



Message from Pastor Tim

April 2011: Having Vision

(Matthew 28:8 NRSV) So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

It was not possible to just walk away from the empty tomb—to stroll along that Sunday morning as though languishing in dreamy contentment or cloudy consciousness. These women had a startling awareness of things being turned upside down. They saw what God was doing. What they saw changed everything. Nothing could go on as before. The vision of the future was breaking into the present. Jesus was alive!

Nothing is as unstoppable as a clear and compelling vision. Visions of what can be have inspired revolutions and religions (just look at recent events in the Middle East!). Clear and compelling visions create community and move us to great persistence and selflessness. People who have a vision have a purpose that beckons them out of sleep in the morning, that designs their priorities for every part of their day, and that gives them gratitude at the close of their day. To possess a vision of what can be and will be is what really matters. It fuels our ministry and mission as a congregation.

One of the steps that God is encouraging us to do during this time of transition is to be clear and focused on the mission and ministry of Lutheran Church of Our Savior. I would imagine that you have been working hard on that for several years now. When I talk with members who have been here for a while, they bring up many different plans that have been developed over the years. But something has changed. You are not the same people you were twelve months ago. A new reality has broken into your presence. God is compelling you to make the journey of faith with a new companion to walk beside you.

During this next month, you as a congregation will be asked to assist the Transition Team in the task of identifying what the vision for the future of LCOS is. The Team will endeavor to do this through questions and surveys. They will help us to see the larger reality, the trends and needs, the purpose and destination of things in our care. God's vision is never static. Nothing can go on as before because God's vision for us is changing everything. Just like that vision at the empty tomb changed the women's reality of their world.

Just to be clear, the Transition Team is not the holder of the vision. It is their responsibility to help the congregation identify what is the vision that the members have been given from God through prayer and meditation. The only agenda here is God's agenda.

So stay tuned! The Transition Team will be beginning their task of helping us to identify the vision that God has for LCOS, for the present and the future. But let us always remember the vision of stopping by the empty tomb to let God's new reality make its way into our lives.

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