



Todd, Lori and Gennielle's story is a pretty typical "WestSide Story." Todd and Lori were raised in the church, were members of a church for a while, and then they just gradually stopped going. They say it was a combination of a lot of things, not the least of which is Lori's health. She has fibromyalgia and lives most days in excruciating pain. Still, especially after they adopted Gennielle, they yearned for a church home.

They had seen a sign on the property on Marion Road for nearly ten years promising an ELCA church there, and say they were sort of waiting for that, drifting on. Then one day Todd saw that the sign had changed...there was a name on it...and a service time! WestSide Lutheran was worshipping at 10:00 on Sunday! On a whim, he got Gennielle ready and just showed up. Lori says she cried tears of joy all morning!



That was about a year ago. Now Todd is on the WestSide church council, they come to both Sunday worship and WestSide Wednesdays. All three provide special music and, even though she couldn't be there, Lori singlehandedly made this year's Easter Egg hunt a smashing success! Homebound by her pain and a recent knee surgery, Lori

stuffed the 150 bags that WestSiders took door-to-door inviting the neighborhood - and then she filled 1033 eggs!

What Lori loves about WestSide is that it makes her feel needed even when she can't be there, and as for Todd and Gennielle – they just love EVERYTHING about WestSide!

WestSide Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls is a congregation under development in the South Dakota synod of the ELCA. The mission of WestSide is to GATHER as a community of God, To GROW in faith, And to GO out to love and serve in His name.

For more about our Mission Partners, visit sdsynod.org/missionpartners.



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Become a Mission Partner or Mission Booster!

Mission Partners and Mission Boosters accompany new and renewing congregations of the ELCA as they carry out God's mission in their communities.



Mission Developers, Pat and Roe Eidsness, at the future location of WestSide Lutheran in Sioux Falls.

Mission Partners are mutually supportive congregations who offer whatever each has (Prayer, Presence, and Presents) for the good of the other. Partners understand themselves as blessed to be a blessing. They support one another with Prayer, Gifts of Money, Material Gifts, and Gifts of Leadership.

Mission Boosters commit to give \$200 per year, \$100 for an unexpected need and \$100 for the new starts mission fund. Mission Boosters might be called upon if unexpected needs arise or so that the new ministry can take advantage of a promising opportunity to expand their mission and reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Drum circle at Woyatan Lutheran in Rapid City.

Contact Rev. Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Mission, in the synod office at 605/274-4026 or btesch@sdsynod.org if you are interested in stepping out in faith, furthering God's mission in South Dakota.

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