

Grow to Go!

Disciples on a Mission



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Grow to Go!

“Go, make disciples, baptizing and teaching...” Jesus’ words are the propelling mission of the ELCA! That call is ever-fresh today as Christ’s example leads us out into the world to be a dynamic church of disciples (of all ages) initiating God’s mission in the world God loves so much. Our call to discipleship is an attachment to the heart, mind, and soul of Christ that compels us to act as Christ would in our daily encounters with others and in our growing relationship with God.

When Jesus says, “Follow me,” it always means *action*. Jesus calls us to follow him into the crossroads, right into the middle of everyday life. When we come together for worship, prayer, Bible study, and other practices of the faith, we are being equipped and energized as disciples for the mission God has in mind for us...to tell others about God’s love and grace, to serve Jesus as we love and serve others in our neighborhood and beyond.

As Christians we are people who have received the gift of reconciliation with God through faith in Christ and who are answering the call to share that gift with everyone. We have been created by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. We are people who have been blessed by God, and through whom God is at work today, loving and blessing the whole world. The church is people who are ready to follow Jesus, to imitate Jesus, everywhere they go!

Commitment and Affirmation of Disciple-Leaders

The pastor may welcome children, youth, and adults to come forward to bless their teachers, guides, and facilitators for the coming year. At the appropriate time, teachers and leaders of all the congregation’s educational ministries are invited to come forward.

A lay assisting minister begins:

The following leaders have been called to teach and disciple in our midst this year: *Names are read as individuals come forward.*

The pastor continues:

Today we give thanks and seek God’s blessing on those who have lovingly presented themselves for the teaching ministry of our congregation.

The pastor addresses the teachers and leaders:

In the words of the Great Commission, Jesus compels us to go and teach. Do you hear the Word of God and do you embrace the joy-filled privilege of nurturing Christian growth in those you teach?

The teachers and leaders respond:

I embrace this privilege and ask God to help and guide me.

The pastor continues:

Will you look to the author and replenisher of our faith as you seek to grow in your role as a daily disciple at home, in this congregation, and in the world?

The teachers and leaders respond:

I will and ask God to help and guide me.

The pastor addresses the congregation:

It is our privilege to affirm and send forth those who are called to the teaching ministry of our congregation and God’s kingdom in this place. Will you commit to support them in their spiritual well-being through prayer, encouragement, and service?

The congregation responds:

We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The pastor continues:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we come to you with thanksgiving for your son, Jesus Christ, sent among us to show us the way to love the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all those who teach and learn that we may be filled with a desire to GROW as disciples and GO forth as bold witnesses to your love and grace. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen