

NEWS RELEASE

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Local Minister Goes the Distance

Pastor Bill Geis of St. John's Lutheran Church, 505 S. Park Rd. in La Grange is embarking on a 650 mile bike ride through five major cities in the Great Lakes region, including Milwaukee, Chicago, Gary, Detroit and Cleveland. The purpose of this endeavor is to heighten awareness among suburban churches as to the ministry needs in urban areas. Statistics show that "over the past thirty years, Lutheran churches have seen a 95% decline in membership, resulting in the closure of many congregations. Other Christian denominations have witnessed similar decline." Geis says.

On his bike tour, called "Go-the-Distance," which began on July 11th and will continue through July 18th, Pastor Geis will visit churches in these Great Lakes cities who are reaching out to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those who live in their communities. He will also visit suburban congregations who are helping support those urban ministries.

The "Go-the-Distance" bike tour is part of a year-long stewardship campaign launched at St. John's Lutheran Church this summer. Its purpose is to cultivate physical, financial and spiritual health and wellness for the purpose of growing a vibrant ministry. Its seven areas of focus include prayer, new small group ministries, diet and exercise goals, raising money for current and future ministries, and embracing new opportunities for outreach, including the city of Chicago. To learn more about St. John's, "Go-the-Distance" and even follow Pastor Geis' bike tour, visit www.SJLaGrange.com/GTD.