

Light of Christ Lutheran Church: Purpose, Giftedness and Mission

Purpose: How does this congregation or organization understand its reason for being in the light of God's call to mission and service? Who are you? Why are you here?

We are growing in our identity of being "Mission Partners," which connotes a level of active engagement for us. We have spent time the past year+ discussing and developing what is unique about our purpose and calling. That has resulted in our focus on "Connecting Deeply; with God and with one another." This imperative is rooted in the words of Peter: "You also as living stones are being built up into a spiritual house."

Thus, the following is important to us:

- To have an increasing gospel impact of love, grace, and compassion within the lives of our neighbors and community as well as partner organizations in broader, even global communities.
- To authentically live out a radical, open, and welcoming hospitality to all, no exceptions. Note our Welcome Statement which can be found on our website: <https://www.lightofchristlutheran.com/about>
- To be Christ's heart, hands, and feet here and beyond.
- To be a Christ-centered community and a people who are sent out to bless the world.

Giftedness: What are your gifts and resources for fulfilling this purpose? What are the congregation's or organization's top three assets and how are they being used? Are there obstacles that must be overcome to be able to use these gifts and accomplish the mission?

As Mission Partners, we seek to grow in our discovery of and service of our giftedness, both as individuals and as a community of faith.

These things are important to us:

- The unique spirit of genuine openness that God has positioned the faith community to offer and live out. Said differently we are seen to be the "progressive" alternative or faith community in Delano.
- The wide variety of ways partnership happens and the contributions each individual makes.
- The commitment to growing more deeply in relationship with the Lord and with one another.
- The commitment to extend welcome and service to others.

Mission: In light of the way you have described your ministry context in this Ministry Site Profile, what are the top three mission priorities which, if accomplished, hold the most promise for the continued development of this ministry?

Following the Pandemic, we sought to honestly engage with and inquire around people's impact and needs. Three central priorities grew out of that and continue to shape our journey forward: Connecting; Inviting; Healing. These three are the structure; the following supports these three priorities and provides some context: Our mission of "Connecting Deeply with God and with One Another" is in early stages of being articulated and lived out.

The following describes our journey to fulfill our mission:

- To partner with one another and equip each other in various aspects of mission and ministry, such as worship, children, youth and family, education, outreach and service, teams and committees, mission and evangelism, healing and wholeness.
- To embrace change while remaining true to the gospel and being a church in the strong tradition of reformation and renewal.
- To be attentive to the needs, particularly unmet needs, of neighbors and the community.
- To embrace the opportunities of being a "Hybrid Church," in other words, meeting people where they are and inviting them into partnership with the church as we seek to be a vibrant community both online and in-person.

September Presentation Content

What is Ministry Site Profile?

The MSP is used by potential call candidates to help them understand our congregation, our wants, and needs when considering a call.

The Main Sections Include:

- Step One **Who We Are** (Demographics & financial information for both church and community)
- Step Two **Our Vision for Mission** (Trends in the Community; Purpose, Vision and Mission of the Congregation: see above)
- Step Three **Leadership Needs:**

Our Leadership Needs

Top Five Ministry Tasks

- Spiritual Formation/Direction
- Preaching/Worship
- Building a Sense of Community
- Strategic Mission and Planning
- Pastoral Care and Visitation

Top Five Ministry Gifts

- Help People Develop Their Spiritual Life
- Be an Effective Teacher/Preacher
- Build a Sense of Community among the people with whom he/she works
- Skilled in Planning and Leading Programs
- Provide Care and Nurture

Our Expectations (of the Pastor) in First Year

- Take a thoughtful and collaborative approach to learning about us and our community during the 1st year of ministry.
- Assist us in growing more deeply into our mission focus of Connecting Deeply with God and with One Another
 - Deepen our relationship with God,
 - Develop our connections and relationships with one another, including those on the periphery who need our care and support.
- Help us to develop a more deliberate and enduring outreach initiative to grow our church community
- Suggest ways in which we can more substantively serve our neighbors alongside those outreach initiatives we have in place.

How the Congregation will Help you Succeed

The church council leadership will commit to meet with the pastor to help understand the priorities and key church contacts.

- Provide a base of support to the pastor during their integration into the church community
- Encourage a two-way sharing of ideas, feelings, progress and challenges during the first year

Church committee leaders will commit to meet with the pastor on a regular basis as agreed upon by both parties.

- Provide a background of work in each committee
- What is on tap for the coming year
- What partnership they need to be successful
- Organize dinners to help integrate the pastor and their family into our church family

Church staff will meet one on one to help the pastor understand their job responsibilities, and any key areas of focus that need support over the first year.

The mutual ministry team will provide on-going care and support to the incoming pastor.

Key church leaders will commit to provide introductions to key community leaders in the business and faith community (including the pastor's family as needed).