



**Key Ministry Points  
An Overview  
2006**

Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church  
Huntingtown, Maryland

Prepared for: 2006 Church Council and Ministry Sponsors  
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## **Reading this Document**

Before you begin to read that which follows, please take a moment for prayer. Pray for the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. Pray that the Spirit would grant you good discernment, clarity of thought, and a sense of God's leading at Saint Nicholas. May God bless you richly with peace and contentment through prayer.

We do, indeed, continue our building on faith as God's Spirit guides and guards us. We claim God's faithfulness.

As you read through this document, please do so particularly with the following in mind. *First*, consider the points presented within the current state of ministry at Saint Nicholas (e.g., what are the current strengths and weaknesses of the overall ministry). *Second*, consider the points presented in light of your particular area of ministry. Would a particular point provide a strong enhancement to the ministry area? Is there good synergy between the points within the framework of a particular area of ministry? *Third*, please consider how a particular point – or the four points taken as a whole – enhances our being in ministry together.

## **Guiding Principle**

As always, may all that we seek to do be under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit that calls us and strengthens us to the blessed task of proclaiming God's Good News of salvation from death to new life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

## **Congregational Mission**

*“Growing and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ for the work of God's ministries in the world.”*

## **Introduction**

We are called and blessed as children of God to be involved in the world in a positive and affirming manner. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we are to follow him in the way of the Cross; a way that is based on self-sacrifice and humility. This translates in a variety of ways, but chiefly in the daily surrender of our will to that of God's will: that all would come to know the saving love of God through Jesus Christ. Thus the Holy Spirit challenges us to constantly discern together our active involvement as leaders and otherwise in the church. This document seeks to serve as an avenue available for us to be in continuing dialogue about the specific work to which God's Spirit is calling us.

## **Document Purpose**

The intent of this document is to provide a review of the progress made within each key initiative of 2005, and an *overview* of the central ministry points for 2006 that are either underway currently within the parish or are before the leadership for continued discussion and consideration, as they are so closely linked. There are many activities in process at Saint Nicholas not mentioned in this document.. They are all considered important to the work that God calls us. However, those listed below are considered to be significant undertakings that could impact a variety of ministries, and/or require significant commitment on the part of the congregation.

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## 2005 Key Initiatives: A Review of Progress

### Maintaining Quality Pastoral Care

- The call team has just completed and submitted to synod our congregational profile, seeking an associate pastor with a penchant for youth.
- 9 members attended an orientation in the Spring to learn about Stephen Ministry. As a result of that Saturday trip, we now have 3 Stephen Leaders and 5 Stephen Ministers ready to support our pastor with care-giving to those experiencing difficult times, and to continue to grow our Stephen Ministry here at Saint Nicholas.

### Caring for Youth

- Our youth program has broadened and deepened under the guidance of Jonathan Wolf; and as just mentioned, the call process is moving forward for a second pastor with a focus on youth.

### Infant Care Ministry

- The infant day care ministry was moved off the key initiatives list until the North Wing is built, as we learned that our current building would not meet certain safety codes necessary for that program without considerable additional expense. We felt it would be better to include these safety aspects and some other infant considerations in the North Wing plans, which they have been. So look for this initiative to reappear in 2007.

### Enriching our Music Program

- We are still seeking a director of music to grow our music ministry beyond its current richness. A job description has been developed for that position. There is some variance in the job description and the key initiative statement regarding leadership for the Sing & Rejoice service. That will need to be revisited.

### Strengthening Fellowship Opportunities

- WISC, a wide variety of adult Christian Education classes, the youth dances, the wine-tasting party...these are all examples of strengthening fellowship opportunities.

### Building the North Wing

- Further reflection brought to light the original footprint was too small. A second capital campaign, Reaching for the Top Together, prompted total pledges of over \$900,000 to support this larger North Wing.
- Floor plans have been drawn and seen multiple revisions.
- Our lender, Mission Investment Fund, has given preliminary approval of our loan; contractor blue prints await only the electrical and mechanical aspects.

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## Key Ministry Points for 2006

### Deepening our Culture through Relationship

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*  
*Romans 12:9-13*

Paul describes for us how the early church built relationship/community. Be loving and sincere, devoted to one another. Honor each other. Be enthusiastic and passionate. Serve the LORD. Pray together and share whatever you can. We also learn from Acts that the early church ate meals together, met together at church and in their homes, praising God in all things. These messages resonate with us today. As God continues to grow and bless our church family, we realize clearly the need for connecting with each other on a regular basis for worship and fellowship.

