

MISSION PORTFOLIO

Messiah Lutheran Church
Auburn, WA

INTRODUCTION

During 2016, the people of Messiah Lutheran Church entered into a vision and mission process focused on four big questions:

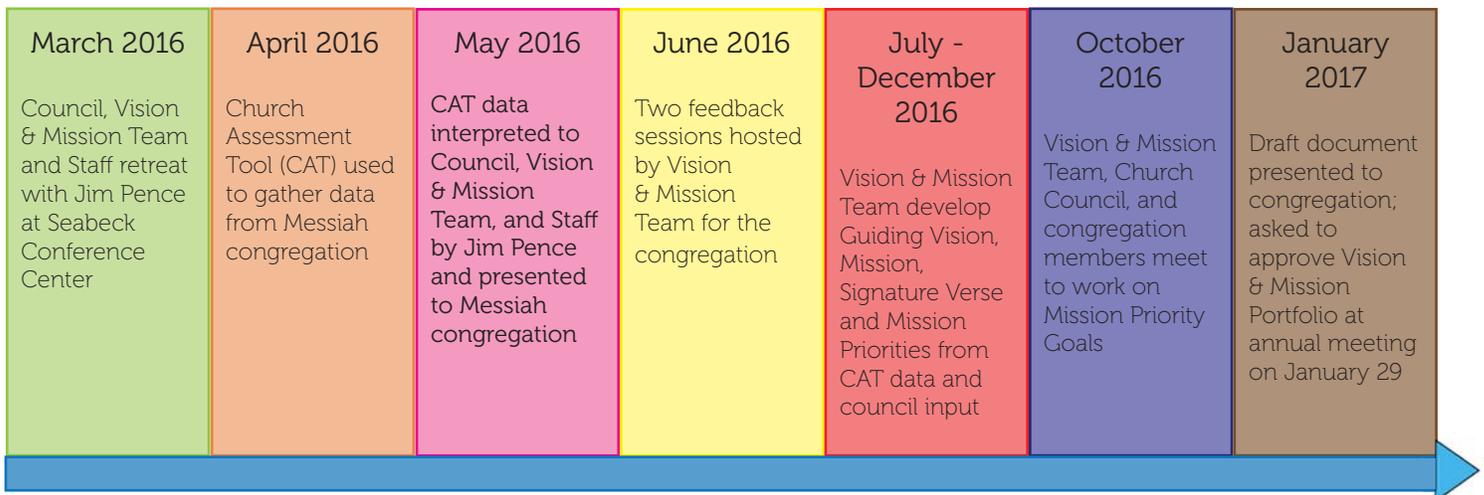
1. Who are we? What is our reason for being?
2. Where is God leading us?
3. Who are our neighbors and what do they need from us?
4. How will we live together?

As a congregation, we will continue to explore these questions as we move into our future. However, the provisional answers we discerned through this past year's vision and mission process form the foundation of a document that will guide us in our decision making for at least the next three years.

This document, our mission portfolio, contains our Guiding Vision, Mission, Signature Verse, Mission Priorities, and Mission Priority Goals. These portfolio components arise from our congregation's input through the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey, as well as thoughtful reflection by church leadership on the above questions. As the following process history indicates, a great deal of time and energy has gone into creating this mission portfolio to help guide us into our future.

PROCESS HISTORY

Various groups at Messiah Lutheran Church have been working on this Mission Portfolio during the past ten months. Below is a time-line of the work that has been done to date.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR VISION

We are an inclusive community following Jesus, worshipping God, striving side by side, and mending the broken places in all creation.

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Messiah Lutheran Church is to:

- Engage our world from a deep, Jesus-centered community life
- Embrace, welcome, and accompany people along life's journey
- Enhance our understanding and practice of a life called by God
- Explore and connect in an ongoing process of growth in faith and spirituality

OUR VERSE

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8b

OUR MISSION PRIORITIES

GROW AMID COURAGEOUS ENGAGEMENT

Identify underrepresented groups in our congregation and community, and engage them in the life of Messiah.

