

Travelers in Christ,

A little over a year ago the Church Council commissioned a group of members to embark on a Self-Study. It was decided that the time was right with the retirement of Pastors Gurgel & Stein.

After some research it was decided to use as a guide the book and material produced by Will Mancini. The title of the Study was "Church Unique". This is not your standard study collecting data and analyzing but is a study of what makes St. Lucas different from every other church in the area regardless of denomination. During this process we found that this was not just a study of our congregation but a look at ourselves.

The Study has four distinct yet eventually connected sections.

The first is to rethink our vision. We looked back in our history and discussed how we got to this point and what we are currently doing.

The Second was to discover our uniqueness. We look at and discussed locale our people, and our passions. The Third and longest section was the Vision Frame. Our entire ministry looks like a picture on a wall but each side of the frame gives us input as to what the picture looks like. The sides of the frame ask four questions, What are we doing (Our Mission), Why are we doing it (Our Values), How are we doing it (Our Strategy), and Where are we successful (Measures). One of the topics under What, concerned Our Mission Statement. After spending a number of weeks in discussion, group and individual prayer we finished the four sides of the frame. This now gave us the picture, Our Vision Proper. The vision proper is where God is taking us. This frame and vision can be a great tool for our congregation in setting our short, mid, and long term goals.

I would like to ask you at this point to let your imagination take over. Imagine that you are looking out a window there are people walking past some you know some you don't know. They are walking down a path leading into a beautiful meadow. We encourage you as a traveler in Christ to **Walk the Walk** with us. Don't worry about expensive gear and fancy equipment. Grab a stout walking stick and head out the door to meet the other travelers. If all of us are **Walking the Walk** and inviting others walk with us in Christ we can accomplish the vision we have set and more.

This is a shortened version of what the study entailed. You can see as I stated before this was not a study of collecting data and crunching numbers. This was a lot of soul searching, prayer and deep discussion. I think I can speak for the entire group when I say that this was a more rewarding journey than we ever thought it would be.

Finally five recommendations were to the Council the April meeting they were as follows:

1. The Mission Statement be changed to "Inviting Everyone to Live Powerfully in Jesus"
2. This year's Vision Focus be "Walk the Walk" with an emphasis on Prayer.
3. A Vision Advisory and Assistance Committee be formed. This committee would be ad hoc and report to Council and assist the standing committees.
4. The council request a list from Synod to start the process of Calling a Second Pastor

All of these were passed.

In the future there will be presentation regarding the Self Study with more detail. I would encourage all to attend. The Committee asks for your prayers and your participation in resulting activities.

I have my walking stick have you got yours? I hope to see you walking the walk with me.

A Traveler in Christ,

Russ Schmidt