

## **Parish Life Conversation April 17, 2016**

This was a robust conversation about the many aspects of our Parish life, with 31 people attending.

### **Children's Ministry-**

Children's ministry is welcoming. The ministry team is supportive and collaborative. I enjoy seeing our children extend love and care to each other and the adults in the parish. The Christmas Pageant is a very important event, especially for the children who participate. Strengths: a strong ministry is an attraction for families who are looking for a church home. Their kids love the program and feel welcomed. The kids get credit for that because they themselves at a young age are welcoming. Wish list- More support and direction from clergy.

### **Stewardship Ministry-**

This ministry continues to grow and members want to see it expand. We are trying to focus on giving in many different ways and that it can be year round. I like that we focus on stewardship in its many forms. Idea of someone to focus on development, grants and fund-raising for capital campaigns.

### **Youth Ministry –**

Support our youth during a transitional time in their lives – providing community, spiritual education and guidance and unconditional love. Small and mighty ministry, and leaders of tomorrow. Vision in 5 years is to have 20 to 30 youth participate. The ministry would like a more “formal mentorship”.

### **Welcoming Ministry-**

Make folks comfortable coming to St. Luke's for the first time. Get to meet new folks. Offer a warm, congenial presence. Greeting team approach – share our experience of ministry (St. Luke's) to other folks. Provide ongoing support to newcomers. Welcome brunch for newcomers. Also provide in-group connection to other ministries with the newcomers. Brings new folks into the parish. Members feel this is a very rewarding ministry and are the “face” of St Luke.

### **Pastoral Visits –**

Members keep people connected to church life. The visitors free up time of the clergy and keep the clergy informed of how our home bound parishioners are doing. We are extending the hand of St. Luke's and the love of God outside the church. For some people this brings something into their home, wherever it may be. They look forward to it. Often some of the folks have no family. This spiritual visit with communion is valuable.

### **Daughters of the King –**

Prayer is the basis of the DOK Foundation. Maintain a prayer list (monthly) and daily prayers – bulletin prayers, Thursday prayer service, members are involved with various aspects of the congregation

### **Book Store** –

Resource for spiritual growth for our community. Has become a gathering place. Provides a hub for information. Newcomers find it a comfortable place to browse and get to know people. Would like to see support from all ministry groups. Always on the lookout for book lovers who want to join volunteer staff on Sundays. Look forward to permanent location when Parish Hall is renovated.

### **Hospitality** –

Created a ministry manual which has been copied for use by other ministries. Offer radical hospitality – role of food in welcoming. Manage coffee hours, receptions. Would like to see it expand to include driving people to appointments, shopping, etc. Also serving our homeless neighbors more effectively.

### **Spiritual Formation** –

Meet quarterly to review what is being offered to develop spiritual growth in the congregation. Organize the inquirer's class once a year, house church in the summer, ongoing Forums and classes, Advent and Lent programs. Open to new ideas about classes to offer, programs to support.

### **Advocacy** -

The people of St. Luke's are not content to leave the world "as is." A wide variety of peace and social justice issues are represented including gun violence, housing, justice for Palestine. Great event was marching with Housing Long Beach in support of the REAP program