

Cottage Meeting Results

God continues to call us to grow, and He provides the direction for that growth. Originally, we were focused inward; now, God is calling us to focus outward.

God is calling us to be a community presence both inside and outside the building. As our congregation grows, God is calling us to seek opportunities where we can get to know one another better.

God is calling us to web ministry

We are positioned to serve as a Gateway to Newark. This is a diverse community, and God is leading us to celebrate our diversity.

- Warmly welcome all who worship with us or participate in our outreach programs.
- Strive to understand and build relationships with one another.
- Provide education opportunities which address the diverse needs within this community

St Paul's began as a "grass roots" ministry. A few people were called to start a congregation here, and so it was. Throughout the years, we have celebrated our "grass roots" approach to ministry. God is now calling us to return to a grassroots approach to ministry with members leading and serving as well as being led and served.

As the body of Christ, God is leading us to be in service to others within the church community, the Newark area and around the globe.

God is leading us to develop ministries for children, youth and their families, to become mentors and role models, to actively serve the children in our community.

In the area of outreach ministry, God is leading us to:

- Grow our membership.
- As families relocate into our area, seek opportunities for evangelism
 - ❖ Visible presence to those new to community.
- Be open to other civic/religious organizations using our facilities. Allow start-up religious groups (Christian and/or non-Christian) to use our facilities)
- Assimilate new members into the life of the congregation

- ❖ Identify individual talents during welcoming – build on that info.
- ❖ Mentor them throughout their first year
- ❖ Follow-up to see how they are doing.
- ❖ Provide mail boxes
- Provide a variety of ministries for children and youth. Develop a ministry for younger kids
- Reach out to the young, single adults
- Provide greater opportunities for people to get to know one another (more social events, couples' group, men's group)
- Provide more activities in which kids can participate
- Reach out to families and their Shut-in members
- Expand the number of prayer groups
- Develop a global view – adopt a family
(Bring a family to Newark, provide for their immediate needs, and help find employment, follow-up...)
- Expand the WELCA program. Increase the involvement in the WELCA outreach ministries. Provide Women's fellowship for working women (evening meetings)
- Celebrate the outreach ministries we offer
 - ❖ Give an age-appropriate children's Bible for each child in our school
 - ❖ Celebrate Boy Scout achievements during church services (Keep congregation informed of Scout activities)
- Hold our outreach ministries up in prayer.
- Hold a youth-led "Day of Service"
- Grow our volunteer ministry (develop new approaches to increase participation)
Encourage the youth to use their gifts and talents in outreach ministries
- Refresh our institutional memory of what God has led us to do and where he is leading us.
- Strive to improve our ministries to others – improve our communication about our offerings within/outside the church. Develop a communication plan.
- Develop a public relations/advertisement plan highlighting our outreach programs
- Use technology to communicate our plans
 - ❖ Use the new sign
 - ❖ Web/Facebook for outreach
 - ❖ Email needs/announcements to congregation
 - ❖ Email newsletter to congregation to distribute information in timely manner
- Greater cooperation/unity between ministry groups

- Grow our current outreach ministries
 - ❖ Grow the school to include a toddlers program, elementary school, high school. (Add a gymnasium)
 - ❖ Expand the tutoring ministry into enrichment and mentoring ministry. Provide ministry to parents of students being tutored.
 - ❖ Increase the size of the current Boy/Cub Scout troops; add new troops
 - ❖ Supplement FISH - develop a food pantry
 - ❖ Continue to seek opportunities to be in partnership with and support campus ministry
- Seek new opportunities for outreach
 - ❖ Start a chapter of AA
 - ❖ Start a Girl Scout program
 - ❖ Working with the Empowerment Center, include St. Paul's as a Code Purple location
 - ❖ Start a homeless shelter
 - ❖ Provide assistance to people needing support/support resources
 - ❖ Develop a free Health Clinic where people can get free Blood Pressure readings, and other health screening.
 - ❖ Employment help
 - Congregational employment file (where workers check options)
 - Congregational needs of small, personal jobs.

In the area of education, God is leading us to:

- Develop a Bible Story Telling ministry
- Provide education programs on Sunday and Wednesday evening.
- Develop a speakers' program -cultural insight (for example, a presentation on Islam, ...)
- Develop a weekly lunchtime Bible Study group
- Develop a variety of educational programs for kids and families, such as "Families First", "God In Me".
- Increase the education opportunities for adults
 - ❖ Develop educational programs on topics relevant to parents - invite parents from the community as well as our own SCS
 - Parenting
 - Health education
 - Well Baby
 - ❖ Classes geared for other groups (young couples, singles, men, women)

- ❖ Programs which meet special needs
(financial planning, retirement, first time parents)
- ❖ Provide job skills training - such as computer training.
- ❖ Provide education with regard to “church policies” when trying to initiate project

In the area of worship, God is leading us to:

- Continue the openness/intimacy of our worship in Fellowship Hall. Seek opportunities to improve our communication with others.
- Remain true to our Lutheran traditions
- Celebrate our diversity by offering a variety of worship styles (praise, contemporary...). Continue to accept diversity in people and their worship habits (including, but not limited to, prayers of praise, crossing oneself...)
- Expand our worship offerings to include an evening worship
- Using our Bible story-telling skills, include a children’s sermon. Encourage parents to present children’s sermon during worship.
- Offer non-English speaking services
- Greater involvement in prayer ministry
- Periodically combine the early/late services into a single service (Possibly on Sunday when a Congregational meeting is scheduled)
- Conduct a “Boy Scout” Sunday where the scouts participate in the service
- Reactivate the program where lay volunteers deliver communion to homebound.
- Integrate more youth into all aspects of the worship service (assisting ministers, ushers, greeters)
- Offering from children – make announcements before service
- Engage children in worship. Offer a children’s service

In the area of music, God is leading us to:

- Grow the Adult choir
Provide more opportunities for people to make short-term commitments
- Develop a Children’s Choir
- Develop a Youth Choir
- Develop a hand-bell choir
- Include singing by the School children.
- Use instrumental music and dance in our worship
- Increase the variety of music used in worship – praise music, youthful music, music from different cultures

- Offer cantatas and concerts.
- Invite guest musicians
- Integrate music from youth and children into service (singing, instrumental, religious dance)