

Mission Statement

We are a community motivated by the love of God that helps one another to embrace our identity as God's people. Following the example of our Lord, we grow in faith, connecting people to Jesus Christ and to each other. These are our mission priorities:

1. Dynamic Discipleship
2. Diversity
3. Framework for Continuous Growth
4. Stewardship
5. Support for Elders and those in Need
6. Effective Partnerships

A Church in Mission for Others

Through the Gospel, God calls the whole church to be engaged in mission in response to the needs of others, celebrating what God has done and continues to do through us. Relying on the gifts of the Spirit, we will develop ministries that will inspire and equip us to care for others through the mission work of our congregation, as part of the ELCIC. As members of Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church, we will help one another to embrace our identity as God's people.

Mission Priorities

1. We will practice Dynamic Discipleship.

We will encourage one another to be joyful and reflective in worship, diligent in exploring God's Word, passionate in bearing witness to our faith, generous in sharing the gifts we have received, and wise in working with all our sisters and brothers in Christ. In our life together, we will be open to the creative and loving ways that God's Spirit works in and through us as members of Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church.

At Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church this mission priority includes:

- a) Renewing worship through workshops, retreats, and the efforts of the Worship and the Arts Committee and the Christian Education Committee; having renewed worship that is uplifting, sustaining, comforting and inspiring both inside and outside of the congregation.
- b) Encouraging members to study the Bible and wrestle with questions of faith through program resources, educational events and leadership from the Pastor and Christian Education Committee.
- c) Sharing faith-sharing stories and promoting resources provided through the synod's publications and communication network, ELCIC resources and the efforts of the Christian Education Committee.
- d) Fostering a sense of community through a variety of events, retreats and gatherings.

2. We will welcome Diversity.

We will embrace our neighbours and become more familiar with those living in our communities who may vary from us in age, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, and religious beliefs. We will foster a climate of welcome and hospitality within our church, committees, groups and community. We will seek to reflect the diversity of Canadian society within our church, recognizing that others may challenge us with new ideas.

At Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church this mission priority includes:

- a) Integrating children, youth and young adults into the life of our church through programs, gatherings, camps, ministries and the work of the Youth Advisory Group, Sunday School and the Pastor.

Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church 2012-2017 (v. 4)

- b) Identifying and making use of resources that help us understand and appreciate the cultures and creeds of others.
- c) Partnering with our interfaith neighbours using the MOSAIC network.
- d) Keeping a diversity of faces before us as we choose leaders.

3. We will establish a Framework for Continuous Growth.

We will develop effective and flexible structures which will be suited to the tasks to which the Gospel calls us. We will be challenged by on-going evaluation of our various ministries, mindful that God may lead us to end some of them and begin others to ensure continuous growth and succession. We will identify, mentor and equip Council, committees, groups, lay leaders and our Pastor to meet the challenges that are before us.

At Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church this mission priority includes:

- a) Evaluating the effectiveness of our leaders and committees and making changes in our organization which allow us to more fully participate in the mission to which God calls us.
- b) Recruiting leaders and people with gifts and skills that match the needs of our church today and in the future, and encouraging others to learn such skills.
- c) Training these leaders for service in the various committees and groups through a variety of external educational events and through internal transfer of knowledge.
- d) Proposing specific programs of continuing education for our Pastor, staff and members through Mutual Ministry and Christian Education.
- e) Identifying and establishing partnerships which will help us to effectively use all of the resources that have been entrusted to us.

4. We will practice Stewardship.

We will acknowledge that all that we have is a gift from God and we will strive to be generous in supporting the work of the Church.

At Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church this mission priority includes:

- a) Seeking to take better care of the earth, and playing a leading role in preserving all that God has made.
- b) Identifying and promoting ways in which the Church and individuals can exercise greater care of the earth's environment and resources.
- c) Encouraging generosity of spirit, time, talents and treasures.
- d) Educating why we are called to generosity.
- e) Establishing a Stewardship Committee that is responsible for overseeing all of the above.
- f) Designing and managing activities and events that reach out into the community at large.
- g) Exploring optimal use of land and property.

5. We will provide Support for the Elderly and those in Need.

We will care for and respect our elders and those in need, by focusing on the design of programs and structures that support these members of our community.

At Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church this mission priority includes:

- a) Researching and establishing a Parish Nurse program.
- b) Establishing a parish health group.
- c) Developing support programs such as drop-in programs, social programs and activities, and Bible studies.
- d) Establishing programs of visitation and support.
- e) Encouraging these individuals to play an active role in the church.
- f) Initiating research on feasibility for building an affordable retirement facility on the premises.
- g) Maintaining established German speaking programs and Church services as needs demand (German Worship Service, Kaffeestunde, Frohe Runde, Frauengruppe).

6. We will develop Effective Partnerships.

We will strengthen our existing partnerships and develop new ones. This includes collaboration with other congregations, the Toronto Conference and the Synod, as well as ecumenical, interfaith and community organizations. We will frequently ask ourselves, “Do we have to do this alone?”

At Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran Church this mission priority includes:

- a) Strengthening our working relationship among the Committee and Group Chairs and Council.
- b) Improving communication within and among the Committees and the congregation through the newsletter, website, worship webcast and other online media.
- c) Partnering with two community charitable organizations.
- d) Supporting Canadian Lutheran World Relief.
- e) Deepening our relationship with the Eastern Synod and the German and Thornhill church clusters.
- f) Continuing to explore possibilities for shared ministry with the Anglican Church of Canada, especially at the parish level with Holy Trinity, Thornhill.
- g) Investigating and establishing a partnership with a congregation in a church in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana.
- h) Partnering with diverse churches for the purpose of synergy or resource sharing to accomplish our vision and mission.

Goals for Christ The King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer 2012-2017 (v.2)

1. Establish a partnership with a community charitable organization by April 2012, and a second organization by April 2013 (Priority 6c).
2. Have a completed congregational 2012-17 Mission Statement, Visionpath, and 7-10 Goals, by June 2012 (Priority 1).
3. Redefine Finance and Stewardship into 2 separate committees, by Sept. 2012 (Priority 4e).
4. Establish voluntary Automated Offering Plan (PAR), by Feb. 2013 (Priority 4c).
5. Establish feasibility for a program in support of elderly and those in need through Parish Nursing and/or trained lay visitation, by Feb. 2014 (Priority 5a, d).
6. Establish Full Youth Program: 8-13, 14-17, 18+, by Feb. 2015 (Priority 2a).
7. Establish Program of Support for Young Families, by Feb. 2015 (Priority 2a).
8. Establish feasibility for an affordable retirement facility on our property, by Feb. 2016 (Priority 5f).
9. Increase number of active households to 100, and average weekly worship attendance to 90, by Feb. 2017 (Priority 3).
10. Complete Visioning Process for 2018-2023, by Sept. 2017 (initiated Feb. 2017).