

Congregational Connector

January 2018

News from the Board of Directors

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; Eastpointe, MI; 48021; or email to Pastor Mark Hetzner at pastormarkhetz@hotmail.com.

LENT 2018: Some interesting coincidences this year: Ash Wednesday is on Valentine’s Day and Easter is on April Fools’ Day (some interesting things we can do with those two facts!). In order to use the season to get the Word of the Lord out to as many people as possible, STL will offer many special services:

ASH WEDNESDAY: Ashes available in the gym lobby from 7:30-8:00 a.m., and from the church office throughout the day. **Communion** services at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS: Every Wednesday in Lent following Ash Wednesday (February 21 – March 21) will offer a devotional service at 1:00 p.m.

INTERNET DEVOTIONS: A brief word of encouragement that compliments the midweek devotions will be electronically delivered on each Wednesday in Lent to those who receive Thursday’s Thirst.

MID-LENT COMMUNION: In addition to Ash Wednesday, STL will host a second Lenten evening Communion service on **Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.** Our prayer is that this will develop into a new tradition that many will treasure.

WELCOME BACK BRUNCH: Sunday, January 28 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.

VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY: This Tuesday (January 23 at 7:30 p.m.) will be our regular winter Voters’ Assembly. Key items on the agenda include:

- Great Start Readiness (CrossBridge) Preschool – Progress Report
- STL Foundation Grants – Progress Report
- Review of 2017 – Board by Board
- Goals for 2018 – Board by Board
- Here We Stand – Progress Report
- Financial Update
- Question and Answer Period

We will be meeting in the Fireside Lounge. Please make plans now to attend.

FACE BOOK LIVE: The weekly broadcast of our Sunday morning worship services continues to improve ... and, at the same time, the viewership continues to grow. With the camera now mounted over the center aisle, the controls connected in the sound room, and the audio in good shape, we are now ready to begin recruiting and training volunteers to join the broadcast team. If you (or someone you know) might be interested/curious, please speak with Jafer Perez or Paul Jatkowski.

GREAT START PRESCHOOL: Our partnership with CrossBridge Action Network continues to blossom. As classes resumed after the Christmas break, enrollment is now filled with 10 students (and there is a waiting list). The organizers believe they soon will be able to add 2-3 more students, and then receive funding for an additional aid this fall. Additionally, Pastor Mark Hetzner is stopping in on a monthly basis to tell the children a story. God is certainly at work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

	Year to Date		
	Anticipated	Actual	December
Income	\$ 227,200.00	\$ 215,982.01	\$ 42,843.70
Expense	\$ 222,782.02	\$ 217,921.80	\$ 37,941.43
Net Excess (loss)	\$ 4,417.98	\$ (1,939.79)	\$ 4,902.27

Mortgage Balance: \$1,796,965.19

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

The Restricted Fund Balance is \$73,231.83, with \$12,481.83 available for use.