AUGUST 2026

The Communicator

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE LIVING CHRIST

All Together in One Place
July 28, 2026

Choosing Reconciliation Over Division in a Multifaith America

Dear church,

From its earliest days, the United States has been shaped by religious diversity. Indigenous peoples sustained diverse spiritual and religious traditions long before the nation's founding, and successive waves of settlers, including Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and others, brought a variety of beliefs that helped define the nation's unique and vital religious landscape.

Throughout the church today, many are struggling with debates regarding the religious identity of our nation. While religious diversity did not begin with the Constitution, the Constitution's framers recognized an important truth: the future of our nation could not be tied to a single religious identity. By rejecting religious tests for public office, the Founders created space for people of any or no faith tradition to participate in public life together. That commitment continues to be foundational to our nation's vitality, especially at a time when people are tempted to identify love of the nation, or the government itself, with a single religion. No one faith tradition should rule the United States, just as the framers desired.1

As the apostle Paul writes, God has given us "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). Reconciliation involves living in God's future — including through renewed interreligious relationships.

Religious diversity is the reality of the world we live in. Recognizing this, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," which affirms that mutual understanding with other faith traditions can deepen our own faith. Through encountering neighbors and working side by side in shared commitments to love and compassion and community, our own Christian faith is strengthened. This conviction means that through my call as presiding bishop of the ELCA, our church develops and maintains relationships with Jewish, Muslim and many other faith communities. Like personal friendships we hold, these relationships do not require us to set aside Christian faith. Rather they reaffirm that in a nation as diverse as ours, being a good neighbor across religious differences is not optional. It's a part of the shared American experience. It is an experience we can support as everyday Lutherans in God's call to reconciliation.

over

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Find us on Facebook - Lutheran Church of the Living Christ ELCA

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:15am, in-person/Facebook live

LCLC Staff

SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
CYNTHIA SWAN

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
DAVID EGGERS

PIANIST
GREG OTT

OFFICE HOURS M-F
8:30AM-12:30PM

Articles **Due 21st of each month**

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[1] The ELCA social statement Faith and Civic Life, Seeking the Well-being of All states, "The Establishment Clause is cut from the same cloth as the Constitution's prohibition against religious tests for public office. Government is not the church, and the church is not the government. The intent of the Establishment Clause clearly is that government must not promote a particular faith or religion in general" (45).
"The ELCA will explore and encourage inter-religious friendship, accompaniment, and partnership with all who seek justice, peace, human wholeness, and the well-being of creation (ELCA Constitution, Chapter 4.03.f)." —"A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," p. 10
"The ELCA will defend the full participation of all in our religiously diverse society, 'strengthening public space as a just place for all' regardless of religion or worldview ("The Church in the Public Space: A Statement of The Lutheran World Federation,' 2016)." —"A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," p. 11

The ministry of reconciliation is both local and national. God invites us to love one another across differences. Trusting in God's grace, we boldly form relationships with neighbors of all faiths who share a commitment to justice, peace and the flourishing of all creation. I encourage you to engage in this essential ministry, which offers a powerful opportunity to heal divisions, deepen respect across differences and strengthen the bonds of our common life.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave Endorf

June 2026 Treasurer's Report

Category	June Actual	YTD Actual
INCOME	**$6,853**	**$48,895**
EXPENSES	**$10,126**	**$52,719**
Cong Vitality Team	$0	$0
MISSIONS	$2,000	$5,771
OFFICE	$314	$1,635
OUTREACH	$0	$0
PROPERTY	$3,858	$25,821
STEWARDSHIP	$0	$0
SUPPORT	$883	$2,064
WAGES	$3,012	$17,156
WORSHIP	$60	$272

Total YTD Income	$ 48,895
Total YTD Expenses	$ 52,719
Total YTD Difference	-$ 3,824

2026 General Funds paid to missions are as follows:

Central States Synod	$ 1,500
Local Missions	$ 3,000
Outreach Missions	$ 1,271

Our June offerings of $6,853 were a few thousand dollars lower than our typical offerings for the year. Expenses for the month were $10,126. Our year-to-date income of $48,895 is about $3,824 less than our year-to-date expenses of $52,719. As I reported last month, I still believe that we are in decent financial shape through the first half of the year.

