

The Edge

Community Lutheran Church

Saginaw - Eagle Mountain - Northwest Tarrant County

“When the men of that place recognized Jesus,
they sent word to all the surrounding country.
People brought all their sick to him and begged him
to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak,
and all who touched him were healed.”

Matthew 14:35-36

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The Edge Community Lutheran Church

A church plant from Crown of Life Lutheran Church and School – Colleyville, TX
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Prospectus: People, Plans, and Strategies

Planters: Steve Sandfort, Wife(Becky), Children(Rachel, John, Joseph)

I was born in Missouri and grew up in a family that was very active in the Lutheran church. I was baptized as an infant and attended Lutheran grade school. Faith in Christ has been a part of my life since I can remember. Still, my teenage years were difficult and my faith struggled through several moves and three different high schools. When I was a senior in high school God used the ministry of Young Life to reconnect me to Himself and His Church. It was my Young Life area director who first suggested ministry as a vocation. I worked for Young Life when I finished college, serving as assistant area director in Oak Park/River Forest, IL. I stayed with Young Life for only a year; however, the attitude of sharing the Gospel through relationships has continued throughout my ministry. In the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) I served in teaching ministry at Faith in Hialeah, FL, and youth ministry at St. Paul in Sheboygan Falls, WI and Emmanuel in Hermitage, TN. I also spent seven years as a Christian recording artist and actor based out of Nashville, TN.

Since the beginning of my ministry, I have always been one who feels called to start new things, to make the Gospel come alive for people in new ways. It wasn't until the LCMS began the push in 2002 to plant 2,000 new missions by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (2017) that I began to have an interest in church planting. Having just started a new arts ministry in Nashville, TN, I decided to focus on serving these new mission starts. For example, one summer we were on the road for nearly two months leading Vacation Bible Schools, mostly in small mission plants. During our time in Nashville, my wife, Becky, and I, also helped begin an education ministry called the HOPE Learning Center, which we both served as director of at various times.

In 2007 we moved to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, and I began discussions with LCMS World Mission about becoming a church planter. LCMS World Mission sent us to the Church Planter Assessment Center (CPAC), where we received a green light to plant, and this solidified our belief that indeed church planting was for us. We then asked the seminary to allow me to serve my vicarage at a planting congregation.

Crown of Life in Colleyville, TX has been preparing to plant and waiting for God to send the right person, or family. My wife, Becky, and I visited with the planter search team at Crown of Life on several occasions and found that many of their goals were right in line with our gifts. Our time here during vicarage has confirmed our calling to plant.

Becky and I have been married 21 years and we have three children, Rachel (16), John (14), and Joseph (11). Becky is a gifted organizer and has served each of our past congregations in various ways including school ministry, youth ministry, praise team, women's ministry, and small group coordinator. Becky is my partner, my mentor, and my best friend. Most of all, Becky has been a constant prayer warrior, asking God for his direction on our lives, and encouraging me to follow where He leads. Our children are all very interested in helping to plant a church, and they each have gifts that God will use along the way. Being that we traveled and performed as a family for many years, they are all quite comfortable in front of people. They each play at least one instrument and have extremely servant-minded hearts. They have often accompanied us on visits to our planting area, and they have actively engaged in the visioning process. In different ways they all display evangelistic tendencies, and for that I thank God.

Preparation

Just as Crown of Life has been preparing to plant a church, we have been preparing to be church planters. We were given a green light for church planting following our evaluation at the Church Planter Assessment Center we attended in Anthem, AZ in 2009. After completing seminary class work in 2010 and receiving my vicarage placement at Crown of Life, I contacted church planting networks in the Dallas-Fort Worth area such as SoulThirst, Vision360, and Northwood Church Planting. These have been invaluable resources as we have proceeded through the mission and vision stage of planting. I meet monthly with a group of Vision360 church planters in the Fort Worth area as well as routinely with LCMS church planters networked through Waters Edge-Frisco and SoulThirst. Becky and I just completed the Northwood church planter training and we will be coached for the next two years by the Northwood team. Northwood's experience in planting more than 120 churches combined with the LCMS network of church planters in D-FW will provide us with numerous opportunities to continue growing as we move forward with the plant.

