





Institutionalism

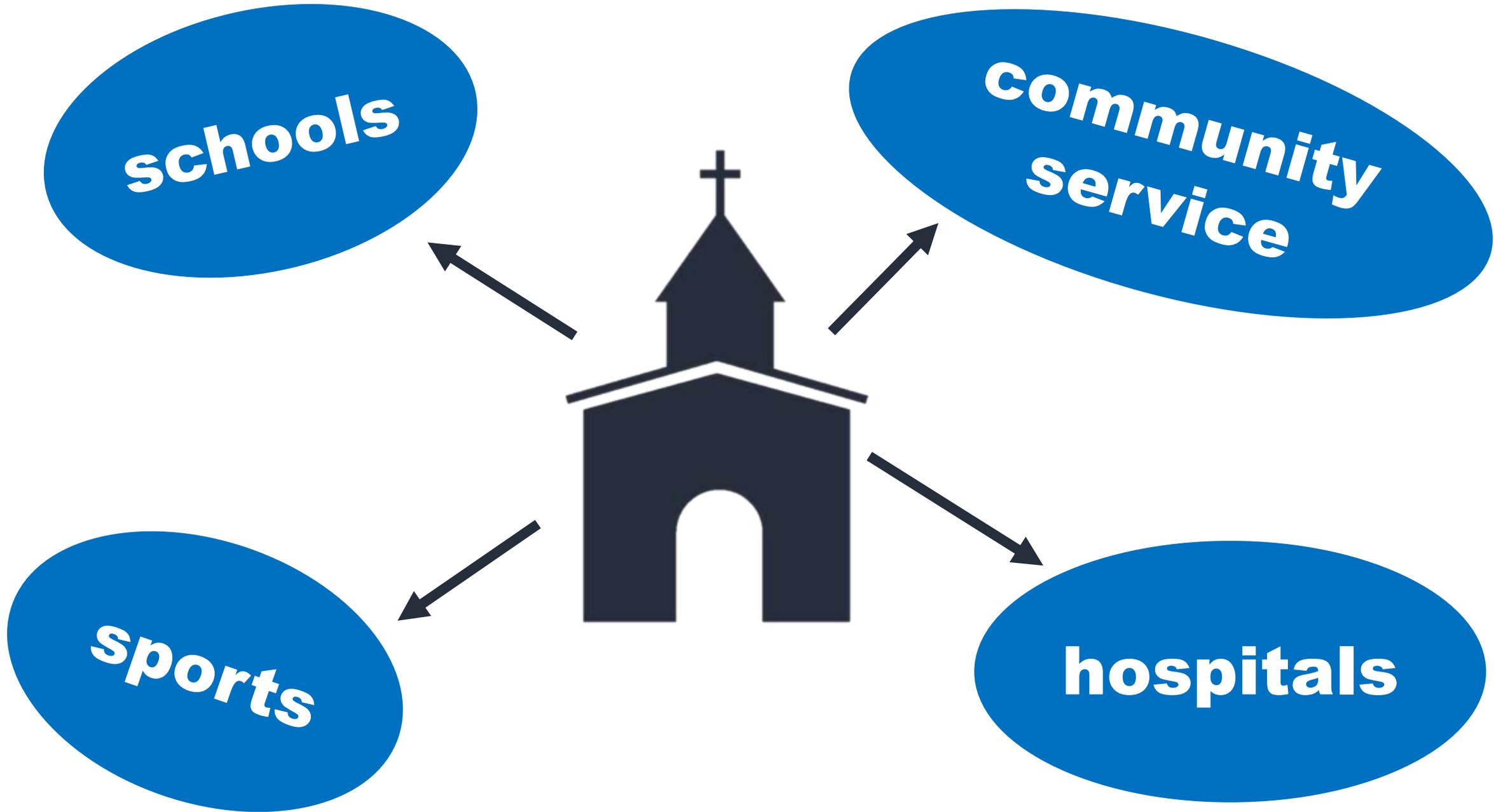
And Jesus' Church



Institutionalism

The local church operates or supports (out of its resources) ministries, organizations, or institutions separate from the church itself.





Foundations

1. Love neighbor as self – Luke 10:30-37
2. Individual vs. church responsibility – 1 Timothy 5:3-4, 16



What is the Local Church's Job?

Worship God – Acts 2:41-42

Share with needy Christians – Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-35

Preach to the lost – Acts 11:21-26

Strengthen Christians – Acts 14:21-23



Ephesians 4:11-13

How Does the Church Do Its Job?

Each local church fully equipped to do its own work

Generosity – Acts 4:34

Teaching – Acts 11:25-26

Evangelism – Acts 19:8-10

Fruit of Institutionalism

“You’ll receive a monthly report of the work being accomplished *on the congregation’s behalf.*”

“Small churches *that do no mission work*...would find themselves responsible for more baptisms...if they simply sent a monthly check...”

Why This Matters

Respects Jesus' authority (Matthew 28:18)

Empowers local churches to focus on gospel (Philippians 1:27)

Challenges individuals to be what Jesus wants (James 1:27)