



# NORTH STELTON

## N.E.X.T.

### 2025 THEME



Dear Beloved Members and Friends of North Stelton,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we begin this exciting new season together, I am thrilled to introduce our theme for the year: *North Stelton N.E.X.T.* This theme represents a call to step boldly into God's next chapter for our church, our community, and our lives. It is a reminder that God's plans for us are always forward-looking, filled with hope, growth, and the promise of His unfailing presence and love towards us.

This year, we will focus on intentional discipleship, innovative ministry, and impactful outreach. Together, we will explore how we can grow spiritually, strengthen our bond as a church family, and make a meaningful difference in our community.

I encourage each of you to prayerfully reflect on your role in this vision. Ask yourself—what is God calling me to do in this *N.E.X.T. season*? Whether through prayer, participation, or leadership, every one of us has a part to play in building the future God has planned.

Throughout the entirety of the year, we will host a variety of events, workshops, and worship experiences centered on this theme. I invite you to engage fully as we journey together, seeking God's will for our church and our lives.

As your pastor, I am both honored and excited to walk alongside you as we embrace this new season. Let us move forward in faith, knowing that God has already prepared the way.

God' choicest blessings,

*Rev. Ritrey A. Castine*

# NORTH STELTON N.E.X.T.

## *North Stelton Next*

### *Purpose:*

To inspire the congregation to embrace spiritual growth, deepen their connection with God and others, and actively participate in building God's kingdom through intentional ministry and witness.

### *Vision Statement:*

"Preparing for what's NEXT by nurturing faith, engaging hearts, expanding outreach, and transforming lives for Christ."

# NORTH STELTON N.E.X.T.

## *North Stelton NEXT Goals & Supporting Scriptures*

**Nurturing:** Providing care, encouragement, and spiritual development for individuals and the community.

*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 3:18)

**Engaging:** Actively involving members in worship, service, and fellowship.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”*  
(Colossians 3:23)

**Expanding:** Growing the church's outreach, influence, and spiritual depth.

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”* (Mark 16:15)

**Transforming:** Changing lives through the power of Christ, bringing renewal and revival.

*“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* (Romans 12:2)

# NORTH STELTON N.E.X.T.

## *Key aspects of North Stelton* *NEXT*

### *Healing & Spiritual Renewal*

#### *Prioritize Prayer and Fasting*

- Weekly corporate prayer gatherings.
- Church-wide fasting initiatives to seek God's direction and unit.
  - New Year Daniel Fast
  - Lenten Season Fast

#### *Deepen Worship Experiences*

- Evaluate the current worship format and enhance it by incorporating diverse music styles, creative elements (drama, visual arts), and testimonies.
- Trainings for worship participants to ensure excellence and authenticity.

#### *Enhance Preaching and Teaching*

- Develop various sermons and sermon series that address the congregation's spiritual needs and challenges.
- Offer Bible studies, prayer calls, and small group opportunities to encourage deeper learning and fellowship.
- Reimagine Church School to increase Bible-based teaching and biblical development

## *In-reach & Member Engagement*

### *Improve Communication*

- Use modern communication tools (emails, social media, text alerts) to keep members informed and connected.
- Regularly celebrate milestones and achievements within the congregation.
- Utilize Church Bulletin as a means for ministry-specific information sharing
- Digitize & frequently update church calendar.

### *Foster a Sense of Belonging*

- Organize fellowship events, such as potlucks, game nights, or other social activities.
- Create support groups for various life stages (e.g., young adults, singles, widows/widowers, seniors).
- Greeters ministry to welcome existing members, new members, reconnecting members, and visitors to our church.
- Ensure steps for new members to grow in their faith through membership classes and ministry opportunities.

### *Encourage Service and Volunteerism*

- Highlight service opportunities during worship and online.
- Recognize and appreciate volunteers regularly.
- Collaborate with other area organizations to solicit or partner on volunteer programs

### *Sick & Shut In*

- Maintain up-to-date sick & shut in database.
- Regular communication with homebound members
- Organize miniature caravans to offer in-person support to sick and homebound members, when appropriate.

### *Outreach & Community Initiatives*

- Identify areas where the church can make an impact.
- Highlight and support existing efforts like the soup kitchen and food pantry.
- Launch initiatives like tutoring for students, financial literacy workshops, or health clinics.
- Host community events such as movie nights, festivals, etc. to attract visitors.
- Organize outreach campaigns such as door-to-door visits, community canvassing.

### *Stewardship & Operational Efficiency*

- Review the church's administrative, financial, and operational systems for areas of improvement.
- Create a transparent budgeting process with input from key leaders.
- Launch fundraising initiatives for specific needs (e.g., building upgrades, missions).

### *Facilities & Temple Management*

- Evaluate the condition of the church building and address maintenance needs.
- Ensure the church is welcoming, clean, and equipped with modern technology.

### *Invest in Youth and Children*

- Strengthen children's and youth ministries with engaging, age-appropriate programming.
- Facilitate and encourage intergenerational mentoring to bridge the gap between older and younger members.
- Promote and support YPD "Super Saturday" efforts
- Support youth academic achievements through recognition and scholarships
- Identify a youth minister to assist with spiritual development of children and youth
- Children's moments during select worship services
- Establish acolyte ministry.

**Pastor's Notes/Top of Mind:**

- Reconnecting/Returning members
- Average weekly attendance of 300+
- Music ministry
- Monthly midweek service
- Holy Days/Liturgical Season
- Youth & Young Adults, Young Families
- Minister to Children & Youth

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## *Church Plan 2025*

<u>Month</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Key Focus Areas</u>
January	Renewal & Unity in the Body of Christ	Prayer, Fasting, and Setting vision for the year
February	Love, Relationships, Heritage	Marriage, Family and Biblical love; Celebrating Black History
March	Evangelism and Outreach	Community outreach and sharing the Gospel
April	Spiritual Growth and Discipleship	Personal & Corporate spiritual growth and development
May	Health and Wellness	Fostering physical, mental, and spiritual health



June	Men's Season	Empowering men in leadership, faith, and witness
July	Youth and Young Adult	Developing youth and youth adult leaders
August	Stewardship and Giving	Encouraging generosity and financial steward
September	Missions and Global Outreach	Supporting missionaries and global impact
October	Women's Season	Empowering women in leadership, faith, and witness
November	Gratitude and Thanksgiving	Cultivating gratitude and giving back
December	Advent and the Birth of Christ	Celebrating Christ's birth and Advent themes

## *Key Activities*

Vision Sunday, prayer week, worships

Couples' night, Singles', Empowerment, Family Sunday, Heritage Sunday

Bring a Friend Sunday, outreach projects, evangelism training

Bible reading challenge, discipleship workshops, small groups

Health fair, fitness challenge, mental health seminar

Men's Prayer Breakfast, Father's Day, outdoor fellowship

Youth retreat, youth-led service, community service project

Stewardship series, financial literacy worship, church improvements

Missions Sunday, prayer for nations, missionary testimonies

Women's season activities

Thanksgiving Testimony Service, community meal, gratitude activities

Advent services, youth programming, Christmas Eve candlelight service