

Pastor Rist's Page

We continue in this article to explore the seven marks of discipleship: "faith practices" that together form the foundation for a healthy 24-7 Christian pattern of living.

Baptized into the priesthood of all believers, followers of Jesus:

Pray daily
Worship weekly
Read the Bible regularly

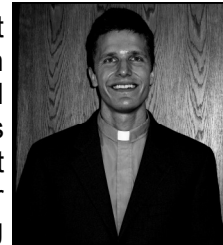
Serve at and beyond Hosanna Lutheran
Relate to others in loving compassion
Give of their time, talent and treasure
Evangelize—inviting others to Christ

In total, these marks of discipleship lead to a **PoWeR SuRGE** throughout the whole church and in the lives of individual believers.

This month, our focus is servanthood. Christian disciples serve diligently; both within the congregation as "inreach" to fellow members and beyond our own walls as "outreach" to Rochester, southeastern Minnesota and the larger world God loves.

In early August, Lisa Modry, Nancy Wales and I accompanied seven Hosanna youth and three friends from area congregations on a week of serving with YouthWorks in the city of Denver, Colorado. You can see pictures and read Lisa's reflections on her youth page. If you were unable to hear the youth share their experiences in worship and fellowship on Sunday, August 8th, I encourage you to seek out these young women and hear their message of personal transformation. Grounded daily in worship, prayer and devotion, our service trip participants ventured forth into the unknown, and there they discovered rich relationships with the homeless and hungry, the forgotten and lonely, and the most vulnerable of our society—the very young and elderly alike.

As Jesus teaches, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (*Mark 10:42-45*)



Perhaps we are tempted to think of serving as a special activity primarily accomplished by another person somewhere else "out there" on a mission trip. We envision lofty goals and grand gestures, like eliminating poverty and eradicating disease. We designate the work of ministry to the professionals, insisting that we have neither the time nor the resources in our overbooked and underfunded lives.

Recently (just days after my trip to Denver), Sela informed me at the breakfast table that she plans to participate in next year's intergenerational mission trip sponsored by Bethel Lutheran and led by her mother, Pastor Anjanette. I told her that sounded great, and I encouraged her to go. Then she began drifting away from the family table on her way to hang out in her bedroom. I called out to her: "Hey, Sela. Please come back. Clear your dishes and help me clean up the kitchen. Serving others begins here at home. It's great that you want to go elsewhere to help, but it starts every day by 'doing for others' right where you are."

Where will you be "sent to serve" today? Remember, it begins here and now.

Pastoral Acts

Marriages

Ann Fullem & Andrew Frankel
August 7, 2010

Jamey Strand & Samantha Bishop
August 23, 2010

Baptisms

Natalie Marie Chadwick
August 15, 2010

