

FAITHFUL INNOVATION

Faithful innovation is a way for our churches to learn how to connect God's presence and reality to the everyday lived experience of people in congregations and their surrounding communities.



WHY FAITHFUL INNOVATION?

- Many of the challenges facing our faith communities have no easy answers
- These challenges require new learning
- This new learning is fundamentally theological and spiritual work

THREE CONGREGATIONAL PRACTICES

Listen



Act



Share

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED THUS FAR



PARTICIPATING CHURCHES AND COACHES RECREATE ECMN AS A NETWORK



IT'S POWERFUL FOR SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER CHURCH TO COACH YOUR TEAM



LISTEN TO GOD, CHURCH MEMBERS, AND NEIGHBORS: WHAT WE LEARNED



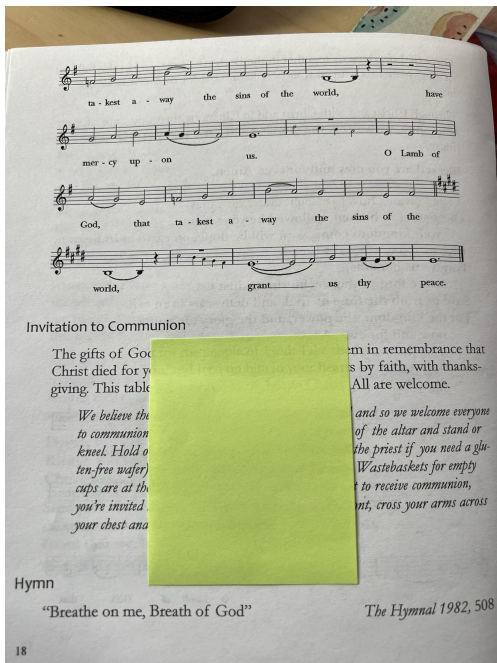


“WE CANNOT SHARE THE WORD
UNLESS WE ARE IN THE WORD”

ST. PAUL’S USED THE NINE STAINED GLASS
WINDOWS OF ST. PAUL IN THEIR CHAPEL TO
FOCUS THEIR DWELLING IN THE WORD

ST PAUL’S, DULUTH: REGULAR CORPORATE
SPIRITUAL PRACTICES REENERGIZE CHURCHES

ST. LUKE'S, ROCHERSTER: MAKE IT EASY



Incorporate spiritual practices into worship.

Ask congregation "where is God moving in your daily life?"

Make it easy to answer by putting post-it notes in worship bulletin



Energize the congregation with creative exercises

Today let's go old school.....pick up your bulletin and grab a pen/pencil! Let's imagine all the places & spaces God is active in your life.....write, draw, doodle!

More to come....

Take out you cell phone, imagine, visualize, see.....all the places & spaces you see God in your world.

More to come....

Please close your eyes, visualize.....imaginesee, where God is at work.
Next week.....there will be more to come

CALVARY, ROCHESTER: EPISCOPALIANS WANT TO TALK ABOUT GOD

Where do you see God?

SHARE

How has God been at work in your life? Where have you seen the face of God lately? When have you felt the joy or love of Christ?

LISTEN

Listen to others share their stories. No discussion. Simply listening.

BUILD

How can we build community through our experiences? How can we build discipleship at Calvary?

Join the Faithful Innovations Team for a casual conversation of sharing. You are invited to share once or each Sunday. You can stay as long as you like.

Bring your coffee and a donut, of course!

Sundays - January 8, 15, 22, February 5, 12

9:30-10:15.

Fireside Room

Calvary
Episcopal
Church

Questions? Contact a member of the FI Team:
David Reiman, Colleen Spillers, ColleenTimimi

How does the church play a role in your ability to see God?

What has God been doing in this past year in you?

When have you felt spiritually energized?

When or where have you seen the face of God?

THEMES CALVARY'S TEAM HEARD



WALKING NEIGHBORHOOD WITH A POSTURE OF CURIOSITY ENABLES YOU TO SEE IT ANEW



Love the architecture of the old houses.



Many homes which once housed single-families are now broken into multiple residences.

The front porch appeal. What is the front porch all about?



What food/meal options are available for those staying in hotels?

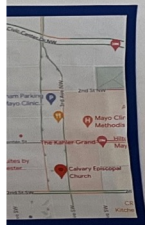


I wonder how we can connect to all the hotels in the area?



