



EVANGELISM PLAN

THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matthew 28: 18-20).

BETHANY EV. LUTHERAN CONGREGATION MISSION STATEMENT

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church and School exists to carry out the command of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19-20: To make and nurture devoted followers of Jesus Christ within our fellowship, in our community and to the ends of the earth, by faithfully proclaiming and teaching the Word of God and administering the sacraments.

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Bethany Lutheran School’s mission is “To train a child’s head, heart, and hands for a lifetime of discipleship to God and service to their fellowman.”

In today’s culture the Lutheran school still plays a vital role in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Lutheran schools best fulfill this role when they:

1. demonstrate a clear sense of God’s mission to make disciples;
2. incorporate a distinct Lutheran identity;
3. integrate into the life of the community.

Lutheran schools have the opportunity to teach, live and celebrate three, guiding principles:

1. Grace Alone. God loves the people of this world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him, and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly.
2. Faith Alone. By His suffering and death as the Substitute for all people for all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for mankind. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life God alone offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him.

Our Mission: “To train a child’s head, heart and hands for a lifetime of discipleship to God, and service to their fellowman.”

3. Scripture Alone. The Bible is God's inerrant and infallible Word. In it He reveals His Law and the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the sole rule and norm for Christian doctrine.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF OUR STAFF

Our Lord commanded His disciples to “go and make disciples.” That same command is given to us today, as we, too, are disciples of Jesus. The word, “go” in the original Greek holds a nuanced meaning lost in its translation into English. In English, “go” would have the connotation that one must physically go somewhere else in order to share the Good News of the Gospel; however, in the original language, the command would be more accurately translated “as you are going.” The implication of this is that our entire life journey is one in which we have the *opportunity* to share the Good News of the Gospel. We are not bound by geography or circumstances. Thus, it is that each one of us has been given a command to make disciples *where we are at*. It is our joy to be able to live life as His witnesses.

Bethany Lutheran School provides an opportunity for families without a church home to be in contact with those who do have a home church. The process of introducing and then integrating school families into the life of our congregation starts with our School teachers and staff. We have daily contact with families. It is our privilege to serve as ambassadors for Christ and His church on earth. We do this as we:

1. Live lives reflecting Christ and His forgiveness;
2. Speak words of grace to their children and the families;
3. Offer absolution upon confession;
4. Tell their personal stories of faith;
5. Model church attendance and involvement;
6. Speak to the importance of being in a Christian fellowship;
7. Invite others to attend;
8. Provide a means to attend;
9. Pray for their students—by name;
10. Teach Bible stories;
11. Model and teach the importance of daily prayers; Begin parent-teacher meetings and school gatherings with prayer. Close assemblies (examples: athletic and NLSA) with prayer.
12. Encourage fellow students to invite their peers to school and church events;
13. Record church attendance;
14. Educate parents on the importance of church attendance; Discuss with parents at P-T conferences and in class newsletters.
15. Invite parents to church services and activities; Discuss and invite non-churched families to worship and congregational events at conference time, and in class newsletters.
16. Pass along information to appropriate church personnel. Pastors and Board of Outreach.

BEING IN THE COMMUNITY

Lutheran schools have a unique opportunity to incorporate and assimilate people into the life of the congregation, as they include, instruct, influence and invite the members of their school community.

Include

All students and their families will be included in the activities, programs and opportunities of Bethany Lutheran School, such as, but not limited to

- service projects;
- chapel presentations;
- church presentations; (Christmas pageant during Sunday services, K-3 Bell choir performances in worship services, K-2, 3-4 and 5-8 choir performances in worship services, middle school hand bell performances in worship services, and National Lutheran School Week participation in worship services);
- prayers of the church.

In addition, all non-churched students and their families will have their contact information forwarded to the Board of Outreach and to the Pastor(s) for inclusion in the formal outreach efforts of the church. These include mailings, contacts, visits, prayers, etc.

Instruct

All students will be given instruction in

- Scripture;
- prayer;
- worship;
- Christian stewardship;
- Christian lifestyle;
- the chief parts of Luther's *Small Catechism*.

Influence

The staff of Bethany Lutheran School will model Christian virtues to all its students as they interact with the students

- in actions;
- in words.

Invite

All students and their families will be invited to participate in the activities of the school and its sponsoring congregation(s). Students who do not have a church home will be intentionally invited to take part in the activities of the school and the sponsoring congregation(s). Such activities include, but are not limited to

- worship services;
- Sunday school and Bible classes;
- Basic Bible adult study for membership;

- vacation Bible school; It is important to have Bethany School staff at VBS to greet and orient families. Follow-up phone calls, letters, and personal visits help to identify the school as a place to further connect and meet the goals that VBS met for the family during the summer;
- church picnic, fall hayride, summer outdoor worship services and the gatherings afterward ;
- age-appropriate gatherings – i.e. youth group, etc.;
- building improvement projects run by the Board of Trustees. Parents may offer to volunteer help based on their interest and/or expertise. This will be done via talent surveys/interest forms turned in with the forms submitted each school year.

In addition, parents of students who are not baptized will be invited to learn more about baptism and have their child baptized.

STAFF OPPORTUNITIES

School Office Personnel

Office personnel have opportunities to integrate and invite non-member and non-churched school families as they

- include them in scheduled church communications;
- include them in invitations to church events;
- pass along pertinent information received to appropriate church personnel;
- pray for these families.

Church Families and Staff

Church personnel have opportunities and responsibilities to incorporate and integrate non-member school families. This they can do in various ways:

- Pastor can welcome with personal visit, letter of invitation to Bethany, make phone call or send email and pray for families and their needs.
- The Board of Outreach can regularly communicate with non-member school families, encouraging, informing and inviting them to attend and participate. A monthly program where prospects are phoned, visited with during morning or afternoon arrivals is an important connection. Keep a list of families in need and note when spoken with in order to keep the lines of communication open and a feeling of personal investment with families and school. Staying connected on a human level rather than paper or an electronic/digital message is critical to keeping families truly connected and involved.
- Opportunities can be created to involve school families in worship experiences—as in, for example, school children singing, performing or presenting before, during or after a church event.
- Make sure invitations to any church event are automatically sent to non-churched school families.
- Pray for these families. Prayer is the foundation upon which all evangelism strategies should be built. By centering the strategy upon prayer, the school's strategy is

connected to the real power-source. *Moms in Prayer* is a group of parents that meet regularly to lift up children and parents.

Pastor/Principal Team

- The pastor/principal team is perhaps the most important influencer(s) of the climate, goals and effectiveness of the school as an outreach organization. When the pastor and principal work together to create a unified mission and vision for the church and school, both the school and church will experience a great harvest.
- When the pastor is active and visible in the school (For example: Greeting students and families in the morning), and the principal is active and visible in the church (For example: Attending worship services, attending Bible classes, and attending events), the effect is they speak and act as a unified voice to the congregation, the school, and the community.
- When pastor and principal agree that outreach is a priority, they will dialogue regularly, sharing joys, concerns and prayers for one another.
- When the pastor and principal agree to speak supportively of one another in public and keep disagreements private, they present a unified outreach vision and mission to all.
- When the pastor and principal seek prayer requests from staff, church members, and guests—and then identify ways the school or church can fulfill these requests—lives are changed.

This plan was formulated from examples found on the Lutheran Portal, LEADnet Listserve of LEA, and from the Lutheran Hour Ministries.