



# Macedonia Evangelical Lutheran Church

421 West Front Street; Burlington, North Carolina 27215; (336) 227-5554



**Critical Factor II: Youth and Family** (children, teens, families with children in the home)

**Committee Co-Chair:** Dan Voelkert and Beth Van Fleet

**Committee members:** Stephanie Braxton, Michele Claypool, Dale Greeson, Maddie Johnson, Barbara Lilienthal, Tom Meisenbach, Melinda Menz, Melissa Reeger, Debbie Riggs, Clif Rippenhagen, Joy Rust, Pastor Rust, (Bruce Moore)

**"Outcome"/Objectives:**

- Double the number of youth
- Retain youth
- Connect/bridge the generations
- Fit into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Evidence of continuity of Faith

GOALS	ACTIONS	RESP.	TARGET DATE
<b>Develop A New Image for Youth And Family Ministry</b>	Hire The "Right Fit" For DYFM (Director Of Youth And Family Ministry) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time vs. part time</li> <li>• Experience required</li> <li>• Hands on leadership</li> <li>• Personal involvement with youth and congregation</li> <li>• Lutheran perspective</li> <li>• Administrative abilities</li> </ul>	DYFM Search Committee	
	Find Out What Other Churches Are Doing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go online to successful churches websites</li> <li>• Contact directors of successful programs (get ideas about exciting and meaningful activities</li> <li>• Use synod and ELCA resources</li> <li>• Tammy Jones-West, NC synod youth director</li> </ul>	This Committee	
	Develop Framework Of What Youth Program Should Look Like(High School, Middle School, Little Luther League, Christian Education) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better Planning And Scheduling <sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Consistent Leadership</li> <li>• Build Relationships (Between And Among, Staff, Leaders And Youth)</li> <li>• Goal Oriented Programming</li> <li>• Faith Development</li> <li>• Empower Youth <sup>2</sup></li> </ul>		
	Fit Program To 21 <sup>st</sup> Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offsite activities</li> <li>• Flexible scheduling</li> <li>• Specialized activities (e.g. Drama group)</li> <li>• Better use of technology LCD projector for power point TV/DVD player</li> <li>• Wireless internet</li> <li>• Computer lab</li> </ul>	DYFM, Youth Leaders/ Reinstated Congregational Technology Committee	
	Encourage Volunteer Support Of Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate needs of program</li> <li>• Year long plans</li> <li>• Fit volunteers to needs</li> </ul>	DYFM, Youth Leaders, (Volunteer Coordinator?)	
	Improve Communication for Youth and Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Newsletter</li> <li>• Better Youth Info On Macedonia Website</li> <li>• Use Phone Tree</li> <li>• Email, Text Message, Twitter</li> <li>• Facebook Page For Youth</li> </ul>	DYFM, Youth Leaders, Webmaster Fred Black, Julie Myers	



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<b>Enhance Faith Development Through Creating A Christ Centered Youth And Family Program That Encourages Faith Development Through Study, Fellowship, And Service That Works To Retain The Youth And Families We Have And Brings In New Friends From The Community</b>	Look at successful programs local and abroad	CFII, Congregation	
	Develop and implement programs for each group according to their need	DYFM, Youth Cmt, Parents	
	Create an ongoing calendar with balanced programming (i.e. fellowship, service, bible study, etc) also including youth activities so the other youth and the whole church community can support youth in their endeavors.	DYFM, Youth Committee, Youth, Parents	
	Tuesday Family night at the Church. Starts with Music School for kids and older adult bible study (those who do not want to drive after dark), moves into congregational dinner, songs followed by Small Group Bible study with groups appropriate to all. Fits into 21 <sup>st</sup> century because one night is devoted to church family not something different every night	Pastor, DYFM, Christian Ed, Youth, Fellowship, Music School, Volunteers	
	Sports Program to increase boy and men's involvement, Upward Basketball? Older kids responsible for coaching younger kids *Need full court basketball	DYFM, Volunteers, Men	
	Form manageable Luther League groups of youth based on maturity 0-preK (w/parents), K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12.	Youth Cmt, Volunteers	
	Structured New Member period –Shepherd Program, tour of facility, introductions of programs etc.	Evangelism	
	Volunteer Program –utilizing information from Time and Talent Sheets volunteers are given jobs possibly hold a Volunteer Rally where different committees advertise what they need help with	Volunteer Coordinator	
	More actual youth involvement in fundraising for activities in cooking of meals for Advent and Lenten services, raking lawns, babysitting during the holidays, etc.	Youth, Youth cmt, Volunteer coordinator	
	Frequent interchurch programming to connect with other Lutheran youth in the community	DYFM, Pastor, Youth cmt.	
	Bring back 5 <sup>th</sup> quarter to invite other youth from the community into our church	DYFM, Youth cmt, Youth, Volunteers	
	Invite LEAF students at Elon to worship with us	DYFM, LEAF leadership	
	Plan mission trips	DYFM, Volunteers	
Consider a contemporary service that is more interesting to the youth	Pastor, Worship and Music cmt		
<b>Enhance Faith Development Through Structured Curriculum That Include All Members Of A Family And Relate To Life In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>	Contact synod to see if there is a church wide bible study where everyone is studying the same topics at the same times to aid in creating spiritual topics of conversation outside the church	CFII, DYFM, Christian Ed Committee	
	Adult catechism (Why are we Lutherans?) to refresh the memories of confirmands parents and anyone else who needs	Christian Ed	
	More Sunday School options for young adults 18-35	Christian Ed	
	Bible as it relates to the 21 <sup>st</sup> century, my everyday life	DYFM, Christian Ed,	
	Comparative study of religions so that we might know where other people are coming from based on their faith	Pastor, Christian Ed	



