

Simple Suggestions for Sharing Your Faith Story

Vision: Called into God's Marvelous Light: To Be Joyful Witnesses

Objective: An emphasis on sharing the faith

There are two common reasons people who want to share their faith use to justify keeping quiet. One is that they don't feel their story is important, the other is that they don't know how.

Have you witnessed God's work in your life? If so, then you do have an important story to share.

If you are still struggling with how to share your faith, then visit www.semnsynod.org/sharingourstories.html for a weekly suggestion. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Congregational Renewal Team will be offering a simple suggestion each week for ways to share your faith story inside your congregation and in other aspects of your life. Each suggestion will give a specific, simple way to share your faith. Try each one yourself, use them in your congregation's worship service or other small group, and share them with your fellow congregation members and friends.

Though the synod has an excellent Congregational Renewal Team, we also have many excellent rostered and lay leaders in the synod. If you have a suggestion to add to the list, contact Larry Iverson by e-mail at iverson@semnsynod.org or by phone at 507-280-9457 or 800-426-6376 (MN only).



Called into God's Marvelous Light

To Be Joyful Witnesses

To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

To Be Strong Leaders

2007: A Synod Sharing Our Faith Stories

Storytelling

By Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin
Congregational Renewal Team

Sharing stories is an art that has changed in recent years. With the advent of television and movies, sharing stories has become a multi-million dollar industry that makes it seem that stories have to be big and impressive to be told.

Of course, we Christians have a big and impressive story to tell when we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We also, however, have our own stories to tell. Our stories may not seem big and impressive, but they are important and helpful. We have stories about how God has touched us at different times in our lives. We have stories of how God gave us the gift of faith. We have stories that come from God faithfully working in our everyday lives. We have many stories to share, if only given the opportunity.

During the new year, take the time to share stories by starting council or other meetings with someone telling their faith story or telling how they have seen God working in their lives recently. Begin a committee meeting by asking where people have experienced God during that day or week.

As we tell our own stories, we begin to recognize God in new ways. We begin to recognize God in our lives as we hear stories from others. We begin to know each other and God in deeper ways. Our stories don't have to be big and impressive...just honest and open to God working in the everyday moments of life.

Share Your News

Do you have something to share? Congregations can submit the following for publication on the synod website:

- **Events** - anything happening that you'd like to invite others to attend
- **Job openings** - any non-pastoral position can be posted free of charge
- **News** - share information about exciting things that have happened or will be happening in your congregation.

Send information to Katie Butler at butler@semnsynod.org or call her at the synod office at 507-280-9457 or 800-426-6376 (MN only).