Building relationship is at the heart of our ministry focus for 2006. It is fueled by the presence of Christ among us. His example encourages us to continue to build up our community, a community where people welcome each other and celebrate each others' gifts. We are led by the Holy Spirit to treat everyone with care and respect, to cherish children and teach them with gentleness, to honor and revere older members, to be sincere about our commitment to each other and our congregation.

It is our intention that we walk together in fellowship. Only through deepening our relationship with God and each other can we provide that assurance. May we look to each person in our community as we form a network of fellowship through ministry and program that shares in the fun and joy of life, the difficult times, the faith journey we are all on. Amen

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## Strengthening Fellowship Opportunities

- **The Need**
  - As Saint Nicholas continues to grow it becomes more difficult for connections to be made and relationships established and nurtured. That fellowship is valuable to drawing us together for sharing our ministries.
  - Many members join for the fellowship and some express disappointment in how that need is later met.
  
- **Solutions –**
  - Foster interest or affinity groups driven by individual member interests, leading to activities that are shared by members and God-honoring.
  - Offer new adult-age classes, forums, or activities.
  - Investigate new ways to welcome and engage new members in the “family” after joining.
  - Enhance family fellowship and cross generational opportunities. Be very intentional about planning events with this focus.

## Caring for Youth

- **The Need (brought forward from the Key Initiatives Overview - 2004)**
  - We are blessed with many youth in our congregation, at all ages.
  - We want our youth to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, who shows God’s love clearly and unconditionally.
  - We are called by our Lord to be active in helping our youth grow in their Christian faith and practice. This involves providing the environment and leadership that facilitates, encourages, and affirms the involvement of our youth in the various ministries to which God calls us.
    - The document entitled, “Responsibility and Commitment: Youth Involvement” presents these issues.
  - Family life today is hectic and demanding.
    - Families are busy with school activities, sports, etc. There are great demands placed on their time. The most attractive and beneficial programs for their children will be selected.
    - Families want their children to be involved in church activities that are edifying for their children and fun. They want (and need) their time to be spent well.

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### **Solution – Youth Leadership**

- Continued support for our part time youth leader in the thoughtful and coordinated planning for youth activities and involvement.
- Develop youth teams and team leader volunteers.
- The call for an associate pastor with strengths in youth leadership will bring more training and dedicated time to our youth ministry.

### **Enriching Our Music Program**

- **The Need**

- We continue to be blessed with wonderful leadership in various parts of our music programming.
- Yet we miss
  - Children’s music programming
  - Coordinated instrumental music programming (e.g., bell or chime choir)
  - A person, other than the pastor, who is aware of our overall music planning process..
  - A permanent leader for Sing & Rejoice.

- **Solution**

- Director of Music and/or Sing and Rejoice permanent leader. The responsibilities of these potential leadership positions needs to be clarified, especially in light of the current job description for Director of Music. Placement of these leader(s) could occur within the next year by God’s grace.

### **Building of the North Wing**

- **The Need**

- The North Wing will serve as a multi-ministry facility.
- The need for the North Wing is predicated on growth experienced in membership, expansion of ministry activities, and requirement for additional under-roof ministry space.

- **Solution – Continued Planning Effort**

- Engage congregation in reviewing final building plans and appointments.
- On-going assessment of our financial capability to meet all budget responsibilities and the additional mortgage load of the North Wing.
- Refine plans. Acquire sponsor input for ministry needs for storage, furniture, etc.
- Follow through with construction, targeting completion in 2006.

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### **Future Initiatives**

Of significance are the following areas for future ministry growth. They continue to be on the horizon, yet are not a key focus for 2006. Please continue to be mindful of their potential development and their impact on our congregation.

- **Infant Day Care.** The shortage of affordable infant day care in Calvert County continues. This ministry provides a fee-based, not-for-profit day care for infants and toddlers aged 0 to 2 years, meeting state mandated care-giving ratio of one adult for every three infants and building codes of two exits per room and sanitation features within each room. The current North Wing plans incorporate these building codes.
- **A Southern Calvert County Ministry,** or “South Campus” as it has been referred to previously. We continue to grow our membership in the south county and across the bridge. A 20+ mile drive becomes a considerable barrier for many. This ministry would require additional pastoral staff, physical space in the Lusby/Solomons area for worship, Christian education, and ministry, and considerable advance planning at the local, synodical, and national levels.