

Messiah's Mission Action Plan 2019-2020

As a people of God created in Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are sent to bear witness by sharing His creative, redeeming, and sanctifying work in the world.* In these next two years, 2019-2020, we commit to carry out this purpose through our worship and by our acts in order to bring people to Faith and Discipleship (Christ's Great Commission).

*from Messiah's Statement of Purpose, Chapter 4 of our Church Constitution

Romans 10:14-15 "But how shall they ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard of Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends them? How welcome are those who come preaching God's Good News!"

We bring our efforts particularly to three areas of focus:

1. Youth and Cross-Generational Growth
2. Strengthening Messiah's Worshipping Community
3. Increasing our Presence and Actions in the Community beyond our walls

Progress on this Mission Action Plan will be shared with the Congregation on the website, in newsletters, and in *quarterly temple talks* during worship.

First Quarterly Report to the Congregation, February-March 2019

Progress on the first area of focus, "Youth and Cross-Generational Growth," included continuing G.I.F.T. (Generations in Faith Together) Wednesday night worship and learning. The Wednesday night Senior High Discussion Group has also continued. On the first Sunday and Wednesday worship of February and March the congregation has worn name-tags.

The second area of focus, "Strengthening Messiah's Worshipping Community," included a Women's Retreat in February, a new Tuesday Bible Study, "12 Women of the Bible," and continuing opportunities for study and prayer in Wired Word. We have shared Joys/Celebrations and Sorrows/Concerns for ourselves and others during the worship service on the first Sunday of February and March. Many of our youth have received training from Lorraine Young and Tracy Martinez in acolyte, usher, and worship assistant tasks and have participated on most Sundays in these opportunities to serve. Many individuals and families pitched in with the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner in February. The men of Messiah hosted a Valentine Dinner for Messiah members. Renovations have been completed to our Fellowship Hall, including the Children's Corner.

The third focus, "Increasing our Presence and Actions in the Community," included providing food boxes for children over Spring Break when they are not able to receive school breakfasts and lunches. These were given through the Heaven's Helping Hands mission, who also gave Valentine Treats to members and roses to those who experienced loss of loved ones during the past year. Ecumenical activities included sharing Lenten worship opportunities at Messiah, Saint Mary's, and the Methodist Church. Keith Holm and Heidi Harvey are working to expand our church's technology for outreach. Bags of "necessities" were filled by our senior high youth with the Thrivent Action Team support of Audrey Swedberg for distribution to homeless families. Messiah provided a venue for a Schumann Concert open to the community and the proceeds of the free-will offering were shared with the performers and our church's fund-raising for our mission efforts.

Thanks to council member, Julie Vadnais, for keeping a running record of our Mission Action Plan effort. She asks for your help to name any other activities that we may have overlooked during February/March.

God Bless our Hearts and Hands to bring people to Faith and Discipleship!

Ginny Pedersen, Council President

Next Quarterly Report of the Mission Action Plan will include April, May, and June 2019.