

As God's people, we understand that
"God's Church does not have a Mission; God's Mission has a Church"
And that Church is Us.

Bishop Tom Aitken's Vision for the Northeastern Minnesota Synod

God's Mission in this Time and Place

- That we, as members of the Body of Christ, gathered in congregations, would bear witness to Jesus Christ by growing in discipleship and service to the world.
- That we will be willing to take risks and adapt our evangelism and service to our changing world.
- That we will radically welcome the stranger.
- That we do long-term missional visioning, embracing risks and changes that may come, and reviewing annually.
- That we will come to love the question, "What needs to change in this congregation in order to live into God's mission?"
- That we engage in God's mission, both near and far.
- That we would combine Matt 28:18-20 with Matt 22:36-40 as we live into God's Mission:
 - *Go make disciples with*
 - *Love God and love your neighbor*

Ancient Marks of Discipleship

- That the **Marks of Discipleship** would be taken seriously and joyfully by all:
 - That all members would dig deeply into daily Scripture reading, and regular Scripture study led by trained leaders into a Lutheran way of understanding Scripture.
 - Each person practices daily prayer, including prayer for each other, our communities and the world.
 - Each person makes time for weekly worship with the community.
 - Each person nurtures a relationship with at least one other Christian person for mutual growth into the gift of faith.
 - That each person is encouraged and equipped to serve in at least one ministry through the congregation and one in the community.
 - That every congregation engages in year-long stewardship education which includes stewardship of our families, our communities, the earth, and God's mission (not just budget-passing).
 - That each person grows into the joy of tithing
 - *(10% of income, however you figure it)*
 - That each person grows in their confidence and practice of inviting others into the faith.

Accompanying Youth

- That we would continue our intentional focus on young people through:
 - Genuine Relationships
 - Leadership Development
 - Discipleship practices
 - Full Integration into the Body of Christ

Congregational leaders will focus on:

- Preaching, Teaching, Faith formation, Sacramental and pastoral care
- Equipping us to seek out and do God's mission
- Encouraging us into ever-widening circles of ministries
- Engaging regularly in missional, biblical, and theological education

So That:

- We will be a community that grows leaders – of all kinds!
- People will hear the gospel in a way that makes sense in their context
- Bullies and busybodies would be re-directed into life-giving ministry
- Our church buildings serve as a tool for God's mission.
- We grow in understanding other religions while maintaining our own faithful witness
- Together we are a community of faith where every member understands God's mission as the very reason for the church!