

**St. Paul's Evangelical
Lutheran Church & School**



St. Paul's

We're Here For You!

New Ulm, MN

**Five-Year Ministry Plan
2005 – 2010**

(Revised 2-28-2006)

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Ulm, Minnesota

(8-2005 – Mission & Objectives)

Mission Statement

“As a family of believers and disciples of our Savior Jesus Christ, we are in the Word, we share the Word, and we live the Word.”

Objectives

Saved by the blood of Jesus, set apart by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace, and empowered by God's love to glorify Him, our objectives are to:

- 1) ... advance personal Bible study, prayer, and regular worship;
- 2) ... foster homes where Christ-like love is the focus;
- 3) ... facilitate connection with fellow believers;
- 4) ... engage the community as witnesses of Jesus Christ; and,
- 5) ... serve our families, church, and community with the gifts God has given.
- 6) ...prepare children spiritually, academically, and physically for time and eternity

Our Philosophy of Ministry

Philosophy of ministry is why we do what we do the way we do it. Philosophy of ministry is 1) driven by assumptions about ministry, 2) influence by our experience in ministry, 3) expresses value judgments, 4) reflects the church's priorities, and 5) is shaped by the church's culture.

- 1) All ministry is to be to God's glory and within the parameters of God's Word.
- 2) The power of our ministry is the Holy Spirit working through God's Word and Sacraments.
- 3) Planning for ministry is based on the confidence that the Lord will provide the right resources for that ministry or use resources to guide us to a particular ministry.
- 4) Knowing our “focus audience” – our congregation and community – is important for our ministry. Our ministry involves a balance in nurture, and in outreach / evangelism.
- 5) Our ministry will strive for a strong church and a strong school.

- 6) Priorities will be established prayerfully and with recognition of the areas of greatest need or opportunity within the total ministry.
- 7) Our ministry will respect the gift of called workers while emphasizing the importance of members in ministry.
- 8) Our ministry emphasizes urgency in sharing the Gospel with the lost and straying.
- 9) Building close relationships with individuals is important in sharing the Word with them.
- 10) The family is the primary place for Christian training, and parents are the primary religious instructors of their children.
- 11) Church and school serve an important role in assisting parents in the Christian training of their children.
- 12) Spiritually strong Christian families will make for a spiritually strong congregation.
- 13) Our desire is to help people be godly disciples of Christ and not simply “members” of St. Paul’s.
- 14) While growth in Christian living occurs primarily through the work of the Holy Spirit, such growth requires the godly cooperation of the individual believer.
- 15) Fellowship is important in the believer’s life because the Holy Spirit uses Christians to influence and help fellow Christians.
- 16) The support of fellow Christians can best be accomplished through the family and/or through small groups.
- 17) St. Paul’s will strive to grow a healthy sense of Biblical stewardship rather than limit our ministry to existing resources.
- 18) St. Paul’s will observe wholesome traditions but have the flexibility to change or discontinue practices when they are no longer relevant or become obstacles.
- 19) We will nurture a ministry atmosphere in which godly risk-taking in ministry is not only allowed but also encouraged.
- 20) Organizational structure, policies, and staffing should enable and support members in ministry.
- 21) While there is need for over-all coordination and prioritization in ministry, decision- making is done best at the lowest level possible.

Five-Year Plan Introduction

- The plan laid out in the following is the five year plan coming out of the WELS Parish Assistance process (2003-2004), our Vision Task Force work (2004), our council and boards breaking down the Vision 2010 into areas of responsibility and then prioritizing those ministries, and finally our boards' looking at strategies and timelines for review, revision, and/or implementation of ministry programs.
- While these are plans that our boards and council have developed prayerfully and feel are important, our leaders also wish to maintain flexibility in planning so that if circumstances change, under God we can adapt accordingly.
- Annually boards will review and revise their plans.
- Part way through the planning cycle our council will appoint an evaluation team to evaluate how our boards are doing in accomplishing their plans and to assess what needs to be done yet.
- Our council and boards will continue to look beyond 2010 to 2020+ for things we should keep an eye on and plan for.



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