



LIFE OF FAITH

Trusting Jesus. Serving our Neighbors.

Purpose

The Life of Faith initiative seeks to stir up a culture change that frees us to make the *service by the baptized in the arenas of daily life* the central focus of the church's mission.

The initiative is a grass-roots movement that calls on all expressions of the ELCA to make the many and varied forms of service to neighbors through family, workplace, school, local community, and world a vital part of our reason for existence.



Vision

When we live into mission in terms of what all God's people do in our daily lives:

- The center of gravity for a congregation's mission will shift from what we do as the church gathered to what we do as the church scattered.
- We will become practiced at counting and reporting ministry in terms of the impact we are making in our homes, workplaces, schools, local communities, and around the world—not exclusively in terms of money received and numbers of participants.
- All of us—from children to adults—will be able comfortably and confidently to speak and live the faith in our daily lives.
- Congregations will experience renewal in purpose and vitality, burdens will be lifted from pastors when they are no longer seen as the ones primarily responsible for the ministry of the congregation, and everyone will find joy and fulfillment as ministry multiplies beyond our wildest dreams.

***For more information on the initiative visit <http://lifeoffaith.info>
Join other advocates in the Life of Faith Initiative group on Facebook***

Objectives

The church both gathers and is sent for the life of the world:

- To equip people to live out their faith in family, workplace, school, local community, and world.
- To help people discern their callings in the world and to support them in following those callings.
- To prepare ministers of the Word as more effective teachers at the interface of faith and life.
- To intensify the church's focus on mission as service to neighbors in the world through the everyday roles and relationships of our members.



Action steps

The Life of Faith Initiative invites as many people, organizations, and networks as possible to:

- Generate reflection and discussion on what we mean when we talk about church and ministry.
- Inspire experimentation and share what is learned about how to be a gathered–scattered church and engage in gathered–scattered ministries.
- Equip congregations as teaching and learning communities to fulfill their mission of equipping the baptized for their ministries in daily life.
- Share best practices in teaching and learning related to the initiative.

What you can do

As a grassroots effort, you are encouraged to apply the initiative in your particular context, and to share what you have done with other advocates. On this journey you might:

- Visit <http://lifeoffaith.info> for resources and ideas.
- Join the Life of Faith Initiative group on Facebook to network with others.
- Start a conversation with people in your life or in your congregation to reflect on how you live out your baptismal vocation in daily life.
- Take an online course (see the Life of Faith webpage for options).
- Experiment! Take an idea and run with it. Then share it with other Life of Faith advocates on the webpage or Facebook page.