

Abwaze!
TM

Kansas

Idea

Book

Ablaze Convocation

Open Space Discussion Topics

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MOTIVATING YOUR CONGREGATION

How do We Motivate Our Congregation to Become Active in ABLAZE?

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Why is This Important to Us?

Millions dying everyday who have not heard the Gospel. Need to share the Word!

Recommendations

- ◆ Meeting of 3-4, next week meet with 8-10, etc.
- ◆ Lutheran witness articles give us the words to use!
- ◆ Present to congregation – challenge – every person make contact with 3 people, not necessarily in your hometown. Contact negligent members!
- ◆ Challenge – congregation one Sunday members bring someone.
- ◆ High school classes – Ablaze t-shirts
- ◆ Box with Ablaze banners – names to be sent into Synod
- ◆ DVD in service – delegate from convention and pastor speak after showing.
- ◆ 18 members in “Think tank” weekly! Cottage meeting.
- ◆ Bible study groups with family involved. Children do projects.
- ◆ Rocky Mease – Inactive members speak to congregations no charge.
- ◆ Be enthusiastic – you can’t build interest unless you’re interested!
- ◆ Share our story – give them reason to go to church.
- ◆ Inspire them for worship.
- ◆ Do you have the joy? Share this joy!
- ◆ Get your youth involved. Meet them where they are!
- ◆ Blended service – a little of each!
- ◆ Contemporary service provides joy! Praise an important part of worship.
- ◆ Small groups to share ABLAZE message – meal and social hour.

Build Excitement and Enthusiasm in a Congregation, Getting Everyone Involved

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Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Need to build Spiritual growth of members first so that they will enthusiastically engage new members and visitors.
- ◆ Spiritual growth will build the desire for involvement in the church activities.
- ◆ Involvement inspires enthusiasm – which sparks other enthusiasm to new people and existing people. ABLAZE = FIRE
 - *Fueling Interest Revives Enthusiasm*
 - *Faith Involves Reaching Everyone*
- ◆ Sharing Christ and his salvation message should make us all enthusiastic.
- ◆ Excitement brings membership

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Membership – ASK! ASK! ASK! New involvement will eventually happen.
- ◆ Relationships – build these first, as they become more comfortable new involvement should follow

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Whole Christian Life – God is involved in all areas of your life.
 - Time – Talent – Tithe
 - It is ALL HIS – Learn what he wants me to do with all the things (gifts and money) he has given/blessed me with

Other Discussion of Significance (cont.)

- ◆ Try – Planting the SEEDS only
 - You don't always have to play the "God" card.
 - Show your sincere enthusiasm for what you are doing/involved in and as they watch-seeds will continue to be dropped into their soil. God's Spirit will fertilize it when it is the right time.
- ◆ Live your Faith Daily in front of everyone, at work, at home, in the grocery store. Because someone is always watching.

Recommendations

- ◆ Members make effort to ASK new and non-participating to join choir, LWML... don't give up keep asking – you will eventually find their interest or gift place.
- ◆ Begin with fellowship – Dinner for 8 (group meets once a month for dinner and get to know you) Chairman – sets up groups of varying ages.
- ◆ DUCC/Faithful Friend/Elder or Spiritual Life Member
- ◆ Volunteer coordinator
- ◆ Volunteer couples/singles
- ◆ To make contact with each new member and develop relationships.
- ◆ Some relationships stick and some don't
- ◆ Family Lock-in (no cell, no TV).
- ◆ Start Small – To build a **FIRE** first you need Kindling and a Spark
- ◆ Spark = Spirit and PRAYER (Begin a small group that prays weekly for the involvement and for the entire ministry of the church plus that the Spirit enflames their hearts for the work to be done)
- ◆ Try this book as a bible study Stop Dating the Church by Josh Harris (Risen Savior, Wichita, used this in Adult Bible Class and it has made an impact)
- ◆ Try this book as a small group The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren and follow it up with The Forty Days of Community by Rick Warren (note: there are several other books related to this topic by this author)
- ◆ When done with these books – the group decides where to go next, what topic, etc. (Idea: Encourage small group to write a review of study and share it with the congregation through NL, website....)
- ◆ Resources: ABLAZE Studies and Crown Financial Ministries

Building Excitement and Enthusiasm in a Congregation, Getting Everyone Involved

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Documenter:

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Marvin Abitz

Leland Holle

Aaron Bura

Aaron Borcharding

Amy Hofman

Discussion

- ◆ Speak Positively
- ◆ Brag about your God
- ◆ Build partnerships
- ◆ Update time/talent survey
- ◆ Have a Ministry Fair – to let your congregation members know what all you do.
- ◆ Personally ask people for what you want them to do.
- ◆ Elder's photo posted with members names listed under.
- ◆ New member expectations – what are they, and what we expect of them
- ◆ Fellowship and personal contact
- ◆ Faith Carnival(Fest) – for all ages, ice cream social
- ◆ Delinquent members feel that they aren't really cared for.
- ◆ Have an "Open Space" congregation planning meeting "Open Forum" that does not become a gripe session.

Assimilation – New Members and Current Members

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Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ We do a good job with adult instruction but we're kind of done with them then-get them involved in the church.
- ◆ Relationships are so important – ongoing
- ◆ Members could realize what they're missing by not being involved.
- ◆ Get people involved and keep people involved.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Faithful Friend – match up person with active church member for 6 months, but hard to find match
- ◆ List of members with facts about them
- ◆ New member class
- ◆ Gift inventory
- ◆ Boards present information to new member class
- ◆ Spiritual gifts inventory – self assessment
- ◆ New member bios
- ◆ Time & Talent survey
- ◆ Faith basics class and then new member class (info re: church, spiritual gifts, time/talent survey, board present information)
- ◆ Contact new member within a month and match needs of church and new member interest
- ◆ Outreach committee and separate assimilation committee

Assets on Which to Build (cont.)

- ◆ After matched to ministry, checked on for one year
- ◆ Christ Care for small group Bible study
- ◆ Discipleship 101 – Past the faith basics (Christ, Greenfield AZ)
- ◆ Assimilation meeting of leaders (boards, committees)

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Shut-ins can be praying; shut-ins often feel they can't do anything.
- ◆ Walk through Prayer – in church facilities prays over ministry.

Recommendations

- ◆ Ablaze web site – check on assimilation
- ◆ Current members need to reach out
- ◆ Faith basics for all new members even from other LCMS congregations
- ◆ Need to get new members in small group study
- ◆ Stop Dating the Church by Josh Harris – short easy read
- ◆ Elders workshop – Nov. 4th Trinity, Atchison will also deal with assimilation
- ◆ Introduce small groups through Purpose Driven Life – develops on going relationships
- ◆ Small groups can be organized by activity and/or bible study
- ◆ Invite people to come to small group no matter if they can only come a few times
- ◆ Ask people to commit for only a few weeks
- ◆ Start ministries with prayer and prayer going during meetings
- ◆ Prayer meetings
- ◆ Equipping the Church - workbook

How to Get Members More Involved in Fellowship and Worship

Convener: Doug Lehmann, Zion/Chanute 620-431-5848

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Discussion

Want to get more people in the congregation involved in different activities.

- ◆ Set term limits
- ◆ Rotation model for Sunday School for different people to use their talents
- ◆ Time-Talent survey – Gifts Survey
- ◆ New member class taken to church – where you want to use time/talent
- ◆ Spread out responsibilities, have leadership board ask others to utilize their talents
- ◆ Develop more relationships with members to tap into resources/gifts they have.
- ◆ Start small and then work into larger positions i.e. make cake, help with booth etc...
- ◆ Have specific goal in mind
- ◆ Have midweek classes intergenerational
- ◆ Create new opportunities for people to serve
- ◆ Minister to older adults to help with activities
- ◆ People tend to be unsure what gifts are – need opportunity to try and see if this is their gift.
- ◆ Need to encourage people's gifts so they will continue to use their gifts.
- ◆ Adopt a family to get to know each other.

How to Ignite the Blaze in an Elderly, Shrinking Congregation with Few Willing Workers

Convener: Jane Schlickau, Zion/Argonia, 620-435-6575

Documenter: same as above

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Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Survival – church is declining and will die if we don't grow
- ◆ Need more children – they are more likely to stay
- ◆ Involve the elderly
- ◆ Grow the Sunday School
- ◆ Need to put Ablaze in our churches

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ We have the people to get everything done.
- ◆ Our elder group is an asset.
- ◆ We have the space.
- ◆ Why are you here?

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Kids want to be entertained.
- ◆ Parents drop kids off for Sunday School but don't stay.

Recommendations

- ◆ Announce the Ablaze workshop to the entire congregation plenty ahead of time. Get out the information and the invitation! Assist with cost.
- ◆ Have a child/parent Sunday School maybe once a month, where parent goes with child to Sunday School.
- ◆ Have a "Think Tank" committee.
- ◆ Keep the joy!
- ◆ Hand out church invitations with Halloween candy.
- ◆ Interested in Ablaze? The material is there!
- ◆ Find the positive out of the crisis.
- ◆ The devil is at work – we must be at work also!
- ◆ Group prayer on a certain subject.
- ◆ Say, "Can you just give it a try? If it doesn't work, we can change."
- ◆ Ask! "Do you have a church home?" Invite.
- ◆ Welcome new-comers into town – works well in a small town.
- ◆ If you go visit, it will stick in their head.
- ◆ You can't sell anything without asking. We're selling Jesus.
- ◆ Look at, "Why are you there?"

How to Ignite the Blaze in an Elderly, Shrinking Congregation with Few Willing Workers

Convener: Rev. John Sharp, Holyrood-Claflin/St. Peter-Zion

Documenter: Rev. Brett Huebner, Marion-Hillsboro/Our Savior-Zion

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Passion to be here

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Jesus is crucified and risen
- ◆ Money, time, space, piety, and bible knowledge, small groups (bible study), “Christian culture” in our community
- ◆ Gospel ministry FOR those who come
- ◆ Modern Technology
- ◆ Nearby congregations

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Have a special speaker to enliven things (a big name)
- ◆ “Absent” members are a big problem
- ◆ KICK – Kids in Christ’s Kingdom, program at one congregation
- ◆ Competing with other local congregations

Recommendations

- ◆ Join/consolidate or utilize the assets of neighboring churches
- ◆ Fund a foreign ministry
- ◆ Unique event for rallying purposes
- ◆ Circle of Prayer – Prayer Chain
- ◆ Bible Study
- ◆ Think Tank
- ◆ Invite the community Oktoberfest, Streets of Bethlehem, silent auction, horse rides, carnival, local missions, concerts, etc.

