

*resilient*

# Making Disciples for Life

What opportunities does the church have to

- heal the hurting
- restore hope
- fulfill our mission?



## Four Kinds of Exiles

18- to 29-year-olds who grew up as Christians



22%

Prodigals  
(ex-Christians)



30%

Nomads  
(lapsed Christians)



38%

Habitual  
Churchgoers



10%

Resilient  
Disciples

# Are we ready?

Pray and Plan (Nehemiah).

We are in the mission field.

Take Risks/Change the Strategy.

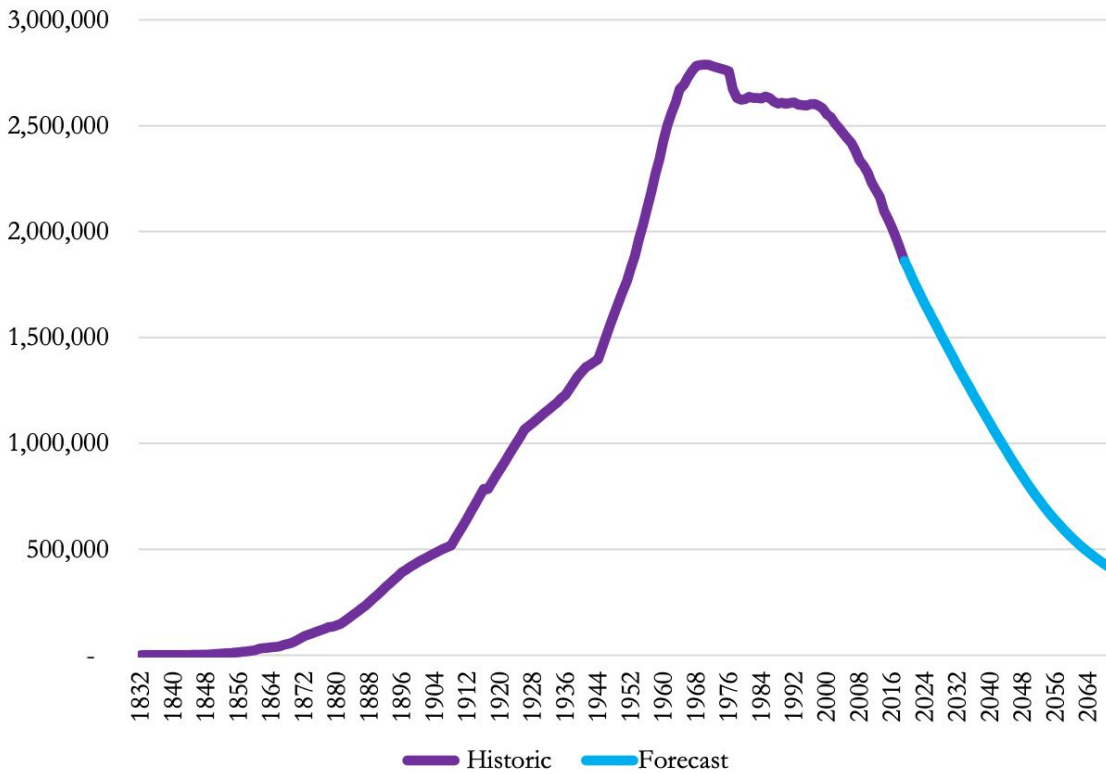


## Discipleship is not accidental

“Strengthening families and communities, and thickening our ties to each other and to our churches, requires us to shake off our passivity... With so many forces in contemporary culture pulling families and communities apart, we can’t assume that everything will work out if we just go with the flow.” - Rod Dreher



Figure 44: Historic LCMS Baptized Membership and Business-as-Usual Demographic Forecast



Let's  
get  
going!



## Pray and Plan!

What are we going to do about it? (Work)

Are we tracking the right things? (Count)



# Good Works

God > Sin > Jesus > Justification > Ministry > Fruit!



## Conversation, Not Conversion

That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given, who works faith where and when it pleases God in them that hear the Gospel. (Of the Ministry)



# Get To, Not Got To

Also they teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruits, and that it is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God's will, but that we should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. For remission of sins and justification is apprehended by faith. (New Obedience)



# Let's Go for a Walk!

Matthew 5:15-16

James 2:14-17

Hebrews 9:13-14

Hebrews 10:24-25

2 Timothy 1:8-14

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Titus 2:7-8, 11-14

Colossians 3:23-24

Ephesians 2:8-10



# Tell Each Other

Psalm 105:1-3

Deuteronomy 6

Mark 16:14-20

Luke 7:22-23

Luke 19:37-40



## WHAT should we do?

## Start by counting...



# What do we track?

# What does God track?

# What might we track?

(don't work ahead!)

<https://forms.gle/rswBQHjPvNYnTbdt9>



# What does God track?

Mouths fed

Money given

People converted

People baptized

People taught

Workers in the field

Places visited

Households met

Sacrifices made

Acts of charity

Publishers of peace

Distance traveled

Time spent

Risks of loss

People healed

Forgiveness given



# What might we track?

<https://forms.gle/rswBQHjPvNYnTbdt9>



# The Importance of 1 and None





## What Practices Distinguish Resilient Disciples?



**Experiencing Jesus**



**Cultural Discernment**



**Meaningful Relationships**



**Vocational Discipleship**



**Countercultural Mission**

*And I am sure of this,  
that he who began a  
good work in you will  
bring it to completion  
at the day of  
Jesus Christ.  
Philippians 1:6 (ESV)*

