



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Mission and Ministry

By Pastor Phil

Inside this issue:

<i>From the Principals' Desk</i>	2-3
<i>Info from the Lay Governing Board</i>	3
<i>From the Vicar</i>	4
<i>Preschool News</i>	5
<i>Oktoberfest and Golf Tournament</i>	5
<i>Make the Walls and Rafters Ring</i>	6
<i>Music Information</i>	6-7
<i>Mom-to-Mom</i>	8
<i>Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun!</i>	8
<i>Upcoming Youth Events</i>	9
<i>Financial News</i>	10-11
<i>Mission Statement & Ministry Goals</i>	12

Over the years many of you have heard me say, “Mission is what we do, and Ministry is how we do it.” The purpose of this mantra is to facilitate the setting of long term targets with short term objectives that are aimed at those marks. So “The Mission” communicates what we are working toward, and “The Ministry” demonstrates how we plan to get there.



For example, “The Mission” of the whole Christian Church is clear,

“19 ... Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20a

Like the first believers and congregations of the

New Testament, each individual, and every Christian assembly, make unique contributions to fulfill this commission. Peter worked in and around Jerusalem, while Paul targeted the Gentiles in the rest of the empire. One could say that each of them “aspired to be evangelists;” the fisherman to his own kind and the tent maker to other nationalities. Did each fulfill his call to become an evangelist? Yes! Did either stop striving to continue to be evangelists? No! Each continued his unique mission, matching what he was doing, and where he did it, to that aspiration.

Similarly, the members of Our Savior make a unique contribution to fulfill “The Mission of the Whole Christian Church.” As a group, we “aspire” to be “A Christian Family that is rooted in grace, growing in faith, and serving with joy.” As

each short term goal is set and met (like filling a pastoral vacancy, completing a building program, etc.), new objectives are promoted while the long term plan remains essentially the same.

Recently we began referring to these long term desires as “Aspirations” in an effort to clarify that these “critical targets” are not meant to be attained and replaced. Instead, like the aforementioned evangelists, we never stop striving to reach them in new ways. As a result, the Lay Governing Board has introduced revised Aspirations which reorganize the Ministry Goals from the past several years within the familiar motto of Vision Statement. (Please see the last page.)

Finally, in order to unite our new or existing initiatives into a common campaign each year, we develop a “theme.” In that

(Continued on page 2)

Mission and Ministry (continued)

process, we were led to focus on the “outcome” of our Aspirations. In other words what might we expect from the intersection of faith, grace, and joy? Hope!

There are so many personal, spiritual, and social situations that need this assurance and inspiration right now. So

whether its recovering from job loss, the restructuring of our School, or marking the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country:

13May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

From the Principals’ Desk

By Lynn Dirks (Jr. K-4th Grade Principal) and Jorge Mejia (5th-8th Grade Principal)

Our Savior Lutheran School opened its 37th year on Tuesday, August 30, 2011. The students arrived sporting the new uniforms in cobalt blue, white, black, khaki, and plaid. The teachers arrived on Monday, August 15 to begin preparing for the upcoming year. They were very busy in meetings, getting acquainted with new teachers, reviewing school policies in the faculty handbook, doing personal evaluations and goal setting with the principals, compiling field trips, reviewing emergency procedures and CPR/First Aide instruction, and receiving training in the Shurley English method. They have participated in all-staff get-togethers and began a professional growth project called “Cultivate: Forming the Emerging Generation Through Life-on-Life Mentoring.” In addition, the teachers collected needed supplies and books, and prepared their rooms.

