

## January 4, 2009 Update

Remember our new vision statement? This is what we want our Church to be:

- WE SEE GLEN AVON AS A VIBRANT, CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY THAT
- REACHES OUT WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST
  - CONNECTS YOUNG AND OLD TO GOD'S LOVE, NURTURING EACH IN A FAITH JOURNEY, THROUGH WORSHIP, MUSIC, TEACHING, AND SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED
  - WELCOMES ALL AND CARES FOR EACH OTHER, FINDING JOY IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

To help us fulfill this vision we are planning four strategic initiatives. Here is a quick update on this important work.

### 1) Two worship services to connect people to God's love in different ways

#### **Alive in Christ! Sunday Mornings: Vibrancy, Variety, Vision Beginning Sunday, March 1, 2009**

9 a.m.	First Service (Order of worship like current morning service)
10 a.m.	Sunday School programs and hospitality/fellowship options
11 a.m.	Second Service (Order of worship like 2008 Sunday evening service)

After many meetings and long discussions, this new schedule for Sunday mornings was developed. The discussions included research and conversation with over 35 Duluth churches by team members and input from our current CE committee.

We now need to work on many important details to ensure that this change helps us broaden our outreach and increase the vibrancy and variety of worship, education and fellowship options at our church. Please consider lending a helping hand to the project team coordinating this effort (chaired by Bonnie Jorgenson and Debbie Sauer).

### 2) Using Small Groups to Connect People to Each Other and God's Love

This initiative may include:

- a) A new focus on and coordination of small group ministry
- b) Music ministry developing into small group opportunities
- c) Developing mission opportunities through small groups
- d) Training and support for forming new small groups and small group leaders

Currently a variety of options to connect through small groups at our church exist (check out [www.glenavonchurch.org](http://www.glenavonchurch.org)) and all who are interested are encouraged to find a place where they

belong. In addition, we anticipate additional work related to life groups beginning in the fall of 2009.

***Note: Session considered, and will be treating, the following two areas as one strategic initiative of hospitality and outreach.***

3) Congregational Care - Connecting Those in Our Community to the Church: Our Outreach Team (chaired by Mary Lou Tarvers) is developing plans related to this and will have that to share on or before the February Session meeting. However, this team will need additional members and support to help ensure this ministry moves forward. This initiative may include:

- a) Calling congregation members and making a connection on a regular basis
- b) Connecting members where people are living
- c) New member mentoring/sponsoring

4) Launching a New Outreach Campaign: We are planning for a fall 2009 outreach campaign reaching out to others beyond our current congregation. A project team will begin planning this campaign in April 2009.

This initiative may include:

- a) Ensuring that the congregation is invested in loving outreach
- b) Teaching our congregation to tell their faith stories
- c) Formal Marketing campaign using advertising, etc.
- d) Canvassing neighborhoods
- e) Ensuring outreach efforts are targeted for maximum impact

**Come and Learn More! Our discussion will include details and ways you can be involved!**

**Saturday, January 10** from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Plaid Room

**Sunday, January 11** at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, 11:15 a.m. Fireside Room

**Sunday, January 18** at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, 11:15 a.m. Fireside Room

**Or contact any of the individuals below who have been involved in this initial planning:**

Discernment Team Members: Claudia Welty, Chair. Ellen Altman, Bonnie Jorgenson, John Kliewer, Larry Lehner, Greg Sandbulte, Debbie Sauer, Glenn Simmonds, Jan Stone, Mary Lou Tarvers

Staff members: Co-pastor Robyn Weaver, Co-pastor Lon Weaver, CE Director Chris McCabe

***Our Prayer:***

We pray that God calls you to use your unique gifts and talents as we work together to make this new vision for our church a reality. Join us in this exciting work. All are welcome!