

MISSION: LOVING PEOPLE TO LIFE IN JESUS, because Jesus changes everything!

What Does This Mean?

- **Loving** — Sacrificially supporting needs of others, both spiritual and physical.
 - Jesus said, "This is My command: **Love each other in the same way I have loved you.**" (John 15:12).
 - Jesus: "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. **And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet.** I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you....Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. (John 13:12-17)
 - Jesus: "'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you have Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me. I was in prison, and you visited me'....'**I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me.**' (Matthew 25:34-40)
 - Paul: Even though I am a free man with no master, **I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.** When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. **Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law.** When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, **for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.** I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings. Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! (1 Corinthians 9:19-24)
- **People** — Anyone! Especially those in need of salvation and in need of being served with Jesus' love.
 - Jesus: **"Healthy people don't need a doctor — sick people do."** (Matthew 9:12)
 - Jesus: "The Son of Man came to seek and save **those who are lost.**" (Luke 19:10)]

- 1 ○ *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if*
2 *anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father.*
3 *He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice*
4 *that atones for our sins—**and not only our sins but the sins of all the***
5 ***world.** (1 John 2:1-2)*
- 6 ○ ***"Don't let foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord say, 'The***
7 ***Lord will never let me be part of His people.'** And don't let the eunuchs*
8 *say, 'I'm a dried-up tree with no children and no future.'* For this is what the
9 *Lord says: "I will bless those eunuchs who keep My Sabbath days holy and*
10 *who choose to do what pleases Me and commit their lives to Me. I will give*
11 *them — within the walls of My house — a memorial and a name far greater*
12 *than sons and daughters could give. **For the name I give them is an***
13 ***everlasting one. It will never disappear!** I will also bless the foreigners*
14 *who commit themselves to the Lord, who serve Him and love His name, who*
15 *worship Him and do not desecrate the Sabbath day of rest, and who hold fast*
16 *to My covenant. **I will bring them to My holy mountain of Jerusalem***
17 ***and will fill them with joy in My house of prayer.** I will accept their*
18 *burnt offerings and sacrifices, **because My Temple will be called a house***
19 ***of prayer for all nations.** For the Sovereign Lord, who brings back the*
20 *outcasts of Israel, says: '**I will bring others, too, besides My people***
21 ***Israel.**'" (Isaiah 56:3-8)*
- 22 ○ *"For this is how **God loved the world:** He gave His one and only Son, so*
23 *that **everyone who believes in Him** will not perish but have eternal life.*
24 *God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, **but to save the***
25 ***world through Him.** (John 3:16-17)*
- 26 ● **Life in Jesus** — People have "life in Jesus" when they believe Jesus is
27 their personal Savior from sin and they live their lives as if this is true
28 by following Jesus in word and deed for now and for eternity. Jesus
29 refers to this in the Bible as "the Kingdom of God." We pray for this
30 when we pray in the Lord's Prayer "Hallowed be Thy name, Thy
31 Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
- 32 ○ *Jesus told her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Anyone who believes*
33 *in Me will live, even after dying. **Everyone who lives in Me and believes***
34 ***in Me** will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" (John 11:25-26)*
- 35 ○ *My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, **but***
36 ***Christ lives in me.** So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of*
37 *God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*
- 38 ○ *When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator*
39 *of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from His glorious,*
40 *unlimited resources **He will empower you with inner strength through***
41 ***His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust***
42 ***in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you***
43 ***strong.** And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people*
44 *should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. **May you***

experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.
Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:114-19)

- And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. **Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable.** This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, **but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect....**Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.** Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. **Love each other with genuine affection,** and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. **Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.** Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. **Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.** (Romans 12:1-2, 9-19, 21)
- Jesus said, "I have come to **give them a rich and satisfying life.**" (John 10:10)
- "Ask, using My name, and you will receive, and **you will have abundant joy.**" (John 16:24)
- "You search the Scriptures because **you think they give you life. But the Scriptures point to Me!**" (John 5:39)
- **Small Catechism, Lord's Prayer: "The First Petition. Hallowed be Thy name. What does this mean? Answer:** God's name is indeed holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may become holy among us also. **How is this done? Answer:** When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead holy lives in accordance with it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven. But he that teaches and lives otherwise than God's Word teaches profanes the name of God among us. From this preserve us, Heavenly Father. **The Second Petition. Thy kingdom come. What does this mean? Answer:** The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also. **How is this done? Answer:** When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity. **The Third Petition. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean? Answer:** The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

1 **How is this done?** **Answer:** When God breaks and hinders every evil
2 counsel and will which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His
3 kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but
4 strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith unto our end.
5 This is His gracious and good will."

