

## **St. John's Strategic Planning Project What is it and why are doing it?**

**Strategic planning is a process where an organization defines its vision of the future and creates a roadmap of how it intends to get there. The plan provides a framework within which daily decisions can be made so that all projects and activities can lead toward creating this future environment.**

**Pastor Ed and the Church Council recently formed a committee to work with them performing a strategic planning process for St. John's. The charter of the group is to develop and publish a strategic plan that is accepted by and creates excitement within the congregation.**

**Members of the committee are:**

**Ed Treat, Senior Pastor  
Cheri Fischer, Council President  
Marshall Saunders, Past Council President  
Rob Beyer, former Church Council member  
Skip Smith, Committee Chair**

**As noted above the first and most important step is to create the vision. The approach will be to compare St. Johns to what model or benchmark congregations within our Synod are doing and define a set of "best practices" that sets them apart from others; examine some churches in the western suburbs near us to assess their strategic direction; survey the staff and the congregation for their input; and consolidate all this into a unified vision that fits our congregation and is affordable.**

**After creating the vision the roadmap needs to be developed. This includes several key steps:**

- 1. Defining what projects should be undertaken within the next five years and the priority/timeline of each to help us move toward accomplishing our vision. It may also be discovered during this period that some efforts currently underway do not fit the vision and need to be modified or cancelled.**
- 2. Determining any positions required to be added to staff and the organization structure needed to implement the**

**projects while continuing to carry out the ongoing mission of the congregation.**

- 3. Identifying any physical plant and equipment additions/modifications needed for successful implementation of the projects including building remodeling and/or the acquisition of any new office equipment and related software support systems.**
- 4. Developing capital and expense budget impact estimates for the five year strategic plan.**

**When the roadmap or path forward is clearly defined it will be published and presented to the congregation for review and approval.**

**The timing of this effort is not precisely defined at this point but the team is hopeful the project will be completed prior to publication of next year's budget.**

**This is the first in a series of articles that will describe the strategic planning process in greater detail and keep the congregation informed of the team's progress and status.**

**We welcome input and help from any member. If you have comments, questions, and suggestions or want to participate on the project please see any team member or send an email to Skip at: [hssmithiii@frontiernet.net](mailto:hssmithiii@frontiernet.net).**