

**2015**  
**STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLAN**

*“Resurrection Lutheran Church meets you where you are on your faith walk with life-transforming experiences that help you mature as a disciple of Christ.”*



## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church is The Great Commission and the Great Commandment as given by Jesus.

### ***The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20):***

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

### ***The Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-39):***

*“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ this is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*

## **Vision Statement**

Resurrection Lutheran Church meets you where you are on your faith walk with life transforming experiences that help you mature as Disciples of Christ.

*“Meeting You Where You Are . . . But Not Leaving You There”*

Our mission never changes, however, the vision changes based on the needs of our community, the gifts of our congregation and where God is leading our congregation. The vision is the aspirational picture of the future used as the motivating force to fulfill God’s mission in our unique context.

## **Core Values**

### **God's Grace Transforms**

God is alive and active in our lives so we value people over programs. Engaging in a relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ we encounter grace, renewal, and the hope that transforms our lives.

### **Better Together Than Alone**

We expect genuine spiritual growth. We take responsibility by engaging intentional Christian communities to inspire and support our lives. We integrate generations to profoundly impact everyone's faith walk.

### **Biblically Based And Jesus Centered**

Focused on the bulls-eye not the edges, we are unwilling to let the emergent distract from the important. We define ourselves by putting Jesus at the center of the Gospel and allowing the Bible to be the final authority on matters of faith and life.

### **We Say No To Good Things So We Can Say Yes To Great Things**

As a vision based community propelled by a culture of generosity we invest our time, talent and treasure in opportunities to specifically further our mission.

### **All People Matter To God So They All Matter To Us**

Providing a wide welcome, we push ourselves to cross boundaries knowing everyone comes from a diverse place and grows at a different pace.

### **Prayer Precedes Everything**

We constantly call on the Holy Spirit to guide purposeful direction, provide emotional and physical healing and soak us with unconditional love. We are prayer-dependent people.

### **Vibrant Worship Honors God And Changes Us**

Dedicated to Spirit filled worship, we provide relevant teaching, dynamic music and creative expression to bring people into the consuming intimacy of God's awe-inspiring presence.

### **Everyone Needs To Be Needed**

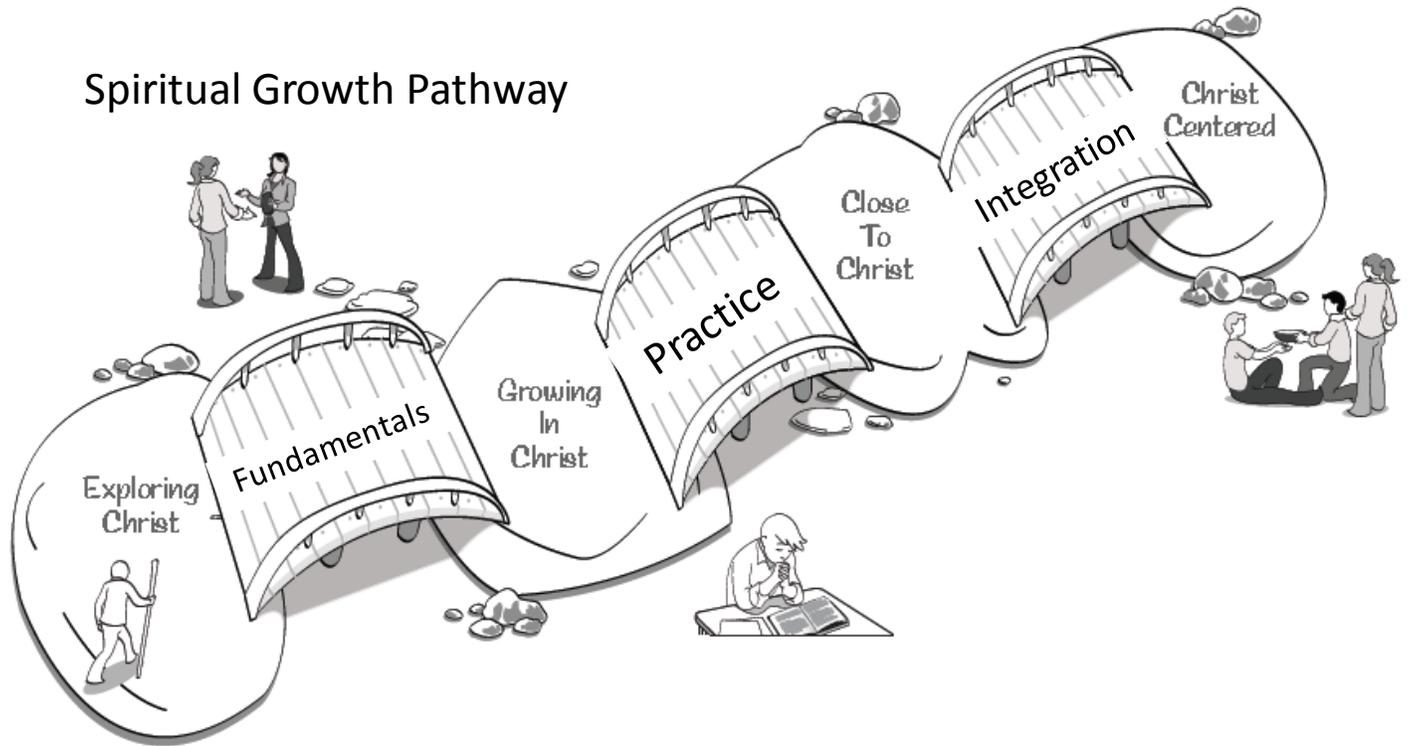
You have a place here. We equip everyone for innovative service from local to global communities. Through compassionate hands-on service, God connects us to each other and to those we come along side.

