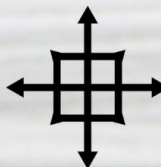


G.I.F.T. INVENTORY



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Spiritual G.I.F.T. Inventory Instructions

TEAR OFF THE COVER OF THIS BOOKLET. You'll need the summary table here, and the form on the back.

For each of the 60 questions in this booklet, write the number that corresponds with the response that most closely matches how you perceive yourself. You might also ask a person who is close to you to score the inventory with you. Their perception of your strengths may be useful in identifying the gifts with which you have been truly blessed.

After responding to each question, add the sum of each row, and mark the total for each row next to the corresponding letter in the last column.

Turn to page 6 to check out your top gifts and their descriptions.

The strongest gift(s) will generally have a total score of "7" or more. If you have more than one gift with a total of seven or more, then all of these gifts can be referred to as your "gift cluster." Notice how each gift within the cluster has the potential to compliment and support one another.

This inventory is designed to begin your journey toward spiritual gift discovery. Keep in mind that it is not a scientific instrument. Your perceptions will be validated by others and confirmed through prayer and by their use over time.

| | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 21 | 41 | A= |
| 2 | 22 | 42 | B= |
| 3 | 23 | 43 | C= |
| 4 | 24 | 44 | D= |
| 5 | 25 | 45 | E= |
| 6 | 26 | 46 | F= |
| 7 | 27 | 47 | G= |
| 8 | 28 | 48 | H= |
| 9 | 29 | 49 | I= |
| 10 | 30 | 50 | J= |
| 11 | 31 | 51 | K= |
| 12 | 32 | 52 | L= |
| 13 | 33 | 53 | M= |
| 14 | 34 | 54 | N= |
| 15 | 35 | 55 | O= |
| 16 | 36 | 56 | P= |
| 17 | 37 | 57 | Q= |
| 18 | 38 | 58 | R= |
| 19 | 39 | 59 | S= |
| 20 | 40 | 60 | T= |

SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. -1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS

God has given each Christian two vitally important gifts. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, his work of redemption, and thus forgiveness of sin. The second is the gift of one or more special abilities, which are to be used for the purpose of unifying the body of Christ and for the growth of God's kingdom. These abilities are called spiritual gifts, and they are received through our baptism.

Like other presents, it is impossible to fully appreciate and make use of our spiritual gifts until they have been opened.

The Apostle Paul addresses the presence of spiritual gifts in three main sections of scripture: *Romans 12*, *1 Corinthians 12*, and *Ephesians 4*. Peter also verifies their existence in *1 Peter 4:10*. Through these sections of scripture, we learn that all Christians have been given at least one spiritual gift. The purpose of spiritual gifts is twofold: (1) to unify Christians in their faith and (2) to produce growth within the church, both numerical and spiritual. These gifts are to be used out of love for one another, and in service to one another.

We do not choose which gifts we will receive. God bestows them upon us through the work of the Holy Spirit. And the same Holy Spirit is empowering us to understand and grow into these gifts. As we live out our mission at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church of *Equipping All People to Live Out Christ's Love*, it is important for each member of our community to spend time in faithful discernment understanding what you need to be equipped with. That answer will be different for everyone, according to the gifts we've been given by God.

You'll notice this resource is formatted like one of our worship bulletins, and that is done intentionally. This faithful work is an act of worship, one that can be done as an individual devotion and in conversation with others. We encourage you to adopt both practices, reflecting on your results individually, and discussing them with a faithful friend. This is what will make this practice truly a worshipful **G.I.F.T.**, or an opportunity to **Grow In Faith Together**.

Which gifts have you truly been blessed with? Taking this inventory will give you a good start in identifying your gifts. But don't let these results stay on the page! Share your results with us by visiting www.muhlenberglutheran.org/gifts, submitting your results by the Google Form found using the QR code below, or simply fill out the form on the back page and place it in the "G.I.F.T. Inventory" box at the Connection Center in the Gathering Area.

