

One of the first eye-brow-raising things this "city boy" learned, when God called him to serve in a farming-community, was how every part of the field

is different. (Somehow, the plastic animals, tractors and toys I had as a kid had not provided me with the sound, agricultural education that would come later in life.)

I always had the impression that the farmer's field was one homogenous piece of land, covered in the same type of soil, all of which received an equal amount of moisture whenever it rained. It was an eyeopener to discover to that the each part has its own unique set of challenges. And while clouds may rain on one part of a field during a storm, and leave it drenched, another part may remain untouched. Water collects in lower parts and dries quickly in others.

As it turns out, each farmer becomes the expert in that unique portion of land that he farms. And each farm, separated even a few short miles from another, is often quite different from the one just down the road.

This is also true of all of the different parts of the field into which God has called us here in the English District. What works well in one place may not be feasible in another. Farming in Texas is a lot different than farming in Ontario. Urban outreach in Arizona looks different than in New York. The Gospel itself remains the same, but the culture and opportunities in which to share it differ.

You have hands-on expertise in that part of the field in which God has placed you. You are located in a place which has unique opportunities and advantages as well as challenges specific to your circumstances.

Let's rejoice in the unchanging Gospel that our Lord has given us to announce, and let's share some of the ways you and I make contact with our friends, family and neighbors. We have the best news the world will ever hear and a limited season to share it. Let's bring together the resources from our Synod and District experts in this field and you – the expert in the field in which God has placed you.

What hurdles do you face in your location? What have you found that works well? Share *your* expertise and insights.

Short of being able to get together for coffee, I look forwarded to calling you on the phone in the coming weeks and months, introducing myself to you, sharing ideas, hearing your input and praying with you. God bless your work in the field.

Pastor David Tannahill





Each of our coming issues will have a theme or topic. In addition to the the topic for that month will be four features

Toolbox

Ideas, Suggestions and Handy Bits

From The Field

Input and Examples from our Pastors and Congregations (Take a look at the coming topics and share what you've done)

Articles, Books and Research Current Research and Writings

> Our Synod and District Programs Materials and Workshops Available For You (Have a workshop scheduled? Let us know.)



Check out the excellent resources which speak to this issue from our LCMS site,

"Making Disciples for Life."

While some tools and ideas may come with a cost, it's recognized that budgets are tight in many of our congregations. So, we will also take a look at some of the creative, cost-effective, and perhaps overlooked, means of doing outreach that are available.

Coming Topics

- Reaching Out to Our Military
- Importance of a Web Page
- Inviting Traveling Teams
- Podcasting, Easy and Cheap
- Lawn Displays and Signs
- News Releases instead of Ads ... and much more

Next Month

· Fall Festivals and Parades



Every One His Witness is a relational, contextual Lutheran evangelism program that teaches you how to witness to your non-churched friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family members.

Using the LASSIE approach to witnessing (listen, ask, seek, share, invite, and encourage), you will learn how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in a natural way with people who are part of your everyday life.

Every One His Witness video modules and other resources are now available at no cost to anyone who is interested.

To get a free access code, please email

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If you already have a subscription, you may continue using the program with your current credentials at no additional charge.

Please contact Pastor David Tannahill of our Evangelism Team with your ideas and input. Share details of what has worked for you for upcoming editions at <u>dart3@twc.com</u> I look forward to hearing from you.