Think about the years of preschool through eighth grade (roughly from age 3 to age 13). Think of all the decisions a person must make between these ages. Think of all the “facts of life” that a child must learn. In all the decisions our children make, our hope is that they grow in trusting God, guided by the Holy Spirit. It is Our Savior Lutheran School’s task to help our students make those decisions, *Rooted in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving with Joy @ the Intersection of Faith and Excellence.*

Teacher Roster –Following are the teachers for the school year:

- Junior Kindergarten.....Tina Silva
- Kindergarten.....Kim Robles
- Grade OneKaren Poppe
- Grade TwoNora Zinnel
- Grade ThreeRenee Neal-Joslin
- Grade FourLinda Greenhagen
- Grade FiveDebbie Jlanivich
- Grade SixLynn Dirks / Jorge Mejia
- Grade SevenAmanda Newman
- Grade EightDawn Ackerman*
- Spanish 6-8.....Jorge Mejia
- Spanish K-5.....Kyle Colvin*

Our verse for this year is *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13



“It is Our Savior Lutheran School’s task to help our students make decisions, *Rooted in Grace, Growing in Faith, and Serving with Joy.*”

From the Principals' Desk (continued)

Music & Band.....Amanda Newman
 P.E.Nick Scharnitzke
 Athletic Coordinator.....Mike Valentine
 Technology.....Janet Connolly
 Algebra.....Anna Belaustegui
 Science.....Jayne Managan

***We Have Two New Teachers!**

Dawn Ackerman is our new 8th grade home room teacher and the English/Literature teacher for middle school. Dawn graduated from Holy Names College in Oakland with a BA in English and a minor in liberal studies. She received her clear teaching credential (K – 8) in 1996 also from Holy Names College. She taught five years in elementary and middle schools, both public and private. Most recently, Dawn has been a director of an after-school program in Dublin for almost five years. She has five children of her own and is licensed for home day care. We welcome her and know that she will bring her expertise and enthusiasm to our middle school.

We also welcome Kyle Colvin as our new K-5 Spanish teacher. He has attended the University of Costa Rica and graduated this year from San Francisco State University with a degree in the Spanish language. He eventually wants to go into Homeland Security Specialization and Criminal Justice. Kyle is continuing his M.S. degree at St. Joseph's University. We congratulate him and his new wife on their recent marriage. We look forward to his industrious work ethic and strong character, and Spanish teaching skills.

School Chapel – We will again be having chapel in the sanctuary every Thursday at 8:30am (ending approximately at 9am). Once again we encourage everyone to attend as often as is possible.

It will be an exciting year full of learning and growth where we will help our students know the joy, peace and hope in the Risen Savior.

"It will be an exciting year full of learning and growth where we will help our students know the joy, peace and hope in the Risen Savior."

Info from the Lay Governing Board

By Dave Knapp, Chair

At the annual Voters' Assembly held May 24, two new LGB members, Wayne Shotts and Randy Brandt, were elected to fill the expiring slots of Fredrik Johansson and Jim Nunley. The voters also approved the budget for 2011-2012.

The Lay Governing Board has several responsibilities. First is to articulate a long-range vision for the church, and to define goals or aspirations that move us in the direction of the vision. The Board delegates the day-to-day operational authority to the Senior Pastor and governs his actions through policy. He is accountable for making progress toward the goals. The Board has the task of evaluating that progress. The Board is responsible for putting policies into place that specify any limitations on the actions that the Senior Pastor may take to achieve the goals. Finally, the Board is responsible for facilitating communication between the congregation and the staff.



From the Vicar

By Vicar Dennis Dirks

In 2010 on Pentecost, I announced to the members of Our Savior my intention to pursue becoming a pastor in a program called CMC. (Cross-cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University Irvine is an extension of our Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.). A few months later this congregation passed a resolution to accept me as your vicar during my course of study.

I am reminded of Philipians 1:3-5: *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."* I do want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity and privilege to serve you as your vicar. It is an honor to serve God (and you) through the ministries offered at Our Savior.

