

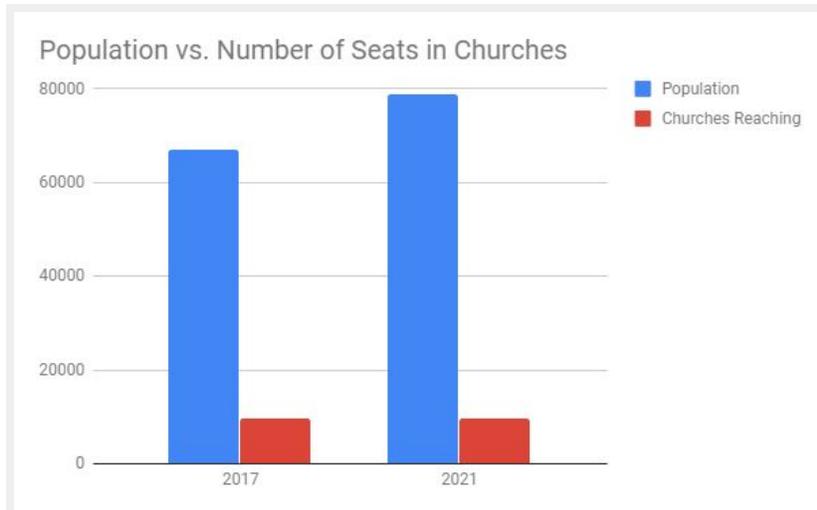
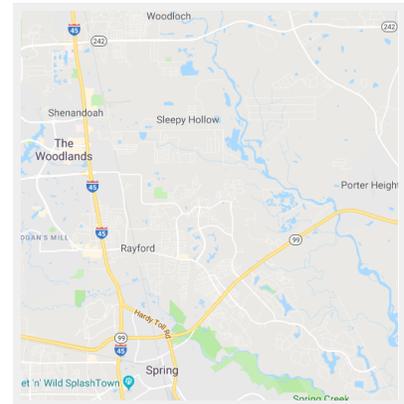
THE 5 MINUTE VERSION GRAND PARKWAY CHURCH PLANT SPRING, TEXAS

THE NEED | BY THE NUMBERS

New tollway 99 (A.K.A. the Grand Parkway) was completed in 2016, **cutting drive time to the mission focus area in half.**

Population of the mission focus area is **projected to grow by 18%** in the next 5 years.

Over 60% of the population is made up of young families, many of whom **report that they are disconnected from the church**, yet believe faith in Jesus is important. They are open to spiritual conversations.



If every church in the focus area was filled to capacity at every worship service, **approximately 9,600 people would have a seat.**

In 2017, the **population of the focus area was 66,887.**

This means that **over 57,000 people are not being reached.**

BOTTOM LINE | THE TARGET AREA IS VASTLY UNDER-REACHED BY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. THE NEED IN THIS AREA IS GREAT.



STARTING NEW | WHY PLANT CHURCHES?

- Between 60% and 80% of members at new churches report being *unchurched* or *dechurched* prior to being reached by the new congregation. **The data doesn't lie: new churches reach new people.**
 - The flexibility of a church in its first 15 years **promotes a culture of accessibility** to new members. The comparison is sometimes made to schools--do children find it easier to acclimate to a new school at the beginning of the year or mid-year? If you are interested in learning more, read Dr. Timothy Keller's excellent article "Why Plant Churches."
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THE PLAN | REACHING THE TARGET AREA WITH THE GOSPEL

- Even as Jesus "moved into the neighborhood" (John 1:14), our family is **moving** into northeast Spring as local missionaries.
 - We're going to be **meeting** business owners, community keyholders, and neighbors. We'll throw block parties and take our kid to events at the library. We're going to invite people into our home and our life even as we pray for the Spirit to open people's hearts to spiritual conversations and, eventually, the Gospel.
 - Simultaneously, we will be **recruiting and training** a Launch Team. This Team will be made up of Christians from the supporting congregations who hear the Lord's call to serve as local missionaries to the target area.
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WALK WITH US | HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS MISSION?

