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MISSION

To live in Christ and bear His fruit

John 15:5

VALUES

Lost People Matter

He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim 2:4

Its Not About Me

As we hear from John the Baptist, "He must become greater, I must become less." John 3:30

Vocations in Service to Christ

Saved by grace-We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Eph 2:8-10

Empowerd Parents Equip Children

These words I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children... Deuteronomy 6:6-7

His Love in Word and Sacrament

let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly...Col 3:16
Take; this is my Body, this is my Blood Mk 14:22-24
For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal 3:27

Incarnational Witness

While you are going, make disciples... Matt 28:19

Multiplication Reaches More

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Tim 2:2

MISSION MEASURE

Live In...

- + the faith community
- + the Sacrament regularly
- + God's Word daily

Bear Fruit...

- + serving Christ in vocations
- + with a missional heartbeat
- + with first-fruit generosity
- + honoring Matthew 18

STRATEGY

Missional Community (Branch)

Communities Gathered Together

Ministry of Vocation

Cultivating New Life

Ministry Action Plan of



A Mission of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Person

Born in Lubbock and raised in Arlington, John David is a Texas boy through and through. He was blessed to serve two different Texas churches as a Director of Christian Education focusing mostly on the areas of youth and family ministry, and contemporary worship.

John David met his wife Stephanie while attending Concordia College in St. Paul, MN. She is a wonderfully supportive wife, a gracious mother, and an incredible photographer, who is blessed to work from home.

As he looks back John David has little doubt that the experiences he went through as a child prepared him wonderfully for his early calling in youth ministry. Today, he is equally confident that through his work as a Director of Christian Education, his recent work as a seminary student at Concordia in St. Louis, where he played a major role in developing a new church-planter track for seminary students, and his role as vicar at St. Peter Lutheran in Roanoke, God has prepared him well for this new adventure as a church planter.

John David and Stephanie are blessed with 3 beautiful children. Caleb (almost 8) doesn't let diabetes keep him from excelling in his studies as a second grader or enjoying baseball. Hailey (4 yrs.) has the perfect middle name as she is a real "Joy" for John David, Stephanie, and anyone else she comes into contact with. The youngest, Jonah (18 months) is a real ham and will do anything for a laugh.

The Place

One of the hardest and most important parts of planting a new church is choosing the right area in which to plant. Upon his arrival at St. Peter, John David quickly narrowed the location of The Vine to 3 areas. After a few months of demographic study, many discussions, time spent in the areas, and a lot of prayer, he settled on Grapevine.

Grapevine and the surrounding areas are a growing, diverse community with a large un-churched population compared to other parts of Texas. It is much less diverse ethnically than many other areas, but has a lot of diversity when one considers stage of life, political viewpoints, and view of Jesus and the Church. It is ripe for a sacramentally based body of followers of Jesus Christ to bring in His love and forgiveness.



Cultivating New Life

The Plan

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

Could there be a better description of the Church? We have been made a part of our Savior Jesus Christ. Living in Him we receive life and the hope of eternity in renewed, perfect bodies in a renewed, perfect creation. In the meantime, we live together as branches receiving grace upon grace from the Vine and working together to produce missional fruit in our various vocations... spouse, parent student, child, neighbor, co-worker, etc...

MISSION – What we do...

To live in Christ and bear His fruit

Vision – Why we do it...

Lost People Matter (1 Timothy 2:4)

God desires that all people come to know the love and forgiveness that can only be found through the gift of His Son. In response to the love He has given us, we have this same desire.

Its not about me (John 3:30)

It sounds simple, but so often our lives do not reflect this value. Jesus love has claimed us as His through the cross. Our lives are no longer our own. So, with John the Baptist we pray that through our lives Jesus “will become greater” and we “will become less.

Vocations in service to Christ (Ephesians 2:8–10)

Christianity is not a part of our lives... It is who we are. Therefore, we live every vocation in which God has placed us in response to His love, faithfully serving Him as spouse, parent, child, student, co-worker, neighbor, etc...

