BEING A MISSIONAL CHURCH
BEING A MISSIONAL CHURCH

Before...during...afterwards...in all things...
WE PRAY. We ask for God to lead us into a ministry pleasing to His mission.
SO LET’S TALK ABOUT CHANGE!

Revitalizing Congregations - Refocusing and Healing Through Transitions by William Avery
Most of us want change since most of us are not satisfied with the way things are.

There usually is no consensus about how people want congregations changed—what you want to get rid of, what you would like to keep and what you would like to see added.

Add to this that most of us have long standing patterns of life (That is always the way we did that!)
SO LET’S TALK ABOUT CHANGE!

- This is the bad news of congregational life and leadership, but is also good news!
  - Bad because it is difficult to change something when people are not sure what they want changed
  - Good in that every congregation that I know of, people feel some genuine unrest and want the congregation to be “better.”
DIVINE DISCONTENT

This is divine discontent that awakens a congregation to better understanding of mission, deeper commitment to building community and making a difference in the lives of members and the broader community.
SO HOW DOES THE DIVINE DISCONTENT LEAD TO EFFECTIVE CHANGE?

There are 3 models about leadership one could use for this process:

1. The great “leader” theory-assumes that creative change requires a great, powerful, charismatic leader—they can bring the groups together and forge a path to the future.

2. The technological model—this says we will find that new technology and if we learn it and use it, will lead us out of the wilderness! (the business approach)
SO HOW DOES THE DIVINE DISCONTENT LEAD TO EFFECTIVE CHANGE?

- There are 3 models about the leadership needed for this process:
  - 3. The Dialogical team model-this model assumes that change is the product of a group of people!
    - Working together to discover what changes are occurring in the area and what those changes demand in response.
    - Assessing and improving our own abilities to respond to or challenge the changes in their internal and external contexts.
SO HOW DOES THE DIVINE DISCONTENT LEAD TO EFFECTIVE CHANGE?

- There are 3 models about the leadership needed for this process:
  - 3. The Dialogical team model-this model assumes that change is the product of a group of people!
    - Using the leadership of the people present and looking for new leadership resources wherever we can find them
    - Making the best decisions we can where we are.
SO LET’S TALK ABOUT CHANGE!

So if we all agree change might be where God is leading us...we will need to figure out how we got to where we are today, what needs to be changed, how to overcome obstacles and how to come together to work in teams. What can we do better if we work together?
Jesus speaking about the mission of His followers...

John 15:16
"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."
JESUS SPEAKING ABOUT THE MISSION OF HIS FOLLOWERS...

Matthew 9:37-38
Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."
JESUS SPEAKING ABOUT THE MISSION OF HIS FOLLOWERS...

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

- What is God calling us forward to do? To be?
- How do we live out our baptismal promises to God?
- How can we participate in the Kingdom of God more fully?
- How do we make this not about survival but a revival?
- So “How do we become missional?”
FIRST LET US LOOK AT....WHAT IS THE MISSIONAL CHURCH?

A 1998 BOOK TITLED MISSIONAL CHURCH: A VISION FOR THE SENDING OF THE CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA WAS THE FIRST WORK TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF A MISSIONAL CHURCH.
A time where society and Christianity were inseparable.

The term usually refers to the *medieval* and *early modern period*, during which the Christian world represented a *geopolitical* power

The Church gradually became a defining institution of the Empire. *Emperor* Constantine issued the *Edict of Milan* in 313 proclaiming toleration for the Christian religion, and convoked the *First Council of Nicaea* in 325 whose *Nicene Creed* included belief in "one holy catholic and apostolic Church".
WHAT IS THE MISSIONAL CHURCH?

DISCUSSIONS OF MISSIO DEI ("THE MISSION OF GOD")
ACCORDING TO MISSIONAL CHURCH, THE AMERICAN CHURCH HAD BEEN TIED TO A "CHRISTENDOM MODEL" OF CHRISTIANITY, WHEREIN THE CHURCH FOCUSED ON INTERNAL NEEDS AND MAINTAINING ITS CULTURAL PRIVILEGE IN SOCIETY.
WHAT IS THE MISSIONAL CHURCH?

