

Disciples Transformed

Desired Outcomes For Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Approved by Church Council on September 17, 2006 (Revised January 10, 2007)

- A.* Ebenezer will live its Mission so that it will be a “beacon” (a light on a hill) that is known in the community for the love of Christ. Guests will be sought out and specifically welcomed by members. Strangers and newcomers, including the homeless, will experience “Consistent Hospitality” in our church.
- B.* The congregation will develop a local, “on-the-street” reputation as a Spirit-tuned congregation where a diversity of people -- un-baptized adults, people who question, skeptics, and other religious seekers might come to explore Christianity. The reputation will develop as member/disciples grow in their ability to welcome and share their faith beyond the doors of the church building.
- C.* The Church will be a gathering place with opportunities for youth and young adults to meet, grow, and explore their faith and faithfulness. Development of this outcome will occur through staff configuration, and the support of member/disciples as they grow in understanding the unique opportunities of a downtown congregation to attract younger member/disciples.
- D.* In worship, the people gathered will experience the Living God, and not merely hear about God, strengthened in a personal relationship between God and humanity, growing in faithfulness.
- E.* Lutheran liturgy will be interpreted in worship to explain and emphasize its meaning and place in our beliefs, practices, and traditions of Christ’s gospel.
- F.* Variety in worship will honor the culture, language, and generations of the participating worshippers.
- G.* The word “Jesus” will be on the lips of Ebenezer member/disciples more than the word “Ebenezer.” Ultimately, this will translate into a congregation of member/disciples who are outward-looking and acting, sent out to share Christ at work, home, and at play; and bringing Good News by serving the poor, the imprisoned, and the oppressed in tangible ways (Luke 4:18-19).
- H.* We will be a “gifts-based” community where spiritual gifts are discerned, celebrated, and named as an act of discipleship that expresses one’s love for God. Members will feel a sense of call to give consistently of their time, talents and resources.
- I.* We will develop meaningful relationships with one another through a community of small groups of 7-8 people (meeting weekly over a specific period of time) – linked by a combination of prayer, Bible study, mutual support and specific mission to the congregation and community.
- J.* Christian education is a life cycle process, and Ebenezer will offer year-round opportunities, not merely paralleling the school year. Study curriculum will be “Biblically based,” Lutheran-centered, with subjects appealing to the whole spectrum of those participating, as well as the culture, language and generations of participating learners.
- K.* Adult members will be well grounded in the scriptures and discipleship, so that through faith and by example, they can nurture the children and youth in Christian formation. In this way the generations will understand and value one another.
- L.* The physical campus will be maintained and enhanced for the sake of faithful ministry, welcome and hospitality.

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At its September meeting, Church Council adopted 12 **Desired Outcomes** For Ebenezer's ministry – to begin now and take us into the future

They represent a paradigm shift toward Transformation – Please see Pastor Paul's article in the October 2006 Parish News

They require a **Deeper Commitment** to move forward – **To Grow and To Go** – as transformed disciples of God's Word in Action!

They will be viewed and commented upon, as everything from "Radical" to "Yes!"

YOU are an integral, indispensable part of the excitement of Transformation

It may not be easy

It may challenge us deep down

It may be uncomfortable at times

It may seem impossible at times

But----

It will be worthwhile

It will bring joy

It will become the new model for our Christian life

It absolutely can be done – because

With God, All Things Are Possible,

and

It is based on Jesus' teachings of Discipleship

Please Read and Pray about the Desired Outcomes on the Reverse

Please talk to any member of the

Disciples Transformed – Desired Outcomes

Team or Member of Council about any questions you may have

Please be prepared to say "Yes" when asked to help put these into practice

Please Watch and Listen for more as we begin our Transformation by setting forth on this new and exciting journey.