

**God's Church
God's Mission**

**The Missional Church in a
Changing World
Part 1**



Terri Martinson Elton, Phd

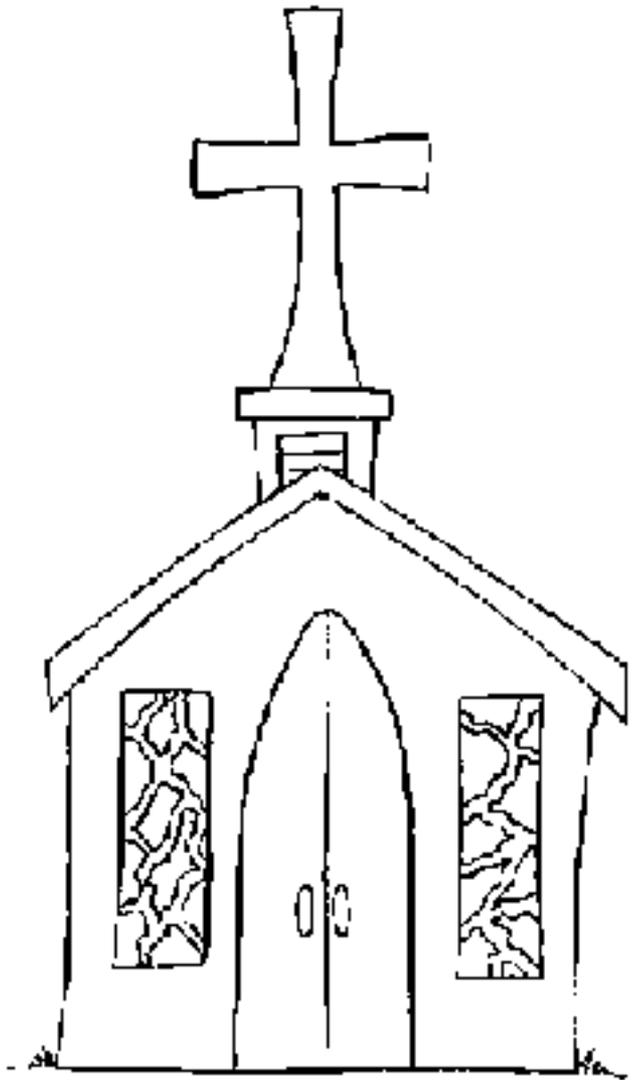
living faith in our family



The world has changed. And continues to change.