- **Pray.** Ask the Spirit to open those doors to spiritual conversations. Pray that He would be working in the hearts of those who will be on the Launch Team.
 - **Give.** To raise funds to support the first 3 years of ministry, we'll be reaching out to supporting congregations (in the greater north Houston area) and personal contacts. Due to the generosity of the Harvest Partnership, the church planter's salary been covered in full for the first *three years*. Our goal is to fundraise \$250,000, which is the remainder needed to do ministry those three startup years.
 - **Join us.** If you think the Spirit may be asking you to join us in reaching this vastly under-reached area with the Gospel, join us for coffee & snacks (or wine, we like wine too) at our home in Spring every Wednesday starting October 3rd. Call or text Mark for details (210-643-4319).
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QUESTIONS | WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- We'd be thrilled to have further conversation with you.
- Pastor Mark | 210-643-4319 | pulliammarkt@gmail.com
- DCE Laura | 512-350-8130 | laurampulliam@gmail.com

THE 15 MINUTE VERSION
GRAND PARKWAY CHURCH PLANT
SPRING, TEXAS

THE NEED | BY THE NUMBERS

In Luke 10:2 Jesus told the disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” The fields are certainly ripe in northeast Spring.

A couple of years ago, an extensive toll road at the outskirts of Houston called the Grand Parkway (or 99) was completed. This highway converted formerly hour-long commutes into twenty-minute treks. With the completion of that road, the population along the Grand Parkway began to explode and is projected to grow by another 18% in the next five years. Sixty percent of that population are young families. As with many people in this age group, they tend to be open to spiritual conversations, but are less inclined toward organized religion. Many of them express no religious affiliation, but believe that faith in Jesus is important.

What is perhaps most astounding about the mission focus area (along the Grand Parkway, east of IH 45) is that there are only a handful of churches in the area with nowhere near the capacity to be able to reach the growing population. If every worship service of every church in the northeast Spring target area were filled to capacity every time, approximately 9,600 people would be engaged¹. In 2017 the population of the target area was 66,887² which means that over 57,000 people are not being reached by the churches in the target area. Furthermore, the population is expected to grow by another 12,000 people in the next five years. Simply put, the need for more churches reaching this area is desperate. This community needs Jesus.

STARTING NEW | WHY PLANT CHURCHES?

In his simple yet profound article on the motivation to plant new churches, Dr. Timothy Keller explains why new churches reach unreached people³. Younger adults, new residents, and new socio-cultural groups are disproportionately found in newer congregations. In fact, studies estimate that 60-80% of members at new church plants were unchurched or dechurched prior to being reached by the new congregation. The longer a church has been established the more rigid its traditions and preferences become. The flexibility of a church in its first fifteen years of

¹Personal phone interviews conducted by Mark Pulliam 7/18/18; auxiliary information gathered from church websites. (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XEA4RVJeiDbP2TessedS9nYuZGn-x8CdsXrJ7ZrAgDY4/edit?usp=sharing>)

² Mission Insite data based on Quadrennium Project survey

³ “Why Plant Churches”, Dr. Timothy Keller

life promotes a culture that is accessible to new believers, that provides opportunities for new believers to become involved, and that is attune to the concerns of non-believers.

The ability of new churches to reach new people makes sense if you think about a child in grade school who moves to a new city with their family. If you were the child lucky enough to move during the summer, you would be able to start the next grade in school at the same time as your new peers. It would be relatively easy to make friends and find a new group to be a part of. However, if your family moved after the school year had already started, breaking into a group and making new friends would be much more difficult. New churches are like a “new school year,” making it easier for new people to find their place in the congregation.

THE PLAN | REACHING THE TARGET AREA WITH THE GOSPEL

Overview

As we begin to serve in northeast Spring, our goal is to be local missionaries. We will be getting to know people in the community and starting to build relationships and friendships where the Good News about Jesus will be shared. We will be visiting the supporting congregations to talk about the mission God has laid on our hearts and inviting them to participate through prayer, introducing us to people, and partnering with us with their gifts of personal skills, finances, or time in becoming local missionaries with us. We will be teaching and discipling those who are led to join us, equipping them to follow Jesus and share the Gospel along the way. As people are discipled, the church will be born.