I thought you might be interested in knowing the courses I've taken in the past year:

- Ministry in a Cultural Context
- Multi-Cultural Ministry in an Urban Context
- Church Polity, Leadership and Team Ministry
- Ethnic Church Planting
- Pastoral Theology

- History of the Reformation Era
- Old Testament Isagogics
- Systematics I
- Basic Principles of Research
- Vicarage I & II



This fall, I begin Biblical Greek I & II. It will be important to study long and hard because four of my next five "primary" classes place a high importance on Greek. The courses I'll be taking next semester and next summer will be:

- Biblical Theology and Exegesis
- Romans and Pauline Literature
- Revelation / Johannine Literature
- Historical Theology
- New Testament "Option" (exact course not yet determined, but will be either Matthew, Mark, or Luke/Acts)
- Vicarage III & IV

I am finding the classes interesting, compelling, thought-provoking, and

frustrating all at the same time. Getting into the routine of studying and writing papers has proven to be challenging at times, yet I look forward to the upcoming year of study. I'm sure I will discover a greater understanding and appreciation of God's Word. It will be my hope and prayer that I will have an expanded opportunity to share that Word with you.

As I enter the second year of vicarage, with the encouragement of Pastor and the CMC program, I will expand my involvement in several areas at Our Savior – specifically the areas of Senior Ministry, Care Connections, and Bible Study. I look forward to the challenges and the opportunity to work with you.

I am thankful for the support I've received from Pastor Scharnitzke, office staff, Elders, and members of the congregation. Thank you for your encouragement and understanding. I do thank God for all of you in my prayers as we work in partnership to serve our God and one another.

"I thank God for all of you in my prayers as we work in partnership to serve our God and one another."

Preschool News

By Sara Hall, Preschool Director

Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center has begun another exciting year. Since our theme verse for the year is Romans 15:13 (*May the God of hope fill you all with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*), it is my prayer for this year that we overflow with the hope that God has given us.



This will be a year filled with *hope* and *joy* as God leads us on another adventure. We have 11 staff and close to 90 children that have recently started the 2011/2012 school

year. Exciting things are happening at the Early Childhood Center. We will now be open from 7am-6pm year round. It is our hope that we will reach more families in our community with our extended programs. We will continue to be an excellent faith-based preschool, offering part-day programs from 8:30-11:45am for those families looking for a great preschool. Our full day program will expand on what was learned in the morning, and offer a variety of enrichment programs, giving us the opportunity to share God's love all day long.

We are excited to begin the Zoo Phonics program for both the three and four-year-olds this year. Zoo Phonics is a developmentally-appropriate program that fits nicely with

our Core Knowledge Curriculum. The children will learn phonics with fun motions and exciting zoo animals.

Thanks to the PTO and your generous donations, we were able to do a little face-lift in the ECDC, including new classroom boards, a mural (thanks to Kris Back and her crew), as well as a TV in the Big Room. We are hopeful these new additions will make us a friendly and exciting place for families to come as well as allow the ministry to hold more family and children's ministry programs. We hope that you will come over and visit us during the next year (for example, on September 11 for Launch Sunday) and tell your family and friends about our wonderful center.

Oktoberfest and Golf Tournament

By Timothy Potthoff

Sunday October 9, 2011, is the 12th Annual Golf Tournament and Oktoberfest. Come support the youth ministries at OSLM. There will be delicious food, good music, and great fellowship. All golfers are welcome to participate in the golf tournament which begins at noon at Las Positas Golf Course. The Oktoberfest dinner begins at 6 pm. Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adults—\$15
- Children ages 4-12—\$7
- Children ages 0-3—Free
- Family ticket (immediate family only)—\$35
- Golf (which includes green fees, prizes and one Oktoberfest dinner ticket)—\$100.

To sign up, contact Timothy Potthoff at tpotthoff@oslm.net.



SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 4

4:00pm

Spring Children's Musical

Sunday, May 6

9:45am

Spring Handbell Concert

Wednesday, May 23

7:00pm

Make the Walls and Rafters Ring

By Christa Even, Director of Music

While at the recent national conference for ALCM (American Lutheran Church Musicians) in Seattle, I was privileged to participate in a hymn festival held at the Catholic cathedral. They graciously allowed us to use their worship space for this large-scaled event. (I don't think the crowd would have fit into any other local church!) It was glorious – partly because of the wonderful musicians (choir, brass, flute, organist, director), partly because at least half of the folks attending were church musicians (who LOVE to sing), and partly because the rest of the

attendees were uplifted by what they heard and then participated with enthusiastic singing and praise. Truly, the walls and rafters rang in praise to our Lord for all He has done for us.

