

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 2024

Mission Statement: We are called by God to be the light of the world. We are to go forth and show Jesus' love and forgiveness through loving care for all God's creation.

Newsletter Deadline

July newsletter deadline is June 20th. Thank you!

Scrip Corner

Thank you everyone that has been purchasing scrip. We have had some great sales recently. Please keep up the good work to help St John Lutheran Church.

VBS

VBS will be Monday June 10th-Wednesday June 12th from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Canning Jars

If you have used canning jars, please place the clean jars in the tote to the left of the refrigerators in the lower level. Do not place empty canning jars on the counters in the kitchen or any other place throughout the building. Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you to all 54 people who attended the Dinner Theatre at Dellwood on Friday, April 26th. "Doublewide Texas" was presented by the Sand County Players. A fantastic buffet dinner and salad bar along with dessert in addition to the hilarious play was enjoyed by all!

Mark your calendars!

The next Dinner Theatre is scheduled for Friday November 1st. "Squirrel Lake" written by Brian Mitchell takes place in Squirrel Lake, Wisconsin! It was supposed to be a simple family reunion at the lake...You are bound to meet a nut or two! More information (cost and sign-up deadline, etc.) will be shared as it becomes available.

Lutheran Hour Broadcast

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on the following radio stations on Sunday Morning:
WAXX 104.5 FM at 6:30 a.m.; WDLB 1450 AM at 8 a.m.; WDUX 92.7 FM at 8 a.m.;
WSAU 99.9 FM at 8:30 a.m.; and WRVM 91.3 FM, 94.3 FM or 101.3 FM at 10 a.m.

June 2024

June 2

"Lit Up"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Law and Gospel light of Jesus is both an exposing searchlight that reveals our shortcomings and a warm grow light that nurtures us.

(Acts 11:24)

June 9

"Selfless Sending"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Jeff Cloeter

The Christians of ancient Antioch were known for their spirit of selfless sacrifice. The spirit of Antioch continues in the Church today because Christ Himself is with us.

(Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3)

June 16

"Water Power"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's mission is like water. Without changing what it is, the Good News of God's Kingdom takes the shape of its cultural container, crossing boundaries and barriers.

(Acts 16:5)

June 23

"You're Really into This, Aren't You?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

People can be passionate about sports, gardening, video games, or family. All those things can be good, but none of them can save you.

(Acts 16:30)

June 30

"An Eager Conversationalist!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstock

The Holy Spirit empowers us to open our mouths and share Jesus, so that all might have what none of us deserve.

(Acts 17:16-31)

RE:VITALITY

BECAUSE WE'RE THE CHURCH

Dear Saints of St. John Lutheran Church,

Last January our church council began the process of strategic planning and revitalization with a presentation from DJ Schult, Assistant to the President of the North Wisconsin District of the LCMS. After this presentation, the council discussed what our next steps would be. During Lent, we began our efforts in earnest with our Pray devotional.

This month we will participate in the next step of the strategic planning and revitalization process: a feedback survey. This survey will be open from June 9-30. This survey, entitled "Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status" will help us to determine our next steps. It is therefore important that we hear from as many people as possible. Included in this newsletter are two documents explaining the survey and the larger Re:Vitality revitalization process.

I am very excited to go through this process. The Lord has truly blessed us at St. John Lutheran Church. Though things are constantly changing, the never changing Gospel is exactly what is needed in our community right now. My hope is that this planning process will give us a sharper focus on the ways in which we may bring this Gospel to our community and make disciples of Jesus Christ for life.

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew Lorfeld

RE:VITALITY

SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION

Strategic Planning for Congregations

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established” (PROVERBS 16:3).

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; and
- A realistic, meaningful and useful Strategic Ministry Plan.



APPROACH



SGM begins with taking inventory of what the Lord has invested in your congregation and how He has shaped it as the Body of Christ in a place, at a time, for a people of His choosing. Using God's Word and this assessment as the basis for understanding God's Mission for the congregation, *SGM* guides you through a tailored strategic planning process to develop a Strategic Ministry Plan that addresses how to faithfully carry out your part in God's Mission in the unique context of your congregation.

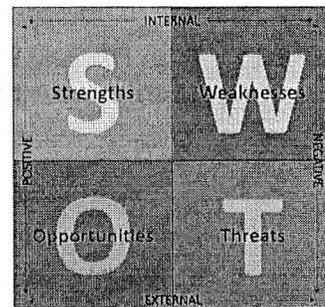
DEVELOPING CONSENSUS

When, why and how to develop consensus highlights one of the key differences between secular strategic planning and the strategic planning process of *SGM*. While secular approaches typically begin with a vision cast by a leader which is then “sold” to the rest of the organization, *SGM* approaches strategic planning as an activity in which the congregation-at-large is engaged from the beginning. 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.

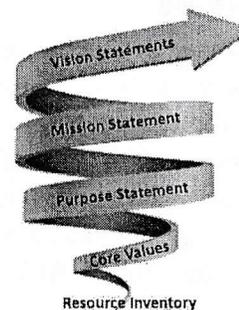
THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS AND TOOLS

The strategic planning process of SGM guides you through the steps of developing and implementing a Strategic Ministry Plan. The process and tools may be familiar to participants who have engaged in strategic planning in their workplaces. However, the process and tools will be applied in a different order, with a different emphasis and with a different goal than they might be in a secular context. Some of the tools used to support the strategic planning process include the resource inventory, SWOT analysis, essential core values of Lutheran congregations, mission statement, vision statements and SMART goals.