- 6 ● **Jesus Changes Everything** — Just as faith in Jesus changes one's
7 eternal future, that same faith enables and demands a different way of
8 life on this side of heaven.

- 9 ○ Jesus said, "'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn
10 you?' 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, '**Neither do I. Go and sin no**
11 **more.**'" (John 8:10-11).
- 12 ○ **"You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings.**
13 **And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."** (John 8:31-32)
- 14 ○ "If any of you wants to be **My follower, you must give up your own way,**
15 **take up your cross and follow Me.**" (Mark 8:34)
- 16

VISION: Lead Families to be followers of Jesus

What Does This Mean?

- **Lead** — Showing the way and accompanying families on the journey.
 - *Jesus said, "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' When you don't do what I say? **I will show you what it's like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching, and then follows it.** It's like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built." (Luke 6:46-48).*
 - *Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering His glory?" **Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.** By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if He were going on, but they begged Him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." **So He went home with them. As they sat down to eat, He took the bread and blessed it. Then He broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him.** And at that moment He disappeared! They said to each other, **"Didn't our hearts burn within us as He talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"** (Luke 24:25-32)*
 - *St. Paul says "You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. **Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.**" (2 Timothy 2:2)]*
- **Families** — "Families" means the focus is on the "family system" rather than merely the individual. Because God has created the family as the building block of faith, we will focus on leading the entire family to be followers of Jesus rather than focusing on leading "Couples" or "Teens" or "Young Adults" or "Singles" or "Seniors." Each of these groups are important to us because they are important to Jesus.
 - *So God created human beings in His own image. **In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it." (Genesis 1:27-28a)*
 - *Moses said: "So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. **Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.** Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that as long as the sky remains above the earth,*

1 **you and your children** may flourish in the land the Lord swore to give your
2 ancestors. (Deuteronomy 11:18-22)

- 3 ○ **"And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For**
4 **wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.** For a
5 husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the
6 Savior of His body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives
7 should submit to your husbands in everything. **For husbands, this means**
8 **love your wives, just as Christ loved the church.** He gave up His life for
9 her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's Word. He
10 did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church without a spot or
11 wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In
12 the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own
13 bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one
14 hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the
15 church. And we are members of His body. As the Scriptures say, 'A man
16 leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united
17 into one.' This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ
18 and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he
19 loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. **Children, obey your**
20 **parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to**
21 **do. 'Honor your father and mother.'** This is the first commandment with
22 a promise: If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you,
23 and you will have a long life on the earth.' **Fathers, do not provoke your**
24 **children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up**
25 **with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.**
26 (Ephesians 5:21-6:4)

- 27 ○ But I will keep on hoping for Your help; I will praise You more and more. **I**
28 **will tell everyone about Your righteousness.** All day long I will proclaim
29 Your saving power, though I am not skilled with words. I will praise Your
30 mighty deeds, O Sovereign Lord. I will tell everyone that You alone are just.
31 **O God, You have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I**
32 **constantly tell others about the wonderful things You do. Now that I**
33 **am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim Your**
34 **power to this new generation, Your mighty miracles to all who come**
35 **after me.** (Psalm 71:14-18)

- 36 ○ As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, His mother and brothers stood outside,
37 asking to speak to Him. Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and Your brothers
38 are standing outside, and they want to speak to You." Jesus asked, "Who is
39 my mother? Who are my brothers?" **Then He pointed to His disciples and**
40 **said, "Look, these are My mother and brothers. Anyone who does the**
41 **will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother!"**
42 (Matthew 12:46-50)

- 43 ● **Followers of Jesus** — What is being described here is more than just
44 being able to repeat the truths of the Bible. Followers of Jesus are
45 both "hearers" and "doers" of God's will.

1 To be a follower of Jesus is the same thing as “being saved” or “being
2 a disciple” [*“disciple” means “learner” in Greek*]. This is the basic term
3 used to describe Christians – both who they are and how they are to
4 act.

