

Real ^{and} Abundant Life



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1333 S. Kirkwood Road | St. Louis, MO 63122
888-THE LCMS (843-5267) • [lcms.org](https://www.lcms.org)

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“In the beginning, God Created ...”

These five words begin the sacred Scriptures. They are simple words in that they are readily understood, but they communicate a truth that is majestic and momentous. All time and space are defined by these words. All life begins here.

“In the beginning, God” anchors the world in God’s life. God creates the heavens and the earth. The Spirit of God hovers over them. God speaks and there is light. God separates the light from the darkness and names each.¹

As His creative work unfolds, it is clear that the heavens and the earth, the days and the seasons, are servants of life. God calls forth vegetation upon the land, living creatures in the seas, birds in the sky, and animals upon the earth. His divine blessing is joined to His holy will that these creatures be fruitful and multiply. All His work is made radiant by the refrain, “and God saw that it was good.”² Life is a gift of God. It reflects the Creator’s goodness and His gracious character. The truth that God is prior to all created things has been confessed by the Church throughout the ages:

The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created but begotten.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;

But the whole three persons are coeternal together and coequal, so that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped.

— THE ATHANASIAN CREED

1 Genesis 1:1–5

2 Genesis 1:6–25