

A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

While we are not **only** to serve in the local congregation, we are to serve in the local congregation. Paul wrote, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." I Corinthians 12:7

Share where you are serving in the congregation. Is there an area of ministry that you might like to get involved in but are not currently involved? How might you do that? Talk about the responsibilities, frustrations and joys of congregational life.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

It takes intention and attention to engage with unbelievers.

Make sure you finalize your group's plan for an outreach project.

CLOSING PRAYER

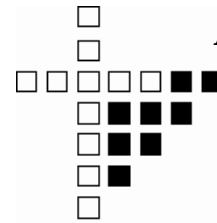
In your closing prayer please pray for an ever greater measure of the Holy Spirit's wisdom and strength throughout the Church so that the people of the Church eagerly engage the unbelieving world with the love of Jesus.

CYBER CONVERSATION ABOUT UNCOMMON PEOPLE

All are invited to join in an online conversation about the book The Call by Oz Guinness. This book will help you explore the unique call that God has given each one of us.

By the beginning of Lent the cyber conversation will turn to questions about Scripture reading.

Go to our web site for more information.
www.stlukehas.com/chat



An Uncommon People

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Winter, 2009
Home Group Discussion #4

Encouragement for a More Intentional Christian Lifestyle

There is nothing outside a man which can enter into him and make him 'common'. It is the things which come out of a man that make him 'common'!
Mark 7:14 (Phillips NT)

This four part study is designed to do two things.

First, it continues our year long emphasis on prayerfulness. Each session will accent God's invitation to prayer and our response to that invitation.

Second, it leads participants into a discussion about being *an uncommon people*. In calling us to himself, God has called us to be different from the unbelieving world around us. We are to stick out, not blend in.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (connected to one another)

Experience, not the calendar, tells us that February is the longest month of the year. To pass this longest of winter months people find many diversionary activities.

Share with one another what kind of card games you enjoy.

Share with one another what type of books you like to read.

Share with one another what sort of things you like to make.

A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

During 2008-2009 we are emphasizing greater prayerfulness. We want to take God's invitation to prayer more seriously.

Before you pray, spend a moment thinking, "*We are about to talk to the One who knows us better than we know ourselves, the One who knows what we need before we ask.*"

In your time of worship please lift up prayers regarding:

- The needs of others in your group and in the congregation.
- The ministries of sister and other local congregations.
- Those suffering from depression, loneliness or fear.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP (becoming like Jesus)

Uncommon Engagement

Jesus said, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."
John 17:18

Read Mark 1:29-39 Jesus engaged people. One estimate claims that Jesus walked over 3,000 miles during his three years of ministry. He walked from village to town to city to the country side sharing the message of the Kingdom of Heaven.

He could be found on a hill side talking to the masses. He could be found in the synagogue challenging the religious leaders. He could be found in the homes of sinners and tax collectors teaching and healing. Jesus engaged all sorts of people so that they could hear his message of salvation.

As followers of Jesus we are called to imitate him. One of the things we are to imitate is the engaging of unbelievers with the love of Jesus.

What do the following passages say about engaging unbelievers?

- Matthew 5:13-16
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Matthew 10:16-23

Discuss this statement, "*If God was only interested in you and your relationship with him, he would have taken you to heaven the moment you became a believer.*"

Disengagement with unbelievers is a problem with the Church.

We tend to slowly lose touch with non-Christian friends and become more immersed in Christian activity with our new Christian friends. The longer we are Christians, the fewer the number of friends we have who are not Christians. *They Like Jesus but Not the Church*, Dan Kimball, pg. 43

Kimball's own congregation seeks to "see God transform us into a worshiping community of missional theologians." What does it mean to engage unbelieving people but not the unbelieving world? Is there a difference?

Too often throughout history Christians have retreated from engaging the world. Martin Luther warned Christians not to hide in monasteries and suppose that all Christian responsibilities could be fulfilled there. He taught Christians to see their daily work as Christian calling and a way to engage unbelievers with the light of Christ. Discuss how you are or might start intentionally engaging the unbelievers through your occupation, avocation, recreation and location.

Discuss what it would look like to have an ***uncommon engagement*** with unbelievers. What difference would it make to have such an ***uncommon engagement***?