

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

With glad and generous hearts,  
we bring the good news to all, in gratitude for God's grace.

Pastor Bob Castro

May 29, 2014

Re: Healthier Church Program

Dear Ed:

I welcome the opportunity to share our Healthier Church results to date. We are about half way through our first program year. Our Commitment Sunday was Mothers' Day, and our Celebration Sunday was Pentecost, May 19<sup>th</sup>. It may seem strange that we completed our eight-week push so close to the mid-year mark. But the meetings that took place early on and the Pre-program preparation was crucial to a good result.

On Celebration Sunday we were able to celebrate a significant increase in the level of participation not only during the program, but it response to our Mission Goals. In addition, our pledges toward mission goals actually exceeded the amount requested in pledges! Our celebration on Pentecost Sunday was heart-felt and with gratitude.

The focus for us during the remainder of this first program year will be giving to the Mission Plan (a/k/a Budget). Our congregation is quite good at giving to need. We are still growing in our understanding of our spiritual "need to give." We will be reminding our people in the months ahead that giving to mission goals must, of necessity, be over and above the regular support of the congregational mission plan. I anticipate that we will have a "regularly scheduled" Commitment Sunday this fall to refocus on our Mission Plan, as opposed to our mission goals.

One of our mission goals, to identify a Ministry Volunteer Coordinator, has already been achieved. She is beginning the training process. We are very excited moving forward through this year and into the next two of the Healthier Church program. Thank you for staying in communication.

Yours and His, but not in that order,

Rev. Dr. Robert C. Castro