



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Evangelism

The simple act of sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus.

Disciples to Apostles

Disciple: a committed follower or student of a teacher or teachings

After Jesus was baptized, he spent approximately three years teaching, preaching and healing. People gathered to hear this man who taught with authority, unlike any others. Jesus invited people to follow him and learn from his teachings. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul."
(Matthew.11:28)

Jesus taught his followers to share the grace of God in word and deed. He kept his teachings simple so each disciple could remember them. Jesus taught, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

(Matthew 22: 37-40) It sounds simple, but it is a lifelong journey to live these commandments in daily life.

Jesus did more than speak words. He lived his teachings and embodied love. He continues to invite people to follow him, to become his students and to invest time in learning his teachings.

What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?

How much time do you invest each week to learn and follow the teachings of Jesus?

Apostle: one who is sent on a mission; commissioned

Jesus began with listeners, those intrigued, inspired and convicted by his teachings. Then, Jesus invited them to follow him, learning more each day. This was part of a greater plan to send his followers on a mission.

The mission began with the twelve disciples. They were sent in teams of two to heal and to preach about the *Good News* of God's love. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, these twelve were commissioned for a greater 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 observe everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) That commission extends to disciples of Jesus in every time and place.

Jesus teaches us to be disciples and then sends us to walk with others. We are given the privilege to share with others about the love of God made known through Jesus Christ. We bear witness to the Good News of Christ, walking with others as we experience God's love and reconciliation together.

How are you listening to and telling stories of God's faithfulness?

How might you move from being a disciples to being sent out as an apostle?

How might God be equipping you to be an apostle, sent on God's mission into the world?

Who are the people you are walking alongside? How are you sharing Christ's love and reconciliation with them?

Disciples of Jesus become apostles – people sent on God's mission.