



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

MISSION

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world.

VISION

CLAIMED by God's grace for the sake of the world,
we are a new creation through God's living word by the power of the Holy Spirit;

GATHERED by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will

Live among God's faithful people
Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper;

SENT by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will

Proclaim the good news of God in word and deed
Serve all people, following the example of Jesus
Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

BAPTISM

At baptism, the presiding minister addresses parents and those who bring children who are not yet able to answer for themselves and entrusts them with the following responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 228)

LIVING OUR BAPTISM

When a baptized Christian affirms the faith (often called *confirmation*) the presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism and asks the question: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)

RESPONSE: We do, and ask God to help and guide us.

And so begins a daily claiming and re-discovering of the God-given gifts of discipleship.

unwrap these five gifts of discipleship!

Five Gifts of Discipleship



LIVING OUR **BAPTISM**...*Five gifts of discipleship*

The five gifts of discipleship are rooted in both the liturgy of Baptism as well as the Affirmation of Baptism found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

When we affirm our baptism, we ask God to help and guide us as we commit to the five faith practices listed below. Each of the following has the potential to be “a gift” of immeasurable value in our lives. Like many gifts, we first need to open the gift, prayerfully ponder it, and discern a place for that gift in daily life. Thanks be to God who sends the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Use the following questions for small group discussions or for personal devotions. Take your time reflecting on each gift, so you might claim and rediscover these five gifts of discipleship.

To live among God’s faithful people.

- a. What does it mean for you to live among God’s faithful people?
- b. Name someone who influenced your faith journey. Describe that person’s faith.
- c. How might “living among God’s faithful people” be considered a gift? What are the consequences, if any, if we do not allow this gift to be part of our life?
- d. **Challenge:** List seven reasons to be part of a church family.

To hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper.

- a. What does it mean for you to hear the Word of God?
- b. Describe what it feels like to receive the Lord’s Supper.
- c. When did you first experience the Word of God and/or Lord’s Supper as a priceless gift from God? Explain.
- d. **Challenge:** Take a few minutes for silent prayer. Listen for a phrase, verse, or image from scripture. Share.

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

- a. What does it mean for you to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word AND deed?
- b. What prevents you from freely sharing the good news of God in Christ?
- c. How might the opportunity to proclaim the good news of God in Christ become a gift to the proclaimer and even transform the proclaimer?
- d. **Challenge:** Turn to someone and share part of your faith story in less than five minutes.

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus.

- a. What does it mean for you to serve all people following the example of Jesus?
- b. Describe the example of Jesus as he served others. Describe what it feels like to serve others.
- c. How might the act of serving others (like Jesus) become a gift to both those served and the server?
- d. **Challenge:** Brainstorm potential partners in order to deepen and widen your service to others.

To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

- a. What does it mean for you to strive for justice?
- b. What can we do as individuals to promote peace in the earth?
- c. What advice would you give to someone exhausted from striving for justice and peace—one who can no longer embrace working for justice and peace as a God-given gift and opportunity?
- d. **Challenge:** Select an injustice or area of strife which concerns you. Identify one thing you will commit to do to make a difference.