Pastor’s Notes

March 2024

How do we as a church look at our future existence? Do we look back on the past and the “good old days” as our guide into the future? Or do we look forward to serving the community as it is now? I think maybe both.

Tradition is critical in a church. Forgetting where we came from and how we got here is critical to planning our future service to others. But at the same time, focusing on being overly concerned with current social norms adapted by society is dangerous.

I’ve been reading a book written by Dr. Tim Clinton, *Focus on the Future.* He makes some very interesting points regarding church futures. Among several of his insights into how churches operate I found the following items I thought you may find interesting as well.

“Our churches aren’t supposed to be museums any more than they are supposed to be entertainment centers or social clubs. They are bodies of people using their gifts so everyone together takes on the image of Christ. We are told to inspire each other to do good works.”

He also gives us some hope for churches that take seriously the assignment of serving God.

“As our society continues to live out its dysfunctions and trauma, people will start looking for a haven. They will hunger for a place of rest, protection, healing, restoration, love, and belonging. The church is and has to be that place, but we can only do it only if we understand at our core that church is a body of people loving each other and conforming together to the life and image of Jesus.”

The question still remains, how do we look at our future existence? Perhaps a blending of the old and new to better serve our changing community while still keeping our Lutheran traditions.

Let us become that haven Dr. Clinton refers to that people are seeking.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Will