

Bethany Lutheran Church **Mission, Vision, and Goals**

Background

Throughout January, the Church Council, School Advisory Team (SAT), and Ministry Advisory Team (MAT) used the results of last fall's cottage meetings to discern where God is taking Bethany. We decided to revise our Mission Statement and develop a new Vision Statement. These statements define why we exist (Mission) and what we want to become (Vision).

We took considerable time with each statement, reviewing each word to ensure the statement reflects the true meaning of what God wants us to be and where He is taking us. We were careful to ensure each statement reflected an outward focus as well as an inward perspective. The statements were meant to be inclusive, involving every area facet of the congregation and we used the Cottage Meeting results as a barometer to ensure that our thoughts were in line with the congregation's.

In the end, we knew to bring the Mission and Vision to life, we needed to involve the congregation and the ministry teams. We planned an interactive goal setting process involving each of these areas to elicit their views on our 1, 3, 5, and 10 years goals. The statements that follow reflect the result of that work.

It is important to note this is not the end of this work; it is simply the beginning. The goal setting process must continue within each of the ministry teams. The goals must be embraced and refined, added to and subtracted from. They must become the "life blood" of each of these areas. Several times a year, each ministry team should review their goals and develop implementation plans to accomplish them. At least once a year, the goals should be reviewed and reset.

So where do we go next? Over the course of the next several weeks, we will be meeting with each of the ministry areas, rejuvenating some, to embrace, refine, and own the goals that have been developed and to put action plans in place to accomplish them. In essence, we are working to put our ministry in motion and bring the vision to life.

The key question to ask is how you fit in this process. The Mission, Vision, and Goals are not simply created and put on a shelf. They require each of our involvement to accomplish. Are you willing to commit your God given talent and resources to help accomplish this vision? Are you willing to serve on a committee or in an area of ministry? God has provided us this Mission and Vision and is now calling us to serve to accomplish them.

Mission Statement

Bethany Lutheran nurtures in each person an active, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

We energize each person to serve Christ by:

- offering God pleasing worship through the celebration of the Sacraments and prayer
- teaching sound Biblical principles
- equipping all people to witness their faith in Jesus Christ and to serve the ever-changing needs of the community
- reaching out to those in spiritual need through Christ centered activities
- partnering to provide Christian education
- sustaining a network of numerous fellowship and growth opportunities
- encouraging the cheerful giving of time, talent, and resources
- exercising wise stewardship of all God has given us

We do all of this so **God** may be glorified.

Goals

Christian Care Giving

- Cottage meetings for current members within 1 year
- 5 trained Stephen ministers within 1 year
- Update and contact all current members who are not currently attending worship with 1 year
- Weekly Saturday evening contemporary service at Ulatis Drive within 1 year
- Dial a ride network within 3 years
- Handyman service group within 3 years
- Greeters/sponsors for visitors /new members with follow-up calls within 3 years
- 10 trained Stephen Ministers within 5 years
- Host community events and connect with pre-school and elementary school within 5 years
- Contemporary service and music within 5 years
- Connect with young and seniors within 5 years
- Consistent social activities for seniors within 5 years
- Bus service within 10 years
- Church/schools at one location within 10 years
- Team of trained caregivers for seniors within 10 years
- 4 full time ministers (senior, associate, family, and youth)

- Publicize what we are doing and get more involvement
 - Quilters Group
 - Library
 - Fellowship
 - Women of Bethany

Christian Education

- More education in the ministerial areas of youth and family by February 2009
- Instructional classes for all people on Christian doctrine beginning February 2008
- Intentional use of worship time for instruction on the Catechism beginning February 2008
- Investigating/analyzing current and possible future use of Sunday morning instructional and worship time for the purpose of making a proposal to MAT by April 2008
- Move VBS to the elementary school beginning February 2008
- Make class available for communication to Christians and non-Christians by February 2009
- Training for Sunday school and VBS teachers and all volunteers beginning February 2008
- Parenting classes for all facets of parenthood by January 2009
- Youth Pastor on staff by February 2010
- Accountability and leadership training for all heads of ministry including MAT, SAT, and Council by Fall off 2008

Community Outreach

- Bethany Ambassadors/ “Care Callers”
- “Thanks for Visiting” mailers
- Prison ministry
- Food bank/FISH
- Stephen Ministry
- Purchase home
- Sick/No-show call
- Newspaper and Advertisements
- Youth competition for web design
- Senior housing community Bible study
- Carpool community members to church
- Scholarships for un-churched and members/non-members
- Door-to-door invitations to come to worship
- Advertise senior lunches for non-members (Vacaville magazine, etc.)
- Advertise youth events (and for everyone else in between)
- Outreach to school and parents – breakfast

- Military contacts
- Support for military and active duty spouse (play date, brunch)
- Mothers of preschool mommy group
- Improve/increase resource library
- Wednesday evening dinners and Bible study
- Purchase home/shelter for needy families by 2018
- Hire publicity chairman and coordinate advertising of events within 1 year
- Establish marriage encounters for community beginning February 2008
- Parenting classes for community within 2 years
- Scholarships to beginning within 1 year
- FISH increase donations within 6 months
- Prison meeting within 5 years
- Comm. Carpool by members – now
- Congregation driven outreach for meals to school families by September 2008
- Take 25% of activities currently done at church and school to encourage school families to attend and publicize them
- Community calendar within 1 year
- Outreach, Bible studies, and activities in senior community
- Christian youth choir