You can help make the same thing happen here at Our Savior! Think about how you might plug into the uplifting ministry of music, and then join one of our groups! Giving the gift of your time and talent through music is a way to combine giving and receiving. You give yourself and your praise to God and encourage those who worship at Our Savior

through the message of the music. At the same time, God gives the gifts of uplifting words and music to you – and those gifts stay with you throughout the week as a little reminder of His love. In addition, it's great fun to make music together with others!

New members are especially welcome! We'd love to make you feel right at home in our friendly groups. Come to the first rehearsal or call or e-mail Christa Even (447-1246, ext. 231, ceven@oslm.net) for more information on any of the groups listed below.

Music for 1st through 8th Grade

Choirs

Gr. 1 and 2 (Give Glory Gang)

Tuesdays, 3:15—4:00pm

(beginning September 13)

Gr. 3 to 5 (Joyful Noise)

Wednesdays, 3:15—4:05pm

(OS School will have noon dismissal the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

We will meet those days, for anyone who can attend.)

Gr. 6 to 8 (In His Name)

Tuesdays, 3:20—4:20pm

Handbells/Chimes

Gr. 4 and up (Beginners)

Mondays, 3:15—3:50pm

Gr. 5-8 (At least 1 yr. ringing)

Thursdays, 3:20—4:00pm



Music for High School Students

High School Ensemble (8:30 worship)

We are hoping to expand our high school trio into a larger singing ensemble this year. Guys and gals are welcome! The rehearsal time is **convenient** and **short** – right after the Sunday Morning

Bible study hour (10:50-11:30am or so). **No previous choral singing required.** Snacks provided!

Start-up: September 18

High School Instrumentalists

Let Christa Even know if you'd like to play your

instrument in worship – help us make a joyful noise to the Lord! Also, if you'd like to try handbells, we would welcome a few more ringers to our Monday night group (especially if you have or would like to build some arm muscles on the low bells!).



Music for Adults

New members are especially welcome! We **promise** to make you feel right at home in our friendly groups. Call Christa Even at 447-1246, ext. 231 if you have questions.

OS Choir (8:30 worship)

Where: Choir Room (in music wing)

When: Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:30pm

Who: Anyone high school through adult

Women's Ensemble (8:30 worship)

Where: Choir Room (in music wing)

When: Wednesdays, 9:00 to 10:00am

Who: Any adult women

OS Ringers (8:30 worship)

Where: Sanctuary

When: 7:00 to 8:00pm

Who: Anyone high school through adult; basic music reading helpful, but we can teach you! (Call Christa Even if you'd like to give ringing a try and haven't rung before.)



Connected Teams (11:00 informal worship)

Singers and instrumentalists (guitar, bass, keyboard, drums)

Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 5:30pm (year-round)

Anyone high school through adult.

Contact Amanda Newman (447-1246, ext. 263 or anewman@oslm.net) for more information.

Third Sunday Players

Every third Sunday of the month, the musical support for the 8:30 service consists of piano, guitar, bass, occasional percussion and a singer/leader (cantor). Other instruments could be added. We rehearse the Saturday before the third Sunday, from 9:00 to 10:00am. If you might like to help out (only one rehearsal each month), let Christa Even know.

Instrumentalists and Vocalists

If you are a vocal soloist or an instrumentalist and would like to add your music to worship, please let us know! Our brass ensemble is always looking for more members, and we would also love to hear from you if you are a string, woodwind, or percussion player. Opportunities arise throughout the year – don't be shy about making us aware of your musical gifts!