If you have any questions, please call or email me. Thanks.

Dave Endorf, Treasurer
dave.endorf@gmail.com or 502-612-3518

PRESIDENT"S REPORT

Randy Henning

A lot is going on right now with the sale of the church property. As you all know, we voted to accept a contingent contract offer from New Destiny Ministries, a church currently holding services in Cahokia, Illinois. They have sold their current church and it is due to close on August 17. Once that date has passed and their church sale has closed, the contingency should come off and we will proceed with closing LCLC and moving on to whatever other plans our congregation members have made. So hang in there and pray that nothing happens to derail this opportunity.

Now, that being said, there will be a lot to do once the sale is heading toward finalization. One of the most important things is our final service at LCLC. While plans for that service are in the very early stages, it looks like the date we are looking at is Sunday, September 27. It will probably be an afternoon service with a lot of our past ministers and members in attendance. This effort will require a lot of folks helping out. If you are interested in helping to plan this special service, please contact Laurie Brown. And of course, we will still have drawers, closets, cabinets, etc. to clean up and we will need help with that too. We'll deal with that a little later.

So, we may be on the final stretch of this effort that has gone on for over a year and a half now. That doesn't mean we stop praying. Continue to do that and I am confident we will reach the conclusion we all seek.

I watch the news pretty faithfully every day. Every now and then a story pops up about an exciting new medical discovery or treatment. Here are a few items...

HEART SURGERY A heart surgeon in Florida developed a new operation. Using a small (2") incison on the right side between two ribs, he stretched the ribs apart and operated on a heart valve. Recovery time is much shorter with less pain and complications.

ROBOTS Surgery using robots has been done for a number of medical needs, including hernia, gallbladder, kidney, and hysterectomy. The doctor sits at a console and operates the remote robotic tools. Advantage: smaller incisions, faster recovery, the possibility of remote treatment. Problems: expensive equipment, setup time, special training needed.

GENE THERAPY Sickle cell disease is serious and painful. Among African Americans, 1 in 365 babies is born with the disease, and 1 in 13 carry the genetic trait. Treatment required blood transfusions and possible bone marrow transplants. Now a patient was treated (in St Louis!) with gene therapy that offers a cure.

STEM THERAPY Stem cells are cells that have not become skin, muscle, bone or other organs. These cells are drawn from the patient, processed, and returned. At present, this is primarily for bone marrow transplant, blood cancers, and skin injury. Researchers are hoping this will prove effective in treating other problems.

PROSTHETICS Advances is robotic are starting to improve the quality of prosthetics: artificial arms and hands, legs and feet. With the use of 3D printing, these prostheses can be made to look more natural and be exactly fitted to the patient. In addition, advances in electronics can give a greater degree of control and dexterity, e.g. in the used of fingers and grip.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES The company that makes computerized 3D glasses is donting them to blind veterans. The glasses can tell (audibly) the wearer what is ahead. There are wearables that can track your health: watches that give blood pressure and pulse, rings that tell if you have fever, patches that read your blood sugar. We had (and lost) a device that would read your EKG from two fingers and transmit it to the doctor. If you have a specific health risk, it's quite possible that you may soon be wearing a device that monitors you health.

