



# Shaping the Future



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## God's Leading Hand throughout Life's Journey

By Roy Stuckwisch

**A**s a young boy, my intention was always to serve my Lord in some fashion, knowing that whatever path that might be was in God's hands and that He had a path already in mind for me. Little did I know until my actual confirmation day that my pastor had selected this confirmation verse for me: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (JOHN 15: 5 RSV) From that day forward, there was no doubt in my mind that He would lead me on.



As time went on and my life's journey began to take shape, especially as I completed my high school education, my initial goal was that of attending one of the Concordia universities to become a Lutheran educator and potentially even a Lutheran pastor. However, that did not occur, and I found myself at Indiana State University studying to become

**Should I be doing something different with my professional life and in serving Him and His people?**

a secondary business education teacher. While I was comfortable that this was what God had in mind for me at the time, it also kept gnawing at me why I was in that place rather than studying to be a full-time professional church worker. That gnawing voice kept entering my mind over the years as I taught in the public high school setting for ten years and then moved on to an executive business/manufacturing setting. My wife and I had many conversations, discussing just what it was that God had in mind for me. Should I be doing something different with my professional life and in serving Him and His people?



After more than 25 years of trying to convince myself that I was NOT following God's calling, it became clear to me that I was serving God in the path that He wanted me to at that time—as a layperson in His kingdom work. With the help of several devoted pastors, I realized that God was preparing me for future service through experiences in my congregation, the Lutheran Laymen's League, the LCMS and Indiana District, our local Lutheran Community Home Board of Directors, and my local public and state school board. I became much more at ease with my "service life" at that point, realizing that that was the path He had in mind for me.

Some 20 years later, I had an opportunity to become the administrator of my church's early childhood center. With my strong interest in education and my executive experience, this appeared to be exactly where He was now leading me. Thus, having just turned 57, I took an early retirement from my business profession and started serving my Lord as principal of the Zion Lutheran School Early Childhood Center.

Along with learning many new early childhood concepts and techniques, six months later I found myself beginning studies for LCMS teacher colloquy certification. After a near fatal medical setback in the summer of 2009, I successfully finished my colloquy studies in December 2010. I continued to serve as Zion's principal through the 2015–2016 school year, at which

**Trust that God will lead you to serve Him in the ways that He has in mind for you.**

time I retired, at the age of 67. However, God had one more path in mind for me when I came back to Zion Lutheran School as the interim principal for this 2019–2020 school year. What a rewarding year this has been for me!

Lessons learned through more than 50 years of work and serving Him: Trust that God will lead you to serve Him in the ways that He



### Review, Reflect, Resolve

- What were your aims in life as a teenager?
- How did that work out? What were your paths?
- What are your new goals?



Other articles you might be interested in in this issue of **Shaping the Future**:

**[Church-School Relationships](#)**  
by Michelle Clauberg and Bill Harmon (Feature)

**[I'm Such a Tool. Cans of Worms. And Things I Know For Certain.](#)**  
by Jill Schmitzer (AMDnet)

**[Hidden Lessons in Early Childhood STREAM](#)** by Jennifer Probst (ECEnet)

has in mind for you. Especially remember that He is the vine, you are the branch, and that through Him, you can do what He has in mind for you—whatever that might be!

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*Roy Stuckwisch is currently the interim principal at Zion Lutheran School Early Childhood Center and will be going back into “full time” retirement, enjoying being a snowbird from Indiana to Florida as long as he and his wife, Joyce, are able to do so. Roy was LEA’s 2020 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator.*

**If you want to share an iWhy, send the story of how you became a Lutheran school teacher to [ed.grube@lea.org](mailto:ed.grube@lea.org) with the subject line iWhy. (Try to keep it to 600 words or so, if you can.)—the editor**

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