

“Do I Need What the Church Has to Offer?”

You may have heard someone ask, “Do I really need what the church has to offer?” We answer by saying joyfully, “Yes indeed!” And why do we say so? Because of the **many benefits** that we enjoy through active involvement in the worship, fellowship and ministry of our church.

Those of us who attend regularly know that we **feel closer to God** because of our worship-- including: the great hymns of The Faith, praise music, guided prayers, Holy Communion on the first Sunday each month, listening to God’s Word in the Bible, and hearing God’s Word applied to contemporary life in a pastoral sermon.

Those who attend regularly also know that we **feel closer to God’s People** because of our fellowship-- sharing the joys and concerns of everyday life with other people of faith, developing a sense of community, feeling that we belong in the congregation of God’s family, learning to love and being loved by Christian friends.

Typically, many people only realize their “need” for the church at **special times**-- seeking Christian **Baptism** for a child, growing up through the rite of **Confirmation** as a teenager, getting married in a Church **Wedding** by a Minister rather than a Justice of the Peace at the courthouse, appreciating the comfort and support of a Christian burial and **Funeral** Service at the time of death.

Others become aware of the benefits of church membership at a time of **illness** or **injury**. Pastoral visits and prayers, cards and calls from church friends-- these provide encouragement and reassurance of God’s love and care. Still others find forgiveness and new hope in **times of transition** after a divorce, personal failure, job layoff, etc.

We have discovered that church is for everybody who wants to take Jesus seriously when he says, *“You shall love the Lord your God... and love your neighbor as yourself.”* We’re not perfect, but we’re taking steps in the right direction.

Will you reaffirm your connection to your church?

And if you have no current “church home,” please accept our invitation and welcome.

With you seeking to know God and to follow Jesus Christ, Pastor Doug Van Niel