



SAINT JAMES
LUTHERAN CHURCH

———— GLEN CARBON ————

Healing Community Restoration

St. James Ministry Plan

2024



The following document is the result of multiple congregational meetings, Bible studies, congregational input, and guidance by our Lutheran Church Extension Fund Ministry Clarity Consultant.

This St. James Ministry Plan marks a momentous step towards impactful and purposeful church and community engagement. The comprehensive plan encompasses aspirational targets and goals within our three mission pillars: community, healing, and restoration. These pillars not only represent the diverse aspects of the congregation's mission but also reflect a commitment to fostering a sense of community, providing healing, and promoting restoration in the lives of individuals.

The inclusion of aspirational goals in the plan speaks to the ministry's forward-thinking approach. Aspiration provides a driving force that propels the congregation towards continuous growth and positive change. The plan, once adopted by the congregation, will serve as a strategic guide for leadership, offering a clear path to achieving the outlined goals. It is designed to be dynamic, allowing for regular updates and adaptations as milestones are reached, ensuring that the ministry remains relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

At the heart of this strategic plan is the guiding statement: "Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises." This powerful statement serves as the compass for all initiatives, emphasizing the ministry's commitment to sharing faith with others. The plan, therefore, should resonate with and embody this guiding principle, aligning every goal and aspiration with the mission of extending healing, hope, and the promise of the Gospel to a broader community. As the congregation moves forward with this plan, it is not just a roadmap for success but a testament to their shared journey of faith and a commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Community

What is Community?

The gospel is not a philosophical concept, but a new reality created by the death and resurrection of Jesus and lived-in presence and power of the Holy Spirit. This reality comes to full expression in the Christian community – where forgiveness, truth-telling, humility, and patience become the new creation way of life.

Aspirational Target

St. James members' love for each other will result in spiritual and numerical growth which will necessitate larger facilities and ultimately a church plant in a new location.

GOALS

SPECIFIC – MEASURABLE – ACTIONABLE – RELEVANT

- St. James will reach out to all members not currently attending worship. Greet every new visitor on Sunday mornings with a welcome kit of information about St. James and a personal invitation to visit or return.
- St. James will host various on-site fellowship events to share the hope found in Jesus Christ with each other.
- St. James will create an outdoor recreational/fellowship space on the current St. James property that will accommodate community events, children's playground and a sitting area for individual or small group discussions/prayers.
- Members of St. James will commit to being faithful in Sunday worship.
- Members of St. James will commit to being connected to a community group (community groups, weekly Bible study, youth group)
- Members of St. James will commit to inviting someone from the congregation into their home for a meal at least twice a year.

Healing

What is Healing?

The belief that all humans are broken and damaged is a confession that we need healing. Jesus gives us this healing in his death and resurrection, then calls us to offer that healing to each other through truth-telling, forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation.

Aspirational Target

All members of St. James will be willing to walk daily with one another (i.e. sharing struggles, helping each other, encouraging, mourning, etc.) in a welcoming space provided by St. James.

GOALS

SPECIFIC – MEASURABLE – ACTIONABLE – RELEVANT

- Design a welcoming, functional, and accessible space that facilitates congregating of members for worship, conversations, training, and social activities that is adopted by the congregation.
- Develop a list of volunteers willing to provide Biblical advice on various topics (e.g., depression, post-partum depression, grief care, financial stress, divorce care) and train these volunteers.

Note: This is an interim goal with the hope that providing a list will encourage people to both start providing assistance and asking for assistance and move towards the aspirational goal of people helping one another without needing a formal list.

- See an increase of members who have shared a personal struggle with another member with the goal of experiencing healing in Christ.
- Include in the budget, a community fund designed to assist members who are facing a financial emergency or severe financial distress.
- St. James will sponsor a casual one-month “In the Word” Wednesday-night series to learn how to have meaningful Bible Study.

Restoration

What is restoration?

Human history is headed toward a magnificent goal, the return of Jesus and the renewal of all creation. On the road to that goal Jesus calls his people to participate with him in this restorative mission, which is to do in Jesus' name and by his power the ministries he began before his ascension and continues to do now through his Holy Spirit. Meeting Physical and spiritual needs - Equipping ourselves to give biblical answers to the problems people have. Intentionally equipping ourselves to minister to the hurting people in th Glen Carbon area.

Aspirational Target

Every member of St. James will be actively involved in restoring people to Jesus by living as New Creation people now.

GOALS

SPECIFIC – MEASURABLE – ACTIONABLE – RELEVANT

- Annually, St. James will host a ministry fair—highlighting our current restorative ministry opportunities and seeks to create new ones where God is calling us.
- Every year, St. James will host a Community Serve Day including outdoor worship and projects within the community.
- St. James will participate in no less than four community service projects each year, to serve Glen Carbon and the surrounding area.
- So that we are equipped to give biblical answers to the questions people have, St. James will promote a Scripture Study Challenge (June-July).
- St. James will offer one men's and one women's ministry event each year that facilitates restoration, targeting attendance by current members and as an outreach to neighbors and friends.
- St. James will reach out to all Glen Carbon residents (continuing monthly with new residents) with a welcome kit of information about the church along with a personal invitation to visit.
- St. James will lead an adult short-term mission trip annually.
- St. James will be the most welcoming and utilized gathering place in Glen Carbon, providing facilities and opportunities for worship, study, church and community programs and events, service projects, banquet facilities, and outreach programs.

NOTES:

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St. James Lutheran Church

Mission Pillars

**Healing
Community
Restoration**

Guiding Statement

Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.

**If you have any questions or feedback,
please contact the Ministry Planning Team**

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