Trivia Challenge

TO BENEFIT TEAM FOOD PANTRY

BEER - WINE - SOFT DRINKS - POPCORN

PRIZES - 50/50 - RAFFLE BASKETS

Saturday, August 29th, 2026
Doors open at 6 PM
Trivia starts promptly at 7 PM

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Parish Hall - Door # 3
751 N. Jefferson St. (63031)

REGISTER OR BECOME A SPONSOR ONLINE OR USING ATTACHED FORM

TEAMFOODPANTRY.COM

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Save the date! Lutheran World Relief Ingathering!
Exciting news!
Central States Synod will have six ingathering sites for the collection of Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (St. Louis)
October 17, 2026, from 10am – 12pm
Contact: Eunice Halverson
Eunice.halverson@yahoo.com or
314-269-7994

Our Savior's Lutheran (Jefferson City)
October 17, 2026, from 9am -1pm
Contact: Gloria Sharp
gissharp@aol.com or
573-462-9758

St. John's Lutheran (Pittsburg, KS)
October 20, 2026, from 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Contact: Peggy Chapman
jdchapman@ckt.net or
620-231-2384

Christ Lutheran (Wichita, KS)
October 20, 2026, from 9am – 12pm
Contact: Rosie Harder rosieharder14@gmail.com or
316-300-3233

Trinity Lutheran (Hays, KS)
October 21, 2026, from 9am – 12pm
Contact: Church office
office@trinityhays.org or
785-625-2044

St. John's Lutheran (Salina, KS)
October 22, 2026, from 9am – 12pm
Contact: Marty Ryan martyryan@cox.net or
785-342-1932

Lutheran World Relief's approximate cost to transport, process, store and deliver the quilts and kits to those in need is $4.00 per item. If you or your unit would like to contribute to this very worthy cause, please make the checks out to Central States Synod, Women of the ELCA and mail to Vickie Donnell, 4672 East Hidden Oak Place, Springfield, MO 65802. Please mark that Lutheran World Relief postage on the memo line.

Thank you to our Cluster Coordinators

OSAGE CLUSTER COORDINATORS
Mick Friberg
Ileen Kendall
Becky Verslues

BORDER CLUSTER COORDINATORS
Carol Bunge
Pat Dunavan
Sarah Dunning

WESTERN KANSAS CLUSTER COORDINATORS
Kara Jecha
Cindy Steinert

CENTRAL KANSAS CLUSTER COORDINATORS
Tasha Hickert
Kathy Regehr

EASTERN MISSOURI CLUSTER COORDINATORS
Nancy Berry
Eunice Halverson
Julie Weber

Create Days for 2026

The following are dates for Create Days at Living Christ. Friday mornings at Living Christ 9-11 January through October, ending with the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering on Saturday, October 17th.

August 7
August 21
September 4
September 18

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering, 9-Noon,
(place to be determined)

Any questions, please speak with Kathy Endorf (502)475-4508.

- God's Work Our Hands -

Sunday, September 13. We will worship with and at Unity Bel-Nor at 10:30 a.m., have lunch, and participate in preparing service projects (blessing bags and LWR Personal Care Kits). There will be no worship at LCLC on September 13. Please sign up for LUNCH at Unity for God's Work Our Hands Sunday on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board

Council Bullets

The Feed My Starving Children MobilePack on July 10 and 11 was a huge success. We exceeded our goal of 217K meals by packing 225K meals with 756 volunteers. We hit a milestone by packing our 1 MILLIONTH meal.
Upcoming events:
-Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse is leading a Bible study series on The Book of Revelation, beginning on Monday, August 3, 10:30 am – noon at Zion Ferguson.
-A Trivia Night to benefit TEAM Food Pantry will take place on Saturday, August 29, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Doors open at 6:00 pm.
-God's Work Our Hands – Sunday, September 13. We will worship at Unity Belnor at 10:30 am, followed by lunch and service projects. There will be no worship at LCLC on September 13.
-A Trivia Night to benefit the Child Advocacy Center of NE MO will take place on Friday, September 25 at Atonement. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Donations of gift cards for a raffle would be appreciated.
-A FMSC Fund Raiser Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 26, at Lockhaven Golf Club in Godfrey, Illinois. More details to come.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care for Members of LCLC

Pastor BJ Arnold has graciously agreed to provide pastoral care for members of LCLC. Pastoral care goes beyond the regular care-giving that church members provide for one another. While we do an excellent job of offering support to one another, Pastor BJ has the training and expertise required at a time of need. All requests for emotional, spiritual, or practical support should be coordinated with Cynthia, who will contact Pastor BJ with the information. Please make Cynthia your first call if you become aware of a need (314-839-0466). In the event care is needed on a weekend or holiday, please contact Pastor BJ directly at 314-518-1505.

