

ESPERANZA LUTHERAN CHURCH
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April 5, 2023

People of Hope:

Yesterday, as I walked the perimeter of the Esperanza campus for a quick energy-boosting power walk, I thought about how many assets Esperanza stewards. We are a community richly blessed. So many of us have *serious skills*; we are a high-achieving group of people! So many of us have a desire to serve others. So many of us have time to give our church family and the community at large. So many of us have financial resources to share.

Not only are we richly blessed, we are blessed to be a blessing. We have stewarded these blessings so that we may, together, impact the lives of Esperanza members, Children of Hope families, and the many people whose lives we touch through the various ministries of this congregation. One way we bless the community is through Vacation Bible School. This year, we will have a “blast” at VBS Tuesday, May 30 through Thursday, June 1, 9 am-12 pm. Please register at the Esperanza website or speak with Deacon Connie to volunteer.

On Sunday, May 21 at 10:15 am, we will gather for our congregational meeting to celebrate all the ways we are blessed to be a blessing, elect council members to lead us, and adopt a new mission statement and guiding principles. After facilitating seven Mission Gatherings and hearing how God is speaking through the congregation, the transition team has now crafted these three guiding principles:

1. We set our goals guided by God.
2. We welcome all and respect diverse opinions.
3. We deepen our spirituality and put our faith in motion.

Next, the transition team will craft a mission statement based on those same Mission Gathering responses. These two pieces—the mission statement and guiding principles—are important parts of our soon to be written Ministry Site Profile that will go to potential pastoral candidates.

All of this is only possible because of your generosity, so I give thanks to God for your generosity—of spirit, of your talents and skills, of your time, and of your financial resources.

With gratitude,

Pastor Sarah Stadler

