

More notes & thoughts from Dick Nicolaison:

I came away from the assembly with several thoughts and ideas. First of all I was impressed with the work that Lutheran Social Services is doing to make people's lives better. Hector Colon has a very interesting personal story to tell about faith guiding him to serve as head of Lutheran Social Services rather than choosing a boxing career.

I attended a breakout session on Faith Formation from ages 3-4 to adulthood. It demonstrated the lifelong commitment faith really is. Adults change their faith goals as they age. Their priorities change and we have to be able to meet faith formation for ALL ages.

I always knew of the Crossways camping experience but Jake did a great job of demonstrating how donations are being used. He showed what improvements would be made at each camp and why.

I was impressed by the fact that there were 600 youth from our synod participating in various events. The youth are the future of our church and it was demonstrated at the synod.

On Friday afternoon there was a healing service for the Synod members. It was a very touching service. It was a wonderful feeling to be involved in that service.

Discovering ones calling was a session.

The focus was to look for opportunities to show our faith.

Core assumptions are:

1. Everyone has a calling of some sort. JUST FIND IT!
- 2 Callings are found through relationships. Personal, business, family events.
- 3 Sow some seeds in your faith and see where they land.
4. Use stories to encourage and enhance our faith formation.
5. Acknowledge the work of the church body every chance we get. Example of the ladies that sew our quilts.
6. Know who is going through stages of transition and loss to help them in these times

Bring a vision to life in our congregation by utilizing the concept of think big-start small. When small goals of 30 days or less are achieved we should list them and keep track of them as successes. When a vision has too long a time table established energy runs out and excitement wanes in the process.

Think of our church family as a spiritual grocery store. We need to concentrate on those members that DO NOT SHOW UP. Maybe they are a young family that just cannot make it to church on Sunday. Solicit their help for projects they can do from home and acknowledge them publicly for their efforts.