Our Vision

We believe that God intends to make disciples in northeast Spring. We want to see the community transformed as those who are disconnected from Jesus and His church become disciples who selflessly follow Him in every area of life. We intend to bring people into an encounter with followers of Jesus through parties that utilize social gatherings to build relationships and friendships with people in the community. We hope to deepen those relationships by drawing new people into small groups that will study God’s Word and serve the community together. Those who receive God’s Word and desire to respond with prayer and praise will become involved in public worship. All of these initiatives will instill the spiritual disciplines of personal Bible reading, prayer, and family worship and service. Our desire is to participate in God’s mission of making disciples as He transforms the community around us!

WALK WITH US | HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS MISSION?

Many of you have been praying for us already, and our request is that those prayers continue. Specifically our request is that we would have wisdom as we follow the Lord into an area of unknowns. We will need His direction, guidance, and protection. We will also need the support of fellow believers who will listen to us and encourage us in this mission.

Would you join us in praying for the people living in the target area and those who will be moving there in the near future? We ask that they would have hearts that are prepared to receive the Good News of Jesus and His love for all. We believe that God is already at work in the people He is calling us to serve. We want to have eyes that see the opportunities He is providing.

Finally, would you begin asking God if He wants you to be involved in this mission and how He might be calling you to serve? Some of you might have a unique skill that the Lord would like to utilize in helping this church get started. Some of you might be called to move to Spring with us to be personally involved in the mission. Some of you might be led to support the mission with your gifts of prayer, encouragement, and financial support (please check out Appendix A for details). Our fundraising goal to support the ministry needs of those first three years comes out to a total of \$250,000.

We are so grateful for the overwhelming encouragement and prayers that have been said on our behalf so far. Thank you for sending us to answer the Lord's call to serve in Spring. We can't wait to see His vision become reality there!

QUESTIONS | WANT TO LEARN MORE?

We'd be thrilled to have further conversation with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us now or in the future!

- Pastor Mark | 210-643-4319 | pulliammarkt@gmail.com
- DCE Laura | 512-350-8130 | laurapulliam@gmail.com

APPENDIX A | THREE-YEAR PROJECTED BUDGET

If through prayer you are led to partner with us by supporting this ministry with your financial gifts, checks can be made out to Resurrection Lutheran Church (1612 Meadow Edge Lane, Spring, TX 77388) with “Church Plant” in the memo line or given online at our secure portal: <https://grandparkwaychurchplant.churchcenter.com/giving> Thank you for your generosity!

YEAR 1 | September 2018 - August 2019

Category	Need	Raised or Pledged Thus Far Last Updated 10/01/19
TOTAL	\$33,290	\$33,290
Planter’s Salary <i>Full-time pastor</i>	N/A	Generously provided by Resurrection Lutheran, Spring
Family Insurance	N/A	Generously provided by Resurrection Lutheran, Spring
Co-planter’s Salary <i>Part time DCE (10 hrs paid)</i>	\$13,490	\$70 (designated donation)
Office Supplies <i>Computer, printer, mobile office, etc.</i>	\$7,300	\$250 (designated donation)
Publicity & Admin <i>Contact tracking & group management (\$336), website & domain (\$275), printing, etc.</i>	\$6,500	
Curriculum <i>Bibles, Bible study materials, etc. (most to be purchased by launch team members, as needed)</i>	\$1,000	
Celebration & Service Supplies <i>Food, drinks, folding chairs, permits, etc.</i>	\$5,000	

YEAR 2 | September 2019 - August 2020

Category	Need	Raised or Pledged Thus Far <i>Last Updated 10/01/19</i>
TOTAL	\$107,535	\$68,495.70
Planter's Salary <i>Full-time pastor</i>	N/A	Generously provided by Resurrection Lutheran, Spring
Family Insurance	N/A	Generously provided by Resurrection Lutheran, Spring
Co-planter's Salary <i>Part time DCE (15 hrs paid)</i>	\$20,235	
Office Supplies <i>Mobile office</i>	\$7,300	
Publicity & Admin <i>Contact tracking & group management (\$504), website & domain (\$275), printing, etc.</i>	\$6,500	
Curriculum <i>Bibles, Bible study materials, etc.</i>	\$2,500	
Celebration & Service Supplies <i>Food, drinks, community outreach, permits, etc.</i>	\$9,000	
Public Worship Startup Supplies <i>Sound system (\$12000), signage, hospitality, baby/child area, chairs, or other required supplies</i>	\$20,000	
Public Worship (Ongoing) <i>Rental space (\$26000+ for 42 rentals/year), hospitality supplies</i>	\$42,000	

