

Vision Path Development Team:

A Historical Perspective

Redeemer Lutheran Church has been serving the Englewood community since 1979. Over the years, the members of the congregation have been involved in various ministries to assist the members of the church as well as the members of the Englewood community. Early during the year of 2007, it became rather apparent that the economy of our country and our local community financial status was beginning to dwindle. The impact of a pending recession was being felt by the Redeemer Church Community. Being anticipatory the Church Council formulated a host of demographic, economic, and social/cultural planning assumptions in order to respond to the predicted “darker” economic and/or financial situation of the country and local community.

During Mid-2007, a Long Range Planning Committee was appointed to explore the vision and mission of Redeemer congregation. A working document was produced identifying long range goals in the areas of Outreach, Stewardship, Expanded Ministries, Youth Development, and Elderly Christian Lifestyle Enhancements. A planning document was utilized to delineate these identified strategic Vision Paths. The plans focused on the “what” (goals/objectives), “why” (need/rationale), “who” (roles/groups involved), “when” (timetables/milestones), “how” (means/methods) and “costs” (estimates). Unfortunately, as a result of unforeseen factors, the achievement of these intents fell short.

Earlier this year the Church Council thought it was time to revisit the working document of the Long Range Planning Committee to consider if the goals of the congregation were valid today. The Council used a tool offered through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to give guidance to realize the future vision and mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church. The congregation participated in a survey and half day Vision Path Experience. As a result, a Vision Path Development Team was assembled. It could be said it’s just a fancy, creative name for the once called Long Range Planning Committee.

Regardless, the Vision Path Development Team has been working to present to the entire congregation a simple and brief survey that will help identify clear Vision Paths for Redeemer Lutheran Church. Although the mission of the Church remains the same, to go make disciples, the vision of Redeemer Lutheran Church needs the assistance of every member/associate member to realize her future vision and carry out her mission.

Submitted by Dr. Bud Harty