AUGUST LUNCH BUNCH

The August Lunch Bunch will meet at the Spot House Restaurant at 20 Mullanphy Lane in Florissant in the shopping center across from Schnuck's. We will meet on August 13 at 11:30 am. Please notify Joyce Meyer at 314-374-4135 or jameyer46@charter.net if you would like to attend. They serve Vietnamese food along with large selection of American fare. Lunch Bunch dined there last summer.

JULY LUNCH BUNCH RECAP

The July Lunch Bunch returned to Chili's at 13901 New Halls Ferry Rd. in Florissant on July 9 at 11:30 am. The menu included Tex-Mex, American fare and lunch specials. We revisited Chili's in July for those not able to join us in June. Our server, Harmony, once again provided excellent service.

2026 Great Rivers Collaborative meeting dates and locations

- September 13 (Shepherd of the Hills)
- November 8 (St. Philips)

LUNCH & LEARN

Lunch and Learn continues on Tuesdays at 11:00 am. Please provide subjects of interest for future sessions.

Celebrate August!

Birthdays

Shirley	**BEINS**	**1**
Kathy	**ENDORF**	**1**
James	**STOEHNER**	**8**
Rod	**WALLACE**	**8**
Nancy	**KAEPPEL**	**13**
Dave	**BARNES**	**20**
Denise	**CHAPPELL**	**21**

Anniversary

William and Nancy	Kaeppel	9th	67 yrs

August Assistants

August 9, 2026
Preaching/Presiding: PMA Peggy Schaefer
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaeppel
Lector: Gary Brown
Live Stream:
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Glen Albers & Ann Schultz
Greeter: Levaughn & Sheila Smart
Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

August 16, 2026
Preaching/Presiding: PMA Jon Heerboth
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Laurie Brown
Live Stream:
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Dave Endorf & Randy Henning
Greeter: Judy Holmes
Altar Guild: Karen Haynes & Sheila Smart

August 23, 2026
Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Ed Breed
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaeppel
Lector: Dave Endorf
Live Stream: Greg Ott
Musician:
Ushers: Jim & Doris Stoehner
Greeter: Marilyn Wiley
Altar Guild: Ann Schultz

August 30, 2026
Preaching/Presiding: PMA Richard Schademann
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Cathie Lehr
Live Stream:
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Cathie Lehr
Greeter: Kathy Endorf
Altar Guild: Doris Stoehner, Marilyn Wiley & Bill Kaeppel

*****If you are unable to serve on your assigned date, please swap with someone or find a replacement*****

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 11am Everlasting Apostolic Bible Study
2 9:15am Worship 11:am True Vine	3	4 11am Exercise Class 11am Lunch & Learn	5	6 11am Exercise Class	7 9:00am Create Day	8 11am Everlasting Apostolic Bible Study
9 9:15am Worship 111am True Vine	10 6pm CVT 7pm Council	11 11am Exercise Class 11am Lunch & Learn	12	13 11am Exercise Class 11:30am Lunch Bunch	14	15 11am Everlasting Apostolic Bible Study
16 9:15am Worship 11am True Vine	17	18 11am Exercise Class 11am Lunch & Learn	19	20 11am Exercise Class	21 9:00am Create Day	22 11am Everlasting Apostolic Bible Study
23 9:15am Worship 11am True Vine 30 9:15am Worship 11am True Vine	24 31	25 11am Exercise Class 11am Lunch & Learn	26	27 11am Exercise Classs	28	29 11am Everlasting Apostolic Bible Study

Zoom links for events can be found on our website:
www.lc-livingchrist.org/calendar

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive
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