

Catching the Wind of the Holy Spirit in The Neighborhood.

Greenfield Park Lutheran Church, West Allis, WI.



Almost two years ago one of the church neighbors, named Bill, called our pastor, Fred to meet him for coffee. Bill said our urban neighborhood needed to become better connected. Lots of younger families had moved in over recent years and there wasn't really any way for people as a neighborhood to get connected to one another. He, as a strong Christian, felt moved to do something about it and asked our pastor what he thought. Pastor Fred said our church is here for the neighborhood, and thought we could help.

Soon Bill invited a few friends he knew, and our local city official to meet along with pastor Fred, and our church helped them with meeting space, hospitality. Pastor prayed with, encouraged, supported, and blessed them. The Rainbow Gardens Neighborhood Association (RGNA) was born. In the beginning, there was no money for activities. Our church made sure the hospitality and proclamation teams supported them with enough equipment, food, funding, space, and volunteers to make the neighbors hopes and dreams for a more connected vibrant, loving, caring neighborhood come true.

The Lord blessed the neighborhood and church's work to grow their new neighborhood association to 230 families in 2015, and in 2016 it has grown to almost 500 families, all connected through regular community & church events, and daily conversations on Facebook and Nextdoor.com.

In less than two years, this church is once again seen as the church anyone in the neighborhood can call for anything. No matter what the need is, pastor and church can be counted on to be there for them.

Recently a de-churched family's daughter died tragically early one morning. They frantically phoned Pastor Fred for help. Neighbors coming into church for neighborhood events and the Holy Spirit is creating a desire in their hearts to grow closer to Jesus. Neighbors are calling and asking Pastor Fred to baptize their children. The 2nd annual neighborhood & church fall hay-wagon food drive in the North West corner of West Allis drew out dozens of volunteers to raise over 4,000 pounds of food to feed economically hurting families for Thanksgiving.

All of these neighborhood connections have happened because a few recognized and spread the news, that the Jesus & the Holy Spirit are busy working on the hearts and minds of people around us. Jesus is in the neighborhood. The missional wind and waves are being caught, by respond to the Spirit's urge by being available, supporting, and out among the neighborhood every week, to be part of Jesus' work, while making neighbors dreams for a caring community come true now, and hopefully for an eternity.

Greenfield Park Lutheran Church, West Allis, Wisconsin