



NALC

**life-to-life**

DISCIPLESHIP

# introduction

## ┃ Imagine

what it would be like, and what Jesus would do through us in the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), if we collectively renewed our commitment to our Lord's commission to make disciples, and if we together reaffirmed our desire to become the fulfillment of His commandment that we love one another as He has loved us. Imagine what might happen, if every pastor and every congregation and every member in our church body made this same personal commitment to be living witnesses to and for our risen Lord Jesus?

And just think about the transformation that would take place and the difference it would make in our families, in our congregations, in the communities in which we live and serve, as well as in the world around us that is so desperately in need of what only Jesus has to offer, if we all took responsibility for turning this disciple-making vision into a reality?

This is what motivates us to pursue our call to make disciples in the world today.



# why life-to-life?

The secularism of our culture is continuing to expand, and with it a widespread ethic of indiscriminate tolerance and personal gratification.

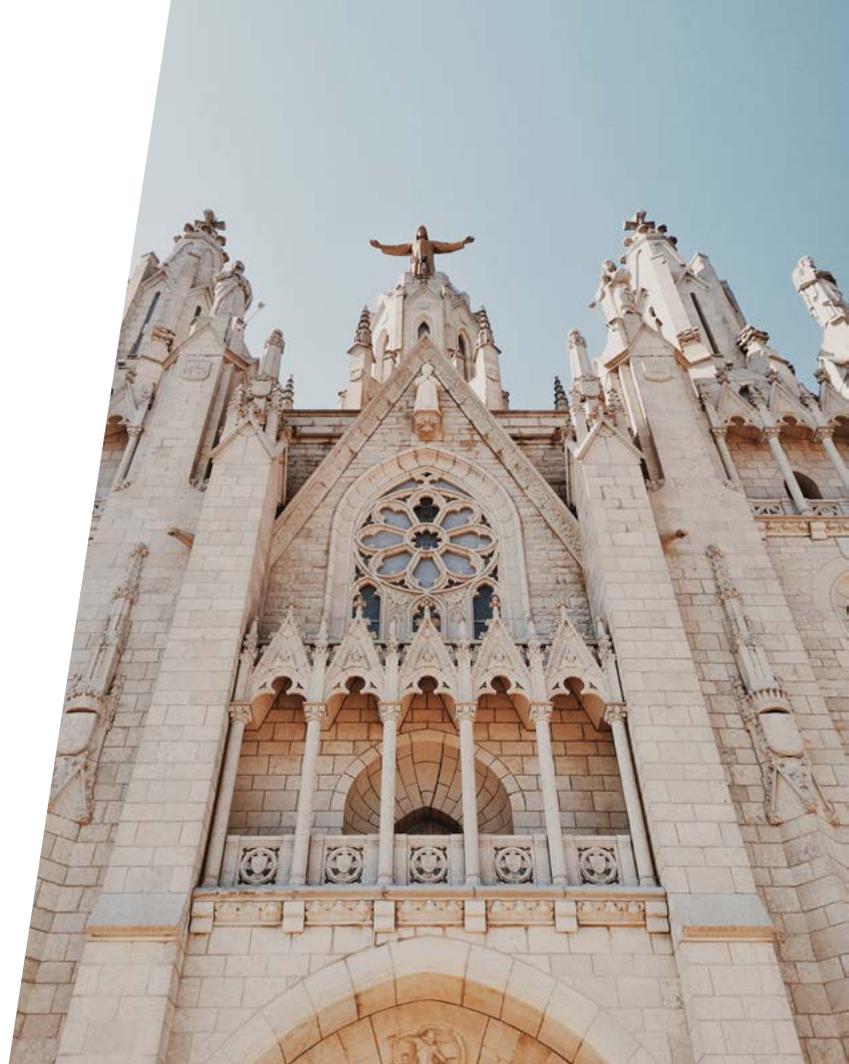
As a result, instead of intentionally forming faithful followers of Christ, far too many churches have become consumerist centers for satisfying self-defined "spiritual needs."

We see an incredible opportunity to have an eternal impact in this world as the Holy Spirit works to transform and to save the lives of people for whom Jesus died and rose again. For as we remain faithful in confessing Jesus as Lord and in responding to His commission to make disciples, Christ remains faithful in building and growing His Church (*Matthew 16:18*).



## the vision of nalc life-to-life

Our vision is that the NALC will reclaim the confessional Lutheran emphasis on ongoing catechesis and intentional faith formation in the life of all of its congregations. This same disciple-making identity will permeate every NALC congregation, be adopted by every NALC pastor, and become part of our church body's DNA. Our vision also includes becoming known by the ecumenical community as a church body that takes seriously its calling to make disciples and intentionally cultivates a framework to do so in its congregations.



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Discipleship  
is living  
& sharing  
the love  
of Jesus.

”

## what is discipleship?

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When we talk about being disciples and making disciples, we are clear that both our calling and our commission begin and end with the love we have received from Christ and are called to share in Him. Discipleship is living and sharing the love of Jesus. It's all about holding fast to what our Lord has called us and made us to be and to do in His name.

