

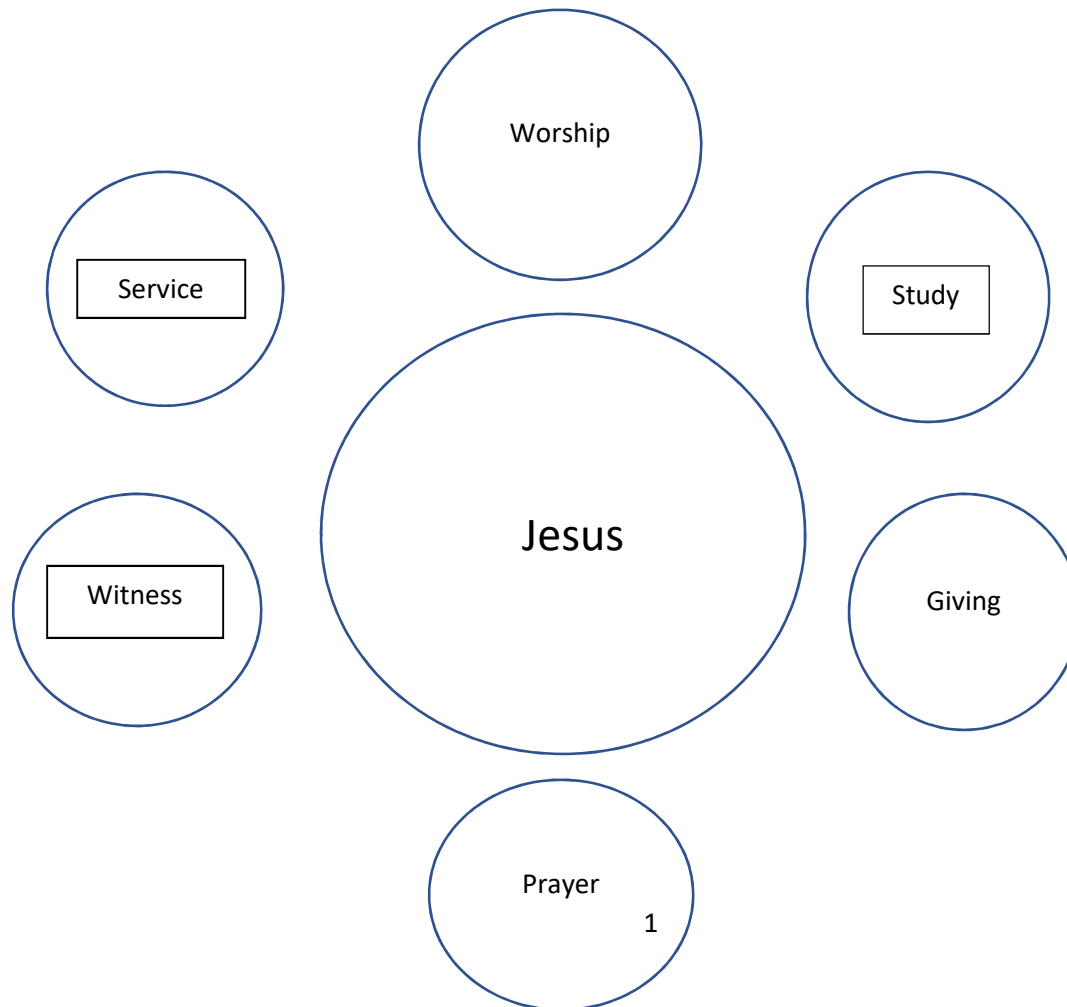
Formation of a Mission Network

Purpose: To oversee, plan, delegate and implement the Mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

St. Paul's Mission statement: WorSHIP, DiscipleSHIP, FellowSHIP: Come on board!