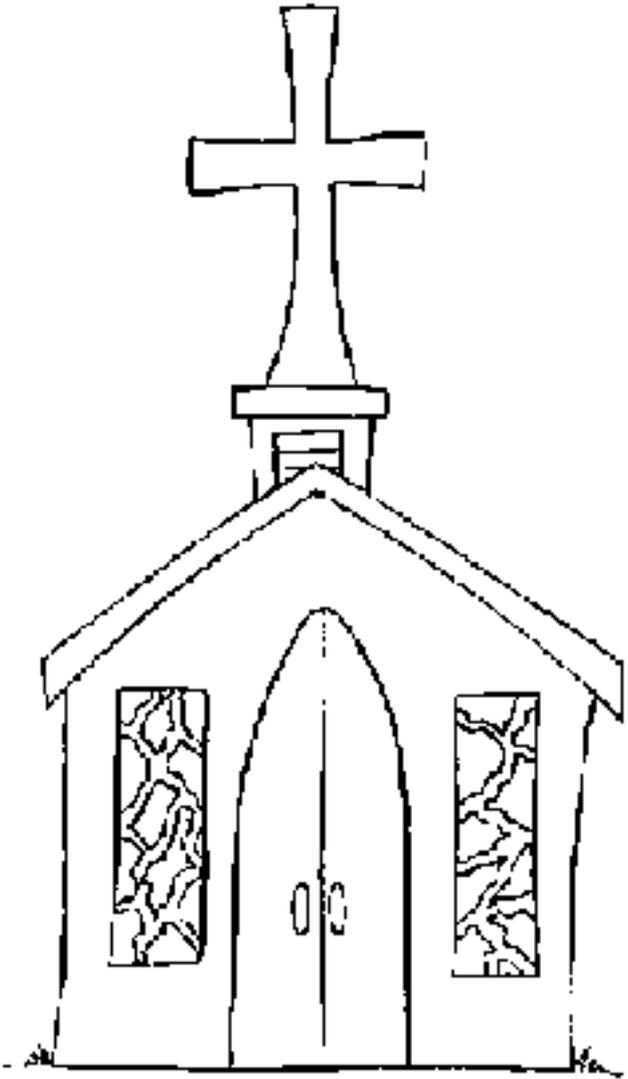


**How is the church
to respond?**



“The church is
both a
human enterprise
and a
**called and
redeemed
community**
of people.”

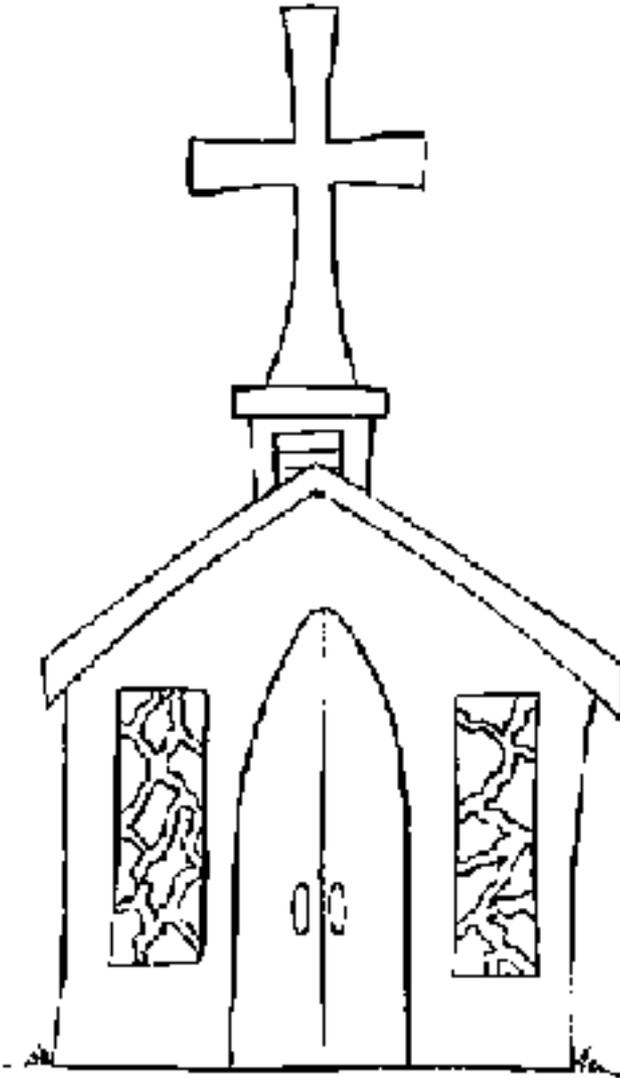
Craig van Gelder, *The Essence of the Church*, 25

