



April 8, 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The two passages below are very familiar ones for us:

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Mathew 28: 19-20 NIV*

*To love and serve God by proclaiming Christ's gospel, strengthening worship, deepening discipleship, and serving our congregation, community and world.  
Christ the King Mission Statement*

The first is what we call The Great Commission by Jesus in his parting words on Earth. The second makes up our response to this commission and describes what we at Christ the King Lutheran Church do to fulfill His command. It's found at the top of all our council agendas to remind us that everything we do reflects these two passages.

Currently, the Church Council Committees represent more than a dozen facets of church life: fellowship, endowment fund, stewardship, Christian education, Children's World, social ministries, finance, etc., and we discovered this year that there are more committees deserving representation on council than there are elected council members. Some council members are serving as two committee chairs while other committees are not represented at all. Further, some committees have a vague definition that may hinder members from serving. It seemed an organization in need of prayerful "house-cleaning" to better respond to our commission.

Last summer, we began discussing a new organization that would more effectively describe the purpose of Christian life, its journey and its purpose. Without deleting any of the valued functions, we are proposing grouping the existing committees into five areas, or Ministry Teams, based on Jesus' Great Commission.

In a recent issue of *Seeds of the Parish*, there was an article describing the ELCA's role in assisting 159 congregations in a renewal and revitalizing process. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, bishop of the ELCA Delaware-Maryland Synod, Baltimore, offers that every church's renewal plan

“should have five components: worship and hospitality, outreach and evangelism, also leadership development, and stewardship and resource development, and prayer and Bible study. We don’t do anything without prayer and Bible study.”

You can find these five critical components in our proposed “Ministry Team” organization.

(1) The **Membership Team**: focuses on prospective members, infrequent members, and members of the congregation by assisting with new member classes; hosting Fellowship events; providing care for members; CtK Outdoors; Dinner Adventures; visitations; and providing small support groups. Its target is the congregation.

(2) The **Maturity Team**: focuses on all those members who are committed to deepening their discipleship by guiding spiritual commitment through Christian Ed programs for all ages and provides small groups for spiritual growth. Its target is those committed to discipleship.

(3) The **Ministry Team**: motivated by “love your neighbor as yourself,” focuses on service groups, social ministry, the Stephen Ministry program, and prayer groups, by providing input for life/faith development classes; assisting and training lay ministers; and providing leadership training for committed congregational members. Its target is the core membership.

(4) The **Missions Team**: focuses on outreach to our community and our world by overseeing evangelism and training for outreach; overseeing all who use our facility; coordinating mission projects and groups (youth and adult); outreaching to visitors and follow-up; and planning and promoting “bridge events” such as the Christmas Open House that invite the community. Its target is the community.

(5) The **Magnification/Music Team**: focuses on helping everyone “Love [and magnify] the Lord with all our hearts” by coordinating with Pastor to plan and oversee all worship services; overseeing music for all services; providing worship resources; provide training for all ages of worship assistants; and providing input and teaching about worship. *Note*: although the magnification team appears in the middle of the organization chart (see further), the other teams do not ‘revolve’ around it. It is on par in importance with the other M-teams.

CtK currently has programs in all of these Teams and this organization comes with these advantages:

- provide a clearer structure for the future life, growth, and mission of CtK (since our “future is hidden from us” in so many ways.)
- give our members, visitors, and new members an excellent visual image of the overall structure and ministries of our church
- help us design Christian Ed classes for all stages of each person’s faith journey and level of spiritual maturity
- highlights strengths and purposes as well as weaknesses of our ministries, programs, and classes
- presents a clearer way to pass on our faith and the work of our congregation to the next generation

- facilitates decisions on staffing needs
- offer a more immediate path for more members of the congregation to serve on committees of Council, i.e. open the door for everyone to become more directly involved with the church's ministries and leadership
- challenge all of us to further our personal discipleship journey

Now for a little baseball analogy: imagine these Ministry Teams organized like a baseball diamond with the Magnification team on the pitcher's mound and on around.

The analogy is as Christians we are "running the good race" around the bases towards home while glorifying God in all we do. It starts on the pitcher's mound with our magnifying God every week in worship. First base, we join the church; second base, we grow deeper in faith through education, third base, we learn that serving others is how we love and honour God, and finally, by the time we reach home plate, we are serving the community and the world. Whether one is called to serve on council or not, any member of CtK can find his or her place in the journey and know the goal laid ahead of them to understand God's will in his or her life.

**This Sunday, April 10 and on May 1 during the CtK University at 9:15 am we will examine this model.** I hope you will find time to attend, learn more, ask questions, and discuss this organization's benefits, as well as see where you can participate on one or more Ministry Teams.

Our goal is to have the M-Teams defined with Council Leaders in place by the Annual Meeting in May this year. The five Ministry Teams would each have two Council members as liaisons/leaders. New council members joining in June would match their calling to one of these Teams, ideally paired with returning council members. Council terms would be staggered so that each pair of Team leaders would include one new Leader always working with one who has been working for one year. Each new Council member would effectively have a mentor at the beginning of his/her Council term, in addition to providing consistency in CtK ministries.

The CtK Council unanimously supports this organization and its benefits. Such a structure would provide an excellent framework for CtK's future and we believe it will provide a more coordinated approach from the multiple ministries. We welcome any feedback, questions, concerns, reactions, and praise for this renewing organization.

In Christ,

Lynn Partridge  
CtK Church Council President

Rev. John Knutson  
CtK Lutheran Church Pastor

Ann Duft  
CtK Council Member

