Big Hearts, Little Hands

By Chelsea Yurisic

“St. Luke doesn't have all the wonderful ministries without volunteers”- Lynette Mellish.

When you think of the term “Volunteerism” at St. Luke’s what do you think of? Parish Board or Vacation Bible School? Well, St. Luke’s has way more volunteer opportunities than just that.

We tend to see the same faces in these much “larger” volunteer roles within in the church and school, however; there are more people involved than meets the eye. For every one of these high profile volunteers like, Joe Klein, Mary Jean Montag, Eleanor Rodgers, Rich Ambrose etc. there are countless others that prefer to work behind the scenes.

It comes down to such an old saying, “you won’t know until you try.”

“Parish Board is more planning & discussing issues that affect the school & church,” said Mellish. “It is an important position, but I think I would also enjoy a more hands-on service.”

St. Luke’s has opportunities for volunteering in many different areas of interest. There really is a place for **everyone.** We can even take advice from the folk singer, Bob Dylan, “You’re gonna have to serve somebody.” So why not, ask around and see how to get involved.

I took a little advice from Mike Bartos and Tammy Young. Both said you need to believe in finding your individual passion somewhere within our church body, a passion toward a certain ministry that reaches out to you.

“What draws me to the ministries is that it is usually something I feel passionate about and if I sense that there is a need,” said Bartos.

Young for example, is a member of the Finance Committee, a team leader for Celebrate Recovery, vocals and greeter for New Life worship. Pastor Jason gave her the basic information about a few ministries and asked her to pray about it. Thinking, that would be difficult; her decision was easier than she thought.

*“*Well, I prayed about it for a few days and one day woke up, looked at my husband, Jason and said, my path is Celebrate Recovery without a doubt.”

Volunteering is a humble act of serving the Lord by serving others. Whether your passion is greeting people as they walk in for worship, teaching Sunday school, planting flowers around the church, working with the youth, helping in the kitchen, attending a mission trip to help people you have never met, setting up chairs for events in the activity center or simply sharpening the pencils for the church every week. No ministry and no one, is too small for the work of the Lord.

*“*Volunteering is two-fold,” said Young. “One, you should want to volunteer for the Glory of God.  It is not something you do to be recognized for, it is the conviction of your own heart to help others that should lead you. Two, you need to find where your heart leads you.”

"Live by Faith, be known by Love and be a voice of Hope."  Be inspired to volunteer.