



# Send Me:

Seven Years of Willingness

**Listening and Responding as a  
Shared Direction for the Church**

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:  
‘Whom shall I send,  
And who will go for Us?’  
Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’  
(Isaiah 6:8)



New Church



# INTRODUCTION

## “Here I am! Send Me.”

(Isaiah 6:8)

***Send Me: Seven Years of Willingness* is a shared focus for the General Church in our next chapter, calling each of us to listen and respond with willingness.**

It is rooted in the call of Isaiah as a prophet. He heard the Lord saying, “*Whom shall I send and who will go for us?*”

His immediate response: “*Here I am! Send me.*” (Isaiah 6:8)

“*Seven years,*” a biblical image of wholeness, represents a next season of spiritual growth. Over this next chapter, we invite you to step forward in new ways, individually and collectively.

### **Willingness in Your Next Chapter**

The heart of “*Send Me*” is the Lord’s message that you are needed and have a great deal to offer. It’s a call to listen intentionally to the Lord’s voice, to imagine the next way you can offer the Lord your willingness, and to make a commitment to live accordingly in your next chapter.

Before Isaiah spoke the words “*Here I am! Send me.*” he listened. The Lord speaks to us through His Word, which gives shared light and direction for how to live (see below, Part 1). At the same time, the Lord also leads each of us personally—through prayer, reflection, worship, and the quiet guidance of daily life (see below, Part 2).



## **Faith Calls Us to Action**

We listen so that we can respond. “*Send Me*” invites each of us to notice where the Lord may be asking us to step forward—whether in small, faithful choices or in deeper, life-shaping ways.

Each of us responds in our own life and circumstances. At the same time, the Lord gives us a church so we can be strengthened, encouraged, and supported as we take these steps together.

## **How the Church Supports This Shared Focus**

As each of us responds in our own lives, we might receive strength from the companionship that the Lord intended when He gave us a church community. The Church is here to inspire, equip and support people in listening and responding through worship services and resources (see below for specific offerings).

How is the Lord calling you now? You could hear a call about inner growth, work, family, relationships, or something else. It may feel like a small shift that makes a big difference, or a pivotal new direction.

Please read on to consider your ways of becoming more aware of the Lord’s will for your life, what you might commit to in your next chapter, and how the church can help. We pray the Lord will lead us in the years ahead.



## PART 1



Assistant Bishop  
Brad Heinrichs

### How does the Lord's new revelation impact the way you live?

“Behold, I make all things new.”

(Revelation 21:5)

**The Lord guides our next chapter through the Word of His Second Coming, with amazing insights that are inherently attractive and incredibly helpful.**

I have been reflecting recently on how the disciples, without the availability of airplanes, cars, the printing press, phones, or the internet, managed to spread the exciting news of the Lord's First Advent to most of the known world. They had a conviction that must have been palpable: that the Savior had come, just as He promised, and His teachings would change lives. I can only imagine the zeal with which the early Christians must have delivered the good news.

What if we had the same zeal and conviction for sharing the awesome news of the Lord's Second Coming? What if we challenged ourselves as a church to make known our belief that the Second Coming has already happened just as the Lord promised?

***One way to say “send me” is for each of us to reflect on what we ourselves love in this revelation. What is that for you?*** Is it seeing the Lord Jesus Christ in His Divine Human spreading out His hands to invite you into His arms, or the eternity of marriage between a husband and wife, the wonders of a useful life in heaven, or the mercy of the Lord's Divine Providence bringing good out of evil? Are you willing to share a teaching from the Heavenly Doctrine that has guided you in moments of your life when you needed it the most? What do you hear the Lord asking you to do based on this teaching?

I hope that we can be as inspired as the shepherds at the Lord's First Advent, to make these sayings of the Lord's Second Coming widely known, and may people marvel at those things which are told to them!

**How can I listen and respond?**

Which part of the Word has made a difference in your life?  
[Click here to share a pillar of your faith.](#)



## PART 2



Assistant Bishop  
David Lindrooth

### How does the Lord speak to each of us as our lives unfold?

“I sought the Lord and He answered me.”

