

DiscipleLife Alive! Worksheet for Congregations



This *DLA!* Worksheet is to help you follow a plan for your congregation's involvement in and commitment to the NT-NL vision for ministry together.

Follow the check list for each step:

- _____ **STEP 1.** Our Pastor and Council are supportive of the vision and goals of *DLA!* and recognize and convey that *DiscipleLife Alive!* gifts are over and above regular congregation mission support for the wider church.
- _____ **STEP 2.** We have appointed a *DLA!* **Key Leader** for our congregation and have sent his/her name to Pastor Mel Hammer (melvin.hammer@att.net or 972.296.3703).
- _____ **STEP 3.** Our **Key Leader** has gathered a Team (including Pastor and Council President) to lead *DLA!* in our congregation.
- _____ **STEP 4.** We have been in touch with our *DLA!* **Ambassador** and have planned a presentation. Call Pastor Kathy Cox (817.498.4339) for information about the **Ambassador** in your area.
- _____ **STEP 5.** We have sent in our Order Form or downloaded *DLA!* materials for distribution.
- _____ **STEP 6.** We are making plans to participate in one of the Bishop's *DLA!* **Training Celebrations** in the fall of 2011, prior to our congregational campaign.
- _____ **STEP 7.** We have a plan for conducting the Bible studies in preparation for the congregational response to *DLA!*
- _____ **STEP 8.** We will begin including a petition in the Prayers of the Day each Sunday to lift up the Vision and goals of *DLA!* calling and forming leaders for *DiscipleLife Alive!* in this and all Congregations in the NT-NL mission territory, and for our mutual ministry together.
- _____ **STEP 9.** We have successfully conducted the campaign in our congregation.
- _____ **STEP 10.** At the conclusion of our congregational campaign, we have reported our success to our members and celebrated with prayer and thanks to God.
- _____ **STEP 11.** We have sent our congregation's results and total responses to the Mission Office for inclusion in the overall goal total and for listing members on the Roll of Donors posted on the web.
- _____ **STEP 12.** We will continue to pray that all congregations across our territory will join in the fulfillment of the vision of *DiscipleLife Alive!*

DiscipleLife Alive! Congregational Goals

Average Worship Attendance	3 year Goal	Annual Goal	Weekly Goal
up to 50 (42 congregations)	\$10,000	\$ 3,335	\$ 65
51-100 (38 congregations)	\$12,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 75
101-150 (13 congregations)	\$27,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 175
151-200 (9 congregations)	\$39,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 250
Over 200 (11 congregations)	\$60,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 385

With any questions, please contact one of the *DLA!* Directors:

Pastor Bill Waxenberg (bwaxenberg@clcdallas.org) ~ Stephanie Varnum (Stephanie@ntnl.org)
 Pastor Jon Lee (jleerev@tx.rr.com) ~ Pastor Phil Geleske (pastorphil@rejoicelutheran.org)
 or the Mission Office, PO Box 560587 ~ Dallas, TX 75356-0587 ~ www.ntnl.org, 214-637-6865.

DiscipleLife Alive! and Your Congregation

*A Vision for Mission by the People of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana
 Mission Area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 2011 - 2014*



DiscipleLife Alive! is here! This is a time for Lutherans in northern Texas, northern Louisiana, eastern New Mexico and southern Oklahoma to renew the faith life and mission of our congregations. Each baptized person has the potential to transform how ministry is done across our mission territory. You and your congregation are invited to be a partner in this exciting adventure of faith and now is the time to act!

DiscipleLife Alive! is a journey to **Form Leaders** for *DiscipleLife* across our territory. We aim to create the *DiscipleLife* Center for Mission at Briarwood, to provide the financial support to sustain Leadership Formation activities, and to complete the Jubilee Centre in Sierra Leone, West Africa. This

involves, in part, a challenge to raise \$3 million. The dollars graciously given by folks across our mission territory will be used in a variety of ministries described in brochures and a DVD which each congregation is receiving.



I personally encourage you to take this vision to your congregation and challenge them with the opportunity to be part of this renewal and transformation of ministry we can do together. If congregations meet and exceed the goals we have set by following the process recommended on the next few pages, we will celebrate a great success at the 2012 NT-NL Mission Assembly.

This fall, we are holding *DLA!* **Training Celebrations** across our mission territory at which I will be present to engage members of your congregation in dialog about the potential for *DiscipleLife Alive!* to have a transforming impact on your congregation and your local mission. I hope you will choose a date that best suits you and begin inviting disciples to join us. Thank you for entering into *DiscipleLife Alive!* with us!

