

Leadership Retreat
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Saturday, August 11, 2007

This leadership gathering was part two and a follow-up to the previous March 3, 2007, retreat. The goals were to connect again with Christ's commands, to discover how our mission intersects with God's mission in Christ, and to lift up our strengths and focus our ministry and direction in light of Christ's commands and God's mission at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In attendance at this leadership retreat were: Rose Bolich, Kellie Brouse, Ed Coup, Rose Deaner, Kay Dunn, Ruth Greenly, Mike Lazor, Stephen Moll, Pastor Pat, Donna Spear, and Pam Walsh.

The retreat began with an opening prayer and readings from Matthew 28:16-20 (The Great Commission); John 15:12-17 (The Great Commandment); and Luke 22:14-20 (The Institution of the Lord's Supper). We focused on how our mission statement "We are called by God to follow Christ's example and teachings through worshiping, witnessing, learning, supporting one another, and reaching out to others" reflects the commands from Jesus in these particular readings. This discussion brought to light again how the mission statement of our church truly is based on God's Word and how using the mission statement at the end of each church service reminds all of us of what it means to be a congregation.

We next read an article written by Bishop Main listing characteristics of vital, healthy congregations, and we also reviewed the cottage meeting results and congregational survey results. With this information in mind, we looked at areas where we are "strong" in carrying out God's mission as a congregation and where we need to "stretch" for improvement.

This group felt that we are, as a congregation, strong in prayer being central in our lives; worship (Word and Sacrament) is well done and with feeling; and that the facilities of our church are well maintained. We also have well-defined ministry groups and are doing better in engaging more people and reaching out to others.

Areas to be "stretched" or improved include needing to have a more positive outlook, becoming more open-minded to change, and continuing to keep communication open and available to all members.

As a result of our discussions, this group decided to continue to promote more "cottage meetings" or open forums where everyone is invited and welcome to participate. The following topics for cottage meetings were considered: budget, communication, Christian education, evangelism, stewardship, and finance. The first two cottage meetings to be held within the next few months are budget and communication. The finance committee will

facilitate the “budget” meeting, and Ed Coup and Donna Spear will facilitate the “communication” meeting. There will be two opportunities to attend each of these meetings, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

To wrap up this retreat, we focused on the items that will be completed in the short-term:

- To complete the flow chart poster, which will outline all our ministry groups. This will be posted in the Narthex to help our congregation to keep a full understanding of the workings of our church;
- To complete a brochure of the same flowchart information to be available as a hand-out;
- To continue to offer “cottage meetings” where congregation members are encouraged to participate and offer voice to particular topics; and
- To have the congregation members complete a spiritual gifts inventory.

The retreat concluded with communion, closing prayer, and benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Spear