Christ's love for us is the source of our love for Him.

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*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34 ESV)*

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That's how the making of disciples works.

# making disciples

## ┃ A “disciple”

is a learner, an adherent, a pupil — a person who learns from Jesus and who follows Him in obedience. Martin Luther used the Greek word *theodidactoi* to describe who we are as Christians: those who are taught by God. As disciples, we are Christians “taught by God” to follow Christ. In the same way, a disciple-maker is a person who helps another person follow Christ and grow in faith.

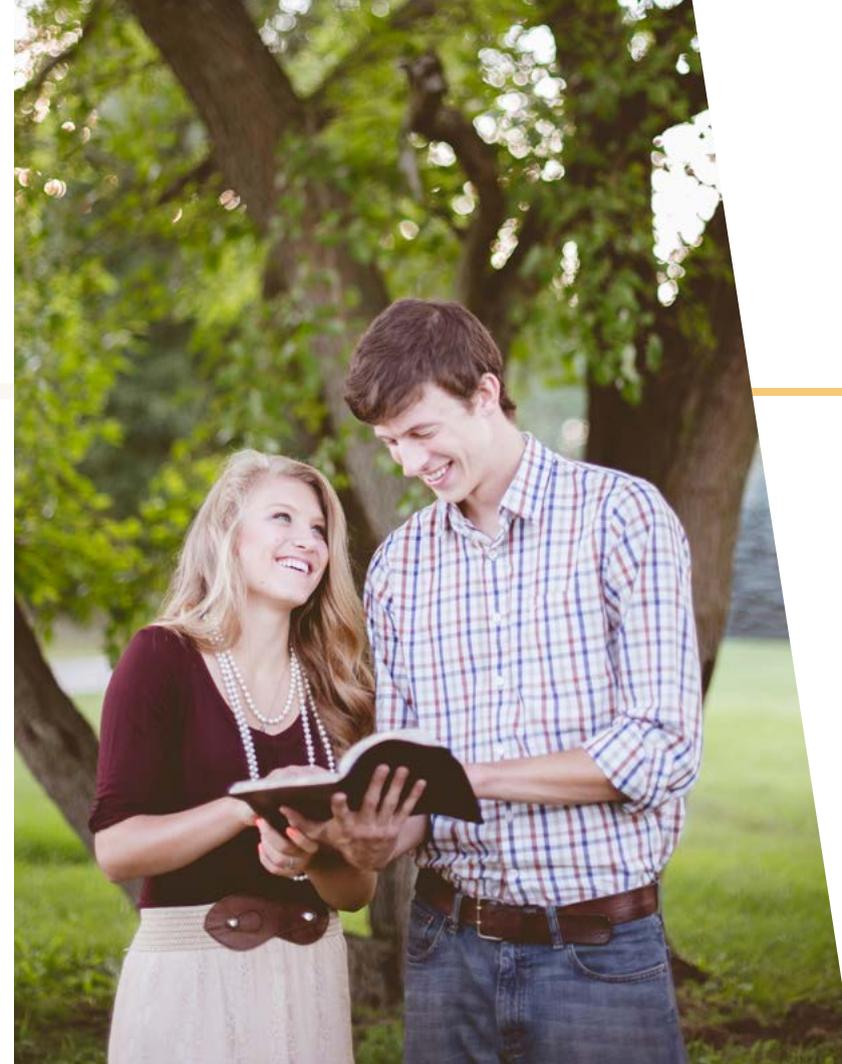
We are to cultivate opportunities to teach others all that our Lord has commanded — to pass on the Gospel witness of the apostles. Our call is cross-centered.

As Christians, we therefore speak of ourselves as “disciples” — forgiven sinners who are taught and transformed by the Word in the presence of our Lord Himself, through the power of the Holy Spirit, called to make disciples until that day when our Lord returns.

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Because every disciple has been called and commissioned by the Lord, it naturally follows that every disciple of Jesus has been given the responsibility to help others become disciples of Jesus. This is the personal investment of the Word of God from one life to another.

The **koinonia** or fellowship of the Church must raise disciples who are ready to confess Jesus to the world.

In Life-to-Life Discipleship, there are three basic components that are critical to supporting another person in their faith development:

### **personal application**

*finding ways to apply what is learned from God’s Word*

### **mutual accountability**

*being admonished and encouraged by a fellow believer*

### **and positive affirmation.**

*receiving support from a brother or sister in Christ.*



**it starts in you**

Do you think this renewal could happen in your congregation and community? *Jesus did*, or He would not have gathered you together and placed you where you. Do you think this life-changing transformation could happen in your family and in your personal life? *Your Lord must have thought it could*, or He would not have called you as He has.

But if it is going to happen, it needs to start with us.  
If this vision is going to become a reality, **it needs to start in you.**

DISCIPLE-MAKING IS

- ┌ Christ Centered
- ┌ Mission Driven
- ┌ Traditionally Grounded
- ┌ Congregationally Focused





NALC

North American Lutheran Church

[nalclifetolife.org](http://nalclifetolife.org)