

VITALITY PATHWAY



We are one body

You are important. Do you know that? Do you believe it? God put you on this earth for a very special reason. I pray you take some time today to sit down and read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. We are one body, the body of Christ. When one part of our body suffers, we all do. Each of our gifts is important and they were given to us by God for a purpose. Sometimes it's easy to sit by the wayside and think that our gift doesn't matter. If you read the passage from above, you'll see how wrong that thinking is. God made the body in a very specific way and each part keeps the body functioning. As we are discerning this process of Vitality, every part of the church body has a special role to play. Only when all the parts are working together can we be the effective hands and feet of Christ in our community.

MELISSA CHRISTIANSEN

IN THIS ISSUE

We are one body

Springing forward
with Vitality

Vitality from the
Rearview Mirror

Springing forward with Vitality

BY AMY GRONLI

Our weather is finally matching our calendar, and with new life evinced in the green grass, budding trees, and songbirds singing in the pre-dawn light, a feeling of excitement grows within us. Just like the newly hatched birds and blooming flowers, the Vitality team is growing in strength and purpose each month. Currently, the team is focusing on two powerful questions to guide discussions and decisions:

1. What if God has put us all in this church for a grand purpose?
2. What if God has gifted each member of the church body with specific gifts to accomplish this purpose?

Just as the late spring sun warms our land, we should pray that our Vitality team and all members of the NLECC family feel God's presence shining on them and revealing the purpose for our church and the purpose for each person.

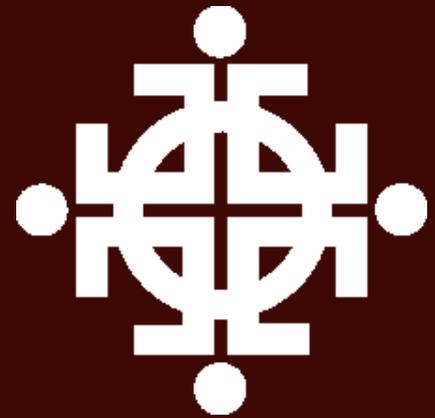


Vitality from the Rearview Mirror

LEARNING FROM HISTORY TEAM

Ministry to youth and children was in our DNA from our start as the Swedish Mission Church of New London (our original name). A Sunday School formed synonymous to our conception in February of 1891. Confirmation classes of 15 and 13 quickly came just seven years after our formation. By the 1920s, Reverend John Anderson took a bold step being the first to use English, though only for the Sunday evening services. By 1935, Mrs. Casper Thimell was the first to record the secretaries reports in English, undoubtedly

another departure from how things had always been. Yet God rewarded change as the 20s are also the time we first hear of the Young People's organization in our midst. This contributed to the necessity of what was our 2nd addition and remodel to our original structure over on Ash St. Change, then as now, is difficult involving challenges, conflict and opportunity. Here our pioneering church family benefited from the willingness to embrace change to strengthen the faith of the next generation. A good lesson of vitality from the rearview mirror!



VITALITY TEAM MEMBERS

Barry Lynch

Clarify the Mission

Mike McCain

Pervasive Prayer

Mike Erickson

Biblical Story

Sara Barber

External Profile

Melissa Christiansen

Communication

Jeff Koehler

Relational Covenant

Kevin Melin

Learn from History