



Message from Pastor Scottie

March 2013: The Necessity of Change

One of the hardest things for the church to do is change. Change is the challenge that can lead the church to growth and mission accomplishment. The Roman Catholic Church is praying about that right now as it selects a new Pope.

We at LCOS are changing. To accomplish the mission God has given us requires us to do a Lenten review of who we are and how we walk the talk of our faith in San Bernardino County. As we make discoveries we sometimes have to make course corrections. One of those corrections is how we do our daily business of the church. We started with a different nomination process. There were questions about this. It's different, but people tried a new way. The result was filling all positions first time 'go' and even having multiple candidates to choose from.

Currently a strategic plans committee is handing off 'priority areas of ministry' to the Church Council. Next, the Council will review and hopefully approve these priorities. Then the council will develop goals in support of these priority areas. Finally, the Council develops projects that accomplish those goals. Lastly, the completed plan goes to you, the congregation, for approval and implementation.

This is a different way of doing business. It's very intentional, methodical, and focused. When the council completes the projects they will be finalizing the 2013 budget also. This will integrate the plan and budget into one focused effort.

The desired results is more "bang for the buck" regarding our resources of time, money, and labor directed more effectively at those aspects of our mission that you, the congregation, say is important and what our neighbors say are their needs. This is attempting to do God's work as good stewards in a fast changing world.

This change is not cosmetic. It is a cultural shift from "the way we've always done it". Churches that survive and thrive hold to sacred Biblical values, but don't look back and wish for former days. The children of Israel did that longing for days like that of David and Solomon. As a result, when God sent the answer to their prayers and ours, Jesus, the Christ, they missed him. In fact, they killed him. Thank God for the resurrection that gives us the hope to endure. Every time we hold to the past threatening the future, we miss the mark as well. We are sometimes no better than our ancestors.

But thanks be to God for his mercy, grace, and forgiveness. Like the mother hen who longs for the chicks to return, Jesus never stops welcoming us back to Him. In doing so we are made new people in Christ capable of change for God's glory.

As we walk this road together, let us continue to communicate freely, frequently, and faithfully with each other. If there are relational issues of the past that are unresolved and hindering progress, then by faith let us approach each other in love to forgive and move on. If there is fear of the unknown, let us share our concerns so that as a Christian community we support each other. If there is a need to sacrifice, then let us do as evenly as each is blessed by God so that no minority of membership bears the brunt of mission while others slide.

God established this congregation. God grew this congregation. God will continue to be our Savior in new times with new growth. We will continue to be His hands and feet in mission. Praise be to God in Christ Jesus.

-Pastor Scottie

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