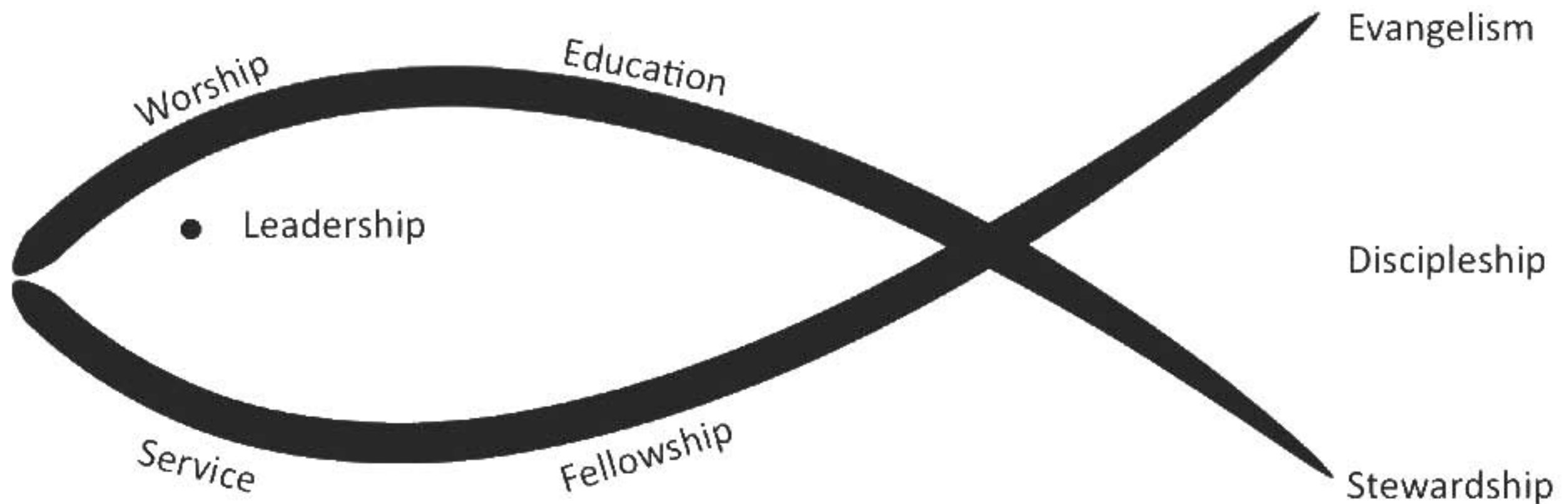




Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship

Diagram of a Healthy Congregation



The "body" of the congregation is healthy when it has a vision carried out by its leadership, and as the congregation Worships, participates in Education, Serves, and enjoys Fellowship with one another.

The body has movement as the congregation lives out its faith through Evangelism (encouraging faith internally and externally), Discipleship (following Jesus), and Stewardship (giving of our time, talent and treasure). These gives the body movement and help the body remain healthy.

Where We Are

- Worship & Music decided to try a new kind of service and start it at 10:00a for July and August
- It is very important for us to explore what "church" and "worship" may look like over the next 5 - 10 years
- We began to explore a different style. The combination of style and time seems to be meeting a need. Attendance at the 10:00a service has increased, though it's difficult to tell if it is attributable to the **worship style, time, publicity, website**, new **greeting and visitor follow-up**, or some combination.

Goals for Psalms & Sandals

Ritual	Joyful	Meaningful	Communal Worship	Sermons - engaging - discussion
Provocative	Fun	Worshipful	Not "Lutheran lite"	Grows & challenges spiritually
Liturgical	Relevant	Up-beat	Individual Worship	Centered in the Word
Themes?	Sacred	Sacraments	Real / Authentic	Lingers thru the week
Welcoming	Prayer	Engaging	Not "Christian lite"	Appeals to the senses
Contemplative	Holy	Not boring	Considers members' time	

What We've Heard - Joys

- “What a difference; we have noticed the increase in attendance with a more contemporary worship style”;
- “This time will work even when we begin Sunday School in the fall”;
- “We finally have a service that speaks in today’s language which makes songs and scripture understandable to all”;
- A long-time member commented that she and her husband now felt “comfortable” with the service;
- “We live in a time when families are struggling with how to act out their faith and having to choose while having to choose between the secular demands that conflict on Sunday mornings”;
- “The earlier service time enables families to be intentional about worship and still be able to meet the demands of secular responsibilities”;
- Attendance is increased – 8/14 8:00 am – 65; 10:00am – 136
- We tried something different and it has proven to be effective

What We've Heard - Concerns

- Earlier start time for Sunday School may impact teacher's ability to arrive on time and thus opt not to teach;
- Concern about the potential for a longer service at 8 am running into the Sunday School start time;
- Shortened class time does not allow for completion of the lesson plan;
- Valued fellowship time will be lessened;
- Signage needs to be changed.

What We've Heard - Other

- Sunday School attendance has diminished over the past months and throughout the last year . Last year Bethel tried something new with an intergenerational gathering before classes began. This was discontinued because it seemed that this type of format was not meeting the needs of the children - for the older kids, it was too young; for the younger kids, it was above their heads. An additional concern for Sunday School is being able to find teachers, people willing to give up their time in service to teach.
- What we have been doing appears to no longer work. Yet something has happened over the summer to make us believe that change can make a difference.

