Thriving Beyond COVID Resource
Priming the Pump

“We’re all start-ups now!”
Carey Nieuwhof, Pastor / Church Strategist

“When things are breaking down, they may be breaking open.”
Brad Binau, Trinity Lutheran Seminary
RE-GATHER...RE-BOOT...RE-START...
RE-FRESH...RE-THINK...RE-NEW...RE-FORM
THE LONG TERM IMPACT OF COVID ON THE CHURCH REMAINS UNKNOWN
POST-COVID REALITY

Barna Group

1 in 5 churches could close as a direct result of COVID
Average Weekly Worship Attendance 2017-2041 Projections

Source: ELCA Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation
Crisis

危机

Danger  Opportunity
CRISIS: The turning point for better or worse AND The defining moment
IN THE MIDST OF EVERY CRISIS, LIES GREAT OPPORTUNITY

ALBERT EINSTEIN
Carpe Diem  / Seize the Day
Make your Church Extraordinary
With God’s Help!
Thriving Beyond COVID: Let Go, Trust God, Rise Up!

Utilizing the Biblical Witness, Small Group Exercises, and Directed Conversation to Release Burdens, Promote Faith, and Empower Greater Kingdom Impact

Leader Guide
Small Group Participant Guide
Retreat/Large Group Participant Guide
5 Videos and Key PowerPoint Slides
6 Resource Appendices
Right Frame of Mind

Crisis or Opportunity?

Death or Resurrection?

TO THRIVE
483 Leaders, 42 States, 6 Countries, 13 Denominations!

Use It + Share It = Exponential Impact!
HOW IT’S BEING USED

Intended Use
4 Session Small Group Bible Study
6 Hour Congregational Retreat

Reported Additional Uses
2 Hour Council Retreat
2 or 3 Congregation Saturday Retreat
4 Session Mid-Week Congregational Study Series
4 Week Sermon Series with Adult Forum Afterwards
Small Group Exercises During Congregational Meeting
Brief Overview / Sampling

- Biblical Foundation
- The Essential First Step
- Embracing Your Opportunities
- Next Step Assessment Tool

More Info: www.ThrivingBeyondCovid.org
Don’t waste this opportunity by moving back to the church you used to be.

Move forward to the Church God is calling you to become.
Reclaim The DNA of Luther

Bold, Innovative, Courageous, Risk Taking, Mission Focused, Change Embracing

Leaders Need to Lead!

Passionate, Outward Focused, Spirit & Faith-Filled, Mission Driven

Thriving Beyond COVID Challenge #2
Brief Overview / Sampling

- *Biblical Foundation*

- *The Essential First Step*

- *Embracing Your Opportunities*

- *Next Step Assessment Tool*

More Info: www.ThrivingBeyondCovid.org
Biblical Foundation

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
— Psalm 119:105
Lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1
The Apostle Paul
God Makes All Things Work Together for Good

- Romans 8:28-29 NLT -
WE REJOICE IN OUR SUFFERINGS KNOWING THAT SUFFERING PRODUCES ENDURANCE & ENDURANCE PRODUCES CHARACTER & CHARACTER PRODUCES HOPE

ROMANS 5:3-4
By the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine!

Ephesians 3:20
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FEAR + WORRY = DOUBT

GONE

VIRAL
Fear, worry, and doubt can become a cancer in the church deflating the corporate spirit, derailing dreams, and diminishing impact.
When fear, worry, and doubt become the dominant voices, faith takes a back seat to fear and the focus shifts to our diminishing resources.
JESUS x 24

FEAR

WORRY

DOUBT
ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP
Share your Fears, Worries, and Doubts with others so they do not eat away at your congregation’s recovery and future vitality

IT STARTS WITH YOU!
Attitude Influences Outcome!

You Must Create a New and Right Spirit!
LET GO
Of What’s Holding You Back

Session 1
Create opportunities for people to share their congregational fears, worries, and doubts with God and others.
Exposed to the Light…
you lose power and
the powers of evil lose leverage with us.

Exposed to others…
we discover that we don’t walk alone.

Vulnerable…
we discover power beyond ourselves.
Move from fear to faith and from despair to hope… by focusing not on your limitations but on God’s abundance… and on the things God wants to bless!
Brief Overview / Sampling

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The Power of Expectancy is Real!
Greatest Game Changing Decision You Can Make:

Believe that God is up to something significant in your congregation!

Eight Virtues of Rapidly Growing Churches: Byassee and Miofsky
Trust God

To Empower Your Dreams!

God's Power In You

Session 2
Think KINGDOM Impact!

On earth as it is in heaven
“Dream Big Enough... that you will fail miserably... without God’s help!”

Dr. Robert Schuller
Capture People’s Imagination That Ignites Kingdom Impact
Rise Up
To Embrace Your Opportunities...
...and Face The Challenges!

Take your next step.
Sessions 3 & 4
Create opportunities for people to name the lessons learned from Covid about their congregation, its mission, and new opportunities.
Lessons learned
We’ve never done it that way before!
Sunday Worship
Zoom & Facebook at 11am
Embrace This Opportunity

While the Concrete is Still Wet!
Change?
Change!
Change!
It’s Not About You!

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4
It’s Not About Me!

Not My Will But Yours Be Done!
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OPPORTUNITIES

OBSTACLES

Opportunities in Disguise
Take your next step.
10 Paths of Decline

Slow Erosion
Past is Our Hero
Refusing to Look Like Our Community
Budget Moves Inwardly
The Great Commission Becomes The Great Omission
Being a Preference-Driven Church
Pastoral Tenures Decreasing
Rarely Praying Together
No Clear Purpose
Obsessing Over Facilities
Congregational Self-Assessment

10 Paths of Decline

*Slow Erosion* (we are on a slow path of decline)

_____ Not on This Path at All
_____ Slightly on This Path
_____ Well Down The Road
_____ Crossing the “It is Finished” Line
Repent
IT'S FRIDAY BUT SUNDAY'S COMING
Expect God To Surprise You!
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