

SOTH MINISTRY PLANS 2025-2026

Engagement is the theme of our ministry in 25-26, as we will put concentrated effort into helping God's people connect to fellow believers for support in faith and in life and find ways to use their gifts in service in our ministry and in our community as we live out our core values: Gather, Grow, Go.

GATHER in worship

GO -Share Christ

GROW in faith; **GROW** in love

GATHER: We value weekly worship.

God commands us to worship regularly and promises blessings to those who hear his word. More than that, when we gather together in-person we encourage each other in the faith. So we will...

- Encourage worshipping together by celebrating with and supporting each other in life events and by spending time together as a caring church family
- Use a monthly letter campaign to communicate the blessing of worship and key upcoming events

GROW: We value growing in faith through the word of God.

As participation in group discussion of God's Word is so vital to growth to faith, we will...

- Keep encouraging and highlight "The Power Of Two" (Worship + Bible Class on Sunday mornings)
- Use 3-4 week themed studies for small groups for use 4 times a year

Parents are the key to their kid's spiritual growth, though many of our parents may not have had great role models for godly parenting. Greater emphasis on family ministry means we will:

- Develop a cradle roll (resources for parents of newborns to pre-schoolers)
- Host marriage & parent enrichment events (3-4x/yr) and enrichment emails (2x mo)
- WELS "Marriage Moments" and WELS family devotions link sent to all couples/parents

GROW: We value growing in love for each other. (Spiritual Growth/Stewardship)

The New Testament describes the church as a body with parts that support each other. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) So to build closer relationships we will:

- Promote new and existing groups (small groups and other types of groups)
- Help existing groups focus on being inviting/welcoming to prospects/members
- Proactively help people gather around common interests
- Focus efforts on engaging new members in the life and ministry of the church

As we have a number of service roles to fill, as our congregation is stronger when more people are using their gifts in our ministry, and as God has created us to find joy in serving, we will:

- Identify gaps of service in our areas of ministry, make sure there are clear job descriptions for them, and recruit and train to fill positions in priority order
- Determine the best uses of time for the pastors and staff as we analyze our org chart and duties

GO: We value going to our community/world to show Christ's love & share his gospel.

As personal evangelism always been the driving factor in the spread of the gospel (75-80% or more of converts to Christianity are led to faith by a friend or family member),

- Encourage all of God's people to invite others to worship, classes, events, but particularly four key outreach events (Kick Off, Christmas, Easter, Church Picnic)
- Work a strategy for nurturing prospects with weekly and monthly efforts

God has called us to love hurting and struggling people in our community. Genuinely loving churches attract people as they see love expressed. We will...

- Show love to seniors in our community with friendship, service, worship services, and Bible classes
- Better coordinate and operate our charitable services (rides, meals, child care, etc.)

In a desire to reach more young families we will...

- Host Wednesday evenings for special classes/presentations on parenting or marriage topics
- Provide resources for and counseling for couples, parents, and families
- Promote family friendly events after Sunday worship (Kick Off Sunday, Fall Festival, etc.)

OTHER

Expansion of our facility:

Any discussion of ministry plans and efforts eventually leads into acknowledging space obstacles in our current facility. We have an opportunity now to set the next generation up with a facility well-suited to supporting gospel ministry in the coming years. We will continue actively pursuing facility expansion.

Organizational structure:

With our voters approving consideration of our model of governance to better support a "gather, grow, go"-focused ministry in 2024, and the WELS rolling out principles for congregational governance this summer, it would be appropriate for us to study the principles and consider various models of operation with a view toward utilizing an organizational structure that would:

- Support our desire to grow spiritually mature disciples as a "Gather, Grow, Go" congregation
- Give men and women the most and best opportunities to use their gifts in service to God and others
- Allow ministry plans and efforts to move forward as quickly and efficiently as possible