

How can I increase my abilities to serve?

Sermon November 4, 2018

*Let's read again together our Purpose, Values and Vision Statements:*

*Statement of Purpose*

*We at Calvin are loving followers of Jesus Christ whose teachings include love, joy, hope, as well as diversity, inclusiveness, compassion, and service to others.*

*Our Values*

- *Faith in Jesus Christ as our saviour and our guide*
- *Hope, Joy, and Fellowship*
- *Rejoice in service, so we may make the world better through our actions*
- *Embrace diversity of all people*
- *Be visible in our community*

*Vision Statement*

*By the grace of God:*

- *With every step we take, we will strive to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members by delivering desirable and valued activities that enhance the spiritual and social wellbeing of our congregation;*
- *We will strive to bring people closer to Christ by reaching out to our local community, looking to address needs and build fellowship;*
- *We will strive to remain relevant to our times by embracing change where it is needed, while at the same time cherishing our history and the successes of our past; and*
- *We will strive to maintain a strong faith community in a turbulent world by ensuring vigorous stewardship of the resources we have been granted through God's providence.*

Dear Beloved,

It is very important to be familiar with our *Purpose, Values and Vision Statements*. For Calvin members, those are as important as our own personal goals in our own lives.

These Statements are helping us to define who we are, and to help outsiders to see why are we members at Calvin, and why are we gathering here regularly. People who are watching us from outside want to see what our direction is and how we want to serve them.

A living congregation has to focus its energy toward a common objective, offering time, energy and finances in working toward potential goals.

We should not gather here, Sunday by Sunday, just to worship, but to serve. We have to provide Pastoral Ministry inside and outside of these walls. If we don't step out, if we don't serve, we are not alive. Our giving-service should happen as regularly as our worship-service.

(Presentation from Bonnie and Dean on where we are at this time and in which direction God wants to move us.)

Our Motto: "Renew, Rebuild & Reach Out"

We are an awesome worship-focused congregation. If we want to grow, as a next step we have to turn into building service-focused disciples.

We, as a church, HAVE to touch more lives, in order to grow and to fulfill the mission of Christ: "Make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). We don't want that growth by drawing people away from other churches. We have to grow by touching those lives who are in spiritual and physical need, who don't have enough, who need love, support and comfort. If we serve them, if we touch them with good, they will be touched by the gospel. This means that GIVING-EVANGELISM is extremely important.

Just to preach here and to sing, for Christ is not enough. We have to mature in EMBRACING, SERVING, and GIVING. This will bring us new attendees. They have to experience that we are committed disciples of Jesus.

We have to turn our vision into practice.

By Jesus Christ, we are called to do something vitally important: to share what we have in order to show that we are a caring community. We have to put our faith into actions.

Our service of giving has to be shaped by the needs of our surrounding community at a particular moment in time. This is why we have to spend time monitoring emerging trends in congregational life, locally and nationally, and we have to track the changing demographics of our community.

SING, PRAY AND SERVE. Let's make this our motto for November and December in 2018.