

Grace and St. Mark Lutheran Churches Partnering Proposal

The Councils at St. Mark and Grace have discussed the many possibilities to strengthen our ministries by doing some partnering together. We could partner in a variety of ministry opportunities that otherwise might not be available or practical in one congregational setting. There are also staff positions in both congregations that presently are open, together we could benefit in sharing and supporting a staff member and their ministry.

The Partnering in Ministry Task Force 5 members from each congregation will be diving deeper into the possibility of collaborating. This may result in the task force developing a strategic and coordinated vision about this partnership to then recommend to their respective councils.

Goals

- To encourage participation, interest, and enthusiasm from the congregations in partnering
- To identify the opportunities, issues and needs in each congregation and how we can respond
- To identify what both churches have in common, and what is unique to each
- To develop a strategic, coordinated, and collaborative effort in sharing in ministry

Membership of Task Force

Given the nature of this task force, we recommend that members of the task force possess the following qualities:

- A genuine interest in serving on the task force
- The ability to relay the desires, questions, and concerns of their congregations
- The ability to see the possibilities of what might be, as we work to share God's love and word
- Good communication skills – verbal, written, and social media
- A passion for ministries
- Caring, professional, and organized

Timeframe

First, we will officially introduce the congregation to the idea of partnering in ministry. Then with the help of Pastor Erika Uthe, DEM and Assistant to the Bishop, we will begin with 30 days of prayer. In those 30 days, the first two weeks will be about prayerfully considering who is nominated from the congregation to be on the Task Force. The third week of prayer will be prayer for the councils or executive councils to discern, of those nominated who meets the needs of this task force. The final week of prayer will be to invite the nominated task force members and allow time for them to discern their ability to participate.

Following the 30 days of prayer. Under the guidance of Pastor Erika Uthe, there will be 4-6 week intensive. At the end of those 4 or 6 weeks, the task force will have a recommendation. If they discern they need more time for certain tasks or feedback, the task force members will be given the option to continue or step back.