

**“Knocking on Doors’ in Contemporary Society”**  
“Practical Implications of “Sending” for Missional Congregations”

# A SEMINAR

HOSTED BY

ST. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas

THE REV. JOHN HECKMANN, PASTOR

Led by Rev. Dr. Wilbert Sohns

September 24, 2019

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### “Knocking on Doors’ in Contemporary Society”

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SEMINAR.....	PAGE 2
THE SEMINAR PRESENTATION - THE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF “SENDING” .....	PAGE 3
<i>THE DYNAMIC DIMENSIONS OF A DYNAMIC MISSION</i> (original 2011 presentation).....	PAGE 9
<i>“THEY WILL COME”</i> STRATEGY FOR CHURCH PLANTING (a missional congregation?)....	PAGE 24

# “Knocking on Doors’ in Contemporary Society”

“Practical Implications of “Sending” for Missional Congregations”

## THE SEMINAR CONTEXT

ST. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas

Led by Rev. Dr. Wilbert Sohns

September 24, 2019

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL MISSIOLOGICAL STUDY AND DISCUSSION, *THE DYNAMIC DIMENSIONS OF A DYNAMIC MISSION (DYNAMIC DIMENSIONS OF A MISSIONAL CHURCH)*, PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED IN PART TO/WITH THE TEXAS DISTRICT STAFF IN 2011\*.

The compendium missiological study, which was based on Christ-missiology, included such segments or modules as:

\*“Sending Motif in The NT Scripture”

“St. John 20:21 Notes”

“The *Missio Dei* and the World”

“John 17” overview

“The *Missio Dei* *ἵνα*”

“Sent Occurrences Gospels-Acts”

\*“*Practical Applications of the Sending God*” (orig. rev. study document used for 9.24.19 seminar)

*נְשַׁלַּח* (*shalach*) – Cf. *ἀποστέλλω* (LXX)

“Missionary Community (Mission Society) Under the Risen Christ” Bible Study

“The Essentials of a Planting Mission”

“The *Missio Dei* and the *Missio Ecclesia* in the Gospel of John”

John 17, The *Great Sending* (+*καθώς*) High Priestly Prayer Bible Study

*Great Sending* (Commission) – A Digest

The Mission Significance of “**AS**” in the Gospel of John

APOSTOLATE

A *MISSIO DEI* CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Articles and studies not yet included as segments in the “compendium” (NOT exhaustive):

*The Apostolate in the Gospel of Matthew*

*The Apostolate in the Gospel of John*

*The Antioch Model of Faithful Participation in Christ’s Mission*

*Best Practices for Church Planting*

*Best Mission Practices in a Chaotic and Hurting World While the Visible Church is in Decline*

*Breaking New Mission Ground*

*The failed “They Will Come” Strategy*

*Concentric Circle Mission Dynamic*

*Congregation – God’s Sending Partner*

SUGGESTED KEY RESOURCE STUDY DOCUMENTS:

“*Mission Affirmations*,” LCMS Convention, 1965

“*The Mission of the Christian Church in the World*,” LCMS, CTCR, 1974

“*A Theological Statement of Mission*,” LCMS, CTCR, Nov. 1991

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF “SENDING” (APOSTOLIC)

The *apostolic sending* out, *sending away* and *being sent ones* together with the corollaries of *leaving and going*, is primarily a mind-set (“*habitus*” not just a “*performance*”) and dynamic resulting in actions - a dynamic of *sending and going*, making the contact, the connection, creating the care culture or climate, cultivation, all in order to communicate Christ - creating communities of faith and sending - (The “*C’s*”).

It is not a “come to us” syndrome (Plan a “*program*” and they will come syndrome). The soil does not come to the sower and seed but the sower with the seed goes to the soil. But the soil can be prepared by creating visibility, awareness, contact, connection, and care. While it may even involve a “*coming*” to a “*church facility*,” it must be an *apostolic sending mind-set and dynamic*—“*sent...into the world*” (Jn. 17:18).

The old evangelism culture of physically going out - *canvassing* and “*knocking on the doors*,” house after house, block after block to identify “*prospects*” - can still be carried out but in different “*apostolic*” ways. An intentional expanding concentric circle dynamic always works, always multiplies no matter the culture or the times. It also involves a sending-disposition of being friendly, hospitable, gracious, of recognizing people, expressing gratitude, and being sensitive to the need of having a people-disposition (focus on others) always and in all occasions (This is contrary to the start-stop “*program*” syndrome and focus).

**FOUNDATIONAL:** 1.) The apostolic sending [authoritative] of Christ and apostolic participation of the “Baptized,” who have the sent/sending-office of the keys originally/directly (Cf. John 17:18 and John 20:21-23) and who are the object of *καταρτισμός*. (Cf. Eph. 4:11-12; Mt. 4:21; Gal. 6:1; Heb. 13:21; Lk. 6:40; 1 Cor. 1:10). 2.) “The mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters” (SA III.4). 3.) Christ-Leadership essentials such as self-awareness, generative, transitional (including adaptability), transformative, collaborative, missional.

### THE SENDING (APOSTOLIC-John 17:18) OF CHRIST (Selected incidences in the Gospels):

- ✓ People in Nazareth (hometown), Galilee, by and on the sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Gennesaret, along the Jordan, in the synagogues, the temple, on the mountainside, in the hills, in the streets and countryside, on the roads, in homes/houses, at meals, at a wedding, at a well, fishing, “the other side of the lake,” in various towns and villages, the grain-fields, solitary places, in a boat, by a pool, Tyre and Sidon, Caesarea Philippi, a mountain, Judea, the other side of the Jordan, Jericho, Bethany, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, in the Garden, on Mount Calvary, etc.
- ✓ Fishermen and tax collectors, the disciples, the lost sheep of Israel, the Gentiles, the Samaritans, Canaanites, the soldiers, rulers/officials, Pilate and Herod, Scribes and Pharisees (even dining with-Lk. 14), high priests, Sanhedrin, sinners, family and friends, Centurion, crowds, etc.

The sick, needy, hungry, hurting and suffering people, **the woman at the well (cf. example of “*C’s*”)**, demon-possessed man, dead girl, widow’s son, sick woman, Syrian Phoenician woman, deaf and dumb, blind, little children, lepers, paralyzed, etc.

### THE CHRIST-AUTHORITY SENDING (APOSTOLIC) OF THE DISCIPLES/APOSTLES (Selected incidences in the book of Acts; Cf. also *sending* in Matthew 10 and Luke 10):

- ✓ The mixed crowd/languages/cultures on Pentecost
- ✓ The people in Jerusalem, the temple, the temple courts, the temple gate, “Solomon’s Colonnade, the Sanhedrin, The chief priest and elders, etc.
- ✓ House to house (homes), The diaspora, etc.

