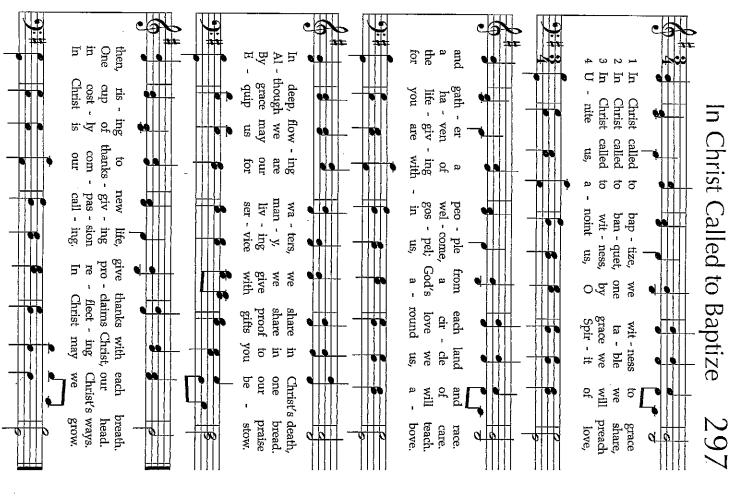
THE CHURCH



Whitten for use at the 1997 meeting of the Lutheran World Federation, this text about Christian vocation and ministry organizes the first three stanzas around verbs: baptize, banquet, witness. The final stanza is a prayer for the Spirit's offis to emprower all these callinos

RESPOND THE ETHOPIAN EUNICH

Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork on the front of the bulletin. Sit still in the quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line, texture, movement, shape, form. Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook? Now engage your imagination. If you were to place yourself in this scene, where would you be and how would you interact with what surrounds you?

reflect

- Due to the Jewish mandate in Duet, 23:1, the eunuch may have been prohibited from worshiping at the temple in Jerusalem, and yet he returns home studying Isaiah. Why do you think he remains eager and curious to learn more? What led him to travel all the way to Jerusalem in the first place?
- The eunuch, as the first gentile convert in Acts, was a sexual minority and different race, ethnicity, and nationality. What does this signify about who we are to welcome and include in our communities today? What does authentic inclusion look like?

-Consider your church or worship community. Who is being excluded, intentionally or unintentionally? What changes could you make to extend welcome?

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In the space below, reflect on a time when you experienced warm inclusion. How did that experience shape you and affect how you treat others?

pray

May all your children be drenched in the truth that nothing-nothing-can separate them from Your love. Amen