MINISTRY
TO
MEMBERS

How to Better Help Hurting People

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Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Many people are hurting – lay people and professionals
- ◆ How do you get people to open up?
- ◆ Learn to ask with care.
- ◆ Uninformed people don't know how to ask.
- ◆ Dealing with issues such as schizophrenia, job loss divorce etc.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to Relate to Those Who are Suffering by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Haugk
- ◆ Many people are in Stephen Ministries
- ◆ Support systems in communities
- ◆ Support systems in church

Recommendations

- ◆ Think "How will this serve the kingdom"
- ◆ Someone who's been through a challenge can help the next one.
- ◆ Listen to Holy Spirit
- ◆ Send sympathy card later
- ◆ Send cards on a schedule to person or grieving person
- ◆ Open door for future conversations
- ◆ Stephen Ministers available to pray with people after church
- ◆ Really listen
- ◆ Don't give up
- ◆ Rides to chemo
- ◆ Angel Tree ministry for people in prison
- ◆ Keep praying

Helping Inactive Members

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Why is This Important to Us?

We naturally want to apply the law, but they need the gospel

Recommendations

- ◆ Build a relationship with them – how? Their needs not one plan for all – find what works for you.
- ◆ Reaffirmation (confirmation) classes, perhaps – after a time
- ◆ Why did they quit coming to church? Find out what’s bothering them
- ◆ Visit with them, what worship does for me – gives me strength and courage
- ◆ Sometimes people look for something to happen or not happen – so they can find an excuse not to come back.
- ◆ Find some way to talk to them. Hopefully they will feel that something is missing in their life – they are forgiven.
- ◆ Early on, call on them and let them know they are missed – even after one Sunday’s absence.
- ◆ “Lord grant me patience! – but give it to me right now!”
- ◆ All we can do is plant the seed – Holy Spirit does the work.
- ◆ Take stock of their self interest – some talent they could use, however small to engage them – or what others “we” can do for them.
- ◆ Specifically involve inactive member to help with small problems or projects at the church building.

Recommendations (cont.)

- ◆ On the averages it takes 19 people to witness to reactivate members in order for them to come back.
- ◆ Only remove from member list after you can't get in touch or find new phone number or address and such.
- ◆ Don't enable them by keeping name on role.
- ◆ Church membership is not a ticket to heaven (unless they are aware of what Christ has done for them and they know they are redeemed and respond by desiring to worship HIM)
- ◆ Work through grandchildren and such through programs – the grandparents and parents will show up!
- ◆ Accidental opportunities – we pass up the opportunity. It is our responsibility to witness – not leave it up to the pastor.
- ◆ Be a good listener – not only witness to them
- ◆ Establish confidentiality with that person
- ◆ Work together – to get acquainted
- ◆ We should have more workshops to learn how to witness. More training
- ◆ Pray the Holy Spirit would lay someone on my heart to contact or call on
- ◆ Witness at the gas pump and such
- ◆ “If we don't feel close to God – guess who moved?”
- ◆ Every Member Visits – not many have them (recently)
- ◆ Locate every member on the map assign about 10 families as visitors
- ◆ Witness without a relationship is difficult
- ◆ Severing their relationship with God should not be omitted when visiting and witnessing to them.
- ◆ One month is the limit for not contacting a member when they have not attended a service.
- ◆ Bulletins sent out to absentees with sticky note – that they were missed.
- ◆ TRY SOMETHING!!!!!!

Closed with collective prayers by all.

Helping Inactive Members

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Discussion

- ◆ If we can't get our own members to be involved, how can we invite outsiders?
- ◆ Find out why they are inactive – work on weekends? Think outside the box – have Bible studies during the week.
- ◆ Elders working on 2-3 families maximum to get them involved in church. Don't assign 12-15 families – that is too many!
- ◆ One on One – members inviting inactives to dinner, etc. once a month to get acquainted on a social level – then extend this to church.
- ◆ Tables of 8 – Two established families invite two new families for dinner – changes monthly.
- ◆ Small Bible studies in homes to encourage people to participate in a less intimidating situation – many are outside their comfort zone in large groups.
- ◆ Let people know, “We miss you!” We are concerned. This is not judgmental – rather a “caring” attitude.
- ◆ 40 Days of Purpose Bible study
- ◆ Visit with delinquents and share God's love with them. Pray for them.
- ◆ We need to be there when traumatic events occur in their lives to minister to them – this may be God's way of “waking them up!”

- ◆ How to deal with those for whom we have no address or phone – sometimes you can contact by getting info from the internet.
- ◆ Efforts must be based on the Word of God! We go to church to learn about the truth.
- ◆ College kids don't go to church – how do we get them back? Prayer, inviting them to church, etc.
- ◆ Address each person “where they are” – different reasons why different folks don't maintain church relationships. We're all sinners – all on same faith line.
- ◆ Relationships are so important. Develop opportunities for getting to know these people.
- ◆ We've done a lot to create inactives – we do same thing we did 50 years ago – it may not work now! Try new ways to do confirmation classes (retreats, servant events, etc.).
- ◆ Stop and talk to young people – ask them how things are going.
- ◆ Ambassador program integrates new people.
- ◆ Talk to people about their baptism and what this means! Don't be too law oriented! Need to know the love of God.
- ◆ Alternative worship service might bring back those who are not now worshipping.
- ◆ Individual church members must show concern and care for inactives – talking to them outside of church. Pick an inactive – talk to them, pray for and with them, meet with them socially and try to bring them back into the fold.
- ◆ Relationships are the key which ultimately leads them to feel the love of Christ! This is unthreatening and shows them Christian care and concern.
- ◆ These individuals are in a “law mode” – we need to share the Gospel with them to reduce their feelings of guilt.
- ◆ Kennedy program leads to church growth – this can also be used to bring inactives back as well as getting new converts.
- ◆ Be consistent in whatever program you choose. Commitment and work are necessary!
- ◆ Christ's love compels us to “retrieve” these lost sheep!
- ◆ Logos is good for kids – getting them in the Word. This will remain in their hearts for years to come.
- ◆ When you get new members, get them involved to keep them from becoming “inactives.”
- ◆ Show concern! Pray weekly in church for inactives so the whole congregation is involved.
- ◆ Don't send them letters dropping them from memberships – you'll never get them back.
- ◆ Make sure greeters and ushers know how to treat inactives when they attend services. Receive them graciously and welcome them.
- ◆ No good answer – show them Jesus' love and concern. No “magic pill.”

LOVING, CONCERNED, CONSISTENT – 3 things we must be!

How to Help our Congregations Grow in Loving Others and Accepting Differences

Convener:

Documenter:

Group Participants:

Phyllis Von Fange	Trinity, Salina	
Betty Smith	Trinity, Salina	
Eloise Mueller	Our Savior, Marion	
Earl Mueller	Our Savior, Marion	
Merle Lietz	Trinity, McFarland	
Paul Hofstetter	Grace, Hill City	
Andy Kocher	St. Paul, Duluth	
Jim Jorns	St. Luke, Manhattan	
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Leland Jackson	Trinity, Garden City	620-275-9712
Lisa Bellinder	Mt. Calvary, Wamego	785-456-9034
Leanne Patterson	Beautiful Savior, Olathe	
Orinne Schumann	Messiah, Emporia	620-342-9428
Erich Schieber	Garden City	

Discussion

- ◆ Each one is different no better, no worse (ex. Classmates, different cultures)
- ◆ Learn to appreciate every single person
- ◆ Learn different attitudes – we have a Christian bond
- ◆ No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care
- ◆ Barriers are difference of communication, different interests, intimidation (don't know what to say), illegal immigration, caused by government, divorce, shyness, attitudes of others
- ◆ Cultures think differently but all have talents

How to Raise the Number of Lutherans Being Certain of Heaven

Convener: Rev. Fred Darkow, First/Ponca City OK, 620-221-4765

Documenter: Nancy Kregar, Zion/Offerle, 620-659-2826

Group Participants:

Nancy Kregar	Zion, Offerle	620-659-2826
Lawrence Kregar	Zion, Offerle	620-659-2826
Rev. Fred Darkow	First, Ponca City OK	620-221-4765
Karl Koenig	Risen Savior, Wichita	

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ If you die right now, why should God let you in heaven? Jesus died for my sins. Why is it so hard to answer this?
- ◆ KISS – Keep it Simple Stupid
- ◆ What is the Gospel? GRACE – God’s riches at Christ’s expense
- ◆ What keeps people away from church? Sports.
- ◆ 80% come to Christ before 18 years of age. 50-90% drop out of church before college graduation.

Discussion (from 2nd group)

- ◆ participation in the Kennedy program is helpful
- ◆ Teach and emphasize salvation by grace – new Sunday School material shows grace.
- ◆ Workshop on justification vs. sanctification.
- ◆ ”Joy of our Salvation” in liturgy – what does this mean?
- ◆ Cite examples of people:
 - who died in peace
 - the family who can let them depart in peace
 - Alzheimer person who can’t participate

Intentional Discipleship – Encouraging Others to Make This a Daily Priority

Convener: Mark Brewer, Faith/Topeka, 785-272-4214

Documenter: Karen Morrison, Risen Savior/Wichita, 316-729-8521

Group Participants:

Mark Brewer	Faith, Topeka	785-272-4214
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Eddie Snethen	Faith, Topeka	785-354-8987
Jeremy Blanton	Trinity, Atchison	785-988-4496
Daniel Fick	Grace, Liberal	620-629-5889
Sherry Fick	Grace, Liberal	620-655-1755
Mike May	St. Luke, Kansas City	913-281-3102
Chuck Merriman	St. John, Ellinwood	620-564-2044
Jeanne Fries	Immanuel, Lawrence	785-887-6254
Phyllis Kermer	Holy Cross, Dodge City	620-227-8355
Norman Knocke	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-683-1431

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Discipleship is part of Framework of the church – set forth in the bible
- ◆ We all must decide intentionally to be a disciple (a Christian committed to growing in faith and sharing the love of Jesus Christ)
- ◆ Make disciples inside church then go out to share Christ’s love with others.
- ◆ Jesus definition of discipleship:
 - Word of God – study and read the bible (be in the word personal and corporate)
 - Pray
 - Understand justification by faith
 - Sharing the faith you have

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Conversation Guidelines (bring Christ into conversation - Christ died for you!)
FORM – *F*amily *O*ccupation *R*eason *M*essage
- ◆ But liturgical words can be turn offs plus sometimes they don’t understand those words until later.

Our Assets:

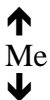
- ◆ Our ability to share
- ◆ We all have a story
- ◆ We all have a purpose (serving HIM)
- ◆ We all have faith
- ◆ We all can tell about our story and our faith.
- ◆ We know our destination and we need to bring others with us.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ If you build them, they will come, grow more and then lead in others
- ◆ Provide ways for membership to get into the Word daily/weekly.
- ◆ Provide Bible verses in bulletin (read the bible in one year)
- ◆ Create a small group whose interest is going out to disciple to others
 - Get in the word
 - Pray
 - Then take a step out and go out together a pair and try
 - Your friend/partner is there in the same place to provide strength, back-up and accountability.
- ◆ Relationship – Start small – ask a few probing questions, people love to talk about themselves and their lives when someone is truly interested. Then as comfort levels grow. Move into deeper discussion. “If you died tomorrow, do you know that you would go to heaven?” or similar discussion building questions.

