

## St Johannes Lutheran Church

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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of our church is to bring healing (spiritual and physical), hope and prosperity to the children of God. We are committed to the mission of making God's love known to all humanity by providing hope and healing through the word of God.**

#### **1. Background:**

The name of our church is St Johannes Lutheran church. It is located at No. 10 Fairway in Kelvin, **Sandton, Johannesburg.**

St Johannes Lutheran church turned 100 years in 1998. It started off as the Nordic Lutheran Church to serve the spiritual needs of the Nordic people who came to Transvaal to work on gold mines. The Nordic church evolved through various stages and challenges to present day St Johannes Lutheran church.

The present church structure was built in 1976 in Kelvin but it has had to relocate from several locations in Johannesburg throughout its history. **The church then officially became full member of ELKSA-NT as from October 1995.** Following a meeting between Midrand Lutheran church and St Johannes Lutheran church **and ELKSA-NT Representatives in 1998,** the two congregations formed a parish served by one pastor.

#### **2. Changes**

This church was originally established to serve the spiritual needs of Nordic people. From the early 1990's many Black Lutherans found a spiritual home at St Johannes Lutheran church. This was initially met with resistance from members who insisted that the church should continue to serve the Nordic people only. **The Nordic community numbers dwindled and black members increased slowly. Currently we have an average of 50 adults, 10 youth and 13 Sunday school children attending church services every Sunday.**

**3. Church Services:** We have church services every Sunday with sacrament (Holy Communion) at 10h15. The service is conducted in English. We use the Australian Hymnbook and folders consisting of ELCSA hymn books in different languages. We also encourage people to pray in their home languages.

**We alternate last Sunday of the month where we have informal service. The aim of informal Sunday is to try and address the diverse needs of our congregation members. We celebrate according to our Church Calendar activities, our own year calendar (e.g. dedication-creating an awareness of giving) as well as our country celebrations (e.g. women's and cultural days) and also address current activities that affects ubuntu and Christianity (e.g. xenophobia. People will be encouraged to dress according to the theme of the day. These informal services can be acted or can be dialogue. The worship team, together with the pastor, was established to plan the informal service challenges.**

#### **4. Church Administration.**

Unfortunately we do not have funds to employ full time staff to carry out office administration. We have one full time staff member, janitor **who is responsible for security, cleanliness of the church and administration work; organist to lead us with Sunday singing. Most of administration work is done by council members on voluntary basis. We encourage members who are not on council to use their skills and talents to assist where they can.**

**Strength:**

**Have a very active support structure during bereavement and managing and introducing church activities.**

St Johannes Lutheran church council together with the incumbent pastor manage the administration of the congregation's affairs. Other groupings like wardens, worship team and youth and youth choir and the Sunday school facilitate the Sunday services

**5. Challenges**

The main challenge is finding innovative ways of growing our congregation. A special emphasis is how to attract and keep the youth in the church. **Majority of our members live out of Kelvin area and this makes it difficult for youth and kids to attend activities as they depend on the availability of their parents for transport.**

**People volunteering to use their skills and talents to serve putting pressure on few individuals.**

**To have more volunteers to maintain the relationship with the crèche that we are assisting in Alexander and expand our outreach programme to help others.**

**Try and attract more men to attend and participate in church activities.**

At the moment we do not have a pastor but hope to have one from 01/09/2011