

# *Vision Planning Team Update*

*A Plan of Action for St. James – June, 2009*

For the past several months, the St. James Vision Planning Team has worked on the first steps to develop a long-range plan for the future of our church. As your Vision Planning Team, we believe our congregation needs a clear understanding about what we are called to do together as members of St. James to accomplish God's work.

Excellence in ministry is not possible without a foundation of clear, understandable beliefs and values, expressed in a detailed plan of action to help St. James fulfill its calling to be part of God's mission on earth. To grow and flourish, our congregation needs a clear picture of where we will be in three to five years.

The team, with input from focus groups and parishioner surveys, has created a Mission/Vision/Values Statement, which outlines in broad terms what we are about. That statement is printed below.

Six key strategic areas have been identified, and ministry teams or committees will be formed to develop the specifics of detailed programs and objectives to achieve our congregation's plan of action for the next three to five years:

- **Worship & Music:** create distinct worship opportunities through music and liturgy
- **Spiritual Growth:** stimulate spiritual growth of families and individuals
- **Serving Others:** Christ-like acts of support and service to others
- **Congregational Care:** giving supportive care for members
- **Communications:** significantly improving St. James communications
- **Resources:** ensuring abundant resources for our work

The pastors will contact members to serve on these working groups. If you are interested in contributing, please let one of them know. The groups will meet for the rest of this year and into the next, proposing short term actions and long term goals and plans.

These working *ministry teams* are designed to be permanent teams with rotating members to work alongside the Board of Ministry, ensuring continuity and continuous work through the years. The goal is to have a Spirit-led and mission-based congregation accomplishing God's work through active participation of many members, who will lead projects and programs, which in turn will invite others to be involved in the mission, life, and ministry of St. James in some way.

Each of the six ministry teams will form goals, programs and plans under the framework of the Mission/Vision/Values Statement.

## MISSION STATEMENT

### *Receive - Grow - Give*

Receive God's Love

Grow together in Christ's Love

Give in Loving Service

## VALUES STATEMENT: Welcoming, Faithful, Caring, Serving

## VISION STATEMENT

**INTRODUCTION:** Led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomes all to experience God through meaningful worship, fellowship, study and compassionate service to others.

### **\*RECEIVE\***

#### **GATHERING**

We celebrate God's love through inspiring, distinctive worship opportunities featuring exceptional music and powerful sermons, in a warm, welcoming environment. We creatively incorporate Lutheran theology and liturgy in traditional, contemporary and diverse worship.

#### **COMMUNICATING**

To help us "hear and understand," we engage in compelling, consistent communication to engage members, attract newcomers and operate more efficiently. We proactively communicate the activities, good works and opportunities at St. James to members and the community.

### **\*GROW\***

#### **TEACHING**

We "baptize and teach" as we stimulate spiritual growth of families and individuals by studying and sharing God's word in creative and engaging ways. We build strong Christians with a passion for living faithful lives.

#### **CARING**

We "let our light shine" by creating friendly and supportive opportunities for members to share the joy and challenges of living a Christian life in a secular society. We create community for the entire family, as well as singles, couples, the young and old. We identify members who need help or support, and provide visits and counseling.

### **\*GIVE\***

#### **SERVING**

We "love our neighbor as ourselves," sharing our unique God-given talents and

resources through Christ-like acts of support, service and generosity to others in our community and around the world. We “go and be disciples,” initiating evangelical and ecumenical outreach programs to encourage others to join us, modeling God’s message of grace, mercy and peace through active service to others.

### **RESOURCING**

We receive abundant resources in time, talent and finances to meet our needs and goals. We make existing space in our church more efficient and adaptable, opening the church to member and community groups.

Members of the St. James Vision Planning Team include Sheri Doyle, Rick Fetherston, Kevin King, Karen Kretschmann, Jay Mattison, Dick Pederson, Bruce Roberts, Laura Smith, Karen Wolf and pastors Kurt Billings and Peter Narum.

Please feel free to contact any member with questions or comments.