

# Congregational Connector

September 2017

## News from the Board of Directors

**GREAT START READINESS PRESCHOOL @ STL:** At this time the state is funding 10 children to participate in the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) preschool for 4 year olds at St. Thomas. This number is based on the amount they funded last year for this program in the Armada school. Program Coordinator Michele Jones hopes that they will fund 6 additional after the school starts. Currently there are 10 children enrolled and a waiting list is started! The goal is for classes to begin in October.

The license has been applied for and all inspections have been performed. The Board of Resource Management has the Wednesday Crew working on completion of the violations. There are some items we need to address from the Fire Inspection. The Playground Inspection revealed some minor concerns that have been fixed, but we will need to increase our mulch around the playground equipment (like we did several years ago). The lead inspection was performed on Friday, 9/15, and it will be 10-14 days before we receive a report.

GSRP is a government funded program designed to promote kindergarten readiness for at-risk children. Classes will be Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CrossBridge is 100% responsible for staffing and running the program. STL will be able to develop relationships with enrolled families and to promote STL ministries

**PASTORAL SUCCESSION PLAN:** Pastor Hetzner, who has been Senior Pastor here at STL since 1995, has expressed his intention to retire sometime around his 67<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020. In light of this, the BOD has requested the Board of Elders to develop an initial plan and time-line in the next couple months that will lead STL into the next phase of our history. This plan will then be reviewed by the Board of Directors before being presented to the Voters' Assembly for approval. Rev. Robert Kasper from the District Office has offered to provide assistance, and has already provided us with some typical options.

**VIA DE CHRISTO:** Via de Christo (The Way of Christ) is a Lutheran Christian Retreat that has been well kept secret in our community for many years. It offers a three-day renewal experience of your life in Christ and your personal relationship with your Savior, Jesus. This fall the retreat for men will be October 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. The Women's Weekend is October 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. The experiences are FREE, and local – right here in Saint Clair Shores. We encourage you to prayerfully consider attending. For more information, contact Annette Carreau at 586-773-1690.

**FALL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY:** The next regularly scheduled Voters' Assembly is this Tuesday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. Keys items for discussion include:

- Great Start Readiness Preschool @ STL
- Pastoral Leadership Transition Planning
- Nominations for Circuit Visitor
- Reports from Boards and Chief Financial Officer

Agenda packets are available at the information table in the hallway connecting the school wing to the narthex. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**FOUNDATION REPORT:** The midyear report from the STL Foundation is very encouraging. Its total balance is now equal to the one million dollar plus balance it held in 2014. And, during those years (2014-2017) the STL Foundation has provided Saint Thomas with over \$228,000.00 in grants. The \$24,000.00 in grants given thus far in 2017 have covered things such as landscaping, Kitchenette remodeling, additional roof repairs and the purchase of some property maintenance equipment. The landscaping project has also received a grant from the Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District. God is certainly at work in this long-term of legacy stewardship, and we pray that all consider both remembering the STL Foundation in their will and using the Church Extension Fund (<http://www.mi-cef.org>) as an investment/banking instrument.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Here is the report of our joint General Fund stewardship (family finances and congregational finances) from July 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.

|                          | <b>Year to Date</b> |                     |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                          | <b>Anticipated</b>  | <b>Actual</b>       | <b>August</b>       |
| <b>Income</b>            | \$ 66,000.00        | \$ 66,050.98        | \$ 32,123.06        |
| <b>Expense</b>           | <u>\$ 73,962.34</u> | <u>\$ 70,894.53</u> | <u>\$ 35,973.02</u> |
| <b>Net Excess (loss)</b> | \$ (7,962.34)       | \$ (4,843.55)       | \$ (3,849.96)       |

**We are looking for a strong a September to reach our income goal and help us catch up from the summer .**

**Mortgage Balance: \$1,813,572.06**

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

The Restricted Fund Balance is \$83,971.85, with \$23,221.85 available for use.