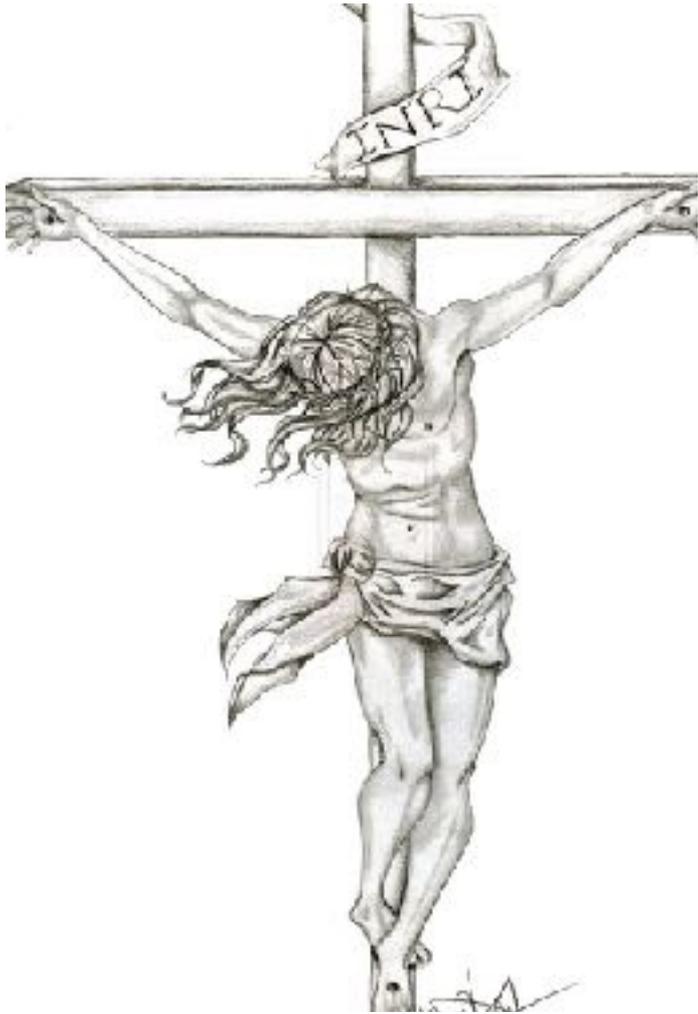


The Lutheran
Church believes
the church is
always reforming.

What does it mean **to be** church?

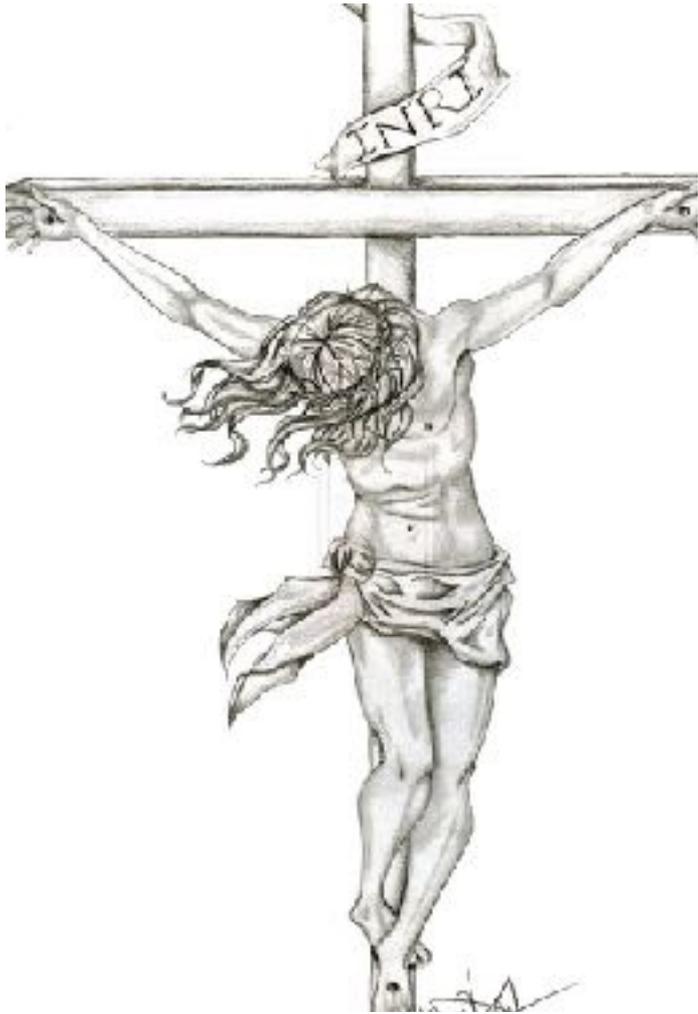
Is church a place? A people? A
denomination? A faith community?