- ✓ Judea and Samaria, the road to Gaza, in the chariot, Caesarea, road to Damascus, Damascus, Cornelius (A centurion), synagogues, prisons/jails, by the river, theaters, city assemblies, mars hill, ships, etc.
- ✓ Jews and Gentiles, Greeks and Romans, Ethiopian, rulers/officials, Governors, kings, soldiers/guards, epicurean and stoic philosophers, seaman, etc.
- ✓ The mixed congregation in Antioch, The planting of the congregations in “the ends of the earth,” on the Missionary journeys

**EXAMPLES to execute the above “C’s” (contact, connect, care, communicate, creating community):**

*Note: Applications depend upon nature and character of the community, rural, suburb, city, etc.*

- Priority of creating and keeping an up-to-date record of names of friends and “prospects” and their addresses, not just creating, and keeping a membership role and records of official acts.
- Intentional gathering of names from congregation members (various occasions)
- “Kingdom Builders” visitations-groups (Cf. Elders/deacons/lay ministers-group and ind. visits)
- Social media
  - Brief, pointed, relevant, relational posts
  - Encouraging congregation members to share the post...thus relational multiplication
  - Note the current epitome of the concentric circle strategy in social media
- Local coffee houses, businesses, eating places, senior citizen centers, boys’ and girls’ clubs, community gathering places.
- Identify and develop relationship with leaders/leadership in the community such as Mayor, City and/or county officials, City Judge, County Judge, other government officials, etc.
- Developing relationship with local schools, teachers and administration
  - If available qualifications exist, provide mentoring by members or offer other help
- Developing relationship with local law enforcement.
- Developing relationship with local ministerium, individual pastors, etc.
- Strategic and regular use of all local media
  - Newspaper, TV, Radio
- Strategic Direct targeted mailings; “event” follow-up mailing, email (obtain names/addresses)
- Participation in community service organizations, Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- Welcome letter to all newcomers in community
  - Intentional effort to obtain names and addresses of newcomers (new moves)
- Intentional appropriate hand-outs and follow-up of all Services and all congregation events
- A free appreciation dinner for all volunteer firemen (Sheriff’s department, etc.) and family members in the community
  - Invite a reputable guest speaker as a possibility
  - Follow-up with letter, phone call or visit
- An appreciation dinner for all teachers, staff (home school) and family members in the community
  - Invite a reputable guest speaker (Professional educator) as a possibility
  - Follow-up with letter, phone call or visit
- A free appreciation dinner for all local school sport teams and family members in the community
  - Follow-up with letter, phone call or visit
  - Invite a reputable “professional” athlete to be guest speaker as a possibility

- Conduct a periodic **outdoor** come-as-you-are **Sunday** School - children with parents and Gospel music worship service in the **am** or Sunday night, etc. for the “community”
  - Invitation via all media and direct mailing
  - Personal invitations extended by members of the congregation
  - Invited musical group(s)
  - Follow-up with letter, phone call or visit
- Sponsor a Saturday night country music/Blue grass music/Gospel music jamboree
  - Example: downtown The Grove/Dube store
  - Example: other venue depending on church location and town/suburb/city
  - Invited musical group(s)
  - Follow-up with letter, phone call or visit
- Intentional VBS, Pre-School, S.S., etc.) follow-up by pastor and teachers of attendees and their parents (grandparents)
  - Follow-up phone call or
  - Follow up letter or
  - Follow-up visit
- Intentional follow-up of weddings (especially attendees at rehearsal), baptisms, funerals of attendees and their parents
  - Follow-up phone call or follow up letter or
  - Follow-up visit
- Developing relationships with neighbors
  - Inviting neighbors into home for dinner. Exercising listening and taking opportunity for spiritual conversations.
  - Inviting discipleship groups for BBQ/other and inviting neighbors as a part of the "party" so that they meet your Christian friends. No overt evangelization at this point but establishing a place of trust and familiarity.
  - Inviting neighbors to participate in community activity as participants with Christians. (e.g. - Join us in mentoring at a neighborhood “School,” Join us in helping local constables, etc.) experience of making an impact draws curiosity in "what kind of church is this" that they are doing something for our kids, neighborhood, police, school?
- Sensitivity to and response to “critical juncture” events of neighbors, neighborhood, etc.
- **If there is a contact, ALWAYS connect, ALWAYS care, ALWAYS cultivate and ALWAYS communicate Christ to/for/of the Christ-comm-unity of faith and sending (a discipleship unity with Christ [come, follow me!] and unity with one another)!**

THE FOLLOWING ARE OTHER “**SENDING**” (APOSTOLIC) SAMPLE OCCASSIONS, OCCURRENCES OR APPLICATIONS TO GENERATE THINKING

CHRISTIAN LAITY AND CONGREGATIONS SENT INTO THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY:

- ✓ VBS that reaches 5-600 kids (and their parents)
- ✓ VBS in the back yards of multiple homes
- ✓ Missional “communities” in the community; neighboring; missional living
- ✓ Community Bible study cell groups in multiple homes

- ✓ Community Summer camps (music, soccer, art, reading program, etc.) that reach children throughout the summer (or after school)
- ✓ Community Trunk or Treat fall festival. Reaches children with the Gospel near Halloween
- ✓ Community Easter Egg Hunt...Easter message given as children are invited for the day and for services
- ✓ “Bethlehem”- setting up the town of Bethlehem in the gym or outdoors...Inviting families of the community to come in and learn about the Christmas story as surrounded by the Christmas town. Animals outside, including a camel, to tell the gospel.
- ✓ Early Learning Center...staff engages children/families at least 7 times a year to share the Gospel.
- ✓ **Discipleship groups**...starting groups that not only come together for encouragement, study, and prayer. But, to be sent out together to impact community, invite non-Christians in, and be living out the Gospel together (Example of “**Kingdom Builders**” in a congregation).
- ✓ ESL classes...reaching non-English speaking people to connect them with Spanish (other) speaking church.
- ✓ Spanish (other) Service...Sunday afternoons...reaching the Hispanic (other) community
- ✓ Sponsoring a community health fare
- ✓ Sponsoring an educational fare engaging the local schools and teachers – prayers in the Service for all local teachers and schools; other college campus outreach (ethnic)
- ✓ Sponsor a community 4-H group; sponsor a home-school center for sharing, fellowship, etc.
- ✓ Other:

