

“Through the Strategic Ministry Planning process, we have absolutely clarified God’s mission and purpose for our church today. Now, we have an exciting challenge from God to trust, embrace, pray about, and execute His Plan!”

Jeff Rogers
Vision Team Member
Zion Lutheran Church and School
Anaheim, California

“This is the most spiritual experience I’ve ever been through!”

Denise Staple
Member
Messiah Lutheran Church
Longmont, Colorado

“We’ve gone to two services. We have several new ministries. We’re following our SMP outline. Thanks be to God!”

Nancy Maylath
Finance Chairperson
Redeemer Lutheran Church
West Lafayette, Indiana

Carry out God’s Plan and Watch Your Ministry Flourish!

Lutheran Church Extension Fund’s Strategic Ministry Planning (SMP) is a faith-based process that helps you go to God with “empty hands,” asking Him to help you set aside personal agendas and to reveal His plans for your ministry.

Using a process that is fully participatory and grounded in the Word, we will help members recognize, accept, and take action on God’s calling for your congregation’s ministry.

Strategic Ministry Planning

- A faith-based process
- Designed by Lutherans for Lutherans
- Grounded in the Word and bound by LCMS doctrine
- Fully participatory
- About the work (calling) of the congregation

*Faith-Based
Mission-Focused
Fully Participatory*

For more information on how Strategic Ministry Planning can help you expand your ministry, call:


Lutheran Church Extension Fund
P.O. Box 229009
St. Louis, MO 63122-9009
1-800-843-5233
www.lcef.org

Strategic Ministry Planning



A Faith-Based Process





Going to God with “Empty Hands”

Who sets the agenda for your congregation or school? What factors play into decisions made about budget, facilities, and ministries?

Lutheran Church Extension Fund’s Strategic Ministry Planning (SMP) helps you go to God with “empty hands” when making ministry decisions.

In the SMP process, you:

- Seek your agenda from God the Father instead of from consultants.
- Trust God the Son to set the example for your actions instead of basing your decisions on “what others are doing.”
- Rely on God the Holy Spirit for your direction instead of on focus groups and surveys.

Making Faith-Based Decisions for Ministry

Strategic Ministry Planning lays the foundation for making good decisions based on . . .

. . . God’s unique calling for the congregation . . .
 . . . as revealed by the Holy Spirit . . .
 . . . grounded in the Word.

We will help you understand the difference between “good work” and “God’s work.”

Your members will experience the true unity that exists when the Body of Christ shares a common agenda—God’s agenda.

Strategic Ministry Planning’s “House of Decisions”



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Seeing God’s Plan Come to Life

According to Luther’s explanation of the third article, it is the Holy Spirit who “. . . calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth . . .”

We trust the Holy Spirit to enable members to discern God’s calling and plan for the congregation. Through a process grounded in the Word, you will know:

- Who you are as a congregation.
- For what you stand.
- Where you are going.
- How you will get there.

We will work with you to motivate the Body of Christ for God’s purposes, mobilizing your members for active Christian outreach.

What the Strategic Ministry Planning process delivers:

The SMP process helps you develop a strategic ministry plan that represents your members’ best understanding of God’s calling for your congregation and His plan to accomplish it. This includes your congregation’s unique:

- Mission
- Values
- 20-Year Vision
- 3-Year Goal
- Strategies
- Tactics
- Ministry Priorities
- Implementation

But that’s not all—your SMP facilitator provides follow-up assistance throughout the three-year implementation of your plan, helping your members stay motivated and on track.

“After the meetings and congregational workshops, we were united in mission and ministry. We clearly identified our mission, vision, and values; and since that time, they have guided us in every aspect of congregational life and planning.”

*Pastor David Bolte
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Litchfield Park, Arizona*