Recommendations

- ◆ Book – Just a Walk Across the Room
- ◆ Coral Ridge Ministries “Evangelism Explosion”
- ◆ Create Evangelism Teams and Prayer Partners
 - Go in groups of 2-3 (man/woman) (man and man to intimidating)
 - If you call before you go – use phrases like “Can I stop by?” – Drop in – Pop in – these are short/quick visits – not time consuming
 - Prayer Partners (not comfortable going out but willing to pray for those who are out making calls).
- ◆ Grow Faith Walk (Measure Individual Discipleship Assessment)
 - 5 key areas (The Word can be incorporated into each of these separate areas)
 - Worship
 - Education
 - Fellowship
 - Outreach
 - Service
- ◆ Make personal covenant
- ◆ Each individual does self-evaluation
- ◆ Develop 6 month plan in one or several areas or in sub-areas
- ◆ Work with accountability partner
- ◆ Gifts Survey every baptized member (skills, talents, interests)
- ◆ Shared Ministry – Computer tracking program used to track each member of the congregation on interests, gifts talents ect.....
- ◆ Make disciples (Know One, Be One, Build One)
- ◆ My Mentor



Who I am Mentoring

Contemporary Service

Convener: Garnell Hanson, Immanuel/Ellsworth, 785-472-5490

Documenter: Marcheta Jacobson, Grace/Larned, 620-285-6816

Group Participants:

Marcheta Jacobson	Grace, Larned	620-285-6816
Shelly Keller	Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove	785-525-6325
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Lois Strauss	Immanuel, Junction City	785-238-5492
Bill Strauss	Immanuel, Junction City	785-238-5492
Rev. Daniel Ramsey	Zion, Chanute	620-431-1341
Candy Richard	Grace, Liberal	580-778-3242
Jack Kersting	Zion, Offerle	620-659-3405
Rev. Jerry Peck	First, Paola	913-294-3476
Rev. John Einem	Christ, Augusta	
Donna Spain	Messiah, Emporia	620-343-6969
Grace Dahlke	Our Redeemer, Hutchinson	620-662-8084

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ What is a contemporary service?
 - Might be projected on wall or TV
 - VCR, DVD's
 - Musical instruments: keyboard, guitar, drums
 - Singers
 - Praise Band/Worship Team
 - Takes commitment
- ◆ How do you get it passed the elderly?
 - It took me 11 years to get it to Sunday 10 a.m.; regular service is 8 a.m. and Saturday service.
- ◆ What if some clap (applaud)?
- ◆ New mission statement – to reach out to others – send out mailer to everyone in the district, not just congregation, letting them know about the new form.

Recommendations

- ◆ The bottom line is – we are trying to reach others. You might do blended – traditional and contemporary. Maybe traditional service and contemporary music.
- ◆ Keep service no more than 1 hour.
- ◆ Don't let it turn into entertainment! Keep it Christ focused! Don't perform – Lead!
- ◆ Generally you need to slowly transition into contemporary mode. The Lord may bring it along in his own way. Don't force.

Recommendations (cont.)

- ◆ A contemporary service takes commitment – to have a praise/worship team work on the music, etc. every week.
- ◆ Maybe a contemporary service once a month.
- ◆ Send out letter explaining the change.
- ◆ Remember – It's OK if you just like the traditional.
- ◆ Worship leaders and pastor need to connect the songs and the sermon with a common theme, if possible.
- ◆ If the hearts are ablaze (no matter what worship you are doing) it will happen.
- ◆ Dave Anderson checklist (seminar)(planning to do)
- ◆ There needs to be a reason to have a (or start) contemporary service.
- ◆ It can't happen with the minister alone.

Singles Ministry in Kansas

Convener: Staci Timm, Trinity/Salina 785-823-6727

Documenter: Kenneth Tingle, Ascension/Wichita 316-722-6498

Group Participants:

Staci Timm	Trinity, Salina	785-823-6727
Sharon Brandt	Bethany, Overland Park	913-491-6435
Connie Avey	Immanuel, Lawrence	785-312-9094
Nadeen Wegele	Zion, Newton	316-283-6149
Esther Bahr	Zion, Newton	316-755-1920
Sherry Fick	Grace, Liberal	620-655-1755
Alenna Hash	Our Saviour, Kansas City	913-236-6228
Ruth Ann Troop	Our Saviour, Kansas City	913-268-7404
Mary and Marsha Simpson	Trinity, Atchison	913-367-5257
Terry Crank	Trinity, Atchison	913-426-4606

Why is This Important to Us?

The singles ministry is important to us because there is a significant need for Christ-centered, spiritual growth among singles of any age. We need to be “Ablaze” to reach the lost.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ The clear mission statement of the Kansas District Singles Ministry which is as follows: the purpose of the Kansas District LCMS Singles Ministry is to encourage Christ-based fellowship and spiritual growth among single adults.
- ◆ The organization of the current Kansas District Singles Ministry.
- ◆ The diversity of the Kansas singles.
- ◆ The activities offered throughout the state.
- ◆ The growing need for singles ministry.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ We need to work on communication problems at the district and local level, emphasize fellowship among singles and start a networking program for the singles ministry whereby each congregation has a networking member that will make sure that singles activities are mentioned in church bulletins and newsletters.
- ◆ We can learn from the successful singles ministries in our state.
- ◆ We need to clear up any misconceptions regarding singles retreats and/or other singles activities.
- ◆ Singles Events
 - Spring retreat usually the 1st or 2nd weekend in March at a hotel.
 - One-Day Summer Workshop usually the 1st or 2nd Saturday of July at the District Office in Topeka
 - Fall Retreat usually the 1st or 2nd weekend of October at Camp Webster – Salina
 - For more information contact Staci Timm (785)823-6727, stacitimm@juno.com

Recommendations

Our recommendations to improve the singles ministry in Kansas are as follows:

- ◆ establish and expand networking
- ◆ meet the singles at the local congregations by identifying their needs
- ◆ utilizing the Summer 2007 Singles Workshop as a training workshop for establishing new singles ministries and strengthening existing ministries
- ◆ developing better communication at the district level and with the local congregations.

Using Genealogy and Church History to Reconnect with Our “Cousins”

Convener: Dean Landman, Faith/Topeka, 785-266-4467

Documenter:

Group Participants:

Rev. Kurt Rutz	Trinity, Paola	913-849-3711
Phillip Theel	St. John, Alma	785-765-3772
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Jan Aberle	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-634-2447
Judy Stigge	Trinity, Winfield	620-221-2868
Lester Walter	Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove	785-526-2471
Steve Hanschu	Messiah, Emporia	620-342-4876
Larry Honig	St. Paul, Duluth	785-889-4342
Wilma Lancaster	Zion, Offerle	620-659-2856
JoAnn Schepmann	St. Paul, Preston	620-672-3882

Why is This Important to Us?

Historical records provide:

- Way of passing on faith of the church.
- Advantage of having tradition to maintain and strengthen faith.
- Know about the struggles of congregation and members and strengthen faith.
- Keeps record of traditions.
- Know struggles and faith helps us to know that our ancestors stood firm in their faith.
- Helps us make a connection to others.
- Where we've been is an indication of where we are going.
- All the turmoil and struggles to tell children (have family stories to tell)
- Also stories of splits.
- Sometimes history may be negative but it is true (or should be).

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Older members should tell the stories.
- ◆ Retired Pastors
- ◆ George Bruening
- ◆ Known records and other records someone needs to identify.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ There was considerable discussion about cemeteries.
- ◆ Core: “Adopt a Cemetery”
- ◆ Alma has a perpetual fund in LCEF for cemetery maintenance.
- ◆ One church sold parsonage to provide funds from the interest to maintain cemetery, when church closed.
- ◆ Directories at cemeteries are very helpful.

Other Discussion of Significance (cont.)

- ◆ Funds for care of private cemeteries?
- ◆ JoAnn Shepmann asked who would be buried in a church cemetery. With plots in Wichita being so costly, they are being overrun with requests for burials. Shouldn't the District have some guidelines?
- ◆ There are neat stories and interesting stories that should be recorded and kept.
- ◆ Holy Cross has an archive committee.

Recommendations

- ◆ Pictures should be documented.
- ◆ Notify congregations of what should be sent to district.
- ◆ Provide training to congregation on what to keep, how long to keep, where to keep it, and what to send on to others.
- ◆ The history of the Kansas District should be made/updated and distributed.
- ◆ Also keep history of St. John/Winfield, schools, LLL, LWML, Walther League.
- ◆ To congregations and district: copies should be made of vital records. Don't display or use originals, use copies. Develop policies/guidelines about cemeteries.

FAMILY MINISTRY

How to Minister to, Engage and Involve Households with Young Children

Convener: Rev. Peter Tremain, Faith/Topeka, 785-272-4214

Documenter: Virginia Brewer, Faith/Topeka, 785-272-2258

Group Participants:

Elaine Whiteneck	Messiah, Emporia	620-342-8181
Becky Frank	St. John, Alma/TLS	785-765-3815
Joyce Herrmann	Zion, Offerle	620-659-2768
Rev. Kenton Rohrberg	Messiah, Hays	785-625-2057
Deloris Hofstetter	Grace, Hill City	785-421-2455
Pat Schultz	Faith, Topeka	785-286-3654
Rev. Lyle Stuehrenberg	Trinity, Garden City	620-276-3110

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ We have grandchildren.
- ◆ Fit in schedules and easy to do and not costly.
- ◆ How to put church or Sunday School at equal or higher priority than sports.
- ◆ Families with young children are at a time in their life of considering church involvement.
- ◆ The lifelong ministry potential when reaching young children and families is great and the outreach potential because of the families' involvement in other things is huge.
- ◆ To give a foundation for life on good choices.
- ◆ What can we do to help the moms and dads be involved and connected and not just drop off the kids?
- ◆ How to get both mom and dad to make the church commitment a priority? Non-attendance not being an option.
- ◆ The parents' responsibility to take the children to church? So do I jump in and take the responsibility from the parents?
- ◆ The families that are committed but it is so hard to have the resources to participate.
- ◆ How to be a peaceful family.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ The church is inter-generational.
- ◆ Adult relationships with the children.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Let children have free time
- ◆ Night-time day care provided by the church
- ◆ Folks coming into the home to take care of the kids so the parents could go to Bible studies.
- ◆ Cluster of families (3) that were drawn together to be extended families.
- ◆ Commit to 6 nights of babysitters as a service for families.

Other Discussion of Significance (cont.)

