



A 1st Century Church for the 21st Century

Church Council Workshop

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Iron Mountain, Michigan

10/26/2013

I. The Purpose of the Church

What images do people use to describe the church?

Hospital for _____

School for disciples

_____ on the move

Club for members

_____?

Rick Warren, "The Purpose Driven Church":

Worship

Discipleship

Fellowship

Service

Article 7 of the Augsburg Confession:

1] Also they teach that one holy Church is to continue forever. The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered. 2] And to the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree concerning the doctrine of the Gospel and 3] the administration of the Sacraments. Nor is it necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies, instituted by men, should be everywhere alike.

Purpose: To Love...and To Go

Keep it simple:

Love _____, love _____

Fulfill the Great _____

Open your Bible to Matthew 22: 37-40

Love:

I John 4: 10-11

I Corinthians 13: 1-7

I Peter 4: 8

John 13: 34-35

Love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as your self.

So, we are _____ to be a _____ to our communities

Genesis 12

Jeremiah 29: 7

Matthew 10: 7

Purpose? To Love...

- Blessings of God Rain Down



In to the Church, the People of God
And through us ...



←————→
To our communities and throughout
the whole earth

Go make disciples...

Let's look at Matthew 28: 16-20

Make disciples

Baptize

Teach them to _____

How are we to make disciples?

A disciple (follower of Jesus):

Knows what they _____ and can _____ someone else

Working _____ of the Word of God

Understands their _____ gifts

Connected to the Body of Christ

Active in _____

Makes more _____

Baptize?

How many Lutherans does it take to bring one person to Christ?

It takes _____ Lutherans _____ full year to bring _____ person to Christ.

How many of the babies that we have baptized remain a part of the church?

Any church, any where?

Teaching to Obey?

Our culture is opposed to the word "_____".

Obedience is optional

Experience and _____ trump Truth

Truth is relative, situational, _____

Do not tell me how:

to raise my children

_____ my money

Do not suggest that I might be wrong

Do not hold me accountable

There is no "_____", there is no "_____"

To Love and To Go...

And yet the most loving things we can do are:

Love each other _____ to speak the truth

Hold each other _____

Give all people a chance to meet _____

Invite them all to become _____

I Am A Disciple

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have been given the Holy Spirit. The die has been cast. I've stepped over the line. The love of God works in me. The Lord has called me. I'm a disciple of His.

I won't look back, let up, slow down, or back away. My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, and smooth and easy. No more colorless dreams, mundane talking, cheap giving, and wasting time. I no longer need prosperity, position, promotion, preeminence, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded.

I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk in patience, live by prayer, and labor with power. My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is the Kingdom of God. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My companions few. My guide reliable. My mission clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversaries, negotiate at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and spoken up for the cause of Christ. I must go until He comes, give until I drop, teach until all might know, run until He calls me home.

I am a disciple of Jesus

(adapted from a work by Ed Cole)

II. Time to Re-Focus our Efforts

On what do our church councils spend the majority of our time?

Think back on your last three church council meetings...

But we are here: "To Love and To Go"

We spend so much time on physical things for a spiritual enterprise:

"scarcity" or "_____"

"_____ " or "let go"?

"_____ " or "mission"?

Where do we spend more time?

the "_____ of pastoral ministry"

(a _____ model)

Or...

"the Priesthood of _____ Believers"

(the Biblical model)?

Each one of us is _____

We are in it together

There is no _____

Are we willing to accept the _____ of others?

Or does it have to be "the pastor"?

Who will "train and equip"?

Turn to Ephesians 4: 11-13

We spend all of our time doing the _____ without considering the _____!
We need to break out of the " _____ " and start doing things _____!

Re-focus "church leadership"

Leadership

How are church leaders chosen?

Election?

And on what basis?

Warm body?

_____?

Can't say "no"?

_____ family?

Already doing everything?

Representatives of different _____?

Is this the best model of selecting leaders in the church?

There are Biblical qualities of leaders listed for us in the New Testament...
(See I Timothy 3:1-4, 6-7, Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4, and Galatians 5:16-26.)

The Scriptural characteristics of leaders are identified as the following: **Overall spiritual maturity** (He/she is a mature Christian), **Above reproach** (He/she has a good Christian reputation, among believers and non-Christians), **Marital Faithfulness** (He/she is faithful to his/her spouse if single, living a chaste life), **Temperate** (He/she maintains balance in their Christian experience), **Prudent** (He/she is wise and discerning), **Respectable** (He/she's life is a good reflection of the life of Jesus Christ), **Hospitable** (He/she is generous), **Able to teach** (He/she communicates well, even to those with whom they may disagree), **Not addicted to wine** (He/she controls obsessions and compulsions), **Not self-willed** (He/she relates well to other people without being self-centered and controlling), **Not quick-tempered** (He/she controls anger), **Not pugnacious** (He/she does not commit any form of verbal or physical abuse), **Gentle** (he/she is objective and fair-minded in relationships with others), **Uncontentious** (He/she avoids getting into arguments), **Free from the love of money** (He/she is not materialistic), **One who manages his/her own household well** (He/she functions within their family according to God's plan), **Loving what is good** (He/she overcomes evil with good), **Just** (He/she is just and fair in their relationships with others), **Devout** (His/her life reflects God's holiness), and **Disciplined** (He/she lives a disciplined Christian life).

