



TOGETHER
FAITH + MISSION + LIFE

Ministry Expansion Campaign

NEWSLETTER 1 • MARCH 2026



OUR SHARED EXPERIENCE

In reflecting on Christian fellowship, Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.

What does this mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity, accepted in time, and united for eternity.” (Life Together, [New York: Harper & Row, 1954], 21)

Our Christian faith is not a solitary pursuit; it is a shared experience. Just as God himself exists in a relationship—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—He gathers us in a relationship with himself and with one another. In coming to be one of us, our Savior breaks down the barriers between God and humanity. What sin, death, and the devil break and separate, God reunites today and forever.

This reunion is a thread running through our preaching, teaching, and reaching. It is what we proclaim in worship, and it’s the communion we share in the Lord’s Supper. We teach this Good News in our church and school.

We reach out to fellow members of St. Paul’s, other believers, as well as to our neighbors in our community in order to experience this unity in some measure today and to add to this Christian fellowship by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1 NIV). Like every part of our ministry, our relational connection is always a work in progress. We hope, we plan, we work, we grow. But this fellowship is more than human interaction and friendship. It is a deeper, spiritual connection, a bond cemented by Jesus Christ. The more tightly we are connected to Jesus through Word and worship, the stronger the ties we share with one another.

You and I belong to Jesus, and that means we belong together.

—*Pastor Michael*

Forum Recap

Thank you to Risa Bushman, Angela Steffens, and their team for the wonderful food and welcoming environment for the forums this last week, where we had *over 200 members and their families in attendance!*

If you were unable to make it to a forum, please stop by the church office and pick up your information packet, or grab yours at the Easter breakfast in the gym on Sunday, April 5, from 7-10 a.m.



Events

INSPIRE

April 12–May 16

Prayer Event
- April 11

Consultant Preach Date
- April 19

Leadership Commitment Event
- May 5

Prayer Event
- May 9 & 10

COMMIT

May 17–June 7

Commitment Event Sunday
- May 17

Voters Meeting
- May 31

First Gifts
- June 7

MEET THE CAMPAIGN TEAM



Front: Angela Steffens, Risa Bushman, Julie Bonar, Gloria Driver, Karen Bauer. Back: Greg Bushman, Stan Oetting, Sarah Sullivan, Rev. Michael Pottschmidt.
Not Pictured: Mark Petersen, John Beerman, Don Schlesselman.

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