## Ministry Goal, Themes and Objectives

### **Goal**

Meeting people who are *Exploring Christ*, we will encourage movement to a relationship of *Growing in Christ*, becoming *Close to Christ* and, by God's Grace, *Christ Centered*.

### Spiritual Growth Pathway



### **Themes**

Resurrection desires to move people forward along the Spiritual Growth Pathway focused on four catalytic themes.

1. Spiritual Beliefs and Attitudes
2. Organized Church Activities
3. Personal Spiritual Practices
4. Spiritual Activities with Others

## Objectives

The three movements below outline the top five objectives on each bridge along this Spiritual Growth Pathway for Biblical Discipleship.

- **Fundamentals**

1. Salvation by Grace – I believe nothing I do or have done can earn my salvation - Beliefs
2. Trinity – I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit -Beliefs
3. Serve the church ministry monthly – Organized Church Activities
4. Prayer to seek guidance - *Several times a week* - Spiritual Practices
5. Reflection on scripture rare to frequently-Spiritual practices

- **Practice**

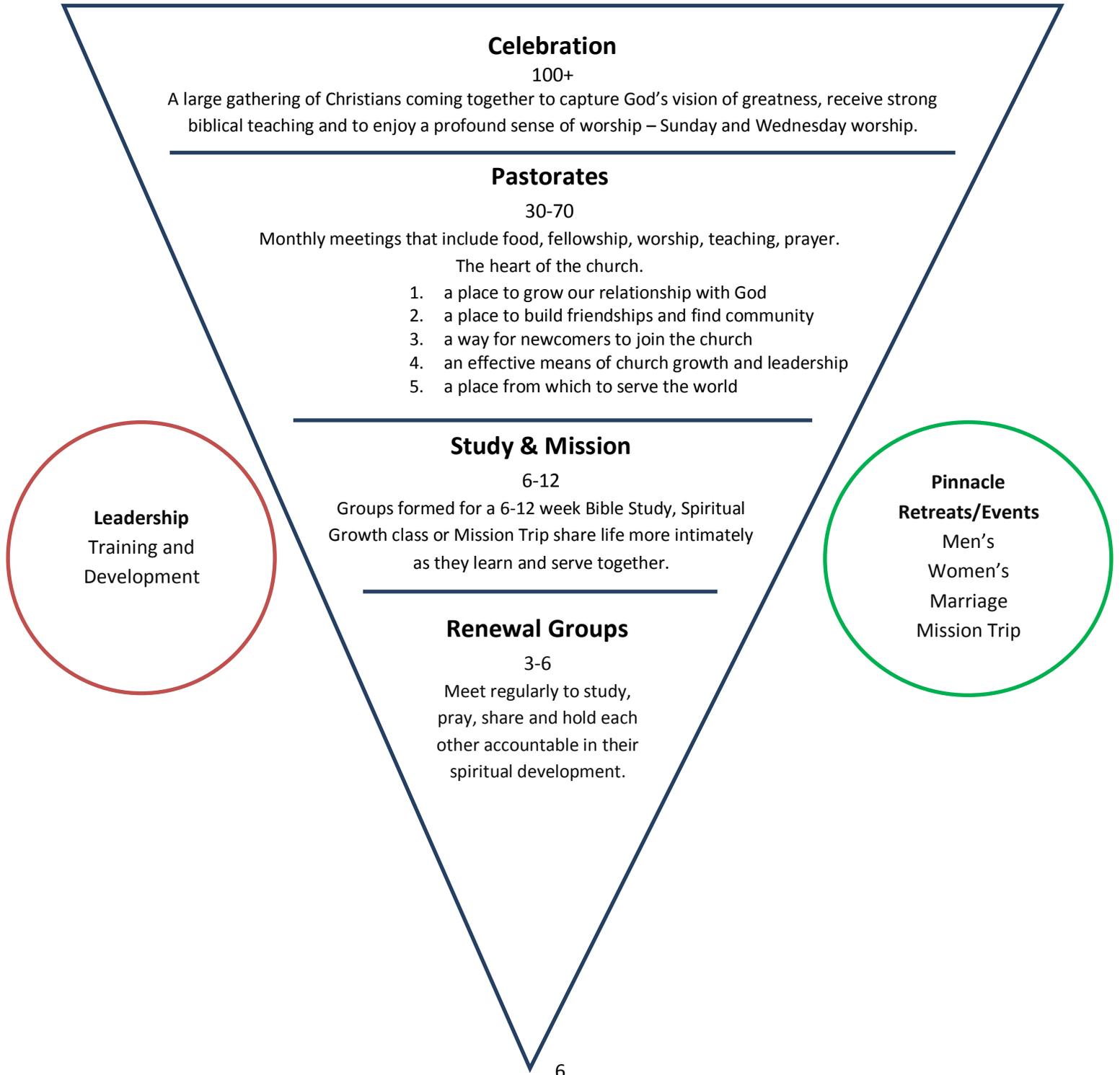
1. Personal God - Beliefs
2. Prayer to seek guidance – frequent to daily - Spiritual Practices
3. Reflection on Scripture with solitude - Spiritual Practices
4. Evangelism – 6 meaningful conversations on faith with non Christians – Spiritual Activities with Others
5. Tithing – 10% or more to my church - Spiritual Practices

- **Integration**

1. Giving away my life - Beliefs
2. Christ is first - Beliefs
3. Identify in Christ – Beliefs
4. Authority of the Bible – Beliefs
5. Reflection on Scripture – *Frequent to Daily* - Spiritual Practices

## Strategy

This triangle graphic shows both the increasing depth of spiritual intimacy and also the decreasing size of each community unit. When turned on its side the triangle overlays the Spiritual Growth Pathway to show the cumulative progression of the individual along their faith walk as well as the decreased influence of the corporate church leadership as disciples take responsibility for their own maturity and growth.



## **Celebration - The Corporate Church**

Corporate worship is the most important event of the week and demands the highest quality and effort as we seek to love God. Weekly worship is designed for everyone to receive vibrant biblical teaching, participate in large group singing, and enter into public prayer. It also gives people a regular opportunity to serve in the ministry of the corporate congregation by giving of their time, talent and treasure.