Team Members

Our goal is to have three missional community locations and ten core launching families on board by Sept 1. We expect that no more than half of these families will be coming from Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Colleyville. We have been meeting with a church planting task force since December 2010. In June 2011 we will make our official proposal to Crown of Life to plant The Edge. At that time Crown of Life members will have the formal invitation to join us in the Edge Community discovery phase of our planting efforts. June, July, and August of 2011 will be this discovery time, when those who have expressed interest will be studying missional communities and seeking the Lord's confirmation that this endeavor is where He is calling them. I will also be making a presentation to other LCMS pastors at our May 2011 circuit meeting, they may have contacts near Saginaw-Eagle Mountain that are interested in learning about missional communities.

Mission

Build Relationships – Make Disciples – Teach His People

Core Values

Eternity is what matters most

The cross is the message

Worship is a way of life

Missional is the rule not the exception

Education is essential for growth

Innovation is necessary to reach the lost and de-churched

Plan Outline

June 2011 Core Launching Family enlistment begins and is ongoing.

Jun. – Aug. 2011

- Connect with summer community events.
- Launch Edge Community (EC) discovery groups
- Launch The Edge Community website.
- VBS in the Park [July 25-28 Big Jungle Adventure]
- Community Service / Building Relationships (food bank, tutoring, park clean up, etc.)
- Mission Event (Honduras August 8-14)

Sep. – Dec. 2011

- Launch 3 EC's (connecting with 30-50 people)
- Community Service / Building Relationships (parks, food bank, water at soccer, etc)
- Community Event (October in all EC neighborhoods – movie night, barbeque, etc.)
- Community Event (Children's Christmas Celebration – [Christmas Eve afternoon])

Jan. – Mar. 2012

- Launch 2 EC's (5 functioning and connecting with 90-100 people)
- Launch monthly worship (30-50 people)
- Community Event (Showing Jesus Love in all EC neighborhoods)
- Community service / Building relationships

Apr. – Jun. 2012

- Launch 1 more EC (6 functioning and reaching 130-140 people)
- Continue monthly worship transitioning to weekly worship (90-100 people)
- Community Event (April in all EC neighborhoods – movie night, barbeque, etc.)
- Community Event (Children's Community Easter Egg Hunt [Easter Eve afternoon])
- Community Service / Building relationships

Fiscal 2012/13

- Launch 3 EC's (9 functioning and reaching 240-250 people)
- Weekly worship (160-170 people)
- Staffing: Worship Leader
- Staffing: Administration
- Mission Event (Honduras)
- EC Leadership training Event
- Launch the Edge Homeschool Network website
- Launch the Edge Media Network website
- Edge Media Network short film production
- Community Service / Building relationships

Fiscal 2013/14

- Launch 3 EC's (12 functioning and reaching 360-370 people)
- Weekly worship (250-260 people)
- Staffing: Community Transformation and Education
- Community Event (Community Short Film Release Parties – all EC neighborhoods)
- Mission Event (Spanish Version Short Film Release Parties– Honduras)
- Community Service / Building relationships
- Launch 1 EC in another planting area. (Rhome? Justin? Northlake? Honduras?)

Plan Details

For more than two years the members of Crown of Life have been actively seeking God's will for church planting. We continue to pray for His Spirit to lead and direct these plans that we lay out. We believe the Church earns the right to share the Gospel by living sacrificially for the good of others. In other words, people will hear the Gospel we live much sooner and louder than they hear the Gospel we speak. For this reason, we will focus on serving others, building relationships through personal connections, and living out our core values in the context of everyday life.

We intend to be deliberate in how we engage culture, always with an eye for the de-churched and un-churched. Connections will happen in Edge Communities – groups of people, about the size of an extended family, who engage in the mission of God outside of the walls of a church building. The growth of these Edge Communities will be organic, as missional people build relationships with their neighbors and experience life together in community. St. Paul described this kind of ministry in 1 Thessalonians. He writes, “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardships, we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.” [1 Thessalonians 2:8-9]

We will get to know our community and join God where He is already working. For example, connecting with Community Link Mission in Saginaw, serving at the food bank and possibly working together to start an after-school tutoring program. As members of the homeschool community, Becky and I will be helping to connect homeschoolers in Northwest Tarrant County to one another, promoting the benefits of joining together as we educate our children. As Edge Communities multiply, each will need to discover how God will use them in their area. As weekly worship gatherings take place, hearing stories of how God is working through our communities will refresh us and reinforce our calling to live as missional people.