Feeling Overwhelmed?

There is no perfect _____, no perfect church _____,
no perfect church _____...

But wouldn't this be a great group of people with whom to work?

Leaders in The Scriptures...

Moses

David

Paul

Acts 4: 13

IF God can use them, He can certainly use us!

Key Principle:

**Nomination to leadership ought not be left to the _____ voice...
but to thoughtful _____ and _____.**

Raising Leaders

Needs to be a new _____ for every congregation.

Does not happen by accident

Trained and _____

Tested in a supportive context

Acts 6...

Leadership requires focus:

Love God, love people

Both within and outside the congregation

Go make disciples...

Let's turn back to Matthew 28: 16-20

Given to the 11 -- Not to the _____!

**What would happen to our congregations if we decided that we would make it our
only priority to do what Jesus told us to do:**

1) Love God and love people

2) Go make disciples.

III. Determining our Destination: The function of vision

Vision: Spiritually Pragmatic

Spiritual in nature, practical in _____

We too are spiritual

The Holy Spirit of God dwells _____

Vision comes when we seek God's will

It is for _____

Vision is one way the Lord speaks

And God is still speaking

God will _____ contradict Himself

Vision must conform to His Word

Vision will be affirmed by God's _____—the Church (Acts 11: 18)

Vision comes in the context of prayer

Begin the process with _____

Be patient—it is hard to eliminate the noise

Listen

Confession

When the Lord speaks, He will seek to develop our character, not our comfort

Vision gives direction:

A picture of a preferred future

Gives motivation to _____ from the burning platform

Sets a course

Keeps us from _____

Provides focus

Mission gives _____

Vision and mission are like the _____ of a river

Proverbs 29: 18

Jesus' vision for his people? Matthew 10: 7?

Vision...Where are you headed?

Once vision is given, you are accountable to pursue it:

Accountable to God

Accountable to the congregation

Communicate _____

_____ constantly

IV. Getting There Together

The church is the Body of Christ

I Corinthians 12: 4-13

_____ become our strength

And our gifts are different—given by the Spirit of God

And _____ are different!

Most lists of “spiritual gifts” would include the following:

Administration—managing and guiding, organizing

Apostleship—training and supervision of leaders

Craftsmanship—building

Creative Communication—so that others can hear

Discernment—able to distinguish between spirits

Encouragement—to lift others up

Evangelism—to bring others to conversion

Faith—to believe

Giving—financial support

Helps—service

Hospitality—provide welcome to the stranger

Intercession—pray for the needs of others

Knowledge—spiritual insight, sometimes specific and from God

Leadership—to create a willingness to follow

Mercy—compassion

Prophecy—to speak the truth of God’s Word

Shepherding—to care for and raise others

Teaching—to encourage learning

Wisdom—knowledge and insight balanced by experience with God

Healing—physical, emotional, spiritual recovery

Interpretation—translate speaking in tongues, and other

Miracles—beyond the abilities of humanity

Tongues—speaking a spiritual language

Other—there are other gifts that also can be listed.

One of the best tools for discovering your “spiritual gift/s” is found on a website called: www.callinc.org. This is run by one of our LCMC pastors, Pr. Wendy Berthelson.

The Four Colors...An Exercise

Helps us to _____ others

Helps us to understand _____

Helps us to _____ better _____

Character

Chemistry

Accomplishment

Go to the next page...

Styles of Relating to Others.

Go through each of the four lists and check the ones that you believe apply to yourself.

