



## Regeneration Summit

**Mission:** A unifying movement of Lutheran Christians compelled to lead the mission of the Church in the coming generation.

**Goals:** To Lead, Inspire, and Support a unified missional movement originating in local congregations.

### Objectives:

**Lead** — Leading a gospel centered missional movement.

- Participants will clearly articulate what the gospel is, and what is distinct about a Lutheran proclamation of the gospel. (Gospel)
- Participants will recognize how this gospel can be proclaimed in such ways that engage diverse and changing missional contexts. (Mission)
- Participants will examine how the local congregation can faithfully live out and give witness to this gospel in ways relevant to its local context. (Church)

**Inspire** — Inspire a gospel centered missional movement.

- Participants will be formed to lead the mission by engaging foremost theology and practice from recognized leaders within the movement. (Summit, Published Resources)
- Participants will actively participate in and contribute to the dialogue surrounding this missional movement through shared articles, best practices, and open conversations, in order to gain specific help pertinent to their local congregation through a network of cohorts and/or individual mentorship. (Web Network, Local cohorts)
- Participants will engage in the historical traditions of the church such as prayer, worship, and Sabbath in order to form a closer spiritual community.

**Support** — Supporting a gospel centered missional movement.

- Participants will identify effective organizations and ministries for which their time and resources can be directly contributed.
- Participants will develop communication and easily accessible opportunities for partnerships between local congregations and ministry organizations.
- Participants will lead their local congregations in meaningful partnerships with such qualified organizations and ministries.

“What will your local church look like in 2049?” *Regeneration* is simply a movement in which local leaders and members of the Lutheran Church can gather and unite to advance the gospel in this next generation (40 years). This movement will examine who we are as Lutheran Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and why it matters. Can we (Lutherans) advance the gospel in this century? How will we do this?

#### **Values:**

- We are compelled to advance the gospel (Is. 60:3; Matt. 4:23; Rom. 1:16; Phil. 1:12).
- We believe that Lutheran Christians are positioned to speak the gospel with great clarity within our current cultural context.
- We believe the church advances the gospel when saints partner (Phil. 1:4,5; 4:15; Eph. 4:4-6) in a spirit of selfless unity (Phil. 1:27; 2:3; I Pet. 3:8)
- We believe that current context drives us to missional action through clear witness, selfless service, courageous leadership, and generous giving.
- We believe the Holy Spirit orchestrates missional movements (Luke 12:12; Acts 1:8; Acts 2).
- We believe the local Church to be the vessel God uses for ministry and outreach.

#### **Focus:**

Gospel – Clearly and faithfully proclaimed

Church – United in mutual love, common confession, and common mission

Mission – A theology and practice mindful of the 21<sup>st</sup> century context.

The focus of such a movement must be on both **theology** and **practice** (being and doing). It must answer two fundamental questions which are directly related to one another. *Who are we?* (theology) *What are we doing?* (practice). Many contemporary discussions on mission simply concern themselves with

practice, leaving empty models with no substance. Our theology will rightly inform our practice. Practice without theology is utilitarian and manipulative. Additionally, if we simply copy “best practices” without giving a thought to their substance, we end up emulating pre-existing fads and formats.

The purpose of **regeneration** is that we put forth new practices that better the whole church, because they are grounded in a fresh approach based on timeless theology. Regeneration means that Lutheran Christians develop ideas, models, and approaches that can be used by others. We still believe we (Lutheran Christians) still have something to say. Our heritage and theology allow us to speak the gospel with distinct clarity. We believe this Lutheran voice can bless the broader church and the world.