

St. John's Transition Team Summary

Priorities	Evidence	Implications
<p>Vibrant, growing, welcoming and spiritual community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth of school district • Census statistics: growing and more diverse • Financially sound church and community • Desire for deeper spirituality • “We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person— questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God’s work in Christ’s name for the life of the world.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we make it more inclusive and what is our measure for success? • What people are missing? • How do we plan to grow and even consider a new congregation? • In what ways do we enhance or grow our electronic ministry? • How types of activities/events do we incorporate to assist the congregation in growing deeper in faith? • How do we encourage and grow excitement and joy and a longing to be a part of the church? • How do we more effectively share about significant events in the lives of our worship community (prayer chains, social media, etc.)?
<p>Commitment to regular and sustained youth programming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No active middle or high school youth groups • Families that have left due to a lack of youth activities (intergenerational programming not a substitute) • Congregational concerns over the future of the church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we build the next leaders of the church? • In what ways do we continue to involve youth in worship activities (music, readers, ushers, etc.)? • How do we ensure that we don’t favor one generation too much over another? • How can we utilize some of the unique spaces in our church to draw in youth (gym, outdoor fire pit, etc.)?
<p>Passionate about small group ministry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various small groups (veterans, women’s group, quilters, etc.) • Bible studies • Music activities • Youth activities • Missions • Intergeneration ministry • Environmental Stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the core small groups? • How do we ensure opportunities for involvement that consider busy lives and working parents? • How do we bridge the gap between the generations? • How do we equip leaders of groups? • How do we help the congregation understand we are a “program” church?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do folks get invited to the small groups (consider digital options)?
Grounded in Lutheranism (ELCA) with a recognition of a need for evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of congregation • Lack of plan for evangelism • ELCA congregation • Desire for gospel and grace-filled Biblical message/sermon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we reinforce that we are an ELCA Lutheran congregation? • How do we develop the spiritual lives of the congregation? • What is evangelism for Lutherans and how does this become part of our calling? • How do we invite in and welcome visitors? • How do we welcome families (core unit of church growth)? • How can we continue to explore how worship is an example of our commitment to ELCA Lutheranism?
Devoted outreach to community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various outreach activities (Boy Scouts, blood donations, fish fry, food pantry, helping hands, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we use our new space to creatively bring in new groups? • How do we contribute to mental health needs of the wider community—schools especially? • How can we be a destination for the community? • How can we better utilize various social media tools for outreach?

What qualities are we looking for in the next pastor?

- Leadership development skills: ability to grow leaders versus viewing him or herself as the only leader
- Effective communicator (especially with tech) who brings joy and good humor to relationships
- Skills with evangelism (mission minded)
- Visible part of the wider Oregon community
- Update and align with our vision and mission
- Not afraid to challenge the congregation
- Demonstrated proficiency with social media so it can be used to support programming, volunteering, and ministry

How do we plan to support the next pastor?

- Support for family
- Encouragement to take risks
- Support for staff changes to support ministry (e.g., new youth assistant and/or staff skilled in managing digital needs of congregation)
- Commitment to walking the journey of change with the new pastor