

## **The Purpose and work of the Christian Church is:**

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you....” Mark 16:15-16 says, “Go into **all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature....”

**John 8:31-32** “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you **abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup>And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’” (Acts 2:40-42)

**Who:** all the nations, all the world

**Means:** The Word of God, Law and Gospel, The Proclamation of the Gospel, baptizing and teaching

**Goal:** Faith created, preserved, strengthened, and matured in Christ. Believers, Disciples, Hearers(abide in the Word)

## **Is there such a thing as Mission or Evangelism?**

Yes, the church focuses her proclamation on those people who are outside the Church—unbelievers, unchurched, lapsed, or unfamiliar with the Gospel so that they repent, believe, and are baptized (or restored to the faith). The means and message are the same, but the goal includes conversion and membership in the Church. In addition to the Church’s regular services, prayers, sermons, catechesis, and Bible classes, she has typically reached out beyond the walls of the church to reach non-members, etc.

Typical activities:

### **1. “Public” preaching and missions (as Outreach)**

Public preaching is not primarily aimed at regular church members, but at those who would not otherwise hear the Gospel. This includes preaching that occurs outside the normal parish setting, or is clearly addressed to non-Christians, even if done inside a church building. The defining mark is audience and not location. i.e. Paul at the Areopagus (Acts 17): proclamation in a civic, non-synagogue setting.

#### **A. Open-air or civic preaching**

A pastor as a missionary preaching in a town square, park, or campus.

Example: A short sermon preached at a county fair or public festival, explicitly naming Christ crucified and risen. The message is not moral improvement but repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.

#### **B. Mission preaching services**

A special series of services explicitly designed for visitors and non-members.

Historically called “mission festivals,” “revival preaching” (in older usage), or “evangelistic services.”

Example: A congregation hosts a midweek evening service with a sermon titled “**What Is Christianity Actually About?**” and invites the community.

#### **C. Foreign and domestic missions**

Sending pastors as missionaries to places where the Church does not yet exist or is weak.

Examples: A missionary may learn a local language and preach Christ to a people group with no Christian history. A pastor sent to plant a church in a growing suburb with no confessional Lutheran presence.

#### **D. Media and public proclamation**

Radio sermons, podcasts, live-streamed services, which could be explicitly addressed to outsiders.

Printed tracts or catechetical pamphlets handed out publicly.

Example: A radio sermon that explains sin, grace, and justification plainly and simply.

What makes it outreach (not just “preaching”)? It assumes ignorance of the faith. It speaks plainly and foundationally. It calls for repentance and faith.

## **2. Personal witness and conversation in your Vocation**

### **Invitations to worship where the Gospel is clearly preached**

#### **A. “Love God” Faithfully Receive the Word and Sacraments, Pray to the Lord(Vocation as Hearer)**

**Matthew 9:38** “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

**2 Thessalonians 3:1**, “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you.”

#### **B. “Love your Neighbor” (Vocation as a Neighbor)**

**John 13:35** “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**Philippians 2:14-16**, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup>that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom **you shine as lights in the world**, <sup>16</sup>holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”

**Matthew 5:16**, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

#### **C. Do your Duty (Vocation, that is your job, Worker, Homemaker, Father, Mother, etc. )**

**1 Peter 2:11-12**, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, <sup>12</sup>having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

**Ephesians 4:1-3**, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

#### **D. Speak the Truth of God’s Word and Invite to Church (Vocation as a Hearer and Neighbor)**

**1 Peter 3:15**, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to **give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

**Acts 18:24-26**, “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. <sup>25</sup>This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Rather than the church going out, the people are brought to church by the laymen.

**John 1:40-42**, “One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>**He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah”** (which is translated, the Christ). <sup>42</sup>**And he brought him to Jesus.** Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).

**John 1:43-46**, “The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>**Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him** of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup>And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” **Philip said to him, “Come and see.”**

**John 4:28-30**, “The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, <sup>29</sup>‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ <sup>30</sup>Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

**John 4:39-42**, “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I ever did.’ <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of His own word. <sup>42</sup>Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”