What does it mean **to be** church?

The **life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ** is the event that brings about the salvation of the world and **establishes the mission of the church.**



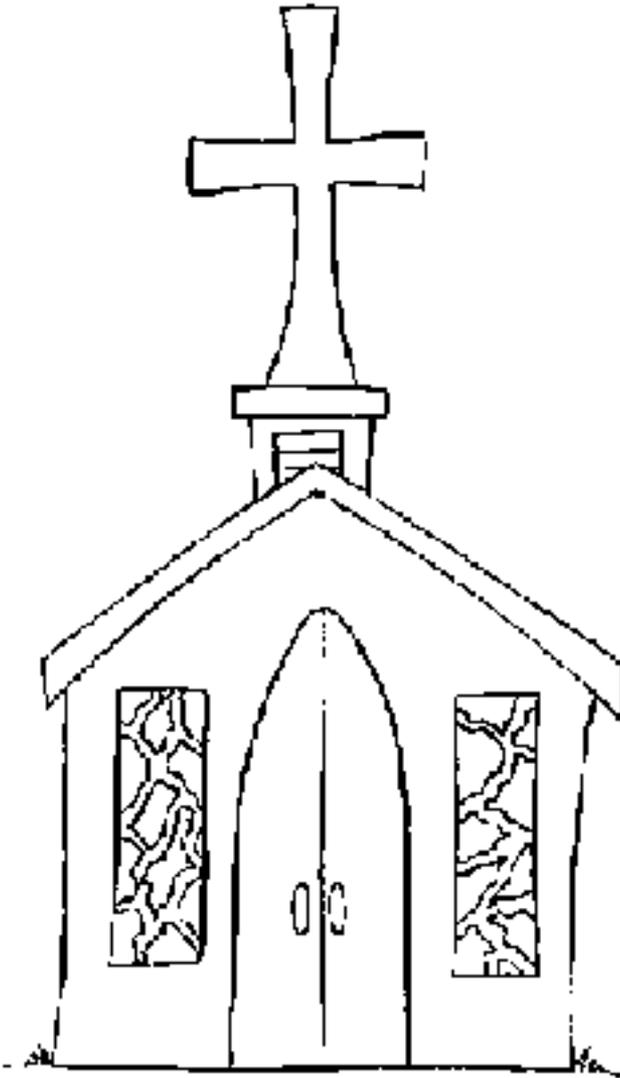
What does it mean **to be** church?

The church is called to be
witnesses
who carry, translate,
communicate, and
demonstrate the good news
of God's love in Christ to
the ends of the earth.

This calling does not change!

What is the church called **to do**?

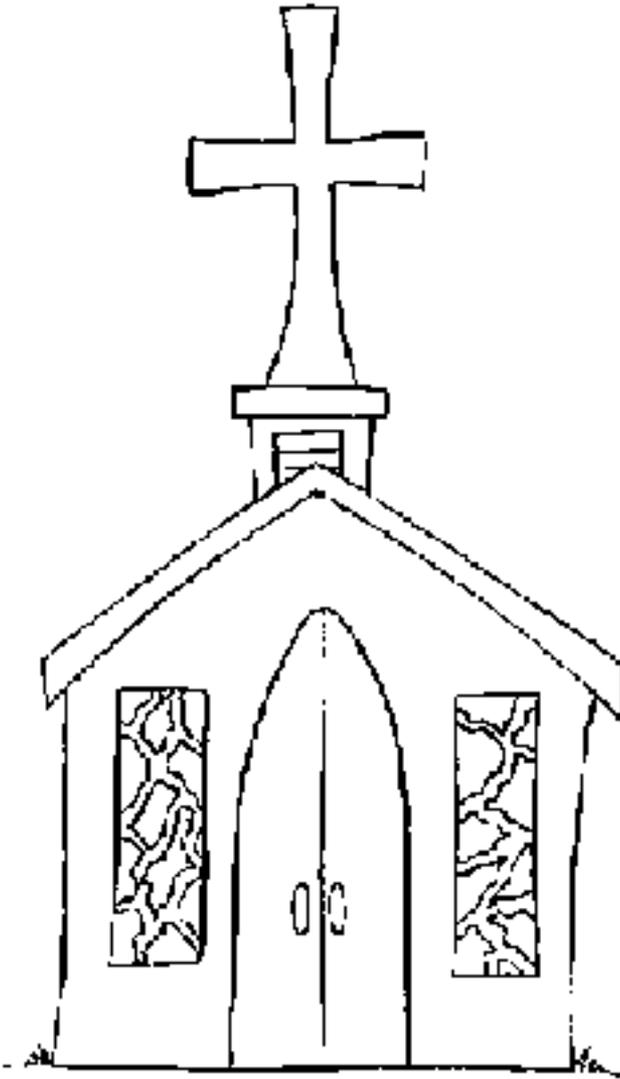
Is church about Word and sacrament? Is worship essential? Is serving one's neighbor necessary? Is it about the internal or the external community?

