



St. Mark's Church Council met Monday, May 8 and addressed the 2017 summer worship schedule. The Council has taken considerable time considering various options for schedules that would help us meet our goals:

- to increase integration of our Spanish and English speaking communities
- to increase the participation of youth and families
- and to increase opportunities for fellowship.

The council feels that the previously proposed worship schedule (9:00 AM, English and 11:00 AM, Spanish) is still the best option to try for the summer. The Council heard the comments offered by members at the Congregational Meeting and would like to clarify one piece and add another.

Clarification: The time between the services will be used for intentional fellowship. A "Fellowship Hour" will be added, and members will be encouraged to stay late and come early to be a church family together. We are trying to see how this can work. If it does, we may eventually consider a similar worship schedule with a 10:00 AM integrated Sunday school hour. If not, we either return to the previous schedule or try something new. We are a church family, figuring out together what will best help our family and the mission God has for us.

Addition: We heard that 9:00 AM may be too early for some; therefore, the Council approved the addition of a 5:00 PM Saturday evening service for the months of June, July, and August. What that service will look like has yet to be determined. It may follow a format recommended by a member of Council at its April meeting: a liturgical yet multicultural expression of Lutheran worship. For example, we may see a blend of traditional, contemporary, English, and Spanish music. This service, in itself, might satisfy the three congregational goals expressed above. If successful, we may decide to keep it or continue it in some modified version.