

# St. Mark Lutheran – West Henrietta

## Vision & Funding

Aug 2009 – Church Service



## What is a Vision?

- **Not using that term as in a prophetic vision**
- **But simply a mental picture of what we could be**
- **Such a picture if clear can guide actions taken to make it a reality**



## A Vision for St. Mark

- **We are a multi-generational community congregation that:**
  - Teaches the apostolic faith
  - Encourages growth and depth in that faith
  - Actively engages in the great commission



## What does this mean?

- **We are a multi-generational (1) community (2) congregation (3) that:**
  - (1) Multi-generational means that the demographics of St. Mark will mirror those of the community in which we have been placed.
  - (2) Community means that we will have a specifically defined geographic area on which we will focus efforts
  - (3) Congregation speaks to our church polity and means that we place value on developing local leaders for the mission of the church



## Demographic Note on Multigenerational

St. Mark not currently Multigenerational – this is a statement of vision, of what we want to be

| Age Bracket | Zip Code<br>14586 | St. Mark<br>Active Roster | St. Mark<br>2009 Attendance |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <18         | 19.1%             | 26.1%                     | 18.5%                       |
| 19-34       | 34.3%             | 19.3%                     | 7.2%                        |
| 35-49       | 19.7%             | 15.1%                     | 14.1%                       |
| 50-64       | 16.3%             | 16.0%                     | 22.7%                       |
| 65+         | 10.6%             | 23.5%                     | 37.5%                       |

### Notes

- Kids in Nursery included in attendance (positive)
  - how to grow them into worship? - ties into the vision of encouraging a growing faith
- Hole to fill in the 19 – 49 age range



## What does this mean?

- Teaches the apostolic faith
  - The Scriptures are the sole norm of our teaching and the Lutheran Confessions are a true exposition of the scriptures. As We confess in the creed, “I believe in one holy catholic and **Apostolic** church.”
  - We are actively engaged in teaching ministry to all ages in the community



## What does this mean?

- Encourages growth and depth in that faith
  - Matt 28:20 - “teaching them to obey all things”
  - Heb 5:14 – “for the mature who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil”
  - The Christian life is often scripturally described as a walk (Eph 2:10) or a race (1 Cor 9:24). While our salvation is always assured by grace in the work of Christ, we are to be encouraged in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Just as marriage is the representation of the relationship between Christ and the church, and there are shallow and deep marriages, we will encourage the fuller and deeper relationship
  - We actively plan, offer and encourage activities that will foster the Christian’s walk with Jesus



## What does this mean?

- Actively engages in the great commission
  - The great commission is found in Matt 28:19-20:

“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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
  - Just as God sent his Son into the World to save the lost, we also are sent into the world to call the lost to salvation. This sending is not naked, but a walk with Jesus who has promised to be with us through the Holy Spirit
  - We as a congregation give this mission of God priority in our life together actively incorporating evangelism into everything we do



## Realizing the Vision – some plain speech

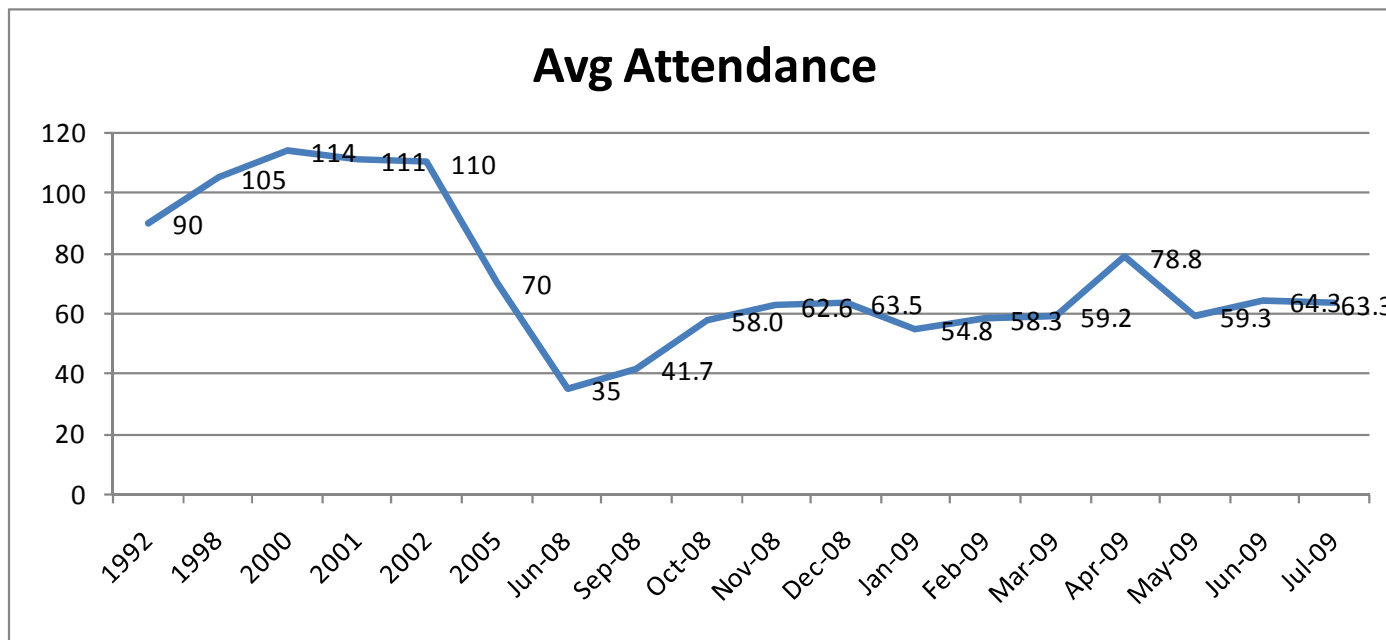
Realizing the vision stated will take more than “standard operating procedure” by the current congregation as a whole. It will take the realization and buy-in that:

1. Current members will need to be self-sacrificial in the near term (1 – 2 years) in financial support of the congregation
2. Those same members will need to also put a priority on participation – i.e. act with the energy and purpose of a mission plant and not an “established” congregation
3. Other than in a deeper faith (vision #2) and being faithful to the great commission (vision #3), those activities will most likely be of service from the current congregation and not service to/toward the current congregation. We have been called to serve, not to be served. (Matt 10:45)
4. While not the finish line, a doubling of the congregation to 120 average worshippers is probably the near term goal which will require the participation of everyone in the great commission (vision #3)



## Demographic Note - attendance

- From an elder who was recognizing the situation – “St. Mark has always been a congregation worshipping about 100”
- That ceased to be true some time ago; but that is really the sustainability line of congregations in our current context.
- The Demographic Hole and today’s sustainability line make the previous plain speech necessary – getting above that line will take self-sacrifice





## Vision Summary

- **Your pastoral and elected leadership like this picture of what St. Mark can be → that is why we are presenting in**
- **That said, it is clearly not the only potential picture of St. Mark...but it does tell you what your current leadership sees as a priority**
- **We are asking the congregation for “buy-in” to this vision**
- **By “buy-in” I’m meaning three things**
  - a) Pray with us for the Father’s blessing our vision and efforts to achieve. In purely physical/material terms this is not possible → we rely on the Father’s unlimited resources
  - b) Become active in the events/programs/offerings of the church
  - c) Listen carefully to what Wayne has to say. What Wayne will be saying is necessary regardless of your “buy-in”, but it gives clarity to what he will say