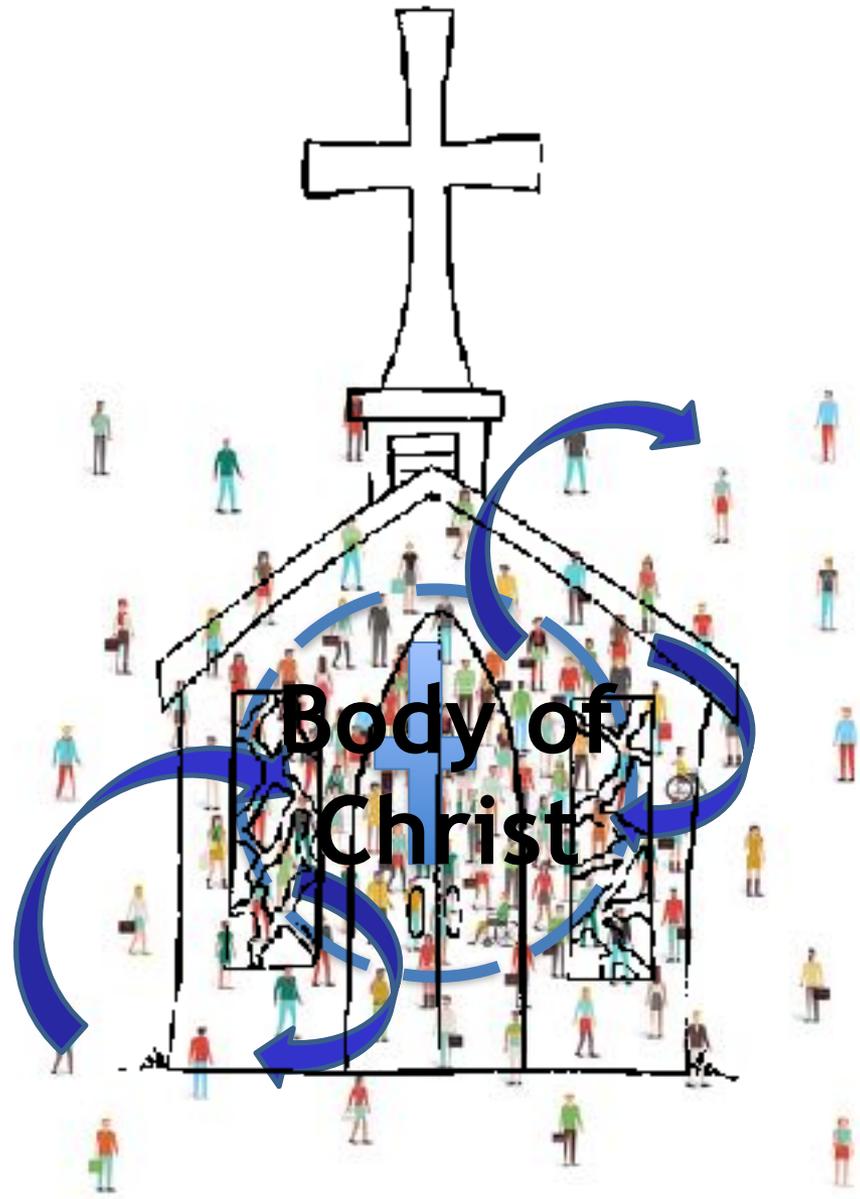


What is the church called **to do**?