- ◆ Logos program
- ◆ Investment clubs – for baptized babies - \$ or hours from church members
- ◆ Safe Place Training for security
- ◆ Something like “Supper Thyme” done on a day with whole families, including singles and widows – healthful and not fast food. (Recipes, ingredients and containers are provided, families assemble meals to take home.)
- ◆ Car maintenance sessions – for singles and widows
- ◆ Offer things that young families want so they will be involved and interested.
- ◆ “Love Talk” with Les & Lesley Parrot
- ◆ “Financial Peace University” – Dave Ramsey
- ◆ Young moms eating out together
- ◆ Mother’s Day Out
- ◆ After school – paid program with different offerings such as piano, Spanish, tumbling lessons, etc. with teachers coming to facility. Homework help.
- ◆ Barter Bank for all ages
- ◆ Prayer

Family Members Passing on the Faith, Especially Fathers

Convener: Chuck Merriman, St. John/Ellinwood, 620-564-2044

Documenter: Cindy Twillman, Ascension/Wichita, 316-722-4694

Group Participants:

Chuck Merriman	St. John, Ellinwood	620-564-2044
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Barbara McComas	Faith, Topeka	785-233-7293
Mark Aberle	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-634-2447
Ted Helmer	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-686-1190
Ray Keller	Trinity, Hunter	785-525-6325
Janece Holle	Immanuel, Bremen	785-337-2569
Michael Taylor	Wichita	316-214-6920
Rev. Donnie Hofman	Mt. Calvary, Marysville	785-562-5256

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Young children – how do I lead more devotions in family?
- ◆ Older children – keeping them connected as they go off to college
- ◆ Grandchildren – how do you minister to them?
- ◆ How do we minister to our own families?
- ◆ How to encourage family participation – not just mom
- ◆ Extended families – how do we replace this aspect with our mobile society
- ◆ Divorced father – how to influence children in faith

How do we get fathers involved without making it another pressure on them?

Assets on Which to Build (Resources)

Books:

- ◆ The Christian Husband
- ◆ Group Publishing Curriculum for Fathers & Sons together
- ◆ She Calls Me Daddy
- ◆ Raising Up Boys James Dobson
- ◆ Boundaries Cloud & Townsend series of books, possibly book on Boundaries in Marriage, Parenting

Recommendations

- ◆ Personal contact to get men involved.
- ◆ Resources needed to help family get a start in sharing faith at home (Youth & Family Institute, Focus on Family)
- ◆ Emphasis in pre-marriage counseling on Christian responsibility of fathers in the family
- ◆ Teach men to share their stories with other men.
- ◆ Teaching young men about their responsibility – identify a role model – talk with them about the destructive factors as well.
- ◆ Mentoring program within the church.
- ◆ Helping people restructure their time (schedules) – setting priorities and boundaries.
- ◆ Small group discussions involving men and women – open discussion on family.
- ◆ Determine family roles.
- ◆ 2 year old Sunday School with parents in room.
- ◆ Encourage husband & wife teams to fill positions.
- ◆ Keep open mind & communicate with family members who aren't Christian.
- ◆ 2006 TLR Material – Sharing our faith story.
- ◆ Discipleship Training

Helping Men Tell Their Faith Story to Their Family

Convener: Rev. Charlie Adams, Trinity/Salina, 785-823-7151

Documenter:

Group Participants:

Rev. Charlie Adams	Trinity, Salina	785-823-7151
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Jo Schultz	Trinity, Salina	785-825-6642
Marie Debrick	First, Paola	913-294-2292
Dean Hillman	St. Paul, Cheney	316-542-3688

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Important to pass on the faith to kids.
- ◆ It's a powerful tool for communicating the love of Jesus.
- ◆ Children who have fathers who are active in the church are likely to remain involved in the church themselves.
- ◆ Kids need to see that faith is alive in their parents.
- ◆ We sometimes find it hard to be consistent with family devotions at home.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Love of telling stories.
- ◆ We've had examples (fathers, grandfathers....) who were influential in our faith walk.
- ◆ Favorite stories – The day kids were born, bible stories, stories about the “olden” days, children's sermons.
- ◆ Children's sermons, Sunday School – gives kids an opportunity to interest and to learn through visual means.
- ◆ Story telling can provide a new way to make family devotions meaningful to kids.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Perhaps, in order to communicate or verbalize our faith story to our children, we need to think about and understand our own personal faith story.
- ◆ There seems to be more and more demands of our time that compete with time spent with our children.
- ◆ Unfortunately, Wednesdays no longer seem to be reserves by school and sports activities as a “church night.”
- ◆ When it comes to prioritizing our time, the 1st commandment still stands. “You shall have no other gods.”

Recommendations

- ◆ Maybe put a discussion question or two in worship bulletin to give dads an opportunity to discuss the children's sermon with a child.
- ◆ Develop an active Men's group in the church.
- ◆ Provide training for young fathers to be good Christian parents.

How to Support and Encourage Parents to Set Boundaries on Children and Family Activities

Convener: Doreen Scheuerman, Christ/Augusta, 316-775-7301

Documenter: same as above

Group Participants:

Doreen Scheuerman	Christ, Augusta	316-775-3957
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Deb Chappelle	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-733-6292
Helen Genter	St. Paul, Leavenworth	913-682-6434
Lynda Rosander	Mt. Calvary, Wamego	785-457-3825
Susan Sukstorf	Redeemer, Olathe	913-390-8816
Eden Keefe	Beautiful Savior, Olathe	913-829-1220
Mark Schotte	Trinity, Winfield	620-222-1451
Lisa Schaaf	Immanuel, Hepler	620-756-4480
Beth Nimmo	Ascension, Wichita	316-722-4694
Rev. Andrew Wehling	Grace, Liberal	620-624-5900
Nancy Schulz	Bethany, Overland Park	913-825-4347
Diane Glasgow	Trinity, Winfield	620-221-3860

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Worldly priorities seem to dominate the eternal.
- ◆ See frustration/stress in families
- ◆ Therefore children do not have models to learn proper priorities

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Lutheran Schools
- ◆ Parents who have been through this
- ◆ People who are going through the same thing
- ◆ Promise Keepers
- ◆ Prayer/the Word
- ◆ Small Groups
- ◆ Parenting Classes/Christian Education

Other Discussion of Significance/Recommendations

- ◆ Mentoring/forum
- ◆ Parent modeling
- ◆ Family ministry
- ◆ Being pro-active
- ◆ Survey parents

Other Discussion of Significance/Recommendations (cont.)

- ◆ Connect people
- ◆ Solicit successful ideas currently working/have people share
- ◆ Back-to-school preparations for family
- ◆ Lifting up quiet time/Sabbath time
- ◆ Accountability groups
- ◆ Greater father involvement in prioritizing in family life/church.
- ◆ Try to streamline church activities so they are not part of the problem

Working with Member Families Who are Absent from Church with the Exception of Christmas and Easter

Convener: Rev. Daniel Ramsey, Zion/Chanute, 620-431-3317

Documenter: Lois Niles, Christ/Topeka, 785-235-5360

Group Participants:

Leland Jackson	Trinity, Garden City	620-275-9712
Beth Hanschu	Messiah, Emporia	620-342-4876
Karen Kohlmeier	First, Sabetha	785-284-3591
Shelly Keller	Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove	785-525-6325
David Schemm	Christ, Topeka	785-266-6263
Lois Niles	Christ, Topeka	785-235-5360
Dawn Oldenettel	Zion, Indy	620-332-3331
Debbie Wilson	St. Andrew, Wichita	316-636-1242
Marilyn Kersting	Zion, Offerle	620-659-3405
Alan Koch	St. Luke, Manhattan	785-537-1452
Rick Schaaf	Immanuel, Hepler	620-756-4480
Ken Taylor	Messiah, Emporia	620-343-3994
Mary Debrick	First, Paola	913-294-2292
Leroy and Jan Heisterberg	Hope, Shawnee	913-631-3402
Lola Schmidt	Trinity, Atchison	913-367-3749

Why is This Important to Us?

People loved by God; but they have no relationship with God. Where will they spend eternity? Eternal souls are at risk: their relationship with Christ.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Hooks in kids through activities involving parents – pizza parties, trips.
- ◆ Form relationships with absent families.
- ◆ Train lay people to be more involved.
- ◆ Outgoing individuals to be involved with absent families.
- ◆ Use time/talent sheets.
- ◆ Try to plug into church activities.
- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Elders
- ◆ Activities or programs
- ◆ Logos program
- ◆ Encourage one another

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Need physical contact with absent members (visits, letters, calls).
- ◆ Energize – think outside the box.

Recommendations

- ◆ Find out why members aren't coming. Perhaps pastor or elder (confidentiality).
- ◆ Lay members can contact to just say the individual is missed, and ask if everything is alright with the member and family.
- ◆ Build a relationship one-on-one.
- ◆ Find out interests and skills to get them back and involved (ownership).
- ◆ How do you convey importance of church membership?
- ◆ Involve in small group activities – bible study, fellowship.
- ◆ Tables of eight – three couples (salad, entrée, dessert) fourth couple absent members (absent member, invited by host family).

How to Minister to Families in Our Schools

Convener: Bill Dieckoff, Holy Cross/Wichita

Documenter: Betty Amey, Holy Cross/Wichita

Group Participants:

Betty Amey	Holy Cross, Wichita
Dennis and Kim Sams	Calvary, Topeka
Jay and Pam Floetke	St. Paul, Leavenworth
Keith Jopp	St. Paul, Cheney
Julie Utt	Trinity, Winfield

Discussion

- ◆ Pray for the children and families.
- ◆ Host families for all new families (moderate success)
- ◆ Baptism during chapels
- ◆ Something at church to encourage families to come.
 - Singing in church
 - Halloween Party, carnival, “Trunk or Treat”, Easter egg hunt
 - Special Sunday morning kids worship – Paired with families of the church
- ◆ Develop relationships between families that are churched and unchurched (match families already acquainted)
- ◆ Introduce parents early to Concordia pre-school – kindergarten weekly story leaflet so that they recognize and expect it.
- ◆ Ask parents during first contact “What are you looking for in a school” and “How did you hear about our school”
- ◆ Market your school
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Brochures
 - Internet
 - Marketing Lutheran Schools by Bob Rogalski
- ◆ Preschool programs and graduations
- ◆ Include a short encouragement in weekly newsletter, e.g. “Today we learned to pray” then give them a sample prayer
- ◆ Preschool teacher – printed pillow case with iron on lamb, bed time story, prayers, short bible passage etc. (A ladies group could prepare these)
- ◆ Include in scripture in everything – Let the Holy Spirit work through the Word
- ◆ Free meal for families
- ◆ Carnival run by the older kids to encourage pre-school families to stay connected
- ◆ Principal or teacher leads an information class on Sunday morning
- ◆ A more mature family could “adopt” a few new members to do the visit.
- ◆ Pictures of school children for congregation members to select and pray for that child.
- ◆ Give pre-school children picture bibles to teach families how to introduce Jesus to the family
- ◆ Present the devotion book or bible to the child by carrying the gift to their home
- ◆ Angel Food Ministries or Heartland share to just get families into the building – a welcome attitude and non-threatening
- ◆ Children sing for groups meeting during the day e.g. for Senior group
- ◆ “Foster Grandparent Day” or connect “Senior Pals”
- ◆ Share the Word with each contact activity and “Walk the Talk”

