



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

MAY 17TH, 2026

livelife  
together

# THE SPIEL



## WALKING TOGETHER WITH CLARITY

### PASTOR MATT

Associate Pastor

[mwipperman@livelifeogether.com](mailto:mwipperman@livelifeogether.com)

*Matt is our discipleship director. He works with the mercy ministry team and on simple IT issues.*

In July, our denomination, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), will gather in Phoenix, AZ, for its 69th Convention. Held every three years, the convention's theme is "Christ Is Risen Indeed," based on 1 Corinthians 15:20–22. [www.lcms.org/convention/national](http://www.lcms.org/convention/national)

The convention is a time for our church body to celebrate what God is doing, set a shared vision for the years ahead, elect leadership, and vote on church matters.

Moments like this remind us that we are part of something larger, and that understanding who we are, where we come from, and what we believe matters. For this reason, and in light of recent tensions between local congregational identity and the direction of Synod leadership, we've decided to gather as a congregation for a series of conversations called "**Walking Together with Clarity.**"

Three conversations are scheduled for this summer:

- Sunday, June 14, during 2.22, or Thursday, June 18, via Zoom
- Sunday, July 12, during 2.22
- Sunday, August 16, during 2.22 (following the Convention)

To help prepare, we're sharing four short videos that provide background and history for our discussions. Hopefully you've already received and watched the first two. Jeff has done an excellent job making the material clear and accessible.

- Part 1 — Why Denominations Exist (5/6/26 email)
- Part 2 — Where the LCMS Came From (5/14/26 email)
- Part 3 — What the LCMS Believes
- Part 4 — How the LCMS Is Structured

Please take time to watch the videos, join us for the conversations this summer, and pray for our church, our denomination, and the upcoming convention.



# THE SPIEL



Think about all the individuals and organizations who are intentionally following Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Now imagine those disciples and ministries working together—sharing resources, learning from one another, supporting each other, and staying accountable. That's the idea behind the **GO NETWORK**. It's that simple.

Here's how they describe their mission:

"The mission of the **GO NETWORK** is to connect God's people and multiply God's Kingdom until the entire world trusts and follows Jesus."

Their **Strategy** focusses on three things:

1. **Building trusting relationships** between mission-minded, theologically Lutheran leaders and ministries through local, regional, and affinity-based networks.
2. **Helping one another grow in five mission areas:**
  - Mission & discipleship clarity
  - Every person living on mission
  - Every disciple making disciples
  - Every leader raising up leaders
  - Every ministry planting new ministries
3. **Curate a Network** of experienced mentors, coaches, training, and resources so ministries can find and connect with the help they need to grow and multiply.

Jeff, Amy, and I are excited to be part of this and to help launch regional and local groups. If you'd like to learn more, let Pastor Jeff or me know.

The first Upper Midwest regional meeting will be Thursday, May 21, at 2:00 p.m.

Teammates,  
Matt

CHECK OUT MORE  **GoServe OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE**



# HIGHER GROUND

equipping our youth with life-long skills to be followers of Jesus.

## COMING UP FOR YOUTH:

Higher Ground is the 7th-12th grade youth group at *the Church*. Our desire is to connect teens and their families to Life in Jesus while equipping students with the skills they need to be life-long followers of Jesus. At the same time, we exist to also equip families to have Christ-centered homes that nurture a day-to-day relationship with Jesus. Friends are always welcome!

### HIGHER GROUND ON MAY 17TH: 5PM-8PM

We will gather for our year end Family Party from 5-8pm. Contact Emily for more information.

The High School Mission Trip is July 12th-18th.



Life in the Word is for students in 5th & 6th grade youth group at the Church. Class time on Sunday evenings during the school year is used to instruct students in the basics of our faith, as well as Luther's Small Catechism. Students also develop relationships during this time that prepare them to continue to live in community during their teen years.

### LIFE IN THE WORD ON MAY 17TH:

Family Party on May 17th from 5-8pm.

