



A Five Year Vision Over-view 2008 - 2012

**St. John's
Lutheran
Church**



544 Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917



INTRODUCTION

Saint John's Lutheran Church in Knoxville began a visioning process in April of 2006 to reflect upon the Vision 2007 accomplishments and to prayerfully discern ministry opportunities for the next five years. The Vision Team that led this process includes: Neil Fischer, Don Shell, Angie Hamstead, David and Jessica Bocangel, Pat Richardson, Owen Peterson, Dan Lee, Charles Robinette, Pastor Steve Misenheimer and Pastor Amy Figg.

The four-step visioning process involved an initial survey, seven follow-up "Easter Vision" forums for congregational dialogue, a Leadership Forum for goal development, and a Believing, Belonging, Becoming Capital Campaign team that introduced the goals of a three year emphasis as benevolence, property purchase and development, building acquisition, ministry program growth and staff expansion.

Vision 2012 seeks to communicate the clear call of Christ to faithful discipleship and the transformation of our ministry campus. Vision 2012 also introduces a new model for ministry organization and management based on the eight quality characteristics of a growing, healthy congregation as identified by Natural Church Development. Leadership Teams, ministry teams and small groups will identify specific objectives, initiatives, and activity priorities that will lead to deepening relationships and making disciples.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In the last ten years, the Pastors, lay leadership, and the Saint John's congregation have faithfully followed a visioning process that has produced two documents. Vision 2002 was accepted by the congregation in 1997, and Vision 2007 was presented and accepted in 2002. Both of these five year vision documents have provided Saint John's with guidance and direction for ministry development, as well as a tool for evaluation and measurement of results. With the conclusion of Vision 2007, we have reflected upon the congregational faith journey of the last five years.

Here are some highlights:

- Enriched worship and music experiences
- Major involvement with community redevelopment and connection to local city initiatives
- Established \$150,000 Saint John's Seminary Scholarship with the ELCA
- Ordination of Pastor Ward Misenheimer and Pastor Amy Huacani
- Clergy Candidates: John Tirro, Laura D'Angelo, Stephen Friedrich, Laura Stancher, and Betsy Ward
- University of Tennessee Campus Ministry at Tyson House with the Episcopal Church
- Habitat for Humanity: Completion of our fourth and fifth houses
- Mission Trips to Bolivia and Biloxi, MS
- Creation of Stephen Ministry (17 Stephen Ministers)
- Burning of \$400,000 mortgage
- BBB Capital Campaign of \$1.2 Million
- Renovations of Sparks Fellowship Hall
- Restoration of Stained Glass windows in Historic Sanctuary
- Win Our World (WOW): Four Summers with 19 Churches participating
- And much, much more!

BELIEVING...

Empowering Leadership



Gift Oriented Ministry



Passionate Spirituality



BELONGING...

Loving Relationships



Inspiring Worship



Holistic Small Groups



BECOMING...

Needs Oriented Evangelism



Functional Structures



VISION SUMMARY

We will equip, support, motivate, and mentor individuals of all ages to become empowered Christian leaders as we develop regional resources in faith formation, gifts discernment, and servant leadership opportunities.

We will intentionally offer programs and discovery opportunities for the cultivation of talents and gifts of our members to encourage the ongoing discernment of our roles, responsibilities, and relationships as we serve together in God's Kingdom.

We will develop and exhibit passion, boldness, and enthusiasm as we carry out the Great Commission in recognition of our covenant of Baptism.

We will live out God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves as we intentionally develop and nurture loving relationship within and beyond our community of faith.

We will become a more inclusive and diverse congregation by providing multiple opportunities for inspiring worship in our sanctuary and in a multi-purpose facility to be constructed for worship, community gatherings, and recreation.

We will support the development of co-led small group teams as we focus on spiritual growth experiences while emphasizing relationships and service opportunities.

We will share our grace based faith in a focused and intentional effort as we reach out to specific individuals and groups with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We will enhance the framework of communications and operational channels in order to facilitate the delivery of the vision, programs, and ministry of Saint John's.

MISSION STATEMENT

Believing that we are called and claimed in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit through baptism, we are the Body of Christ in our world today, loving God through our worship and loving our neighbor through our ministry.

Belonging to God through Jesus Christ, we are an inclusive, welcoming community of faith seeking through fellowship and evangelism to create Christ connections with our neighborhood, the city of Knoxville, and the world with a mission to “go and make disciples.”

Becoming a new creation in Christ, we are formed for the future as God’s family through a growing, grace-filled process of discipleship, learning and maturing through our shared faith and life in Christ.

VISION STATEMENT

We will “love God with all of our heart” through our ever expanding emphasis on inspiring worship that is an inclusive and diverse experience of God’s active presence in this community.

We will “love our neighbor as ourselves” sharing our God given gifts through Christ-like acts of service and generous programs of ministry.

We will “go and make disciples” as we model God’s message of grace, mercy and peace through an active mission of evangelism.

We will “baptize and teach” as the Holy Spirit “equips the saints for the work of ministry” by building up this community of faith and empowering this body of believers.

INTENTIONAL PLANS – 2008

Throughout 2008, Saint John’s will celebrate our 120th Anniversary with monthly events and activities, culminating with a Festival Worship Celebration on All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2008. This year-long celebration of our ministry is a faithful way to begin living out our Vision 2012 strategic plan.

First Events

Vision Team members, Congregational Council members, Team Co-leaders, pastors and staff will facilitate these gatherings:

Wednesday, January 9, 6:30-8:00 PM	Believing	Empowering Leadership Gift Oriented Ministry Passionate Spirituality
Wednesday, January 16, 6:30-8:00 PM	Belonging	Inspiring Worship Holistic Small Groups Loving Relationships
Wednesday, January 23, 6:30-8:00 PM	Becoming	Need Oriented Evangelism Functional Structures

In addition, members and friends of Saint John’s are also invited to attend the Leadership Retreat which will focus on team development, empowering leadership and passionate spirituality:

Friday and Saturday, February 1-2	Leadership Retreat Sparks Fellowship Hall	Friday (7:00 to 9:00 P.M.) Saturday (8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.)
-----------------------------------	--	--

*Now to him, who by the power at work within us,
is able to accomplish abundantly more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!*
Ephesians 3:20-21

