

Shared Visions for Strategic Ministry and Mission

Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arlington

March 2021

Christian Community:

Healthy, thriving congregations enjoy a deep sense of community with clarity about organizational structures and lines of accountability.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation where God's people increasingly know each other well and enjoy life together in a still deeper Christian community.

Evangelical Outreach and Membership Growth:

Thriving, growing congregations are attractive to newcomers and have members who make it a habit to invite others to "come and see" God's gracious presence and work in the ministry of the congregation.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation that increasingly nurtures a culture of outward focused hospitality where God's people invite others to engage in varied congregational activities and experiences, making possible membership growth.

Worship and Music:

Inspiring worship and music are hallmarks of thriving, growing congregations.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation that builds on its legacy of faithful liturgy and musical excellence to offer inspiring worship and music that more fully expresses the global and diverse nature of the Church.

Christian Formation for All Ages and All Kinds of Families:

Members of thriving congregations are routinely involved in opportunities for ongoing Christian education and faith formation.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation in which people of all ages and in varieties of family configurations routinely engage together in various opportunities for Christian education that not only inform the mind, but form the heart and character for our ministry in daily life.

Spiritual Vitality, Faith Practices and Experiences:

Thriving, growing congregations are marked by spiritual vitality.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation that seeks to incorporate into all of its activities – including business meetings – various faith practices that make it possible for all regularly to experience the presence of our gracious God in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Moral Discernment, Advocacy for Social Justice:

Relevant, engaged congregations practice moral discernment and advocate for social justice in timely ways that make an impact on the wider world.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation which engages in communal moral discernment about social issues in keeping with ELCA priorities and which honors the variety of viewpoints that are held by members of the congregation. We envision Resurrection as a congregation where such moral discernment would lead to seeking ways to advocate for social justice by proactively supporting movements and initiatives that promote God's reign of peace, justice, compassion, and environmental sustainability.

Wider Community Engagement:

Thriving congregations are well-connected and well-known by serving their wider communities.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation that builds on its legacy of involvement in the Arlington and wider communities such that our congregation would become

increasingly known in these communities as a place that helps improve the quality of life of everyone in our communities.

Faithfulness to the Lutheran Tradition for the 21st Century:

Faithful, focused congregations have a strong, robust, and enthusiastic sense of their particular Christian identity.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation that continues to take seriously Lutheran teachings and which seeks to express these beliefs in global, passionate, enthusiastic, and joyful ways for the sake of a world in need of a hopeful Christian message.

Leadership Formation:

Thriving, vital congregations regularly form new leaders.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation which regularly schedules occasions for all to discern what God may be calling them to do, and where these occasions serve as a foundation for identifying, forming, and deploying new leaders for various congregational initiatives and ministries.

Relationships with the Wider Church, Lutheran and Ecumenical:

Faithful congregations are well-connected with the wider church, denominationally and ecumenically, and embrace the value of being church together with others.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation that builds on and creatively extends its meaningful relationships with the wider church, synodically, nationally, internationally, and ecumenically.

Resources for Mission and Ministry:

Thriving, growing congregations nurture a spirit of abundance and are good stewards of all resources for mission and ministry, including property, finances, staff, and volunteers.

Vision:

We envision Resurrection as a congregation that is sustainably well-resourced for its ministry and mission by continuing to be excellent stewards of its properties; by cultivating still more generous financial support; by supporting its volunteers; by configuring staffing in ways that serve a shared vision of ministry and mission. We envision Resurrection as a congregation in which the budget, buildings, volunteers, staff members, committees, indeed, the entire congregational system is organized around living into a shared vision for ministry and mission so that all have clarity about the roles of people and groups – who does what, when, where, how, why, and by what authority – for the sake of nurturing cooperation, collaboration, unity, and a sense of communal well-being for faithfulness and effectiveness in mission.