

## **Summary of Discipleship Coordinator position and how it's enriched the congregation of St Johns.**

My name is Beth Bard. I've been the Discipleship Coordinator of St Johns Lutheran Church since January 2019. This is a position created by the Joshua Team in 2018 that was open to the congregation and advertised on our website. Even though I was the only one who applied for the position, there was an interview process and review.

I have been a member of St Johns Lutheran Church since December 1990 actively involved in Social Ministry, Outreach and Nurture, and Council President for three years. Prior to my taking this discipleship position I was the Office Administrator at St. Johns for 8 years. During the years I've been at St Johns, I've gotten to know many of the members and care about them and their faith journey.

When I interviewed for the position of Discipleship Coordinator, I stated the first year would be a growing year. Visible signs of my position may not be realized right away. I also stressed the need for total support by the leaders of the church. My interview team and council agreed whole heartedly to this.

I'm now here because I've been asked to write a summary of my position and how it's enriched the congregation. What I'm about to share I hope comes as a surprise to many. It hasn't been a quiet 10 months. I've exceeded my own expectations and am quite proud of my accomplishments.

### **Faith Formation:**

- Co-leader of three women's Bible studies (average attendance 22)
- Co-leader of one women's retreat (18 attendees)
- Co-leader of one book club (8 attendees)
- Leader of Brew for Jesus Bible Study (13 attendees)
- Leader of Wine in the Bible (13 attendees)
- Attended and supported Interim Pastor during his Bible studies, workshops, and programs (Alpha, Faith Five, Financial Peace University, Introduction to the Bible, Kerygma)
- Member of the Adult Education Team (*only staff person on this team*)

*In the past year we've had a greater attendance in our Bible studies offered. I've witnessed persons attending a class who never attended anything before. We have women after attending their first Bible study, liked it so much they continue to come back for more. Bible study is a mark of discipleship. Witnessing the changes in persons participating in these classes has been rewarding.*

### **Service/Mission Work**

- Co-leader Service Sunday
- Participated in Mission on the Mount
- Leader God's Work Our Hands Event

*These were small events, but well attended. Seeds were planted on volunteerism and service work. Members enjoyed the community of fellow believers and common goal of serving others. They want more events that allow for opportunities to serve. The joy comes from working with families and with children and bringing the concept of service into their lives.*

### **Relationship with The Children's Garden of St Johns Lutheran Church**

- Maintaining a visible church presence with staff, children and parents – had one parent attend a women's group event
- Building relationship with staff – two staff members have attended women's group events
- Worked with School Age Staff to include children in Youth Sunday
- Coordinated effort to install a children's library in our church library
- Coordinate volunteers to come monthly to organize library shelves
- Coordinate volunteers to read to the children on a weekly basis
- Send out weekly flyer with Taking Faith Home information as well as invitations to special events at St Johns or Christian parenting information

*The school is a ministry of St Johns Lutheran Church. Needing clearances to interact with the children doesn't make it easy for members to be involved in the school. That doesn't mean we shouldn't do outreach. How can members be part of this ministry? And how can we as a church provide witness and outreach to the staff and families? I am working on building a relationship with the school. I'm looking for ways to have church members involved. The library is a beginning. There are four library aids and six persons who come in weekly to read. It's a start.*

### **Lay Ministry**

- Keep record and track of fourteen members (including myself) who visit homebound members and bring them communion

*Our homebound members can feel forgotten. Fourteen members serve as a liaison to the church while spending time visiting and bringing them the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This is an important ministry for our homebound members. They are shown love and care through these visits and are so appreciative of the time spent with them.*

### **Connections and Care Team**

- Established and coordinate a small team to provide outreach and nurture to church members who are hospitalized or grieving
- Make monthly phone calls/send emails to persons who have not been in attendance for a few weeks
- Set up flower delivery schedule each week

*Our Outreach and Nurture Team has disbanded. This ministry team has taken on many of the responsibilities of the Outreach and Nurture Team, but in a smaller scale. In the meantime, the message is we are all part of the Connections and Care Team. We are all to be taking care of each other and not making this the sole responsibility of a few people.*

### **Fellowship Opportunities**

- Museum of the Bible Bus Trip
- National Cathedral Tour and Tea Trip
- Women's Night Out x 2
- Brewery Tour and Lunch
- Dolce Vita Dinner Out
- Advent Family Fun Night

*Small group gatherings, bus trips, opportunities to have Christian fellowship. Members are meeting members. With each event we're building up a community of faith and enriching each other's lives.*

## **Social Media**

- Send out weekly e-newsblasts with a personal blog section
- Website developer and administrator
- Facebook administrator
- Provide publicity to various online media

*Communication. Without it, where would we be?*

*The weekly writings are a process involving prayer, Bible study, research, more prayer, and belief that the Holy Spirit is present with each writing. My hope as people read the blog type writing they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and are enriched by that presence.*

## **Technology Support**

- Provide sole hardware/software technology support for entire church
- Liaison with Morefield Communication for our networking system

*We are now able to access the internet throughout the entire education building without interruption or frustration. This has allowed for Sunday School classes to research and show materials relevant to their studies. This has given council the ability to view all reports online. It's opened many doors and opportunities for discovery.*

## **What do I hope to accomplish next year?**

The business world uses the term SMART goals for well-defined and measurable goals. The following are NOT SMART goals, but ideas of areas where I would like to put my focus. I want to:

- provide more Bible study opportunities that reach a greater demographic
- reach out to our Empty Nesters who have suddenly discovered time they didn't have before
- work with the Children's Garden and continue to build a relationship with their staff and families
- help individuals discover their gifts and how they can best use them
- bring a greater understanding to St Johns on the meaning of discipleship
- continue to grow in my own faith journey in becoming a disciple of Jesus

## **One last thought:**

To God I give all the glory! Amen.