



Called Today; Led Into Tomorrow

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Spokane, Washington

September 21, 2019

Why Vocation? Why Now?¹ — The Promise

The history of vocation²

The Reformation³

Vocation video⁴ and table conversation:

1. The opening prayer is borrowed from Williams, Aileen, ed. *Worship and Daily Life: A Resource for Worship Planners*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1999, 50. This book is out of print, but available from used book retailers on Amazon. It contains a rich collection of worship resources that connect worship with daily life.

2. See see Bennethum, D. Michael, *Listen! God is Calling!*, p. 42 for more on the historical perspective.

3. See Nesson, Craig, "Universal Priesthood: Keeping the Unfulfilled Promise," on the homepage of <http://lifeoffaith.info>

4. This video (and several others) is available on <http://lifeoffaith.info> > Resources > Web Resources.

- What did the pastor say?
- What did the people hear?
- Why did they mis-hear what the pastor said?
- What was their “aha” moment?
- What does this mean for your work?

Ministry = Something Extra⁵

At your tables:

- How have you been affected by the temptation to hide behind the sacred/secular wall, thinking mostly about what members can do for the congregation?
- What corporate and structural expectations at the center of our congregation would need to be changed in order to tear this wall down?
- What traditions or programs could be put on sabbatical or discontinued in order to reduce our focus on prying out bits and pieces of our members’ time, energy, and resources to support our corporate life?

The autoimmune disorder of the Body of Christ

The nature and purpose of the church

5. McWilliams Dickhart, Judith, *Church-going Insider or Gospel-carrying Outsider?* It’s now out of print, but available as a PDF at <http://lifeoffaith.info/resources/books>

New (old) language for the road ahead

Heather the Hairdresser⁶

- What “daily bread” is God providing through Heather?
- Tell a story that you’ve heard in your ministry context to which you replied (or could have replied) “That’s an important ministry,” or “God is surely at work in what you’re doing.”
- How can you put stories like these at the center of your gathering?

A paradigm shift not “just another program”

Back to the promise

Resources

<http://thescattering.org>

<http://lifeoffaith.info>

6. Recorded at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Channahon, Illinois. Available on <http://lifeoffaith.info> > Resources > Web Resources.