

People of Messiah:

Mark Tidsworth, the author of a helpful book entitled *Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21st Century Church*, believes that it is time for North American congregations to adjust their ministry emphases to engage changes in the culture. Simply put, God’s people yearn for faith experiences that reach beyond the doors of the local congregation. If Tidsworth is correct, and I think he is, Sunday mornings must become the launchpad for weekday ministries that heal, teach, inspire, feed, and draw people closer to God. The *Shift* toward a hurting world is not a new phenomenon for the Church; Jesus lived an itinerant existence in his quest to bring the Kingdom of God to the people.

At Messiah, the creation of an ambitious strategic plan aligns us with a larger Christian movement toward outreach, ecumenical partnerships, and the cultivation of gifted disciples. Indeed, we have talented and energized servants “in-house,” who already carry the good news of Jesus into our community through a variety of impactful ministries. Our emerging strategic plan prepares us to extend the reach of Christ’s work at Messiah, providing ambitious objectives that strengthen our individual discipleship, relationships, and spiritual practices, while also nudging us to live our faith far beyond Sunday morning. It’s a good time to be the Church!

In thanksgiving for our partnership in ministry,

Rev. Michael Sherman

Pastor

**Purpose**

“Called by God in baptism, let YOur light so shine before others…”

**Vision**

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. – Acts 2:42-47

**A Gathered Community**

A community rooted in Word and Sacrament, honoring its connections to the larger Church through ecumenical dialogue and partnerships.

**A Gifted Community**

A community equipping the saints to participate in local, regional, and global ministries that inspire and empower.

**A Generous Community**

A community engaging in good stewardship of its resources, ensuring that its ministries flourish throughout its next fifty years and beyond.

**A Gracious Community**

A community welcoming and celebrating the beauty and giftedness of all people.

**A Growing Community**

A community inviting and walking with families amid the joys and struggles of life.

**Goals**

Messiah aspires to be a **Gathered** congregation of God’s people deepening the faith of all through worship, study, service, and fellowship.

Messiah aspires to be a **Gifted** congregation of God’s people fully involving our entire community in our ministries.

Messiah aspires to be a **Generous** congregation of God’s people called and equipped to share God’s gifts throughout the community.

Messiah aspires to be a **Gracious** congregation of God’s people seeing Christ in every person and honoring one another’s gifts.

Messiah aspires to be a **Growing** congregation of God’s people who nourish moving and memorable relationships, creating a thirst for more.

**I**

**GOAL**

Messiah aspires to be a **Gathered** congregation of God’s people deepening the faith of all through worship, study, service, and fellowship.

**OBJECTIVES**

**I.1** Engage our congregation and community through support groups and educational opportunities that comfort, inspire, educate, and connect.

**I.2** Create community worship spaces that deepen spirituality.

**I.3** Celebrate the “Oneness of the Church” through intentional ecumenical ministries and worship opportunities**.**

**I.4** Inspire young adults to express their faith by cultivating an inclusive community of belonging, authentic spaces for theological exploration, and robust opportunities to walk with neighbors in service.

**II**

**GOAL**

Messiah aspires to be a **Gifted** congregation of God’s people fully involving our entire community in our ministries.

**OBJECTIVES**

**II.1** Establish a seasonal feeding, enrichment, and fellowship program for children.

**II.2** Connect with the ministries of the larger Church through synodical and churchwide partnerships.

**II.3** Empower the congregation and community to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

**III**

**GOAL**

Messiah aspires to be a **Generous** congregation of God’s people called and equipped to share God’s gifts throughout the community.

**OBJECTIVES**

**III.1** Optimize the use of space, accessibility, family sensitivity, and ministry capacity while ensuring safety and security.

**III.2** Align staffing with expanding congregational membership and programming.

**III.3** Cultivate Messiah’s ability to be good stewards of tangible and intangible resources ensuring the flourishing of its ministries.

**IV**

**GOAL**

Messiah aspires to be a **Gracious** congregation of God’s people seeing Christ in every person and honoring one another’s gifts.

**OBJECTIVES**

**IV.1** Expand Messiah’s Senior Ministries, bringing warmth and support into homes and hearts.

**IV.2** Develop and launch methods that connect current and new members with ministry opportunities, contacts, and calendars.

**IV.3** Highlight Messiah’s ministries both internally and externally.

**V**

**GOAL**

Messiah aspires to be a **Growing** congregation of God’s people who nourish moving and memorable relationships, creating a thirst for more.

**OBJECTIVES**

**V.1** Nourish parishioners’ faith formation and integration into congregational life through expanded Life Group Ministry.

**V.2** Redevelop and sustain a holistic relationship between MLC and MLC Preschool, fully engaging parishioners in the support and enhancement of the ministry.

**V.3** Nurture a welcoming atmosphere for visitors, new members, and current members.