CHILDREN
AND YOUTH
MINISTRY

Sunday School

Convener: Mary Weber, Immanuel/Junction City, 785-258-3077

Documenter: same as above

Group Participants:

Mary Weber	Immanuel, Junction City	785-258-3077
Rev. Jonathan Vierkant	St. John, Aliceville	785-489-2534
Cynthia Lavrenz	Trinity, Garden City	620-276-3110
Suzanne Hewes	Trinity, Garden City	620-276-3110
Cathy Muncy	Peace, Andover	316-733-5852
Loree Gardner	First, Paola	913-294-4536
Daniel Fick	Grace, Liberal	620-629-5889
Orinne Schurmann	Messiah, Emporia	620-342-9428
Donna Spain	Messiah, Emporia	620-343-6969
Elmer Kellner	Redeemer, Atwood	785-332-2950
Miriam Wehling	Grace, Liberal	620-626-9742
Terry Adams	Grace, Liberal	620-624-1581
Vicki Adams	Grace, Liberal	620-624-1581

Why is This Important to Us

- ◆ Educating about our Bible
- ◆ It helps teachers learn as they teach
- ◆ Need to get from Sunday School – Bible stories, catechism
- ◆ Help our country and our community
- ◆ Morality, ethics
- ◆ Spirituality
- ◆ Need Christian friends (can find through Sunday School)
- ◆ Place for children

Problems: Broken homes, so church becomes family

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Adult mentors
- ◆ High school youth to substitute in summer
- ◆ Communicate through letters and meetings
- ◆ Team teaching
- ◆ Do we need to have long term teachers so that relationships develop?
- ◆ Stressing the relationships makes attendance better

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Logos is a program that works – try to catch the parents to come, especially with younger children.
- ◆ Workshop on Parenting.
- ◆ Make the focus of Sunday not being one hour but 2 ½ (include Sunday School).
- ◆ Space is an issue.
- ◆ No teacher training or preparedness.
- ◆ Used 2nd service for preparing for Sunday School.
- ◆ Childcare is big issue – have that for the teachers.
- ◆ Need to get Elders and others involved in home visits.
- ◆ Outreach:
 - if you bring a friend, you get something from the grab bag
 - sponsor a child for Children’s Christian Concern Society
- ◆ Pray with each other.
- ◆ VBS as an outreach.
- ◆ Draw slips each week to do prayer partners - change each week.
- ◆ Pick a theme and do a one-room classroom.
- ◆ Special programs throughout the year – invite fathers on Father’s Day, etc.
- ◆ Mark milestones:
 - Bible at 3rd grade
 - Catechism at 7th grade
 - Hymnal at another age
- ◆ Ministerial alliance sends letter that Sunday’s morning and Wednesday to YMCA and schools.

Intergenerational Sunday School

Convener: Eden Keefe, Beautiful Savior/Olathe, 913-829-1220

Documenter: Eden Keefe, Beautiful Savior/Olathe, 913-829-1220

Group Participants:

Elmer Kellner	Redeemer, Atwood	785-332-2950
Dorothy Kellner	Redeemer, Atwood	785-332-2950
RuthAnn Troop	Our Saviour, Kansas City	913-268-7404
Rev. Gary Wolf	St. Paul, Lincoln	785-524-4046
Eden Keefe	Beautiful Savior, Olathe	913-829-1220

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Have done a summer program.
- ◆ Feel Sunday School is relational.
- ◆ Have tried an intergenerational VBS with some success.
- ◆ Have had it during summer months with varying degrees of success.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Relationships built will have lasting effects.
- ◆ Different generations have different gifts to offer.
- ◆ Biblically supported Historically grounded.
- ◆ Family oriented.
- ◆ Quality program strengthens family and community.
- ◆ Support for all family members translates into a caring community.
- ◆ *Single parent
- ◆ Singles
- ◆ Lone teens
- ◆ Empty nesters

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Think we ask too little re: commitments for our Sunday School program.
- ◆ Need to equip and train for intergenerational concept.
- ◆ Need to build “family” in church.
- ◆ Recruit men as Sunday School teachers so children and Youth can see that model.

Recommendations

- ◆ Produce quality intergenerational Sunday School materials.
- ◆ Provide training to professional and lay staff.
- ◆ Promote, promote, promote!
- ◆ Website resources.
- ◆ More involvement of men with children and youth.
- ◆ See it as a “stand alone” worthwhile concept, not a plan B one stop gap program.

Youth Evangelism and Keeping Them in the Church

Convener: Rev. Fred Darkow, First/Ponca City OK, 316-221-4765

Documenter: Hazel Ebberts, St. John/Aliceville, 620-365-5830

Group Participants:

Hazel Ebberts	St. John, Aliceville	
Mark Krenz	St. Paul, Coffeyville	
Dru Richard	Grace, Liberal	
Lisa Schaaf	Immanuel, Hepler	
Phillip Theel	St. John, Alma	
Jeff & Leslie Brockhoff	St. Paul, Fairview	
Aaron Borcharding	Trinity, Salina	
Paula Bebout	Peace, Andover	
Vicki Adams	Grace, Liberal	
Terry Adams	Grace, Liberal	
Cindy von Soosten	Trinity, Girard	
Ray Keller	Trinity, Hunter	
Rev. Dennis Fitzpatrick	Trinity, Atchison	913-367-2837

Discussion

- ◆ How do we keep them excited, positives in church – social (working towards National Gathering or Kansas Gathering)
- ◆ Hosting Christian music group e.g. Lost and Found servant events
- ◆ A feeling that it's "their church" they have a role
- ◆ Give them jobs in church – ushers (father/son groups)
- ◆ Youth Quake at Marriot hotel in Wichita – junior event
- ◆ Local church – Basketball, being at the church activities (youth want a relationship with Christ not just an activity)
- ◆ Ask them what they need ask them to share in Christ
- ◆ Disciple youth
- ◆ Consistent – someone who is dedicated and spending quality time
- ◆ Difficulty – Kids are so busy, need to have priorities (God first), eternity decisions
- ◆ Need to honor Wednesday night as family night from school
- ◆ Need to continue teaching kids past confirmation class – so they remain involved
- ◆ Need opportunities, want to do the right thing.
- ◆ Need youth group bible studies
- ◆ House church – kids provide music and bible study and it moves house to house
- ◆ Service project – Get kids to look outside themselves and so they can come together
- ◆ Inexpensive so kids can attend
- ◆ Congregational game night
- ◆ Doing bible study in the middle of youth group time (allows for latecomers)
- ◆ Bible Walk – Halloween stations, dressed up as bible characters and appropriate candy + give candy + bible verses
- ◆ Have older kids bring younger kids to church
- ◆ Priority – Bringing yourself to Jesus
- ◆ Christ Centered
- ◆ High Five – Jesus died for my sins, I will go to heaven
- ◆ Start very young children, give parents books to read to children, deliver to child at home.

How Can We Establish On-Going Ambassadors for Christ (O AFC) for Youth in Kansas

Convener: Rev. Larry Brakenhoff, St. Paul/Alta Vista, 785-499-3053

Documenter: Arlene Lindskog, Faith/Ottawa, 785-746-5717

Group Participants:

Rev. Larry Brakenhoff	St. Paul, Alta Vista	785-499-5333
Arlene Lindskog	Faith, Ottawa	785-746-5717
Walter Frederking	Trinity, Salina	785-827-0925
Kathleen Brakenhoff	St. Paul, Alta Vista	785-499-5333

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ A growing awareness of our youth needing an established organization, “Ambassadors In Christ,” to help them grow and establish their faith and share that faith with youth in their community.
- ◆ Many of our congregations with few youth need the opportunity to connect with youth of other congregations on a regular basis for mutual encouragement in their faith as well as fun, fellowship and direction.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Circuit organizations binding together to direct and provide for the needs of our youth.
- ◆ There are numerous youths that are adults now that could provide leadership and training along with pastors and laymen.
- ◆ Active and established youth groups who could reach out to smaller congregations to help train and inspire youth leaders.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Adults need to be involved.
- ◆ Service events in Mexico, New Orleans to bond youth in fellowship and faith.
- ◆ Weekends spent by participating with other youth in activities and afterwards inviting them to a non-threatening Bible study.

Recommendations

- ◆ District to find ways to support and help to establish an “On-going Ambassadors for Christ.”
- ◆ Circuits would adopt a plan to establish youth outreach and evangelism.
- ◆ Using the same principles of O AFC regarding evangelism, but establishing methods to train and inspire our youth in local congregations.

GROUP MINISTRY

How to Increase (Double) Adult Bible Study Participation

Convener: Brad Keefe, Beautiful Savior/Olathe 913-461-6049

Documenter: Rev. Andrew Wehling, Grace/Liberal 620-624-5900

Group Participants:

Mike Massaglia	Faith, Ottawa	785-242-0196
Vivian Massaglia	Faith, Ottawa	785-242-0196
Wanda Honig	St. Paul, Duluth	785-889-4342
Bruce Lindskog	Faith, Ottawa	785-746-5717
Rev. Andrew Wehling	Grace, Liberal	620-624-5900
Leland Holle	Immanuel, Bremen	
Cleone Neff	Immanuel, Lakin	620-355-7008
Bill Morris	Christ, Augusta	316-778-1591

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ We find Bible Study to be very strengthening.
- ◆ Many individual/church problems can be traced back to a lack of members in Bible Study
- ◆ 14% of LCMS members attend a Bible study----Too Few!
- ◆ Relationships with God and each other are strengthened by Bible Study.
- ◆ Worship and Bible Study are two different things---worship is not enough
- ◆ Bible Study can make us better able to witness our faith...Helps you know who you believe, what you believe and why you believe it.
- ◆ Bible Study provides another approach to the Word. Some people are able to understand more with an interactive approach.
- ◆ Growth happens through the Word! (from 2 Timothy 3:16)

Assets on Which to Build

Resource: Send people to local college to learn how adults learn. There are specific techniques that work very well with adults.

Other Discussion of Significance

Why People Don't Attend

- ◆ Too early
- ◆ Not getting value out of it
- ◆ Fear of embarrassment
- ◆ Lack of self-discipline
- ◆ Don't want to read
- ◆ Not interested in the topic
- ◆ Don't make the pastor lead all bible classes
- ◆ Lack of persistent inviting
- ◆ Be careful of prepared materials because they may limit learning due to inflexibility.