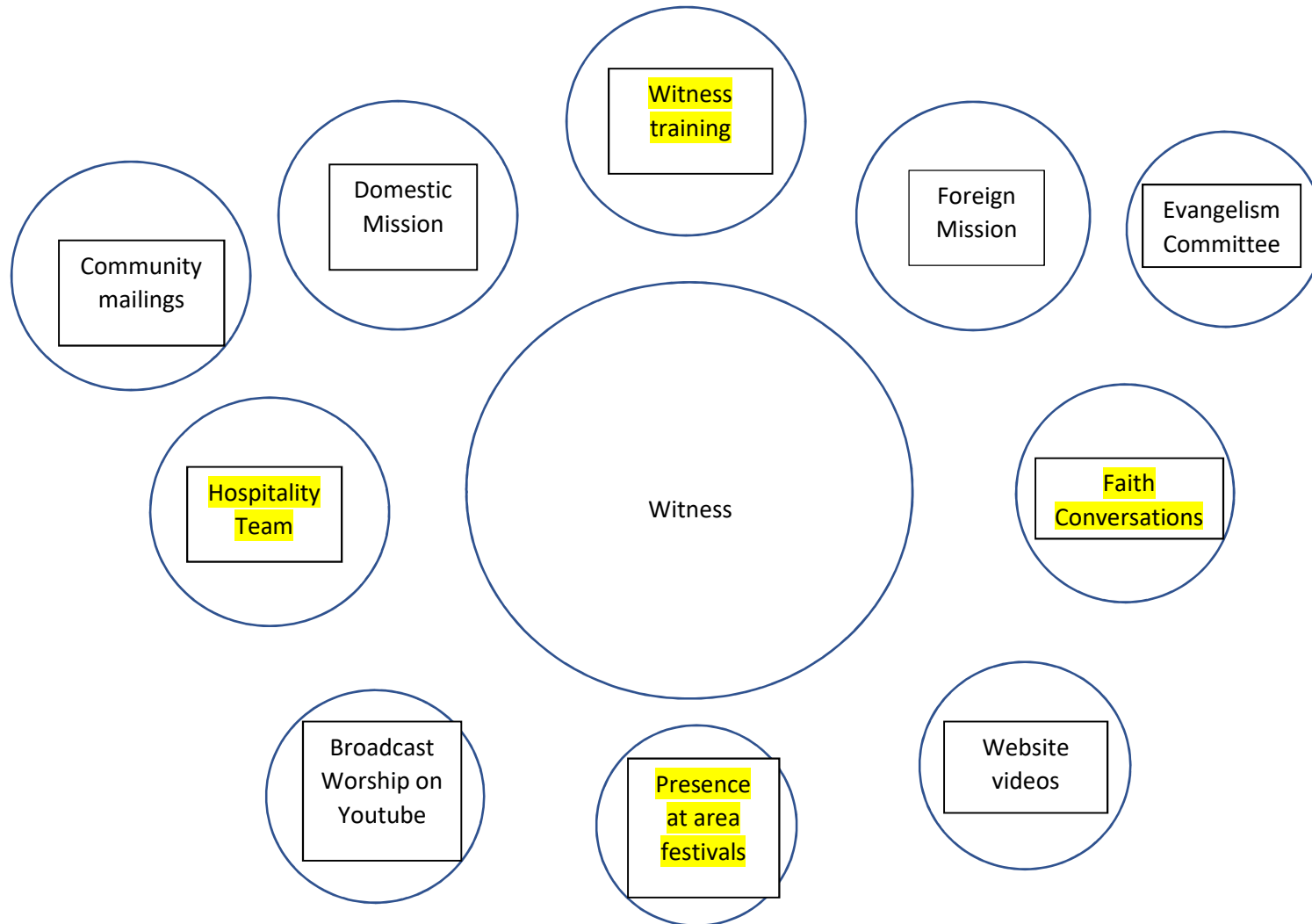
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18b-20

The following charts are organized around six markers or practices of discipleship.

