



St. John Lutheran Church & School

March 2019 Newsletter

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EXPECTATIONS

To say that we live in a changing world would be an understatement. Every time we turn around that which we have become accustomed to has now become obsolete. The same thing is true within the Christian Church. If you had asked your grandfather what the mission statement of the church was, or what their vision plan for the future of their church or school was, you probably would have gotten a strange look, as if you were talking gibberish. If your grandfather was really on top of things, he would have answered, “Matthew 28:19: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*” (Grandpas used the King James Version of the Bible)

Today is the day of social media, experts, strategic planners, consultants, and life coaches; even within the work of the Church—so we have to be ready to speak in the kind of language which our young people are fluent. As we send out calls to pastors and teachers to this ‘Millennium’ generation, we’re going to need to update our focus. For example, in today’s world, no one except for us really cares how long St. John has been sharing the Gospel in Waterloo, Wisconsin. They want to know what are we doing for the future. The fact that we’re part of the Lutheran Church Wisconsin Synod, is not as relevant in the present world as what our **Mission statement** reveals about our priorities; and how our **Action plan** tells the world we’re going to achieve that mission. It’s about our **Vision focus** for the next 5 and 10 years, so we know where we’re going and what it’s going to take to get there.

If these phrases sound unfamiliar or strange, it’s not because they’re new or unique to our setting. We have a Mission statement with an Action plan, and we had a Vision Committee which discussed the future plans we might establish as a congregation, but much like our re-organization of 15+ yrs. ago, when it came time to follow through and finalize the goals, it just never quite got done. But now, that’s what these younger pastors and teachers will be looking for in the packets of information we send them. And if it’s not there, we’ll look like we don’t know where we’re at or where we’re going.

So what do we do? First, we need to EMPHASIZE our Mission statement and action plan—which we have just updated last fall. AND, we need to work together to get together a 2, 5 and 10 year vision for where we want to be in those time frames; so someone holding a call to St. John’s knows what’s going to be expected of them, as we move forward in Christ together. Ultimately, we need to realize that it’s the Lord who holds the key to our future, so what we’re really doing is just looking at where we think we’d like to be and what we think God wants us to be doing in the near future.

Pastor Adomeit