

"Bringing generations together - Bearing much fruit"
Rev. Eric Bodenstab
St. Martin Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kan.

How many times does a farmer check his fields?

The farmers I know spend a lot of time just looking - at their fields, at their neighbors' fields, at the markets, at their equipment.

How many times does a Christian check for the Spirit?

Being a disciple of Christ means taking time to check for the Spirit. We know we're supposed to be looking, especially since we can't see the Spirit or those moved by the Spirit, but we can tell where they've been. (Check John 3:8 if you need proof.) So how often do we actually check?

Maybe the Spirit is moving someone in your congregation. Maybe the Spirit is moving someone in your community. Would you know? Are you looking?

Most of us aren't. Most of us don't.

This is the point of Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) - to teach us to check for the Spirit.

If you're thinking, "Hey our congregation already does that!" Great! Keep it up. But since most of us don't do this, and don't even remember how to do it, we need help to learn how to check for the Spirit again.

This skill cannot be learned quickly. So yes, Partnership for Missional Church is a three-year process. But I've witnessed this skill in my own congregation, and I can tell you that it's well worth learning.

Why?

Because the skill of checking for the Spirit isn't just one more program or one more committee but a way of being church which grounds us in a different way of seeing the world.

I've seen people in my congregation move from just talking the talk to noticing that God is still active in the world! And while this may seem a small thing, we've also learned to boldly respond to the movements of the Spirit as a congregation.

Does learning how to check for the Spirit sound like a good idea? Do you want your congregation to be able to boldly respond when evidence of the Spirit is found? Are you ready to check the fields? Be part of the Partnership for Missional Church.