

An Invitation:

Conversations about compassion and outreach...

During the seasons of the church year we will be exploring the meaning of outreach as it relates to our Christian faith. Each season will pose a different theme and question. We are asking members of the congregation form small groups and have a open discussion about the question for the season. The intent is not to solve the ills of the world, but to reflect deeply together about our response to those in need.

How to be a part of the conversation

Form a Group. At the beginning of each church season parishioners (and individuals outside our parish) form small groups amongst friends, new and old, and have a dialog centered around the question for the season. Ideas for groups are: meet for coffee or tea, progressive dinner, one dinner or lunch, warm up for a bridge game, happy hour, meet when the kids our at Sunday Journey, standing around watching a soccer game, and on and on..... A group could be two people or 10. Use the back side of this sheet to identify your group and how you are meeting.

Having the Conversations. Meet once or as many times as you would like during the season. Each church season is approximately seven weeks. You do not need to discuss the question the whole time. You could meet for dinner and only discuss the question over coffee. We ask that someone be designated as the scribe and take notes about your conversations. What you discussed, key thoughts, conclusions, areas of divergence, etc. This is not about reaching common ground, or solving the world's ills, but about listening and sharing in a way that will help us discover the wisdom, concerns and passions of our community and our response to those in need. After each season we need your feedback on your conversations by turning in your notes (typed preferred).

Out-Brief. During Rector's Forum some of the groups may be asked to volunteer to share and discuss there conversations.

The Epiphany Question (Meet between January 22nd and February 18th)

What does it mean to be the Light of the World and what does the Light look like breaking through the darkness?

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue, as was his custom.

“The sprit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor”(Luke 4)

When considering what it means to be “the Light of the World” also consider what we at St. Paul's are doing now to reveal the Light?

Season:

Group Name (if you so chose):

Group Members:

How did you have conversations?:

Notes: (Remember to include the various individual opinions, as well as insights from your group as a whole.)