

June 22, 2010
To: LCL Family
Regarding: Principal Call

Dear Friends

What a great summer so far! Mine has been wonderful and I continue to enjoy the awesome Wisconsin weather. I know many of you have told me it has been hot and humid ... but this former St. Louis person has only had his air conditioning on two times! God is good and I am certainly enjoying His creation.

The purpose of this letter is to update you on our principal search process. The last update that I sent let you know of two really good candidates that we were bringing in for personal interviews. We had some great conversations with both candidates which included social time, a faculty interview process and a call committee interview process.

After all our groups collaborated on what we heard and after lots of prayer, the call committee unanimously agreed that God was very clear in saying "not yet". While we had two great candidates, it was clear to us that for a whole variety of reasons that God had not selected either to be our permanent leader at this time. One candidate did not appear to be the right fit for LCL's future. The other candidate declined further conversation because of personal timing issues, but may be a possibility for us in the future. We did not want to just "fill the position", but look for the best for our great school.

There is no doubt that it was my desire to find a principal that would be ready to take over in the fall, but it was also our clear objective to find the absolute best person to lead our school. The Lord has said "not yet" and so we will honor that and go back to being on our knees seeking His will.

Because of this, we will be starting the school year in the fall with an interim principal.

I know that the thought of a transition principal may cause some concern. What will the person be like, how can they lead effectively, will they really be involved in the life of our school, etc.? While the interim route was not my first choice, I have seen it work very well in prior situations and I believe it will work equally as well at LCL.

We have been blessed with a really great leader in Mark Bahr. I know he didn't like it when I said that "Mark was Lake Country Lutheran", but it was true. He is the guy who was called to start the school and he led it to where it is today. His philosophy and leadership created LCL. But there is no doubt also that Mark was instrumental in building a program and faculty that would last well beyond Mark. Mark is a man of God that was committed to building a strong Christian high school that would bless families and students for many years to come. He also did that at Milwaukee Lutheran and I believe he will do it at Concordia High School in Texas.

Having an interim leader will prove to be a blessing in a number of ways. First, it will help us to take the time to find that perfect leader that God has selected. Because of the time of year, many great potential candidates for LCL were hesitant to discuss new opportunities. Principals don't like leaving their schools in the summer which can create a leadership vacuum. The transition principal gives us the time we need to find a great fit for us.

Second, I believe the interim will be a great blessing to the faculty, parent and students. Any new leader that comes in won't be Mark Bahr nor should they be. We have such an amazing group of faculty and a strong family atmosphere at LCL. This short-term leader will be able to help us build a bridge to a permanent principal and help us truly appreciate what a great school we have.

As I said, certainly I would have preferred that permanent leader. But as one member said in a note of encouragement to the call committee "God is sovereign. He hasn't jumped off of His throne. He isn't panicked about LCL's situation. He will carry this school!"

What you can expect in a transition leader is someone who will keep the main thing the main thing. LCL is blessed in so many ways, but we will continue to have a leader that is sold out for kids and is committed to academic and spiritual excellence in all we do. Our mission has not changed and we are committed to nurturing all students and empowering them to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of the future as disciples of Jesus Christ in service to others.

I am currently talking to a couple of candidates that are qualified to be that interim and am soliciting suggestions from lots of others. It is important to me to have someone in place by the first week in August so we will start school on a solid track. We will reconvene the call committee in the fall and re-start our permanent call process.

So here is what you can do.

1. Pray (and then pray some more)
2. Let me know your thoughts or wisdom (e-mail, call, stop by)
3. Continue to speak highly of our great school and be confident that the Lord will bless us beyond belief.
4. Let me know what I might not be seeing. I always welcome your input.

Thank you so much for your partnership in the Gospel. I am very excited for the future and cannot wait to see what He has in store.

To God the glory!

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