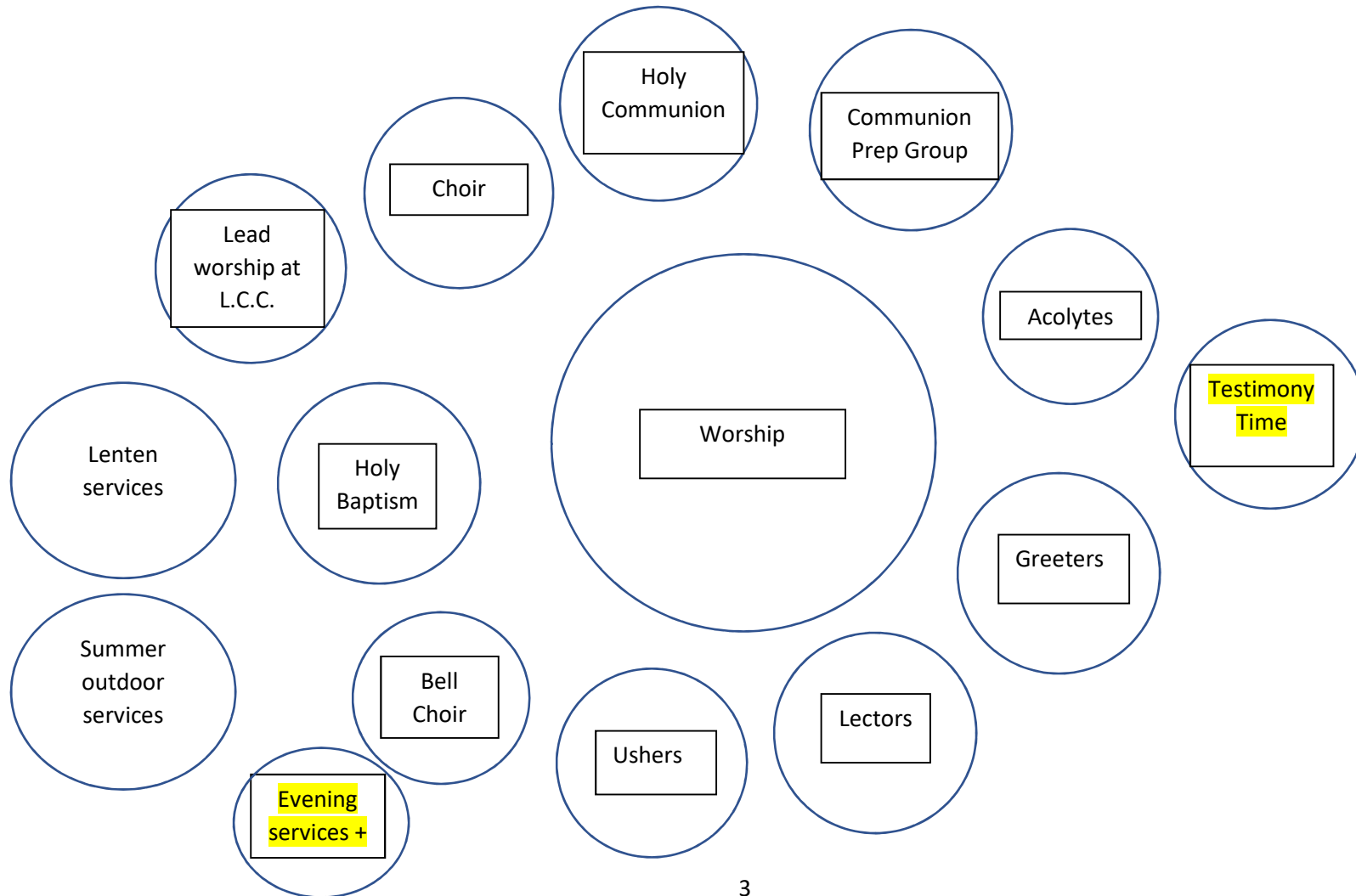


“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” Luke 24:46-48

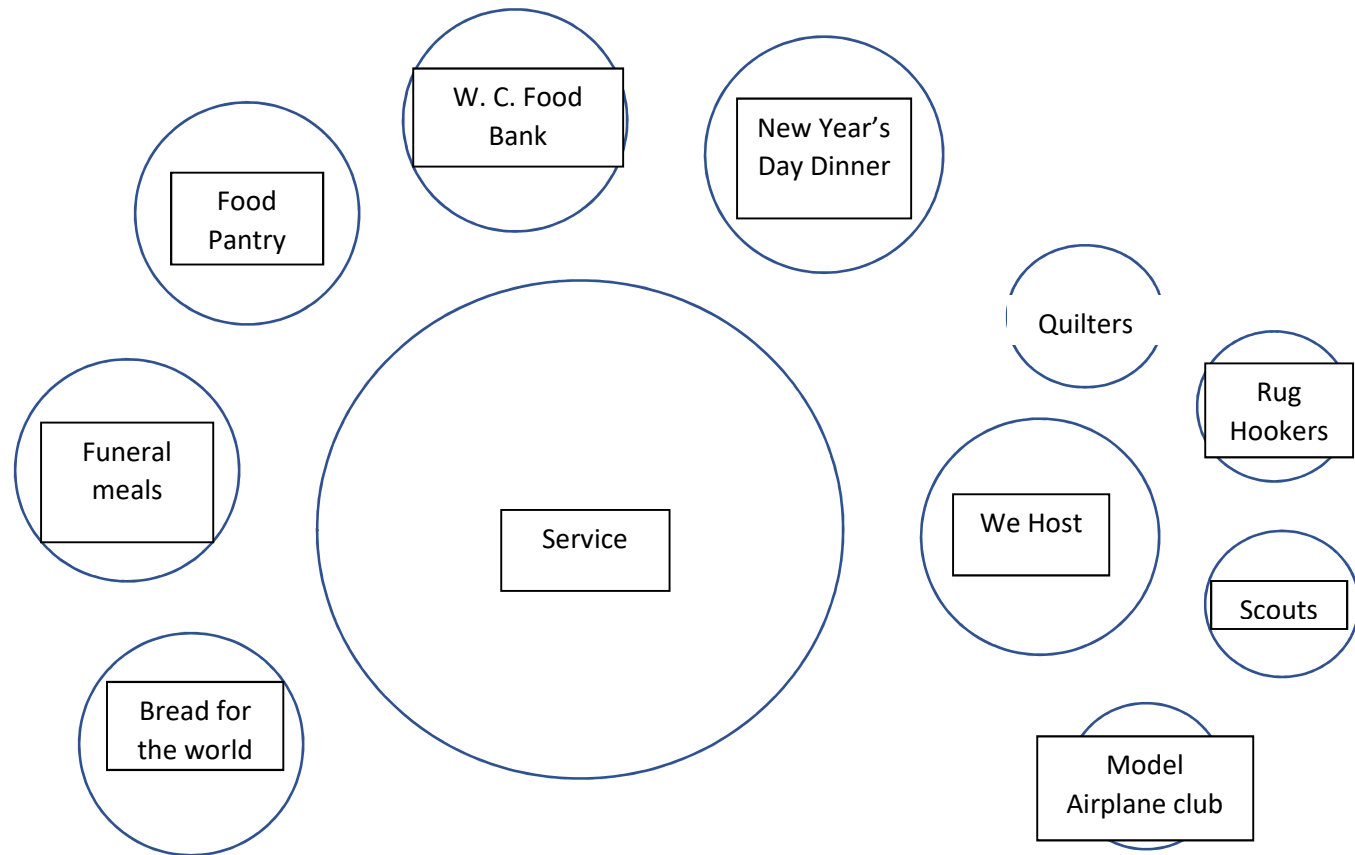
How does St. Paul bear witness to our faith?



