

McKnight Crossings Church — Event Review Summary

Events: **Faith in Action** & **Fall Festival** (Trunk-or-Treat and Chili Cook-Off)

Date: Fall 2025

After major church events, it's valuable to revisit the **objectives** and assess how well each event met its intended purpose. The goal of this review is to help leadership identify what worked well, what can be improved, and how to plan even more effective events in future years.

Faith in Action

Overview:

Faith in Action is a service day (typically a Saturday or Sunday) when members of the congregation volunteer for projects both around the church building and at members' homes. Activities include cleaning, yard work, and light repairs.

Objectives:

- **Serve widows and the elderly** — Show love and care to widows and seniors within our congregation and, as resources allow, extend this service to the broader community.
- **Maintain our church facilities** — When time and volunteers permit, address building maintenance needs.
- **Foster unity and fellowship** — Provide opportunities for members to work together, build relationships, and experience the joy of serving side by side.

Review:

The 2025 Fall Faith in Action event was considered a success. We had favorable weather, strong participation, and great fellowship. Volunteers enjoyed a pizza lunch before dispersing to serve four or five widows and complete several building projects.

At the building, volunteers vacuumed and dusted under pews, polished wood surfaces, washed windows, cleaned bathroom stalls, sprayed for bugs, trimmed brush, and painted dumpster posts. Everyone, including teens, stayed busy, and the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie was evident throughout the day.

Items for Improvement:

- **Teen involvement:** Provide age-appropriate projects requiring minimal supervision and low risk, such as raking leaves or simple outdoor work.
- **Advance sign-ups:** Encourage participants to register early to allow for accurate planning of project assignments and lunch quantities, especially for youth and families.

Worth Repeating? Yes. This continues to be one of our most meaningful and well-supported service events.

Fall Festival (Trunk-or-Treat & Chili Cook-Off)

Overview:

Our Fall Festival, held around Halloween, combines a trunk-or-treat event with a chili cook-off. It serves both the church family and the surrounding community.

Objectives¹:

- **Community Connection:** Create a warm, friendly environment where neighbors can meet members of McKnight Crossings and experience the love and hospitality of Christ.
- **Outreach:** Offer a safe, joyful event that builds trust and opens doors for guests to visit our church, children's ministry, or worship services in the future.
- **Congregational Fellowship:** Strengthen relationships within the church family through shared service, creativity, and fun.

Review:

The event was well received, with strong participation from both the church and community. Several community guests later visited McKnight Crossings for Sunday worship — a clear indicator of positive engagement.

Items for Improvement:

- **Elder Presence:** Ensure elders are visibly present to show support and personally connect with attendees.
- **Chili Sampling Logistics:** Provide small sample cups to reduce waste and allow attendees to taste multiple entries.

Questions for Future Planning:

- How effective was our advertising and community outreach?
- Did we provide handouts or flyers with information about McKnight Crossings to include in trick-or-treat bags?
- Did we have a way to collect contact information from community visitors for follow-up?
- Was there enough chili for the crowd?
- Did we have sufficient participation in decorated trunks?

Worth Repeating? Yes. The event successfully built community, fostered connection, and provided a fun, welcoming atmosphere.

¹ The Elders initially found it difficult to clearly articulate the purpose of the Fall Festival. Some mentioned that the goal was simply to “get people in the building,” but that alone isn’t a meaningful objective—after all, even in places like Sweden, many visit churches only to admire the architecture. Our goal should go deeper than attendance numbers. The Objectives noted were those Bret formulated based on various statements made at by the elders.