

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD...THROUGH EVANGELISM

“**Making a Difference in the World**” was the theme of this year’s stewardship campaign and now it’s time to kick it up a notch and continue “**Making a Difference in the World...Through Evangelism**”. I challenge the congregation to adopt a three-tiered goal for new members in 2019 as follows:

- Basic Goal:** Receive **24 new members** in 2019
- Advance Goal:** Receive **36 new members** in 2019
- Challenge Goal:** Receive **48 new members** in 2019

The purpose of **Making a Difference in the World...Through Evangelism** is **NOT** to inflate our membership rolls. The purpose is **NOT** to make our sanctuary look fuller during worship. The purpose **IS** to make a difference in people’s lives by sharing the good news of God’s love with them, and as they hear (and experience) the good news of God’s love, they will want to share that news (and love) with others!

You may think that these goals are unattainable. You may think that there is no way that we will be able to receive that many new members in 2019, but how will we know, unless we try? It begins **TODAY** with you—with the people you know, who need to hear the good news of God’s love. Are you willing to share God’s love with others? Are you willing to invite them to experience God’s love? Are you willing to do what it takes to make a difference in their lives?

Here’s how it works:

- Just prior to Christmas is one of the times of the year when people are more willing to look for a church home. Invite those you know who are looking to hear and experience God’s love to come with you to a specific church activity. Invite them to worship, invite them to special events, invite them to go Christmas caroling, invite them to do the things that make a difference in your life AND offer to pick them up and bring them with you. If someone does not accept your invitation, ask your friends and acquaintances whom they might know to invite them. Sometimes it takes multiple invitations from multiple people to make people feel wanted.
- Befriend someone in need. Think of someone you know who has—lost a job, lost a spouse, is experiencing difficulty in some area of their life, is feeling lonely or depressed—and make a conscious effort to spend time with them. Take the time to listen to them, be a friend to them, show them that you care, show them God’s love. If you are willing to do that for one person, think of the difference that you will make in their life!
- Make visitors feel welcome. Approach people you don’t know and introduce yourself to them. Say “I’m (your name), I don’t believe that we’ve met.” The purpose of the conversation is to put them at ease and to build a relationship with them. Don’t ask nosy or personal questions. If you were visiting, how would you want people to treat you?

24 new members is only 2 new members a month; 36 is 3 new members a month; and 48 is only 4 new members a month. Evangelism is not just the work of the pastor or the Outreach Team. Evangelism is what the Church of Jesus Christ is called to do as it fulfills God’s mission. Over the next 12 months, I hope we can look back and see what a **BIG** difference we are making in the world (and in people’s lives)...through evangelism!

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD...FOR CHRISTMAS!

Here are 25 ideas on how you can “make a difference in the world” through year-end, second-mile giving and/or service:

**Through First Lutheran, 1234 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66604:**

1. Make a gift to the **First Lutheran Endowment Fund**.
2. Contribute to the **Children’s Day Out Scholarship Fund**.
3. Support our Ministry of Music through an offering for our **Worship & Music** ministries.
4. Help beautify the congregation by making a contribution for **Church Maintenance**.
5. Encourage people to use the resources of our **Church Library** with a gift.
6. Help provide transportation for people to come to church with a gift designated for our **Bus Ministry**.
7. Provide Christian care-giving support with a gift for our **Stephen Ministry** program.
8. Support our congregational missionaries, **Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle** (Russia) and **Jim & Dawn Anderson** (Guinea).
9. Make a gift to support our **Youth Group** and its ministries.

**Through the Central States Synod, 136 Main St., Suite 101, Kansas City, MO 64105 and/or The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631:**

10. Help fight hunger with a gift to **ELCA World Hunger**.
11. Support those in need through an offering to **Lutheran Disaster Response**.
12. Provide scholarship assistance for students at **Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS**.
13. Make a gift to support **Young Adults in Global Mission**.
14. Contribute to the **ELCA’s Fund for Leaders**, which provides scholarships for those who attend seminary.
15. Help provide financial support to **Camp Tomah Shinga, Junction City, KS** for camp programs, scholarships and/or buildings.
16. Help provide support for **Lutheran Campus Ministries** at Kansas University, Lawrence, KS, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS and/or Washington University/St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO.
17. Become a mission partner with the **Gathering Table, 5001 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO**.
18. Invest in the **ELCA Mission Investment Fund** as a means of helping congregations and institutions to receive building loans.
19. Support the work of **Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**.

**Through local community organizations**

20. Provide hygiene items for **Doorstep, 1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Topeka, KS**.
21. Help with monthly meal preparation, serving and clean up at **Let’s Help, 200 S. Kansas Ave., KS**.
22. Make a contribution to the **Topeka Rescue Mission, 600 N. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS**.
23. Support local **Boy Scout Troop 175**, which meets in the parish hall on Mondays at 7 p.m.
24. Serve as a ringer for the **Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6<sup>th</sup> St., Topeka, KS**.
25. Help provide financial support for the **Shepherd’s Center, 4011 SW 15<sup>th</sup> St., Topeka, KS**.

There are many other ministries and organizations that you may wish to support. These are presented as ministries with which **First Lutheran Church** is already affiliated. The bottom-line is for you to find a way in which you can “make a difference in the world” as you participate in God’s mission. Thank you for the support you give!