## **Pastorates – Midsize Groups**

Pastorates exist to give all members and friends of Resurrection Lutheran Church a place to belong and live out the joys and sorrows of life in a long term Christian social network focused on the biblical discipleship of the individual, shared pastoral care, and impactful mission in the community and world. (*Acts 2:42-47*)

*Adults and Families* – Meeting twice a month for fellowship and food, various styles of worship, lay teaching and dialogue, practiced prayer, compassionate pastoral care and regular engagement in impactful local and global service.

*For youth* – Meeting weekly for fellowship and food, large group worship, adult or student led teaching, small group discussion and prayer. They regularly engage in impactful local or global service. (Confirmation and High School Ministry – 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade)

*For Children* - Meeting weekly for the exploration of worship together, age appropriate teaching time, prayer and fellowship. They regularly engage in impactful local and global service. (Children’s ministry pre-k-5<sup>th</sup> grade)

## **Study/Mission Groups – Small Groups**

These short term groups are intended to help people dig deep and grow in the Love of God and the Love of the Neighbor. Often Study/Mission groups precipitate out of a long term pastorate. Some leaders will formally open their study/mission group to the corporate church and some will choose to engage an existing group. Each study and mission has a beginning and end of the curriculum or trip. Ideally these meet on the opposite week of a bi-monthly pastorate. They may also meet for a number of consecutive weeks with the intent of joining or reintegrating into a long term pastorate. I.e Alpha, Financial Peace University, Too Busy Not To Pray, Spiritual Disciplines, Beth Moore, Dominican Republic Mission Trip, Offsite Vacation Bible School, and Local Mission Trip, etc.

*Study Groups* are formed to cover a wide variety of topics, books, and Scripture to develop biblical knowledge, wisdom and insight.

*Mission Trip Groups* are formed to provide opportunities for hands on mission work to incorporate Gospel proclamation, address human need and nurture relationships.

## **Renewal Groups – Accountability Partners**

Renewal groups are a long term, informal, same sex cohort where the deepest relationships of vulnerability, encouragement, accountability, mentorship and prayer happen. They meet anywhere from weekly to monthly to quarterly and are not administered as an organized church activity.

## **Pinnacle Events**

Stand alone retreats, conferences, activities and events are designed to be life transforming and engage current membership and friends in their spiritual growth but also be an open door to the larger public community to learn, grow, socialize, serve or be introduced to Christ and His Church. I.e. Marriage retreats, Men's retreats, Women's retreats, Parent Child events, Simulcasts, Movie premieres, Teens Encounter Christ, Via De Cristo, Night of Thanks parties, Evangelical events, etc.

## **Leadership Training**

Ongoing training and development is offered for the continued investment in the building up of the body of Christ through the Priesthood of All Believers. These opportunities will be made up of self-paced online media, assigned reading, face to face mentorship, workshops, events and conferences. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

## **Church Leadership**

### **Congregation Council**

The Congregation Council will uphold the Vision, Mission and Core Values of Resurrection, in alignment with the Statement of Faith, by providing strategic leadership and fulfilling their duties outlined in the Congregation's Constitution.

### **Ministry Directors**

The Ministry Directors will uphold the Vision, Mission and Core Values of Resurrection, in alignment with the Statement of Faith, by implementing the Goal, Themes, Objectives and Strategy when developing programs, leading team members, and equipping and teaching the congregation.

#### ***Worship & Music***

This ministry will provide a vibrant worship experience in the Celebration setting of the Corporate Church through the creation of life-transforming experiences that engage all worshippers.

#### ***Adult Spiritual Growth***

This ministry will nurture the faith walk of every adult by offering Bible studies, classes, seminars, workshops, retreats, and Pinnacle Events to help people move along the Spiritual Growth Pathway.

#### ***Children and Family***

This ministry will educate and disciple our children and their families through Christian Educational opportunities and faith milestones along the way.

#### ***Youth and Family***

This ministry will come along side parents as partners in ministry to encourage, empower and equip them to be influential and effective in raising healthy teenagers who love God and who want to honor Him with their lives. It will also encourage, empower and equip 6th – 12th grade students to grow along the Spiritual Growth Pathway as they maturity in their Christian faith.

#### ***Community Outreach***

This ministry will equip the members and friends of Resurrection to reach beyond the walls of the building in compassionate hands on service. It will also extend an invitation of wide welcome to all people as we partner with Christ to transform lives by God's grace.

