

Partnership News

December 1, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church

St Paul Lutheran Church

Monona Lutheran Church

Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Erdman

Pastor Thomas Nowak

Roundtables: What We Learned – Part 2

Pastor Michael Erdman

Last week, I wrote about what we learned from the CADDs surveys. However, our discussion included more than just the CADDs results. We also talked about creating a vision for the partnership's future.

If we honestly want to talk about what the partnership might look like in 5 or 10 years, we have to address two major issues. First, we need to find a way to be financially viable (this was discussed in part 1). Second, we will need to reach out to a younger demographic.

The median age of the residents of Madison is 33. This is VERY young; Wisconsin's median age is 41. So the young people are certainly here in Madison. That said, only 14.8% of Madison are under 18. So this younger demographic is not children, but instead young adults. Some are obviously university students, but there is also a large population of young adults working in tech and medicine.

The world has changed DRAMATICALLY for these young adults. Smart phones and the internet have changed society, leaving these young adults more isolated from real, in-person community. This issue was greatly accelerated by the pandemic, and Generation Z is now making it known that they don't like it.

At the roundtable, we discussed the following question at length: How can we help address the new problems facing today's young adults? Lots of great ideas were offered, and they played a large role in forming our vision for the partnership.

On Dec 8th, I will be sharing this vision with you all and laying out our plan to make it reality. I hope you will all join us at Immanuel @9am.

Joint Sunday Service on Dec 8th @9:00am at Immanuel

We are combining our Sunday services together for one special event on Dec 8th @9:00am at Immanuel. We are doing this for two reasons: First, we would like to celebrate everything that God has accomplished through our partnership together. Second, we want to look forward together, building a unified vision of what our partnership will look like in the future. So, we hope that all of you will join us there! (Don't forget to practice the Lord's Prayer in ASL: tiny.cc/ASLprayer)

Advent Midweek Services: Dec 4, 11, and 18 @6:00pm at St Paul

Like we did last year, we will be holding joint Advent Midweek services together for the partnership. The services will all be held Wednesdays at St Paul at 6pm. This is a great opportunity to get to know people from the other churches of our partnership, so please join us!

Carols and Candlelight on Dec 19th @7:00pm at Immanuel

The partnership is holding our Carols and Candlelight service again this year on Dec 19 @7:00pm at Immanuel. This is an Immanuel tradition that we opened up to the whole partnership last year. It is a service of carols and readings, full of all sorts of music. This year, we are also planning to include the contributions of the children of the partnership. The Ringing Badgers Bell Choir, under the direction of Mark Bloedow, will also be joining us. We hope you will join us too for a night filled with carols, bells, candlelight, and the reading of the Christmas story.

Christmas Day Worship on Dec 25 @9:00am at Immanuel

Join us Christmas day for our joint partnership service as we celebrate the incarnation, God humbling himself to become a human being. This year, we will hold the service at Immanuel @9:00am.