

Tag Line: We are a place where love lives!

Our Mission and Purpose: Is to help you experience God's love so you can grow to love like Christ.

Our Vision: is to be an exceptional community of believers, committed to sharing Christ's love, so that our priorities more closely reflect the Kingdom of God.

Our Core Values:

We are enthusiastically committed to:

G – Gospel: We know that God has acted on our behalf in Jesus to change our lives forever.

R – Relationships: We will build relationships with all people, *encouraging* openness, fairness, and *grace as we live our life in Christ.*

O – Outreach: We will share the love of Christ in relevant and engaging ways with those not yet connected to Christ and the church.

W – Worship: We give God our full devotion as we receive God's love through Word and Sacrament.

T – Teaching: *Faith formation is a lifelong process and we are committed to assisting all people on this journey.*

H – Honor: *We honor God by gratefully accepting God's blessings and returning a portion of God's abundance by sharing our time, treasure, talents and prayers.*

Ministry Goal: Every member of the worshiping community knows our mission and strives to live it.

Ministry Objectives:

- A. St. Stephen Martyr will create and communicate a process to visualize our Mission, Vision and Values.
 - 1. We will enlist a task force in order to develop a strategy for cross-communication using a variety of media.
 - 2. We will recite our mission, vision and values as a community of faith at the beginning of worship.
 - 3. We will create wall art for the gathering space in order to visualize our mission, vision and values.

- B. St. Stephen Martyr will provide worship that engages the heart of faith through word, sacraments and liturgical arts.
 - 1. We will challenge the mind of the faithful through preaching and liturgy.
 - 2. We will expand the experience of worship through the use of innovative technology.
 - 3. We will strive to engage congregants in the worship experience through a variety of worship styles and inclusive liturgies.
 - 4. We will provide worship that consistently reflects openness to intergenerational and intercultural synergies.

- C. St. Stephen will increase the active involvement of the congregation.
 - 1. We will strive to increase average weekly worship attendance by 20% over the next five years.
 - 2. We will work to increase the number of active participants in the planning, preparation and service of the worship experience by 20% over the next three years.
 - 3. We will increase the number of special worship and music events by 20% over the next three years.

- D. St. Stephen Martyr will work to enhance and expand its physical facility and grounds.
 - 1. On a continuing basis, we will evaluate facility needs and develop a plan to meet those needs including costs.
 - 2. We will assure ongoing maintenance of our physical facilities and grounds.

Ministry Goal: Inspire our youth to grow in God's fellowship.

Ministry Objectives:

- A. We will expand educational, service, and ministry opportunities for the Youth Ministry at St. Stephen and the surrounding community.
 - 1. We will collaborate with other youth organizations as appropriate.
 - 2. We will increase youth participation in activities by 25% over the next three years.
 - 3. We will provide opportunities for youth (and young adult) worship in satellite settings.
 - 4. We will encourage full participation in our Vacation Bible School ministry.

- B. St. Stephen will develop ministry teams of parents, young adults, volunteers and youth, where appropriate, to support the Youth Ministry.
 - 1. We will create mentoring and leadership development programs for the ministry teams.
 - 2. The ministry teams will meet regularly for education and planning purposes.

- C. St. Stephen will increase opportunities for youth to be present at, plan for, and lead worship.
 - 1. We will work with Youth Ministry Leaders to develop a youth Sunday at least once a year.
 - 2. Service during Worship opportunities will be offered on a regular basis.

- D. St. Stephen will develop the best possible programs for insuring the safety of our youth.
 - 1. Youth Ministry Leaders will work with the St. Stephen Support Committee to develop possible programs and policies
 - 2. Training in these programs for our volunteers will be implemented by the end of 2016.

Ministry Goal: Serve others in the church and community.

Ministry Objectives:

- A. St. Stephen will provide opportunities that develop servant leaders and Christian disciples.
 - 1. We will encourage participation in leadership/discipleship workshops and retreats
 - 2. We will provide a minimum of one workshop or retreat per year.
 - 3. We will provide a foundations (of faith) course annually

- B. St. Stephen will provide opportunities for short and longer term mission trips on a local, regional and international level for all age groups, offering Vacation Bible School in several settings.
 - 1. We will develop long term missionary partnerships at the local, regional and international levels.
 - 2. We will be involved in and support a variety of community missions such as Habitat for Humanity, Urban Ark and others as the opportunity and/or need arises.

Ministry Goal: Enable and equip our congregation to mature in faith through studying, fellowship and service.

Ministry Objectives:

- A. St. Stephen will provide spiritual formation opportunities for people of all ages to prepare, energize and sustain in them a life of spiritual growth.
 - 1. We will help members of all ages to increase their strength in prayer by offering participants an educational opportunity annually.
 - 2. We will increase the number of participants in spiritual formation opportunities by 25% over the next three years.
 - 3. We will add at least one new small group each year. (Small groups include but are not limited to bible studies, fellowship groups, and music groups.)

Ministry Objective:

- A. St. Stephen will create an effective organizational structure based upon our values and the seven faith practices (Pray, Study, Worship, Invite, Encourage, Serve and Give).
 - 1. Descriptions of each committee and/or ministry team will be developed in 2016.
 - 2. Terms of service for committee and/or ministry team members will be included in each description.

Ministry Objective:

- A. We will organize a year of learning, fellowship and service opportunities focused on the celebration of our 50th Anniversary as a congregation and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.
 - 1. A 50th Anniversary Celebration Task force will be formed comprising of long term and new members to create ideas and an itinerary of celebration.
 - 2. A 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Trip to the Lands of Luther in Germany will be offered by Pastor Roth.
 - 3. A special opportunity for giving and serving will be developed for 2017 in anticipation of the next 50 years of ministry.