



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

Vol. 99, No. 7

September 2022

"Serving in God's Mission"

"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

For some time now we at Hope have been working through *re:Vitality*, a process of congregational revitalization offered by the LCMS. In early 2020 and again in the Fall of 2021 we went through the CADDs (Congregational Assessment of Development and Decline Status) self-evaluation tool. In January-February of this year, we worked our way through the congregational Bible study for "Serving in God's Mission."

Now we are poised and prepared for the next step of the process: the strategic planning module called "Serving in God's Mission" (SGM). *We want every communicant member of Hope to participate. Your input is valued!*

With the CADDs survey, *re:Vitality* first led us to ask the question: "Where are we...really?" Now we move on to ask these questions:

- *WHO* in our community does not know the love, mercy and grace of Jesus?
- *WHY* has God put us in this place, at this time, for these people?
- *HOW* do we increase Word and Sacrament ministry (vitality) among ourselves and share it with others?
- *WHAT* has God invested in us to do the work that He has given us to do?

Simply said, "Serving in God's Mission" (SGM) is intended to help us build consensus and plan to carry out our Lord's mission in this place and time where He has placed us. The "Quick Guide" for SGM provides this overview:

Serving in God's Mission (SGM) provides a comprehensive, consensus-based approach for guiding your congregation through a strategic planning process tailored to meet the unique needs of Lutheran congregations. The overall goal of SGM is to assist your congregation with developing a strategic planning mindset that goes beyond putting a plan together to integrating a Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) into the planning and management of your congregation's role in God's Mission.

The expected outcomes of SGM include:

- A working knowledge of the strategic planning process and its supporting tools
- Achieving consensus in the congregation at each stage of strategic planning
- A realistic, meaningful, and useful Strategic Ministry Plan

SGM is *not* a one-size-fits-all approach to planning. Nor is it a plan designed by leadership and imposed upon the congregation. As the "Quick Guide" also says, "Consensus building is begun very early in the strategic planning process and continues

throughout the process. The resulting Strategic Ministry Plan is not 'sold' at a voters' meeting, but owned by the whole congregation which has participated in developing it."

While the Bible is not a how-to manual for strategic planning, it does give provide God's wisdom for our life and mission in His kingdom. God does have a purpose for our congregation. He does want us to use the gifts that He has entrusted to us. He calls us to work together to carry out the mission that He has given us. Together we say with David: *"The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands"* (Psalm 138:8)

Why do we want *all* communicant members to participate in SGM? In 1 Corinthians 12:12-18, St. Paul describes the whole church as a body with Jesus being the head. Our congregation itself is also like a body. God has *"arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose"* (1 Cor. 12:18). God does not act haphazardly. He has shaped our own "body of Hope" for a place, a time, and a people according to His purposes. Think of how various athletes are uniquely designed for their various sports—taller ones for basketball, beefier ones for football, and more slender ones for running a marathon.

Our strategic planning through SGM will also aide us in using God's many gifts in service to the Gospel of Jesus. God has given each of us "my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses" (First Article of the Creed). In the same way He has given our congregation the people who belong here, our available financial resources, our location, the property and equipment we own, our community, and other resources. How shall we use these gifts from God to proclaim His wonderful works of salvation for the life of the world around us?

As we go through the strategic planning process, we will also strive to gain focus for our work together in God's kingdom. In 1 Corinthians 9, St.

Paul speaks of athletes training and exercising self-control to win a perishable prize. He then applies this image to his work of proclaiming the Gospel: *"So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air"* (1 Cor. 9:26). In Philippians 3:14 he also says, *"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* Both passages speak of proper focus. Having a proper focus is also essential for us as a congregation. As the SGM Congregational Bible Study explains: "Strategic planning guides the congregation through a process that helps people understand and agree upon the congregation's focus. With a clear focus, people are able to work together toward a common goal – they can run together with purpose."

This is an exciting time and a wonderful opportunity for all of us here at Hope! Why has God put us here in this place and at this time? How can we bring the love and forgiveness of Jesus to those around us? How can we work together in this joyous mission? *Serving in God's Mission* will help us—all of us, together—discern such things. We, of course, rejoice in God's gracious love and forgiveness. God also calls us to work together to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Please join us every other Saturday from September 10 through November 5. *We want every communicant member of Hope to participate. Your input is valued!*

Saturday, September 10, 9:00-11:15 am
Saturday, September 24, 8:00-11:45 am
Saturday, October 8, 9:00-11:30 am
Saturday, October 22, 8:00 am-Noon
Saturday, November 5, 9:00-10:30 am

✠ Pastor Randy Asburry
email: rasburry@hopelutheranstl.org
Blog: <http://rasburrypatch.blogspot.com>
Hope's Website: <http://www.hopelutheranstl.org>
On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl

Notes from the Kantor

This month we kick off a 10-month journey through the catechetical hymns of Martin Luther, plus a few guest hymns. Over the course of the next three months, we will sing Luther's *These are the Holy Ten Commands* (LSB 581) three times. It's a lengthy hymn, coming in at twelve stanzas, but a powerful way to put God's law on our lips. Additionally, we will sing Luther's *O Lord, We Praise Thee* (LSB 617) three times during September.

