

April 8, 2018

Dear Good Sam Family,

The world around us needs to be touched by the mercy in the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord. There are hundreds of thousands of people in and around our Community who seldom feel the nearness of God's love and mercy. Pause for a moment and think about how much you appreciate having a community where you can experience God's love, where you have friends to encourage you and help provide assurance that God is in your life every single day, 24x7.

The best thing we have to offer, both individually and collectively, is ourselves and the gifts we receive from the living presence of Jesus, who came so that we might have life and live it abundantly. Jesus is the GOOD NEWS that people right in our own community are looking for, but not finding.

At Good Sam, we are launching a campaign called, "Making New Connections" to ensure that we have regular invitations to impact our community. Our aim is to grow in our interest and abilities to build connections with our community. Through regular activities, reflection and abundant resources we hope to better partner with you in walking our individual and collective faith journeys as we encounter our neighbors, discover our connections and learn to bring God's activity into them.

Our congregation has set a goal to grow by 45 new "active participants" over the next three years. We believe our "Making New Connections" efforts will greatly assist us in reaching this goal. It is also a combined blessing that The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod has launched a similar initiative to make connections with at least 3,000 people who have not yet made a connection in the church. It is called the New Connections Campaign.

In addition to Good Sam's goal to grow active participants, we are also partnering with the synod in the overarching goal to raise \$2.25 million. As monies are raised across the Synod, they are being applied towards developing and equipping leaders to intentionally facilitate church growth, expanding existing ministries, planting new congregations, and supporting growth in ELCA churches nationwide.

Good Sam's financial goal is to raise \$60,000 over three years. Two-thirds of the monies we raise *will come back to Good Sam* to sustain our own "Making New Connections" efforts.

During the next five weeks, you will learn more about Good Sam's "Making New Connections". We pray that your commitment to ministry and your enthusiasm to share the GOOD NEWS with one another and your neighbors will encourage you to become involved as we learn more about this exciting opportunity in the weeks ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Gail Wathen

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Pastor Mitch

Gail Wathen, Council President

Kelly Thurber, Campaign Chair

Pastor Mitch

The family of Good Samaritan Lutheran Church welcomes all to gather and grow, give of themselves and go into the world to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