8:00am

2nd srvc

Total

Worship Trends

600

450

300

150

0

Apr 3, 2011

Apr 17, 2011

May 1, 2011

May 15, 2011

May 29, 2011

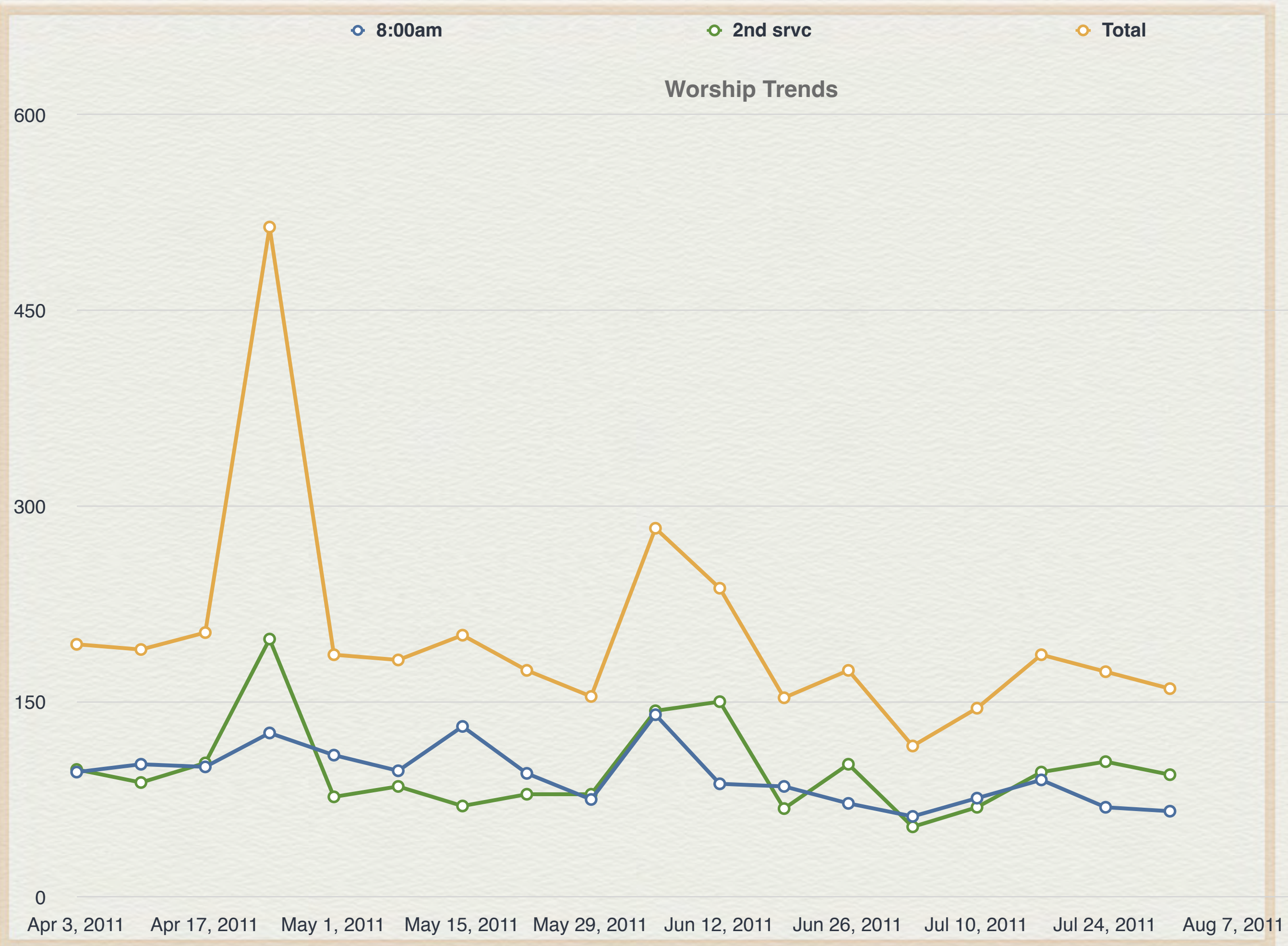
Jun 12, 2011

Jun 26, 2011

Jul 10, 2011

Jul 24, 2011

Aug 7, 2011



Worship Options

Option A

Current Worship Schedule		
8:00a - 9:00a	Worship - Traditional Lutheran	
9:30a - 10:30a	Sunday School - all ages	SCS - 1 hour
11:00a - 12:00p	Worship - Traditional Lutheran	

Worship Options

Option B

Current Schedule with P&S		
8:00a - 9:00a	Worship - Traditional Lutheran	
9:30a - 10:30a	Sunday School - all ages	SCS - 1 hour
11:00a - 12:00p	Worship - Psalms & Sandals	

Worship Options

Option C

10:30a 2nd srvc with P&S		
8:00a - 9:00a	Worship - Traditional Lutheran	
9:15a - 10:15a	Sunday School - all ages	SCS - 1 hour
10:30a - 11:30a	Worship - Psalms & Sandals	

Worship Options

Option D

10:00a 2nd srvc with P&S		
8:00a - 9:00a	Worship - Traditional Lutheran	
9:15a - 9:45a	Sunday School - all ages	SCS - 30 min
10:00a - 11:00a	Worship - Psalms & Sandals	

QUESTION: Impact of 30 min SCS on teacher recruitment, effective instruction for ***all*** ages groups

QUESTION: Is there another way to organize Sunday School for a 10:00a service?

Where Do We Go From Here?

- The Psalms & Sandals service is meeting a need. We should continue it in the fall.
- We should continue to consider what we can do in worship that helps our members and visitors to worship and be strengthened in our faith in Jesus.
- We should consider how we can encourage education for *all* ages.
- The idea of moving the 11:00a earlier is to both recognize the demands on our families as well as to encourage families to attend worship and education.



Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship