



Advancing Evangelism in Your Congregation

Does it appear that your congregation is doing everything well in the area of evangelism, but the congregation continues to plateau or even decline? Congregations hit plateaus for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, there is a shift in demographics. Other times, congregations settle into routines and lose the spirit of God empowering new ventures of witnessing.

Many of us have realized the blessing of God's presence in our lives. Some are just beginning to discover the incredible gift of God's love made known in Jesus Christ. Yet, any of us can get lazy and complacent about being a witness to the good news found in Jesus Christ. We lose a sense of urgency. We put on blinders, settle into our pews, and wait to be served. It is our consumer mentality at work.

Jesus calls us to be the light of the world. We are to share the light of Jesus Christ with others, witnessing in our office places, neighborhoods, schools, homes, and daily lives. How do we let the light of Christ shine?

Pray

Always begin with prayer. Prayers might include:

- Confession of failure to accomplish God's mission in the world
- Thanksgiving for God's direction within the congregation
- Requests for discernment and wisdom in decision-making.
- Intercessions for the leaders of your congregation

Ask Questions

Start asking questions about your congregation's approach to mission and ministry.

How is your congregation engaging God's mission? What might the next steps be?

Do you grieve for those who have not heard the Good News of Jesus?

If so, what might God be calling you to do to bear witness to that Good News?

Listen for the Answers

We do not always like the answers we hear. Maybe your congregation is in need of major transformation. Perhaps your congregation needs to renew its commitment to God's mission in your local setting.

Where is God calling you?

Change the Climate

God may be calling for change in the climate of your congregation, empowering us to bold new ventures.

How might your congregation become joy-filled, vibrant witnesses to Jesus Christ?

How might God use you as a change agent in your congregation?

Who else is God calling to partner with you to bear witness to the love of Christ?

Writer: Robin McCullough-Bade

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E-Tips, Division for Congregational Ministries - Evangelism.

www.elca.org/dcm/evangelism



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