

Congregational Connector

December 2017

News from the Board of Directors

FOUNDATION GRANTS: God has been – and continues to be – very good to us here at STL. Years ago, through the foresight of past congregational leaders, the STL Foundation was established to be a tool to help maintain long term stability in our mission and ministry. Since 2000, the STL Foundation has provided over \$1,740,000.00 in grants to STL congregation. Yet, through wise management and the Lord’s blessing, Foundation assets remain over one million dollars.

In December the STL Foundation trustees approved two grant proposals from the BOD. One grant, for \$62,433.00, is to complete Phase Two of the roof replacement project (kitchen, boiler room and preschool). The other is a two year grant for \$25,000.00 each year, adding a Ministry Manager (see below) to the STL staff.

MINISTRY MANAGER: STL is adding a Ministry Manager to its staff and is looking for applicants. The position is 30 hours/week, and requires excellent oral, written and electronic communication skills. The Ministry Manager will focus upon nurturing relationships in the congregation/community, and facilitating ministries with lay leaders and volunteers. The successful candidate will enjoy working with people of diverse ages and backgrounds to increase support, involvement and use of STL ministries. The Ministry Manager will be asked to become a member of STL.

If you, or someone you know, is interested, please mail resumes to Saint Thomas Lutheran; 23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, MI 48021, or email to Pastor Mark Hetzner at pastormarkhetz@hotmail.com.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD: On December 16th STL distributed Christmas dinner supplies to 80 families (at Thanksgiving we distributed 60, while turning away 35 families) and had 23 families visit our Clothing Closet (We average 40-50 visitors each month). Many stories of conversations and prayers come from each of our Outreach Saturdays (the 3rd Saturday of each month) ... like the woman this month who was mourning the recent death of a family member who had two different volunteers pray with her ... and a woman with 9 children who does not know what she would do without the help she receives from STL.

VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY: Please save the date on your calendar: Tuesday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY: Another 9 week course will be on Saturday, January 20th. The 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. classes will then continue through March 17th. For more information call the church office or go to daveramsey.com/financialpeace.

WELCOME BACK BRUNCH: Sunday, January 28th is the date – immediately after worship is the time for our 2018 “Welcome Back Brunch”, a great opportunity to fellowship and hear highlights of upcoming church activities and ministries. There is no cost for the brunch, but a free will offering will be received.

FACE BOOK LIVE: Did you know that our Sunday worship services are now on Face Book Live, and can be watched at any time? All one needs to do is go to STL-eastpointe.org and click on the Face Book icon ... and it will become even easier in 2018 when STL introduces a new web page (but still at the same address).

NEW YEARS EVE WORSHIP: This year the tradition continues – join us in closing out 2017 at 5:00 p.m. with a very special communion service – and bring your friends.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Here is the report of our joint General Fund stewardship (family finances and congregational finances) from July 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017.

	Year to Date		
	Anticipated	Actual	November
Income	\$ 179,200.00	\$ 173,138.31	\$ 37,493.37
Expense	\$ 185,398.35	\$ 179,980.38	\$ 36,541.95
Net Excess (loss)	\$ (6,198.35)	\$ (6,842.07)	\$ 951.42

Mortgage Balance: \$1,801,128.45

Balance of loan to General Fund from the Restricted Fund: \$60,750.00

The Restricted Fund Balance is \$75,754.13, with \$15,004.13 available for use.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

(changes since July 2017)

Gains: Kregg/Linda Fritsch, Mary Phelps-Paul, JoAnn Dieball, Darlene Borowiak, Chris Hamilton

Losses: Herb Jones, Kathy Firchau, Susan Dawson,

Baptisms: Kenna Thomas, Gracelyn Rush, Tyler Ginotti, Matthew Zito, Averie Marshall, Piper Malek, Emma DeBouvre, Summer Gentry, Roxanne Trottier, Jeanne Gress, Merriella Brown

Membership (as of 12/5/17): 534 (baptized), 425 (communicant)