We will seek innovative methods and strategies to build relationships and share the Gospel. Our experiences have included very unique ministry approaches, including music, film, and theater, and we will leverage these as we lead our communities to share the Gospel.

Because there are so many families with young children in our planting area, we will focus on making all of our activities conducive for the whole family to participate in together. We believe that as children are encouraged and excited about faith, parents begin to experience the same excitement.

Summer 2011

In June of 2011 we will begin forming Edge Community discovery groups that will spend time working through an eight-week introduction to missional communities. These groups will also study our core values and further develop strategies that focus our eyes on our mission to build relationships, make disciples, and teach His people. An interactive website will be developed to facilitate communication across these groups. July 25-28 the Crown of Life

junior high youth will partner with us to present a three-day event called V.B.S. in the Park. This event will be an opportunity for those in our first Edge Community location to begin building relationships with others.

Fall 2011

Our goal is to have three discovery groups transitioning to Edge Communities by September 1. In October we would like these three communities to plan a kickoff event for their area, such as a movie night, barbeque, block party, etc. These events will provide opportunities for our community members to strengthen and build relationships with others in their neighborhood or network of friends. Edge Community activities in the fall of 2011 will not only impact the community, but they will also serve as training tools, helping us learn to practice our core values as we build relationships.

Winter 2011

Edge Community Christmas will be a celebration that each community will host for their neighborhood or network of friends. Who doesn't like a good Christmas party? Our community goals will be to connect with those who are de-churched, especially the children and families we have met during the summer and fall. All Edge Communities will begin meeting together for worship once a month in January, February, and March. Our goal is to have one-third to one-half of our community contacts joining us for worship. Building up to and continuing past the worship launch, we will be constantly looking for innovative ways to radically serve the community and the neighbors around us, including a Showing Jesus Love weekend in March. Winter we will hope to launch one new Edge Community.

Spring 2012

Edge Community Easter celebrations will be hosted by each community in their neighborhood. These events can include activities such as Easter egg hunts, a barbeque, showing a movie, work parties, etc. All Edge Communities will come together for worship on Easter Sunday and we will host our first Sunday brunch. From this point forward, every Sunday will include worship and a meal. In April, Edge Communities will host a spring event such as a movie night or barbeque. In the spring we will hope to launch two new Edge Communities, bringing our total number of communities to six.

Ongoing planting partnership with Crown of Life – Colleyville.

The relationship between Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Colleyville and The Edge will continue to include common goals with regards to ministry in Northwest Tarrant County. The plan is for The Edge to become a self-sustaining congregation with its own constitution and by-laws; however, the two congregations will exist in a close mother-daughter relationship that facilitates the sharing of ministry ideas, events, and even staff. We plan to move through the organizational process in the following ways:

Phase One (in process)

During budgeting at Crown of Life for the 2011/12 fiscal year the Church Planting dedicated account at Crown of Life will become, in essence, the general fund for The Edge. Income and expenses for The Edge will be included in the Crown of Life treasures report to council and the Crown of Life Board of Elders will have spiritual oversight of The Edge. We will remain under Crown of Life's 501(C)(3) tax status during this initial phase.

Phase Two (2-3 years)

Establish The Edge's leadership teams. [spiritual, financial, ministry, etc.]
Begin initial stages of developing a constitution.
Begin planning stages for planting again.

Phase Three (5 years)

The Edge's constitution adopted and submitted to district and synod
Apply for 501(C)(3)
Separate financially from Crown of Life
Continue ministry partnership with Crown of Life