#### **CHRISTIAN LAITY AND CONGREGATIONS SENT INTO THE LARGER COMMUNITY:**

- ✓ Planting a missional congregation, a missional school (a community of faith and mission)
- ✓ VBS in the back yards of multiple homes
- ✓ Community Bible study cell groups in multiple homes
- ✓ Missional lay leaders trained for being sent into the “activities” and life of the community and culture
- ✓ Sponsoring an educational fare engaging the local schools and teachers – prayers in the Service for all local teachers and schools; other college campus outreach (ethnic)
- ✓ Summer Advancement Leadership Initiative in public schools
- ✓ Sponsoring a community health fare; other local fairs
- ✓ Hurricane/Tornado repair (help individuals and connect them to faith community)
- ✓ Habitat Homes (service...not as much opportunity for Gospel)
- ✓ Meals on Wheels (bringing help and hope to the elderly)
- ✓ Thrift store (Clothing brought, gathered and sorted) Money raised to help needy...or items given to needy. Members go into the community in need.
- ✓ Other community care and development efforts
- ✓ Assist LINC faith communities to connect to their local community (Apartment ministries and community ministries), Street fairs, community events at church, clean-up of neighborhood and church.
- ✓ Homeless shelter- Congregation keeping homeless for one week as a part of Interfaith Hospitality Network. Four families are taken care of by churches, re-educating, working again, and saving enough money to go back to work. Some connect with churches in the process.

- ✓ Set up and operate a “coffee house”
- ✓ Sponsor a Country music/Gospel jamboree in town square or \_\_\_\_\_ once a month
- ✓ Sponsor a “concert” by musicians from a local college
- ✓ Sponsor a weekly meal for the H.S. Varsity team before the game
- ✓ Other:

**CHRISTIAN LAITY AND CONGREGATIONS INCLUDING TEAMS SENT BEYOND ITS OWN SURROUNDING AND LARGER COMMUNITY:**

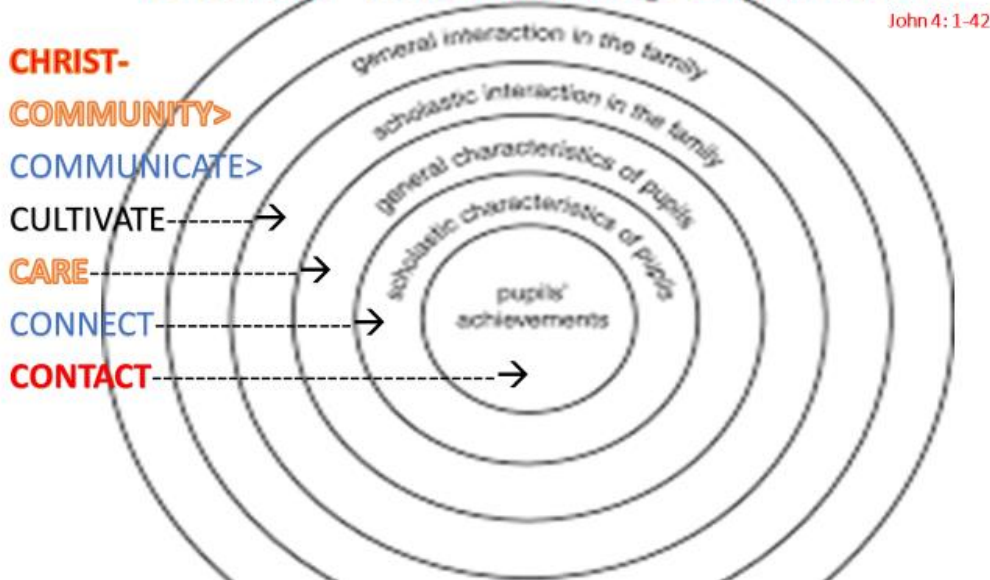
- ✓ IDENTIFY LEAERS/LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOP RELATIONSHIP
- ✓ Prisons – teams going into local prisons from Wednesday to Sunday. A retreat for 60 prisoners (Christians and non-Christians) to share the Gospel and share God’s grace with those who are isolated from the world.
- ✓ Mexico – Work with handicapped poor. As handicapped are placed in chairs...team and local Christians witness to families and individuals. People connected to local churches. Homes are re-fit to be able to handle wheelchairs.
- ✓ Guatemala – Sent to build. Homes built around the churches. Primarily built for members, but drawing non-Christian crowd to come and see. VBS held with kids in local schools and community.
- ✓ Belize – Sent to share and encourage. VBS held annually with community. (160 last year) who show up...Some Christian, many not. Build up image of congregation in working with them. Adding children’s space, worshipping with them, providing community gathering of not only kids, but also “sewing time” for women to gather in church. (20 women this past year, at least 10 that had no church connection. Sent to: Teaching pastors and leaders, training youth leaders, training Christian Counselors, building capacity of ministries to care for themselves (churches and orphanages); Eyeglass clinic to connect community to church and potential medical clinic.
- ✓ Working with Lutherans in Honduras, digging water wells
- ✓ Working with national church in Kenya. Eyeglass clinics to draw un-churched. Lutherans meet with people as they wait in line to receive glasses. Share gospel and invitation to worship.
- ✓ “Loft” ministry in downtown Houston. Reaching to un-churched young adults who would not come to a church...but will meet in apartments around the Bible.

