

Reflections on Ministry and Context
St. Luke Lutheran Church

Slinger, WI

Completed:



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Congregations and Organizations in the Call Process are invited to expand their Ministry Site Profile (MSP) by reflecting on the several key aspects of ministry and context given below. You are encouraged to give short, thoughtful answers (a maximum of 250 words) on at least four of the seven topics. This form is optional unless specifically requested by a synod bishop. The form is submitted electronically and becomes a part of the Ministry Site's MSP.



1. What key issues or concerns of our church and society are reflected in the ministry that is centered in your congregation or organization?

2. How do the stewardship practices and allocation of financial resources of the congregation or organization reflect your priorities for mission?

The message on Consecration Sunday for stewardship is emphasis on giving to God rather than to the budget. We are encouraged to give electronically, and technology is available to make that easy to do. We have an endowment committee, and a future emphasis is on a legacy giving initiative. We have a strong ongoing Scrip program, and have organized many special fundraising projects. Members use their Thrivent memberships to obtain Thrivent dollars to help fund our missions. Overall, our 2017 mission giving was 15% of our budget.

3. In what ways is the membership of your congregation or organization similar or different from the people of the neighborhood in which you are located?

4. Identify the three most significant or formative events in the history of your congregation or organization.

a. Since its establishment in 1979, St Luke built its church in 1983 and has undergone two major building expansions (1997, 2014), which enabled us to better accomplish our missions and to expand our programs and outreach. To do this, we have carried out successful capital building and debt reduction campaigns.

b. A Strategic Plan was developed in 2010 and 2015 to clearly define our goals. That plan as well the GenZ Task Force Report led to greatly expanded staff to better support our ministries. A key staff addition was the Director of Youth and Family, who has revitalized and grown our youth ministry.

c. Addition of the Crossroads Worship Service (a contemporary service) and the establishment in 2015 of the Crossroads Music Festival (Christian music outreach program).

5. Describe the way the congregation or organization is currently involved in community and ecumenical partnerships.

6. Has your congregation or organization had significant conflict in recent history and, if so, what have you learned from that experience?

A conflict occurred when there was a mismatch between the needs of the organization and the support staff. St Luke formed a task force and brought in a consultant from the ELCA to help us resolve the issue (the "GenZ Task Force"). The task force surveyed youth and adult members, researched how other congregations organized their ministry, and produced a report with their findings. A number of changes were implemented based on the findings of this report, including development of a communications policy, job descriptions, revised staff accountability structure, and a change in staff.

7. Describe your physical facilities: construction date, purpose, capacity, date of last renovation, any deferred maintenance, and any plans for upgrading.