



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.*

## Finding Your Voice in Christ

A Call Committee once asked a candidate, “If you were to come here as our pastor, what three themes would we likely hear repeated in various ways in your preaching and teaching?” Clever question! It is asking the pastor about their core values and purpose.

The same question belongs to every baptized Christian. We each have particular and urgent themes we live out in word and deed. Each person has a passion that must be explored, a help that must be rendered in the world around us. Indeed, the challenge of growing up is to “find our voice” amid many voices. More importantly, we want to discover how our voice is in harmony with the voice of Christ.

**Your Voice:** To find your God-given voice is to discover your way of expressing yourself, of giving back, of serving others and expressing your faith. How do you understand yourself?

Consider your:

- **Authentic Self:** Who are you when you are at your best? What excites your mind and drives your passion? Authenticity is about who you are in private, but its real test is how it is lived out in public.
- **Passionate Self:** What particular ideas and possibilities make you want to act? What issues do you hold as beautiful and right? What aspects of life and community are important to you? These are the kinds of matters that not only wind our clock each day but cause the bell to ring as well. Our passions point toward our internal sense of purpose.
- **Gifted Self:** You have gifts to give – your capacities, talents and skills that are both natural and learned. Your best gifts are often those that cause others to say you are “a natural.” The Holy Spirit has blessed us with gifts that are particular to each of us. See I Corinthians 12 for example. Some people are artistic or athletic, some are visionary or highly structured, and some have a highly developed sense of movement, media, or management. For some it is a skill, for others it is an attitude or trait. Listen to what others say are your best talents and abilities.

How does the voice of Christ come through our voice? The congregation can be the place where we encourage one another to discover our core values. The congregation can be where values are formed and we mature in a sense of service to others and discipleship. The congregation can be the launching pad for our service within the world and for the sake of the world God loves. The congregation can be the place to find ways to express our voice and the voice of Christ in the world around us, so that Christ's love can be known and shared.

**Questions to Ponder:**

What are your core values? What are important themes in your life? What is your voice in the world?

What activities in your congregation contribute to spiritual formation, mentoring, and the shaping of disciples?

How can your congregation celebrate the way members live out their discipleship outside of the congregation?