Empowerd Parents Equip Children (Deuteronomy 6:6–7)

Parents, a father and a mother, are the primary teachers of the faith in their child's life. We affirm this parental vocation and strive to equip and encourage parents to raise their children in the faith. We also commit to step up and fill the gap where one or both of these parents is spiritually vacant.



His love in Word and Sacrament (Col 3:16, Mk 14:22-24, Gal 3:27)

What a blessing it is that we have a God who has not made us to walk blindly in this sinful world. He has given us His Word to proclaim His love in Christ to us, and to teach us how to respond to that love. This Word is not merely contained in the Scriptures, but it is the Scriptures. It is this Word in which we live and breathe.

We embrace the mystery of the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. He has claimed us in baptism and promised that all of His promises in Christ are for us. He gives us grace upon grace in Holy Communion. Here we receive the Body and Blood of Christ... Forgiveness that we can smell, see, taste, and touch. We celebrate these tangible gifts of the love of Christ and are empowered by them to bring His love to others.

Incarnational Witness (Matthew 28:19)

We have a calling from our Savior to bring His love to a lost and broken people in a lost and broken world. We are convinced that to reach the Lost is no longer to invite them to our church, but to bring Church to them. Therefore, we gather together in our communities, our neighborhoods, our schools, our places of work, on ball-fields, restaurants, and coffee houses and plant seeds of faith through our actions first, then our words. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work these seeds into a growing and thriving faith... That they will be lost no longer.

Multiplication reaches more (2 Timothy 2:2)

The Vine is not a place where only one teaches and the others follow. It is a place that looks to grow through the multiplication of leaders, incarnational communities, and churches. It is a place where those with the gifts of leadership are sought, encouraged, equipped, and given opportunities to use what God has given them. It is a place that encourages followers of Christ to find places where God already has them gathering with others and to form new incarnational communities there. It is a place that is infused with a DNA to plant new churches, raising up leaders and sending them out to advance the Kingdom of God.

Mission Measure – How do we know if we are doing it?

There are some specific things that we hope to instill in the followers of Christ who are a part of The Vine. *We pray that they will be moved to live in Christ by living in...*

+ the faith community

People of The Vine joyfully and consistently gather together with their missional community as well as with the larger family in worship. Here they live in authentic relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ. They confess sins, give and receive forgiveness, praise the Lord, serve one another, and are equipped to reach out with the love of Christ.



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+ the Sacrament regularly

People of The Vine remember the promises they have received in their baptism throughout their day, and receive grace upon grace in Holy Communion as often as they gather with the larger faith community in worship.

+ God's Word daily

People of The Vine do not solely rely on the community to receive God's Word but dwell in His Word in daily devotion and regular deeper study of it.

It is our further prayer that these followers of Christ will be moved to respond to His love bearing His fruit...

+ serving Christ in vocations

People of The Vine see every part of their lives as service to Christ, doing their best to care for others in each of the vocations where God has called them to impact others for Him.

+ with a missional heartbeat

People of The Vine have a missional heartbeat, not only serving and caring for others, but boldly proclaiming His love with their words and actions. They do this in their local vocations as well as in the world beyond through things like The Vine's partnership with a Lutheran community in Kenya.

+ with first-fruit generosity

People of The Vine will not be bound by the material things of this world. They will be first-fruit givers, generously giving back to God of the gifts He has given them.

+ honoring Matthew 18

People of The Vine lift up and honor their brothers and sisters in Christ by living out the pattern of dealing with sin between one-another Jesus laid out for us in Matthew 18.

Strategy – How do we do it?

The strategy of The Vine is really quite simple equipping followers of Christ to live out their faith in the various vocations God has called them to, serving the people they come into contact with in those vocations and proclaiming the love of Christ to them in their words and actions.

Missional Community (Branch)

The Vine is made up of several missional communities or "Branches" of The Vine where people of The Vine gather together weekly for the study of God's Word, fellowship, worship, serving others, and welcoming the Lost. These communities are made up of people who have something in common... a neighborhood, stage of Life, hobby, occupation, skill, children, children's activities, etc...



