



Discipleship Integration Plan

St. John's Mission Statement: Connecting, Caring, and Sharing in Christ

St. John's West Bend Educational Ministries carry out the congregational mission of Connecting, Caring, and Sharing in Christ.

Partnering with parents, St. John's Lutheran Educational Ministries:

Nurture Faithful Disciples

Inspire Academic Excellence

Equip Christian Leaders

Reaching out with the Gospel of Christ is the primary function of God's Church, His people. This plan for sharing the Gospel of Christ is a framework of the activities, led by the Holy Spirit, by which our pastors, staff, members, students, and families participate in order to accomplish the Great Commission set out for us in Matthew 28. In order to fulfill our mission, our goal with this intentional plan is to bring all people into a life of discipleship with our Lord God.

Rationale

Therefore, the highest and greatest work and the supreme service of God that we can perform on earth is this: that we bring other people- and in particular those who are entrusted to us- to the knowledge of God and the Holy Gospel.- Martin Luther

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to make Him known to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey His commands.

Staff Expectations:

1. Common Language

All staff members will attend the Promises of Grace classes to learn and implement the unified language and common speak at St. John's West Bend.

Examples:

- A Disciple is one who is called by and follows Christ
- The Three Truths of Discipleship: It's All His; He Saves; His Will is What's Best for Us
- Connecting, Caring and Sharing in Christ- our mission statement
- Discipleship in as Many Places as Possible- our vision statement

- The Five expressions of our mission and vision statements:
 - In the Heart of the City
 - As Christ Stations
 - New Generation
 - Renewal and Recovery
 - Havens of Recreation
- Joining Jesus on His Mission- five mission practices:
 - Seeking the Kingdom
 - Hearing from Jesus
 - Talking with People
 - Doing Good
 - Ministering through Prayer

2. Common Attitude

The staff of St. John's holds to the belief that Lutheran Education begins at baptism and continues throughout one's life as a disciple or child of the King. God instituted the family as the primary source of faith formation and disciple making. The role of the church ministries is to equip and assist parents as disciples so that they are disciple makers in their family and life. For St. John's, parenting is discipleship and discipleship is parenting.

3. Common Behavior

The staff of St. John's, those called into leadership, will live life as an expression of the Lord's ministry. They will serve as a bridge from the unchurched to the faith community and to a life of discipleship.

Objectives of the St. John's Ministries:

With the help of God:

1. Every staff member will share the love of Christ with a loving and welcoming spirit, creating an inviting place for people to develop relationships with the promise that God's Spirit is present.
2. Every staff member will strengthen the ability of parents to be the key spiritual nurturers in their child's life.
3. Opportunities will be provided to help all parents grow in their role as Christian parents fostering a relationship with Jesus for themselves and their children.
4. Faith formation, integrating faith and real life, and devoting oneself to following Jesus as Lord and Savior should continually be given priority in all facets of the Christian education process beginning at Baptism.
5. All staff will make efforts to connect families with the ministries of the church.
6. Families without a habit of worshipping will be encouraged to participate in worship for the important connection to Jesus and the body of believers. Worship attendance of those attending St. John's Elementary and Middle School will be reported weekly and discussed at parent teacher conferences.
7. Staff will make particular efforts with families who indicate having no church home and a list of families should be generated. Regular worship and eventual church

membership should be discussed with families as a means to becoming a more fully devoted follower of Jesus.

8. Staff will make personal invitations to families who have children or adults who have not been baptized to meet with our pastors and attend the baptism class.
9. Staff will keep students and families in prayer for their continued growth in becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus and seek to connect them to the means to becoming more fully devoted followers of Jesus.

The following is not an exhaustive outline; but an attempt to capture our discipleship efforts.

Identifying Our Flock

Who are the people that we reach out to in our discipleship efforts, regardless of their faith?

