

Congregational Connector

News from the Board of Directors – August 2023

Just because the kids go back to school soon doesn't mean that summer is over. Enjoy what remains of it as we transition into the fall season. Reminder not to forget your St. Thomas family throughout not only summer but throughout the year as well. God is certainly great and continue to enjoy the many blessings He has bestowed on each and every one of us.

Speaking of transitioning back into it: don't forget that starting on September 10th, the FHL groups that haven't been meeting over the summer will begin again, as well as JC Crosstraining, the Flock and most importantly, coffee and donut hour after service.

Pastoral Transition Process: the call committee has requested the third call list for a Senior Pastor from the district. The list has been received but first, the district is contacting those on the list to ensure they will be receptive to an interview or a call itself. Once the list has been whittled down, the process will remain the same as it has been: the committee will review the information for each Pastoral candidate, come up with the top candidates and conduct either in-person or remote interviews with each. The candidates that the committee recommends extending a call will be presented to the Voters Assembly for approval, prior to the call being extended. Continue to pray that God blesses St. Thomas with a Pastor that will grow and lead us into the next chapter.

MCREST 2023: We are fast approaching our MCREST week at the end of September from the 24th to the 30th. We will be responsible for food, laundry products and transportation expenses for approximately 55 women and children. Please prayerfully consider a monetary donation to our MCREST restricted funds. If you are able to apply for a Thrivent Team card please consider doing so. By Labor Day Sunday there will be sign-up sheets for volunteering for serving dinner and for donations of food and grocery store gift cards. Also please keep MCREST and our MCREST week in your prayers.

FaceBook Live: there were a few snags in July as far as FB Live being operable. Those bugs have been worked out and it has been operating fine the past couple weeks. Apologies for any convenience for those worshipping remotely.

Continue to pray for those in your hearts, especially senior and older members of St. Thomas.

See the financial report below. Expenses are being kept in check but giving is down considerably, especially during the last few months. St. Thomas has been blessed with a couple "one-time" instances of financial support recently that has helped to keep all expenses current. However, the trend in general fund giving is not positive and summer is often a down time period for giving. Keep the financial well-being of St. Thomas in your prayers as well.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Here is the report of our General Fund stewardship for the first month our fiscal year. All bills are current and the "cash available" balance is below the comfort level. Your prayers and support are very important.

	July 2023		Year-to-Date	
	Anticipated	Actual	Anticipated	Actual
Income	\$ 31,833.33	\$ 34,236.33	\$ 31,833.33	\$ 34,236.33
Expense	<u>\$ 31,659.15</u>	<u>\$ 28,531.13</u>	<u>\$ 31,659.15</u>	<u>\$ 28,531.13</u>
Net Excess (loss)	\$ 174.18	\$ 5,705.20	\$ 174.18	\$ 5,705.20

The Restricted Fund Balance is \$70,254.67.

Mortgage Balance - \$1,636,107.90, Restricted Loan - \$19,263.27