

Christ Lutheran Church – Congregational Long-Range Plan

Mission: Christ Lutheran Church of Peoria, Illinois is a religious corporation and an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation organized for religious, educational, and charitable purposes. The Bible, through many examples in both Old and New Testaments, teaches us clearly that God "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). This, therefore, is God's mission. God's mission is necessary because human sin disrupted the harmony that existed originally in God's creation (Romans 3:23). God's plan is to reconcile the world to himself through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10; Acts 4:12). The Holy Spirit has been sent to empower us for work in God's mission (Acts 1:8; John 14:16). God now sends us to bring the message of salvation to everyone in the world (John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20). Thus, God's mission is our mission (1 Peter 2:9). Our mission at Christ Lutheran Church is embodied in the following ministry activities:

WORSHIP -- to receive God's offered blessings in Word and Sacrament, and to give honor and glory to the Triune God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving (Heb. 10:24-25).

NURTURE—to be effective partners in the Gospel through the Word and Sacraments by the discipling of leaders and edifying of all members, that all may be equipped for their ministries (Eph. 4:7-16).

FELLOWSHIP—to help each other and our fellow men (Ac. 2; 42; Jn. 13:35; Jas. 1:27), providing support in accordance with need.

SERVICE—through faithful stewardship, putting God first in service and giving, to help advance the Kingdom of Christ (2 Co. 8:9-15; Mt. 6:33).

WITNESS—to reach out in evangelism (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Ac. 1:8), confessing to others our Spirit-given faith that Jesus is Savior and Lord.

Vision: Christ Lutheran Church will continue its Christ-centered, life-directed focus, responding to the needs of its members, emphasizing local and worldwide witness and acting as a catalyst for the improvement of the neighborhood.

Vision Tagline:

Boldly living Christ's extreme love,
Building faith and community.

Community.

❖ Group Action Plan: Worship

- Goal (Ministry Target): To make worship more inclusive to those within & outside the parish

- Suggested Actions/Tasks

Begin and maintain quarterly youth service, with intentions to move it circuit-wide

- Provide large-print materials for worship
- Better use of website (i.e., live streaming)
- More outdoor worship service opportunities
- Radio/Cable TV broadcast
- Lay leadership do talks/announcements
- Worship-friendly instructions to navigate the liturgy
- Goal (Ministry Target): To include sermons and other elements in the public worship life of the congregation that address & confront contemporary issues.
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Sermonic Bible Study
 - Thematic Sermons
 - Sermon Series
- Goal (Ministry Target): To improve worship and sermonic teaching with increased use of a variety of visual and performance art and media
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Incorporate chancel dramas into worship
 - Use puppets for children's messages
 - Utilize digital projectors to augment/simplify worship experience
- Goal (Ministry Target): To provide additional worship opportunities for those who work on Sundays and/or don't enjoy Praise Band services.
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Host Sunday hymn sing
 - Research and settle on a day for additional service (Wednesday or Saturday?)
 - Host prayer meetings/services
- Goal (Ministry Target): To make Christ Lutheran a safer and more guest-friendly environment.
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Continued and expanded usher training
 - Establish a safety patrol committee
 - Increase safety and security around buildings – lighting, security system, cameras, etc.
- Goal (Ministry Target): To improve understanding of our liturgical practices among worshippers

❖ **Group Action Plan: Nurture**

- Goal (Ministry Target): To establish a Bible-study group to reach young adults and parents
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Recruit Teacher
 - Establish Curriculum (suggested topics include: family devotions, teachable moments)
 - Identify potential participants and recruit them
 - Locate a meeting place and time
 - Establish a nursery for children 2 and under
- Goal (Ministry Target): To provide more Bible Studies that address specific issues

- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Sacraments
 - Lutheran Identity
 - Prayer
 - Family
 - Family devotions
- Goal (Ministry Target): To explore Use of different Bible Study formats and approaches
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Intergenerational Learning Opportunity
 - Wednesday / Midweek Program Establishment
 - Continue Use of LifeLight Bible Studies
 - Home/Small Group Bible Studies
 - Large Group (Congregation-wide) Bible Study Event
 - Continued Use of Adult VBS
- Goal (Ministry Target): To prepare and develop lay leadership and to establish training in board responsibilities
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Church Council Annual Retreat
 - Annual Sunday School Training and Recruitment
- Goal (Ministry Target): To make a visit to every member by end 2010

❖ **Group Action Plan: Fellowship**

- Goal (Ministry Target): To update facilities to produce an atmosphere more conducive to church fellowship
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Update technology in key venues
 - Update fixtures
 - Update aesthetics throughout building
- Goal (Ministry Target): To create a variety of small groups that support members in a variety of unique life situations (support groups)
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Parenting group (small children, teens)
 - Caregiver Support Group
 - Couples (younger, older, with/without children)
 - Retiree work group (service-oriented)
 - Widows/widowers/grief group
 - Singles / Divorce
- Goal (Ministry Target): To improve lines of communication and delivery methods in order to increase attendance at church functions and to avoid scheduling conflicts
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Coordinate and centralize church and school calendar
 - Improve web presence
 - Offer technology seminars for technologically challenged

- Goal (Ministry Target): To schedule fellowship excursions open to all members at least twice a year
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Cub/Cardinal game
 - Musical/concert
 - Chicago trip
 - Fall color tour
 - Ice fishing weekend
 - Ski trip

❖ **Group Action Plan: Service**

- Goal (Ministry Target): To increase the pool of volunteers and the volunteer spirit at CLC
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Increased Stewardship Education focus primarily, but not exclusively on Time and Talents
 - Calling of members to recruit help at congregation events
 - Better coordination and cooperation of volunteer and professional personnel and resources between church and school
- Goal (Ministry Target): To share the love of Christ with our community by increasing the involvement of the congregation in the betterment of the local neighborhood
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Explore the expansion of food and clothing ministry
 - Establish Neighborhood Watch / Block Leadership
 - Renew participation in Adopt-A-Block program
 - Sponsor Methodist Health Mobile / Flu shots
 - Increased regular upkeep/garbage pick-up around church property
 - Explore establishing or participating in a soup kitchen
 - More regular and open collection of food, clothing and other goods for needy
 - Explore partnerships with other service organizations in meeting the growing needs of the disadvantaged
 - Explore the establishment of a Housing Corp for the purpose of building new homes for low-income individuals and neighborhood improvement
 - Explore joining or creating a neighborhood home-owners association
- Goal (Ministry Target): To schedule events beyond church walls and membership, hosted by congregational groups
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Concerts in the Park
 - Caroling to homebound members
- Goal (Ministry Target): To provide care needs to seniors and disabled members
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Establish Volunteer Coordinator position to match skills to needs
 - Renew and revitalize our current helping hands program with new members

- Encourage various congregational groups to consider activities that include service to our seniors and those in need
- Continue exploring uses of Cooking for Christ Group
- Encourage various organizations to make visitation on homebound seniors

❖ **Group Action Plan: Witness**

- Goal (Ministry Target): To provide opportunities for training in sharing the Christian faith
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Equipping to Share Workshops
 - Evangelism Workshops
 - Evangelism Bible Studies
 - Develop a yearly plan for Evangelism Education
- Goal (Ministry Target): To increase recruitment and training of Evangelism Calling Committee
- Goal (Ministry Target): To improve the collection and documentation of potential members for visitation from CLS families, VBS participants, Sunday worship, and community outreach events (i.e., Easter Egg Hunt)
- Goal (Ministry Target): To Continue developing community outreach events like Pumpkins on Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, etc., specifically targeting non-members, but not excluding our membership
- Suggested Actions/Tasks
 - Fall Festival / Rally Day
 - Friendship Sunday
 - Outdoor Worship Service
 - O AFC
 - Sidewalk Sunday School
 - Continue VBS
- Goal (Ministry Target): Establishment of a plan to Assimilate New Members
- Goal (Ministry Target): Re-engage and attempt to visit former members that have been released and are still in the area