levi Smith

Chairman - Mark Roekle

It is great to see all of our boards staffed at full strength. May God bless all of their work as we enter some, I think, very important years here at St. Mark. Also, thanks to the outgoing board members for all of their hard work over the past years.

If there are any questions or concerns please let me know.

God's Richest Blessing.

Mark Roekle
Chairman

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