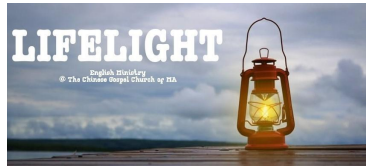


English Ministry Annual Report

2023



As part of our English Congregation's Mission to "Experience and Embody the Love of God", we will join in our church's theme of the pursuit of happiness.

In the pursuit of happiness, the LifeLight Congregation seeks to be shaped around 5 intentional steps to become **People of the Story**

1. **People of the Story:** Become People of the who know the Story of the Bible
2. **People of the Story of Jesus** Immerse ourselves *even more* in to the Story of Jesus
3. **People of the Church's Story** See how the apostle's writing take the Story of Israel and the story of Jesus into the next generation and into a different culture, and how this generation led all the way to our current generation
4. **People of the New Story** Counter the stories that bracket *our story* and that reframe our story
5. **Embrace this story** so we are saved and can be transformed by the gospel story

In our Sunday morning service we will be spending time together in worship through scripture readings, singing, congregation prayer and hearing a sermon. During our Sunday school we will engage in a discussion of responding to the sermon

This year's sermon series will be focused on the Gospel of Matthew.

The "**Good News**" in Matthew

The Story of Israel that comes to completion in the saving story of Jesus, who is Messiah of Israel, Lord over all, and the Davidic Savior.

Our congregation will look at how Jesus proclaimed the *good news* that the kingdom of God was coming and had arrived in Him.

We will be challenged by Jesus's teaching his followers of what life in God's kingdom looks like, as the call to surrender ourselves to God's kingdom mission.

It is by preaching the kingdom, living according to the kingdom that Jesus tells his followers that they are blessed!

One practical way that we will be given to engage with the text is for our congregation members to handwrite out the Gospel of Matthew as part of a devotional practice.

Ways We Become “People of the Story”

Young Adult

A group of Young Adults in the English Congregation started to meet together to begin a Bible reading and discussion program called “Immerse”. It’s been a fantastic time to get to know each other better and grow in our understanding of God’s word.

English Congregation Friday Fellowship

Our Friday night English Fellowship exists for all of those who participate in the English Congregation and who are already not currently involved in a Friday fellowship.

We have started off this year with a short series called “the lullaby effect” that is centered around re-reading stories of the Bible that we are so familiar with that we automatically assume we know what the story is about.

In doing so we seek to gain fresh insight into God’s story and encourage one another in our faith to respond to the stories in our own lives

English Congregation Compassionate Outreach (ECCO)

In the upcoming year, we will continue the call God has given the church to care for his “protected class of people” as an opportunity to reach out to those in physical need (refugees, the poor, immigrants).

In partnership with the Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministries a group of 8 individuals from the English and Chinese congregations that has adopted the name “Loving Our Global Neighbor” and are participating in the “Befriend a Family” program and visit and care for a family that has recently moved to the United States.

For those who are not able to dedicate the necessary time for the “befriend a family program” there are other ways to get involved in serving in this ministry. .

The Welcoming Alliance For Refugee Ministries (W.A.R.M) hosts several events throughout the year where volunteers can serve and interact with the families from across the globe who now in our “neighborhoods”

Whether it is through showing love to our literal neighbors next door, or even those who God brings into our lives who are different than us, our goal is to show how God’s love has changed us.

The English Congregation’s involvement in these kinds of outreach opportunities do so through the conviction that God does not want us to form our lives into a “spiritual” vs “physical separation that causes us to miss the fact that God cares about the physical lives of people.

The question is asked “what is like when God’s kingdom shows up in the world”? The English congregation seeks to show that acts of love, mercy, compassion, and generosity abound!