**THE PRACTICAL “CONTACT...COMMUNITY” (“C’s”) APPLICATIONS IN MISSIONAL PERSPECTIVE:**

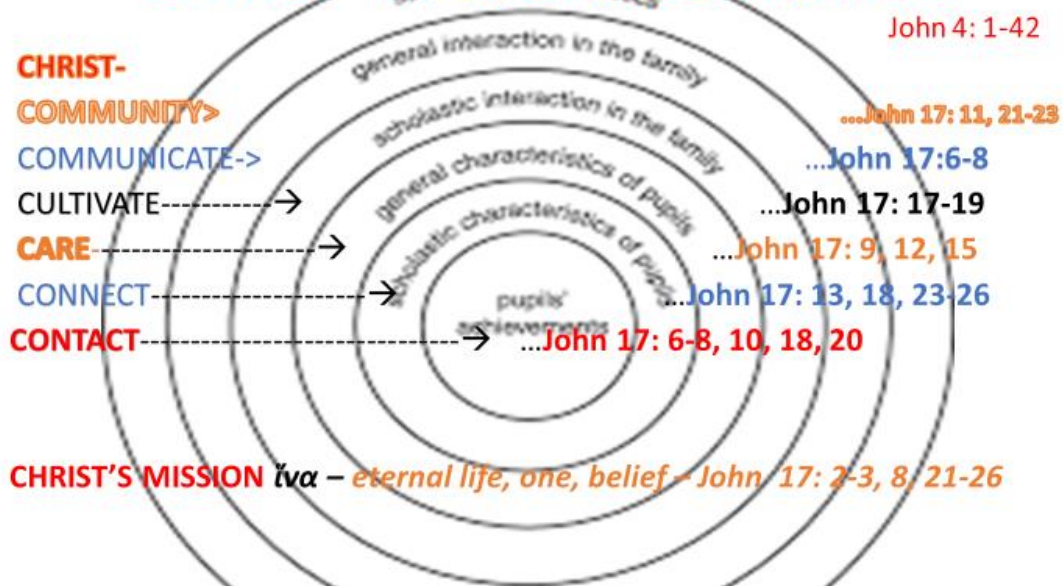
*Being **apostolic** meant the continuity of Christ’s and the Church’s **sending...sent** participants representing Christ...to save the people of the whole world...not sent to save human institutions, property, buildings, church signs, Lutheran traditions, ceremonies and rituals, a Lutheran ethos or “arrangements,” but people ...This *Missio Dei* disposition... and practices are to be faithfully evaluated and executed...**Acts** gives very little or no mention to arrangements such as “place,” “property,” “grounds,” “buildings,” “architecture,” “space,” “technological, musical, and sound instruments” or even “language,” and “time,” except an occasional reference to public places for the proclamation and teaching such as “synagogue,” “beside the river,” “place of prayer,” “house,” “Mars Hill,” “market place,” “prison,” “theater,” and of course the particular city/country. **Acts** demonstrates the focus on Christ and His Word... people receiving the Gospel message...the mission of converting and transforming souls for eternity with Christ (John 17). It is all about HIS MISSION, HIS CHURCH! (ANTIOCH MODEL FOR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION IN CHRIST’S MISSION by wjs, 2019)*



# CHRIST-MISSIONAL DYNAMIC



# CHRIST-MISSIONAL DYNAMIC



EXECUTING THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLE DYNAMIC OF JOHN 17:18; 20: 21-23; and John 4

“The mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters” (SA III.4)

Cf. *Evidence-based message and findings*



**Note: “Christ-Leadership Essentials” also executes the concentric circle dynamic**

## **THE DYNAMIC DIMENSIONS OF A DYNAMIC MISSION**

*DYNAMIC DIMENSIONS OF A MISSIONAL CHURCH*

**TEXAS DISTRICT STAFF – 2.16.2011 Revised**

### **INTRODUCTION**

It has long been considered a genius (*outstanding quality and influence*) of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church* from the time of the Reformation (by the grace of God) to center its faith and life in everything God has done and is doing for, in and through His church. He created the world; He created man; He preserves His creation; He gave the Law; He revealed Himself; He provided the Scriptures; He sent Christ; He redeemed mankind through Christ; He sent the Holy Spirit; He creates and sustains faith; He sanctifies; He ordained, instituted and acts through the means of grace, the Word and Sacraments; He created the church; He sends the church; He established the office of the public ministry; He provided eternal life; He rules; He will return and take us to be with Him forever. It is all His initiative, His accomplishment, His work, His act, His sending – it is HIS MISSION – IT IS THE *MISSIO DEI*. (Note: the etymology of “mission” is “send” – The Latin words, “missio,” “mitto;” The Greek words, ἀποστέλλω or πέμπω or ἀφίημι [cf. also ἐκβάλλω and ἀπολύω] Cf. Appendix I, “Sending Motif in Scripture,” Page 5

What a dynamic (*vigorous, living and energetic activity, force and motion*) mission of God that produced forgiveness, life, salvation and the church! ***“Creation is past and redemption is accomplished, but the Holy Spirit carries on his work unceasingly until the last day. For this purpose he has appointed a community on earth, through which he speaks and does all his work. For he has not yet gathered together all his Christian people, nor has he completed the granting of forgiveness”*** (Large Catechism, Apostle’s Creed, Article III). [Emphasis added] God’s appointed community on earth exists to reach out beyond itself.

Since the church exists because of such a dynamic mission of God and since the church is to be missional, then the missional church needs to understand and apply that it is God’s appointed community on earth. The church is not a place, buildings, facilities, a campus, an “institution” or simply services, liturgies and programs to which people are “invited” and to which they may “come” but a community of **God’s people** centering its life on a saving faith relationship with Jesus Christ and a relationship with others in the “world” community. This **“unique community”** centers its life and mission on God’s mission to the world (Cf. **John 17**). ***“In the first place, he has a unique community in the world. It is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit reveals and preaches that Word, and by it he illumines and kindles hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it and persevere in it...there is on earth a little holy flock or community of pure saints under one head, Christ. It is called together by the Holy Spirit in one faith, mind, and understanding. It possesses a variety of gifts, yet is united in love without sect or schism. Of this community I also am a part and member, a participant and co-partner (2 Cf. 1 Cor. 1:9) in all the blessings it possesses...”*** (Large Catechism, Apostle’s Creed, Article III) [Emphasis added]

The following presentation offers seven dynamic dimensions for the mission of God’s “appointed community on earth” through which God carries out His mission. Appendices I– VI are foundational studies and resources. Appendix VII, “Practical Applications of the Sending God,” simply provides some examples as thought starters.

## I. A DYNAMIC MISSION IS BASED ON THE MISSION OF GOD (*Missio Dei*)

The mission of every Christian and every community of believers has its source in the Triune God Himself. God, the heavenly Father sent His only Son (John 20:21-23; John 17:18; Gal. 4:4-6; 1 John 4: 9-10, 14) to redeem the World (John 3:16ff; Cf. Luke 4:18-19). God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (2 Cor. 5:17-20). This mission belongs to God and is His work. A dynamic mission is derived from and flows from His mission which is nothing less than God's saving activity in Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind. It is Christ's dynamic mission! Thus, the basis of the personal involvement and the church's participation in that mission is God's saving work for mankind in Jesus