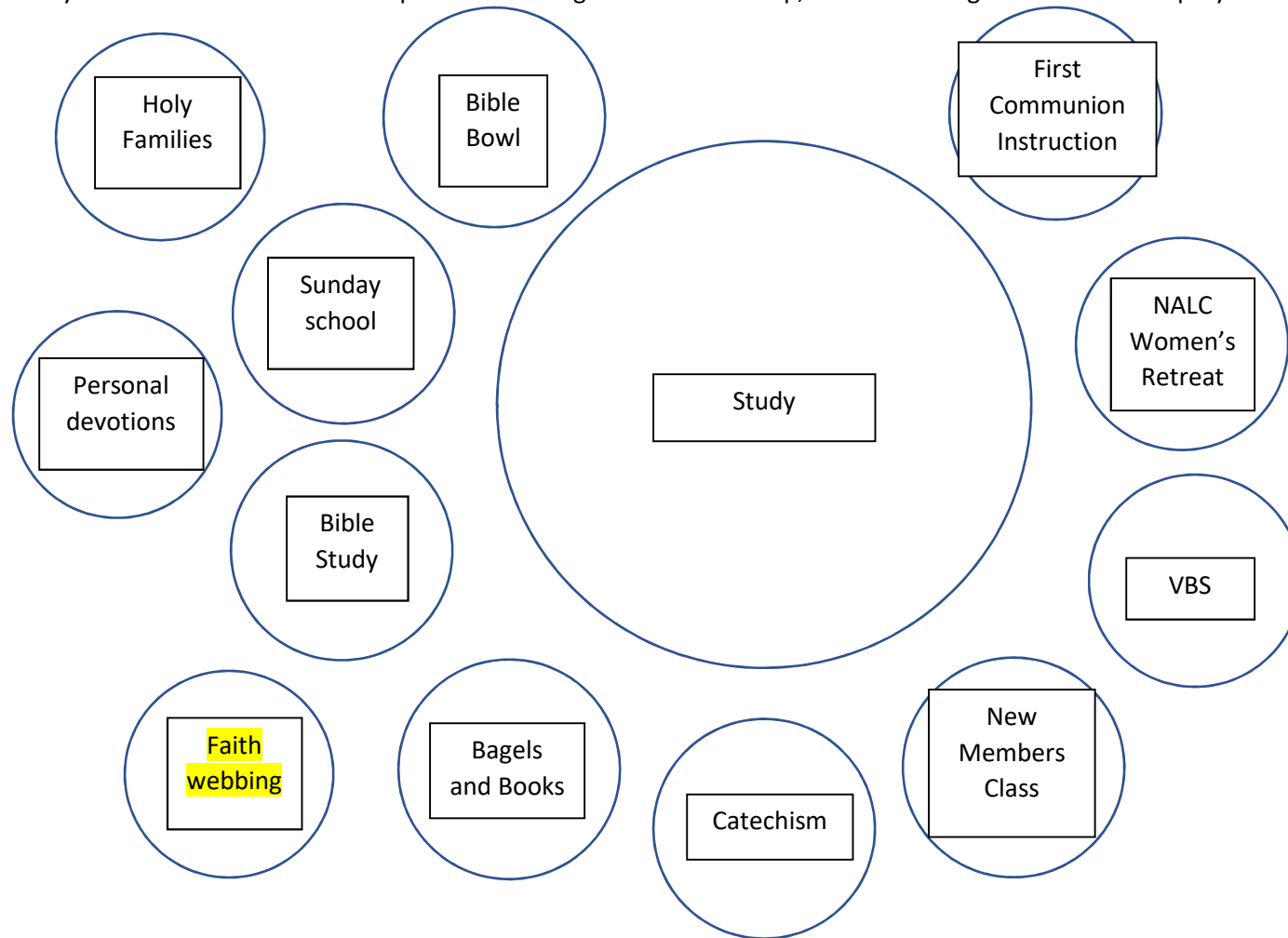
“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!” Psalm 95:6



