

Renewing a Common Purpose

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

August 29, 2009

Why Are We Here?

- Common?
- Purpose?

Our Greatest Strength

- The People
- Biblical Preaching and Teaching
- Special Ministries

Needs Improvement

- Outreach to Community
- Internal Communication
- Love for One Another – End to Conflict
- Discipleship Training

Discussion

- What is the “Common Purpose” of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church?

The Church in the USA 2009

- 3rd Largest Pagan Nation in World
- 17.5% Worship on a Weekend
- Average Church Size is 75
- 90% Plateaued and Declining
- 50 Congregations Close each week

What is God's Mission?

- Genesis 3 – Sin and God's Plan
- Genesis 12 – Abraham
- I Kings 10 – God brings the World to Solomon
- Isaiah 49 – Messiah in Coming
- Matthew 16 – The Church snatches people from the Gates of Hell
- Ephesians 3 – Mystery made known
- Revelation 5 – Millions bow to Jesus

What is our Mission?

- 91% of Christians in the USA do not Believe the Church Exists to Fulfill the Great Commission
- Most People Go to Church as Consumers
- Mission Choices
 - Inward?
 - Outward?
 - Both?

Lutheran Church Growth



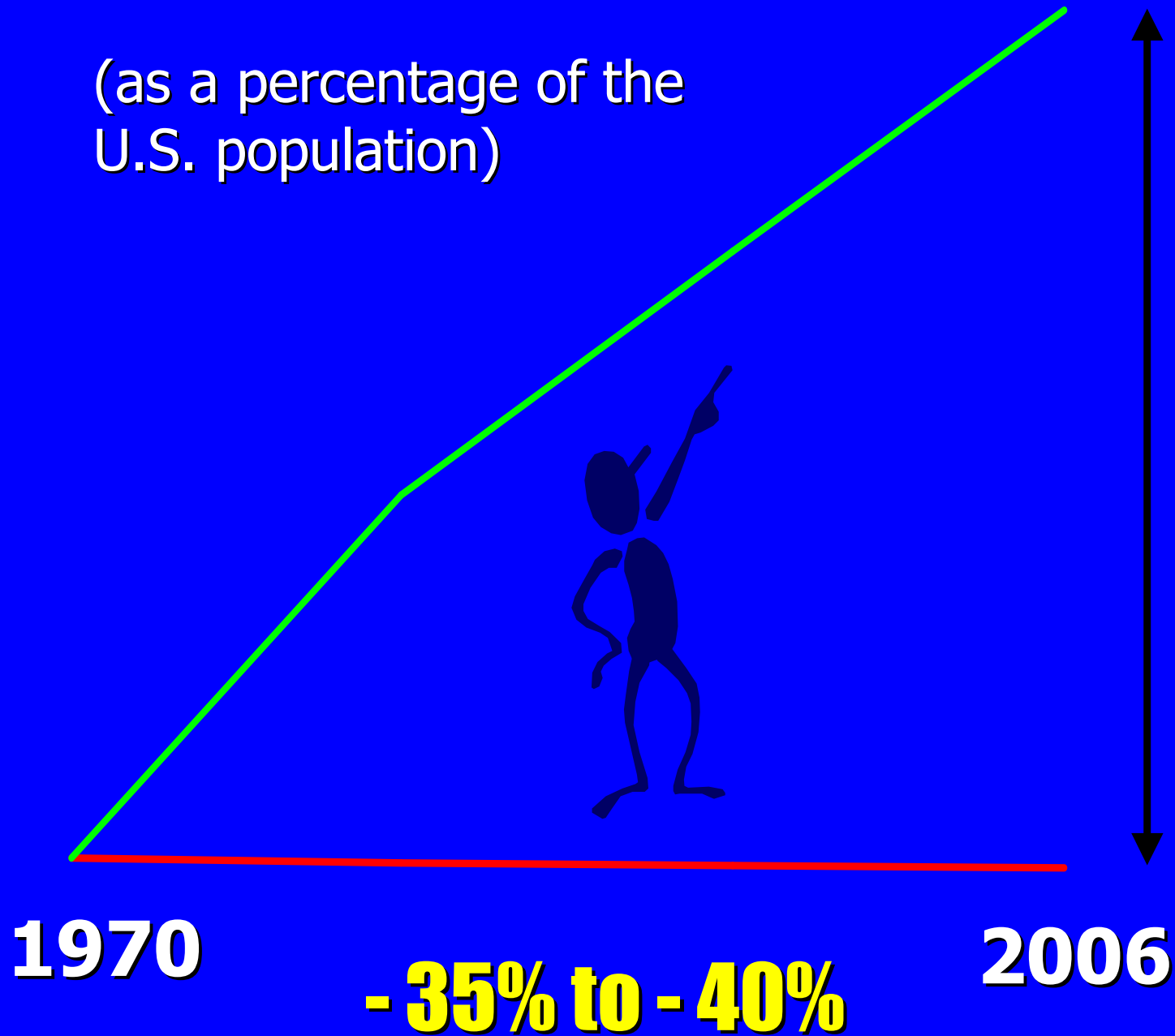
1970

-3% to -4%

2006

Lutheran Church Growth

(as a percentage of the U.S. population)



Discussion

- How does what is happening in America today relate to God's Mission?

The American Church in Crisis

Discussion

- What concerns you about what you have just heard?
- What excites you?

Necessary Change

- Established churches must courageously strive toward both health and growth
- Established churches need to actively parent new churches
- Denominations must recognize that church planting is essential for their future health

Ten Necessary Changes

- Leaders need to be honest about what is happening in the American church and in their denomination and its churches, and personally lead the church forward with spirituality, chemistry, and strategy.
- Established churches need to have the courage and commitment to pursue both health and growth. (Pastoral and lay leadership)

Ten Changes

- Christian leaders and churches need to accept and learn to thrive in the new world that is post-Christian, postmodern, and multiethnic.
- The best pattern for the mission of the American church is the early church's attitude, model, and mission strategy to the Greco-Roman world.

Ten Changes

- In this new world, pastors need to upgrade their ministry gifts and skills, learning to articulate the message and mission of Jesus with passion, power and wisdom.
- Christians must engage their neighbors with a humble and listening attitude, relishing the new opportunities God has made available. (Historic Christian ministry of hospitality)

Ten Changes

- Established churches must embrace church planting as a primary method of passing the faith on to future generations.
- Denominations need to learn how to develop turbocharged mammalian church planting structures while encouraging the initiative and interest in church planting to come from the grassroots level, both in established and new churches.

Ten Changes

- Pastors and leaders need to devote more energy to raising up and training your leaders in their churches, colleges, and community organizations.
- The church needs to recognize anew the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.