### ***Congregational Care***

This ministry will promote wholeness and wellness by compassionately caring for the members and friends of Resurrection, assimilating new members into the congregation and providing Leadership Training for those ready to engage their spiritual time and talents.

### ***Generosity***

This ministry will help people grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through their generosity of time, talent and treasures.

### ***Operations***

This ministry team of paid and volunteer staff will partner with all ministry areas to provide hospitality, encouragement, and the logistic support needed to ensure the forward motion of God's mission for Resurrection.

## **Addendum – Statement of Faith**

As Resurrection People, we believe in the **one eternally, co-existing Triune God** –Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe **people are sinful by their very nature and the consequence of sin is death**. We believe God's Son, Jesus Christ, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross as a substitute sacrifice for the sin of humanity.

We teach that **salvation cannot be earned, but is a gift from God, given by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone**. Because Jesus conquered death in His bodily resurrection, all who trust in Him will conquer eternal death and have eternal life. We believe Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated with God. We await His return to earth as Lord and King. God's loving invitation of reconciliation is for everyone, therefore, all who desire the love and forgiveness of Jesus are welcome in this community of faith.

We believe **the Bible is the Word of God**, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is therefore our final authority on matters of faith and life. As a living word, it is given to bless and transform God's people. The Bible:

- reveals God's redemptive plan to draw all people to Himself through Jesus Christ,
- instructs us in living life as a disciple of Christ,
- encourages and speaks to us by the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit as we journey through life in a broken world.

We teach the whole Word of God – Law and Gospel. We prayerfully strive to use it following Jesus' compassionate example of love, declaring God's invitation into a relationship with Him, while instructing believers how to live a sanctified life. The Bible is foundational in all preaching, teaching and counseling at Resurrection.

**We accept the Apostle, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds** as statements that declare our history, faith, and practices. As a Lutheran congregation we profess the Augsburg Confession and recognize Martin Luther's Large and Small Catechisms as explanations of our doctrinal beliefs.

We are **part of, and responsible to, a greater worldwide Christian church** that includes all those who profess Christ as Lord, teach His Word, and share His mission to make disciples of all nations.

We practice **two sacraments – Holy Baptism and Communion** (The Lord's Supper) as means by which God tangibly pours out His grace and forgiveness on His people. We baptize believers and children of believers. We accept water baptisms in the name of the Triune God from other Christian churches as valid. We believe the bread and wine given in communion to be both the

elements of bread and wine, and at the same time, by faith, believe they are the Blood and Body of Christ. Communion is open to all who believe in Christ's true presence.

We believe **prayer is a gift given to us by God** to draw on His power, guidance and healing. The Holy Spirit is active in prayer to aid in intercession, help us hear God's answers, and cover us with God's peace. We believe the actions of the church and its members should be rooted in Spirit-led, bible- tested prayer. We intentionally teach prayer to all ages to ensure this gift is available.

We believe in the **priesthood of all believers**. God calls us into His church to share our unique gifts to strengthen the Body and bless our neighbors. The local church is the hope of the world, so through our time, talent, and treasures we intentionally invite the stranger, clothe and feed the needy, attend to the sick, and visit the imprisoned. By the power of the Holy Spirit in us we are able to do holy and meaningful work that bears fruit for His kingdom and expands His mission in the world.

We believe **God has a distinct purpose for Resurrection Lutheran Church** in this community and world. We are committed to listening for God's direction, and changing personally and corporately to align with His Will. We believe this community of faith is called to be relevant, growing in faith and followers, and willing to sacrifice for God's bigger vision.

We believe that God expects each of us to **grow and mature as new creations in Christ**. Our growth is a never-ending process of learning, listening, worshipping, serving, and forgiving ourselves and others. As Resurrection People, we are intentional in our spiritual growth, so we can be effective ambassadors for Jesus, and use His teachings to bless ourselves, our families, the community, and the world we touch.

At Resurrection, **we promise to meet people where they are, but love them enough not to leave them there.**