THESE ARE THE HOLY TEN COMMANDS (LSB 581)

During the fall, winter, and spring of 1523-1524 Luther and several of his colleagues were busy writing hymns for the laity to sing in their native language. Not only were they merely writing hymns, but in many cases, they were putting the Word of God directly on the lips of the congregation, as seen in *From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee* (Psalm 130), parts of the German Sanctus *Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old* (Isaiah 6), and our featured hymn *These Are the Holy Ten Commands* (Exodus 20). In other hymns the text writer expounded on the deep truths of Lutheran doctrine, including Luther's own *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* and Paul Speratus' *Salvation unto Us Has Come*.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands was written in early 1524, before the publication of both the Small and Large Catechisms, providing evidence for how important a role Luther believed music and hymnody to hold in catechesis. Luther wrote two versions, a 12-stanza version that we find in our hymnal, and a shorter 5-stanza version that was to be used with children. Both cover all ten commandments, just in different ways. In the 12-stanza setting stanza one gives us an overview of the commandments and stanzas two through nine deal with the first eight commandments. The ninth and tenth commandments are combined into stanza ten, with stanza eleven wrapping up the Law received in the previous stanzas. Finally, being a good Lutheran, Luther leaves us not with the Law condemning us, but rather with the Gospel of God's grace in the one who "pleads for us endlessly".

The connection with the tune *IN GOTTES NAMEN FAHREN WIR* is important to note. In writing the text, Luther had this tune in mind. It was an old German folk hymn

that would have been sung by pilgrims as visited the holy places in Jerusalem.

The text begins:

In God's name we are traveling,
and for His grace we are praying,
that all may be aided by God's power
and all may be strengthened to endure.
Kyrieleison. (Have mercy, Lord)

Pairing the familiar tune with a text on the Ten Commandments was a brilliant move on Luther's part. It would have made the hymn, in both long and short versions, singable in both the congregational setting and smaller home devotionals. In fact, the Morning Prayer in the Small Catechism concludes with, "Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments..."

O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE (LSB 617)

The first stanza of this hymn dates to the late fourteenth century and is a *Leise*, or a religious song that ends with a form of "Kyrie eleison," similarly to our previous hymn. Luther rewrote a few of the objectionable lines in the original stanza and added two stanzas. He encouraged the singing of this hymn in both his *Formula Missae* and his *Deutsche Messe* (German mass, essentially LSB Divine Service 5). The text of the hymn clearly points us toward the part of the Catechism dealing with the Sacrament of the Altar. The original first stanza assisted Luther in teaching the reception of both the body and blood at communion, which was not the normal practice at the time. He contended that there would have been no issue had the Roman church simply followed what was confessed in the hymn, "Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish our weak souls."

I'll finish with a final thought. You have possibly heard the adage, "lex orandi, lex credenda" which translates from Latin into English roughly as, "the Law prayed is the Law believed." The repetitive singing of these hymns is not merely to sing old hymns. Rather, as in the words of the Choristers Prayer, "...Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe with our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives..."

In CHRIST,
Kantor Janssen



ABOUT OUR CONGREGATION'S FUTURE: WE WANT TO LISTEN TO YOU

YOU – YES, YOU! – ARE INVITED TO JOIN US.

We'd like every communicant member of the congregation to participate in the upcoming series of Saturday morning prayerful conversations about the gracious gift that God has given to our church family: Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church. **SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION** is a next step forward in Hope's planning process. Using *Re:Vitality* resources developed in the LCMS Office of National Mission, the outcome of these sessions will be a strategic ministry plan that will capture what's on our minds and hearts regarding Hope's vision, mission and purpose. We'll also develop a set of specific goals designed to extend the proclamation of the Gospel to the communities that God has called us to serve.

IMPORTANT: Please mark your calendar now and plan to join your fellow Hope members in our fellowship hall on the following dates. ALL are welcome and encouraged to join us; we need your input.

Saturday, September 10, 9:00-11:15 am
Saturday, September 24, 8:00-11:45 am
Saturday, October 8, 9:00-11:30 am
Saturday, October 22, 8:00 am-Noon
Saturday, November 5, 9:00-10:30 am

P.S. Mark your calendar now with the dates/times shown above... and then come and contribute. Unable to make a specific session? No worries. . . just plan to join us for the others.