Life Cycle of an Organization

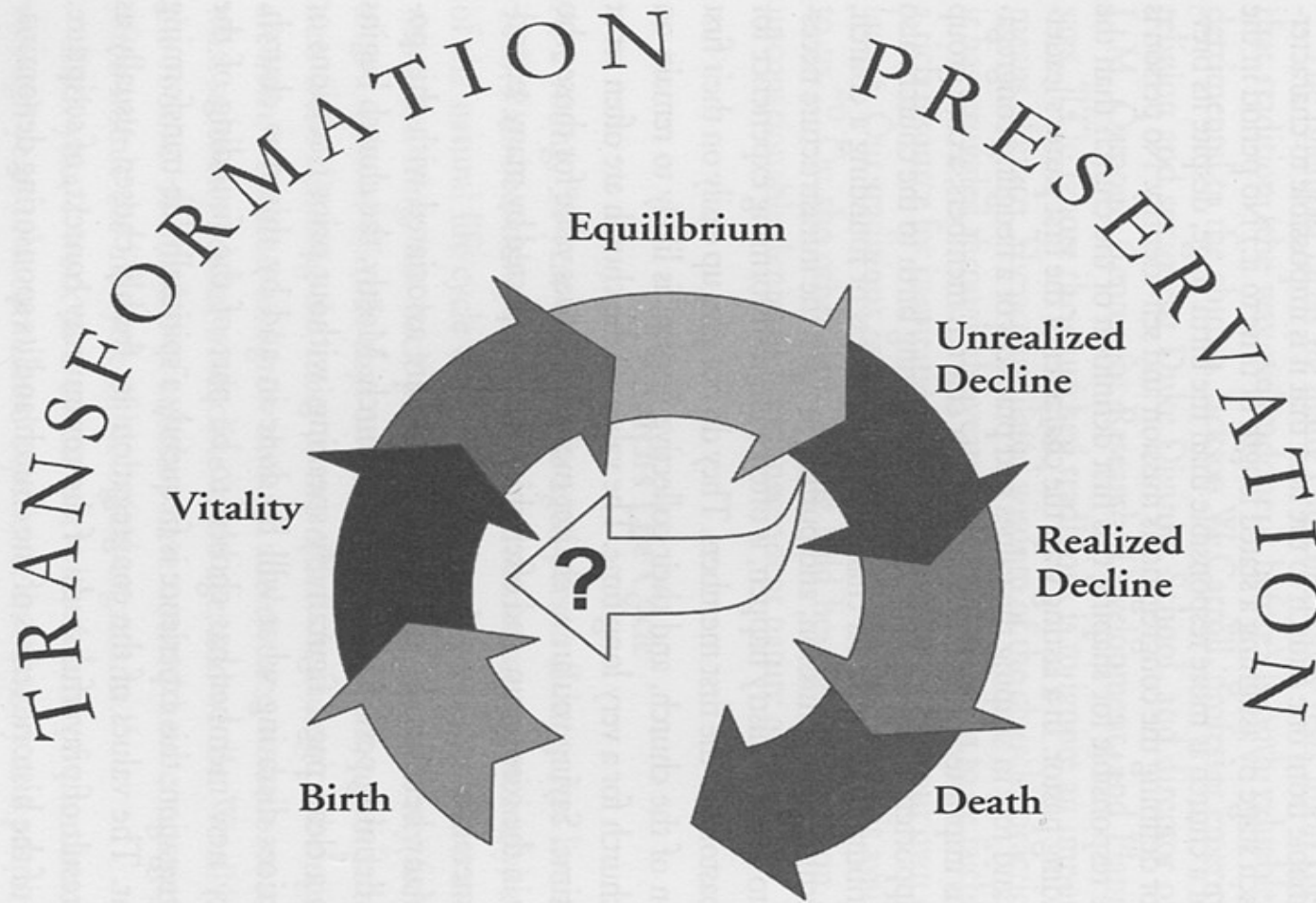


Figure 1: Congregational Life Cycle

Discussion

- Where is Good Shepherd on the Life Cycle chart?

The Power of Vision

- A clear understanding of why the congregation exists
- A clear and compelling picture of where the congregation is headed
- Convictions that have an outward focus
- Vision is always in the driver's seat

A Missional Church

- Calling from God
- Exegeting the community
- Examining ways God is working in similar communities
- Finding God's unique vision for your church
- Adjusting that vision as you learn the context

Who is my Neighbor?

Our Mission Field

- What kind of music do they like?
- What kind of dress?
- What are their interests?
- What do they value?
- Where do they hurt?
- What are they afraid of?

Top 10 Most Receptive

- Second time visitors?
- Friends of new believers?
- Divorce?
- First time parents?
- Marriage problems?
- Parental challenges?
- Finances?
- New Residents?
- Illness?
- Recovery Issues?

Who Knows Our Neighborhood

- School Principals
- Police Department
- Social Service Agencies
- Service Clubs

Outreach to Community

- De-churched - Invitational
- Unchurched - Incarnational

Discussion

- Common Purpose?

Pacific Southwest District Regional Map



Pacific Southwest District

- 300 Congregations
- 17 Cultural/Ethnic Groups
- 50% Worship less than 100/Sunday
- 10% Worship more than 400/Sunday

Pacific Southwest District

- 203 Schools
- 120 Preschools
- 73 Elementary Schools
- 10 High Schools