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It is our belief that these communities will serve as an inviting front door to the faith for those who are lost or far from the faith. We pray that through their acts of service, caring words, and non-judgmental attitude toward those around them they will be able to bring others into their community of faith and plant seeds of the love of our Savior. We also see these communities as non-threatening atmospheres to which people of The Vine can bring those they are living with, caring for, and serving in their other vocations in life.

Communities Gathered Together

These missional communities will all gather together weekly for corporate worship where they will receive Christ in the Word proclaimed and in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. While they will be liturgical, these gatherings will not hold any particular "style of worship," but will instead incorporate things from many different settings that the people of The Vine are gifted to do well. We do not plan to focus these services on evangelizing the Lost but on building up the faithful. That said, the services will also not be completely over the heads of those who are new to the faith. We will rely on those who are more versed in our worship services to bring others alongside them and make them more familiar with all they are receiving.

Children will gather with the larger community in the first movement of these worship gatherings. They will then be invited to move to another area to receive age-appropriate teaching and to be given the opportunity to praise our God in interactive ways they will enjoy. Parents, other adults, and youth will stay together to continue worshipping together in a more focused atmosphere.

It is our hope that these gatherings of the faithful will build them up, encourage them with the love of Christ, and move them to respond to His love in their many vocations.

Ministry of Vocation

We pray that the people of The Vine will learn to not see Christianity as just a part of their lives, but as their identity. We hope that they will find that the faith they have received and that the Holy Spirit continues to work in them changes everything about them... How they see the world, view the lost, care for creation, and live their lives in the various vocations to which God has called them.

It is through these people God has chosen to work to bring His love to lost and broken people in a lost and broken world. It is through these people living out their faith in their various vocations where The Vine will have its greatest impact on the people of the Grapevine area and beyond. Motivated by His love, the people of The Vine will plant the seeds of God's love in the hearts of those who God has already placed them near. It is through these people of The Vine, moved by the Gospel of Christ, that we pray many may come to know the saving love of our Savior.



Relationship with St. Peter Lutheran Church

While both St. Peter and The Vine will be autonomous congregations of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the two faith communities will maintain a close relationship. For example, St. Peter will provide back office support and the two churches will share many resources. The Vine will look to partner with St. Peter in some major events such as the Men's Advance and LIFT retreat. Also, while The Vine will have missional communities made up of youth, we will, at least in the beginning years, look to partner with St. Peter their DCE for major events and retreats.

Phase 1 (January – May, 2012)

Vision Casting & Core Identification

- Large Groups Vision Cast @ St. Peter Jan. 29, then home visits
- Vision Cast at Lamb of God – Flowermound (Mar. 25), Crown of Life – Colleyville (TBD), Peace – Hurst (May 5–6), & Our Redeemer Irving (TBD) then home visits

Raise Support (prayer & financial)

- Received \$50,000 grant from Trinity Klein
- Partnerships with other churches
 1. John David preaches at the church
 2. Parable Project (3 months)
 3. Prayer Support
- Explore other funding

On-line Presence

- Web-site: heisthevine.org will be up and running in mid February
- Facebook site and Twitter presence will follow shortly

Grapevine Presence

- Meet with leaders in Grapevine and surrounding communities
- Explore impact areas (service, mission, exposure)
- Narrow focus for worship space

Explore Vision Kenya for possible “to the ends of the earth” partnership



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Phase 2 (May – August)

Continue raising support through partnership development

Establish Core

- Form the first missional communities & pour the values of The Vine into them
- Identify Leaders
 - Elders
- Community Leaders

Grapevine Presence

- Select worship site
- Determine Community impact areas

Establish Budget from money raised and core pledges

- Base on money raised and Core pledges
- Decision on Carl Caspersen joining The Vine from her beginning made

Identify Staffing

- Music & Media
- Children's Ministry

Purchase & Preparation of start-up equipment

Explore Governance

Phase 3 (August –)

Staff Begins work (God willing, Carl and his family will move down)

Leaders Identified and Equipped

Establish more missional communities

Begin weekly worship

Solidify governance and develop constitution



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