

A Gigantic Vision for Bethlehem

The basic vision for ministry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church is simple. "Go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." This was our Lord's command to his disciples and still is our responsibility today to be Reaching Up, In and Out.

Reaching Up, In and Out will require us, as a growing number of multi-cultural disciples - children, youth, young adults, singles, adults, families and seniors from all walks of life, to spiritually prepare ourselves to constantly be in fire for Christ and growing in a stronger, personal relationship with Christ, seeking to use our God-given abilities and resources to live all of life for God's purpose and eagerly serving each other, the community and God, and intentionally finding ways to share the precious Gospel of salvation to each and every person. The small group ministry program sponsored by Bethlehem will be bathed in prayer and will touch some 2000 people outside our congregation in the community through some 100 Bible-study and affinity small groups lead by Bethlehem members. Bethlehem will reach into the community with a quarterly Music & the Arts production based on its mission and focused on sharing the Good News and baptizing those who have been moved by the Holy Spirit.

Reaching Up, In and Out will require our growing and diverse congregation, worshipping over 1000 people in multiple styles, languages, times and sites, and a Lutheran trained, multi-lingual, multi-cultural church staff of 2 pastors, a Youth Pastor, a Director of Christian Education, a Family Life Minister, a Children's Minister, a Music & the Arts Minister, a Parish Nurse, a Stephen Minister Coordinator, a Volunteer Coordinator, a Sports Minister, and many lay-volunteers, all with well delineated roles and expectations, equipping souls for life-long ministry, to provide a vibrant welcoming ministry, done with excellence in all areas, which will connect, nurture, and eventually send out people to share the Good News. The children's ministry of over 400 in Kid's World each Sunday and the dynamic youth program of 300 young people in junior and senior high which will focus on small group ministry, servant events, and a special worship format in a unique worship facility, will focus on bringing friends to learn and live Christian discipleship and be baptized into the Lord's Kingdom.

Reaching Up, In and Out will require additional contiguous buildings and land to be secured and added to the campus or a complete relocation to accommodate several worship centers for multiple styles of worship along with fellowship commons area incorporating a coffee shop, a senior's center which includes a courtyard, library and small kitchen, a youth center with a game area and appropriate cafe, a children's ministry center with a stage and work rooms, a designated, reverent prayer Chapel, and a recreational sports center for use in a 24-hour sports ministry venue. Additional acreage will allow Bethlehem to be used as a site for a north K-12 campus of the Concordia School System so that students and their families in the Santa Clarita valley and beyond will be able to hear the Gospel through the venue of Lutheran Christian education.

Reaching Up, In and Out will require our Early Childhood Center, with 400 to 500 children from 4 days to 4 years old, to secure an outstanding and caring staff who love the Lord and love children in a welcoming but safe and comfortable facilities, and will present a day by day witness to these young people and their families. The state-of-the-art, high-tech facilities, located in several different communities, will support the concerns of young families in an ever-changing society, and include adult education space for parenting and Christian growth classes, and a prayer Chapel.

Reaching Up, In and Out will require the Lord's ultimate guidance, encouragement, support, and no less than a miracle, because left to ourselves, with our own power or might, we will miserably fail our Lord and the people He calls us to serve. All Glory be to God, from whom all blessings flow!