

Helping University Lutheran Grow



Overview

University Lutheran Church and Student Center

www.universitylutheranchurch.org

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Jay Winters – Pastor

What is "Helping ULC Grow"?

Helping ULC Grow is a program which seeks to connect University Lutheran with our neighbors who live in up to a 20 minute drive* from University Lutheran.

Helping ULC Grow will help us think about how we do two things:

- Hospitality – What people experience when they come to a University Lutheran event.
- Engagement – How people get to know their new neighbor, University Lutheran.

We will be using a variety of resources and sources to think about these ideas. Much of our source material will come from Lutheran Hour Ministries' resources "Practicing Hospitality" and "New Neighbors" programs.

Circle one number per question:

How many people (not including the pastor) talk to a first time visitor on a Sunday?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

What percentage of people living 20 minutes from University Lutheran know where to find it?

0-10% 10-20% 30-40% 40-50% 50-60% 60-70% 70-80% 80-90% 90-100%

Ohhh...so this is "evangelism"

Sort of. Let's face it, normally when we think of evangelism, it's a scary proposition. Often we don't think of ourselves as evangelists. Evangelists are kind of scary. This is the most popular picture on Google.com when you search "evangelist":



* Statistics show that most people will drive 5 to 20 minutes to go to a church.

The word “evangelism” might as well be a four letter word to many people. The root word of “evangelism,” is εὐαγγέλιον which means “good news” but a growing segment of the population consider being approached by an “evangelist” to be bad news.

“Evangelism” isn’t even that popular amongst Christians. There is a growing segment of the Christian population that considers spreading the good news to be bad news.

Answer the following questions:

Why do some feel that being approached by an evangelist is uncomfortable?

Why do some feel that being an evangelist is uncomfortable?

What will we be doing?

Helping ULC Grow has two phases:

Phase One: Hospitality (approx. 1 month)

Phase Two: Engagement (approx. 4 months)

In Phase One: Hospitality, we will be:

- Examining how our church looks, feels, and sounds to a first time visitor to University Lutheran
- Coming up with ways to improve the experience of first time visitors, and implementing improvements at University Lutheran

In Phase Two: Engagement, we will be:

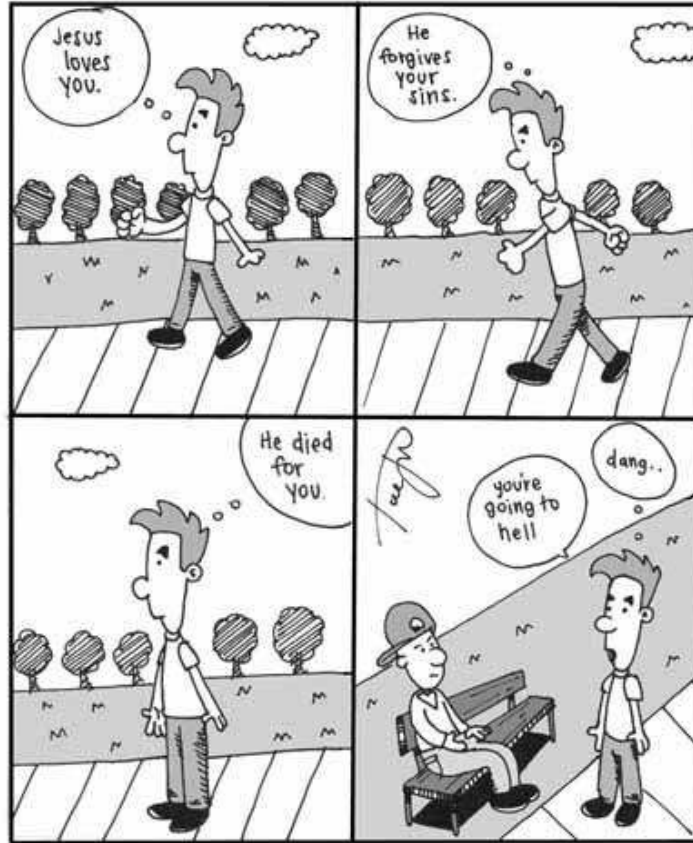
- Contacting people one-by-one who have just moved into our area and live within up to a 20 mile radius of University Lutheran via postcard and phone call.
- Given the response of our new neighbor, conduct a follow-up phone call, invitation to University Lutheran, or non-church visit (i.e. lunch/Starbucks).

You may choose to participate in only Phase One: Hospitality if you are unsure about your comfort level or skills with Phase Two: Engagement.

The 3 Goals of Helping ULC Grow:

1. **To welcome our newest neighbors into the neighborhood**
2. **To establish relationships with people in our neighborhood**
3. **To introduce people to the most important relationship in our lives, the relationship we have with Jesus Christ**

What will we *NOT* be doing?



- **“Hard Sell Evangelism”** – i.e. “If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven or hell?”
- **Proselytizing** – i.e. “You should really become a Lutheran, I can’t understand why you would stay in that church...”
- **Conducting theology classes** – i.e. “Jesus’ presence in the sacrament is thusly discussed in Lutheran circles by the term ‘communication of attributes’ in which concomitance is clearly rejected...”

What kind of expectations are there?

Phase One: Hospitality

- One one-hour-or-less meeting (not including this meeting) per week for three weeks
- One Sunday away from University Lutheran visiting another church
- Approximately 45 minutes per week spent on “homework”, including 15 minutes of prayer per week
- Agreement to show up to University Lutheran 30-15 minutes before 11am
- After the second week...Enough time to implement one idea to improve hospitality at University Lutheran (could vary widely from 15 minutes to 15 hours)

Do the math...

1. Write the number of minutes required per week next to each item.
2. Write the level of difficulty of each item next to the number of minutes required (1-10, 10 being the most difficult thing you would do in a month).
3. How many minutes per week are you willing to devote? How difficult of a task are you willing to take on?

What kind of expectations are there?

Phase Two: Engagement

- One one-hour-or-less meeting per month for 4 months
- Agreement to follow the guidelines of the New Neighbors program including:
 - First Engagement – Sending a hand-written postcard and making one phone call welcoming the new neighbor to the neighborhood.
 - [Second Engagement]* – Making up to three phone calls inviting the new neighbor to church or a non-church meeting.
 - [Third Engagement]* – Meeting new neighbor at church or non-church location.
- Approximately 45 minutes per week spent on “homework”, including 15 minutes of prayer per week
- Agreement to show up to University Lutheran 30-15 minutes before 11am

Do the math...

1. Write the number of minutes required per week next to each item.
2. Write the level of difficulty of each item next to the number of minutes required (1-10, 10 being the most difficult thing you would do in a month).
3. How many minutes per week are you willing to devote? How difficult of a task are you willing to take on?

Question and Answer Period...

What kinds of questions do you have?

* The Second and Third Engagements may not happen due to the wishes of the new neighbor or information given by the new neighbor (i.e. they already have a home church).

Homework

- Spend 3 minutes praying each day for 5 days of your choice asking God about His heart for non-churched people.
- Explain to one person what “Helping University Lutheran Grow” is about. (This will help you process this session.)
- Answer the question – “Are you prepared to help University Lutheran grow in hospitality?”



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN
Church & Student Center
A Jesus-Centered Community of Scripture, Faith, and Grace.

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Please don't throw this away. Take it home or leave it for others.