Blessings to you on this journey of discernment,

Pastor Lauren Eanes



Pastor Lauren & Pastor Alex

SPIRITUAL G.I.F.T.
INVENTORY



| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|--------------------|
| Almost never true | Seldom true | Sometimes true | Often true | Almost always true |

THE INVENTORY

Take your time and reflect on each statement thoughtfully and prayerfully

1. When presented a goal, I immediately think of steps that need to be taken in order to achieve the desired results.
2. I express myself through artistic means.
3. My faith requires me to seek out God's will and purpose in all circumstances that arise in my life.
4. I am able to convey the Gospel message to non-believers in ways that they are able to easily understand.
5. I am moved by those who through conflict or sorrow are wavering in faith.
6. I am certain of the spirit's presence in my life and the lives of others.
7. I am blessed by God each day and gladly respond to these blessings by giving liberally of my time and money.
8. I enjoy meeting new people and becoming acquainted with them.
9. I know that God hears and responds to my daily prayers.
10. I feel compelled to learn as much as I can about the Bible and faith.
11. I am a take charge person. When others follow my direction, the goal or task will be completed.
12. When I see a person in need, I am moved to assist them.
13. I love to sing and enjoy inspiring others through song.
14. I find joy and express myself by playing a musical instrument.
15. I am motivated to provide spiritual leadership to those who are on a faith journey.



16. I like working behind the scenes to ensure projects are successful.

17. I enjoy working with my hands in a trade or skill that requires considerable experience.

18. My great joy is to communicate biblical truth in such a way that it becomes real and understood by others.

19. When a challenge is presented, I am usually able to identify an appropriate solution.

20. I am able to take a thought or idea and put it into a clear and inspiring written form.

21. I enjoy organizing thoughts, ideas, hopes and dreams into a specific plan of action.

22. I can translate into artistic form what I first see in my imagination.

23. I have assisted others as they sought to discern whether or not their personal decisions were helpful and in accord with God's will for their lives.

24. I enjoy being with non-believers and like having the opportunity to encourage them to faith and commitment.

25. When I know someone is facing a crisis, I feel compelled to provide support and care.

26. My trust in the Spirit's presence, when I encounter times of personal crisis, is a source of strength for others.

27. I manage my time and money so that I am able to give much of it to the work of the church or other organizations.

28. I am often asked to open my home for small group gatherings or social occasions.

29. I often become so absorbed in my prayer life that the door bell or phone can ring and I will not hear it.

30. Not one day would be complete without biblical study and thought.

31. When I am in a group, others will often look to me for direction.

32. I feel an urgency to provide housing for the homeless, food for the starving, comfort for those in distress.

33. I have sung before groups and felt a real sense of God's presence.

34. By my playing a musical instrument, inspiration has been provided for both myself and others.

35. I have responsibility for providing spiritual guidance to an individual believer or group of believers.

36. People tell me that without my willingness to do the unnoticed jobs, their work would be more difficult.

37. I am good at building, repairing, or restoring things and find satisfaction in doing so.

38. I want to express my faith by assisting others to discover the truths contained in the Bible.

39. People come to me for help in applying Christian faith and values to personal situations.

40. I often feel moved to write about my thoughts and feelings so others may benefit from them.

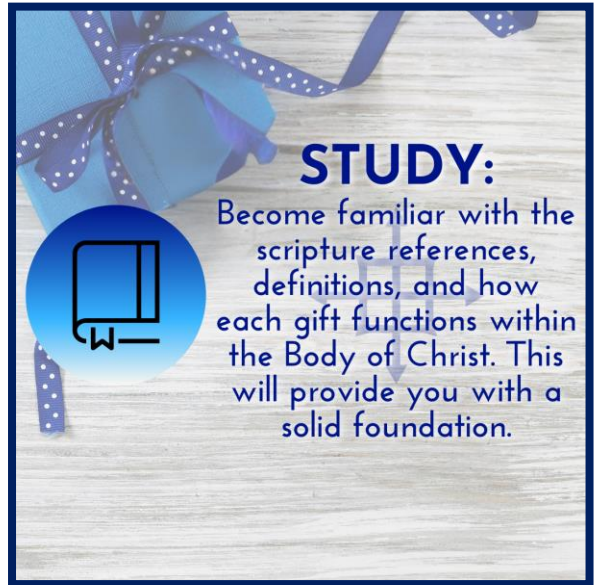
41. I have been successful in organizing, directing and motivating people to achieve a goal.

42. My artistic work has given spiritual strength to both believer and non-believer.

43. In the congregation, I am often asked if a direction being discussed is in accord with God's will and purpose.

44. I do not find it difficult to share what Jesus means to me with non-believers.

45. Those who are struggling with life questions have come to me for guidance and help.



46. I can see great things happening in my congregation and am not derailed by the pessimism of others.

47. When I receive money unexpectedly, one of my first thoughts is to share this gift through the church.

48. I enjoy welcoming guests and helping them to feel at ease.

49. Believers have asked me to pray for healing in their lives, and have evidenced God's healing power.

50. My study of the Bible has proven helpful to others in their faith journey.

51. People have said they like to work with me because the task will be successfully completed.

52. People have been surprised by how at ease I am while working with those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit.