The Middle School Mission Trip is August 2nd-5th.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT EMILY POWERS: [EPowers@LIVELIFETOGETHER.COM](mailto:EPowers@LIVELIFETOGETHER.COM)



*Our Adopt a School Partner is:*  
**LEOPOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**WAYS TO SERVE:**

**Support for after school clubs at Leopold:** There is no MSCR at Leopold, and they are looking for volunteers to help with the existing clubs or perhaps run one - they are open to having them be 4 to 6 weeks in length. If you want to teach a skill or have an idea for an after school program reach out to Amy Meyer at [ameyer@lifelifetogether.com](mailto:ameyer@lifelifetogether.com).

*Questions? Contact Amy Meyer: [ameyer@lifelifetogether.com](mailto:ameyer@lifelifetogether.com)*

# *Kids* **CONNECTION**

Kids Connection is for children 4<sup>th</sup> grade and under, and their parents. Kids learn bible stories through games, crafts and songs. Kids build strong relationships with each other while learning truths about Jesus. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend this class as junior helpers. Contact Emily Powers at [epowers@lifelifetogether.com](mailto:epowers@lifelifetogether.com).

**KIDS CONNECTION ON MAY 17TH: 10:15-11:30AM**

We're ending the year with a Kids Connection Party. Join us for

*Mark May 17th for our end of the year Kids Connection party.*

# MESSAGE & NOTES

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## THE TAPESTRY: THE WOVEN WORD THE KINGDOM HAS COME NEAR

Luke 4:1-21

*Focus: Jesus enters the wilderness, overcomes temptation, and then announces that the long-awaited promises of God **are being fulfilled in Him**. Good news for the poor, freedom for the captive, sight for the blind, and favor for the broken are no longer distant hopes—**the Kingdom has come near in Jesus**. This week calls us to turn from lesser kingdoms and receive the healing reign of Christ in our lives today.*

### WORD

Read Mark 8:27-38

What have you heard from people about who they say Jesus is?

Jesus got personal - how did Peter answer the question? What does his answer mean?

Why is it important for us to be able to answer this question?

What else stands out to you in these verses? What feelings or thoughts challenge you?

How will you respond to what has been shared in your discussion?

**THE TAPESTRY** -What does this passage reveal about forever?

### PRAY

That we would each grow in our confidence and understanding of who Jesus is and not be ashamed to tell others about him. Strengthen our faith Lord and awaken us to those around us who do not know who you are.

### LOVE

Is there someone you know that needs encouragement? How will you share it?

# CALENDAR & EVENTS



## UPCOMING:

### *SUNDAY, MAY 17TH: 9AM WORSHIP*

Join us for our in-person and online worship on Sunday at 9am. Join us online at [lifelifetogether.com/thisweek](https://lifelifetogether.com/thisweek). You will find the livestream, the bulletin, the lifeLines and all that you need for the week, on this page. We look forward to worshipping together.

### *SUNDAY, MAY 17TH: CONNECTIONS CLASS DURING 2\*22*

No Connections Class this Sunday. We will have our final class on May 17th in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We know there have been a lot of challenges and changes during this class and we appreciate your dedication and commitment to making as many classes as you can. Join us for New Member Sunday on June 14th during worship!

### *MONDAY, MAY 27TH 6:30PM THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING*

The Church Leadership Board Meeting will be at the Church on May 27th at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact the board at [board@lifelifetogether.com](mailto:board@lifelifetogether.com).

***SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH 9AM NEW MEMBER SUNDAY***

Help us to welcome all of our new members on New Member Sunday!

***2\*22 ON BREAK FOR THE SUMMER***

***SUMMER SERIES: WALKING TOGETHER WITH CLARITY: A SUMMER OF PRAYER, DISCERNMENT, AND STRENGTHENING OUR SHARED WITNESS***

Since the LCMS will meet in convention this summer, we'll take time to review who we are as a church body, discuss some current and upcoming challenges, and seek to move forward together in faith as we follow Jesus.

***SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH: AFTER WORSHIP***

We begin by remembering who we are in Christ

***OR***

***THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH, 8PM VIA ZOOM***

We begin by remembering who we are in Christ.

