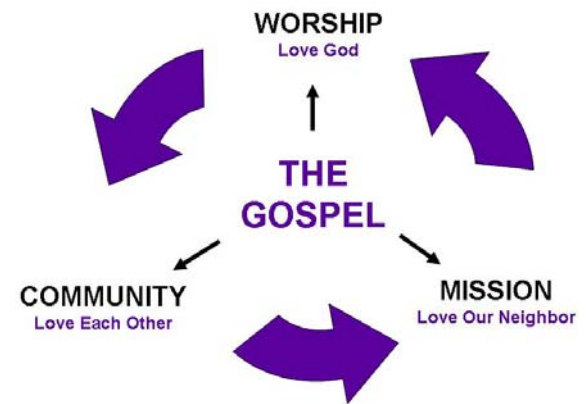


GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE 2009



Use the boxes below to describe the opportunities you take to share the gospel with another person. How did God open up the opportunity for you? What was the response?

Also, please indicate via Communication Card or an e-mail to the church office (church.office@lefc.com) that you shared the gospel with someone. We will keep a running count so that we can track progress towards our goal of 1000 gospel presentations this year.

January through March 2009

April through June 2009

July through September 2009

October through December 2009

6. **SHARE** the gospel with someone once a quarter

The gospel is the ‘good news’ that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised to life so that we can experience new life in him (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; John 20:31).

We receive this life and come to God through faith in Jesus Christ (see John 1:12, 3:16, 20:31; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-10).

Our goal in 2009 is to share the gospel with 1000 people! We are calling this **Share 1000**. We can reach this goal if 250 people in our church share the gospel once a quarter!

This may be the most intimidating practice, but here are some ideas to help you accomplish this:

- Keep the focus of your sharing on Jesus Christ – who he is and what he had done for people.
- Share the good news naturally in your conversation. Avoid making it sound like a packaged commercial.
- Tim Keller of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NYC says “You don’t have to say everything every time. . . . “I don’t put all the gospel points into any one gospel presentation.” So, relax! It may take more than one conversation to cover all the basics of the gospel.
- Review and even memorize some of the key Scripture passages listed above.
- Sometimes, it may be helpful to share the gospel in terms of the Bible’s storyline. The basic moves are: *Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration*.

For more help, look for classes this spring and summer in our Mission Training Institute on sharing the gospel.

Name: _____

Six practices in 2009 to help us accomplish our mission:

Love God

1. **READ** the Bible daily
2. **PRAY** for five people who need Jesus in their lives

Love each other

3. **RELATE** to each other by participating in one fellowship event a quarter
4. **ENCOURAGE** each other through one kind act or word a quarter

Love our neighbor

5. **SERVE** in a community service project one time a quarter
6. **SHARE** the gospel with someone once a quarter

1. **READ** the Bible daily

Hearing and obeying Scripture is a key part of the process of becoming conformed to Christ. It is only when Christ is formed in us that we grow together in love for God, love for each other, and love for the world around us.

So, put together a plan for reading the Bible on a daily or regular basis! Your plan does not have to be elaborate, but it should be intentional. Here are some ideas:

- Read the Bible through this year! If you read four chapters a day, you will make it through the Bible's 1189 chapters in 298 days – 67 days less than one year! Note: There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament, and 260 chapters in the New Testament.
- Choose a few Bible books on which you want to concentrate, and then read them repeatedly. For example, if you read a chapter a day in the book of Ephesians (6 chapters), you can read it through five times in most months. You can complete the book of Proverbs (31 chapters) in about one month if you read a chapter a day.

It's not a matter of *how much* you read. Rather it's a matter of delighting in God's Word and meditating on it continually (Psalm 1:2).

Write down your plan for Bible reading here . . .

Use the boxes below to list and describe the community service projects in which you participated. What was a highlight of your experience? What was the response of the people you served?

January through March 2009

April through June 2009

July through September 2009

October through December 2009

5. **SERVE** in a community service project one time a quarter

One of the ways that we show love for our neighbors is to contribute to the good of our local communities, including efforts to meet the needs of the poor and marginalized.