Why People Do Attend / Things That Work

- ◆ Personal, persistent inviting
- ◆ Variety of topics, variety of leaders
- ◆ Leaders besides the pastor, sometimes the presence of a pastor is intimidating.
- ◆ Relevant topics
- ◆ Variety of teaching styles, people learn differently.
- ◆ Include time for fellowship
- ◆ Couples home Bible Study – 5 couples rotate to each others homes.
- ◆ Flexible lesson plan, adapts to the class
- ◆ Studies available for different levels of spiritual maturity
- ◆ Availability of willing and able lay leaders
- ◆ 40 Days of Purpose created excitement for the Word.
- ◆ Pastors train lay leaders how to lead
- ◆ Recognize that each of us is called by the Holy Spirit to study the Word.
- ◆ Allow men and women to teach
- ◆ Mentor newer attendees, try not to intimidate with knowledge.

Recommendations

Send adult leaders to local college to take a class on adult learning methods.

Small Group Ministry

Convener: Rev. Perry Sukstorf, Redeemer/Olathe, 913-764-2359

Documenter: Susan Sukstorf, Redeemer/Olathe, 913-390-8816

Group Participants:

Rev. Perry Sukstorf	Redeemer, Olathe	913-764-2359
Susan Sukstorf	Redeemer, Olathe	913-390-8816
Pat Schultz	Faith, Topeka	785-286-3654
Beth Hanschu	Messiah, Emporia	620-342-4876
Cynthia Lavrenz	Trinity, Garden City	620-276-3110
Jere Brandt	Bethany, Overland Park	913-491-6435
Helen Genter	St. Paul, Leavenworth	913-682-6434
Paul Klotz	Faith, Topeka	785-273-9875
Aaron Hastings	Grace, Wichita	316-733-7135
Marian Frederking	Trinity, Salina	785-827-0925

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Need to know how to do Small group ministry
- ◆ Natural flow of group vs. working hard to form/continue group.
- ◆ Share personal information
- ◆ Pray with small groups
- ◆ How do we grow group?
- ◆ How can we lift up our absent membership?
- ◆ Churches are getting so big. Small groups give sense of smaller congregations.
- ◆ How do we split up our groups?
- ◆ Small groups a way to keep church together. Church keeps spark with small groups.
- ◆ We can use small groups to encourage absent members without intimidation etc.
- ◆ Way to support the Pastor
- ◆ Spiritual formation
- ◆ Someone may be more willing to ask questions in a smaller setting
- ◆ Share personal faith – How do/did you share how the Lord will come/came to you

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ The Word of God
- ◆ Youth of the church
- ◆ Staff Support
- ◆ Pastor/Vicars
- ◆ Church Leadership
- ◆ “Christ Care” format
- ◆ Adult Sunday School
- ◆ Tables of 8
- ◆ Community dinners

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Christ Care as part of small group meetings.
- ◆ Find a schedule that works!
- ◆ 5 Steps to Build a Community
- ◆ Internet Sermons

Recommendations

- ◆ Use Christ Care at the meetings
- ◆ Strong Adult Sunday School
- ◆ Try to form groups in early morning or late evening to avoid conflicts
- ◆ Follow the internet options – biblestudyhour.com
- ◆ Try to see sermons on-line
- ◆ Stick with the Word of God
- ◆ Babysitting for all who show up
- ◆ Ask directly if someone would come to small group
- ◆ Community dinners
- ◆ Tables of 8
- ◆ Use geography of members to help get members of the church who are on the fringe
- ◆ Use member who is active to contact someone else in geographic area (neighbor)
- ◆ DCE – Small group ministry
- ◆ Small groups started through 40 Days of Purpose and Purpose Driven Life

Women's Bible Study

Convener: Gina Brewer, Faith/Topeka, 785-272-4214

Documenter: Gina Brewer, Faith/Topeka, 785-272-2258

Group Participants:

Sally Ray	Trinity, Winfield	620-221-9460
Arlene Lindskog	Faith, Ottawa	785-746-5717
Mary Weber	Immanuel, Junction City	785-258-3077
Yvonne Brown	St. Luke, Kansas City	913-342-9665
Marcile Holle	Immanuel, Bremen	785-337-2569
Terry Crank	Trinity, Atchison	913-426-4606
JoAnn Schepmann	St. Paul, Preston	620-672-3882

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Heart for women's bible study, sharing with women in an intimate way.
- ◆ No study offered at my church and want to start one.
- ◆ As an outreach to co-workers.
- ◆ That's where you get the inspiration.
- ◆ Most younger women work outside of the home and need to be fed.
- ◆ Don't want to be only a Sunday only attendee.
- ◆ Tap into the inter-generational.
- ◆ Building relationships.
- ◆ We need to be fed.
- ◆ A fast and meaningful bible study.
- ◆ To have a faith based networking system.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Welcoming older members that play and tease young children.
- ◆ Everyone wants friendship and we need to offer it.
- ◆ Offer a variety of subjects of interest to all ages.
- ◆ Have a personal testimony time – everyone has a story.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Themed Bible study.
- ◆ Movie night with popcorn.
- ◆ Provide baby sitting.
- ◆ Be welcoming and introduce them to 7 people and build a connection and they will come back.
- ◆ Women's Devotional Bible.
- ◆ Women of Faith.

PERSONAL OUTREACH

Speaking Our Faith

Convener: Pastor Dennis FitzPatrick, Trinity/Atchison, 913-367-7427

Documenter: Judy Carlson, First/Paola, 913-294-3506

Group Participants:

Judy Carlson	First, Paola	913-294-3506
Sylvia Carson	Risen Savior, Wichita	316-636-4026
Ken Carson	Risen Savior, Wichita	316-636-4026
Jo Schultz	Trinity, Salina	785-825-6642
Marcile Holle	Immanuel, Bremen	785-337-2569
Wanda Honig	St. Paul, Duluth	785-889-4342
Paul Klotz	Faith, Topeka	785-273-9875
Jack Kersting	Zion, Offerle	620-659-3405
Don Schultz	Faith, Topeka	785-286-3654
Betty Borchard	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-682-8968
Gale Cynova	Immanuel, Junction City	785-238-2580
Elainea Cynova	Immanuel, Junction City	785-238-2580
Marvin Kohlmeier	First, Sabetha	785-284-3591
Dick Borchard	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-682-8968
Brenda Taylor	Messiah, Emporia	620-343-3994
Lisa Bellinder	Mt. Calvary, Wamego	785-456-9034

Why Is This Important To Us?

- ◆ How do you speak of your faith? I want to speak my faith better.
- ◆ Why do you invite people to church? Want them to enjoy eternal salvation.

Assets On Which To Build

- ◆ Personal devotional life – active prayer life – pray for others and self.
- ◆ Bible study – be involved; have personal, daily Bible study
- ◆ Holy Spirit will lead you to the Word. The Word will lead you to the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Lead by example, but sometimes you have to use words.
- ◆ The relationship you have with the Spirit leads you, helps you to share your faith. God uses us.
- ◆ Kennedy Evangelism – How do you get from Kennedy evangelism type ministry to building the relationships?
 - ◆ “Knocking on doors” visiting can lead to relationships – can come from a recommendation or can be follow-up visit to church attendance.
 - ◆ Visit in people’s homes – know something about them – the connection to build the relationship.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ It's harder to talk to your own family. Why? It's not about winning the argument. Ask questions to help them get to where you want them to be – to have a better understanding.
- ◆ What goes along with that? Personal involvement – family knows your faults; see when you fail; may throw that in your face.
- ◆ What holds you back from sharing?

- Fear:
 - of rejection
 - of not saying the right thing
 - of offending
 - of burning bridges

The enemy – the devil – keeps us from sharing – causes the fear.

- ◆ Non-believers want to know: Why do you believe? For what reason.
- ◆ You find out more about your faith by sharing your faith. Bible study and prayer must be part of it.

Philemon 1:4-6 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

How Do You Handle Rebuffs for Your Beliefs

Convener: Lois Llewellyn, Immanuel/Lawrence, 785-843-9071

Documenter: same as above

Group Participants:

Lois Llewellyn	Immanuel, Lawrence	785-843-9071
Rev. Richard Zabel	Grace, Wichita	316-685-6781
Dennis Marten	Zion, Independence	620-331-3855
Tracie Reida	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-733-2013
Janet Dobler	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-744-9459
Kathryn Boss	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-744-1041
Richard Schrum	Bethany, Overland Park	913-541-9081
Jere Brandt	Bethany, Overland Park	913-491-6435
Jeremy Blanton	Trinity, Atchison	785-988-4496

Reasons Why Attending

- ◆ To learn approaches to provide parents of Lutheran school children for dealing with rebuffs to faith.
- ◆ To learn strategies for conversing with persons who have developed a negative opinion of Christians because of influence of conservative Christians in government.
- ◆ 2 of 3 are unchurched in Douglas County. Many express indifference or antagonism to Christian outreach.
- ◆ Persons in family are not Christian. They demand empirical and scientific explanations.
- ◆ Witnessing to persons with bad church experiences
- ◆ Witnessing to a lesbian

Suggestions

- ◆ Make a list of these people and pray for them. Ask others to pray for them.
- ◆ Perform little acts of kindness for these persons.
- ◆ When witnessing to lesbians – witness that we are all sinners
- ◆ When persons dismiss Christians as hypocrites, witness to them that we are sinners repenting and saved only by the grace of God.
- ◆ Be persistent in witnessing and sharing the Gospel.
- ◆ Share what faith in Jesus Christ has done for me.
- ◆ Circle of Influence
- ◆ First, understand more what the other person is saying and feeling
- ◆ Avoid becoming defensive; rather, seek to learn, understand and to develop a relationship
- ◆ “Tell me some more.”
- ◆ “Spell it out.”
- ◆ Lutherans who are long-time members may tend to speak in jargon. When witnessing, we must speak in terms that non-Lutherans can understand.
- ◆ From Romans 3:23 – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Suggestions (cont.)

- ◆ Luther's Catechism – Grace is God's love freely given
- ◆ Objection – All the church wants is our money. We give to honor God.
- ◆ Exhibit patience when continuously interacting with unbelievers.
- ◆ 2 Timothy 4:1-4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.
- ◆ Read scripture so that we are equipped to speak with knowledge
- ◆ Do not feel obligated to explain everything in the Bible.

How to Address LCMS Exclusiveness with God's Extended Family

Convener: Norm Knocke, Holy Cross/Wichita, 316-683-1431

Documenter: Gwen Hensley, Holy Cross/Wichita, 316-776-0427

Group Participants:

Norm Knocke	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-683-1431
Gwen Hensley	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-776-0427
Edie Snethen	Faith, Topeka	785-354-8987
Margaret Larson	Grace, Larned	620-285-6793
Paul Hofstetter	Grace, Hill City	785-421-2455
Andy Kocher	St. Paul, Duluth	785-456-4606
Lela Jean & Jack Howerton	Grace, Lyons	620-257-2875
Justine & Dave Lemcke	Trinity, Wichita	316-522-4251
Rev. Eldor & Edna Meyer	Trinity, Girard	620-724-6375
Karl Koenig	Risen Savior, Wichita	316-685-8427

Why is This Important to Us?