May God grant renewal to our vision and an outcome that provides leaders with courage and wisdom for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Thank you for your prayers and financial support of *DiscipleLife Alive!*

Welcome to *DiscipleLife Alive!*

† *Kevin S. Kanouse*

Bishop Kevin S. Kanouse
 NT-NL Mission Area
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Leading DiscipleLife Alive! in Your Congregation

“What can we do better together?”

First, each congregation should designate **KEY LEADERS** for *DiscipleLife Alive!* Together with the pastor, the **KEY LEADER** will organize a team and make plans for your congregational response. *DLA!* is a three-year financial commitment with long-term benefits for your congregation and all of the people of NT-NL.

Here is the plan for inviting your congregation's response.



Congregational Campaign for *DiscipleLife Alive!*

1. Remember to convey that *DiscipleLife Alive!* gifts are over and above regular congregation mission support for the wider church.
2. Pastor and Council together agree to appoint a *DLA!* Team of 5-7 Key Leaders to create and execute a plan for *DLA!* and to encourage members' prayers, participation in Bible study, and financial support for *DLA!* Contact the *DLA!* Ambassador for support and direction.
3. Plan to attend one of the Bishop's *DLA!* Training Celebrations in the fall of 2011.
4. Announce that *“DiscipleLife Alive! is coming!”* in newsletters and bulletins for two months prior to your congregational response time.
5. Order brochures, bulletin inserts, DVDs, pledge cards, offering envelopes and all available *DLA!*



communications pieces from the NT-NL office or the NTNL website (www.ntnl.org). Order forms for materials can be downloaded from the website, or contact Tyna Osle at Tyna@ntnl.org, or call 214-637-6865. Review and become familiar with all information.



6. Choose a three to four week time frame as a congregational *DLA!* emphasis and response.
7. About five weeks prior to the formal kick off, engage congregational leaders and members in the six week Bible Study, *“Arounderd in Grace to Run the Race”*

to think about mission, outreach, and renewal of your congregation. Use this in a variety of settings, Sunday School, mid-week Bible studies, with men and women's groups, even your youth!

8. Pray every Sunday in the Prayers of the Church for the growth and renewal that will come from *DLA!* Use or adapt the prayers that are being provided for you.

9. Now to the **RESPONSE** phase!...



Begin the **Response** phase in earnest with pastoral and lay leadership support through prayer and with words of affirmation. **Tell the story!**

Week 1

- Sunday:** Use DVD to introduce *DLA!* or temple talk/sermon about *DLA!* vision and goals at worship. Use bulletin insert or distribute packets as available. Pray for *DLA!* in your Prayers of the Church.
- Monday:** Mail letter from Bishop/Pastor with *DLA!* Brochure and FAQs.

Week 2

- Sunday:** Temple talk/Ambassador/Leadership Formation emphasis, use one of the other DVD videos in worship to tell the story. Pray for *DLA!* in your Prayers of the Church.
- Monday:** Mail letter from your *DLA!* Team with pledge card.



Week 3

- Sunday:** Temple Talk or DVD emphasizing Center for Mission at Briarwood. Pray for *DLA!* in your Prayers of the Church.
- Gather and dedicate your pledges and gifts as an act of worship, praying for the completion of our *DLA!* vision.**

Week 4

- Sunday:** Announce the results of your congregation response and celebrate the response. Invite others who have not responded to make a commitment and place it in the offering plate that Sunday. Pray for *DLA!* in your Prayers of the Church.
- Monday:** Send the results of your congregation's total response to the Mission Office for inclusion in the overall goal total and for listing members on the Roll of Donors posted on the web. In the next newsletter celebrate the congregation's overall response and invite prayers for the overall completion of our *DLA!* goal!

Ways to supplement the plan:

At worship or a congregational fellowship meal prior to the public phase, invite the *DLA!* Ambassador or a Key Leader to make a *DLA!* presentation, give a testimonial on the need for Leadership Formation, or use the *DLA!* DVDs. Identify several generous individuals who are open to a personal visit from a *DLA!* leader to consider a leadership gift (\$10,000+). Call Jim Level (817.925.1385 or Levels1@swbell.net) with contact information. If your goal is \$12,000, for instance, ask 11 other families (12 including you) to pledge or give \$1000 to *DLA!* Then invite the whole congregation to build on this generosity!