- Students
- Parents
- Grandparents and other extended family
- Prospective families
- Congregational members
- Our neighbors-those whom the Lord brings into our daily life
- Website/blog/facebook visitors
- Recipients of chapel and charitable offerings
- Those who drive by or see us. In other words, those whom we connect with through both formal and informal activities.

How do we join Jesus on His mission? How do we make disciples?

Prospective Families

- Informational packet includes church and youth ministry brochures
- Direct invitation to worship; discipleship hour; Story time and special events, i.e. Trunk and Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, Church Picnic; VBS; Faith Haven; Sonshine Community Park; Play dates
- Facility tours

Families at the start of the year

- Home visits from teachers beginning with prayer
- Leadership team (or other designees by Senior Pastor) visits to families new to St. John's
- Welcome letters from pastors to new families
- Parent covenants
- Ice cream social

- Orientation meetings where mission and vision is emphasized
- Church and school discipleship resources are shared by staff and available at the Parent Library
- Bible Theme for the year with monthly scripture memorization of key passages related to theme development

Daily

- Faculty prayers following devotions
- Classroom devotion and prayer time
- Prayers before and following meal time
- Jesus Time/Christian Education/Discipleship Classes
- Christ centered love and logic classroom management
- Repentance, confession, and absolution between faculty, teacher and students, and student to student
- Online web presence (Shutterfly, blog, facebook) gives witness
- Classroom décor and altars witness to the Christian faith
- Memory curriculum
- Integration of faith into all subjects
- The importance of regular family worship emphasized and encouraged by teachers and staff
- Reminder of the three truths of discipleship

Ongoing

- Weekly Chapel Worship led by pastors, classes, teachers, and guests
- All School Devotions
- Monthly Baptismal recognition and gift
- Monthly hymns related to school theme for the year
- Lamb's choir sings regularly at worship services
- Hallelujah Singers sing regularly at worship services
- Weekly skype sessions with our sister school in Guatemala
- Individual students share their vocal and instrumental talents at chapel and worship services
- Scripture based problem solving behavior managing model
- J.O.Y (Jesus First, Others Second, Yourself Third) quarterly awards
- Weekly classroom newsletters
- Monthly Eagles Nest featuring discipleship, fellowship and worship opportunities
- Meetings and sporting events opened with prayer
- Chapel buddies partnering K-8 students

- All School and lunch buddies partnering Grades 5 and 6 students with PK3 and PK4 students
- Promises of Grace new member classes
- Confirmation and new member support (e.g. classes, mentoring, coaching)
- Discipleship classes (Middle School) taught by pastors and Director of Stewardship and Gifting, and Director of Youth and Missions
- Baptism support (e.g. classes, mentoring, coaching)
- Parenting and Family Discipleship lending library
- Intentional fellowship activities with Christ at the Center i.e. ice cream social; Faith Haven Family Bonfire; Diva Night; Tournaments; St. John's Auction; Church Picnic
- Student written and published devotions
- Science and Academic & Arts Fair
- Christmas and Spring Music Concerts
- Monthly play dates for young families

Service/Missions projects

- Integrated St. John's mission support and gift gathering as a partnership between all ministries and the St. John's Foundation with a bi-monthly focus
- Sister School, Colegio Luz y Vida in Salquil Grande, Guatemala supported through chapel and special offerings
- Service Day
- Monthly visits to residential care facilities
- Service projects at the middle school level
- Food pantry collections
- Worship and afternoon at Bethesda
- Yard clean-up
- Community beautify West Bend clean-up
- Weekly card Ministry

Special Events:

- Christmas worship services by grades Early Childhood Center, K-1 and 2-5
- Grandparents Day
- Open Houses
- Annual Dinner Auction, a Christian fellowship opportunity
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Loyalty Day celebration
- National Day of Prayer
- Reformation celebrations

- Graduation

Care Ministry

- Softball league
- Basketball
- Men's soccer
- Golf league
- Trap shooting teams
- Life groups
- Youth group
- Friday Bash
- Small group Bible studies
- Card ministry
- LWML
- Altar Guild
- Music ministry