

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS
October 2016

Mission Statement (our congregation's core purpose, our reason for existing):

"St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives by developing, educating, nurturing and supporting Disciples."

Vision Statement (our congregation's aspirational statement of the future we want to create):

"St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a vibrant and thriving Christian community where everyone is welcomed, valued and fed... We joyfully give of ourselves to bring Christ's love and healing presence to everyone with whom we interact."

In order to better fulfill our on-going "mission" and to move us closer to realizing our "vision," the following objectives and action plans will be pursued over the next five years:

Long-Range Objective #1

Continue our journey from receiving the Word to living the Word by promoting active service within the church and the larger community. To accomplish this objective, the following action plans will be implemented:

- a) Improve understanding of what it means to be a "Disciple" through a series of Ministry Minutes, sermon topics and adult education classes throughout the 2016-2017 fiscal year. During the winter months, actions will be initiated to reach our seasonal members with similar messages.
- b) Support the expanded focus of our Evangelism Ministry to include proactive outreach efforts and teaching members "how to" evangelize.
- c) Define and establish our Community Outreach Ministry to include the identification and implementation of service opportunities within our communities. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying service opportunities for our young people (so their interactions outside of church are not solely social in nature) and on promoting multi-generational projects.
- d) As a result of the above actions, it is anticipated that all members of our congregation will serve in some capacity in at least one of our various ministries within the next five years.

Long-Range Objective #2

Increase our openness to a broader repertoire of worship experiences and keep our services fresh and impactful. To accomplish this objective, the following action plans will be implemented:

- a) Improve understanding of what it means to be a Lutheran and why we do what we do during Lutheran worship services through a series of Epistle and website articles and by conducting adult information classes during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- b) Bring in guest musicians once per quarter to enhance the worship experience.
- c) Publicize and conduct at least one outdoor worship service each year where the broader Door County community is invited to participate.
- d) Find opportunities to celebrate discipleship within our congregation during worship services.
- e) Place special emphasis on involving our youth in worship leadership roles.
- f) Develop and implement a plan for the parents of Sunday school and confirmation-age children to become involved in the life of our congregation and to worship as a family.

Long-Range Objective #3

Improve the sense of camaraderie within our congregation. To accomplish this objective, the following action plans will be implemented:

- a) By the end of 2016, launch a Fellowship Ministry that will plan and coordinate opportunities for members to socialize and get to know each other better. In addition to the weekly coffee hour, other fellowship opportunities should occur on a quarterly basis and should appeal to the various interests of our parishioners (e.g. picnics, sports outings, dining out, children's events, etc.).
- b) During 2017, launch a "New Member Welcoming Team" to ensure all new members are fully integrated into the life of our congregation and feel welcomed and supported.
- c) Involve our post-Confirmation youth in developing a plan for keeping them engaged and connected with our church throughout their high school and college years. This plan will be developed and implemented by July 1, 2017.

(3)

Long-Range Objective #4

Maintain the beauty and functionality of the church structure and grounds. To accomplish this objective, the following action plans will be implemented:

- a) Necessary maintenance and capital improvement projects will be prioritized and budgeted by the church council at the start of each fiscal year. The identified projects will not only include those that need to be budgeted and accomplished during the next year, but also those that will need to be funded and accomplished in future years.
- b) To ensure adequate funding of all agreed upon projects, a multi-year funding plan will be prepared and updated annually and communicated to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Long-Range Objective #5

Improve our openness to including “Stewardship” as an essential part of our Christian response to God’s grace. To accomplish this objective, the following action plans will be implanted:

- a) Define and establish a Biblical understanding of “Stewardship” through a series of coffee hour discussions and Epistle articles from the Church Council throughout the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- b) Host semi-annual congregational meetings to discuss our LRP, the resources needed to accomplish our objectives and support our on-going ministries, and to explain the nature and use of endowed funds.
- c) Through the above education and encouragement, all members will support the ministries within our community of faith with our individual time, talent and treasures, according to our individual blessings, by 2021.