

"It's an exciting time to be a communicator. We have tools to tell our stories that we couldn't have dreamed of a couple of years ago. But it's a challenge because we need money, and time and creativity to tell God's story."

- Pastor Matt Staniz, St. Luke, Devon.

As the number of Americans involved in churches declines, it's a challenge to tell our stories because fewer people know what God is up to, or what it means to be Lutheran. There is a growing gap between people's everyday life and the church, that can be bridged if we share the Gospel where people already are. Increasingly, they are finding community and making meaning online through social media and videos.

Forward Together in Faith focuses on communications so that our Synod staff and volunteers keep up with the rapid innovations in the field in order to supply reusable content and equip your

congregation's storytellers to be more effective and creative.

Why do we need to do this? St. Paul showed us in Athens (Acts 17) that even a great story isn't effectively communicated until people get it in their own language.

"Today people are using new languages to communicate - the language of selfies and livestreams, the language of social media interaction. We want to help our congregations tell their stories in all these languages, and more."

- Bob Fisher, assistant to the bishop for communication and mission interpretation.



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