

Pastor's Corner: 1-19-2019 2019 – What's Happening in Bismarck?

Since we are at the start of a new year I thought I would take the opportunity to share with you some of the things that are (and will be) happening in our Bismarck church in 2019. Lot's of great stuff, I assure you. The following items are not necessarily in chronological order (or any kind of order for that matter).

1. A New Flat Roof – I put this one first because it's the most awesome. Not really, but it is something that needs to happen. The flat portions of our church roof have begun to fail, meaning they are leaking. Fortunately, we have a second roof below the one that is exposed to the elements and that one is *probably* ok. To fix this thing we'll need to strip off the top roof, all the insulation, and maybe the lower roof. Then build it back up again. And when I say "we" need to do that, I really mean the roofing company. In total this project will cost us as much as...wait for it... \$125,000. Yeah, the sticker shock hit me too. But that's ok, because we already have \$50,000 set aside for the project! We're 40% there!
2. Fund Raising – At our business meeting on Jan. 13 we voted to actively begin fundraising for the roof with the goal of raising the total amount this year. With the \$50,000 we currently have (\$25k from the roof fund, \$25k from the Heitzmann Estate fund) that means we need to come up with an additional \$75,000. That seems like a lot but we have approximately 100 "giving units" in the church. That means that if everyone who typically gives to the church could give an additional \$750 this year we would have our goal. For those who like numbers, that comes out to \$62.50 per giver/per month. Not everyone can do that, and many of us can do more. Remember, it's not about equal giving, but equal sacrifice. So please figure out what you can give to the roof fund, then give a little bit more. Fund-raising should hurt, just a little bit.
3. Missional Pathway – Our church is continuing on the Missional Pathway in 2019. Last year we took the first two steps with Awaken and Activate. These workshops focused on identifying and acting on God's personal missional calling for your life. The second two workshops (Assess and Advance) will focus on understanding our Bismarck community, its needs, and how we can work together as a church to try and meet some of those needs. Last weekend we had a special leader's training for these workshops and let me tell you, it was great. The process will really help us find out how to make a difference in our community. The church-wide Assess workshop is scheduled for March 23. Everyone who is a regular attendee at our church should plan to be there. It really is that important. Between now and then the leadership team is contacting prisons, schools, city hall, police, and other civic entities to try and get a handle on the biggest needs in Bismarck. This is exciting stuff. I hope everyone will take part.
4. Small Groups – We're getting ready to start up our spring semester of small groups. We'll continue to try to offer a variety of groups each semester. Groups are a great way to get connected with the body of Christ. You'll make friends, learn stuff, and might even have fun. Just kidding, you'll totally have fun.
5. Special Events – The elders and board have been considering having some special events this year, above and beyond the things we normally do (like the annual Barn Party which is awesome). Some possibilities include: Church in the park, a church campout, and some vespers programs followed by a church movie night. If you have some ideas for cool church events you'd like to see, please let me know.
6. New Sabbath School – Starting in February we will be launching a new adult Sabbath School class in the large classroom. Kimber and Tami (along with several others) are working hard to put together a great class that will focus on discussion, friendship, and

pastries. Ok, I'm not sure that pastries are an official part of the class, but they may make the occasional appearance. If you're curious, well, just come and see!

7. Possible Platform Facelift – The board has been exploring the possibility of replacing the giant white screen that covers the back of the platform with a couple really big, sleek, and awesome TV's. This would open up the back wall and take a step towards modernizing the look in the sanctuary. Other churches have used this approach for their media with great success. We're still looking at possibilities and this is by no means a done deal but I wanted to give ya'll a heads up. Let me know what you think? TV's? No TV's? Go back to using an old-timey overhead projector? Anything is possible.

That's about it for now. This isn't a closed list and things on this list can change, but at least you now have an idea of some of the things we're working on. I'm excited about 2019 and the things that God will do through us and among us.

God bless,
Pastor Tyler