YEAR 3 | September 2020 - August 2021

Category	Need	Raised or Pledged Thus Far <i>Last Updated 10/01/19</i>
TOTAL	\$107,280	\$6700
Planter's Salary <i>Full-time pastor</i>	N/A	Generously provided by Resurrection Lutheran, Spring
Family Insurance	N/A	Generously provided by Resurrection Lutheran, Spring
Co-planter's Salary <i>Part time DCE (20 hrs paid)</i>	\$26,980	
Office Supplies <i>Mobile office</i>	\$7,300	
Publicity & Admin <i>Contact tracking & group management (\$504), website & domain (\$275), printing, etc.</i>	\$6,500	
Curriculum <i>Bibles, Bible study materials, etc.</i>	\$2,500	
Celebration & Service Supplies <i>Food, drinks, community outreach, permits, etc.</i>	\$9,000	
Public Worship Startup Supplies	N/A	N/A
Public Worship (Ongoing) <i>Rental space (\$26000+ for 54 rentals/year), hospitality supplies</i>	\$55,000	

APPENDIX B | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How did you pick this area?

That's the awesome part. We didn't. The pastoral leadership of churches in the greater north Houston area have been researching, praying, and meeting in this area for several years already. They had the right place. Meanwhile, we had been praying about church planting. God led them to reach out to us and here we are!

Why plant with two church workers?

One of the successful church plants in Texas that we have been observing from its early beginnings, Narrative Lutheran Church in Round Rock, launched with a pastor and a Director of Christian Education (DCE). This led us to start thinking about our own unique sets of gifts. We are about as different as you can get when it comes to strengths and weaknesses. God led us to one another, first, as ministry partners and, later, as husband and wife. We think He's set us up for success in this way.

How did you come up with your fundraising goal?

We reached out to recent church plants and drafted an educated budget based on the numbers they shared with us.

One of the largest variables will be rental of a public worship space in year two. Some churches are able to rent space that includes chairs, tables, and other needs for as little as \$500 per week while others are paying over \$1,000 per week. The latest update is that we are blessed to be partnering with a local elementary school, Birnham Woods Elementary, in using their cafeteria for our worship space. We will be paying \$765 each time we use the space - a worthwhile investment in our minds since this school of 1,000 students is familiar to over 3,000 community members we are inviting to walk with us as we walk with Jesus!

When will public worship begin?

The short answer is that we are launching weekly worship January 5th with montly preview services leading up to that date.

The longer answer is that we believe that worship (the Divine Service) is an incredible conversation between God and His people. As Luther explained, in worship, we hear the Word of God and respond in prayer and praise. However, a worship service may not be the best place for an unchurched or dechurched person to encounter the Gospel for the very first time. How can they be part of the conversation if they haven't first encountered God through His Word and His people?

Therefore, before we launch public worship, two things will need to happen. First we want to train our Launch Team members to assume the posture of a local missionary, prayerfully seeking opportunities to share the Gospel with their family, friends, and neighbors. Second we want to establish "Gospel front lines", that is, places for people to encounter God and His people living out their faith in everyday life. As God's Word is shared, disciples are made. When new disciples desire to come together to receive God's gifts and respond in prayer and praise, public worship will happen.

What is a Launch Team? Who is on this team?

A Launch Team is a group of individuals and families united around the purpose of making disciples. These individuals will form the core of the new church, or perhaps more appropriately, the hub from which ministry to the area will extend.

Even before we prayerfully identified the initial individuals who would be on this team, God knew exactly who He would lead to be a part of this mission. In fact, He has already been working in hearts of the people He wants to have on this team and will continue to work in them as He reveals who He wants to be part of this endeavor. For our part, we are prayerfully asking God to make it clear who He has chosen for this team and we would ask you to join us in inquiring whether He has called you to be a part of the Launch Team as well!

If you feel that He may be leading you in this direction (or even if you want to talk more about any part of the church planting process), contact us!