5 To be a follower of Jesus also means that you are not a follower of the
6 world, and includes both being baptized in the name of the Triune God
7 and being taught to obey all of God’s commands.

- 8 ○ *Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus*
9 *had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him—but some of*
10 *them doubted! Jesus came and told His disciples, “I have been given all*
11 *authority in heaven and on earth. **Therefore, go and make disciples of all***
12 ***the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and***
13 ***the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I***
14 ***have given you.** And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end*
15 *of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20)*
- 16 ○ *They replied, “We want to perform God’s works, too. What should we do?”*
17 *Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: **Believe in the***
18 ***One He has sent.**”....*Jesus replied, “**I am the bread of life. Whoever***
19 ***comes to Me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in Me will***
20 ***never be thirsty**... And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even*
21 *one of all those He has given Me, but that I should raise them up at the last*
22 *day. **For it is my Father’s will that all who see His Son and believe in***
23 ***Him should have eternal life.** I will raise them up at the last day....As it is*
24 *written in the Scriptures, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who*
25 *listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Me... **I tell you the truth,***
26 ***anyone who believes has eternal life.**”.... So Jesus said again, “I tell you*
27 *the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you*
28 *cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who eats My flesh and drinks*
29 *My blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. For My*
30 *flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. **Anyone who eats My flesh***
31 ***and drinks My blood remains in me, and I in him.**” (John 6:28-29, 35,*
32 *39-40,45, 47, 53-56)**
- 33 ○ ***But don’t just listen to God’s Word. You must do what it says.***
34 ***Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.** For if you listen to the word*
35 *and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself,*
36 *walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the*
37 *perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget*
38 *what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. **If you claim to be***
39 ***religious but don’t control your tongue,** you are fooling yourself, and your*
40 *religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father*
41 *means **caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to***
42 ***let the world corrupt you**.... **What good is it, dear brothers and sisters,***
43 ***if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions?** Can that*
44 *kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no*
45 *food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm*

and eat well” — but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? **So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.** (James 1:22-27, 2:14-17)

- **“Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me — everything you heard from me and saw me doing.** Then the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:9)
- **“Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me — a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus.”** (2 Timothy 1:13)
- “In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. **You lived in this world without God and without hope.**” (Ephesians 2:12)
- “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, **but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world,** and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)
- “I have given them Your Word. **And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.** I’m not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your Word, which is truth. **Just as You sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.** And I give Myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by Your truth.” (John 17:14-19)
- “But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. **Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.**... And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence **because we live like Jesus here in this world.**” (1 John 4:3,17)

Why this VISION for Trinity?

First, it defines and narrows our focus. Trinity is a broad ministry, but we cannot be all things to all people all the time. We need to focus on this vision for right now. Second, it plays to our strength and history and is something we know how to do (most people originally connected with Trinity through our ministry to their families).

Building the Foundation FY 2019-2020:

WHAT we will do to strengthen our support system for Trinity's four strategies

- **Focus on Staff and Lay Leadership Training.**

1. Fully implement the REALM church management and congregational communication system
2. Strengthen staff and system support for member relationship-building efforts (especially Life Groups) and deal begin to put in structures and train members to better deal with inactive members of Trinity
3. Utilize and adapt ready-made resources (such as Ministry Grid and Orange Curriculum) instead of using staff time to create new resources
4. Hire key staff in Child & Family (completed) and Music Ministry

- **Redevelop a lay-led ministry model which better fits Trinity's staff size.**

1. This will require a renewed emphasis on the use of lay people according to their spiritual gifts to that Trinity engages and energizes the entire congregation. This will begin in earnest with a major spiritual gift training effort in January 2020
2. This will engage, enable and empower the entire congregation

- **Improve our buildings and grow resources to support more relationship-building service and mission opportunities.**

1. Improve narthex/lobby area to expand fellowship after worship and during the week and make Trinity's facility even more visitor friendly
2. Develop greater support for ministries that take members and our message beyond the two campuses of Trinity in Roselle (such as developing the proposed "Block Party / Portable VBS" trailer to support community outreach efforts)

WHY do we believe it necessary to build a foundation for our work in FY 2019-2020?

For our four strategies to be supported, we need to strengthen the operational support structures at Trinity in several areas. The addition of a few special projects is necessary – especially adding a few key personnel and continuing our decade-long change from a staff-led ministry with 200 employees to a lay-led ministry with fewer than 90 employees. This requires some new operational resources and a change of staff training and goals. The changes in our operational support structures will also allow us to be better prepared for the transition of our senior leader role.

Four Strategies for FY 2019-2020

Strategic Focus 1: Loving Families

What Do We Mean by “Loving ‘Families’?”

“Loving Families” puts the emphasis on the word “Families.” In particular, our primary targets will be spouses, parents and children of families with young children, while leaving room for any of the other family configurations or phases. We will lead families and family members to grow spiritually, using the family environment to grow disciples in various family roles: husbands and wives, parents, and growing children (*as well as adults who are children responsible for their parents*).

Why We Will Do This:

Trinity’s focus will be on loving “Families” rather than focusing *in this moment* on loving “Teens” or “Young Adults” or “Singles” or “Seniors.” Each of these groups are important to us because they are important to Jesus. But we can’t focus on everything at once. We choose to focus on families with young children because it will support and be supported by all of our other ministries to children: Parochial School and Preschool, Child Daycare and Child and Family ministries.

What Are Some of the Things We Will Do to Accomplish This?

- Focus on families with young children ***first***...but not exclusively
- Increase and expand family-friendly worship practices
- Improve Sunday School and grow faith milestones efforts
- Increase family-oriented training (marriage, parenting, step-parenting, etc.)
- Implement “Orange” curriculum (because of the strong online family training resources available to parents and the outreach mindset of this curriculum)
- Develop more high-impact, low cost fellowship activities (*like Block Parties, Trunk-or-Treat*) to increase the number of families with young children we reach with our ministry

Strategic Focus 2: Growing Group Life

What Do We Mean by “Growing Group Life”?

Simply put, growing group life means an increasing emphasis on engaging people in life groups, multiplying their number at Trinity, and re-tooling some of our other discipleship and educational programs to utilize the Life Group format of 2-12 people meeting together for a determined amount of time on

a spiritual topic with the study of God's Word, prayer for one another and accountability to one another being features of the group.

Why We Will Do This:

Trinity's will focus on "Growing Group Life" because it supports our vision of leading families to be followers of Jesus. Growing small groups also supports our sustainable strategy of increasing lay-led leadership and lay training. Using affinity groups (young mothers, fathers of teens, pre-child parents, etc.), we will be able to strengthen families, model discipleship, serve as a connection point for the unchurched and a support ministry for new Christians. In addition, life group topics will help train young families in their spousal and parenting roles as well as develop their faith.

Over the past decades, Trinity's ministry has been strengthened by "Christ-Care," "Small Group" and "Life Group" ministries. In fact, some of our greatest new member growth spurts and been fueled by efforts like "40 Days of Purpose" and "Transformed." We believe that strengthening our Life Group efforts will strengthen our other evangelism, community outreach, and discipleship-maturing efforts at Trinity.

What Are Some of the Things We Will Do to Accomplish This?

- Make "building relationships" and an "empty chair" policy a measurable in all of the activities staff and layfolk lead. We need to be asking "Who have you invited to join us and what have you done to make that happen?" to all of our programs
- Revive the "Delta" spiritual growth experience by devoting more intentional staff and lay leader efforts to it because the Delta experience of intentional discipleship growth has provided a fertile training ground for leaders in the past decade. Delta will also support our efforts to engage members in ministry according to their spiritual gifts
- Strengthen the pairing of two or three sermon series each year with specific small group curriculum
- Develop more life group, educational and fellowship opportunities surrounding the worship hour (such as moving baptismal instruction to Sunday morning and developing life-stage groups that can meet on our campuses around the worship hours – like Erica Davies' new "Young Moms" Life Group)
- Increase and formalize Life Group leader training efforts

Strategic Focus 3: Community Outreach

What Do We Mean by "Community Outreach"?

"Increased partnerships with community organizations" was one of the strategic directions members of Trinity identified in the last congregational survey. "Community Outreach" is not "direct evangelism" (as years ago when members of Trinity went door-to-door with the two Kennedy "Evangelism Explosion" questions), but rather pre-evangelism opportunities.

