

Values and Vision for House Church Planting

Our Values

- + A world of lost people who yet are blood bought and precious to God
- + LCMS churches with an abundance of members and God-given resources
- + Raising support for network supported church workers
- + Lifting up LCMS ministries God is using to connect people to Jesus by means of the Gospel
- + A church body more reflective of the demographics of our society
- + Upholding our Pastors and the Pastoral Office
- + Taking back the urban areas and cities for Christ and His Kingdom

Our Vision

Seeing the Church as Jesus sees it – members of His body ([1 Corinthians 12:12-13](#)), sheep of His fold ([John 10:14-18](#)), blood bought souls ([1 Peter 1:19](#)), baptized into His name ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)), gathered around His Word and Sacrament ([Luke 11:28](#)), with a deep desire to testify to the One who died and rose for them ([Acts 8:4](#)) so that many can be brought into the Good Shepherd's fold ([John 10:16](#)). In response we:

- + Provide a public forum for sharing and for encouragement in the Great Commission
- + Share what we are learning about House Church planting so that we can grow through mutual encouragement and accountability among the members of Christ's body.
- + Recruitment of future leaders from beyond the current membership of our church body
- + Partnerships with the Church, Community, Civic Organizations & Corporations
- + Encourage the Priesthood of the Baptized ([1 Peter 2:5-10](#)) also to consider public ministry.

Our Goals By God's Grace

- + Enroll at least 500 LCMS House Church planters by the year 2017
- + Share Level One of Congregational Prayer Ministry with 500 LCMS churches by 2017

Our Mission Statement

"We pray that God would prepare members of the Priesthood of the Baptized to plant House Churches by connecting people to Jesus Christ through the Word of God."

Our Doctrinal Statement

We seek to do this work with the understanding of the Word of God set forth in our Lutheran Confessions, thinking here especially of articles 4, 5 and 7 of the Augsburg Confession:

Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight ([Romans 3:21-16; 4:5](#)).

So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given ([John 20:22](#)). He works faith, when and where it pleases God ([John 3:8](#)), in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake. This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ's sake.

Our churches condemn (those) who think that through their own preparations and works the Holy Spirit comes to them without the external Word. ([AC 4&5 –Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord, p. 59](#)).

In other words, our House Church planting ministry exists to train people and pastors to bring the Word of God into the lives of people who do not know Jesus. There is no other way for people to be saved than to hear the Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit to believe in Jesus. We work with pastors to train church planters (who work with pastors) to bring the life-giving Word of God into the lives of people who do not yet know or believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit promises to work through this Word, when and where it pleases God.

We recognize, with the Augsburg Confession, that *one holy Church is to remain forever. The Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. ([AC 7 – Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord, p. 60](#)).*

Therefore, we pray that our House Churches will be places where the Holy Spirit gathers people around the Word of God and draws them into the congregation of saints where Christ feeds His sheep with His Word and Sacrament under the care and supervision of the Pastor of the congregation.

Editor's Comment, the following is a quote from Rev Herb Mueller as he worked on this document, "[Note - it's my opinion we have abandoned the city – in 1960 on any given Sunday, there were between 25,000 of our LCMS people in worship attendance (membership of 63,000) in the city of Chicago, a city of 3,000,000. Today, Chicago has grown in population but the aggregate church membership of all our churches in the city is less than 3,000.]"