## II. A DYNAMIC MISSION IS DETERMINED BY CHRIST AND HIS MISSION

A dynamic mission is determined (defined) by Christ - His church being sent as He was sent, as being a sent one (**John 20:21; John 17:18**) to the nations (world), as a going to disciple and to baptize (Matt. 28:18-20), as a going to teach (Matt. 28:18-20) and to proclaim (Luke 24:47) the message of salvation. This fixed mission is based on Christ's mission and His Word in the context of the world, community and culture(s) to which He was sent (**John 17:2-4, 18**). It is the determination of being a deliberate bold Gospel witness (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:48). 1 Peter 2:9-10 is understood as defining the believers to be a people of God called out of the world, placed in the world and sent into the world to declare His praises. The very reason for the existence of every Christian is the mission that Christ determines and defines (Cf. *Brief Statement*, 30)! With the mission determined by Christ, every Christian and every Christian congregation understands, communicates and applies the essential nature and purpose of His mission. This statement by the Synod makes it succinct: "The primary mission of the church is to make disciples of every nation" (*A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles*, 1973 Synod conv.). **Every Christian (not just clergy) is a "missionary" and every community of believers is a "mission" congregation sent into the world.** Cf. Appendix II, "St. John 20:21 Notes," Page 13

## III. A DYNAMIC MISSION IS CENTERED IN THE KERYGMA OF CHRIST

The central message of the sent messenger is Christ crucified (1 Cor. 2:2). There is no other Rescuer (Acts 4:12)! Christ's life, suffering and death, repentance and forgiveness of sins is the proclamation (Luke 24:47). The community of saints have been given the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-20). While the message of the law is certainly proclaimed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is predominant! While the Scriptures are a supreme and necessary gift of God, Jesus is central! In the sending of the missionary/messenger, God binds His mission and the transmission of the message to the Kerygma of Christ. "...the gracious justification of the sinner through faith in Jesus Christ is not only the chief doctrine of Holy Scripture and a basic presupposition for the interpretation of Scripture, but the heart and center of our Christian faith and theology [and our mission]" (*A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles*, 1973 convention of the Synod). **"No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are"** (Acts 15:11).

## IV. A DYNAMIC MISSION IS DRIVEN BY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

Every Christian and every Christian congregation are empowered, moved, inspired and compelled by the mission of God in Jesus Christ. **He is the Sender** and provides the impetus and impelling force - causing, propelling and guiding the mission movement. It is the love, compassion and rescue mission of Christ (Luke 15) that is the power-drive. The mission of every Christian and every congregation is truly **driven** only by the Gospel (2 Cor. 5:14-21) and not by a command (Not by any of the three uses of the law). It is not simply by the great commission passages of Scripture nor even all the mission examples, models or patterns as recorded in Scripture or in Christendom's history that changes and moves the believers or the community of believers to be truly missional. What moves or drives the church is what Christ has done and is doing to and for the church. The Gospel alone empowers! God's love for us and the world is the source of our motivation (Cf. *A Theological Statement of Mission*, CTCR, 1991).

#### V. A DYNAMIC MISSION IS EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is the promised Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; John 20:22; Acts 1:8) who creates and sustains faith. ***“He effects our sanctification...through the Word of God, reveals and preaches that Word, and by it illuminates and enkindles hearts so that they understand it and accept it, cling to it and abide by it”*** (LC). The mission activity of God will be carried out until the last day through the work of the Holy Spirit. He fills the believers, the “missionaries” (Acts 1:2; 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:31; 13:2). The Holy Spirit empowers the church for participation in God's mission (Acts 1:8; John 14:16). The Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith” (Small Catechism, Apostles' Creed). God, the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ has **sent** the Holy Spirit as the Witness, the Helper, the Bearer of Truth, the Teacher and the Power from on high (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; 20:22; Luke 24:49) and Who carries out His work through the **“spoken word,” the Sacraments, the “power of the keys” and “the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren”** (Cf. *Smalcald Articles: 3, IV*).

#### VI. A DYNAMIC MISSION IS DEVELOPED BY THE POWER OF THE WORD

Every Christian and every Christian congregation are spiritually formed, built, and shaped in ones/its mission and ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word. He causes every Christian to come into being and causes the congregation to come into being, to expand, to advance and have a continuing effective state of mission-mindedness and action. The mission leaders, laity and clergy alike and the mission of the congregation are truly **developed** by the **apostolic Word** (Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24). **Bible study** accompanied by a study of the confessions and the Church fathers together with **mission leadership development** are key foundational factors in a “mission” Christian and “mission” congregation. While very often salutary, it is not simply programs, seminars, workshops, institutions, structures, resolutions or the “how to” that develop God's people. It is through the persuasion and influence of the Word of God that missional leaders and congregations are developed. **The degree of a passion for mission and a dynamic mission itself are in direct proportion to one's spiritual health and relationship to Christ and His Word.**

#### VII. A DYNAMIC MISSION IS DIRECTED BY CHRIST

Every Christian and every Christian congregation carry out the mandate of the great commission as instructed by the **will of the Sender, Jesus Christ**. He sets, regulates and controls the course of the mission. The Church has one assignment between now and the end time. Christ has pointed the eyes of the church to **the lost** and aimed our **urgent task** on the target of bringing His rescue and care to **all people** and to **all**

**cultures** everywhere. The Church is the carrier of the Gospel to **the world**. Christ has given the Church her orders! The Christ, Who was **sent** by the Heavenly Father has **sent** the Church to all *ethne* (John 17:18; Matt. 28:19; Rev. 14:6) – **Lost world-directed**. Cf. **Appendix III**, “**The Missio Dei and the World**,” **Page 20** and **Appendix IV**, “**John 17**,” **Page 25**.

In a mission sermon, Walther said: “To sum up briefly what has already been said: As certain as the church is first gathered outwardly by baptism, thus swearing allegiance to the banner of Christ and placing herself into His service—as certain as the church has the keys of the kingdom of heaven and the priesthood for the whole world—as certain as she is the spiritual mother of all believers, the leaven of the world and God's wheat-seed — as certain, finally, as the church is a fellowship of love whose true members have ever borne the responsibility for the conversion of the lost world,— so certain it is that the Christian church itself is the true mission society, instituted by God Himself.”

Under the authority, direction and will of the Sender, Christ, the church is the very hand, agent and instrument of God and His mission. It is **SENT** (being sent, leave, leave behind, depart, go) with **instructions**, with a **task** (testify, baptize, preach, teach etc.), and a **message** (the saving activity of Christ). And the *Missio Dei* always includes a **purpose**. The Greek conjunction, **ἵνα**, **denotes the purpose — in order that; to the intent (that), that, so that**. Thus many of the *Missio Dei* passages in Scripture contain **the mission purpose** (**ἵνα**) such as forgiveness, faith, rescue, eternal life, salvation, oneness, etc. (John 3:17; John 20:31; Cf. John 17; etc.). In an address at the founding of the Synodical Conference, Walther addressed “purpose” when he stated “**HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT BEYOND ALL ELSE WE MAKE THE SAVING OF SOULS THE END AND AIM OF OUR JOINT WORK IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM.**” [Cf. **Appendix V**, “**The Missio Dei ἵνα**,” **Page 27**] Together with instructions, a task, a message and a purpose, the church is also **sent with divine resources** (The presence of the Sender, The Holy Spirit, the Word, the truth). The mission of **every Christian and every Christian community** is truly **directed** by the Lord of the Mission and the Church (Luke 24:45-49).

