First Lutheran Church

July 2019

Vision Path

As we're moving deeper into our Vision Path process I want to thank all of those who voiced there thoughts and opinions on our survey — you were heard! I would also like to thank those who joined us at the Country Club to carry the conversation even further — you, too, were heard!!

When we gathered earlier in June we reflected as a group upon the goal of this whole Vision-Path process, namely, to wrestle with three questions:

WHY we do what we do? — an *identity* question leading to our Vision
HOW we do what we do? — a *process* question leading to our Mission
WHAT we do? — a *goal* question leading to the specific ministries we engage in

As we are continuing this journey our Vision Path Leaders have already met twice since our June 9th gathering working to synthesize our congregation's thoughts, ideas, and passions into a Mission statement… which is simply: *an identity statement with a purpose clause.*

June 9th

Our discussions from June 9th directed participants to reflect on such action points as: our greatest hope for our community; where we're headed as a congregation; describing our community's needs, wants, and stereotypes; and our perceived relationship with those around us. These statements garnered great reflection and observations and elicited involvement from men and women, youth and seniors, newer and lifelong members. It was wonderful to have so many diverse voices present!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Anniversary
- Worship Schedule
- Stewardship
- Schedules

When the results of the survey were read, a distinct theme arose... "not sure." These results clarify a very important point: we show signs of having taken for granted our past and present place in our community. Even more, as a congregation we may fail to see how the community has changed, leaving us unclear about the needs, wants, or struggles of those around us.

On our nine question survey, five questions carried a version of the ambiguous reply, "not sure," among the top three responses. These were questions concerning things like: the community impact of First Lutheran; our community's description of our church; and identifying our community's greatest need. We even struggled with issues like: why someone should join our congregation and what needs to change most within our church.

Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled… *too much*

These questions and our responses are very helpful observations. Please take time to reflect on them, pray over them, and pay attention to how they make you feel: mad, sad, glad, scared. Why do you *feel* that way? What does that particular feeling (or feelings) *tell* you about yourself?

Connecting our thoughts with our feelings often reveals what's really going on inside of us: Are we mad because we feel like we are being treated as if our past work was pointless and unappreciated? Are we sad because we remember days-gone-by that cannot be relived? Does gladness fill our heart as we sense a reawakening within our church!? Are we scared of being forgotten or that our legacy is being erased?

Jesus' words in John 14 twice remind His followers, *"do not let your hearts be troubled."* As we move through this Vision Path process our goal is to unite as a congregation not dismiss people, history, or the work of those on whose shoulders we now stand. God is leading us through this process to awaken us to His vision for us at First Lutheran! Don't forget, Paul teaches us in Ephesians 2 *"it is by grace you have been saved, through faith"* (verse 8) AND *"we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* (verse 10)

God has us! For, "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) So, DO NOT let your heart be troubled to the point of despair.

However, DO:

let God's Spirit teach and transform you, "by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

Listen to where the Lord is gifting you with the ability to let go and "cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Open yourself to His voice which directs you into new paths as the Good Shepherd of the 23rd Psalm.

"Be strong and courageous… for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Remember, as Jesus' disciples we have been Commissioned to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

and be empowered since, "all this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18)

On the journey,
pmc

JULY
Two Steps & A Challenge

Sometimes we can get caught inside ourselves. We have the same conversations. With the same folks. Coming to the same conclusions. To be honest, life is easier when we're not challenged… but is it as productive? Maybe more important, is it good for us to cloister and ignore those around us? Below are two suggested steps to help us break out of usual conversations, opinions, and views and into the lives and situations that surround us.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction."
Proverbs 1:7

Step 1: Demographics
When was the last time you looked at demographics for Paola and the surrounding communities? Have you noticed our community currently is showing a rise *(and is projected to increase)* in those age 25-34 and age 65 and over. Would you guess there is a projected increase in the number of single parent homes while also increasing the number of families with late elementary and middle school students?

Did you know the families in our community are looking for family support and intervention services along with community involvement and advocacy programs? These would include things like: crisis support groups, family oriented activities, marriage enrichment, parenting development, personal/family counseling, and opportunities for volunteering in the community.

Did you know education for our community exceeds the Kansas state average amongst high school/GED graduations but peaks after 'some college' and drops below average after achieving an Associates Degree?

Ever heard of Generation Z *(those born 2005-2025)* who is projected to overtake both Generation X *(those born 1961-1981)* and the Millennials *(those born 1982-2004)* over the next ten years? Did you know many believed they will reflect similar attitudes, accomplishments, and achievements as those of the Silent Generation *(those born 1925-1945)*? Hearing this, how does it change the way you view our future? What do we need to learn so that we might best prepare today's newborn to 14 year-olds?