Mom-to-Mom

By Laura Gong



Come check out our Mom’s Group, Mom-to-Mom, on Monday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00am, starting **September 12**. Enjoy coffee, tea, muffins and fruit, with childcare opening at 8:30 also. A parenting DVD presentation with small group discussion begins at 9:00am. Approximately every other week will be Mom’s Time Off to work on crafts, scrapbooking, stitchery, mending, or even bill-paying. Accomplish something with the company of other women! Registration of \$27 (made out to OSLM) includes a workbook. Registration forms can be found, and turned in to, the ECDC or administrative offices. Childcare is \$40 per semester. For information contact Laura Gong at 925-449-4423 or Laurakgong@aol.com.

Drop in any Monday (when school is in session) to check it out first!

Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun!

By Sara Hall

Our Savior’s Early Childhood Center presents: “Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun!”

The Love and Logic Institute is dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. We provide practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. All of our work is based on psychologically sound parenting and teaching philosophy called “Love and Logic.”

This wonderful class will be held in the Early Childhood Center Big Room from 6-8pm on the following Tuesdays:

- September 20
- October 4
- October 18
- November 1
- November 15



Dinner is provided for the family from 6:00-6:30pm. Childcare is available for the children while the parents attend the class. Registration forms are available in the Preschool Office.

“The Love and Logic Institute is dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic.”

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and

Our Savior Lutheran School, Livermore,
to keep up with all the exciting stuff going at
Our Savior Lutheran Ministries!



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Upcoming Youth Events

By Timothy Pottboff, Youth Director

C.L.I.M.B.

High School Youth
9th—12th Grades

September

Back-to-School Party

October

Golf Tournament/
Oktoberfest

November

Joint District Youth
Gathering

December

Christmas Party

January 2012

Midnight Bowling

February

Rockin' Jump in Dublin

March

Service Project

April

Laser Tag

May

Movie Night

F.I.S.H.

Junior High Youth
7th & 8th Grades

September

Boardwalk

October

Corn Maze

November

Bowling

December

Christmas Party

January

Ice Skating

February

Movie Night

March

Service Project

April

Boomers

May

Pool Party

June or July

District Youth Gather-
ing

K.F.C.

5th and 6th grade

K.F.C. meets on the fol-
lowing dates in the Gym
at Our Savior from
7-9pm for games, snack,
and Bible study.

September 9

October 7

November 11

December 2

January 6

February 3

March 2

April 13

May 4

B-Team

3rd and 4th grade

B-team meets on the fol-
lowing dates in the gym at
Our Savior from 7-9pm
for games, snack, and Bi-
ble study.

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16

January 20

February 17

March 16

April 20

May 18



Parents: Each of these events needs your help to make it happen.

For B-team and KFC—parent volunteers are needed to:

- bring snack
- help during the event with check-in
- assist with the game, snack, and Bible study.

For FISH and CLIMB, your help is needed with driving and/or chaperoning these events. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Timothy Pottboff, tpottboff@oslm.net.

Reminder: If your child(ren) want to participate in any FISH or CLIMB activity, an emergency information form needs to be on file. To obtain a form, please contact Timothy Pottboff.

Financial News

By Bob Edmeyer, Chief Financial Officer

We are very pleased with the financial results for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The last year has been a financially tumultuous one, considering our need to restructure the debt and deal with enrollments of less than a third of what they were in 2007. God's blessings were on us as we negotiated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Church Extension Fund to find a way to structure long-term debt, allowing us to improve our image and offerings while remaining current with our mortgage obligations. The debt was restructured into two separate mortgages, the covenants of which are:

- ⇒ Loan A is an \$8,000,000 conventional mortgage, structured to provide for thirty-five monthly payments of principle and interest at a fixed rate of 5.25% with a maturity date of 36 months from December 1, 2010. A final balloon payment will be due on that date.
- ⇒ Loan B (\$6,600,000) is structured as an “interest to accrue” at a variable rate (currently at 5.25% per annum), with a maturity date of 36 months from December 1, 2010. A final balloon payment will be due on that date. Interest payments are to be paid as OSLM is able with funds in excess of \$250,000 in reserves, after which revenues in excess of \$150,000 must be used to pay toward Loan B obligations.
- ⇒ It is understood that both balloon payments will serve as the basis of a new combined mortgage to be negotiated at the appropriate time to satisfy the covenants of both loans. These loans will take the form of competitive loan offerings available in the market at the time.