## CONCLUSION

The mission of God, the mission of the church, the mission of every Christian is dynamic, that is, vibrant and forceful. The mission dynamic of “**sending**” always includes the dynamic of **leaving** and **going**. This **sender/sent-one/sending/leaving/going dynamic** is the very heart of God’s mission in Christ. It is also the heart of the church’s mission and the mission of every Christian. **The mark of a missional church is not its attraction, seeker sensitive or “consumer” capacity, not its program, services, facility, organization or seating capacity, but it’s sending (leaving and going) capacity. This heart of mission (sending) takes place in and through every aspect of its life! DYNAMIC!!**

**A few other additional Biblical study references:**

2 Tim 2:2; 1 Cor. 3: 5-23; Acts 2; 6; 14: 21-25; Eph. 4: 1, 7, 12-16; Mk. 16:15-16; Luke 19:10; Jn. 21: 15-25; Romans 16:25-27; **Appendix VI**, “**Sent Occurrences Gospels-Acts**,” **Pg. 29**

**Key Resource study document: “A Theological Statement of Mission,”** LCMS, CTCR, Nov. 1991

**WJS, Rev. 3.1.2011**

## APPENDIX I

### SENDING MOTIF IN THE NT SCRIPTURE

#### John 17:18

As you sent (ἀπέστειλας) me into the world, so I have sent (ἀπέστειλα) them into the world.

#### John 20:21-23 (In the light of John 17:18)

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent (ἀπέσταλκέν [ἀποστέλλω])<sup>1</sup> [misit; gesandt] me, even so I am sending (πέμπω)<sup>2</sup> [mitto; sende] you."<sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive (ἀφήτε) the sins of anyone, they are forgiven (ἀφέωνται); if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

#### Luke 4:18-19 (In the light of John 17:18 and John 20:21-23)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent (ἀπέσταλκέν [ἀποστέλλω]) me (and I am here) to proclaim liberty (ἄφεσιν [ἄφεσις] – release, freedom, pardon, dismissal) to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty (ἀποστείλαι, ἀφέσει<sup>3</sup> [ἄφεσις]) those who are oppressed (to send away (ἀποστείλαι) the crushed [broken to pieces, shattered] into freedom (ἀφέσει) [release, deliverance, etc.] – “send forth the oppressed into freedom” – “to send away in deliverance such as are shattered”),<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

#### Matthew 28:18-20

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go (πορευθέντες [πορεύομαι] – as you are going, departing [away, forth, one’s way] – note relationship to “sending”) therefore and make disciples of all 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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**COMMENT:** The additional supporting Scripture passages below also reveal the character, quality or nature of “sending” or “being sent” or being a sent one:

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<sup>1</sup> ἀποστέλλω: to send out (properly on a mission) literal or figurative; send (off, away, forth, out [of place, time or

relation]), dispatch (on service), to send with a commission; **official or authoritative sending**. Note the word for apostle: ἀπόστολος—from ἀποστέλλω - a delegate, a messenger, one sent on a mission; specially an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ, messenger, he that is sent. (στέλλω— set apart; denotes properly the orderly motion involved) [Cf. Hebrew *shalach*, Gen. 3: 23; Exodus 3:10-15; Is. 6:8; 48:16; 61:1-2 – LXX]

<sup>2</sup> πέμπω: to send or dispatch (from the subject view or point of departure).

<sup>3</sup> ἄφεσις: aphiemi; freedom; (figurative) pardon :- deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, dismissal, remission. ἀφίημι— from apo and hiemi (more the object point) -let go, a release, freeing (to send; an intensive form of eimi, to go); to send forth, in various applications (as follow) :- cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up. (Cf. “forgive” Matt 9:5-6; 26:28; John 20:23 and “leave” Matt. 4:20,22; Cf. also Luke 4:18)

- It always involves **an action by the sender, the one with authority/power**
- No self-sending, no self-appointment, no self-representation, no arrogation of authority to oneself, no self-determination of the task or message, no self-honor, and no self-will.
- **It always involves going, going away and a leaving or departing** (including of places, people, possessions, one's own self and priorities, lifestyle, environment and comforts, etc.)
- Receiving a "sent one" is receiving "The Sender."
- One is sent **under the authority and will of the sender** with **instructions**, a **task** (preach, baptize, testify, heal etc.), a **message**, a **purpose** (forgiveness, faith, rescue, life, salvation, oneness, etc.) and **with resources** (The presence of the Sender, The Holy Spirit, the Word, the truth). **In summarizing, the church is sent into the world**
  - with **Christ's authority**
  - with Christ's **mission**
  - with Christ's **message**
  - with Christ's ultimate **purpose**
  - with Christ's (and the Father's) Sent-one, the **Holy Spirit**
  - with Christ's **means of grace** (Word and Sacraments) and **truth**
  - with Christ's **peace, power, promise and presence**
- One is **sent to** "places" (locations, destinations) and/or to people (humanity, **the world**, the lost, the entrapped strangers to God's Word and strangers to His bond of love, the **world** in need)
- One is **sent** to honor and acknowledge the sender
- One is **sent** as a slave/servant, as a messenger or as a representative in relationship to the sender and carrying out the will of the sender.
- One is **sent** under and with the sender's compassion and love.

## I CHRIST, THE SENT ONE

**Hebrews 3:1** Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider

**Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,**

**Matthew 10:40**

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who **sent** (**ἀποστείλαντά**) me. Cf. Mark 9:37; Luke 9:48; John 5:23; John 13:20

**Matthew 15:24**

He answered, "I was **sent** (**ἀπεστάλην**) only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Cf. Luke 19:10)

**Mark 9:37**

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who **sent** (**ἀποστείλαντά**) me."

**Luke 4:18**

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has **sent** (**ἀπέσταλκέν**) me to proclaim liberty (**ἄφθσειν**) to the captives and recovering



of sight to the blind, to **set at liberty** (**ἀποστείλαι, ἀφέσει**) those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

**Luke 4:43**

"...but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was **sent** (**ἀπεστάλην**) for this purpose."