53. I am grateful and humbled that my singing has provided inspiration and hope for others on their faith journey.

54. Others have told me they were moved by my playing a musical instrument.

55. People have come to me for spiritual help and it has developed into a long-term relationship.

56. When I turn out the lights, take tables down, work in the kitchen or

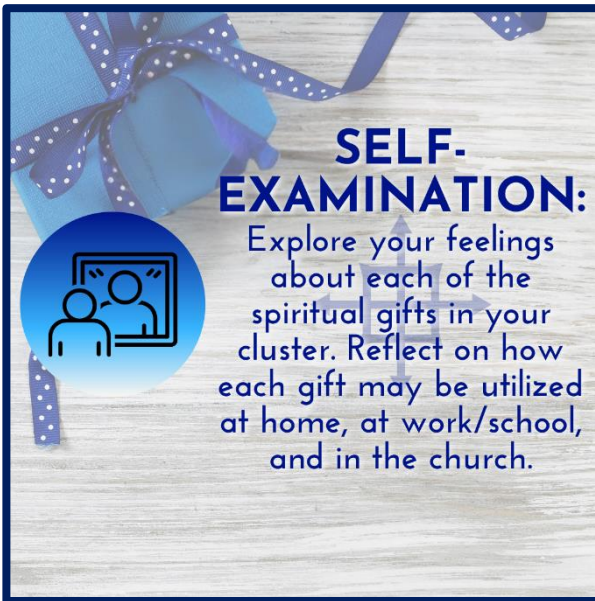
put chairs away, I feel that I have served the Lord.

57. My knowledge of building, maintenance or repair has been a special value to the church and others.

58. Students have told me that I can take the most difficult idea or concept and make it understandable.

59. When direction is needed at work or in the congregation, I am generally asked for my opinion.

60. My written work has been helpful to others in understanding life's truths.



SELF-EXAMINATION:
Explore your feelings about each of the spiritual gifts in your cluster. Reflect on how each gift may be utilized at home, at work/school, and in the church.

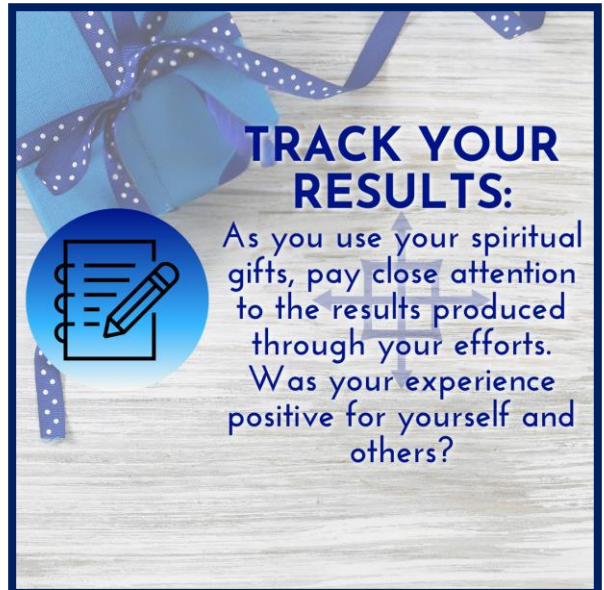
Congratulations! You've finished the inventory. Take some time now to tally your results using the table on the inside front cover page, and begin to align those results with the Spiritual Gifts on the next page. Practice faithful self-examination, by reflecting on your feelings that arise when you see your results. Are you excited, affirmed, surprised, confused, etc.? Spend some time with the biblical references as a way to ground yourself in this self-examination.

THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. –Romans 12:4-8

- A. Administration:** the gift that enables a believer to formulate, direct, and carry out plans necessary to fulfill a purpose. *Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Acts 14:23.*
- B. Artistry:** the gift that gives the believer the skill of creating artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. *Biblical References: Exodus 31:1-11, Psalm 149:3a.*
- C. Discernment:** the gift that motivates a believer to seek God's will and purpose and apply that understanding to individual and congregational situations. *Biblical References: John 16:6-15, Romans 9:1, I Corinthians 2:9-16.*
- D. Evangelism:** the gift that moves believers to reach nonbelievers in such a way that they are baptized and become active members of the Christian community. *Biblical References: Matthew 28:16-20, Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 2:36-40.*
- E. Exhortation:** the gift that moves the believer to reach out with Christian love and presence to people in personal conflict or facing a spiritual void. *Biblical References: John 14:1, II Timothy 1:16-18, III John 5-8.*
- F. Faith:** the gift that gives a believer the eyes to see the Spirit at work and the ability to trust the Spirit's leading without indication of where it all might lead. *Biblical References: Genesis 12:1-4a, Mark 5:25-34, I Thessalonians 1:8-10.*
- G. Giving:** the gift that enables a believer to recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously and sacrificially giving of one's resources (time, talent, and treasure). *Biblical References: II Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 21:1-4.*
- H. Hospitality:** the gift that causes a believer to joyfully welcome and receive guests and those in need of food and lodging. *Biblical References: Romans 12:13, Romans 16:23a, Luke 10:38.*

- I. Intercession:** the gift that enables a believer to pray with the certainty that prayer is heard and when requests are made, answers will come. *Biblical References: Matthew 6:6-15, Luke 11:1-10, Ephesians 6:18.*
- J. Knowledge:** the gift that drives a person to learn, analyze and uncover new insights with regard to the Bible and faith. *Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:8; I Corinthians 14:6, Romans 12:2.*
- K. Leadership:** the gift that gives a believer the confidence to step forward, give direction and provide motivation to fulfill a dream or complete a task. *Biblical References: Romans 12:8, John 21:15-17, II Timothy 4:1-5.*
- L. Mercy:** the gift that motivates a believer to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then act to meet that need. *Biblical References: Luke 7:12-15, Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 25:34-36.*
- M. Music--Vocal:** the gift that gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing. *Biblical References: Psalm 96:1-9, Psalm 100:1-2, Psalm 149:1-2.*
- N. Music--Instrumental:** the gift that inspires a believer to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument. *Biblical References: Psalm 33:1-5, Psalm 150, I Samuel 16:14-23.*
- O. Pastoring (Shepherding):** the gift that gives a believer the confidence, capability and compassion to provide spiritual leadership and direction for individuals or groups of believers. *Biblical References: I Timothy 4:12-16, I Timothy 3:1-13, II Timothy 4:1-2.*
- P. Service (Helps):** the gift that enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled. *Biblical References: Luke 23:50-54, Romans 16:1-16, Philippians 2:19-23.*



- Q. Skilled Craft:** the gift that enables a believer to create, build, maintain or repair items used within the church. *Biblical References: Exodus 30:1-6, Exodus 31:3-5, Ezekiel 27:4- 11.*
- R. Teaching:** the gift that enables a believer to communicate a personal understanding of the Bible and faith in such a way that it becomes clear and understood by others. *Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Matthew 5:1-12, Acts 18:24-48.*
- S. Wisdom:** the gift that allows the believer to sort through opinions, facts and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers. *Biblical References: I Corinthians 2:6-13, James 3:13-18, II Chronicles 1:7-11.*
- T. Writing:** the gift that gives a believer the ability to express truth in a written form; a form that can edify, instruct and strengthen the community of believers. *Biblical References: I John 2:1-6, 12-14, I Timothy 3:14-15, Jude 3.*

FOR REFLECTION

What are my top 3-4 gifts?

How have I used these gifts?

What gets in the way of using these gifts effectively?

How do I make room in my life so that all my gifts can be used?

How do I enable others to make room to use all their gifts?



HEART

“... and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” – John 7:38

PUTTING YOUR PASSIONS INTO ACTION

Heart has to do with our passions: the things that excite us, the things that give us joy, and the things that keep us awake at night. What specific tasks, projects, or causes hold for you the most pull or energy? The better we understand and follow our passions, the more fulfilled we are in joining in God’s work.

What causes, issues, or opportunities make your heart race? Circle them below. This is not in any way an exhaustive list! It’s just to get you started. Be sure to write in others that aren’t already listed.

Abuse/family violence
Addiction recovery
Anti-racism
At-risk children
Cancer research
Crisis assistance
Disability rights
Disaster relief
Education

Environmental issues/climate change
Gender Equality
Healthcare
Homelessness
Hunger
Immigrants and refugees
Mental Health
Prison Ministries
Senior Adults

Other (list here):

Our passions can also simply be the things we love to do. Maybe that’s playing board games, or quilting, or participating in a sport, or reading books.

