

# Welcome to Christ

A Lutheran Introduction to the Catechumenate

# Christ's Commission

*...Jesus came and said to the disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)*

# The Adult Catechumenate

- *This approach offers the unevangelized a reliable and describable set of times, relationships, and public moments of prayer in the congregation to help them respond to the Holy Spirit's call to faith in Jesus Christ. It also offers the church a way to organize its life and mission around this fundamental commission of Jesus: to baptize and teach.*

# Pattern of the Catechumenate

- **Inquiry:** *an open-ended period during which unbaptized persons make an initial inquiry into the Christian faith*
- **Catechumenate:** *an open-ended period during which catechumens explore more deeply the church's story of faith*
- **Preparation for Baptism:** *a period of intense preparation prior to the celebration of Holy Baptism*
- **Baptismal living:** *a life-long period during which the newly baptized grow more deeply into the practice of faith and Christian life*

# Disciplines of Christian Faith

- Corporate Worship
- Study of Scripture
- Personal Prayer
- Ministry in Daily Life

# Organizing a Congregation's Life

- Intentional
- Integrated
- Public

# The Public Rites

- *Welcome to the Catechumenate*
- *Enrollment for baptism at the Vigil of Easter*
- *Celebration of baptism and first communion at the Vigil of Easter*
- *Affirmation of the Vocation of the Baptized in the World*

# Who is Involved?

- *The Congregation*
- *The Catechumenal Coordinator*
- *The Pastor as Presiding Minister*
- *The Catechist*
- *The Sponsor*
- *The Catechumen*