

# Strategic Focus - Holy Spirit Lutheran Church 2019 – 2022



*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

## The Church We and Others Need

The church is needed, now more than ever. While the statistics point to a secularization of our society, the truth is the majority of Albertans and Edmontonians identify themselves as believers. Loneliness, hopelessness and lack of community are on the rise. Brokenness and despair arise from many influences and factors including economic hardship, loss of family and community, addiction and other influences. People are searching and hoping for meaningful living and for ways to make meaningful contributions to humanity.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church has grown into a welcoming and inclusive community. Continuing in the work God has gifted to us, we seek to enter into a growth and discovery mode, preparing our church to be the home for those who are not yet here. As we embark on a journey of discovery we look to these guiding principles:

### Guiding Principles:

1. This is God's church. We understand that God is alive and well, guiding us in the ministry we undertake. As such, it is important to us to faithfully listen to God, which includes listening to one another as a community. Because we have faith, we are inspired to go out and join in God's work.
2. God calls us to continual reform. In love, we are patient, kind and grace-filled with one another as we discern and respond to God's call.
3. Let's "over pray" instead of over think. Let's err to the side of action and experimentation. There is always something to learn.

### Our mission

Steeped in faith, with a prayer on our lips, we are intrepid and relentless in our discovering and building the church we and others need.

We aim to grow into this mission by:

1. being enthusiastically welcoming,
2. being messengers about who we are,
3. being hungry to share, invite, grow, and
4. being ready to respond to God's will with our approach, programming, and path.

Holy Spirit has so much going for it and every person here is a gifted and an important part of the community. We are grounded, but not restricted, by a rich, historical foundation. Trusting in who we are and in God's presence, we will learn to step into the world and learn about God with intentionality. We give ourselves permission to take chances without running the risk of taking chances on the message or falling into a false gospel.

Our Strategic Focus is to concentrate on:

- 1) **Participation.** Participation is about being open to the gifts of one another, making room for all to share as they are able, growing in our faith as a community, and growing closer together as a community. Each person among us is important, valued and encouraged to give and receive of who they are in order that we might grow a community of God's heart.
- 2) **Witness.** God has given us an awesome ministry and we hope to build and expand the presence, brand, and awareness of Holy Spirit. Faithful to the work God has given, we will witness in our greater community, spreading the word that Holy Spirit is a place of welcome and inclusion, of growing together in faith, and creating positive change in our world.
- 3) **Growth.** Numbers tell one part of our story. In faithful discipleship we seek to learn about and grow numbers such as attendance, membership, and giving. We intend this to be a natural outcome from the above two goals.