

Life Stages Strategic Planning

Introduction:

It is human nature to want to connect with someone who understands where you are in life and want to connect with others who are growing in Christ at the same stage of life as you. People at different stages of life and different life circumstances have different needs in their faith development. The life stages strategic planning group will develop a plan and get people connected to the Body of Christ at Atonement Lutheran Church through service and mission, fellowship, relationships, caring, learning and spiritual growth, evangelism, and worship and prayer and stewardship. The life stages strategic planning group will work collaboratively with the various ministry departments and areas of strategic planning.

Vision:

Develop a comprehensive ministry that will actively engage and disciple all life stages and life circumstances in a spiritual continuum from birth to death. The spiritual continuum being: Exploring Christianity, Growing in Christ, Close to Christ and Christ Centered.

Each ministry will incorporate these spiritual disciplines:

- 1) Emphasize **service and mission**
- 2) Encourage **fellowship, relationships and a caring** atmosphere
- 3) Teach and assist with **learning and spiritual growth**
- 4) Emphasize **evangelism**
- 5) Promote **worship and prayer** in spiritual growth
- 6) Emphasize, encourage and teach Biblical **stewardship** principles of time, talents and money

Year One:

- Develop a life stages visioning team. *(by March 2010)* This team will consist of a staff member from each ministry area to be represented plus a member from the ministry visioning team (non staff member), a member of the Board of Directors and a pastor. The areas of ministry to be represented are: Children's Ministry (Cindy Wieland), Family Ministry (Lisa Hanson), Youth Ministry (Andrea Paulson), Young Adult Ministry, (Brandon Foster), Adult Ministry (Pastor Becky Lee) Small Group Ministry (Dave Jondahl), and Health Ministry (Barb Hanson).
- Develop a comprehensive evaluation tool for each ministry area to use in evaluating their ministry. Develop a listing of life stages that will be utilized church wide by each ministry area. *(by April 2010)*
- Establish a ministry visioning team consisting of members from each ministry area that will establish priorities and emphasize one to two areas to concentrate on each year. *(by May 2010)*
- Evaluate each ministry area to see what life stages they are serving and identify those life stages not being served. Identify how neglected life stages and circumstances can be served. *(by May 2010)*
- Create a team that will make a plan to get people connected into a life stage group. *(by June 2010)*

Year Two: *(beginning September 2010)*

- Develop leaders who will lead small groups and/or large group activities that will address the six spiritual disciplines that are to be included in each ministry.
- Begin implementation of programming for identified priorities of each ministry.
- Continue to utilize the comprehensive evaluation tool developed for each ministry area to use in evaluating their ministry.
- Continue to utilize the team that will get people connected into a life stage group.
- Identify areas of reorganization and reallocation for resources: human, financial and physical plant.

Year Three: (and each year thereafter)

- Establish priorities of what life stage and life circumstance to concentrate on as a priority, perhaps picking one to two areas to concentrate on each year.
- Continue to utilize the team that will help people get connected into a life stage group.
- Continue to identify areas of reorganization and reallocation for resources: human, financial and physical plant.
- Continue to develop leaders who will lead groups.
- Continue implementation of programming for priorities of each ministry.
- Continue to utilize the comprehensive evaluation tool developed for each ministry area to use in evaluating their ministry.

Life Stages Team:

Lisa Hanson, Andrea Paulson, Brandon Foster, Barb Hanson, Cindy Wieland, Dave Jondahl, Pastor Becky Lee, Diane Nelson and Blake Strehlow