What are the things you love to do? List them here.

Trust that God can use the things you're passionate about. You may think, "There's no way gardening is a God-given passion." But just think about how God could use a gardener! Maybe there's an elderly neighbor who needs help with her window boxes, or the church landscaping could use some work, or you could take the flowers from your garden to brighten someone's day.

How might the things you're passionate about motivate you to serve God?

ABILITIES

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. -1 Corinthians 12:4-7

ABILITIES ALL AROUND US

God has given us all a wide range of different abilities or talents. It is through these talents that we engage in serving God and joining in God's work.

What abilities, skills, and trades do you have? Circle them below. Again, this is not an exhaustive list, so be sure to write in others that aren't listed.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Arts/Crafts | Finance/Accounting | Programming |
| Administration | Food Preparation | Public Speaking |
| Athletics/Sports | Fundraising | Recruiting |
| Audio/Visual | Graphic Design | Repairs (handyman) |
| Carpentry | Landscaping | Secretarial Office |
| Child Care | Medical Training | Support |
| Computer Technology | Musician | Sewing |
| Craftsmanship | Organization | Strategic Planning |
| Data Entry | Painting | Teaching |
| Decorating/Design | Photography | Translating |
| Drama/Performing | Personnel | Van/Bus Driver |
| Arts | Management | Videographer |
| Editing | Planning Events | Vocalist |
| Electrical/Sound Wiring | Plumbing | Welcoming |
| Facilities Management | Promoting Events | Writing |

Other (list here):

PERSONALITY

“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” -Psalm 139:13-14

I AM WHO I AM

Being who you are—the person God intended you to be—is of great importance! God has designed each of us with unique personality traits that suit us for different things. There are all sorts of personality tests out there, and if you’re interested in diving deeper, you may find books about the Enneagram to be useful. For now, just think about who you are! Which traits best describe you?

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Bold | Enthusiastic | Extroverted |
| Precautionary | Orderly | Open-Minded |
| Empathetic | Responsive | Restless |
| Eager | Sincere | Quiet |
| Self-assured | Gentle | Analytical |
| Easygoing | Flexible | Detail Oriented |
| Persuasive | Fast Paced | Humble |
| Mild | Reserved | Intense |
| Big-Picture Oriented | Compassionate | Meticulous |
| Results-Focused | Decisive | Enjoy structure |
| Earnest | Steadfast | Enjoy flexibility |
| Visionary | Careful | Creative |
| Talkative | Loyal | Light-Hearted |
| Hospitable | Organized | |
| Accommodating | Introverted | |

Other words you’d use to describe your personality:

EXPERIENCES

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.” -Ecclesiastes 3

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

The things we experience in our lives help to shape who we are, our passions, and how God uses us. We all have many different kinds of experiences (personal, relational, vocational, educational, spiritual) that impact us in various ways. Our experiences, positive and painful, can all shape who we are and how we can be put to use for God.

Below, list three positive experiences that have shaped your life:

Now list three experiences you would describe as painful that have impacted your life:



How can God use these experiences in your life and the lives of others?

SHARE YOUR G.I.F.T. WITH OTHERS

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” –Matthew 5:14-16

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SUBMIT IN PERSON OR ONLINE

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

SPIRITUAL G.I.F.T.
INVENTORY



Spiritual Gifts

Here are my three highest spiritual gifts:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Heart

Here are five things I'm passionate about:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Abilities:

Here are five of my abilities:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Personality:

Here are five words that describe my personality:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Experiences

Out of all your experiences, good and bad, which one do you believe will help you the most in ministering to others, and in what way?

Ministries at Muhlenberg

In which areas of ministry are you most interested in serving? (This is simply to express general interest—you're not signing up for anything officially here!)

- Community Care (care committee, home communion visits, prayer chain, meal ministry)
- Hospitality (ushers, welcome team, coffee hour hosts)
- Fellowship (church picnic, event planning, kickball team)
- Media and Tech (livestream, sound, social media, graphic design)
- Music and Arts (choir, musicians, photography, worship arts)
- Children's Ministry (Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, nursery)
- Youth Ministry (Middle and High School, Confirmation, fun events)
- Adult Ministry (Sunday school, small groups, ministry with older adults)
- Administration (office assistant, data entry, finance team)
- Facility (building repairs, yardwork, columbarium)
- Leadership (council, personnel, trustee)
- Outreach (Local and Global Mission Outreach, service projects, advocacy)
- Something else? _____