Close Communion:

- ◆ It pushed people away
- ◆ Visitors are “turned off”
- ◆ People don’t feel welcome
- ◆ It’s the lack of communication regarding closed communion that is the problem
- ◆ People think that we think we’re the only saved sinners
- ◆ Some pastors discourage participation
- ◆ First impressions (10-15 minutes) of visitors are very important!
- ◆ Communication is the key!

“Go, make disciples ...”

- ◆ We do not “go” out to the world outside our church – we wait for them to come to us. So how do we reach the unchurched?
- ◆ Visibility of our actions in community service projects shows our faith is a living, active faith.

Assets on Which to Build

Close Communion:

- ◆ We do educate our children and they do know what we believe.

“Go, make disciples ...”

- ◆ We do have individuals and organizations within the church that are available.

Other Discussion of Significance

Close Communion:

- ◆ Seminaries are teaching “exclusiveness.”
- ◆ In the 70's, the church split and another synod (ELCA) was formed
- ◆ LCMS is a dying Synod at this point
- ◆ 911 prayer was devastating to LCMS – so how do we pray with others? If we cannot pray with those who do not belong to LCMS, how can we reach out to others????
- ◆ Need a better altar invitation
- ◆ First impressions are important.

“Go, make disciples ...”

- ◆ We do some, but we need “to keep doing what we're doing.”

Recommendations

Close Communion:

- ◆ Educate pastors in communication
- ◆ Written explanation in bulletin of our belief and why (communion)
- ◆ Elders be trained, responsible, and available to answer questions of visitors, new members, etc.
- ◆ Encourage individual communication in every day language
- ◆ Encourage individual prayer and Bible study daily
- ◆ During the call process, you can find out what a pastor practices

“Go, make disciples ...”

- ◆ Encourage joint efforts with other LCMS churches and/or other churches for community service opportunities and outreach.
- ◆ Combine churches for VBS
- ◆ Pastors join Ministerial Alliance or initiate one.
- ◆ Encourage individual, group and congregational prayers and Bible studies

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Outreach in the Community

Convener:

Documenter:

Group Participants:

Rev. Ed Mease	St. Paul, Leavenworth	913-682-0387
Becca Mease	St. Paul, Leavenworth	
Rev. Ken Nettling	Faith/Immanuel, Kansas City	
Rev. George Bruening	Faith, Topeka	
Grace Dahlke	Redeemer, Hutchinson	
Ronald Avey	Immanuel, Lawrence	
Hazel Ebberts	St. John, Aliceville	
Leanne Patterson	Beautiful Savior, Olathe	
Joyce Hamm	St. Andrew, Wichita	
Robert Gardner	First, Paola	
Yvonne Brown	St. Luke, Kansas City	
J.D. Rice	Immanuel, Lakin	

Discussion

- ◆ It is difficult to bring people in
 - ◆ Project God while we are out in the community, at work (Be a Witness, Live out your faith)
 - ◆ Dinners for target groups (social workers, hairdressers) as a thank you
 - ◆ Part of church mission is outreach- become a way of life church
 - ◆ Everyone needs to evangelize, need to teach church members and hold each other accountable.
 - ◆ Keep trying!
 - ◆ Offer community breakfast
 - ◆ Offer flu shots and then invite them in for more health screenings
 - ◆ Offer English as a 2nd language classes with child care provided
 - ◆ Follow-up with people attending to build relationships
 - ◆ Educate ourselves to other cultures
 - ◆ Find out what the community needs and work on this
 - ◆ What things are missing (not always spiritual initially e.g. free meal)
 - ◆ Offer different classes
 - ◆ How do we go out to them? (Adopt a school, health center, blood drives ect...)
 - ◆ After school program for kids – joined with other churches.
 - ◆ Do VBS through the summer with other churches to cover summer vacation time
- COLLABORATION
- ◆ Focus on Jesus/God not our differences
 - ◆ Find something you can do and do it well (you can't do everything)
 - ◆ Get excited ABLAZE, don't be luke warm
 - ◆ Train to teach/speak the gospel (have retreats, so people feel comfortable, but don't feel that ONLY the people who train can share the gospel (mentors)
 - ◆ Have kids sing in church – Kids and parents encouraged to attend.

Discussion (cont.)

- ◆ Need Lutheran 3 day multi church (renewal, awakening, structured) encourage to be Christ centered (is one through Methodist church and helps growth of church)
- ◆ Step out of your comfort zone, be confident in your beliefs – is a way of personal growth
- ◆ Respect others differences, be educated about others, religions, cults ect....
- ◆ Jesus is the answer, focus on 1 soul at a time
- ◆ It is unforgivable that we should live around those who are going to hell and we don't want to save them.
- ◆ Listing in phone books
- ◆ Websites now more important
- ◆ Community Christmas
- ◆ Help School Children
- ◆ Collect for needy people (Christmas gifts and Christmas story to share the gospel)
- ◆ Collect things for safe houses
- ◆ VBS reunion at Christmas time
- ◆ Adopt a school
- ◆ Teacher appreciation (Christmas box – teachers have a wish list of things they need in a classroom) Then bring teacher to church for lunch and share the gospel
- ◆ Christian instruction guide in day care and pre-school
- ◆ Offer Contemporary Services
- ◆ Offer classes for young families (fundraising, mission work)
- ◆ Mission: Connect people to Jesus – don't focus on the numbers in church, focus on connecting them to Jesus!

Outreach in the Community

Convener: Denis Johnson, St. Paul/Leavenworth, 913-351-2768

Documenter: Cindy von Soosten, Trinity/Girard, 620-724-7256

Group Participants:

Skip Eno	Trinity, Jefferson City	573-635-0072
Shirley Eno	Trinity, Jefferson City	573-635-0072
Denis Johnson	St. Paul, Leavenworth	913-351-2768
Rev. Bob Roberts	Immanuel, Lakin	620-355-6117
Cindy von Soosten	Trinity, Girard	620-724-7256

Discussion

- ◆ Tutoring and after school programs for high school and grade school – equip with computers, reference materials etc....
- ◆ Called DCE or Deaconess to organize and lead programs for youth as well as all ages.
- ◆ Daycare program – State licensed
- ◆ Parenting classes – for young parents
- ◆ Bring Christ to nations and Nations to Christ
 - Reach out but find means to develop a relationship to get the Gospel to them
- ◆ Use youth in service – music, skits (Family and relation will come)
- ◆ Youth volunteers for elderly in community
- ◆ Pizza and Prayer – Open noon hours for high school, meeting at church.
- ◆ Mother’s morning out – Once or twice a week
 - Paid director and volunteers
 - Can be paid or free
 - Volunteer mothers get free care
- ◆ Trunk or Treat – Halloween Festival for youth
 - People decorate trunks and give candy in Church parking lot.
 - Serve hot chocolate and cookies in church.
- ◆ Keep Christ in Christmas or other yard signs printed and displayed in all members’ yards.
- ◆ Contemporary Services – How contemporary?
 - Maybe hire some musicians – even non Lutheran.
- ◆ Thanksgiving dinner for community instead of baskets
 - Free service – Congregation project
- ◆ Equipping to share by Lutheran Hour Ministries LLL will conduct seminars to teach you how
- ◆ Tutoring program for High school and grade school
 - Referral program from teachers
 - Called DCE
- ◆ English as a second language classes
- ◆ Daycare
- ◆ Mother’s morning out
- ◆ Parenting Classes
- ◆ DCE to Seward River Forest, St. Paul Minneapolis
- ◆ After school babysitting, paid leader volunteers
 - Equipped with computers, games, snacks

Expanding the Kingdom Through Multi-Site Ministry

Convener: Rev. Mark Shulz, Bethany/Overland Park, 913-648-2228

Documenter: Rev. Mark Frith, Beautiful Savior/Olathe, 913-780-6023

Group Participants:

Karlea Landman	Faith, Topeka	785-266-4467
Twila Theimer	Faith, Topeka	785-478-9173
Don Bartling	Faith, Topeka	785-233-4032
John Fries	Douglas Co. Mission Start	785-856-9900
Ivan Grimm	Bethany, Overland Park	913-685-8360
Rev. Ken Kaufmann	St. Paul, Cheney	316-542-0115
Lew Llewellyn	Immanuel, Lawrence	785-843-9071
Rev. Charlie Adams	Trinity, Salina	785-823-7151
Rev. Mark Schulz	Bethany, Overland Park	913-648-2228
Joe Patterson	Beautiful Savior, Olathe	913-390-4740
Rev. Mark Frith	Beautiful Savior, Olathe	913-780-6023
Brad Keefe	Beautiful Savior, Olathe	913-461-6049

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Because District models for mission starts have changed with less funds available – the model of strong congregations leading and supporting.
- ◆ A need for space and a helpful idea for growing.
- ◆ Some of us have questions with no answers, and wondering if multi-site system answers specific questions.
- ◆ One is wondering if another site would be a good way to begin contemporary worship.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Written resources for multi-location ministry.
- ◆ Some congregations in Kansas City have created these ministry models in their location.
- ◆ What other models?
 - Start daycare as see start
 - Start Bible study
 - “Pick me up” services
 - Call Mission Developer – sometimes hand-off is a delicate issue
 - Call Mission Developer w/core group of main congregation’s members

Other Assets:

- ◆ Theology of LCMS
- ◆ Concern for Children, Education
- ◆ Mother churches give financial stability, allowing new site to grow easily

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ How to start new mission sites without impacting a sister congregation or two.
- ◆ Members who move to new site often end up taking roles of significant leadership, whereas they wouldn't have in original site. God can use these to grow people's faith and roles.
- ◆ When is the time that a congregation looks to grow a second site?

Recommendations

- ◆ There are many resources available.
- ◆ Rev. Mark Schulz is interested in beginning a multi-site Discussion Group for anyone interested.

Outreach of Lutheran Schools in Associations

Convener: Tom Benaka, Faith/Topeka, 785-234-0053

Documenter: Marilyn Schults, Faith/Topeka, 785-272-4214

Group Participants:

Tom Benaka	Faith, Topeka	785-234-0053
Rev. Mark Schultz	Bethany, Overland Park	913-648-2228
Jay Floetke	St. Paul, Leavenworth	913-682-5553
Bill Dieckhoff	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-744-7917
Marilyn Schults	Faith, Topeka	785-272-4214

Discussion

- ◆ Enrollment declining: How to increase enrollment
 - Use outreach, fill seats with unchurched
 - Communication is important
 - Marketing Schools (Bob Rogalski) District office has his notebook and it's rotating around
- ◆ What role does preschool play in feeding elementary schools?
 - Referral programs: new family 50% discount and referring family 50% discount (oldest child for one year) Holy Cross
- ◆ Tuition
 - Full tuition and "grant in aid/scholarship"
 - Go to a third party – outside source
 - Tithe and don't pay school tuition
- ◆ How do we outreach and deal with finances?
 - Schools need to be into technology to keep up with public schools.
- ◆ Finances
 - Delinquent families – not enroll next year
 - School must be financially solvent to be in ministry
- ◆ Ownership of school unique to Association School.
- ◆ Preschool kids to elementary school
 - All one governance board
- ◆ 3-5 year strategic plan
 - Holy Cross Wichita
 - Increase enrollment
 - Where to expand
 - Look ahead at curriculum
- ◆ Lutheran School Mission is to:
 - Reach unchurched
 - See our children as church leaders
 - Everyone is responsible to put the message out
- ◆ Bethany, Overland Park 1/3-1/3-1/3 finances
 - 1/3 from church
 - 1/3 from families
 - 1/3 from 3rd source

Discussion (cont.)

