St. Paul Lutheran Church Annual Mission and Ministry Goals

Our Ongoing Ministry & Mission Goals (2026–2027)

Following the successful completion of our formal redevelopment process on April 26, 2026, the Church Council remains committed to intentional planning, faithful stewardship, and ongoing ministry growth. At our annual Planning Retreat on **Sunday, May 31, 2026 at the home of Jamie Hyrkas**, the Council reviewed our previous goals, celebrated accomplishments, evaluated current ministries, and established priorities for the coming year. These goals are not simply organizational objectives. They are opportunities for us to listen for God's leading and to participate together in mission in our congregation, community, and world.

Celebrating What God Has Already Accomplished

Before looking ahead, we give thanks for the many goals that have already become realities. The Grounds and Grace Men's Group has begun. The Acts of Random Kindness (A.R.K.) ministry is making a meaningful impact in our community. The Hospitality Team and Congregational Care Team have both been established and are actively serving.

Our new and ongoing goals include:

Strengthen Worship and Faith Formation

- Children will collect a special noisy offering to support mission projects of their choosing by launching Children's Change for Change on months that include a fifth Sunday. (8/30, 11/29)
- Continue encouraging intergenerational participation in worship and congregational life.

Expand Fellowship and Congregational Life

- Launch a congregational Fantasy Football League(s) coordinated by Chris Timmons.
- Continue exploring opportunities for a co-ed softball team (Tyler K./Matt R.)
- Continue exploring a congregational pickleball tournament. (Matt R.)
- Offer occasional hobby and skill-sharing workshops led by congregation members, including photography, woodworking, bread baking, gardening, crafts, and other interests.

Serve and Support Our Wider Community

- Continue developing plans for a clothing donation and giveaway ministry. (Creation Care Team)
- Explore additional ways to serve individuals and families connected to our Mobile Food Truck ministry.
- Encourage hands-on service through existing outreach ministries and volunteer opportunities.

Strengthen Local and Global Mission Engagement

- Continue evaluating and strengthening the Global and Local Missions Team.
- Expand support for local ministries including the Mobile Food Truck, A.R.K. Homeless Kits, and Children's Change for Change.
- Continue strengthening our partnership with our companions in Tanzania through the Bega Kwa Bega ministry.
- Seek new opportunities to share Christ's love both locally and globally.

Hospitality and Congregational Care

- Participate in Stagecoach Days outreach this fall.
- Host another Harvest Festival in the fall featuring a chili feed and pumpkin carving contest.
- Continue developing ways to welcome visitors and help them connect with the life of the congregation.
- Strengthen visitation and support for members who are unable to attend worship regularly.

Measurable Ministry Goals

Our focus continues to be on growing participation in worship and congregational life.

- Current average weekly worship attendance in 2026: **116**
- Goals by **May 2027**:
    - 10% Growth Goal: Average weekly attendance of 128
    - Stretch Goal: Average weekly attendance of 140

While participation in small groups and ministry teams can be difficult to measure precisely, we anticipate continued growth as new fellowship groups, service opportunities, and ministry initiatives are launched.

Stewardship and Long-Term Sustainability

- Continue providing fair and competitive compensation for church staff.
- Continue rebuilding congregational savings and financial reserves.
- Maintain facilities through faithful volunteer support while evaluating future staffing and facility needs.
- Delay major non-urgent capital projects until appropriate planning, fundraising, and congregational engagement (appeals) can occur.
- Increase mission support to the St. Paul Area Synod in gratitude for their partnership throughout redevelopment.

How You Can Participate

These goals belong to all of us. We invite every member and friend of St. Paul Lutheran Church to participate through prayer, worship attendance, volunteering, inviting others, joining a group, sharing your gifts, and supporting our mission financially. Together, we trust that God will continue to do great things through this congregation.

Our Guiding Scripture

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine…" -Ephesians 3:20