Step 2: Listen
As individuals and as a congregation we need to practice listening more. We need to position ourselves to hear rather than to judge. This may mean stepping outside of our own echo-chambers where we find joy, love, and trust amongst established relationships! After all, those folks know us and we know them. They work, shop, eat, play, and worship like we do. It's comfortable and free of offense or surprises.

"A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion." Proverbs 18:2

How often do we talk to our neighbors? You know, the other ones... the one's whose names we can't remember or who moved in last year. When have we sought to discover what someone in our community wants rather than assuming and projecting on them what *we* ***know*** they need!??

Truth is, often, we aren't sure. We don't know. We assume. We think. We guess. BUT rarely do we ask. And when we do ask, do we listen? Or are we simply trying so hard to change their mind or correct their thinking? How might we position ourselves to be salt and light that flavors and guides rather than burns when it comes in contact with fresh wounds or blinds like a spotlight singling out sins, failures, or trade-offs?

My Challenge:
Go find demographics for Paola and her surrounding communities: list two things that were confirmed by the report; and list two things that surprised you about the report. Now, go share those facts with your 'usual' group. Where did your conversation lead?

Pay attention to your conversations this month, who do you listen to most often? Is it largely family and friends? Are the majority of your conversations with those connected with First Lutheran or another Lutheran congregation? Who is someone outside of this echo-chamber of friends and family that you listen to… what do they have to say that challenges and comforts you?

"A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back."
Proverbs 29:11

LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSION-

Our last meeting for the 2018-2019 year was held on June 6th with a potluck to round out a great year fellowshipping together as women in the Lutheran faith. As we wind up our affairs for the term, we celebrate the gifts God has bestowed upon us and cherish the memories we have made together. Thank you to each member, council member, volunteer, guests, and the congregation, who helped contribute to fulfilling our roles as Lutheran Women in Mission, as LWML has successfully funded the 2017-2019 missionary goal!

Although our next meeting will not be until September, mites are still being collected in the Narthex on the LWML table. This will give us a great head-start into the 2019-2020 term.

Please keep Amanda West, Emily Mead, and Cindy Mead in your prayers as they head to the LWML National Convention June 20th – 23rd. Bless these women in their travels, keep them safe and open their hearts to new adventures.

Although our next meeting will not be until September, mites are still being collected in the Narthex on the LWML table. This will give us a great head-start into the 2019-2020 term –Lindsay Sinclair

Greetings from the Elders!

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of a new Security Team. The team will be involved with coming up with protocols for various situations including fires, tornadoes, active shooters, etc. If you would like to participate on this team, please let an Elder know and we can get someone in contact with you.

FROM OUR THE PRESIDENT

First Lutheran Congregation
We have had our 5th Sunday service and town hall meeting and while there is a lot of great information presented from each of boards, one of the things discussed was how we are coming up short on offering. While we have discussed all of the wonderful things we have been able to do with the offering from the past couple of years during the generosity journey, but we have also had a very good base built to our foundation and are completing some many things around the church that have been on the list, some for a long time. We have discussed the the things we wanted to do as well as places or people we wanted to support with the offering we, First Lutheran, have been so generously provided in support of God's work. While we have had great success in helping people not just in our own neighborhoods, but in places around the world, we have so much more to do.
We are also working with a group within our congregation to help us see where we are wanting to go in the future. With a very good meet last month, we have gotten some great ideas of where we will be going in the future. While moving in the direction that God is leading us, we are only able to continue this work through the congregations generous tithing and offerings. We have come a long way in the last few years and the momentum is still needed for the long term to continue what has been started.

Please prayerfully consider your generosity as we plan on our Vision Path for First Lutheran.

Thank you
Brian Mead

TRUSTEES

The wall project is nearing completion, the stucco is finished, the sanctuary has been painted, the window trim has been installed and stained, the back lighting of the stain glass windows has been installed and is ready when the windows are returned from the company that's repairing them. There is a number of things that will be finished as time allows and the weather cooperates.

- Pat Tagler

OFFERING THROUGH SUNDAY JUNE 9, 2019

Our average weekly offering at First Lutheran so far this year is $5,700 per week. Our goal each week is $8,013. The following table has been updated through March 17, 2019.

