

Senior Pastor Call

In response to the announcement on February 20 of **Pastor Heintz's** long-planned retirement, a Call Committee has been established in accordance with our by-laws. The committee consists of all members of the Spiritual Life Committee along with representation from the Worship, Missions and Education committees. An Elder from the SLC will chair the committee. The first order of business will be to review and revise (if necessary) the Senior Pastor's job description along with the gathering of names of potential candidates from a variety of sources, including our members. It is expected that this work will be completed by mid to late May. As names are submitted, candidate résumés will be requested, reviewed and, if appropriate, telephone interviews will be conducted. A short list of candidates will be identified and in-depth interviews scheduled. We will keep the congregation informed as the process goes forward.

Director of Music and Worship (DMW)

Based on the recommendation of the DMW Call Committee, the Board has decided to suspend the search for a candidate at this time in order to focus our efforts on the Senior Pastor Call process. However, as you see below, our music and worship will continue to be well served by the people listed and the functions they will perform for the foreseeable future.

Wendysue Fluegge will accept an expansion of both time and responsibility in a position currently being defined. We anticipate Wendysue assuming this position as soon as May 1.

Patty Kilvinger will continue her duties as Worship Coordinator, doing much of the behind-the-scenes work that is so vital to the actual worship we experience each Sunday.

Tony Miller is new to the worship team and will be responsible for the technical (tech booth) aspects of our worship services with the title of Worship Technology Specialist.

Phil Schank will be responsible for leading Monday worship services.

Erin Biank will continue to serve as Choir Director.

Director of Youth

As **Jon Traska** transitions to a new career path by July, we are focusing on the future of our Youth Program. In-depth discussions are presently occurring as to how to more closely integrate this part of our ministry with our comprehensive Life in Jesus and Education programs. The objective is to make the combined programs more seamless as our youth transition into middle and high school, keeping them connected and engaged during this very formative period in their lives. We are fully committed to the young people in our congregation and will do what it takes to effectively reach this group of young Christians.

Child Care Coordinator

The Board has authorized the position of Child Care Coordinator. This position will provide leadership and guidance in all the opportunities our members have to serve in the area of childcare in our Nursery. Information on the position description and acceptance of applications will be communicated in the announcement bulletin and website soon.

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Ministry***Reconcile Church***

Pastor Marc Engelhardt provided a report to the Board and staff at the March meeting. Pastor Marc is encouraged to witness the spiritual growth evident especially in the seed members of Reconcile Church. This growth is critical in a relational based church that Reconcile is. Relationship building takes a considerable amount of time to realize the harvest. Pastor Marc also stated that the core worship group has doubled from the initial seed group, outgrowing worshipping in homes. Last October Reconcile leased space at 1442 N. Farwell Avenue in Milwaukee to establish an office and consistent worship location. This also provides a presence in the community that Reconcile is trying to reach.

POBLO

Recently the mission organization People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) approached BLC about the opening of an outreach office in the Greater Milwaukee area. After considering several options in the Metro area for their ministry office, BLC was the location they desired to begin their ministry's presence in the area. Through coordination with the Properties Director, the parsonage building has been identified as a space able to accommodate this outreach ministry to the Hindu and Muslim religions. More information on POBLO is available at www.peopleofthebooklutheranoutreach.org. POBLO is a supported mission in the BLC Committed Missions budget.

Financial: God at Work II

As God at Work II contributions continue to be received, we recently were able to lower our debt by \$244,000. This payment brings the remaining balance to just under \$250,000 on the mortgage loan covering the construction of the Worship and Family Life Center and Ministry Office additions. This will result in a reduction of debt service payments of \$22,500 in principal and interest each year. The mortgage loan from the education wing addition and other projects continues to be paid down as scheduled. The remaining balance stands at just over \$550,000. Combined, our total debt is just below \$800,000. The last significant project to be done with GAW II funds is the development of the land parcels purchased and improvements to our current parking space, which we expect to get started on as soon as additional contribution receipts allow.

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