What do the folks staying at downtown hotels need?

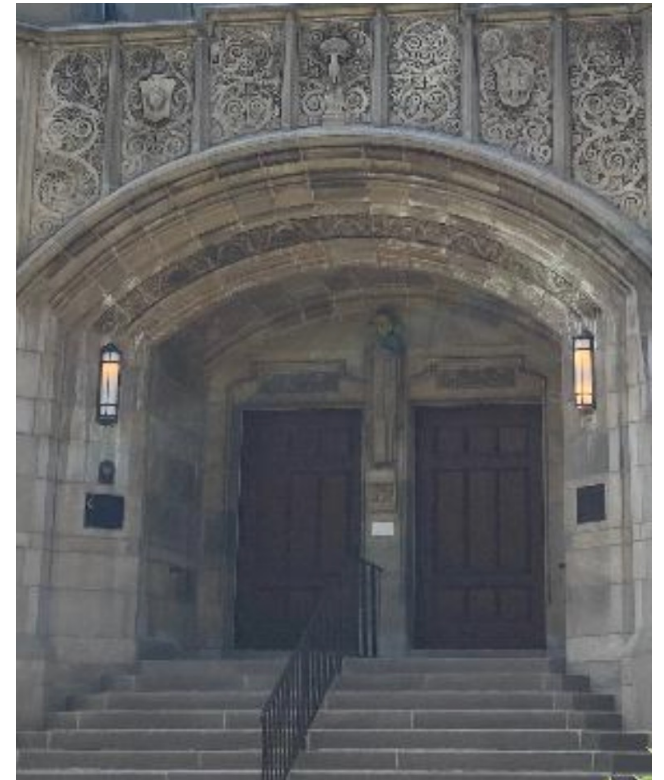
WHAT MIGHT GOD BE UP TO IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



All ages participated in the walk.

HOLY TRINITY, ST. PAUL: NEIGHBORHOOD THEMES

- Diverse populations (age, race, economic, social, and cultural)
- Businesses deeply rooted in community
- Resources supporting the whole person (mental, physical, spiritual)
- Neighbors value community spaces
- Different collection of people/vibe between day and night



TRINITY, ANOKA'S NEIGHBORS



Many neighbors nearby in homes & apartments



Anoka Senior Center, George Green Park, and Anoka Aquatic Center

Lincoln Elementary School



Bus drivers Park buses near church

CHRIST CHURCH, GRAND RAPIDS: CHILDREN NOTICED THE POLICE STATION



CALVARY, ROCHESTER: WALK INSIGHTS

- “The walk opened our eyes to who we are and who is around us.”
- “So much of our energy goes to the East of our building, but people actually live in the West.”
- “Calvary is our neighborhood’s front porch.”

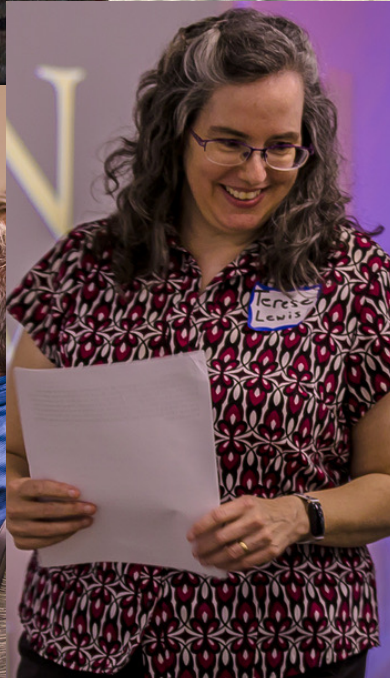


ST. PAUL'S, WINONA: WONDERINGS FROM ONE NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

- I wonder what gives the people who live in these homes meaning?
- I wonder what they do with their time?
- I wonder how they fared during the Covid lockdown?
- I wonder what they dream of? What they fear? What they grieve?



EXPERIMENTS & WHAT WE LEARNED



CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS IS ENERGIZING

Christ Church, Red Wing



CHRIST CHURCH, WOODBURY: LEARN WHERE YOUR NEIGHBORS GATHER



ST. DAVID'S, MINNETONKA: OFFER HOSPITALITY IN PUBLIC SPACES



- **Stopped by to Chat:**
- Family with two teenage daughters who moved to MN 18 months ago. We had so much fun talking with them!
- A runner training for the Ely marathon in late September. She sure did appreciate a cool drink of water at our rest stop.
- A dad and two teen sons. They do a father/son bike ride every Father's Day. We were so glad to participate in their tradition in a small way.