The church witnesses by...
being a **worshipping community** and
being **agents of God's love**
in the world.

This does not change!

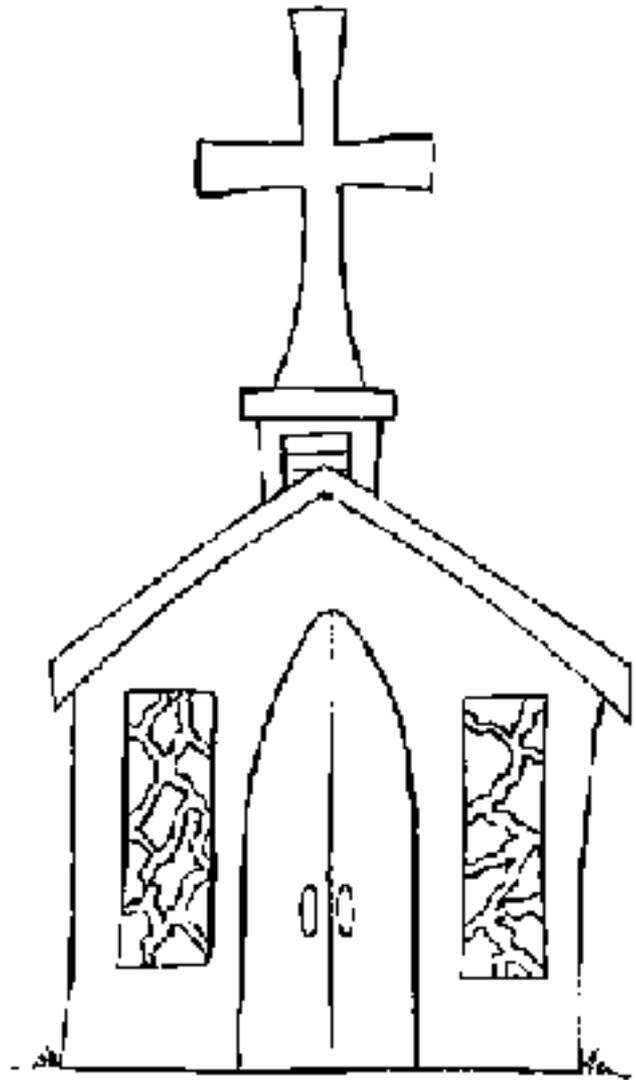




God's people
are **sent** into
God's World

God's people
gathered as
the body of
Christ

2 movements



How does the church **organize** what it does?

What is the role of pastors? How are decisions made? Where will we gather? Will we have a building? How will we engage our neighbors?



How does the church **organize** what it does?

Being a **worshipping community** in a building with an ordained pastor, choirs, educational programs, and fellowship ministries.

Being **agents of God's love** in the world through outreach ministries, sending missionaries to other countries, and collecting special offerings.

This does change!

Church as...

Witness as
place

dispenser of
religious
services, led by
ordained pastor.
Center is
worship with
various programs
to carry out
ministry.



