



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

BRAVE NEW CHURCH

Shaping Faith for a Changing World

Visioning Questions

These questions are designed to be discussed and recorded by small groups of 4-6 people as part of a larger visioning and strategic positioning conversation among the leaders of your congregation. The purpose of this portion of the process is to record honest, authentic responses to the following questions, and then come back together with the full leadership for a larger conversation on the answers given for each question. Estimated Time: Small Group – 45 min, Large Group – 45 min+ (Total: 90 min)

What are the biggest changes (3 max) that our congregation has experienced in the last 10-20 years? How have these changes affected us – both positively and negatively?

What are the biggest *challenges* (3 max) that we face right now as a congregation? What are the forces (internal or external) that are creating them?

What is the *one* BIG Opportunity for us as a congregation right now that we are just not taking advantage of? What are the forces (internal or external) that have created this?

What are our congregation's *strengths*? In looking at these strengths, how can we tap into them to address these changes and or/needs?



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What is our congregation's fundamental *mission*? What is the mission of the church at large? Try to be succinct, but clear.

What is the difference between *method* and *mission*? Which is more important?

What will happen to us if we confuse the *form* of how we go about doing ministry with the *content* of our mission?

Are the models we are using to achieve our mission vestiges of the 20th century and, if so, how do we innovate and create new 21st century models for ministry?

What are three action steps we can take immediately to improve our *methods (form)* of ministry in our congregation to better achieve our *mission (content)* in the real world where we actually find ourselves doing ministry?

What are we actually willing to change to fulfill our mission? Are there new ways to accomplish our mission that we have not tried, or are afraid to try? And are we investing our resources (time, money, energy) appropriately for the achievement of our mission?