Offering	Actual	Goal	Status
April 28 thru June 9	$35,011	$56,091	- $21,080
June 9 Year to date	$127,223	$184,299	- $57,076

Give to the LORD the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his presence. Worship the LORD in all His holy splendor.
1 Chronicles 16:29 (NLT)

PRAYER LIST

Our Members Mel Brown; Alvin & Martha Brunkhardt; Kathy Courtney; Jane Chronister; Jane Drugg; LeRoy Elliott; Irene Hodge; Matt Klawonn; Bob Medlin; Norman Minden; Ted Moore; Ron & Brenda Prothe; Gail Sawyer; Marjorie Smith; Helen Webster;

Expecting Parents **Justin and Autumn Diehm**

Family & Friends Ed Albin; Paul Argeropoulos; Stella Beard; Rob Beck; Diana Bhamgara; Rodney Brandt; Casey Brown; Diana Brown; Milton & Janice Capps; Heather Cardin; Donald Davis; Bill Dempsay; Grace Donham; Jim Donner; Aspen Espey and family; Patty Fouts; Jerrie Frizzel; Larry Gary; Mary Ginkel; Larry Gray; Grant Haley; Nikki Harrison; Rob, Suzy & Slater Hedrick; Lisa Hunter; Win Jordan; Landon Kletke; Samantha Kriesel; Jacob Larsen; Richard Larson; Martin Lohaus; Ashley Lyons; Milo Lyons; Robby Manthei; Peggy McVey; Damian Mekonnen: Amerson Miles; Bill and Linda Mobley; Betty Morris; Chrissy Newcom; Joe Peterson; Tony Reese; Chris Rodendauth; Heather Ryan; Dottie Salchow; Stender Family; Doris Surbaugh; Ellie Teagarden; Val Tribble; Valentena Upton; Joyce Wassmer; John Weaver; Mary Windisch; Ruth Youngblood

Missionaries Glenn family; Herron family; Rev. Matthew & Kali Woods and family

Military Service James Bernard; Dalton Hawks; Caleb Lofing; Matthew Lofing; Seth Lofing; Adam Merrill; Graham Mosley; Garrett Scott; DJ Weaver; Darin Schweer; Ethan Stahl; All Military Families

Family Ministry

Our Youth Action Advisory Team

The Youth Action Team is looking for ideas on fundraising, fun activities and Missions for our Middle School and High School youth! Contact Emily Mead, Jason DeCaire, Katie Thoden or Randy Fast if you have ideas to share. They would also like to know if you are willing to donate a Thrivent Card to help with funding.

- Mary Kettler

FAMILY MINISTRY

We made it through VBS and it was a 'BLAST'. Nothing quite like having 100 kids fill the church with their energy and voices, praising God. If you have Facebook go check out my page for some videos & pictures I posted. Can't wait until next year!

Angel Gillespie has accepted the call for our DCE position and is currently looking for housing in the area. She spent Father's Day weekend checking out some properties here in Paola and surrounding areas. Please let us know if you are aware of a suitable place for her to rent. We are so excited to have her on the First Lutheran Team!

Have a Safe & Blessed 4th of July!

-Mary Kettler, Family Ministry Chair

Youth Corner

LCMS National Youth Gathering 2019

The National Youth Gathering begins on July 10th and goes through July 14th! Please keep our group in your prayers for safe travels and to have a meaningful, spirit-filled experience in Minneapolis. Those attending are Jordan Menefee, Hannah Menefee, Mika Menefee, Autumn Menefee, Josie Worrell, Maria Worrell, Chris Lohaus-Fast, Gentry Blanck, Alex Kamprath, & Jonathan Kamprath. Plan to join us on August 11th during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary for the Youth's presentation on their experience.

- Mary Kettler, Family Ministry Chair

EVANGELISM

Wednesday, July 24 is the Fair parade and we will have a float! The theme is "out of this World" which goes with our VBS theme this year. We really need your help in decorating the float and then walking or riding the float to help pass out Thrivent t-shirts and popsicles! Last year we gave out the t-shirts and they had a great impact on our community. People would see us in the grocery store and say, "your from that church- tell me more" Please, consider being a part of this very visible community event!

Fall Bazaar and Craft Fair takes place on Saturday, Sept 21st. We could use some volunteers to help with set up and clean up as well as some to work the information booth. This is also a very visible community event so the more church members we get involved, them more the community sees. We bring in 60 vendors/crafters or more as well as a shopping crowd of at least 300. The local LERT Team will be there with freshly grilled lunch items raising funds to keep their supply ready to serve. If you are a crafter or vendor please consider renting a booth at this event. Contact Cindy or Amanda for more information.

Cindy 859-576-1891

Amanda 913-731-0201

Classes started June 26th, but you can still get in! We also understand that it is summer and missing a class or two will probably happen. We will work with you to make sure that when your training is over that you have been completely trained and confident that you can be a Stephen Minister. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 through September 11th. We will also have a few Saturday sessions. If we have not talked to you but you are interested, please contact (call or text) Cindy Mead or Pam Meyer asap. We look forward to working with this class and seeing how they grow through the process.