- Considered a risk taker *
- Works well in crisis *
- Energetic/restless *
- Creative *
- Views work as fun *
- Direct communicator *
- Competitive *
- Self-confident *
- Values freedom *
- Hands-on when solving problems *
- Need for mobility/variety *
- Welcomes and promotes change *
- Dislikes indecision *
- Need for recognition *
- Makes decisions quickly *

Red Score _____

- Detailed and prepared
- Well organized
- Values time management
- Respects authority and rules
- Service oriented
- Good at multi-tasking
- Loyal employee or friend
- Strong sense of right and wrong
- Implements policies/procedure
- Dislikes poor social skills
- Values efficiency
- Tends to pick up after others
- Follows through
- Strives for security
- Needs closure

Yellow Score _____

- Likes to analyze things *
- Innovative *
- Values learning *
- Values competency *
- Global in thinking *
- Enjoys research/data *
- Independent thinker *
- Accurate/precise *
- Appreciates complexity *
- Theoretical and conceptual *
- Enjoys intellectual challenges *
- Dislikes small talk *
- Seeks the big picture *
- Not easily influenced *
- Strives for excellence *

Green Score _____

- Understanding and patient *
- Persuasive/influencing *
- Values harmony *
- Dislikes personal conflict *
- Good at mediating *
- Works well with a team *
- Tends to be inclusive *
- Interested in spirituality *
- Supportive-encouraging *
- Seeks personal growth *
- Optimistic outlook *
- Expresses emotions well *
- Skilled with relationships *
- Sensitive to other's needs *
- Values people before the system *

Blue Score _____

Red—the Performers

What you “see”

- Creative work space
- Use of hand gestures
- Direct eye contact
- Excess energy
- Latest fashion

What you “hear”

- What’s the bottom line?
- What’s in it for me?
- Humor/laughter
- A good story or joke

What you “feel”

- A firm handshake
- Open to new things
- Great confidence
- Negotiating
- Hurried

Yellow—the Planners

What you “see”:

- Measure results
- Conscious of time
- Conservative dress
- Organized office
- Taking notes

What you “hear”:

- History
- Need of details/schedules
- Request for the next step
- Want information in writing
- Lists

What you “feel”

- Loyal
- Businesslike
- Details, closure
- Decisive

Green—the Problem Solvers

What you “see”

- Use head gestures
- Maintain distance
- Dress for comfort
- Serious manner
- Stoic

What you “hear”

- Will ask questions
- Looking for excellence
- Need time to think
- May point out flaws/obstacles

What you “feel”

- Can’t answer their questions
- It takes forever to decide
- Can be intimidating
- Little or no emotion

Blue—the Relationals

What you “see”:

- Physical contact
- Supportive and helpful
- Attentive listener
- Very personable
- Family pictures in office

What you “hear”

- Looking for meaning
- Personalize issues
- Use “I” statements
- Emotion in voice
- Small talk

What you “feel”

- Friendship before business
- Wants you to succeed
- Genuine concern
- Acceptance
- Helpful

Getting There in Conflict

Change creates conflict

How we handle it _____

Matthew 18: 15-22

Exodus 20: 16

I Peter 4: 8

5 Stages of Conflict

Speed Leas, in a format developed in 1983 listed 5 Levels of conflict:

Level 1: Problems to solve

Major objective: solve the _____

Level II: Disagreement

Major objective: self-protection

Level III: Contest

Major objective: _____

Level IV: Fight/Flight

Major objective: break the relationship,
develop _____

Level V: Intractable

Major objective: destroy the other

Conflict? Another model...

"The Basic Principles of Biblical Peacemaking" www.HisPeace.org

PAUSE:

Prepare—pray, get the facts, seek godly counsel, develop options

Affirm relationships—show genuine concern and respect

Understand interests—identify other concerns, desires, etc

Search for creative solutions—prayerful brainstorming

Evaluate options objectively and reasonably—evaluate, don't argue

Conflict and Maturity

1. How is authority given and received?

Can you _____, can you _____, do you have to be _____?

2. How do you relate to others?

Listening, _____, partnerships?

3. Are you clear about the mission?

Will you _____ to it?

4. Do you allow room for variety, differences and diversity of opinion

My way/ the highway or seek _____?

5. Are you able to persevere in the face of obstacles?

Work _____, not around

Getting There Together

We are in the " _____ "

We are in it together

We may have _____:

Roles

Gifts

Opinions

Ways

The church still belongs to _____ -- And we belong to Him

V. Final Thoughts...

The work of the church is about things eternal:

_____ and Death

Heaven and _____

_____ and Repentance

But there is _____ in serving Jesus

The church needs to live in His grace:

It is ok to say _____

It is ok to have _____

It is ok to make _____

From Martin Luther: God placed His church in the midst of the world, among countless external activities and callings, not in order that the Christians should become monks but so that they may live in fellowship and that our works and the exercises of our faith may become known among men. August 31, 1538

I have great hope for the church!

We have the same _____ as poured out on the first disciples

We have the Word of God

We have each _____

We have _____

And _____ is enough

He was enough in the 1st Century: The church grew from 10,000 to over 33 million in the first 200 years

He was enough in the 16th Century: God used Martin Luther to remind the church of the complete sufficiency of His Grace—in Christ!

He is enough in the 21st Century: It is time for us to remember who we are, to whom we belong and the only thing He told us to do: GO!

LCMC:

A 1st Century Church for the 21st Century