



Finding Our Congregation's Unified Strengths

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The FOCUS Group consists of five Our Father's Lutheran Church congregation members and was created in June 2009 to facilitate a strategic planning process for Our Father's. The book "Discerning Your Congregation's Future: A Strategic and Spiritual Approach" has been used as the guiding principle to leading the congregation through the year long process. The end result of the process will include a new five-year strategic plan being presented to the congregation and church leadership in spring 2010. The following summary provides an overview of the process:

An Evening of Historical Reflection – October 4, 2009

The FOCUS Group held its first congregational meeting as part of the strategic planning effort on October 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to learn from founding members and existing members of the congregation about Our Father's past. Congregation member Liz Nuytten facilitated the meeting before approximately 40 attendees (and plentiful chili was enjoyed by all!). A number of key "meaning statements" were gained from the meeting and will be unveiled at the November "FOCUS on Now" meetings.

FOCUS On Now – November 2 at 6:30 pm or Sunday, November 8 at 12:15 pm

The FOCUS Group invites congregation members to one of the meetings and will ask four questions to gain an assessment of where Our Father's is today:

1. If our congregation did not continue to _____, I would lose interest in remaining a member.
2. The things that concern me most about our congregation are _____.
3. If our congregation would _____, I know I would call my friends and tell them what wonderful things they are missing.
4. If with a stroke of a pen I could change one thing at our congregation, I would _____.

Desert will be served at the Monday, November 2 meeting. A meal will be served at the Sunday, November 8 meeting. Child care will be available at both meetings.

Next Steps:

- Sunday, February 21, 2010 – An Evening of Norm Identification
- March – April 2010 – Interviews of Key People in Community
- May 2010 – FOCUS Recommends Five-Year Plan to Congregation