***AND***

***SUNDAY, JULY 12TH: AFTER WORSHIP***

We seek wisdom as we navigate what is not yet clear

***SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH: AFTER WORSHIP***

We move forward in faith, trusting the One who leads us

**SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES**



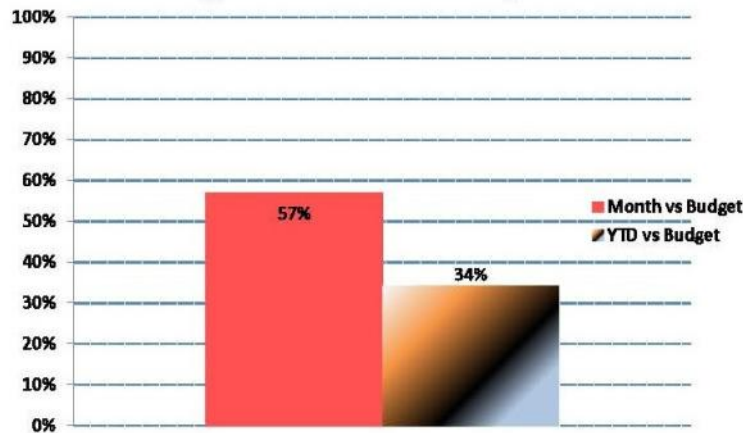
**CHECK OUT UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE**



# GLANCE *at the* FINANCE



Offerings: Month and YTD vs. Budget



Tithes and Offerings as of April 30, 2026			
Monthly received	\$ 30,439	YTD received	\$ 213,229
Monthly goal	53,448	YTD surplus/(deficit)	(23,009)
<b>Monthly surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(23,009)</b>	2026 goal	624,045
This month last year	\$ 42,341	<b>Goal remaining</b>	<b>410,816</b>
		2025 total	\$ 600,435
Additional Information as of April 30, 2026			
Line of Credit Balance*	\$ 24,885	2022 Loan Balance	~\$29,800
Balance was \$0 from January 1 to January 30*		Paid monthly	
Church Finances as of March 31, 2026			
	2026	2025	
Operating Rev.	\$ 193,556	\$ 166,188	
Operating Exp.	200,006	202,677	
	\$ (6,451)	\$ (36,488)	
*LoC must have \$0 balance for 30 days per calendar year			

## BIRTHDAYS

5/24 Erika Frohmader

## ANNIVERSARIES

5/17—8 years  
Danielle Hartwig

5/19—42 years  
Darrel and Mary Willadsen

5/24—18 years  
Chad and Julie Koch

Birthdays and Anniversaries for this week! If your special day does not appear, please contact the church office to update your records.

# OUR VISION: STRATEGY

## HOW ARE WE DOING IT?



**Come to lifeWorship!** We join together to focus on Jesus, offer Him praise, and allow Him the space to speak to us. lifeWorship is an exciting part of *the Church* experience. Join us in lifeWorship every week and experience the amazing blessing of freedom that comes in humbling yourself before God.



**Connect to lifeGroup!** At *the Church* we really do "live life together." In lifeGroup, we meet weekly in each other's homes to share a meal and share our lives as we grow in Jesus. Our connection to other people is at the heart of our Christian experience. Authentic connections happen most effectively in smaller groups where there is opportunity for dialogue and relationships, and our primary place for these authentic connections is lifeGroup.



**Commit to lifeServe!** At *the Church* we offer our time, talents, gifts, and abilities to serve God, serve His church and serve others. It's easy to come to church only for what we can get out of it, but the Bible says that each of us has something to give back. There is a need each of us can answer. We want you to experience Life in Jesus to the fullest, and encourage you to take time to give yourself away in ministry.



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONNECT WITH US!**

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## COMMUNION

If you're a guest, you're welcome to attend the Lord's Supper with us this morning. We only ask of you what God asks of us all - that you can answer 'yes' to the following questions:

- ◆ Have I been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- ◆ Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
- ◆ Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
- ◆ Do I believe that Jesus' true body and blood are present in the bread and wine?
- ◆ Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If you have questions, please feel free to speak with a Pastor, a Worship Assistant, or someone sitting near you.



# SERVICE TIMES:

the Church  
2833 Raritan Rd.  
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Combined Traditional & Exalt Worship  
9:00AM [In-Person & Online]

THE TAPESTRY...The Woven Word: The Kingdom Has Come Near [May 17th, 2026]