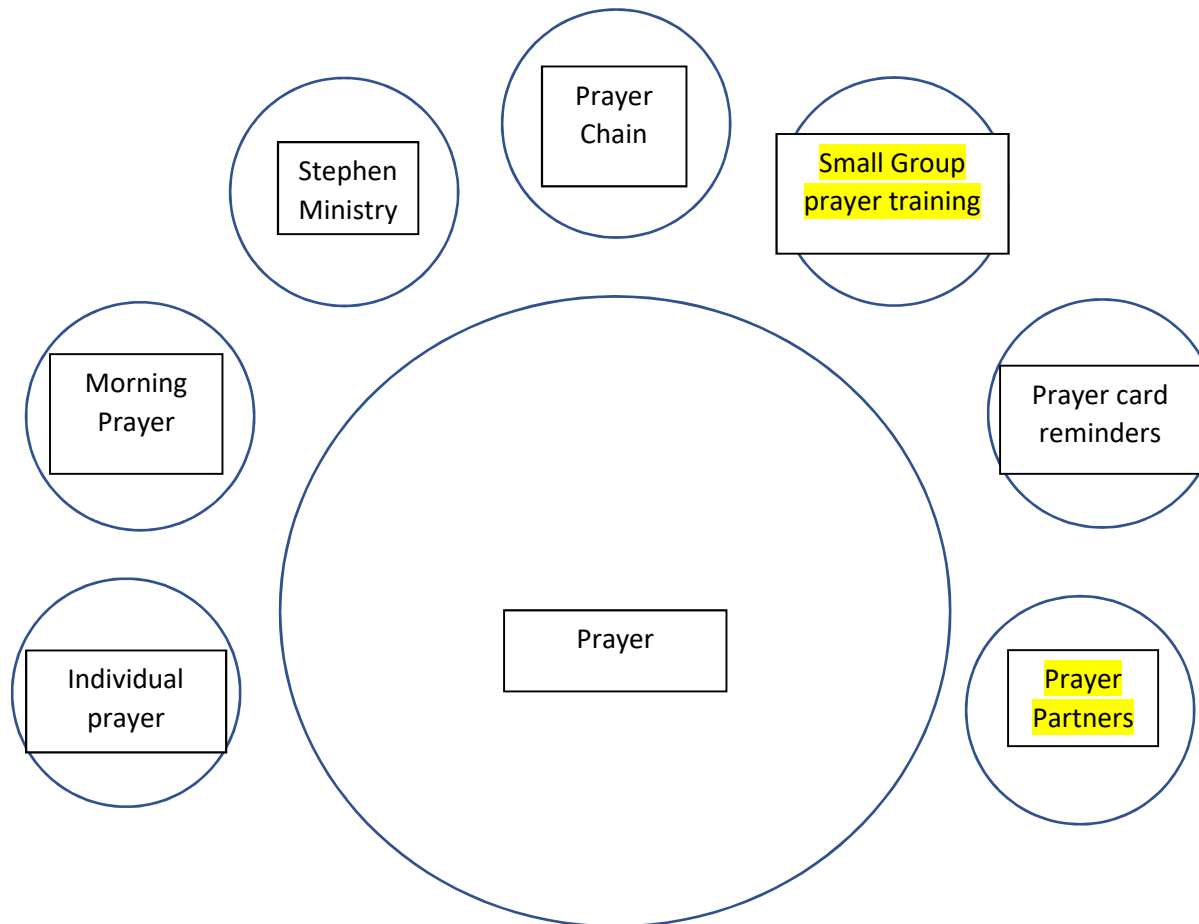
Jesus said, "But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave to all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:43b-45.



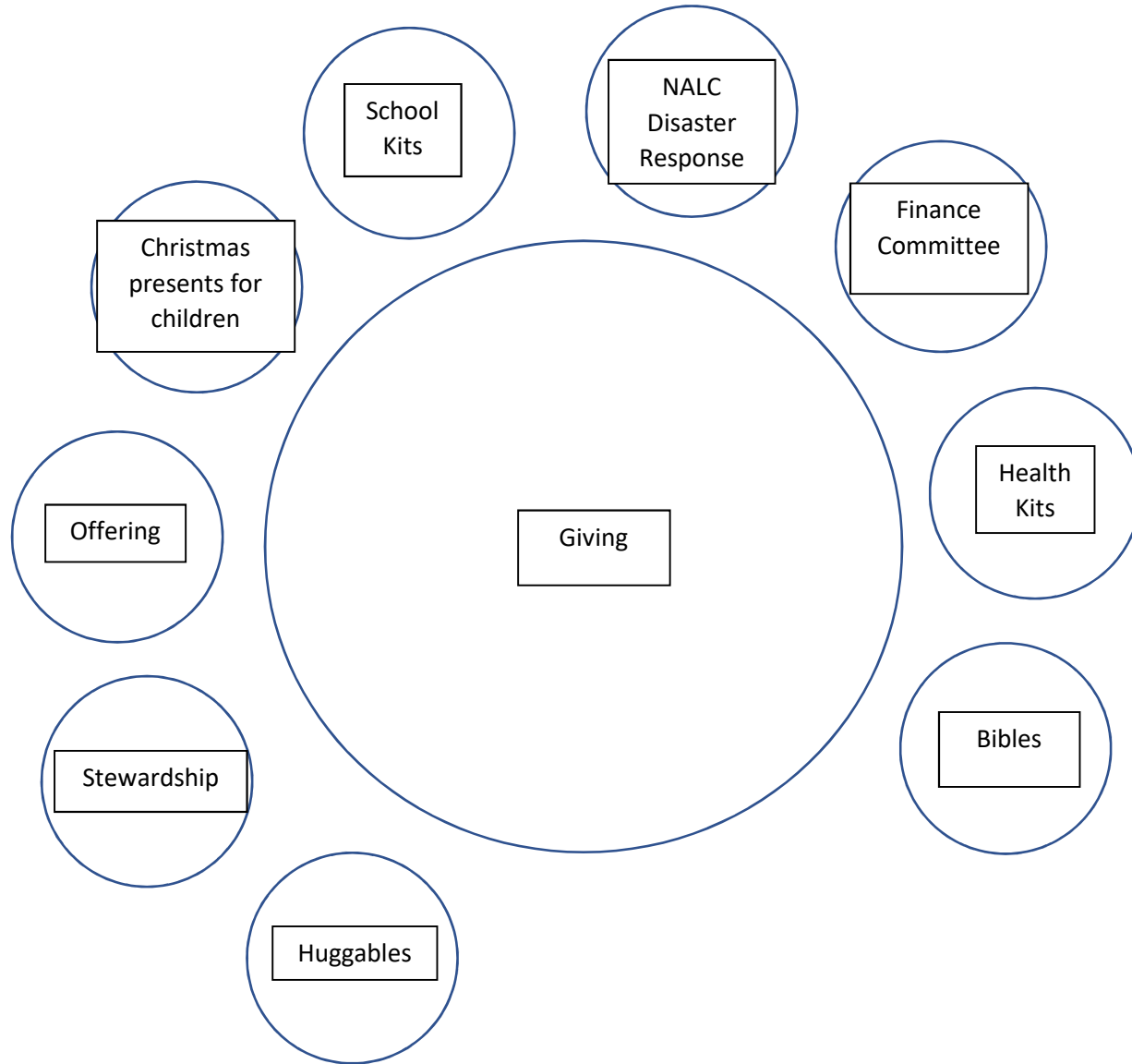
“And they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:2.