Evangelism

- Evangelism/Witnessing Training in place by March 2008
- By September 2008, have a Friendship Sunday every six months to bring un-churched people whom we know to church
- Reignite coffee booth at local events
- By January 2009,
- By January 2013, have video and audio podcasts of Bethany services available on the Internet
- By January 2018, implement radio ministry

Fellowship

- Scholarship programs to support students within 10 years
- Christian concerts with PowerPoint to see the words within 10 years
- Traveling groups to see the world and witness the Word of God within 10 years
- Finding your passion and talent to stimulate interest through God's Glory within 10 years
- Inviting seniors to read and have a lunch with students at Bethany School by September 2008
- Group that is able to facilitate Bethany's dreams by January 2009
- Have a family game/movie night by 2009
- Seek fellowship with un-churched families by 2009

- Feed the homeless at the church by 2009
- Create small group opportunities
 - Youth
 - Singles
 - Young couples
 - Families with young children
 - Seniors
- School and Church to share fellowship events to encourage bridging the gap between congregation and school families beginning February of 2008
- Church oriented events to promote fellowship outdoors (Weddings, Car Shows, BBQs, Easter Egg Hunts, Epiphany Parties, Graduation Ceremonies, etc.) by 2010
- Group to call on non-attending members with calls, cards, visits and help with transportation by February of 2008
- Establish a Director of Events to advertise and publicize
- Reinstate Youth Minister or DCE by May of 2009
- Host a major event with a professional Athlete to come visit and speak motivationally through Christian Word. To include all sports oriented youth and adults within the community by May of 2009
- Host a “Get to Know You” dinner to include members and non-members by June 2008
- Annual festival with a theme (horse shoes, entertainment, cowboy poetry) that will become a venue for major events by June of 2008
- Ministerial speaking contest with different dynamic speakers by June of 2008
- New member recognition by June of 2008

Property Goals

- Form committee and complete study of best use of our properties by February 2009
- Sanctuary under construction on Ulatis Drive by January of 2011
- Multi-purpose building on Ulatis Drive property by January of 2013
- Campus on Ulatis Drive property complete by January 2018

Small Group Ministry

- An active Awana program/group in place at the church by March 2009
- A vital and active Sunday school/Bible study program for preschool through adult, taking into account a wide range of previous knowledge by March 2011
- Family and marriage life program for people of both genders for all ages by March 2013
- Thriving group of seniors which sponsors and excursions of activities for members and non-members by March 2011
 - Groups of members and non-members who travel far and wide to go:

- Fishing
- Golfing
- Sporting events
- Engage in crafts
- Theater
- Music events
- Bowling
- Boating/Canoeing
- Bird watching group for all ages, members and non-members, which travels far and wide throughout the year by March 2009
- Sponsor active Girl and Boy Scout trips by March 2010
- Program for tutors and classroom helpers at Bethany Lutheran Schools by March 2009

Stewardship

- By August of 2008, 10% of congregation enrolled in youth and adult stewardship Bible study
- By April of 2009, have a volunteer management system in place
- By September of 2008, instruct each member how to discern the God-given gifts and use them in ministry
- By January of 2009, have 1 class instructing the congregation on personal financial management and develop a schedule for on-going instruction
- By May of 2009, establish an endowment foundation for Bethany
- By January of 2010, establish a young people's society which encourages youth and young adults to use their gifts in ministry
- By January of 2011, hire a volunteer coordinator
- By June of 2008, implement a year around stewardship calendar
- By October of 2008, educate the congregation on the Simply Giving Program and have 25% participating by March of 2009
- By September of 2009, implement a yearly based stewardship program that contains personally identifiable financial pledges
- By December of 2009, have every person involved in some area of ministry based on their God-given gifts and elicit their participation through 1 on 1 contact
- By June of 2008, incorporate stewardship emphasis in some area of worship (prayer, sermon, song, etc.)
- By May of 2008, implement a stewardship prayer group/chain
- By January of 2009, implement a overall ministry program and coordination
- By September of 2008, stewardship in conjunction with evangelism will establish communication and outreach to school and pre-school families

Worship and Music

- Saturday evening worship service monthly by January 2009 at the Bethany Lutheran School
- Active and communicating Worship Committee by August 2008 which contains a cross section of the congregation
- Active, organized, and diverse music committee
- Instrumentalists organized and shared duties among many musicians
- Service folders fully printed including the Lord's Prayer
- Keep announcements short (less than 3 minutes) before the service
- Organize children and youth services
- Re-instigate contemporary worship that includes some songs heard on the radio
- Purchase new LCMS hymnals by May of 2008
- Nursery for services to accommodate esp? special services
- Each person participating in the activities of worship (reader, usher, singer, greeter, etc.)
- Greeters in outside front of the church and are trained and aware of people that are new to the church
- Educate people about the liturgy
- Draw musicians and music teachers from schools by February of 2008
- Involve school families and student participation reaching out to those families
- Hire a music director