**Luke 9:48**

"... and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who **sent** (**ἀποστείλαντά**) me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great." (Luke 10:16: *rejects...him*, John 12:45: *sees...him*)

**John 3:17**

For God did not **send** (**ἀπέστειλεν**) [**misit-AP IV, 96, 345**] his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**John 5:23**

that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who **sent** (**πέμψαντα**) him. Cf. Matt. 10:40 et al

**John 5:24, 30, 36-38**

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who **sent** (**πέμψαντί**) me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

[30] "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who **sent** (**πέμψαντός**) me. [36] But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has **sent** (**ἀπέσταλκεν**) me. [37] And the Father who **sent** (**πέμψας**) me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, [38] and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has **sent** (**ἀπέστειλεν**).

**John 6:29**

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has **sent** (**ἀπέστειλεν**) [**misit- SD 02:26**]"

**John 6:38-39**

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who **sent** (**πέμψαντός**) me. [39] And this is the will of him who **sent** (**πέμψαντός**) me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

**John 6:44**

No one can come to me unless the Father who **sent** (**πέμψας**) me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

### **John 6:57**

As the living Father **sent** (**ἀπέστειλέν**) me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

### **John 7:16-18**

So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who **sent** (**πέμψαντός**)

me. [17] If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. [18] The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who **sent** (**πέμψαντος**) him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

### **John 7:28-29, 33**

So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord. He who **sent** (**πέμψας**) me is true, and him you do not know. [29] I know him, for I come from him, and he **sent** (**ἀπέστειλεν**) me." [33] Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who **sent** (**πέμψαντά**) me.

### **John 8:16-18**

Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who **sent** (**πέμψας**) me. [17] In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. [18] I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who **sent** (**πέμψας**) me bears witness about me."

### **John 8:26**

I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who **sent** (**πέμψας**) me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."

### **John 8:29**

And he who **sent** (**πέμψας**) me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

### **John 8:42**

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he **sent** (**ἀπέστειλεν**) me.

### **John 9:4-7**

We must work the works of him who **sent** (**πέμψαντός**) me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. [5] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." [6] Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud [7] and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means **Sent** [**Ἀπεσταλμένος**] ). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

### **John 10:36**

do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent (ἀπέστειλεν) into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?

**John 11:42**

I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent (ἀπέστειλας) me."

**John 12:44-50**

And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent (πέμψαντά) me. [45] And whoever sees me sees him who sent (πέμψαντά)

me. [46] I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. [47] If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. [48] The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. [49] For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent (πέμψας) me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. [50] And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

**John 13:20**

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send (πέμψω) receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent (πέμψαντά) me."

**John 14:24**

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent (πέμψαντός) me.

**John 15:21**

But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent (πέμψαντά) me.

**John 16:5**

But now I am going to him who sent (πέμψαντά) me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

**John 17:3, 8, 18, 21, 23, 25**

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent (ἀπέστειλας). [8] For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent (ἀπέστειλας) me. [18] **As you sent** (ἀπέστειλας) **me into the world, so I have sent** (ἀπέστειλα) **them into the world**. [20] "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, [21] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent (ἀπέστειλας) me. [23] I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the

world may know that you sent (ἀπέστειλας) me and loved them even as you loved me [25] O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent (ἀπέστειλας) me.

#### **John 20:21**

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent (ἀπέσταλκέν) [misit] me, even so I am sending (πέμπω) [mitto] you." (Cf. AG 28:6; TR 9, 23, 31)

#### **Acts 3:26**

God, having raised up his servant, sent (ἀπέστειλεν) him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

#### **Galatians 4:4-6**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth (ἐξαπέστειλεν) his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6] And because you are sons, God has sent (ἐξαπέστειλεν) the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

#### **1 John 4:9-10**

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent (ἀπέσταλκεν) his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent (ἀπέστειλεν) his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

#### **1 John 4:14**

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent (ἀπέσταλκεν) his Son to be the Savior of the world.

## **II. THE HOLY SPIRIT, A SENT ONE**

#### **John 14: 26**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send (πέμψει) in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

#### **John 15:26**

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send (πέμψω; senden) to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

#### **John 16:7**

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send (πέμψω) him to you. (Cf. John 20:22)

#### **Luke 24:49**

“and behold, I am **sending** (ἀποστέλλω) the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (cf. Acts 1:4 – do not leave, depart, go away, but wait for the gift...)

#### **Galatians 4:4-6**

But when the fullness of time had come, God **sent forth** (ἐξαπέστειλεν) **his Son**, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. [6] And because you are sons, God has **sent** (ἐξαπέστειλεν) **the Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

### **III. THE DISCIPLES, APOSTLES, BELIEVERS, SERVANTS AND THE CHURCH ARE**

#### **SENT ONES**

##### **Matthew 11:10**

This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I **send** (ἀποστέλλω) my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” (Mal. 3:1)

##### **Matthew 10:5-7, 16 (Matthew 10:1-42 – Jesus sends out the Twelve)**

These twelve Jesus **sent** (ἀπέστειλεν) out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’... [16] Behold, I am **sending** (ἀποστέλλω) you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (Cf. Luke 9:1-6 [Luke 9:2, and he **sent** [ἀπέστειλεν] them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal].)

##### **Matthew 21:1**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus **sent** (ἀπέστειλεν) two disciples (Cf. Mark 11:1; Luke 19:29ff) ...go (Πορεύεσθε [πορεύομαι]) to the village ahead of you...he will **send** (ἀποστελεῖ) them right away

##### **Matthew 21:34 (Matthew 21:33-46 – Parable of the Tenants)**

When the season for fruit drew near, he **sent** (ἀπέστειλεν) his servants to the tenants to get his fruit...**sent** other servants...**sent** his son. (Cf. Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19).

##### **Matthew 22:3-7 (Matthew 22:1-14 – The Parable of the Wedding Feast)**

and **sent** (ἀπέστειλεν) his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. [4] Again he **sent** (ἀπέστειλεν) other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ [5] But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, [6] while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. [7] The king was angry, and he **sent** (πέμψας) his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. (Cf. Luke 14:17, the Parable of the Great Banquet).

### **Matthew 23:37**

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent (ἀπεσταλμένους) to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! (Cf. Luke 13:34)

**Matthew 28:18-20** "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go (πορευθέντες [πορεύομαι]) {as you are going – note the relationship to being sent} therefore and make disciples of all 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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### **Mark 14:13**

And he sent (ἀποστέλλει) two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, (Cf. Luke 22:8)

### **Luke 1:19, 26**

And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent (ἀπεστάλην) to speak to you and to bring you this good news...In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent (ἀπεστάλη) from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth...

