

## Why are we here? Why do we exist?

Jesus said "Feed my sheep" and "make disciples of all." Preach God's word, sacraments, sing, worship, fellowship; support one another. Instruct kids & newcomers; Study God's word – visit shut ins – Support missions (10% of income) – bring Christ to others

To show Christ's love and grace to all through action, services, activities – gather for worship, prayer, education.  
Christ centered always.

For worship, fellowship, sacraments.  
The third commandment

We exist to worship together  
and try to bring His word to others.  
We've tried ask a friend to church avenue.

Inherently, our purpose is to share the Word of God and the good news that Jesus is our Savior. Ultimately, we should lead by example our Christian beliefs of loving our neighbors as ourselves, being kind, and giving first before receiving.

Our purpose is to shine (and spread) the light of Jesus in the world through not just our words but also our actions

I believe we are here to affect our culture with the message of the Gospel.

1. To worship together and encourage each other
2. To grow and become more mature spiritually
3. To be a witness in the immediate community where our church building exist.  
1-5 mile radius of our physical location.

To love our neighbor, and all those we come in contact with, and to help them understand that our love for them comes from God's unending love for all of us through His Son Jesus Christ.

## What are your hopes and dreams for Lutheran Church of The Way?

I'd like to see our church grow – young and middle-aged members to carry the load deck, better stewardship by all members to do their part in supporting God's work at our church.

Be more visible – update website to make LCW a place for peace and uplifting – Newspaper articles of what we are doing or have done socially, and list special services. (Brockton enterprise, Taunton gazette, etc.)

To encourage and uplift the church of God, and to administer the sacrament remain true to the truth in scripture. To grow. Instruct children and new members.

I hope that we can increase attendance.  
There were several families with children who used to attend.  
I hope there is some way to reopen the pre-school. VBS used to bring in 40 to 50 children including children from other churches.

I would love to see us be a presence in the area, providing a service to others outside the faith. Reestablishing the preschool, or providing a service such as a Food Pantry or even homeless meals one night a week may be ways to grow our ministry.

I would love to see LCW have true service in the community. Something to just serve/help the people of the community. For me, it would be around supporting new moms (whether their first child or ninth child) in the community but anything service works

Utilize the assets of land and place to partner with other Christian organizations to provide services for others in need (i.e., Schools, Special housing).

- 1) Become visible with non-churched families in the neighborhood we reside.
- 2) Internal evangelism to families with non-christian/engaged spouses.
- 3) Lead in young adult and new member Christian education.
- 4) Use property to engage in community ministry.

"Parable of the Talents" always comes to mind. We have been blessed for decades inclusive of ample land within a dynamic suburban geography. How can we leverage the land (and building, as applicable) to expand "why we exist"? Parable of the Talents.

**How are we understood by our neighbors?  
How well do we know our communities' needs?  
What are they? Do we meet them?**

We are spread out over a large area in mini communities.  
We can do some service projects, but only highly selective.

They know our building, but not who we are.  
We know little of their needs, we've been lacking  
in addressing them (basic needs of people).

Spiritual leadership, examples of light insult.  
Living a God-fearing life.

I'm not sure that we are understood even though  
past pastors have introduced themselves to neighbors  
and invited them to functions here at church. We used  
to be involved in a community function in Taunton  
where school supplies were distributed.

Sadly, if our doors closed, I don't believe anyone  
would notice. Perhaps the neighbors around us.  
Our location, being tucked into a neighborhood,  
off the beaten path, is not helpful. Our road signage  
needs to be replaced, but even that isn't a draw.

We are not understood at all by the community.  
We don't have anything that reaches out to  
the community beyond our church.

Who (or where) is our neighbor. If you mean the area  
around the church, we don't spend much time in the  
area to meet them or interact with them.

Let's just assume we're starting at zero.  
We're the building in the community that sits dark most  
of the week and cars magically appear for two hours on  
Sunday morning. A better question would be  
"Why is it important to be a visible LCMS presence?"

In our Raynham neighborhood, likely not (absent the  
building and property). Although attempted several times  
in years past, we really have not influenced the community at all,  
if the metric is "local attendance" at an LCW service or event.

**What do you see Jesus asking us to do together?  
Where are we being asked to go?  
To whom are we being called to go to?**

As in point a, bring God's word to the unbeliever.  
Taking more individual responsibility in outreach.

Together is the operable word. We must communicate better. We are ambassadors of Christ on earth. Opportunity springs up in any situation in our lives.

To study scripture, (growing), the great commission – right here.  
Fellowship for young adults.

I believe we should be more accepting of people who fall into categories that don't fall into our "accepted" groups. ALL are God's creation and human beings. Most are hard workers and compassionate toward others.

As noted above, we need to find a way to spread our word by giving something back to the community, i.e. Food Pantry, soup kitchen, homeless meals, etc.

I'm not sure about this one

See the first question. Jesus sent us here when we purchased this land at this place, is He through with us here? If we are being asked to preach to the spiritually lost and downtrodden any place in Massachusetts will do.

Develop a ministry vision. Reach spiritually hurting both internally and externally. Be visible - people will come to us if we are consistently communicating. Be ready to support spiritual growth when they show up. Hire business & property help.

Not good to set metrics in advance (worship attendance growth, etc). We must make a difference in other people's lives, beyond being just a close-knit congregation. We must focus on executing really well towards a subset of people.