THE DECLINE OF CHRISTENDOM PROVIDED THE CHURCH AN OPPORTUNITY, THE AUTHORS SAID, TO REDISCOVER ITS IDENTITY AS A PEOPLE SENT BY GOD INTO THE WORLD AS GOSPEL WITNESSES.
WHAT IS THE MISSIONAL CHURCH?

IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSTANT PROBLEM OF SELF-ABSORPTION THAT PLAGUES MANY CONGREGATIONS, THE AUTHORS OF MISSIONAL CHURCH EMPHASIZED THAT EVERYTHING THE CHURCH OUGHT TO BE AND DO IS MISSION: "MISSIONS" SHOULD NOT BE ONE CHURCH PROGRAM AMONG MANY, BUT THE CHURCH'S CORE IDENTITY AS WITNESSES SENT BY GOD INTO THE WORLD.
WHAT IS THE MISSIONAL CHURCH?

MISSIONAL CHURCH AUTHORS WERE NOT MERELY "REDESIGN[ING] THE CHURCH FOR SUCCESS IN OUR CHANGING CONTEXT," INSTEAD THEY PAINTED A THEOLOGICALLY ROOTED VISION OF THE CHURCH AS A COMMUNITY CALLED TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S MISSION IN AND FOR THE WORLD.
WHAT IS THE MISSIONAL CHURCH?

THE MISSION OF GOD DOESN'T FIT THE FORMULAS OF MEASURABLE RESULTS AND EFFECTUAL OUTCOMES. IT FOCUSES INSTEAD ON THE CHURCH LIVING INTO THE COMING REALITY OF GOD'S NEW CREATION. SO WHAT DOES THIS NEW CREATION LOOK LIKE FOR LUTHERANS?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MISSIONAL AND LUTHERAN?

THE LUTHERAN COMMUNION CAN CONTRIBUTE A RICH, LITURGICAL HERITAGE TO THE MISSIONAL CHURCH, WHILE A MISSIONAL VISION CAN MAINTAIN SUCH RICH LITURGY AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR GOD'S KINGDOM.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MISSIONAL AND LUTHERAN?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MISSIONAL AND LUTHERAN? A VISION FOR THE MISSIONAL CHURCH WILL PUSH AGAINST PARTS OF OUR HISTORIC TRADITIONS, JUST AS THESE TRADITIONS WILL CRITIQUE PARTS OF THE MISSIONAL VISION. IF WE WANT TO HEAR GOD'S WORD IN ITS FULLNESS, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR BOTH OLD AND NEW TRADITIONS.
WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY? EPHESIANS 4:

“I THEREFORE, THE PRISONER IN THE LORD, BEG YOU TO LEAD A LIFE WORTHY OF THE CALLING TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED, 2 WITH ALL HUMILITY AND GENTLENESS, WITH PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, 3 MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.”
“4 THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING, 5 ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, 6 ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL.”
EPHESIANS 4:

“15 BUT SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, WE MUST GROW UP IN EVERY WAY INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, INTO CHRIST, 16 FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND KNIT TOGETHER BY EVERY LIGAMENT WITH WHICH IT IS EQUIPPED, AS EACH PART IS WORKING PROPERLY, PROMOTES THE BODY’S GROWTH IN BUILDING ITSELF UP IN LOVE.”
Many members, one body.
WHAT IS OUR "MODEL" OF CHURCH?

ARE WE ONE BODY?
WHAT MIGHT THIS LOOK LIKE FOR US?

~ ONE EXAMPLE...
Mission, Vision, and Values

Hope's Mission

"Reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ!"

Hope's Vision

"To be a Spirited (Acts 2), Growing (Matthew 28), and Christ-centered (John 13) community filled with hope!"