Basement Renovation Update

The third and final listening post to review, ask questions and comment on the proposed plan for the basement renovation will be held Sunday Sept. 11 during the Bible Class Hour. At that time participants will get to see the architects drawings and powerpoint presentation. Additionally, the floors and other surfaces have been marked off with blue tape to indicate the proposed floorpan. We are eager to review the feedback thus far and hear any further thoughts, questions or concerns at this listening post. Following this event, the basement renovation committee will compile all feedback and share it with the architectural firm with the request to provide additional mock-up

drawings that include the feedback from the congregation. These new drawings will be presented at the October 30th Voters Meeting with a full presentation of where things stand to date as well as anticipated next steps as we continue to revise and refine what the congregation desires for these renovated spaces. Future listening posts will be scheduled as needed following the Voters Meeting.

Committee members: Pam Nielsen(chair) Kay Shoemaker, Julie Vigil, Julie Day.

What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

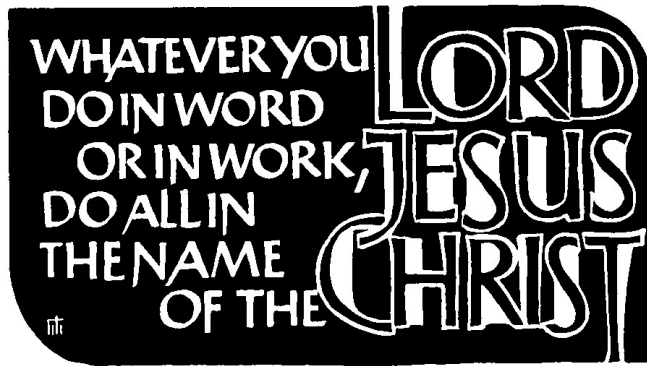
We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property

what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.



There is nothing that we have that doesn’t belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor.

6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let’s dive into the God’s Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

“Therefore everything in this Christian community is so ordered that everyone may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and [Sacraments] appointed to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live on earth” (Large Catechism, II:55). In September we continue to hear about the Holy Life of Christian faith and love. The Blessed Trinity constantly teaches us to trust in His mercy and to love our neighbors by serving them.

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
September 4	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Mark 7:31-37	The Healing of the Sick – The Lord Jesus restores His good creation by opening our hearts to hear His Word and loosing our mouths to praise and confess Him. Thus healed, we confess not only Jesus’ forgiveness but also His creation.
September 11	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 10:23-37	The Good Samaritan – Jesus Christ is the true “Good Samaritan” who rescues us and heals us from our sin. In the same way, we Christians are called to “be neighbor” to people around us – that is, to be “little Christs” to them.
September 18	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 17:11-19	The Thankful Samaritan – We like it when someone does a good deed for us, but too often we ignore the good deeds that God does for us. The thankful Samaritan shows us how to receive God’s gifts in faith and give Him thanks and praise.
September 25	St. Michael & All Angels	Matthew 18:1-10	God’s Holy Angels – Conflict is part of the Christian faith and life – that is, the conflict between God’s kingdom and the kingdom of darkness. But God sends His holy angels fight the forces of Satan on our behalf. On this day we hear the accurate Scriptural teaching of angels (a teaching that is not always present in popular ideas about angels).

40 Days for Life

Coalition Life (formerly Coalition for Life) is planning the annual “40 Days for Life” for September 28-November 6. Join thousands from across the St. Louis area in prayer. “40 Days for Life is an intensive effort designed to raise awareness, save lives, bring healing, and lead our nation to repentance for the sin of abortion through three components: prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach.” Groups can adopt a day or half day

to pray outside the St. Louis (or Fairview Heights) Planned Parenthood. Participants peacefully stand on the sidewalk and pray holding pro-life signs provided by Coalition Life. There is a Kick-Off Rally on September 27, 5:00pm. For more details about participating, see their website www.coalitionlife.com. If you have questions or would like more information about this event, contact Judy Maichel, mjmaichel@juno.com.

Phone: 314-352-0014

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder: 4 – Scot Kinnaman 11 – Chad Rolland 18 – Scot Kinnaman 25 – Jim Frost	Altar Guild: 4 Spyers/Truebe 11 Asbury/Bergdolt 18 Brown/Patton 25 Keller/Janssen			1 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	2	3 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
4 <u>Trinity 12</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class	5 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Church office Closed</i>	6	7	8 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	9	10 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 9:00-11:45 Serving in God's Mission
11 <u>Trinity 13</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Basement Listening Post 11:30 Catechism Class 11:30 Choir rehearsal	12 7:00 Board of Finance	13	14	15 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	16	17 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
18 <u>Trinity 14</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Catechism Class 11:30 Choir rehearsal	19 7:00 Sunday School Teachers Meeting	20	21	22 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	23	24 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 8:00-11:45 Serving in God's Mission
25 <u>St. Michael & All Angels</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Catechism Class 11:30 Choir rehearsal	26	27	28	29 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	30	