REACH OUT WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Seek out and partner with our Auburn neighbors to embrace and renew a community in transition. Generously provide support to those living on the margins of society.

REACH IN FOR MEANINGFUL SERVICE

Refocus and communicate the practices through which Messiah people develop a committed calling to serve others.

NURTURE THROUGH PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY

Redesign the faith-formation process to encourage lively spiritual growth and the development of enduring relationships for all stages of life.

MISSION PRIORITY GOALS 2017

Overview

The Mission and Vision team reviewed all the brainstorming and Planning Year 1 goal recommendations from the October brainstorming workshop participants. Based on the input from the workshop, the Mission and Vision team formulated the following recommendations for Mission Priority Goals for 2017. In addition, the Mission and Vision team recognized that all teams identified communication as an important and critical component to achieving these priorities and goals. Therefore, the recommendation also includes an overarching goal/initiative for communication improvements.

Communication

Include a budget allocation for communication improvements	2017 Budget
Hold a one-day summit on communication strategy	1st Quarter 2017
Engage in a branding process, potentially utilizing outside resources to work with Messiah to develop a marketing/branding program	1st Half 2017

2017 Mission Priority Goals

Grow Amid Courageous Engagement

Offer a training for existing ministry/small groups on the art and practice of being an inviting and welcoming congregation	Quarterly throughout 2017
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Reach Out With Strategic Partnerships

Invite one guest to engage with a pastor in a dialog sermon around an Auburn community need. Three weeks prior, interest/questions will be gathered from the congregation on the topic that will be addressed.	Quarterly throughout 2017
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Reach In for Meaningful Service

Develop and categorize a list of service opportunities.	April 30. 2017
Develop and distribute an opportunity brochure/website with names and contact information for Messiah service opportunities. Update regularly.	1st Half 2017
Identify, train and support a Gifts in Worship Coordinator.	1st Half 2017

Nurture Through Passionate Spirituality

Identify and train three new leaders for newly formed small groups that maintain the connection to the Faith Formation process.	May 2017
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PROCESS RECOMMENDATION

1. Each goal area will have a named owner(s) and, if appropriate, team members.
2. All goals area owners will submit monthly updates to Church Council.
3. Church Council will provide quarterly updates to the congregation.
4. Goal owners and team members will also drive any quarterly adjustments (additional goals or activities that are needed to continue progress of the goal area).
5. Goal owners and team members will provide planning and identification of recommended 2018 goal areas for their mission priority area.
6. Additional brainstorming ideas are welcome and encouraged. The Church Council will establish a point person to receive this input at its February, 2017 meeting.

COVENANT

The People of Messiah promise to examine and evolve our community behaviors and ministry practices within the contexts of the Guiding Vision, Mission, Signature Verse, Mission Priorities, and Mission Priority Goals. We further promise to hold ourselves accountable for walking together faithfully and joyfully in mission and ministry. Quarterly reviews of progress on our goals will occur in forums hosted by members of the church staff and council. Finally, we promise to live into this Mission Portfolio for at least the next three years (2017, 2018, 2019), and hold it before us as our operational guide and compass.

PLANNING TEAM

Church Staff

Rev. Chuck Harris
Rev. Eric Wooldridge
Traci Vatne
Kelly Mullin
Carmen Ode
Lynne Inman
Katie Walda
Tia Monsen

Vision Mission Team

Mary Berglund, Co-Chair
Mike Tipton, Co-Chair
Christi Gillette
Ruthanne Henderson
Phyllis Steinle

Church Council

Anne Baunach, President
Cathy Hawkins, Vice President
Sheilia McLaughlin, Secretary
Ross Chamberlain, Treasurer
Joe Hamell
Alex Hawkins
Jonathan Kniss
Alan Melrose
Stephanie Muhich
Lori Revely
Judy Ruud
Charlie Thomas