HOLY TRINITY ST. PAUL: GET HOSTED BY NEIGHBORS IN PUBLIC SPACES



At Mosaic on a Stick they were invited to join a birthday party



ST. ANDREW'S, DULUTH'S: INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO PARTICIPATE

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The Breeze Of Park Point

Upcoming Events

Midterm Elections
November 8th

Lafayette Community
Edible Garden potluck
Monday November
14th 6-8Pm at
Lafayette

Park Point
Community Club
Meeting Tuesday,
November 15th
6:30PM Social,
7PM meeting at
Lafayette.



I'm told the above photo is of the winning crew from this year's Death Row, but I'm not sure about that. And while the poem below is unrelated, it seemed to fit.



For the Beauty of the Earth

For the Beauty of the Seas

For the Beauty of Earth
Hours of the Day, & of the
Night

ST. PAUL'S, WINONA: INVITE NEIGHBORS TO PRAY WITH YOU



St. Paul's neighbors were interested in walking their labyrinth

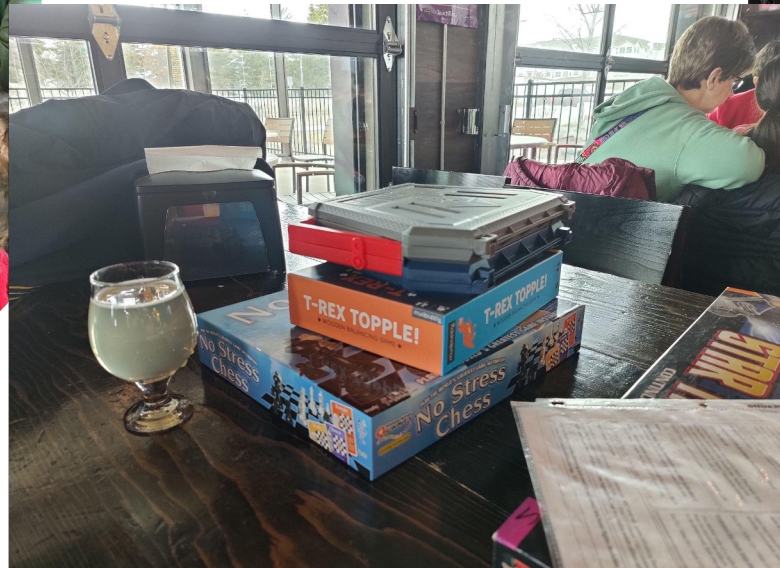
ST. LUKE'S, DETROIT LAKES: MAKE EXPERIMENTS PLAYFUL



Flat Jesus takes Detroit Lakes and the world by storm

SOME BUSINESSES WANT TO PARTNER WITH FAITH COMMUNITIES

This brew pub and pizza place in Woodbury asked Christ Church to host more game nights!



LEARNINGS: HOLY TRINITY, ST. PAUL

- Members of the congregation really want to interact with each other
- Congregation is excited to try new things and go new places
- Importance of listening to the congregation and adapting
- Feedback loops are helpful
- Important to include online/remote congregation members
- It's OK to try new and different things
- Faithful Innovation brings new energy and increased level of engagement

WONDERINGS: ST. PAUL'S, WINONA

- How might “Old Guard” be our elders? What do they have to teach us?
- Sunday morning free community breakfast as an ongoing “experiment” to form relationships. Try Prayer Request boxes on each table.
- How do we want to go deeper? More contemplative practices? More practices in worship?
- What about the people who aren't here? What do we have the capacity for?
- How can we discover the creative gifts of others? A gathering for artists, writers, and other creative people?

OTHER KEY LEARNINGS

- Important to have full support of clergy, vestry, & Bishop's Committee
- Hard to change the culture of preexisting church groups to include spiritual practices, but worth trying!
- Need to hear neighbors' stories
- Neighbors want to talk about God
- Being heard is transformational
- Developing two-way relationships with church's neighbors feels challenging

NEXT EXPERIMENTS

- Campfire and Compline: Christ Church, Grand Rapids
- “Scoops at St. Andrew’s,” ice cream & community conversations: St. Andrew’s, Duluth
- More “trail angels” experiments: St. David’s, Minnetonka





THOUGHTS & QUESTIONS

