

St. Mark Chairman's Monthly News Letter

October 2021

Hello St. Mark Members,

Here is your October update of what is going on at St. Mark.

October started out rough for our St. Mark School. There were a number of positive COVID-19 cases that spread through the children and staff. The positive cases forced the cancellation of 4K classes the week of October 4-8. Those that came down with COVID and those that were in close contact were asked to quarantine per the rules laid out by the Eau Claire Health Department. Last I heard everyone is recovering and things are getting back to normal. Let's pray that God protects everyone from any lasting effects COVID-19 may have.

Because of the COVID-19 concerns council did not meet during the month of October. Council electronically handled some business that needed to be approved before Sunday's, October 24th voters meet. Here is an update from the meeting.

On Sunday evening 22 voter's were in attendance to conduct St. Mark business at the October quarterly voter's meeting. Our next quarterly voter's meeting will be held in January. It would be nice if more voter's would attend to do God's work.

Last year we were trying to call a full time 5K teacher. We called two candidate from the field along with requesting a graduate from Martin Luther College, with no results. As it turns out the Lord had other plans for us. The Board of Education and our St. Mark staff reevaluated our needs. Because of the large number of students in 5K and 1st grade this year, it was decided that we would be better served adding help in the 1st to 2nd grade classrooms for next year. The Board of Education suggested that we keep our 5K at half time and call a full time first grade teacher. This would give next years students in 1st to 2nd grades a better teacher to student ratio. The voter's approved this change on Sunday. Note that full time 5K is still something the school wants to add at some point.

Enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 school year for our Lutheran Elementary School are as follows: 4K-7, 5K-18, 1st-14, 2nd-10, 3rd-9, 4th-13, 5th-9, 6th-7, 7th-15, 8th-6, total 108.

After the voter's meeting was adjourned we went into a call meeting to fill the 1st grade position. Four candidates were presented to the voters. After looking over their bios the Lord directed us to call Faith Scheer. Faith is a 1993 graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College and also has Master of Arts degree from National Louis University in Evanston, IL. She has been teaching in WELS schools since her graduation in 1993. After graduation she was assigned to Faith Lutheran School in Antioch, IL. In 2003 she accepted a call to her current location, Christ the Lord Lutheran School in Brookfield, WI, where she is teaching 1st and 2nd grades. Remember her in your prayers as the Lord directs her in her decision of where to serve God and his children.

Other news from the voter's meeting is as follows.

The Pastors updated us on the introduction plan for the new hymnal. The first Sunday of introduction will be on November 7-8 concluding on March 6-7. A detailed plan was emailed out Friday with Sunday's Ministry page. If you didn't get a copy you can request one from Barb at the church office.

Along with the board reports there were a few motions that the voter's approved. Approved was Leah Micheel to continue as the schools hot lunch helper, Chris Schultz as custodian to work the same hours as last school year, Sarah Duquaine as communication coordinator as needed, and Debra Jensen as a 1st grade aide to help with a special needs student. Changes were approved to the Before/After school and Wrap Around programs. Adjustments to the attendance policy outlined in the Board of Education Handbook and School Handbook to account for virtual learning. Also an Indoor Environmental Quality Management Plan was approved. Voter's approved changing the St. Mark Children's Christmas Service to Sunday, December 19, 2021 in the 10:30 AM service.

The Board of Building and Grounds has a mystery on their hands. Someone filled in the holes that were formed from the trees that were removed in front of church with black dirt and seed. They would like to know who it was so they can thank you. If you would like to be identified please contact a member of the Building and Grounds and let them know. Whoever it is thank you very much.

At the voter's meeting we received a brief summary of the progress of the new Lutheran High School that is in the planning stage with St. Paul's in Menomonie. A name has been chosen and will be known as Cornerstone Lutheran High School. A presentation will be shown to the church council at their November meeting. The committee is also planning congregational information meetings. Please watch for when these meeting will be held and plan to attend as a family. The group has put quite a bit of work into this effort.

The Board of Finance mentioned concern about meeting our weekly needs. General Fund offerings are down 2.8%. We need to make sure we don't fall any further behind. The same concern came from our treasurer. The treasurer's report is included in this mailing.

As always if anyone has any questions please feel free to call or email me, one of the Trustees or any board member with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Serving Jesus and St. Mark.

Mark Roekle
Chairman