If you have not looked through the Bunny book (in the narthex) it will show you just how simple this can be and what an impact it can make.

Cindy 859-576-1891

Pam 913-564-2486

EVANGELISM

Have you ever thought that we would have our church service in the narthex!?! For decades, we have set in the pews and listen to the sermons. But last Sunday was one like no other, we had our 8 AM traditional service, not so traditional right here in the narthex. The congregation pulled together and embraced the change of how to handle the issue. It was truly amazing, thank you to everyone who helped.

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Osborn July 01
Camille Benedict July 02
Nellie Brandt July 02
Kimberly Rentz July 02
Laverne Stringham July 02
Clara McKinney July 03
Lois Moore July 04
Amanda Botka July 05
Daryl Benedict July 09
Patrick Tagler July 12
Cindy Forsberg July 13
Vicki Teagarden July 13
Pearl Doherty July 14
Kathy Kane July 15
Sheresa Law July 15
David Garcia July 16
Briar Diehm July 19
Brayden Garcia July 19
Lori Weaver July 21
Larry Tagler July 23,
Karen Miller July 24
Dallas Armbruster July 25
Marsha Hambleton July 26
Angela Prothe July 26
Barrett Medlin July 29
Leona Smith July 29
Daniel Weaver July 30
Alex Kamprath July 31
Kathleen Ohlmeier July 31

Happy Anniversary and Birthday to you all from First Lutheran!

ANNIVERSARIES

Armbruster, Dallas & Sandi July 06
Gardner, Bob & Loree July 09
Ohlmeier, Adam & Aneta July 11
Brown, Kevin & Karen July 14
Chilson, Louis & Rose Anne July 18
Dobie, Paul & Anna July 24
Ward, Philip & Anita July 24
Norton, Dennis & Jeanette July 29

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Acolyte Schedule

Date	Service	Senoir Worship Assistant	Service	Acolyte	Acolyte
7/7/2019	8:00	Anna Kane	8:00	Ruby Kane	Erin Livingston
	10:30	Maddie Pitzer	10:30	Wyatt Mock	Amanda Pitzer
7/14/2019	9:00		8:00	Logan Page	Wyatt Mock
			10:30	NeCeliah Herrera	Xzavier Herrera
7/21/2019	8:00	Lydia Prothe	8:00	William Mock	Keira McIntire
	10:30	Jake Page	10:30	Elizabeth Schrotberger	Jonathan Reque
7/28/2019	8:00		8:00	Alex Forsberg	Braden Thoden
	10:30		10:30	Ruby Kane	Brielle Garcia

If you cannot acolyte on your assigned date, it is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF ANY CHANGES!

STEWARDSHIP

Time • Talent • Treasure

Stewardship and Thrivent will be presenting the topic “Income Taxes & Retirement” on Wednesday, August 7. A light dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with discussion beginning at 7 p.m.

Topic description is: Preparing for retirement includes making choices that can affect your income taxes. Learn more about the financial impact and how to make wise decisions that are right for you.

The class is for those 55+ years young!

July 2019

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 Elders Meeting (MH) 6:00 PM Evangelism 6:00 (AB) Trustees 6:00 PM	3 Mens Bible Study (MH) 6:30 AM Family Ministry 6:30 PM	4 Fourth of July Office Closed	5	6
7	8 Quilt Tying (B) 1:00 PM Pastors Bible Class 10:00 AM	9 Council Meeting (MH) 6:00 PM	10 Mens Bible Study (MH) 6:30 AM Youth Bible Study F.L.Y. 6:30 pm to 8 pm	11 Youth	12 6-9 PM Gone	13 for
14 Devotions North Point 13:30 Medicalodge 2:15 PM National	15 Senior Breakfast Whistle Stop Café 8:00 AM Youth	16 Gathering	17 Mens Bible Study (MH) 6:30 AM Youth Bible Study F.L.Y. 6:30 pm to 8 pm	18 Braille 8:30 AM	19	20
21 Miami	22 Quilt Tying (B) 1:00 PM ...	23 County	24 Mens Bible Study (MH) 6:30 AM NO YOUTH Parade Floats Arrive @ FLC 6PM	25 Fair	26 ...	27 Week
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	Notes * B = Basement * MH = Mission House * F.L.Y. = First Lutheran Youth * AB = Applebees				

Calendar Templates by Vertex42
https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/

