

Charter Sunday Celebration
Peace Lutheran Church
A planning Guide

1. Establish a Charter Sunday Celebration Committee. We had their picture incorporated in the bulletin.
2. Design invitations to be sent out to:
 - a. Those who supported the new mission church financially and with their prayers
 - b. Churches who have supported and encouraged you.
 - c. District officials and circuit councilor
 - d. Guests and visitors who have worshiped in the mission church
 - e. Each member of the new mission church who will be charter members
 - f. Extra invitation available to give to members to invite their family and friends. (We printed 200 invitations)
3. Design a Charter that will be signed by the charter members.
 - a. We had it printed on 17x11 parchment paper
 - b. We had three extra lines paper so that it was easy for families to sign during the service.
 - c. We included a reduced version in the invitations to the charter members so that they would be able to read the charter before they signed it.
4. Design a special item to be given away during the service so the attendees will have a remembrance of the day. (We had a key chain made with our logo on one side and the Church's name on the other.)
5. Invite a District official to be the guest speaker for the Sunday. (This is a good visual for your church to see a ministry beyond our own walls and a tie to our larger church body.
6. Design a special commemorative plaque to be given to the District President and the Church developer.
7. Incorporate the signing of the Synodical Constitution into the worship service along with the charter signing.
8. Ask a local newspaper to do an article on the new church. Our newspaper was interested in how a new church gets started.
9. Ask a near by nursery to borrow extra plants and greenery for the service. It gives the service an extra special look.
10. Form a special choir to sing for this service and to lead the congregation in singing.
11. Develop a pictorial directory of charter members to be given out at the service along with a copy of the church's constitution.
12. Involve the youth in the service as readers and help distribute the give aways to the congregation.
13. Have a brunch immediately following the service. This gives time for added fellowship.
14. Coordinate games for children during the brunch so that the parents can visit with other adults.

15. Develop a special poster to have the congregation sign that will be available for the following year which will include new members that will be joining in the future.
16. Take a picture after the service of all the charter members.
17. Send out a copy of the service and a giveaway to those members who could not attend, especially if they are seasonal members.

Special Worship Preparations

1. District Official Preaching.
2. Choir or praise team lead singing.
3. Children's Message (describe your logo or explain Charter Sunday)
4. Have church officers sign the Synodical Constitution
5. Have your church members sign the charter. (Have at least two songs ready for congregation to sing)
6. Have your church president make special presentation to district official and church planter.
7. Have your church president thank all the individuals that went the extra mile to make your charter Sunday a great success.
8. Close your service with a joyful upbeat Hymn.

Be sure to thank your Charter Committee for all their hard work. Finally be sure to keep first things first. Give praise and glory to God for what He has done and is doing in your midst.

To God be the Glory.
Pastor Dennis Liebich