With this debt relief, we gained breathing room to begin running the business of the ministries in Livermore with a responsible growth-oriented strategy. Rather than being choked with the single purpose of reducing debt, we finished the year with a net operating surplus of \$145,589.00. Thanks be to God!



OSLM's Financial Update

The obvious next question is, “What did we do and what are we going to do with this surplus?” There are multiple answers. Here are few listed in order of their strategic importance to the financial recovery plans developed in concert with LCEF. If I've missed yours, please contact me directly for an in-depth answer to your suggestions or concerns.

- ⇒ Address personnel compensation issues emanating from inequities and sacrifices employees have made for the ministry over the last three to four years.
- ⇒ Address deteriorating facilities for the purpose of improving safety, regulatory and appearance issues.
- ⇒ Address programming (curriculum, teaching resources, technology) and other enrichment opportunities to improve the school's marketability.
- ⇒ Distribute designated funds to special missions and other underfunded priorities in the ministry.
- ⇒ Pay off the interest that has accumulated to date on Loan B.

Our Budget



Financial News (continued)

⇒ Pay off principle and or interest on Loan A in advance of monthly budgets.

In support of this strategy, we have replaced tile and carpeting in the ECDC classrooms, replaced carpeting in K-8 Classrooms 3, 4, 6, 12, and 18, purchased iPods and iPads for the lower grades, and Smart Boards for 5th grade and Music. The latter two support our fourth pillar of technological excellence in the classrooms. All of this infrastructure improvement is consistent with the LCEF business plan as they continue to support and invest in our recovery to competitiveness in this education market.



Some may ask: What about our rising debt? Again, with the blessing of the LCEF, we have chosen to defer any payment of the short-term debt, accumulated as interest for Loan B in the last six months, to have reserves available for opportunity expenses that will present themselves as we continue the growth recovery. The downside of this approach would be if the economic recovery does not improve our enrollment opportunities. Under those circumstances, surplus earning will not be generated at a rate necessary to address deferred debt. If none of the accumulating debt for Loan B can be addressed in the next three years, we will have increased our total indebtedness by another \$1,000,000.

This leaves us with two choices. (1) Start the process of slowly cutting back on school offerings, such as dropping either end of the curriculum and keeping only K-5, or equivalent contractions. (2) Trust the Lord has our future in His hands and He supports our long term growth strategy. He will bless our fundraisers, reach more people who experience the joy of tithing, continue to provide for support of short-term campaigns such as we ran for the organ, or surprise us with other opportunities to continue our growth. As for me and my family, I choose the later. Trusting in the Lord's plan for our ministry has always shown me He supports our vision. He has not made our path easy, or without set-backs, but those challenges have made us a stronger family in the body of Christ. Even recognizing our enrollment growth lags behind last year's projections, we are still at 183 students in the Jr. K-8 grades and Preschool is at 93% of where we were in September 2010. These are all positive signs we enjoy a stronger ministry today than last year. Are we carrying more debt that we did a year ago? Do we have more funds to work with as a result of this increased debt? The answer to both of these questions is, yes.

I hope I will continue to feel your support for the strategy I have outlined, as I devote myself to the financial challenges we face. It certainly is not without risk, but I know we have the Lord at our side. Faith in Him can move mountains, and I'm counting on you to share my faith that we are doing God's will as we minister to the Livermore community and the world at large.



Our Savior Lutheran Ministries

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We're on the web!

oslm.net



@ the intersection of ...

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13**

Ministry Aspirations

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries is a Christian family that is:

- o **Rooted in Grace**

Bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- o **Growing in Faith**

Deepen relationships with Christ and other believers.

- o **Serving with Joy**

Sharing Christ and helping others.