Community Outreach experiences are relationship-building, bridge-building, pre-evangelism opportunities for Christians to relate to their world. The focus is on those outside the Community of Believers at Trinity.

They can be events such as a Community Prayer Walk, but also can be Trunk or Treat, Mother's Day Out, mentoring a child in a local public school, a Bethlehem Walk, High School Basketball breakfasts, caroling at the mall, imposing ashes at the train station on Ash Wednesday, taking donuts on Father's Day to first responders, or having a neighborhood block party.

Other general words for "Community Outreach" are "missional living" and "incarnational evangelism."

Why We Will Do This:

Currently, much of what members of Trinity do as followers of Jesus is "internally" focused. We have tended to isolate ourselves in our Christian community and faithfully serve those who will join us as followers of Jesus – within our "four walls." The end result is that we have a wonderful gathering of disciples who live most of their lives in a Christian ghetto. This is not what Jesus commanded when He sent us to be His witnesses (Acts 1) beyond our "Jerusalem" (our comfortable, family and congregational place) to "Judea" (people who are like us a little outside of our clan) and on to "Samaria" (people who are not like us – from a different tribe and culture) and, finally, "to the ends of the earth."

We can't follow Christ's command by sitting in our pews or in the comfort of our Family Life Center. We need to be "out in the world" as followers of Jesus. Over 120,000 people entered the doors of Trinity in 2018. Ask yourself: did we meet them with the love of Jesus, show them what life in His name means, and invite them to the journey with us? Not so much. If we are to meet the lost where they are as Jesus did, we need to be "out there" more.

That's why we have to do more community outreach.

What Are Some of the Things We Will Do to Accomplish This?

- Focus on developing activities that connect with families with young children *first*
- Create High-impact, low-cost fellowship activities where members of Trinity can show themselves as the hands and feet of Jesus
- Develop and engage a growing volunteer base
- Develop partnerships with others working in the community (elementary school partnerships, mentoring, etc.)
- Improve family crisis support for people struggling with mental health and addiction issues (such as "Celebrate Recovery").
- Use community outreach activities as pre-evangelism experiences – the beginning of our discipleship process

Strategic Focus 4: Missional Service Opportunities

What Do We Mean by "Mission and Service Opportunities"?

Mission and service opportunities specifically feed the poor, help our neighbors, care for the lost and forgotten, and allow us to love. While the chance to share the Gospel or pray for someone may present itself, missional service opportunities tend to be activities that allow people to exercise and develop their "love muscles," growing them as Saint Paul said in Ephesians 4.

In Ephesians 4:11-16, Saint Paul describes this maturing process as being built up in love until we reach maturity, a maturity that is "healthy, growing and full of love." We can't get there without the practice of mission work and service to others. He said it this way:

*"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the Church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is **to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.** This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that **we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.** Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. **Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ,** who is the head of his body, the Church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.**"*

Why We Will Do This:

A part of developing as followers of Jesus is learning to do what He did – like serving His disciples by washing their feet. Jesus healed the sick. He cared for the dying. And in Matthew 25, Jesus reminds us “**Whatever you do to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do to Me.**”

Christian missional service opportunities will provide Trinity members and others a chance to serve like Jesus. These missional service opportunities also allow active Christians, de-churched Christians and non-Christians to serve alongside one another. In addition, they serve as an entry point to explore what following Jesus might mean.

Christian service and mission opportunities cement the relationship of Christians to one another. In particular, this opportunities build deeper relationships within life groups. A life group that goes and serves a meal to the poor or sorts clothing for the Clinic grows in commitment to one another and to the cause of Christ.

Finally, missional service opportunities cement the relationship between Christ and youth. We work hard to send as many high schoolers as possible on mission trips. By doing that, we create the environment in which a majority of young adults who are active followers of Jesus say helped lead them to a strong faith: researchers have found most youth determined to stay life-long followers of Jesus on a mission trip between the ages of 13 and 19.

What Are Some of the Things We Will Do to Accomplish This?

- Increase the number of volunteers engaged in service to others
- Provide life groups service and mission work in the community and world to build their maturity and strengthen their relationship with one another
- Expand working ministry groups at Trinity such as LERT and Community Service
- Train and develop leaders and managers for future service to Christ and Trinity