“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Corinthians 9:7



NARRATIVE:

The smaller circles in regular type represent ministries that are ongoing. Committees, groups, staff members or council may be responsible for such on-going ministries. This is especially true of those mandated by the constitution and bylaws of St. Paul. The smaller circles that are highlighted represent goals for 2018 and beyond.

Congregation Council

Caring Ministries Committee:

Take Heart.

Take Joy - Worship at Loyalhanna Care Center, Huggables

Christian Education Committee:

Catechism Instruction

Devotional materials are provided for individual use such as "Christ in our Home", seasonal devotions from Pastor Wendel, etc.

Encourage use of Holy Families material produced by Sola Publishing

New Members class

Sunday school

Community Service Committee:

Food Pantry

Westmoreland County Food Bank

Evangelism Committee:

Faith Conversations

Testimony time

Finance Committee:

Offering

Prayer Ministry:

Individual Prayer – all members of St. Paul.

Prayer card reminders - Volunteers

Prayer Chain – Kathy Houtman
Morning Prayer
Prayer Partners
Small Group Prayer Training

Secretary Team: Community Mailings, Preparation of the Bulletins, Newsletter, correspondence.

St. Paul Youth (SPY): Christmas presents for children, Youth Sunday

Stephen Ministry
Distribution of communion to homebound
Visitation

Women of the NALC: School Kits, Health Kits, Funeral Meals, Encourage participation in the Mid-Northeast Mission District Annual Women's retreat, NALC Disaster Response

Worship and Music Committee:

Acolytes
Bell Choir – Janine Long
Choir – Marty Drexler, Choir Director
Communion Prep Group – Myrna Miller
Evening Service
Greeters – Andy Dohey
Lectors – Ron McKlveen
Outdoor service
Ushers – Walter Long
Youtube broadcast – Brad Hayes

Pastor Werner: Baptism, First Communion Instruction, Website videos, Holy Communion, Lenten Services (Organized ecumenically by the local congregations called Christians Uniting.) Bible Study, Bagels and books,

All committees of St. Paul are formalized with descriptions outlined in the Continuing Resolutions of Council as amended on September 14, 2011. All groups of the congregation are not formalized but serve in specific self-identified roles. All teams are short-term and limited to the specific task for which they were formed.

TEAMS:

- Bible Team
- Hospitality team
- New Year's Day Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner
- Vacation Bible School.

Who's responsible for implementation?

Separate teams will be established for the following areas according to the time frame for implementation noted below to ensure achievement of our goals.

Time frame for Implementation:

Now

- Hospitality Team
- Witness Training
- Faith Conversations
- Faith Webbing

Two to six months

- Prayer Partners
- Presence at area festivals

Three months

- Small group prayer training

Six to nine months

- Evening Services

Appendix A. – Definitions/Descriptions

Acolytes – These are volunteers, mostly children, who light the candles for worship.

Bagels and Books – This is a monthly book study lead by Pastor Werner that is open to members of St. Paul and other congregations regardless of denominational affiliation.

Bell Choir – The bell choir practices anthems using a full set of hand bells. They provide music at least twice a year during worship.

Bible Study – Pastor Werner leads Bible studies on particular books of the Bible or topics of interest. Attendance ranges from 10 to 18 people. Pastor Werner recently led the Bible Study prepared by Bishop Bradosky on discipleship.

Bible team – The Bible team organized a drive to have Bibles placed in the pews. Maroon bound Bibles remain for use in worship. Black bound Bibles are meant to be given to someone who doesn't own a Bible. Orders are placed for Bibles as needed.

Bread for the World – St. Paul's participates with Bread for the World through the offering of letters. This project seeks to encourage and influence elected officials to use their abilities through legislation to eliminate poverty both in this country and throughout the world.

Broadcast Worship on YouTube – The Sunday services are live streamed on our YouTube channel for the benefit of those who wish to worship but are physically unable to attend. Previous services are archived.

Caring Ministries – This committee shall offer compassion and support through personal communication and published resources to congregation members and to people in the general community. This committee offers limited oversight of the Take Heart and Take Joy groups that meet.

Catechetical Instruction – St. Paul has a two-year Catechism instruction held most Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. Students who are usually in grades seven and eight attend class, participate in planning and leading worship for Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, take sermon notes once a month and request approval to be received as a confirmed member by presenting their request to the Congregation Council.

Choir – Anyone with an interest in singing is welcome to participate in the choir. St. Paul’s choir sings anthems and leads the congregation in singing on a weekly basis from September through May.

Christian Education Committee – This committee oversees the conduct and promotion of classes and the activities of all educational organizations within the congregation. This committee meets approximately six times per year.

Christmas Shopping for children in need – Each year, St. Paul Youth purchase Christmas gifts for children in need. The request and wish list are made available to us from the Westmoreland County Children’s Bureau. The youth raise money through a Salad Bar.