(Psalm 34:4)

**The Lord leads each of us personally through prayer, reflection, worship, and the quiet moments of everyday life.**

The Word is the perfect foundation built from the truths that lead us. With that foundation in place, the Lord reaches out to us in many ways: through prayer, reflection, the insights of others, and the quiet reverence of sacred spaces.

We know that “prayer is talking with God.... Answering to this, there is something like an influx into the perception of the person’s mind.”  
(*Arcana Coelestia* 2535)

The Lord is constantly desiring to lead us to heaven, reaching into each specific life and influencing the smallest of details. Learning to listen and respond to His voice is a precious human responsibility that each of us is entrusted with.

We are invited to think of ourselves as the fishermen whom the Lord called to be His disciples. When He approached them on the shore and said ‘Follow Me,’ they dropped everything to serve Him, and our world was forever changed by their willingness. Some of the Lord’s communication with us may be equally profound and life changing. Maybe His voice is quietly nudging us to slightly shift the directions of our uses in everyday ways that are powerful nonetheless.

***Can you carve out more time to talk to the Lord in prayer, worship, and reflection, while quietly listening for His reply?***

His voice always leads us toward a more heavenly and spiritually meaningful life.

**How can I listen and respond?**

Use this **reflection guide** as one way to seek out the Lord’s will for your next chapter.



## PART 3



Executive Bishop  
Peter Buss, Jr.

### What is responding?

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.”

(John 15:16)

**To respond is to willingly step forward in everyday ways and in deeper callings.**

You’ve been invited to listen and reflect alongside your church:

- ▶ How is the Lord guiding all of humanity in His Word?
- ▶ How does He speak to me individually?
- ▶ What does it mean to respond to the Lord’s voice?

We are called to listen— to the Lord’s voice and to the life-changing messages of His new revelation— so that faith can bring blessing to our lives, to our neighbors, and to the church.

***The Lord’s system of care works through people like us.*** The General Church is here to support that process, but only people can seek willingness and strive to love the neighbor. We offer resources to support hearing the Lord’s voice as you use prudence and life from Him to forge a path toward heaven.

When we explore willingness together, we make spiritual progress and serve our neighbors. The church’s next chapter will be vibrant and inspiring to the extent that many people put their faith into practice.

***You are needed.*** We want to see the church filled with people who are making a difference: how can you raise your hand? Where in your life can you say, “send me”?

With the church energized to rally around the Lord’s call, and with all of us leaning in, we look forward to discovering what the Lord has in store.

#### **How can I listen and respond?**

How has the Lord sent you? Where is He sending you next?  
Tell us what willingness means in your life.



# SEND ME

## Embrace Seven Years of Willingness

“The Lord’s heaven in the natural world is called the church, and an angel of that heaven is a person of the church who has been united with the Lord.”

(Divine Providence 30)

Where in your life might you say, “send me”? How is the Lord calling you now? Only people can answer these questions, but the Church is here to help.

As each of us strives to hear the Lord’s call, the church will support you through:

**New Church resources:**

Sermons, prayers, and videos focused on the theme of willingness and faith in action.

**Faith Pillars**, a virtual gallery that celebrates the central New Church truths that bring guidance and light to our lives, according to you and your neighbors.

**The Send Me Series**, a collection of stories that illustrate spiritual willingness and active faith throughout our New Church community.

# How can I respond?



**Use our reading resources** to renew your connection to the Word and **use our reflection guide** to listen for the Lord’s guidance.

**Tell us something from the Word or Heavenly Doctrine** that has been a pillar in your life. Sharing what has guided you is one way to serve the neighbor. A faith pillar can be a passage, teaching, practice, or moment that has guided your life.

**How has the Lord sent you?** Where is He sending you next? **Tell us what willingness means in your life.** Witnessing others’ faith and willingness helps us step forward in new ways and love the church we are part of.

**Do you know someone who needs this message?**  
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