2011/12 Church Plant Budget

Budget Item	2011/12	Notes
Receipts		
Crown of Life[1]	\$18,595	
Circuit 9	\$0	
District Loan[2]	\$24,000	4k monthly from district beginning Jan. 2012
District Support	\$0	
Special Gifts	\$15,000	Gifts prior to January worship launch
Offerings	\$29,150	Offerings from worship gatherings Jan.-Jun.
Total Plant Receipts	\$86,745	
Disbursements		
Staffing		
<i>Pastor: Steve Sandfort</i> [3]	\$0	Steve's salary is included in church budget numbers
Medical	\$18,595	
<i>Partner:</i>	\$0	
Medical		
Social Security 6.5%		
Medicare 1.45%		
Total Staffing	\$18,595	
Communication		
Promotion/Marketing	\$2,500	Two campaigns. One in November and one in March. Set up of online donation system. Monthly fees for website maintenance
Web Hosting/Online Giving	\$600	
Ongoing Website	\$1,200	
Total Communication	\$4,300	
Office		
Supplies	\$900	
Printing	\$1,200	
Postage	\$220	
Membership Management	\$520	
Cell Phone	\$1,800	
Internet Access	\$300	
Total Office	\$4,940	
Worship		
Welcome Materials	\$550	
Supplies	\$350	
Rent	\$5,000	
Music (New Music, CCLI)	\$1,050	
Total Worship	\$6,950	
Ministry		
Leader Training	\$600	Begins Easter Sunday 2012 Launch summer 2011 Launch fall 2011
Children/Youth	\$1,400	
Christmas Ministries	\$1,000	
VBS in the Park	\$1,500	
Family Movie Ministry	\$600	
Easter Ministries	\$500	
Sunday Brunch	\$1,500	
Edge Community One	\$1,500	
Edge Community Two	\$1,375	

Edge Community Three	\$1,375	Launch fall 2011 Launch winter 2012 Launch winter 2012 Launch spring 2012 Preliminary work spring 2012	
Edge Community Four	\$1,000		
Edge Community Five	\$1,000		
Edge Community Six	\$625		
Homeschool Network	\$1,000		
Hosting (Dinners, Lunches, etc)	\$1,950		
Resources (Books, DVD's etc.)	\$600		
Total Ministry	\$17,525		
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Miscellaneous			
Planning Retreats	\$1,500		
Total Miscellaneous	\$1,500		
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Start Up Purchases			
Computer	\$3,500	One computer (iMac) for office and produciton work - Immediate Office for Mac Spring 2012 Winter 2012 For communities and for worship venue Spring 2012 Immediate Immediate Immediate Spring 2012 Spring 2012 Spring 2012	
Software	\$500		
Nursery Equipment	\$1,200		
Welcome Center Display	\$1,200		
Signage (Indoor & Outdoor)	\$1,500		
TV/DVD/Cart/Cables	\$1,900		
Audio (Production)	\$3,000		
Camera/Software	\$6,500		
Website Development	\$6,500		
Rolling Cabinet: Worship	\$440		
Rolling Cabinet: Children	\$440		
Rolling Cabinet: Adults	\$440		
Total One Time Purchases	\$27,120		
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Giving			
Community Link Mission	\$700	Saginaw area food bank LCMS ministry at University of North Texas Orphanage in Honduras	
Mission Planter (Mark Couser)	\$600		
Mission (UNT Ministry)	\$300		
Texas District	\$500		
Providence World Ministries	\$600		
Other (Union G.M., Grace, etc)	\$200		
Total Giving	\$2,900		
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Savings			
Emergency Fund	\$2,915	Saving 10% up to 3 months of needs After 3 months of budget are saved	
Capital Fund			
Total Savings	\$2,915		
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Total Plant Disbursements	\$86,745		
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Net Plant Receipts Over (Under) Disbursement	\$0		

1. From Crown of Life church plant dedicatd account [balance: \$117,000].
2. From Texas District [up to 200,000] paid back at 0% interest over 20 years.
3. Pastor salary reflected in Crown of Life 2011/12 budget.