Communion Preparation Group – Myrna Miller organizes individuals into teams of 3 or 4 people to prepare the altar for Holy Communion with the appropriate vessels and elements needed.

Community mailings – The secretary team will send Direct Mailing to postal addresses within the Hempfield, Greensburg, Latrobe, Ligonier, and Mt. Pleasant School Districts announcing upcoming events and worship services at St. Paul.

Community Service Committee – The purpose of this committee is to extend Christian compassion and helpfulness to the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the under-privileged, and the imprisoned and, in general, to persons of all ages in need of aid in body or soul.

Congregation Council – The congregation council has general oversight of the life and activities of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The composition, duties, and responsibilities are defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The council meets monthly.

Domestic Mission - Our domestic mission is Nile Evangelical Church in Rochester, New York. Pastor Werner coordinates visits with Pastor Nestory to our respective congregations.

Evangelism Committee – This committee shall stimulate and lead all members of the congregation in continuous and, from time to time, concerted endeavors to reawaken the spiritually indifferent and to reach others, who are as yet unchurched, with the Gospel and attach them to Christ’s Church. To this end, the committee shall devote itself to deepening spiritual life and shall periodically study the congregation in context of its surrounding community.

Evening Services – One of our goals is to offer an evening service. A working group will be established to explore what the design of this service as well as the day and time which it will be offered.

Faith Conversations – Disciples of Jesus at St. Paul will engage in conversations on a variety of faith topics with non-members of St. Paul as the Spirit leads them. Those who have faith conversations will be asked to record the number of conversations so that a running total may be kept to determine if we are reaching our 2018 goal of 10,000 faith conversations.

Faithwebbing – This is a recognized ministry of the NALC developed by Gary and Laurie Pecuch. St. Paul's is now encouraging each member to identify individuals in their faith web, maintain and strengthen the connections with individuals whose faith they admire.

Finance Committee – This committee exercises oversight of the financial affairs of the congregation, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to designated recipients. The Finance Committee prepares a budget for congregational approval. It also provides for the annual audits of the accounts of the treasurer and the financial secretary as well as the accounts of the schools and organizations within the congregation. The Finance Committee shall include a value equal to 5%-8% of budgeted current expenses in the proposed budget for the upcoming year for benevolence ministries of the NALC.

First Communion Instruction – Pastor Werner leads two classes of first communion instruction to those individuals in fifth grade or older. Individuals who wish to receive prior to fifth grade may do so with the permission of both the child's parents and Pastor Werner. Children receive their first communion at the Maundy Thursday service.

Food Pantry – We have a food pantry on site for anyone who calls requesting assistance. We also, through gifts to the discretionary fund, provide gift certificates to the local grocery store. A shopping cart is put out in the entrance the first Sunday of each month to receive donations of non-perishable items for the food pantry.

Foreign Mission - Our foreign mission is Water Missions International. Stories about the work of Water Missions have been shared in the past. However, more work needs to be done in this area. Pastor Werner maintains communication with Water Missions.

Funeral Meals – Disciples of Jesus prepare the social room for meals following a funeral. While the meals are catered, the volunteers see that everything is kept hot and fresh.

Greeters – These individuals are responsible for welcoming people to St. Paul each week, distributing the bulletin, and shaking hands with people as they leave following the worship service.

Health Kits – The Women of the NALC of St. Paul invite donations and assemble health kits which include items such as comb, tooth brush, hair brush, hand towel, bath towel, etc. These items are then donated to the NALC Disaster Response for distribution.

Holy Baptism – The sacrament of Holy Baptism is offered to those who are not previously baptized. Pastor Werner provides instruction regarding the Lutheran understanding of Baptism prior to the Baptism taking place. Each candidate for baptism is expected to have a congregational sponsor.

Holy Communion – The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered weekly.

Hospitality Team – This team will work to increase the efficiency of welcoming visitors to the congregation.

Huggables – The Take Joy group asks for donations of stuffed animals. These stuffed animals are placed in the sanctuary with tags attached. Anyone is welcome to take a huggable to someone they know who is in need of cheering up or simply a tangible sign that someone cares.

Individual Prayer – All individuals are encouraged to pray daily as part of their walk with Jesus. Devotional resources are provided from time to time to aid in their prayer life.

Lectors – These volunteers are scheduled in advance to read the lessons during worship.

Lenten Services – These services are sponsored by the area ecumenical group Christians Uniting. There are 7 congregations in Christians Uniting. A mid-week service is held once at each church during Lent, which also includes a Good Friday service. These services are planned by the pastors of the 7 congregations.

Mentors – Confirmed members of St. Paul, usually adults, serve as a mentor to those going through the two-year catechism program at St. Paul. Mentors are responsible for praying for and with their mentee, including them in the various ways mentors serve at St. Paul.

Morning Prayer – Every Wednesday morning any individual is invited come and pray. The group goes out for breakfast following prayer.

NALC Disaster Response – We partner with the NALC Disaster Response by collecting items that are needed when a disaster occurs. Such items include Bibles, flood buckets, health kits, school kits and gift cards.

NALC Women’s Retreat – The women of the NALC at St. Paul encourage ladies of all ages in the congregation to attend a yearly retreat sponsored by the Women of the Mid-Northeast Mission District.

New Members classes – New members instruction is offered when individuals desire to join St. Paul. New Members classes meet once a week for five weeks.

