

January, 2002

Dear Members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

In the pages that follow you will read our vision of ministry in 2002 and beyond. Our congregation and consultants, through Phase I, Phase II and currently Phase III have given this Task Force input through which we have vigilantly drafted this vision document. Your Church Council has reviewed and offered input.

This vision is our roadmap to the future. It paints a picture of the church and school that, God willing, we will become in the next seven years as we strive to speak the truth of God's Word. While some individual members of our family of believers may find specific ideas of theirs missing, we have strived to look at the overall picture and incorporate as many ideas (new and old) into our vision as possible. Your comments, suggestions and shared ideas are being kept to help in developing strategies. Perhaps your idea belongs in the category of "how we get there" which comes a little later. Right now our purpose is to plan "where we are going."

Upon close examination, one will find a common thread winding through all nine areas considered: continuing current programs and expanding into new areas and new paradigms will not be possible by maintaining our status quo in terms of our current facilities. They must be upgraded or replaced; **DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION** in following our mission: *"As a family united in faith through the Holy Scriptures, we exist to give praise, honor and glory to the triune God, to nurture and train the family of believers through God's Word and to reach out to the changing world with a changeless Christ."*

We gratefully acknowledge the insights of our church consultants, your participating in the parish assistance process (the Listening Sunday and open forums) and especially, the promises and blessings of our loving, almighty, all knowing God who was present at each of our meetings and will be there to guide us, as a congregation, to continue our mission.

In the words of Matthew 6:33, *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"*, let us **GO FORWARD IN CHRIST** into the 21st century.

Your Task Force,
Ross Deden, Chair
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Pastor N. Martin Mielke
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