

Ideas For How to Live Out the Mission in 2024



Share Your Testimony with Someone

A key part of the mission for anyone, take the challenge to share your journey of faith this year. Just tell your story. Share what Jesus has done in your life and what a difference your faith has made to you. It's as simple as having a conversation.

Invite Someone to Sunday Worship

An important opportunity for anyone! Make this year the one where you decide to invite someone to Sunday worship. Many people are more receptive to a simple invitation than you might expect. Extend an invitation to someone you know.

Prayer Walk

Organize a prayer walk with a group or with the whole church. A prayer walk involves a specific location and time when you walk around the neighborhood, praying for each home, the area, and God's presence in people's lives. You can organize prayer guides, stations, maps, and many other details to pray for our neighbors.

Feed My Starving Children

Coordinate an evening to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. FMSC is a non-profit Christian organization packing individual meals for starving children around the world. The individual meals cost only a few cents each. We help pack the meals and assist in other duties as needed. There are tasks that include standing and some sitting. Children 5 years old and older may participate in this service project. Plan the group outing and invite others to attend.

Phil's Friends

Coordinate a time to volunteer as a church with Phil's Friends. They are a great organization that helps people fighting cancer. Volunteers help by preparing cards, writing notes, and assembling care packages. You can organize an event to volunteer at their facility or we have a done a local version at our church as a Sunday service project.

Open Mic Night/Talent Show

Host an evening on our church stage for people to show off their talents. This is a great event for bringing out extended family and friends for an open mic event.

Church Yard Sale

Throw a yard sale on our church's front yard. One idea is to invite people in the church, friends, neighbors and others to have their own tables and sell their items. Or, another version of a yard sale includes collecting donated items to make the yard sale a fundraiser for a worthwhile organization. This one is a lot of work, but it can allow us to meet our neighbors and find a good home for used items.

Coat Drive Community Involvement

Each year our church does a winter clothes drive to benefit the Christian Service Center of Chicago. We are so grateful for the support provided by our church family to help out kids in Chicago! What would it look like to extend the drive to our local community and neighbors? How can we get them involved to donate items? Find a way to expand the winter clothes drive beyond just our church.

School Supply Drive Community Involvement

Each year our church does a school supply drive to benefit the Christian Service Center of Chicago. We are so grateful for the support provided by our church family to help out kids in Chicago! What would it look like to extend the drive to our local community and neighbors? How can we get them involved to donate items? Find a way to expand the school supply drive beyond just our church.

Pancake Breakfast/Prayer Breakfast

Host a breakfast before a Sunday morning worship service. This can be a special holiday or Sunday, or just a week when breakfast is provided. Tell people in the church and have them invite others to a breakfast and worship. Another version is to host a prayer breakfast with guided prayer and a guest speaker giving a devotion. Find volunteers to cook and invite others to come out to this special Sunday.

Parents Night Out

Use our facility for an evening of babysitting for local families. Advertise on Facebook and other platforms, invite friends with children, and spread the word to let them know that we will watch their children (for free!) so parents can have an evening out.

Church Picnic/Cookout

An annual tradition to do a picnic at our church each Summer, but consider how we can invite friends, neighbors, and the community to a Sunday cookout. This could be held offsite at a local park or at our facility to invite others on a Sunday.

Visit a Nursing Home

Organize a group of people to visit a nursing home. There are several in our area that accept volunteers to come out to talk with, play games, or just spend time with residents.

Palm Sunday Event

Each year we try to do an event where it is easy to invite others for Palm Sunday. This has included breakfasts, worship Sundays, and more. Help this year to make Palm Sunday memorable as we provide a special weekend to invite others to attend.

Food Drive

We have supported both the Glen House Food Pantry (formerly the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry) and the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Both are worthwhile organizations. An idea is to raise funds and collect food items to benefit a food pantry. Get volunteers, spread the word, and encourage people in our community to donate to the cause.

Walk-In Ministry Fundraiser

A ministry we support in the area, the Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry, is a resource for those experiencing homelessness and under-resourced people. They provide hotel rooms, vouchers, and gift cards. Recently they told supporting churches (including Cornerstone) that they have a need greater than the existing budget. Consider hosting a fundraiser with all proceeds going to the walk-in ministry. This could be any effort that involves getting people to work toward the goal of raising funds for this worthwhile organization.

Free Community Car Wash

Organizations often use car washes as a fundraiser, but this idea is to plan a totally free car wash for the community. Put out signs, get volunteers, and wash for free!

Chili Game Night

This can be a combination of church event and community event, but host a chili game night at our facility. Encourage people to invite others! Versions of this event include a chili cook-off with prizes, multiple types of games, and other ways to have a fun evening.

Make Treats for Teachers or Other Public Servants

From Churchill elementary to the local fire police or fire departments, consider a day of handing out treats. The first day of school, for example, would be a great day to give baked goods to teachers to show we appreciate their efforts. You can coordinate bakers in the church, write notes, and give out treats to different locations.

Create a Community Garden

We have plenty of space on our church grounds and could provide space for a community garden. Our church would provide plots of land and water, then allow local people to have a place to plant a garden. This idea involves planning the site and getting out the word to provide garden space.

Arrange Clean up at Churchill Park

Our next-door neighbor at our facility is Churchill Park. They frequently need help with cleaning the park and other work. Arrange with them a time for our church to send a group of volunteers to lend a hand.

Give out Water Bottles on the Prairie Path

This idea was done in the early days of our church and is worth repeating! Consider hosting a day, like a Saturday morning, to hand out water bottles on the busy walking and biking Prairie Path. This is a great idea for the hot summer months. The project can be done with only a few people.

Community Self-Defense Class

This idea might be more about *helping* with this effort as Matt has been teaching at other churches and would like to provide free classes on self-defense at our facility. Help is needed spreading the word and planning the classes.

Host Financial Peace University and Offer Childcare

Our church owns the full set of videos and has done Financial Peace University in the past. Coordinate a time to host Financial Peace University for the community. As a bonus, consider doing the event and providing free childcare for families that attend.

Free Family Portraits

This idea can be combined with another effort, or can be a stand-alone project, to give free portraits to families. Set up a background, get a photographer, and provide this service to families to have a nice photo.

Trunk or Treat

Coordinate a church effort to host a trunk or treat event for the community. These outreach efforts involve people decorating their vehicles and handing out candy to kids for the Halloween season. Information about our church would be available to families as they attend the event.

Christmas Toy Drive

End the year with a toy drive. There are several organizations we can partner with that collect toys for under resourced families. Our local drive can involve church members, our community, neighbors and more. Lead the effort to collect toys to be donated for the Christmas season.

Easter Egg Hunt

This used to be an annual effort at our church until it got too big. An Easter egg hunt does not have to be a huge event and can be scaled to any size. Do an egg hunt for special needs families, for immigrants, for younger children, or any other group. This project would require plenty of help and planning.

Offer Classes at the Church Building

We want our facility to be used for the community, so consider hosting a class at our church building. Maybe you can teach cooking, personal finance, car repair, parenting, or any other skill. Find a way to provide helpful classes for our community at Cornerstone's building.