

SERVE THE CITY REVISITED

We as a congregation are involved with an ecumenical venture in Cedar Rapids called Serve The City. This has been and still is a rather exciting work among around 40 churches of various denominations and fellowships geared to reaching this community through three primary emphases: prayer, care, and share. This includes congregations such as First Lutheran, St. Mark Lutheran, Encounter Christian, First Assembly of God, Calvary Baptist, Mt. Zion Baptist, and many others.

However, as time goes on and we focus on the usual (and unusual) church activities, it is easy to forget what this is all about. So, here is a little reminder of our involvement in Serve The City, and an invitation to get personally involved in some of the opportunities to serve through this exciting interchurch project.

We spent our first year in this project enlisting people to pray for their families and neighbors. This, as you know, was visually highlighted through the use of the large mural (hanging now on the west wall of the narthex) of downtown Cedar Rapids. There have been amazing stories of how God has worked in the lives of those who are named on the mural. We are now in the second year, where we are emphasizing doing tangible actions that show care for our families and neighbors. The third year we will be working with our partner churches to put together a large event that will present an opportunity for people to become followers of Jesus Christ, and help connect people with services in our community that are relevant to their needs.

The overall purpose is to reach out to our communities with love in demonstrative ways so that we build credibility with our non-Christian friends and neighbors. With this credibility, we hope to utilize these connections with our communities as bridges to share the Good News of Jesus with those who do not yet know Him as their Lord and Savior.

One reason I am highlighting our involvement in Serve The City is that throughout the remainder of this year, we will be asking many of our members to become involved with training events that will equip them to do the many different things needed to prepare for next year's big event. This will be sometime in June 2008, and will give all the churches involved many opportunities to "share" their faith in Christ by helping people in their needs.

Right now, Serve The City will need at least 1000 volunteers, so please consider where God may be calling you to help in this event. But remember, keep on praying for the names on the mural, and keep looking for simple ways to show care to your family and friends.

In Christ's Peace,

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