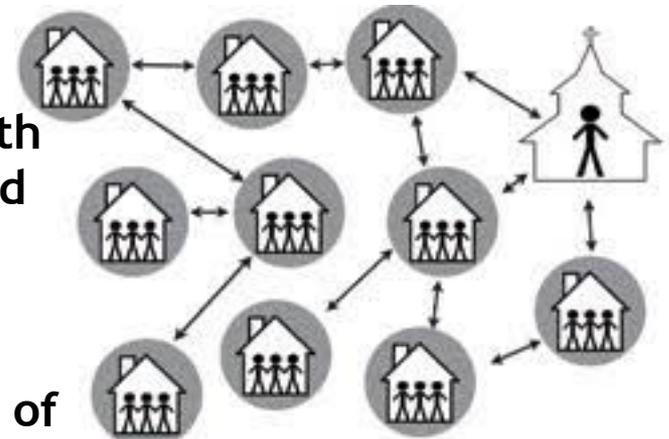
community of people,
gathered for worship
and sharing ministry.



Witness as
community

Witness as
way of life

people of faith
gathered and
scattered
seeking to
discover a
Christian way of
life.



Witness as place

Zion Lutheran



Revs Joel and Sonja
Pancoast pastors

Rev. Greg Meyer
pastor



Witness as community


JACOB'S
WELL

We're not a
very good
church...

but if your experience is like ours,
maybe that's a good thing.

WOMEN
MEMBERS AT
10:30am

The advertisement features a photograph of a group of diverse young children sitting on a wooden floor, engaged in an activity. The text is positioned to the left of the photo. At the bottom right, there is a diamond-shaped graphic containing the text 'WOMEN MEMBERS AT 10:30am'.

Jacob's Well

Witness as way of life

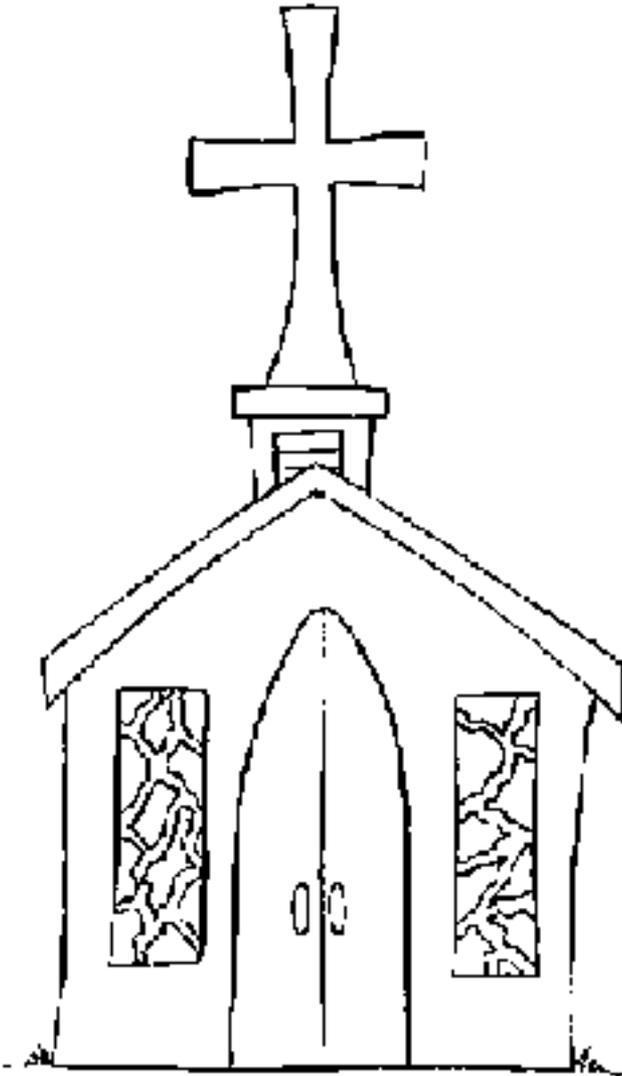


Rev. Brigitte Solano
pastor



View of Church

- The *nature of church* provides the **basis** for understanding the ministry of the church (**to be**).
- The *ministry of the church* provides the **framework** for understanding the organization of the church (**to do**).
- The *organization of the church* provides the **structures** for the church to carry out its ministry (**organize what it does**).



How does church be a witness today?