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<b>Create A Faith Community That Includes Programming That Bridges The Generations Encouraging Interaction Between Groups That Would Not Necessarily Intersect</b>	Bring back adopt a grandparent program	Volunteer Coordinator	
	Congregational Retreats to increase sense of community	Everyone	
	More Fellowship events so people see each other more often to interact	Fellowship cmt.	
	Brunswick Stew – brings generations together	Social Ministry, Youth Cmt	
	More interaction with our shut ins/ Twin Lakes Youth Visitors	DYFM, Youth cmt, Twin Lakes, Evangelism cmt.	
	Integrate Youth into service, Youth Usher Team, Sound system, Newsletter articles, web page, facebook page	Youth and Volunteer trainers, Communications	
	Look into alternatives to Vacation Bible School so that more people can contribute, evenings, weekend, etc.	DYFM, Christian Ed, Volunteer Coordinator,	
	Create a community where people are involved in each others lives on more than just Sundays	Whole congregation	
	Have a youth member sit on church council	Church Council	
<b>Give Families Support In Faith Throughout All Stages – “Faith in Action”</b>	Do a better job of marking and celebrating the milestones in a families/childs faith life 1 <sup>st</sup> stage Birth or infancy Providing information about community services, possibly meals, etc. Possibly connecting an older “church grandparent” as a liaison to the church family. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• baptism information</li> <li>• nursery</li> <li>• Sunday school</li> </ul> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Beginning With The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible (Further Introduction To) * Appropriate Age Level (Illustrated) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Stage First Communion Parent Orientation To Include Communion Class Agenda 4 <sup>th</sup> Stage Confirmation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Orientation To Include Confirmation Class Agenda Updates</li> </ul> 5 <sup>th</sup> Stage High School Graduation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented With An Adult Bible</li> </ul> Celebrations (Luncheons, Etc.) Throughout All Stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate Youth Involvement In Church Services</li> <li>• Partnering The Younger Members With Older Members “Adopted Grandparents”</li> <li>• Giving The Youth Responsibilities For Their Own</li> <li>• Providing Ways And Supporting Ideas In Order To Expand And Grow</li> <li>• Give The Youth Ownership In Their Achievements</li> <li>• Family Friendly Written Information (Possibly A Manual)</li> <li>• Outreach Programs Locally And Abroad</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding Opportunities To Connect With Young Adults Who Have Moved On (College Students, Young Adults In The Church)</li> </ul>		



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<b>(cont.) Give Families Support In Faith Throughout All Stages – “Faith in Action”</b>	Involve Families With Youth		
	Improve Communication		
	Get Youth Involved In Services		
	Have “Kids Bring Kids”		
	Reach Out & Connect (Create Outreach Programs)		
	Create A Volunteer Support Group		
<b>Create A “Home” For The Youth (Facilities)</b>	Design And Build A Facility That Fits Into The 21st Century So That Youth May To Come Together	CF V, CF IV	Per Master Plan
	Create A “Place” With The Right “Stuff” That Works And Fits (Equipment, TV, DVD/VCR, Computer/Internet Access, Etc.)	CF V, CF IV	Per Master Plan
	Ensure A Safe Place That Facilitates The Program (Playground, Gym, Kitchen, Lounge Type Room)	CF V, CF IV	Per Master Plan
	Redesign the Sunday School Rooms to better accommodate the classes	CF V	Per Master Plan
	Provide Adequate Resources So That The Program Does Not Fail Due To The Lack Of		