FORMAT

SGM is a self-directed workshop that takes place through a series of sessions that include video instruction, case studies for discussion, and the development of the Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP). Each session supports the spiral development of the congregation’s SMP through iterations that provide multiple levels of involvement and build consensus for the SMP as it is developed. The three levels are the Core Planning Team (CPT), the Expanded Planning Team (XPT) and the congregation-at-large.



WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The CPT should include a cross-section of 4–6 key influencers in the congregation. This includes the pastor, other professional church workers, council members, board members and informal leaders (i.e., the people to whom other members look for direction). Participants do not require prior knowledge of strategic planning but do need to be willing to engage in planning activities. The XPT adds four or more people to the CPT. The congregation-at-large includes any and all members of the congregation who wish to participate in the strategic planning process. (*Note: smaller congregations may combine the CPT and XPT.*)

COST

SGM is available to LCMS congregations through the LCMS Office of National Mission at no cost.



GETTING STARTED

CONTACT US for more information about or to schedule *Serving in God’s Mission* for your congregation at

✉ WOR@lcms.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION about *re:Vitality* please visit

🌐 lcms.org/revitalization

📘 facebook.com/LCMSreVitality

RE:VITALITY

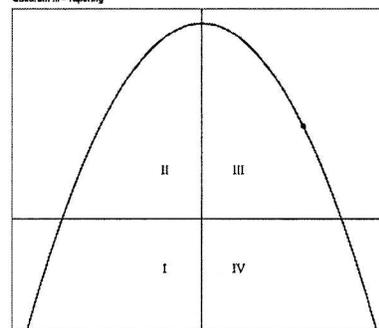
CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT/DECLINE STATUS (CADDs)

*An assessment of your congregation's stage of development or decline
by the leading experts on your congregation and context — you!*

OVERVIEW

The Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status (CADDs) is a survey-based self-assessment tool designed to provide your congregation with a consistent and objective way of answering the question “Where are we ... really?” CADDs is simple, straightforward and nonintrusive — it does not require anyone from outside the congregation to assist in the assessment. Instead, CADDs relies on input from the people who know your congregation and context better than anyone else: you.

Your overall result:
Quadrant III - Tapering



CRITICAL MEASUREMENTS

CADDs measures three critical elements of development and decline to evaluate your congregation's well-being. The first is sustainability (also called viability). It reflects the congregation's ability to continue ministry. The second element is adaptability, which measures the members' openness to change. The third element considers the balance of the outward focus and inward focus of the congregation. These critical measurements can be demonstrated on a standard distribution curve that spans four quadrants of development and decline.

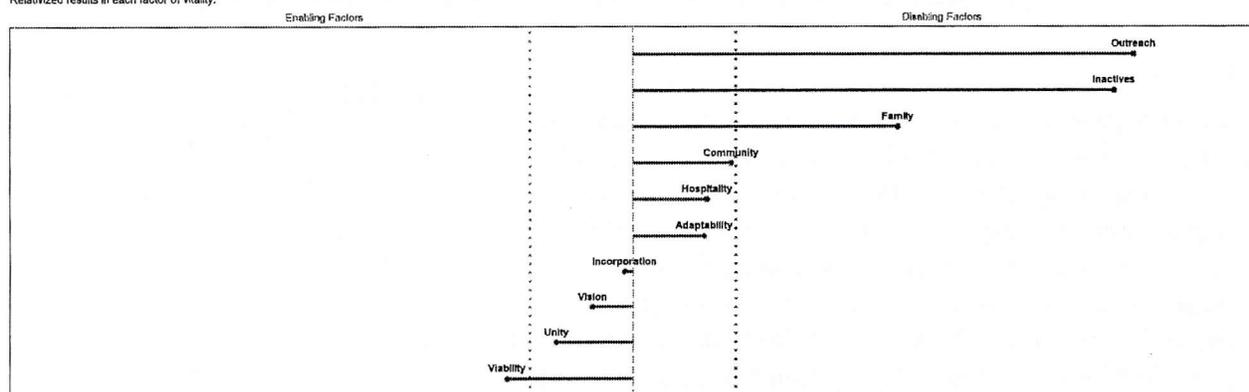
THE CADDs SURVEY

CADDs uses a scientifically-developed 95-question survey to measure the three critical elements of congregational well-being. The survey is designed to be completed by any and all members of the congregation and other people with an interest in the congregation (e.g., non-member school families). The survey is completed online (an offline option is available). It takes about 20–25 minutes to complete.

THE CADDs REPORT

The results of the CADDs survey are presented as a single-page, graphical report. This simple report provides a clear snapshot that answers the question “Where are we ... really?” In a diagram based on the *Stages of Congregational Development Decline* diagram, the report identifies an overall status that indicates the stage of development or decline. In a separate line graph, the report identifies the factors that are contributing to your congregation’s status. These factors are listed in order from the factors having the most negative impact (things you need to do better) to the factors having the most positive impact (things you are doing well). Having the results of the CADDs survey in a concise, graphical report rather than detailed textual report helps you avoid “paralysis by analysis” while providing you with a clear course of action.

Relativized results in each factor of vitality:



BY YOU, FOR YOU

The CADDs report is sent directly to your congregation. Unless otherwise agreed upon, the results are not shared with any other entity. The purpose of the CADDs report is to assist you with understanding the factors driving your stage of development or decline in order to identify which *re:Vitality* resources would be most beneficial to your congregation. However, there is no obligation for you to take any further action after completing CADDs.

COST

CADDs was developed and is supported by the LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM). ONM provides CADDs to LCMS congregations at no cost.

GETTING STARTED

CONTACT US for more information about or to begin the process of using CADDs for your congregation at

✉ WOR@lcms.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION about *re:Vitality* please visit

🖱 lcms.org/revitalization

📘 facebook.com/LCMSreVitality