

STAFF***Director–Life in Jesus Development***

The Director–Life in Jesus Development position is a result of the decision to align and integrate the Education and Youth ministries. Mary Stafford accepted this position, effective July 1, 2011. The Associate Director–Youth position will report directly to the Director–Life in Jesus Development.

With the expanded responsibilities and the open call, transition assistance was developed. The assistance during the transition is in several areas: LIJ Kids Curriculum Coordinator, Jacque Krimpelbein; Faith Legacy Coordinator, Becky Schrottenboer; 5th and 6th Grade Youth, Pete Heintz; 7th and 8th Grade Youth, Lori Sansoucie; 9th–12th Grade Youth, Grant and Rachel Goeman; General Youth Program assistance, Brittany Burmeister (Concordia University student). We appreciate the commitment of these individuals to the Education and Youth ministries in this time of transition in both personnel and programming. With their support, the future Associate Director–Youth will be assured a strong start.

Choir Director–Heidi Stanley

We welcome Heidi Stanley to the staff in the position of Choir Director. Heidi brings a wealth of musical experience and passion in leading the choir for worship. The fulfillment of the part-time Choir Director completes the group assembled to plan, lead and coordinate worship through this time of transition at BLC: Worship and Music Manager, Wendysue Fluegge; Worship Technology Specialist, Tony Miller; Worship Coordinator, Patty Kilvinger; Organist, Brenda Granley; Choir Director, Heidi Stanley.

Associate Director–Youth

In early August we extended a call to Terry Baughman, which he returned (declined) the following week. In the middle of August the Search Committee met to review the list of previous candidates and to gather more names. By late August we had made contact with previous candidates and received new names from the District. We had a list of 7 possible candidates. We followed the same approach we used before: Mary contacted each candidate to learn their level of interest and their potential fit with BLC's youth ministry needs. We then arranged a telephone interview with the Search Committee. The candidates who passed through the first interview were then scheduled for a second, more in-depth interview. The candidates who passed through the second interview were invited to visit BLC for in-person interviews.

One candidate has been invited to visit BLC on October 21–22. As with previous candidates, he will be scheduled to meet with the members of the Spiritual Life Committee in an informal setting. He will also meet with the pastors and staff and, hopefully, with a group of volunteer youth leaders and young people. After his visit, we will follow up with his references and decide whether to recommend him for a call. (We know from recent experience that other candidates' names may come to us, and we will follow up with them as we have with the other candidates.)

The members of the Search Committee are Brenda Perry, Youth Director; Mike Long, past Youth Director; Bob Gleason, Spiritual Life Committee; Mary Stafford, Director–Life in Jesus Development.

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH

The Search Committee for Senior Pastor has reduced the initial list of possible candidates to 14. Our next step is to contact each of the 14 and discuss their openness to a call at this time. Those open to considering a call will receive some information about BLC and will be scheduled for an initial telephone interview. Those candidates who pass through the first interview will be scheduled for a longer, more in-depth interview with more members of the Spiritual Life, Worship, Education, Youth and Missions Committees. Candidates who pass through this second interview will be invited for a visit to BLC for additional interviews and to get to know the congregation and the area.

As we search for Senior Pastor candidates, we keep these criteria in mind: large congregation experience (over 500 at worship); leadership of multiple staff members; preaching ability; size and variety of ministries and programs in their congregation; experience with different styles of worship; stewardship philosophy; experience with discipleship and small group/HOME group ministries; commitment to and experience with mission and service projects; and at least 3 years in their current role.

The Search Committee members have spent several hours watching and/or listening to sermons posted online by potential candidates. We also review the website of their current congregation and research their congregation on the Synod website. A job description is available at the Information Center.



The members of the Search Committee are Dave Heinkel, Bill Schuerman and Bob Gleason of the Spiritual Life Committee; Tom Polzin, Worship Committee; Jon Schapekahn, Education Committee; Chuck Puls, Missions Committee.

For both of the calls the Spiritual Life Committee (SLC) is the Call Committee. The Search Committees are interviewing candidates and making their recommendations to the SLC. In the case of the Senior Pastor call, the SLC will be involved directly in interviewing candidates.

GOD AT WORK II

As many of you heard in the update during worship on September 25, we are in the final months of the three-year God At Work II campaign. The contributions received in this campaign are a witness to our faith in God and His blessings returned to us. We are very near to receiving 100% of the pledged amount for this campaign. Through contact with a number of you in the congregation, the Follow-Up Committee has learned that campaign contributions will continue beyond 2011. GAW II envelopes will continue to be included in your offering envelope packets to allow ease in giving to GAW II. We pray all who pledged will complete those pledges and that new members will consider a gift to the campaign, sending this campaign over the top in a powerful witness of His presence at BLC.

Also, you will see improvements to our parking lot this fall. Repaving and repair will be completed before winter if all goes according to plan. There will also be expanded parking into the field to the west to accommodate winter parking. A permeable surface will be installed that will permit plowing and a drivable surface year around. This will add a much needed 40–50 parking spaces.

BLC CAMPUS ALCOHOL POLICY

The Board of Directors has approved a motion to establish a no alcohol served or consumed policy on or in any BLC campus facilities. The one exception to the policy is the Dartball Team activity. The team will continue to be allowed to serve beer as part of their fellowship function, subject to revised guidelines. This one exception was included because of the longevity of the dartball activity and to conform to long established guidelines of the league in which they participate.

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