

Congregational Connector

News from the Board of Directors – February 2022

NOMINATING FORMS will be available in the narthex and by contacting the church office starting February 27. If you would like to nominate someone to be placed on the ballot for the Voters' Assembly on May 24 as a candidate for a congregational office or Board, all you need do is simply complete the form and return it to the church office. **Before you return the nomination form**, be sure to 1) have your candidate understand the commitment and agree to be nominated; 2) double check the form, making sure your name is on it too (If you are nominating yourself, please sign in both places). Direct your questions to any member of the Board of Directors or Pastor Hetzner. Also, if the individual is not a voting member, have them complete a Voter Registration form, too (one must be a voting member to serve on a Board).

STL FOUNDATION: The STL Foundation assets currently total \$1,437,050.40. This includes a recent gift of \$60,000.00 the Foundation received from a life insurance policy in the name of the Rev. Dr. John Herzog, for Superintendent of the Lutheran High School Association of Metro Detroit. When Rev. Herzog first came to Detroit, he stayed in one of STL's parsonages. He purchased this life insurance policy to express his appreciation.

REPAYING THE RESTRICTED FUND DEBT: The BOD approved a second \$1,000.00 payment to lessen the amount that the General Fund owes to the Restricted Account. This will bring the debt down to \$9,263.27. They have agreed to review this action on a monthly basis in light of General Funds available, with the hope of lessening the debt by \$1,000.00 each month until it is eliminated.

DEACON MINISTRY: There appears to be a movement among some in the LCMS to eliminate deacons. The BOD voted to send an overture to the Michigan District in encouraging support and growth in the deacon ministry. Part of the overture reads: "that the Michigan District of the LCMS and the LCMS continue to provide training support for those who wish to serve as deacons along with avenues that will allow them to seek ordination, if they so choose, while continuing their deacon ministry."

RECALLING THE HISTORY OF STL: The Board of Elders is looking back over the faithfulness of our God throughout the many years of STL's history and how the Mission of God (Missio Dei) continues. Questions like, "Who has been a member of our staff the longest?", "When and How did the Men's Wednesday morning FHL get started?", and "When was the 'new' front wing built?" are being asked. Answers – along with key times/events that you wish to add – will help us to remember the joys and the challenges God has led us through over the years. The initial charts are now on display in a variety of locations in our building.

2022-2023 BUDGET ... The BOD has begun the process of preparing an operating budget to be presented for congregational approval at the May 24 Voters' Assembly.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Here is the report of our General Fund stewardship for the first 7 months of the fiscal year. All bills are current (including the mortgage) and we are functioning with a healthy "cash available" balance.

	January 2022		Year to Date	
	Anticipated	Actual	Anticipated	Actual
Income	\$ 36,472.61	\$ 41,640.59	\$ 261,607.55	\$ 265,612.67
Expense	\$ 38,722.50	\$ 45,472.10	\$ 266,357.50	\$ 262,470.83
Net Excess (loss)	\$ (2,249.89)	\$ (3,831.51)	\$ (4,749.95)	\$ 3,141.84

The Restricted Fund Balance is \$86,244.79.

Mortgage Balance - \$1,691,548.85, **Restricted Loan** - \$10,263.27