New Year's Day Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner – Each year St. Paul prepares and serves a free New Year's Day Pork and Sauerkraut dinner. The purpose is to 1. Bring families together by eating and serving dinner. 2. Provide a free meal that will be especially helpful to families with low or no income. 3. Provide an opportunity for fellowship among those individuals who live alone. 4. Bring people together in a Christian atmosphere. 5. Build relationships with people from area congregations.

Offering – At each service an offering is received. Some of the offerings include the letters written in partnership with Bread for the World, as well as items brought in for Harvest Home Sunday.

Prayer Card Reminders – Throughout the year we pray for each member of the congregation by name during the prayers of the church. Cards are sent out early in the week to those who will be named in the prayers the upcoming Sunday. We have 10 volunteers who write the notes.

Prayer chain – Those who are listed on the Sunday prayer pages at St. Paul are included in the weekly email sent out to members of the prayer chain. As we learn of individuals who have requested prayer, we pass their names along in an email as well so that the members of the prayer chain can include them in their daily prayers.

Prayer Partners – One of our goals for 2018 is to encourage each disciple of Jesus at St. Paul to have a prayer partner. Resources will be provided for prayer partners once they have been established. The goal of the prayer partner is to lift one another up in prayer on a daily basis.

Presence at area festivals – Westmoreland County several festivals throughout the summer. We will apply for a booth at each festival, provide materials on various faith topics as well as information about St. Paul, offer opportunity for prayer, and be a listening presence.

Salad Bar – At least twice a year SPY sponsors a salad bar. It is more commonly known as a covered dish. A sign-up sheet is posted so that the congregation can bring in those items. After worship anyone is welcome to enjoy lunch. People who attend are asked to give a free will offering.

School Kits – The Women of the NALC of St. Paul invite the congregation to donate items for school kits. Such items include, paper, pencils, pens, not books, calculators. The women assemble the school kits and send them to the NALC Disaster Response warehouse for distribution.

Small Group prayer training – One of the goals of 2018 is to offer opportunities to teach and train people to pray. This will be done in small group settings, hosted in people's homes. Those who host establish the guest list, giving particular attention to their friends, neighbors, acquaintances who are unchurched.

Stephen Ministry – Our Stephen Ministers are trained through the national Stephen Ministry organization to expand Christian care to disciples of Jesus at St. Paul.

Stewardship Committee – The Stewardship Committee shall instruct the congregation in the Christian use of time, talents, and treasure, and assist members in identifying their God-given spiritual gifts. It shall also publicize the congregation’s local, national, and world-wide benevolent ministries and encourage the congregation toward higher levels of service and proportionate giving.

Summer Service – From Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend a second worship service is added on Sunday mornings. This service is shorter, with an abbreviated liturgy. The service is held outside in our newly renovated chapel.

Sunday school – St. Paul’s offers Sunday school classes for children ages 3 and older. We have four adult Sunday school classes. Sunday school meets every Sunday, except the summer from 9:15-10:15

Take Heart – This is a bereavement group that meets approximately eight times a year to provide a listening presence for those mourning the death of a loved one. Materials geared toward a specific loss (ex. Death of a spouse, death of a child, coping with loss at the holidays) are provided.

Take Joy – This is a group of older members who gather monthly to share joyful experiences in their lives. They plan outings as desired by the group. Take Joy assists in leading worship services at the Loyalhanna Care Center in Latrobe. They also organize the “We Care Huggables” project. They seek donations of stuffed animals that are placed in the sanctuary so that worshippers can take them to someone who they feel would benefit from one.

Testimony Time – As stories of faith conversations are heard, Pastor Werner will encourage individuals to share brief stories during worship.

Ushers – These individuals collect the offering at each service and direct those in worship to come forward for communion.

Vacation Bible School – VBS is held annually in the summer. The VBS Director selects the theme, in consultation with Pastor Werner, then organizes the team, orders materials and sees that the week runs smoothly.

Website Videos – Pastor Werner has recorded a number over ten videos on a range of topics that can be accessed on St. Paul’s website. Mr. Brad Hayes is responsible for updating the website.

Westmoreland County Food Bank – Volunteers from St. Paul participate with the Westmoreland County Food Bank distributing food at the Pleasant Unity location. Each summer, St. Paul serves as a distribution site for Operation Fresh Express. The food bank brings produce and other items that we in turn distribute at their direction. Approximately 125 individuals/families are served the day we host.

Witness Training – There are members of St. Paul who have commented that they do not feel equipped to be a witness to their faith. Pastor Werner will provide training for those who wish to become better equipped. Suggestions on how to witness to one’s faith will appear in the monthly newsletter.

Worship and Music Committee – This committee assist the congregation council in seeing that the services of God’s house are conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy of the Lutheran Church, that competent ushers are recruited and trained, and that hymnals and other devotional material are provided and properly cared for. The committee shall supervise and strive to advance the welfare and effective service of the choirs of the congregation. It shall arrange for the care of paraments, vestments and musical instruments and, in consultation with the pastor and choir director, it shall furnish supplies appropriate for use in the worship of a congregation of the NALC.

Worship at Loyalhanna Care Center – L.C.C. is a nursing home and rehabilitation center in Latrobe. Members of the Take Joy group assist the Pastor in leading worship for the residents 4 times a year.