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~Matthew 14:35-36

Overview

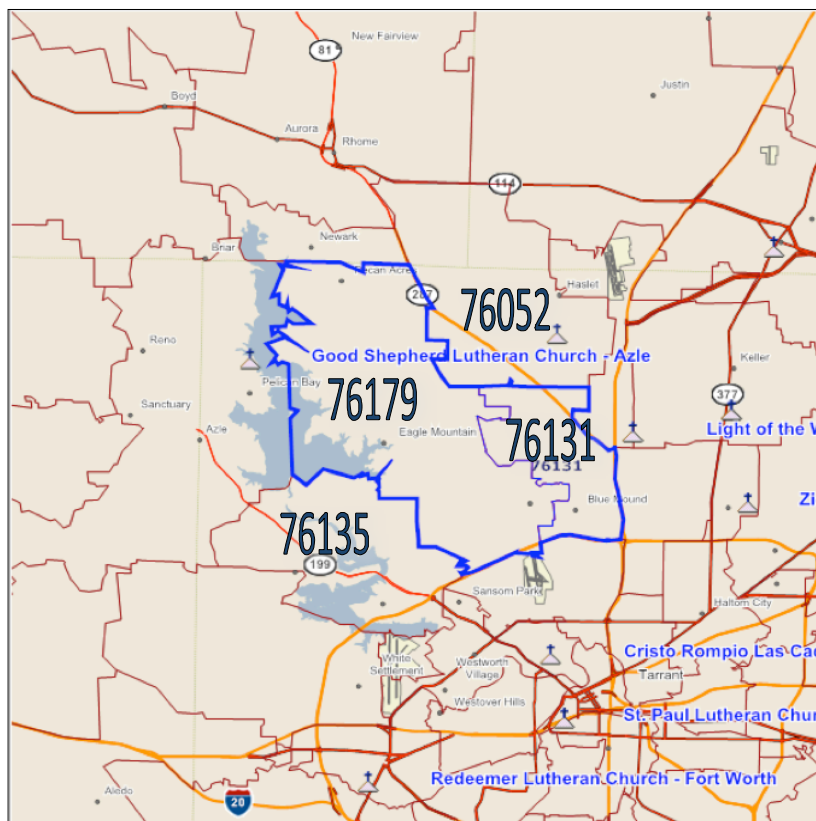
For more than two years the members of Crown of Life in Colleyville have been actively seeking God’s will for church planting. We continue to pray for His Spirit to lead and direct these plans. This summer we will take the next step as our church planter, Steve Sandfort, and his family, move to the Saginaw-Eagle Mountain area to launch a missional community out of their home. A missional community is simply a gathering of people, about the size of an extended family [30-60], who engage in the mission of God outside of the walls of a church building.

We believe the Church earns the right to share the Gospel by living sacrificially for the good of others. In other words, people will hear the Gospel we live much sooner and louder than they hear the Gospel we speak. For this reason, we choose to focus on serving others, building relationships through personal connections, and living out our core values in the context of everyday life.

Location

Our goal is to develop twelve missional communities, called Edge Communities [EC’s], in neighborhoods within a 10-mile radius of Saginaw-Eagle Mountain, beginning with three EC’s launching in September of 2011. Our lead zip code will be 76179 [Saginaw-Eagle Mountain]; however, our general planting area will also include 76131 [Blue Mound], 76135 [Lake Worth], and 76052 [Haslet].

The map to the right, provided by the Texas District, shows our planting area zip codes. Other LCMS churches are listed and marked with a triangle and cross icon.



Growth

The growth of these EC's will be organic, as missional people build relationships with their neighbors and experience life together in community. St. Paul describes this kind of ministry in 1 Thessalonians. He writes, "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardships, we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you." [1 Thessalonians 2:8-9] We expect one new EC to form every eight weeks, until we reach our goal of twelve. As EC's multiply, each will need to discover how God will use them in their area.

Worship

All Edge Communities will meet together for worship once a month in January, February, and March of 2012. Our goal is to have one-third to one-half of our community contacts joining us for these monthly worship services. We expect to launch weekly worship services on Easter Sunday 2012 with a total of six Edge Communities functioning. As weekly worship is celebrated, gathering around Word and Sacrament and hearing stories of how God is working through our communities will refresh us and reinforce our calling to live as missional people.

Mission

Build Relationships – Make Disciples – Teach His People

Core Values

Eternity is what matters most
The cross is the message
Worship is a way of life
Missional is the rule not the exception
Education is essential for growth
Innovation is necessary to reach the lost and de-churched

Edge Community Discovery Groups

In June of 2011 we will begin forming Edge Community discovery groups that will spend time working through an eight-week introduction to missional communities. These groups will also study our core values and further develop strategies that focus our hearts and minds on our mission to build relationships, make disciples, and teach His people. An interactive website is also being developed to facilitate communication across these groups. For more information, or to join a group, contact Steve Sandfort:



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