

Sherwood Park Lutheran Church
Leadership Meeting
Saturday April 8, 2017

Present: Pastor Jason, Tim Friesen, Dallas Kostna, Cheryl Hemmett, Megan Schwartz, Dallas Ganske, Byron van Dijk, Marty Thenhaus

Regrets: Russ Malkoske

1. Welcome and call to order: 12:00pm
2. Determine a strategy for the next 2-3 years
 - 2.1 We participate in God's mission: God brings in, God builds up, God sends out. Our mission describes what we do every day. Our vision is what we want to become. We are working to develop our vision statement. The mission and vision, together define our aspiration.
 - 2.2 Where should we "play". This isn't only geographical, though that is one of the components. Strategy is about making choices. We cannot do everything and please everyone. Instead, we need to select the items that we are best at and that people will value the most. We discussed competition. If we were a business, we would be competing with other churches. In our case, we're competing for people's time and attention. What we really want to do is help people discover the meaning in the message we believe. We want people to know and believe that their participation in our faith community matters and is worth prioritizing their time for.
 - 2.2.1 Geographically, we decided to focus on our congregations, other congregations and neighbours – in that order of priority.
 - 2.2.2 We then determined a list of three key offerings of value that we could provide: acceptance, giving meaning and sense of community (a fourth was "support").
 - 2.3 How should we provide these offerings?
 - 2.3.1 Acceptance:
 - 2.3.1.1 Listen - town hall meetings, finding ways of allowing communication to go back and forth, giving the congregation a voice.
 - 2.3.1.2 Model acceptance - encourage participation, open mindedness. Avoid judging others.
 - 2.3.1.3 Being friendly/being a good host – welcoming visitors
 - 2.3.1.4 Understand differences within the congregation and outside the congregation. Focus on similarities between churches.
 - 2.3.1.5 Inviting/sharing events/having open community events/building relationships
 - 2.3.2 Giving meaning:
 - 2.3.2.1 Worship services
 - 2.3.2.2 Small groups
 - 2.3.2.3 Encourage involvement that demonstrates purpose; help to answer the question of "why"

- 2.3.2.4 Provide information about faith – directly and via social media
- 2.3.2.5 Learn more about other congregations
- 2.3.3 Sense of community:
 - 2.3.3.1 Small groups
 - 2.3.3.2 Cross generational events - have an event to help build a relationship
 - 2.3.3.3 Inviting people who normally don't participate
 - 2.3.3.4 Learn about other peoples' interests
 - 2.3.3.5 How do we educate people of how faith will bring meaning to them?
- 3. Homework was assigned to all leadership team members:
 - 3.1 Review our offerings and provide suggestions for specific tasks needed to make them come alive. My suggestion is to pick 3 or 4 specific ideas for "projects". Turn these projects into "SMART" goals. This is short for "Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timebound". For example:
 - 3.2 Town hall meetings: Hold two town hall meetings in 2017. After each town hall, send a survey to members asking them if they felt they had a voice and valued the conversation. If we score 4 out of 5 on these, we've succeeded.
 - 3.2.1 This is specific, has a way to measure success, it's attainable (twice a year is reasonable), relevant (since we discussed that as part of "acceptance") and timebound (by the end of 2017).
- 4. Making announcements for the congregation
 - April 16th - Byron
 - May 14th - Dallas Ganske
 - June 11th - Dallas Kostna
 - September 17th - Marty Thenhaus
- 5. Date of next meeting: May 7, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm