



User Comments

Comments about Crossroads

“Very professional, well thought out. The years of service of all of the team members who visited was shown by the methods used and the initial document of what is happening, what is not happening, etc. at our church. You can tell there was a lot of effort put forth on their part.” (Layperson)

“The team was very cordial and professional as they came on site to conduct interviews, observe, and gather more information. I appreciated the feedback given by means of an open forum and also by means of a written report. Although some standard forms were used, I felt that it was also carried out to meet our specific situations and needs.” (Pastor David Rockhoff, Friedens, Kenosha, WI)

“The analysis is very thorough, at once both uplifting and painful but, in the end, honest. The Crossroads program can help get our thinking back on track. It can help open our eyes about the realities of the world we live in and guide us in the development of new methods... without compromising doctrine.” (Bob Stahmann, Vision Committee Coordinator)

“It's always good to get an outside (more objective) opinion on what we're doing with our mission. Sometimes we get so caught up in our own problems we can't see the forest for the trees, so it's helpful to find out what others are doing and how they may have overcome the same issues. It's also helpful to gain access to new tools to help manage our ministry.” (Layperson)

“I want to thank you for continuing your work with us. Sometimes fruits are not as visible as we'd like, but they are abounding here in many ways. We still have struggles, as we always will, but your labors among us have and continue to bear fruit.” (Pastor)

“Every church should have this evaluation and discussion.” (Layperson)

“This program is clearly Christ-centered, and your straight talk was a jump-start to me – to renew my efforts to work and live for my Savior.” (Layperson)

"I appreciated the faithful use of God's Word in addressing the needs of our congregation."
(Layperson)

"This process helped us see the big picture, involve the whole congregation, distinguish between truth and tradition, and focus on our mission." (Pastor)

"This planning process was excellent and certainly what we needed." (Layperson)

"I've learned so much from this! I had no idea how little I knew about ministry planning, and I'm an elected leader." (Layperson)

"I'm sure glad we are doing this. We should have sought this kind of help years ago."
(Layperson)

"There were a couple times when maybe the information could have been received with more time to advertise or inform our members what was coming. I initially dropped the ball and didn't go through the forms when I got them, but once we got started a couple of dates came quicker than I think we had time to prepare or advertise. Otherwise, I have been happy with the way things have proceeded." (Pastor)

"This program works well when there is a supportive pastor and lay people are willing to take ownership and provide leadership to implement ministry." (Pastor)

"This helped us get organized and determine the steps we need to take to fulfill our mission."
(Layperson)

"This process helped us see that it takes both effective leaders and dedicated workers to faithfully conduct the church's ministry." (Layperson)

"This got us to examine the heart, purpose, and vision of our congregation. It brought a Gospel vision back to this dying church. And the beauty of it, it was lay lead and pastor supported. Everyone has grown through it." (Layperson)

"In my opinion, helping congregations get refocused on the mission of the church and equipping all of God's people in our congregations to be salt and light witnesses for Jesus is the #1 need in our synod today. That's what this is all about." (Layperson)

"The tools and sound advice they provided have helped us refocus on our mission opportunities while empowering and motivating our members to serve like never before."
(Layperson)

“The biblical basis and foundation helped us work through the key change questions (i.e. What must never change, what may change, and what must change?).” (Layperson)

“I believe that the service provides a very good format in which a congregation and its members can honestly evaluate their ministry efforts and examine areas in which they can better serve the Lord, their members, and their community.” (Pastor Roger Rockhoff, Zion, Gainesville, FL)

“The process has been a help to our congregation and many wounds have been healed. The congregation is focusing much more on its future in a positive way.” (Layperson)

“Eye opening! The consultants helped us see we had lots of work to do and a great way to get there.” (Layperson)

“Goal setting is extremely important, and this is helping us get ready to roll.” (Layperson)

“I appreciated the constant Kingdom focus throughout the phases. That’s exactly what we needed here.” (Layperson)

Comments about Pastor Stroh (Executive Director)

“I am feeling much better about my congregation and feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with you and the whole Crossroads team. The Lord certainly had a plan for you and you are perfect for what you are doing in serving Him.” (Mark Thusius, Head Elder)

“A very good speaker, very professional, but also very personable. You can see his many years of experience with the way the sessions are conducted.” (Layperson)

“Pastor Stroh was very cordial, approachable, and professional in his work with us. He replied to my questions in a very timely manner and was willing to answer whatever questions I had. It was obvious that he was well versed in his job with us and able to explain things in a way our people could easily understand.” (Pastor David Rockhoff, Friedens, Kenosha, WI)

“I appreciated your visible love for the ministry of our church and the church as a whole.” (Layperson)

“Pastor Stroh is very committed and passionate about his work. He displays a level of organization unfamiliar to most of us. At times it is difficult to keep up, but he knows that quality output stems from quality input.” (Bob Stahmann, Florida)

“Elton is thoughtful, organized, and able to effectively utilize organizational theory and practice and then apply these to the spread of God’s Word.” (Layperson)

“Working with Elton has been a real pleasure and an education. In my ~25 years with the WELS I have always enjoyed our WELS trained Pastors’ abilities to communicate the Word in everything they preach and teach. I have found Elton to be in the very small group of WELS Pastors that I have met in my 12 moves around the world who also can do that in a very effective way in a facilitating and strategic role for helping congregations with mission planning.” (Mark Wrightsman, Chairman of Grace in Action)

“Pastor Stroh has been a great blessing to me personally and professionally. His passion for serving the Lord through helping congregations in a collaborative and complimentary manner is unparalleled. God is truly at work.” (Dr. Scott Gostchock, Executive Director for Grace in Action)

“You can tell Pastor Stroh has a strong ministry background and experience in dealing with change in WELS congregations.” (Layperson)

“He knows what he’s talking about, and I appreciated how he makes use of humor when he gives presentations.” (Layperson)

“Pastor Stroh’s approach and thinking was very up-to-date and an excellent support to us.” (Layperson)

“I appreciated his knowledge, honesty, friendship, humor, and enthusiasm for his work.” (Layperson)

“Pastor Stroh is very honest and straightforward in his approach and has the best interests of the congregation at heart.” (Pastor Roger Rockhoff, Zion, Gainesville, FL)

“He helped us have the confidence to continue to move forward after we had stalled out and had almost given up.” (Layperson)

“A great speaker, very uplifting, and he has many helpful resources to offer congregations.” (Layperson)