

# Bethany Lutheran Church

## Visioning Retreat Small Groups

### March 19, 2011

#### Strengths

- *What do you think are some of Bethany's Core Values?*
- *What do you see as some of the assets/strengths of Bethany?*

Pastoral & Staff (mentioned 4 times)  
Lay Leadership (mentioned 2 times)  
Location (mentioned 2 times)  
Size  
Materials/Finances  
Youth & Family Program  
Facility (mentioned 4 times)  
Caring Members  
Focus on the Bible  
Ministry to Younger Members  
Anonymity  
Worship Style  
Connectedness Within  
Metro CareRing  
Great Leadership  
Annual Themes  
Resources/Talents  
Building  
People with diverse experiences  
Faith Formation  
People  
Talent  
History  
Financial Stability  
Lutheran Theology  
Faithfulness  
Community Profile – music, BECC, venue for other activities  
Resources – Bethany is rich  
Hospitality  
Lutheran Identity – Milestone Ministry  
Wednesday Night Services  
Adaptive Worship  
Music

#### Where Is God Leading?

- *Where do you see God at work in and around Bethany?*

Continue to find ways to be relevant to our changing culture both locally and globally  
Stick with core Lutheran theology  
Practice Liturgy  
Live our Faith (Missional)  
Rather than “come see”, “go tell & practice”  
Continue learning and equipping to “go tell & practice”  
Neighborhood – CHV vs. Denver  
Focus on what people need  
Service not self  
Rediscover our passion/soul about ministry, who we are, joy, excitement  
Being the church  
Establishing partnerships ecumenically  
Inward process allowing us to go outward  
Use gifts in community (everywhere) all the time  
Live our faith to go out and serve, not necessarily bring people in  
Great Commission/Great Commandment – outward thinking away from comfort zone

## Obstacles

- *What obstacles may stand in the way of achieving these dreams/goals?*

European Footprint  
Not involving youth enough with adult programs  
and worship  
Hospitality to minorities, young adults, teens  
Worship Style  
Anonymity  
Sense that church shouldn't change  
Tradition  
Resources – where does the money go? Easier to  
give to a specific need than to something  
general  
Time  
Fear  
Lack of Vision  
Community Profile – exclusivity, country club  
atmosphere  
Lack of young leaders  
Unfamiliarity with liturgy  
Resistance to change  
Social Networking  
Technology  
Losing youth as they go to college/transition to  
adulthood

## Opportunities

- *What would you like to see happen in the next 5 to 10 years?*

Military families (mentioned 2 times)  
Immigrants  
LFS Involvement  
Involvement with Habitat  
Involve youth and young adults more  
Challenge myth that we are a “friendly church”  
Global Mission Involvement  
Website/Social Media (mentioned 2 times)  
Communication  
Neighbors are everywhere – opportunity to  
develop geographical small groups  
Existing Members  
Intellectual/Spiritual discussion with Youth  
Preschool  
3 mile radius – our mission field  
Satellite facilities? Smaller venue  
Attract/minister to youth  
Mentoring other congregations  
Connect with those who use “our” building  
How to define our community – must not limit  
ourselves  
Define how to best use our strengths