

INTRODUCTION

An open-heart five-bypass surgery is intense and invasive. Five blockages in the heart call for urgent attention and a physical heart transformation.

Spiritual blockage of the heart is just as serious, and we see it everywhere today – in strangers, in people who are close to us, and in the church as we know it. Our spiritual blockages call for urgent attention and a heart transformation. How? By a *Missio Dei* immersion. *Missio Dei* is Latin for “the sending of God.” The *Missio Dei*, the sending of God, is Gospel!

The disciples in the first century AD excelled in the multiplication and growth of the Word, as recorded in the Book of Acts. By contrast, the church in the twenty-first century appears to be evading Christ’s sending, experiencing decline rather than growth. Today’s church is short of breath, too weak to move out of its comfort zone of preoccupation with itself, and too complacent to venture into evangelical territory while continuing to strive for its purity of doctrine. Programs don’t work. Old mindsets and habits prevail. The church as we know it today is dying missionally, drowning in indolence and apathy. It is therefore in urgent need of an intense and invasive treatment: a deep dive into God’s Word.

A consortium of well-known missional leaders in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) invite and challenge every Christian individual, congregation, and organization to participate in a *Missio Dei* Jubilee Immersion. The term “Jubilee” is a festival year (period or event) of redemption, renewal, and reset based on God’s provision in the Old Testament. This Biblical immersion is driven by three main purposes:

1. Encouraging Christ-believers to immerse themselves in the Gospel, understand God's word more thoroughly and thereby participate in God's Great Sending
2. A surge in pastors, church workers, and congregations who come to know, understand, and apply the *Missio Dei*, the Great Sending of God in Christ
3. A movement of heart transformations and commitments to immerse in the *Missio Dei*, inspired and guided by 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised;* and 1 John 3:16 – *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*

With confidence in Christ, may the exercise of his Word and the power of the Holy Spirit give birth to a mended heart renewed by a *Missio Dei* spirit and mindset!

The Jubilee *Missio Dei* Immersion includes:

- 42 *Missio Dei* scriptural texts, introduced by commentaries from a consortium of Christ-missional leaders
- a scriptural digest that explains the sending motif of John 17:18 and 20:21-23 in the context of John's Gospel proclaiming God as a sending God
- a *Missio Dei* Catechism to encourage intense ongoing scriptural study, based on history that demonstrates catechesis as an effective teaching tool

This Jubilee Immersion is not intended for the growth of any one institutional church or denomination, such as the LCMS, but rather for the growth of the Kingdom of Christ, to spread God's glory, to rescue souls and bring them salvation.

Since God, by His Word, made us in His image (Genesis 1:27), this initiative urges a total immersion in the Word of God. This Great Sending is not meant to be a piece-meal or periodic heart treatment. Instead, it is an all-consuming scriptural and Gospel focus on the sending of God. It is a spiritually radical heart surgery, a life-changing immersion in the Word for a missional heart transformation. Come along on a jubilee re-set and life-changing immersion in the *Missio Dei*, the Great Sending, God's heart for the world beating through you.