July 2019

June '19

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August '19

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	**1** Obadiah 1 Psalm 82-83	**2** 2 Kings 1-4	**3** 2 Kings 5-8	**4** 2 Kings 9-11	**5** 2 Kings 12-13 2 Chronicles 25	**6** 2 Kings 14 2 Chronicles 25
7 Jonah 1-4	**8** 2 Kings 15 2 Chronicles 26	**9** Isaiah 1-4	**10** Isaiah 5-8	**11** Amos 1-5	**12** Amos 6-9	**13** 2 Chronicles 27 Isaiah 9-12
14 Micah 1-7	**15** 2 Chroicles 28 2 Kings 16-17	**16** Isaiah 13-17	**17** Isaiah 18-22	**18** Isaiah 23-27	**19** 2 Kings 18:1-8 2 Chronicles 29-31 Psalm 48	**20** Hosea 1-7
21 Hoesa 8-14	**22** Isaiah 28-30	**23** Isaiah 31-34	**24** Isaiah 35-36	**25** Isaiah 37-39 Psalm 76	**26** Isaiah 40-43	**27** Isaiah 44-48
28 2 Kings 18:9-19:37 Psalm 48 Psalm 80 Psalm 135	**29** Isaiah 49-53	**30** Isaiah 54-58	**31** Isaiah 59-63	1	2	3
4	5	Notes				

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https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/

Elder: Gregg Lewis

Church Assistants July 2019

Paraments: Sandi Armbruster

		July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28	
Greeters	8:00 AM	Mary Lou Helm Teresa Damron	Joe and Vicki Teagarden	JoAnn Russell Lois Moore	Donna, Kevin, & Jessica Erwin	Thank you for volunteering your time to help serve the Lord in this way! Remember: If you are unable to be here on the Sunday that you are scheduled please find your replacement, then call or email the church office so that we know who will be covering for you. Try to trade weekends if at all possible. Also, please be at the church at least 15 – 30 minutes before Worship or Sunday School begins to adequately prepare yourself to serve. **Church office: 913-294-3476** **Office@firstlutheran-paola.org**
	10:30 AM	Jean Kaiser	Norlene Minden	Jean Kaiser	Ella Hinman	
Ushers	8:00 AM	Dallas Armbruster Jeff Menefee	Dennis Rentz Virgil Lyons	Dean Lovig Jeff Menefee	David Wehmeier Bob Gardner	
	10:30 AM	Jake Hinman Randy Fast	Don Polson Randy Fast	Jason DeCaire Terry Drugg	Jake Hinman Jason Decaire	
Acolytes	8:00 AM	Anna Kane (SWA) Erin Livingston Ruby Kane	Logan Page Wyatt Mock	Lydia Prothe (SWA) William Mock Keira McIntire	Alex Forsberg Braden Thoden	
	10:30 AM	Maddie Pitzer (SWA) Amanda Pitzer Wyatt Mock	Necelia & Xavier Herrera	Jake Page (SWA) Elizabeth Schrotberger Jonathan Reque	Ruby Kane Brielle Garcia	
Lectors		Jody Brown	Dean Lovig	Helen Tagler	Mark Fuchs	
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Joe Teagarden Daryl Benedict Dean Lovig		Daryl Benedict Mark Fuchs Virgil Lyons		
	10:30 AM	Ron Moore Brian Mead Terry Drugg		Jonathan Kamprath Alex Kamprath Ron Moore		
AV Tech	8AM	Kim Rentz	Mark Fuchs	Kim Rentz	Bridgett McIntire	
	10:30AM	Christopher Lohaus-Fast	Emily Mead	Julie Kamprath	Ken Meyer	
Counter/Helper		Helen Tagler Ella Hinman	Jean Kaiser Betty Hewitt	Camille Benedict Pam Meyer	Cindy Forsberg Helen Webster	
Organist		Janet Bucher	Kris Fuchs	Leona Smith	Janet Bucher	
Sunday School Teachers/Helpers	9:15AM	Suzy Karigan	Karla Lohaus-Fast	Suzy Karigan	Jody Brown	
Kid's Ministry Leaders/Helpers	10:30AM Service	Suzy Karigan, Jody Brown, and Mary Kettler	Karla Lohaus-Fast, Jody Brown, and Sarah Schrotberger	Loree Gardner and Jody Brown	Jody Brown and Jen Garcia	
Tiny Disciples	10:30AM Service	Jody Brown	Amanda and Haleigh West	Preston and Lindsay Berggren	Justin and Autumn Diehm	
FLC Youth Sunday Classes	9:15AM	Pam and Ken Meyer	Cindy and Brian Mead	Julie and Jonathan Kamprath	Joe and Becky Patton	