Worship at Hope

Celebration Services
Saturday 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Sunday 7:45, 9:15, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

Traditional Communion
Sunday 8:15 am in the Chapel

Re:wire (young adults)
Thursday 7:00 pm

Celebrate Recovery
Thursday 6:30 pm

Spiritual Life at Hope!

Interested in exploring your Spiritual Life by growing and connecting at Hope?

Events and Class Listings
Pastor Merv Thompson joined the Lutheran Church of Hope pastoral staff in 2003 after spending 35 years as a pastor in Minnesota. His longest tenure was as senior pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville, MN. Pastor Merv is writing several books and helping several congregations discern God's future vision.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

- New paradigms change everything:
  - End of Christendom
  - Music with a beat
  - Information Revolution
- Churches are “one good new idea” away from transformation
- Clear vision balancing Great Commission and Great Commandment
- Alpha Course is key entry point for unchurched/dechurched
- Faith is a growing experience
- Many different worship opportunities
- God’s mission, in context
WHAT MIGHT THIS LOOK LIKE FOR US?

~ ANOTHER EXAMPLE...
SO WHAT DID WE DO IN FREMONT?
CREATED LIFT: BEING CHURCH TOGETHER
SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?
FIRST WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE CHALLENGES WE FACE...
Age Distribution of “Active” Members

- TRIARK
- ST JOHNS
- GRACE

[Graph showing age distribution with different age groups and percentages for each category]
SO WHAT DID WE DO IN THE PAST? DID WE DO ANYTHING?
History of Cooperation

Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio
A Christian Agency Serving People of All Ages Since 1911

Liberty Center
Of Sandusky County

Share and Care Center
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Pastor’s Weekly Pericope

Lutheran Homes Society

Good Friday Service
SO HOW CAN WE FIND GOD’S PREFERRED AND PROMISED FUTURE TOGETHER?
WE BEGAN BY HAVING CONVERSATIONS:
WHERE WAS THERE COMMONALITY?
WHERE DID WE SEE THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY?
WE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT OUR CONTEXT WAS DIFFERENT THAN EVERYONE ELSE!
AND WHAT DID WE DISCOVER THROUGH GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT?
We discovered the benefits of working together! Shared ministries are booming in the NWOS!

Experience the Holy Spirit!
Transform leaders & congregations
Make a bigger impact in community
Greater efficiency/better stewardship
Provide resources for outreach
SO OUR VISION

Faithful to God’s call as one Body in Christ, we work together as fellow Lutherans/partners to renew mission and ministry in the greater area.
Mission Planning GOALS

Discern where God may be calling us together to love our neighbor
Renew the Church by reaching out in faith to share the gospel with the unchurched and de-churched.
See ourselves and act as real partners in the ministry of Christ’s church as one body in mission.
OVERALL APPROACH

~CONGREGATIONS MAINTAIN THEIR OWN IDENTITY AND AUTONOMY
~BUILD TRUST THRU COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY AND OF ONE ANOTHER
~DO PROJECTS AS A COALITION OF THE WILLING
~CONTRIBUTE ACCORDING TO OUR MEANS
~PROGRESSION OF INTERDEPENDENCE BY: COMMUNICATION ⌸ COORDINATION ⌸ COOPERATION
~SEEK TO DO BETTER TOGETHER THAN WE COULD DO SEPARATELY.
WHAT DID WE LEARN?

~ TRULY WE CAN DO FAR MORE/BETTER TOGETHER THAN WE CAN ALONE
~ NEW SPIRIT-FILLED ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM FROM WORKING TOGETHER
~ ECONOMICS BASED ON FAMILY, NOT MARKETS
~ LEAD WITH MISSION – FOLLOW WITH MONEY AND ORGANIZATION
~ SOMEONE MUST TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEADERSHIP OR NOTHING HAPPENS.
~ WATCH FOR WHERE GOD IS ALREADY AT WORK
~ EXPERIENCE LEADS TO SUPPORT & WANTING MORE
Strength
In
Unity
Q&A

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?
WHAT DO WE HOPE TO PURSUE TOGETHER?
WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS?
HOW DO WE PROCEED?