Imagine the impact we could have if everyone in our church participated in four service projects per year!

The best way to get involved in a project is to participate in one of the projects offered through our Community Service Coordinator, Russ Dunn. You can check the Community Service table in the entry hall.

Also, Pastor Steve regularly participates in Lake County Forest Preserve Restoration Workdays at Wright Woods. These usually take place on a Saturday from 2-4 p.m.

Here are some of the projects in which our church participated last year:

- Sharefest Food Drive sponsored by Catalyst
- Furniture delivery sponsored by Love In the Name of Christ
- Families-In-Touch Mini-Olympics
- Catalyst Backpack Drive
- Food drive for TIU's international students
- Appreciation meals for local law enforcement officials
- Serving breakfast at a PADS shelter
- Restoration workdays at Wright Woods Forest Preserve

Use the boxes below to describe your progress at the end of each quarter. What did you read? What is one truth you learned? What changes or adjustments will you make next quarter?

January through March 2009

April through June 2009

July through September 2009

October through December 2009

2. **PRAY** for five people who need Jesus in their lives

Who are the people in your circles of influence who need Jesus in their lives? This list may include:

- friends
- family members
- co-workers
- classmates

Your commitment to pray for them should grow out of the following conviction: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). When you read the context, the reference is clearly to Jesus Christ!

How can you pray for them?

1. Pray that God will open up a door for you or for another believer to share with them the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 4:3). Pray that the presentation would be clear (Colossians 4:4).
2. Pray that God would prepare their hearts so that they will be receptive to the gospel message (Mark 4:13-20).
3. Pray that God will use the circumstances of their lives to convict them of their sin and to see their need for Jesus Christ and the hope he brings to broken lives.

Use the boxes below to list and describe your efforts to encourage someone else in our church family. Whom did you encourage? What did you do? What was their response?

January through March 2009

April through June 2009

July through September 2009

October through December 2009

4. ENCOURAGE each other through one kind act or word a quarter

Another way to build community is to offer encouragement through your words or your actions to others in our church family.

We're not suggesting that you limit yourself to only one kind act or word a quarter! But once again, we need to be intentional about doing this if it is going to happen. Hopefully, this will become a habit, and you will find yourself doing it weekly and even daily.

Here are some suggestions:

- Go to someone who serves in a ministry that does not get a lot of attention and thank them for their service.
- Go to someone who is down and discouraged and pray for that person.
- Contact Susan Bryant, our Caring Deacon, to find out if there are people who need meals or other types of assistance.
- Visit someone who is confined to a nursing home or a care center.
- Volunteer to shovel a sidewalk or mow a lawn for someone who is widowed, elderly, or battling an illness.
- Offer to baby-sit for a couple with small children so that they can have 'date night' together.

Write down some other ideas:

- _____
 - _____
 - _____
-

Write down the names (or initials) of the five people for whom you are praying. Under each name, you can write down any specific needs that they have or any progress that you observe.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

3. **RELATE** to each other by participating in one fellowship event a quarter

In order to love each other, we have to get to know each other. In order to get to know each other, we have to spend time together. This is a challenge in our culture. So a practical “first step” is to commit to participating in four fellowship events this year – one per quarter.

Here are some ideas for making this happen:

- Attend one of the all-church events sponsored by our Fellowship Team. These include potlucks, picnics, and events like our winter Chili Cook Off.
- Attend a men’s ministry or women’s ministry event. Check our web-site (www.lefc.com) for upcoming events.
- Invite another family out for lunch after a Sunday worship service.
- Invite a small group of people to your home for a game night or for dessert.

When you are trying to get to know someone you do not know well, you might use one of the following questions to find out more:

- Where did you grow up?
 - What do you like to do for fun or relaxation?
 - What do you like best about living in this area?
 - How did you find your way to our church?
 - What do you appreciate most about our church?
 - How has God been at work in your life this last year?
-

Use the boxes below to list and describe the “fellowship event” in which you participated in each quarter. Name the people with whom you talked. How did you feel about the overall experience? What will you do differently next time?

January through March 2009

April through June 2009

July through September 2009

October through December 2009