- ◆ Fall Festival with “Trunk or Treat”
 - Visitor traffic – creates awareness
 - Family friendly
 - Inside building and outside building

- ◆ Service projects that students participate in
 - If after school hours bring a friend

- ◆ Need PR Foundations that support schools
 - Newsletters
 - Brochure piece
 - Need someone with few hours/week to contact people
 - Thrivent: options for charitable giving have the option for foundation listed.

Emergent Worship Style for Outreach

Convener: Kent Stephens, Holy Cross/Wichita, 316-684-5201

Documenter: Christine Lehl, King of Kings/Gardner, 913-856-0106

Group Participants:

Jeff & Leslie Brockhoff	St. Paul, Fairview	785-474-3422
Pastor John Einem	Christ, Augusta	316-775-1976
Brian Lindskog	Faith, Ottawa	785-746-5717
Kent Stephens	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-684-5201
Arleata Harmon	Risen Savior, Wichita	316-683-5538
Marilyn Shults	Faith, Topeka	785-272-4214
Chris Lehl	King of Kings, Gardner	913-856-0106
Carol Garrett	Risen Savior, Wichita	316-944-7228
Aaron Hastings	Grace, Wichita	316-733-7133
Jeanne Fries	Immanuel, Lawrence	785-887-6254

Discussion

Emergent worship is more personal and reflective – more free flowing

- ◆ Emergent worship could include:
 - Pre-worship (preparation – instructions)
 - Worship - station to station (confession, prayer, scripture)
 - Post – worship
- ◆ Emergent worship can be very family friendly. Parents could talk and help assist children through the stations.
- ◆ Suggested that guests to this worship style have a mentor, someone to walk the guest through worship.
- ◆ What about the physical structure:
 - Could have two different areas – one for worship and the second for pre and post
 - Could use traditional worship space. Would have to plan with space in mind.
 - Could be done in an individual's home.
 - Could be in one room. Transition signs (lights, chimes, etc.) would be needed to change from pre-sessions to worship, etc.
- ◆ Do you have a sermon? Could be done at a set time.
- ◆ The music station could contain all the elements of liturgy.
- ◆ What if people don't attend all the stations?
 - Have the expectation that every worshiper is to attend all the stations – don't give the option of selecting stations.
 - Compared attendance at the stations to moving through Curves (exercise program). You start anywhere you want and go through all the stations. Then you get a full faith workout.
- ◆ Benefits:
 - Worship doesn't end when you go out of the building.
 - Emergent worship trains families to worship
 - Is multi-sensory and interactive

Traditional vs. Contemporary

- ◆ Stations – Word of Sacrament incorporated in station
- ◆ Different worship styles appeal to different people
- ◆ Fit worship style to audience you're trying to reach
- ◆ Interruptions moving from station to station
- ◆ Need guide in Lutheran Church
- ◆ Worship style tied to personality
- ◆ Need to maintain sense of separating from outside world.

Congregations need to keep asking: What is worship? Why worship?

Relating to and Integrating with Our Hispanic Communities

Convener: Candy Richards, Grace/Liberal, 580-778-3242

Documenter: Rhonda Eichman, Grace/Liberal, 620-624-6880

Group Participants:

Ralph Heiden	St. Luke, Kansas City	913-281-3102
Tom Benaka	Faith/Topeka	785-234-0053
Erich Schieber	Grace, Liberal	620-272-2001
Ray Eichman	Grace, Liberal	620-624-6880
Rev. Perry T. Sukstorf	Redeemer, Olathe	913-764-2359
Karen Hall	St. Andrew, Wichita	316-838-4056
Wayne Hobelman	Grace, Kansas City	913-334-1714
Cathy Hobelman	Grace, Kansas City	913-334-1714
Rev. Dave Gruoner	Zion, Linn	785-348-5332
Edward W. Bierbaum	Linn Lutheran School, Linn	785-348-5792
George Woodyard	Immanuel, Lawrence	785-842-3092
Ron Albrecht	Holy Cross, Dodge City	620-225-1222
Gerald Sanden	St. John, Oberlin	785-475-2826

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Because they are people who have not heard of Jesus, coming in among us.
- ◆ It is an important opportunity to grasp hold of and talk to immigrants coming to our country that might be here for only a short while then going on to other places.
- ◆ A transient population that comes and goes and needs help. Usually coming from a culture of poverty. It is a mission field that has come to our doorstep and we must open the door and meet their spiritual and sometimes, economic needs.
- ◆ God commands us to make disciples of all nations (from Matthew 28:19-20). God has set them and the exact place where they are to be and the time for them to be there (from Acts 17: 26-27). This nation has come to us. He has brought the mission field to us. We cannot ignore the job.
- ◆ What do we do when members of our congregations don't want to embrace this task?
- ◆ Bible study on this issue, discuss it openly during Sunday School and adult classes, talk about it, get it out on the table.
- ◆ What if you have a small or elderly congregation that is having a hard time embracing this mission field? Get them involved by having a dinner and serving people. We fear what we do not understand.
- ◆ Hispanics are a culture not a race. Hispanics are Mexican, Cuban, Honduran, and Panamanian. Learn about them and their culture.
- ◆ Most are unchurched even though they say they are Catholic they are 3rd or 4th generation unchurched and don't know about Jesus.
- ◆ Areas of Kansas are becoming heavily populated Dodge City is 70% Hispanic, Garden City and Liberal are 80% and Kansas City has a growing population.
- ◆ When neighborhoods change and the church doesn't embrace the new neighbors, it dies.
- ◆ When our ancestors came here, they clustered in communities and were assimilated into what is now America. We are indeed the melting pot. It is our turn and our opportunity now.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Mission Field- Approach it as a mission field right here at our doorstep.
- ◆ Network with other churches to pool resources.
- ◆ Team up- Even team up with schools
- ◆ Find out what worked with other churches and what has failed.
- ◆ Meet regularly at district and state levels to get workable program written down.
- ◆ Lobby our representatives to keep the mission field open. We do need laws for immigration, but don't make Christians criminals for helping the poor and needy

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Culture of Poverty – These people think and act in a way that the middle class does not. It is a great collide of cultures. We come in, sit down and are quiet. They come in and are noisy.
- ◆ The poor live for the minute, the middle class plans for the future. The mentality of poverty must be retaught.
- ◆ The children are fast learners of American culture and often control the family because they translate for parents. Parents must learn English and take control of their families. This also teaches the family to value education when Mom and Dad learn English in a class setting.
- ◆ Most immigrants are coming here illiterate, unable to read Spanish or English or write either. As we have an opportunity to educate, we can put Christ in the picture.

Recommendations

- ◆ How do you establish a relationship with the parents? They drop their kids off and leave.
 - Develop the same way you would for any neighbor dropping off kids
 - Be visible so they recognize you when you do approach them
 - Provide ESL classes with sitters
 - Hand out bi-lingual VBS materials available from CPH. They are producing special packets that kids can take home.
- ◆ ESL: Have 2 classes a week, one morning and one evening. You don't need to speak Spanish to hold ESL classes. One church used a professional teacher, one uses a computer lab with Rosetto Stone computer program (about \$200) and 6 computers (donated) networked together. Signs are put up at Wal-Mart they say (you want a better life? You've got to learn English" free ESL classes, call....) One church uses computers, had 2 previously failed program attempts before deciding on computers; they are less labor intensive method of providing instruction.

How to Minister to Minorities

Convener: Wayne Hobelmann, Grace/Kansas City, 913-281-1621

Documenter: Rev. Ken Nettling, Faith-Immanuel/Kansas City, 913-709-4417

Group Participants:

Wayne Hobelmann	Grace, Kansas City	913-334-1714
Cathy Hobelmann	Grace, Kansas City	913-334-1714
Rev. Ken Nettling	Faith/Immanuel, Kansas City	913-709-4417
Vernon Weber	Immanuel, Junction City	785-258-3077
Denis Johnson	St. Paul, Leavenworth	913-351-2768

Discussion

- ◆ Make them feel welcomed to worship (minorities)
- ◆ Try new opportunities; i.e. worship, programs, outreach
- ◆ Versatility in practice/variety
- ◆ Personal Connection-compassion
- ◆ Begin with the youth

Support Our Military Families

Convener: Nancy Koenig, Risen Savior/Wichita, 316-685-8427

Documenter: same as above

Group Participants:

Nancy Koenig Risen Savior, Wichita 316-685-8427

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ We have many people in the military.
- ◆ Families need support during deployment or during frequent moves.

Recommendations

- ◆ Send care packages to active duty
- ◆ Offer relief to single moms, dads, grandparents
- ◆ With 2-career military families, grandparents may be helping to raise children

Prison Ministry

Convener: Julie Utt, Trinity/Winfield, 620-221-9460

Documenter: Rev. Brett Huebner, Zion/Hillsboro-Our Savior/Marion,

Group Participants:

Marcus and Cora Kuepker	Lawrence	785-842-5567
Pam Floetke	St. Paul, Leavenworth	913-651-2764
Rev. Brett Huebner	Zion, Hillsboro	620-947-3522
Lester Walter	Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove	785-526-7471
Jim Rosander	Mt. Calvary, Wamego	785-457-3825
Gwen Hensley	Holy Cross, Wichita	316-776-0427

Why is This Important to Us?

- ◆ Need to save souls
- ◆ Family member in prison
- ◆ Students with family member in prison
- ◆ An untapped area of mission
- ◆ When people are released, will they be better off than going in?
- ◆ These people who don't know Jesus as their Savior NEED to.

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Holy Trinity is our biggest asset
- ◆ People's interest
- ◆ Geographical proximity of jails and prison
- ◆ Money for the ministry in outreach budgets

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ Missed opportunities
- ◆ Need of persistent follow-up and follow through

Recommendations

- ◆ District Office to provide a plan to provide training for local churches to do prison ministry.
- ◆ Julie Utt of Trinity, Winfield is a good contact person.
- ◆ Call Al Hanson (Rocky Mease?)
- ◆ District and congregations to do ministry to families of the incarcerated.
- ◆ Pastors can visit their own incarcerated members.
- ◆ Include incarcerated and their families in our weekly prayer.
- ◆ Call on local prison Chaplains or Sheriff's department.