### **Luke 9:52**

And he sent (ἀπέστειλεν) messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him.

### **Luke 10:1-4 (Luke 10:1-24 – Jesus sends out the seventy-two)**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent (ἀπέστειλεν) them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. [2] And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out (ἐκβάλη-cast, put, thrust, send out[cf. Mt. 9:38]) laborers into his harvest. [3] Go your way; behold, I am sending (ἀποστέλλω) you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. [4] Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road...say 'peace to this house'...tell them 'The kingdom of God is near you.' (Cf. Luke 22:35)

### **John 1:6**

There was a man sent (ἀπεσταλμένος) from God, whose name was John. (Sent to testify [cf. Matt. 11:10])

### **John 1:33**

I myself did not know him, but he who sent (πέμψας) me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

### **John 3:28, 34**



You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent (Ἀπεσταλμένος) before him.'.. [34]For he whom God has sent (ἀπέστειλεν) utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

**John 4:38**

I sent (ἀπέστειλα) you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

**John 13:16**

Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger (ἀπόστολος) greater than the one who sents (πέμπαντος) him.

**John 17:18 and John 20:21 – See above**

**Acts 7:35**

"This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?'—this man God sents (ἀπέσταλκεν) as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

**Acts 9:17**

So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sents (ἀπέσταλκέν) me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 10:20**

[Peter] rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I [the Holy Spirit] have sents (ἀπέσταλκα) them." (Cf. Acts 10:1-11:18 – The conversion of Cornelius)

**Acts 12:11**

When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sents (ἐξαπέστειλεν) his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

**Acts 13:3-4**

Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sents them off (ἀπέλυσαν). [4] So, being sent out (ἐκπεμφθέντες) by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

**Acts 13:15, 26**

After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sents (ἀπέστειλαν) a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." ...[26] "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among

you who fear God, to us has been sent (ἐξαπεστάλη) the message of this salvation.

**Acts 15:3, 22, 27, 30, 33 (Acts 15:1-35 – The Council at Jerusalem)**

So, being sent (προπεμφθέντε) on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers...[22] Then it seemed good to the apostles (ἀποστόλοις) and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send (πέμψαι) them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers...[27] We have therefore sent (ἀπεστάλακμεν) Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth...[30] So when they were sent off (ἀπολυθέντες – having been dismissed), they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter...[33] And after they had spent some time, they were sent off (ἀπελύθησαν-dismissed) in peace by the brothers to those who had sent (ἀποστείλαντας) them.

**Acts 17:10**

The brothers immediately sent (ἐξέπεμψαν) Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

**Acts 17:14**

Then the brothers immediately sent (ἐξαπέστειλαν) Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there.

**Acts 19:22**

And having sent (ἀποστείλας) into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

**Acts 20:1**

After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for (μεταπεμψόμενος-send after, for; summon) the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

**Acts 20:17**

Now from Miletus he send (πέμψας) to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

**Acts 26:17**...delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles— to whom I am **sending** (ἀποστέλλω) you

**Acts 28:28**

Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent (ἀπεστάλη) to the Gentiles; they will listen

**Romans 10:15**

And how are they to preach unless they are sent (ἀποσταλῶσιν)? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

**1 Cor. 4:17**

That is why I sent (ἔπεμψα) you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

**2 Cor. 8:23**

As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers (ἀπόστολοι) of the churches, the glory of Christ.

**Philip. 2:25**

I have thought it necessary to send (πέμψαι) to you Epaphroditus my brother (ἀδελφόν) and fellow worker (συνεργόν) and fellow soldier (συστρατιώτην), and your messenger (ἀπόστολον) and minister (λειτουργόν) to my need,

**1 Thes. 3:2**

...and we sent (ἐπέμψαμεν) Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith,

## “THEY WILL COME” STRATEGY FOR CHURCH PLANTING

“...they will come” is from the quote “If you build it, he will come” and comes from a baseball movie with Kevin Costner in 1989 called “Field of dreams.” It was sort of magical realism about reliving the past and meeting your heroes by building a baseball field and pitch.

This “magical realism” is reflected in a trending mission strategy that has the effect of discarding the old Scriptural missional strategy with “we don’t do it that way anymore” coupled with a lot of “fluff” and “talking a good line” but with no recognition, understanding and application of the Christ-mission authority and truth.

### The new “magical realism” “come to us” strategy:

- If you establish any location, “they will come”
- If you establish the property, “they will come”
- If you establish “cleaned-up” property, “they will come”
- If you establish a building and facilities, “they will come”
- If you establish a music director/leader, “they will come”
- If you establish a web site, “they will come”
- If you establish a church sign, “they will come”
- If you establish a property master plan with a trail on the property, “they will come”
- If you establish technology, “they will come”
- If you establish “streaming,” online “they will come”
- If you establish and develop constitution and governing documents, “they will come”
- If you establish a name, “they will come”
- If you establish neighborhood soup suppers, “they will come”
- If you establish and develop *neighboring*, “they will come”
- If you establish ample funding sources, “they will come”
- If you establish any traditional, new and/or different arrangements, “they will come”
- **If you establish pure Lutheran worship liturgy and practices, “they will come”**
- If you establish the above unilaterally without Scriptural engagement of others (priesthood of believers, “congregation” engaged) at every level, “they will come”

### This trending strategy displaces:

- A planting that reflects a sending, leaving & going immersion missiology/theology
- A planting by being apostolic sent ones, sent/going to PEOPLE according to the Gospel
- A planting by full engagement of the sending and sent people at every juncture
- A planting by deliberate, intentional and active finding, seeking and identifying de-churched, disconnected, lost PEOPLE based on Christ’s mission, His grace and love
- A planting by converting and transforming PEOPLE to and in Christ through the Holy Spirit, Who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies by the Gospel
- A planting by people-community immersion as Christ was sent into the world (Jn. 17:18)
- A planting by targeted, engaging use of people-community media, venues and culture
- A planting by communicating the Gospel and saving faith to people-priority
- A planting of the **one holy, catholic apostolic Church** (instead of an institutional church)

A “*build and they will come*” planting strategy displaces apostolic sending, evangelical and evangelistic authority of Jesus! But “we don’t do it that way anymore.” A “They will come” (“come to Him”) syndrome is contrary to the theology of “grace” and the “call” and is more akin to “predestination.”

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