



# Connect

## **We will be a church of Small Groups.**

It's easy to get lost in a big church. We want, as a Connecting Church, to connect people to each other in Small Groups. This is where connections are made and relationships are deepened. This is where community happens. A small group might be a bible study, confirmation group, a choir, or a group of people who clean the church. These small groups will be cross-generational and based upon interest. **Our goal is to double the number of people we have in small groups.**

**Small Groups have provided a rich opportunity to dive deeper into scripture and develop relationships while discussing aspects of faith.**  
*-Kim Forness*

## **We will practice Impactful Acts of Service within our church, community, and the larger world.**

One of the best ways of connecting is when we roll up our sleeves and begin to work with others around a common purpose. As Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." We will work God's love into the world through acts of service. This happens through the gift of hospitality, packing meals for those who are food insecure, serving one of our mission partners, and serving through a missional experience with one of our global partners. **Our goal is to have 1200 people serving within our church, community, and the larger world.**



# Worship

## **We want more people in the metro area to hear the message of Jesus.**

As church, we are unapologetically relational and Christ-centered. Worship is what we do and the centerpiece to our life together. We gather to hear a godly message, celebrate the sacraments, pray, and sing. We are the body of Christ connected and related to one another. We will continue to craft meaningful and worship-filled opportunities in both our traditional and contemporary services along with a pursuit of excellence. It is giving God our best!

Worship is central, and we want more people to experience our relational God. We will develop strategies around invitation and reaching into our local mission field, because we want everyone to hear the message of Jesus!



## **We are relationally-focused and Christ-centered.**



# Impact

## **We will model Generosity to others.**

Our God is generous! In God's economy there is always more than enough. Jesus talked a lot about generosity – everything we have comes to us simply as a gift. We have been blessed. We have been given much and much is expected. Jesus invites us to participate and engage in a life of generosity. Because of Jesus, generosity is a spiritual value. **Our goal is to increase our financial donors and live as a tithing community with our mission partners.**

## **We will give our best to the Next Generation.**

We know that it is important, in matters of faith, to connect with the next generation early and often. Relational ministry for our children and youth remains a top priority at First Lutheran. We will be there in those early years of Sunday/Wednesday school, VBS, and Bible Camp. We will be

there for confirmation, retreats, outdoor ministry, mission trips, and Sr. High youth group. **Our goal is to ensure that 75% of our young people will be connected and engaged in these life-giving opportunities.**

***I decided that faith was something I wanted for myself. -Emily Gorder***

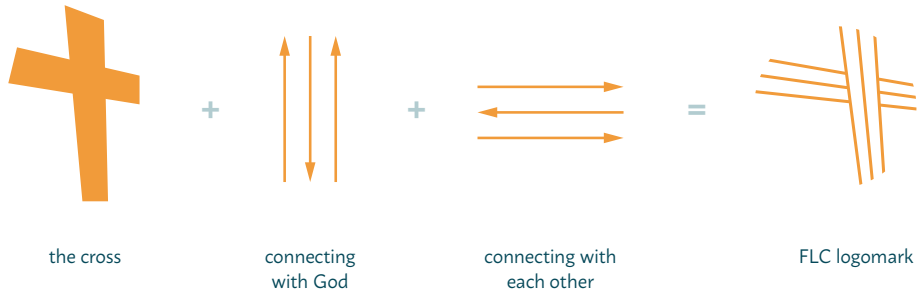
**Another goal is that every young person will have no less than five adults on their team.** A team of parents, youth director, mentor, confirmation guide, an elder, and a pastor. Everybody needs a team of support. We want our kids to know that they do not have to navigate this world alone. We want to give our best to the next generation!

Finally, it takes a team to have impact. We will raise up more **Adult Leaders** in the areas of children, youth, and family ministry. It takes multiple generations to raise one generation.



# FIRST LUTHERAN

*Your Connecting Church*



**We believe that God is opening a door to a promising future.**

In the words of John, in the book of Revelation, “Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut” (Rev. 3:8). God is inviting us to be a part of what God is doing and what God wants to do. Our mission is to connect people to God and to each other. It is all about relationship and connection!

The **vertical dimension** of the cross reminds us of the relationship that God gives to us in the person of Jesus.

We want people to know Jesus. Every time Jesus encountered someone, life was transformed. He died, and rose again. He multiplied his efforts with his twelve disciples. He sent them forth to all people, everywhere.

The **horizontal dimension** of the cross reminds us that we live that Jesus relationship out, with, and through others.

The church was his idea to invite, reach out, and connect with all people, everywhere. The Apostle Paul writes, “For as in one body, we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Rom. 12). This image underscores that we are connected and related to each other. Our lives are graciously not our own. We belong to each other!

**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.**  
**1 Corinthians 12**

God has set an open door before us. **Our mission is to connect people to God and to each other.** This mission and ministry will be focused in three areas: Connect, Worship, and Impact.

## *You're invited...*

We are excited for what God is doing at First Lutheran, and we look forward to how God will open doors into the future as we live and serve together. Our ministry and mission over the next three years will be focused in the areas of Connection, Worship, and Impact. We have a plan, a passion, and a purpose as we seek to be a Connecting Church. Our mission is to connect people to God and to each other.

We invite you to reflect, pray, and consider how God is inviting you to be connected and engaged. We welcome you to the future of First Lutheran as together we open the door to what God is doing and wants to do in and through our Church.

We thank you for your partnership. We will do this together. Welcome forward!

Pr. Steph and Pr. Marty

FIRST LUTHERAN  
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2027 VISION



FIRST LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



*Connecting people to God and to each other.*