

Wednesday Word March 4th, 2026

Isaiah 56:7 *“Even those I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”*

When I was growing up, my family attended Life Center Assemblies of God. It was a very big church with a 1500-seat sanctuary, full school, Retirement community and assisted living and care home. This church seemed to have everything. My favorite memories were playing tag with my friends (Yes, I ran in church) after Sunday evening service. The building had two floors with multiple staircases to run up and down and plenty of places to hide. When I was young, that is what church was to me – a place to play.

As I grew up, church became much more. It became a ministry house, a prayer house, a place to build and grow relationships, a place to serve and a place to give. The more I got involved in the leadership aspects of the church, the more I saw the political aspect of it. Over the years I have learned two very important lessons about church leadership: 1) If we conduct business and politics laid out plainly in scripture, things tend to go well and the church congregation and organization stay healthy. 2) If we deviate from scripture and hold to tradition, preference or systems that do not reflect scripture, things begin to break down, trust is lost, and the mission of discipleship and care seem to become secondary.

The question I want us to prayerfully consider this week is simple: What is church to you? I am not going to offer any opinions or thoughts I just want us all to think through this.

Here is what I know church is not: Church is not the size of the congregation; Church is not the style or size of the building; Church is not budgets, systems or factions. Church is something different. And while those things I just listed can be a part of the church, they serve a bigger purpose.

We can get caught up many times in the function of the church; we can miss the greater wonder and awe of why Jesus established it in the first place.

As we consider Living the Word this year, let’s prayerfully contemplate how the church should be lived out as well. I can’t wait to hear your thoughts.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg