

SUMMER 2022



A number of Table Talks were held in the spring at Light of Christ. These were designed as an outreach to all members, recognizing that the past couple of years have been a challenge and that many aren't as connected as they might like to have been. Many different days and times were offered to the congregation. Checking in with one another, sharing some thoughts and experiences, and dreaming a bit about future steps as a congregation were all a part of meaningful conversation.

The following is not exhaustive or fully comprehensive of the Table Talks, as such. They are, though, a representative sampling of the feedback we received.

Please reach out for more details. Thanks to all who led and participated in our Table Talks!

Tim Johnson

Reflections on the past couple of years—both positive and negative

- A loss of a sense of security, normalcy, innocence. An increase in fear and worry.
- Schedule and life felt like things got turned upside down
- Loss of community life, esp. at church, even with friends
- Gained autonomy, some flexibility. More time at home; more family time.
- Time and need to think more deeply about faith, God, life
- Struggle in and for prayer. Loss or challenge of focus.
- A lot of change; yet we've weathered things pretty well as a family
- Been hard to watch the news. So grateful for those who have been there to care for us/others
- Emotions seem to sway
- Mask wearing has been important for health reasons; mask wearing seems to separate us, too
- Pastor Bruce such a strength to our congregation, especially in this time. But overall, yes!

- Things have felt awkward, weird, strange
- Not rushing around; having extra time; being at home has all been nice

Experiences of God

- Have felt more compassion for others. More love.
- Sometimes experiencing God more profoundly and near; other times God has seemed silent, even gone.
- My spirituality feels that it has suffered due to not being with or at my faith community. Knew it was all important, but far more than I was knowing.
- My sensitivities are heightened, for better, for worse
- More intentional quiet time. God feels near
- Been thinking more about life
- I think I've seen God more, in more places. Simple awareness has been good.
- I know that my faith is alive in helping and loving others
- Being outdoors has been so important. Riding bikes; at the cabin; being with friends
- I know that God is with me, keeping me strong, helping me

Personal care/feelings

- Felt more accurately aware of my own well-being or lack thereof
- My self-care and family care seemed to both be more intentional but at other times more lacking.
- Tried to take more time to know/experience what's good for me

Church concerns/thoughts shared

- A challenge to get reconnected with others
- We need more social activities to help us connect. While many of these things have been a part of our past life and ministry together, it feels that some of these are even more needful now. Men's/women's groups; studies; potlucks; etc.

- Can we do some assessment of whether we're covering all the age groups? Kids, young adults, mid-life, empty nesters, etc.
- Online ministries have been important. Yes, we need to keep doing them. But are online worship opportunities giving people reasons to not be in person? Are we making things too easy to not be here?
- Grateful for Kirsten, a real strength to our youth and families.
- Worship welcoming of one another at the beginning feels repetitive to the later passing of the Peace. Different, yes. But in this time when people are already apprehensive about physical touch, can we re-think this?
- Bible studies can seem more theological or idea-centered, less just basic Bible learning. Seems like we should have more Bible studies.
- So many wonderful volunteers, committees and teams, staff. Such a blessing!

General comments; thinking about the future

- We need anything that creates the personal touch, that helps us connect. We used to list birthdays in the newsletter. Other... People in our prayers. Are we sanitizing things? Need to keep connected, person to person, as we can
- Reach out to those with grey hair 😊 We've not really had any senior adult events.
- Hybrid worship is a plus. We need a church app.
- Be a place where people can network with one another
- Help make worship more accessible to those with a different or no faith. Though we're certainly welcoming, we're not all baptized, don't all know the basics, etc.
- Need to reach out to those beyond the immediate Delano community
- More hands-on mission projects.
- Sunday nursery. Getting people to "staff" this each week?
- Faith & Fitness for tens at the TAC or Riverside Commons
- Breakfast Club: meet and have b'fast, devotions, fellowship
- Music. Can we have a little more contemporary, "peppy" music? Camp songs. More energy. Involve more people.

- How about Sunday school during the church hour? Leave after children's sermon? Rejoin at end. Would we draw more families with this model?
- Not sure we at LOC know the Bible all that well. How about sermons that teach the Bible or walk through a book of the Bible?
- Fix or update the bathrooms. Not pleasant.
- Not sure we at LOC know the Bible all that well. How about sermons that teach the Bible or walk through a book of the Bible.
- Fix or update the bathrooms. They're not pleasant.
- Improve the outdoor volleyball area. Sand volleyball?
- Fix the parking lot.