



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

EARLY CHILDHOOD

STUDENT BOOK



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LESSON 1

Acts 2:37–47

What Is the Church?

What Do You See?

What kinds of things do you see in the church? Listen to your teacher and circle the objects that you talk about. Draw Jesus on the cross, and color the cross.

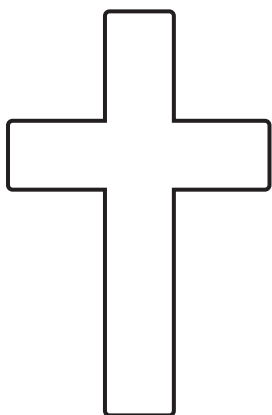


The Church Is All about Jesus

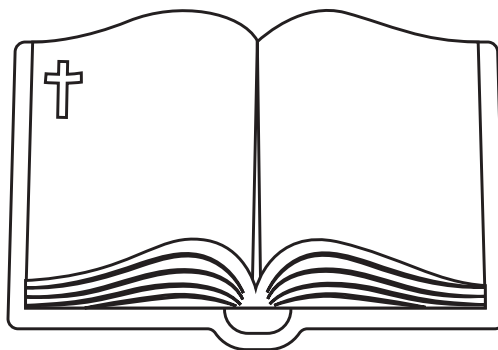
Jesus is the most important part of the church.
Without Jesus, there wouldn't be a church! You are part of the church too!
Draw yourself next to Jesus and the other children.



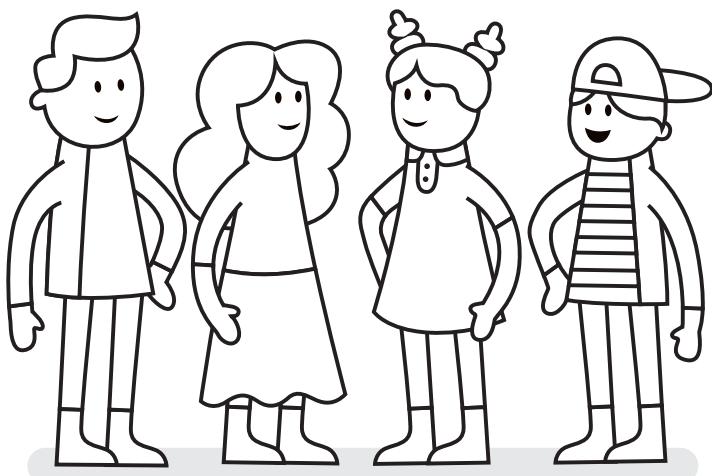
Jesus is
our Savior.



We hear His Word.



We are the church.



Bible Verse

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

(Acts 2:42)

LESSON 2

Matthew 4:12–25

Who Are Our Church Workers?

Fishers of Men

Talk about what each church worker does. Finish coloring in each picture.



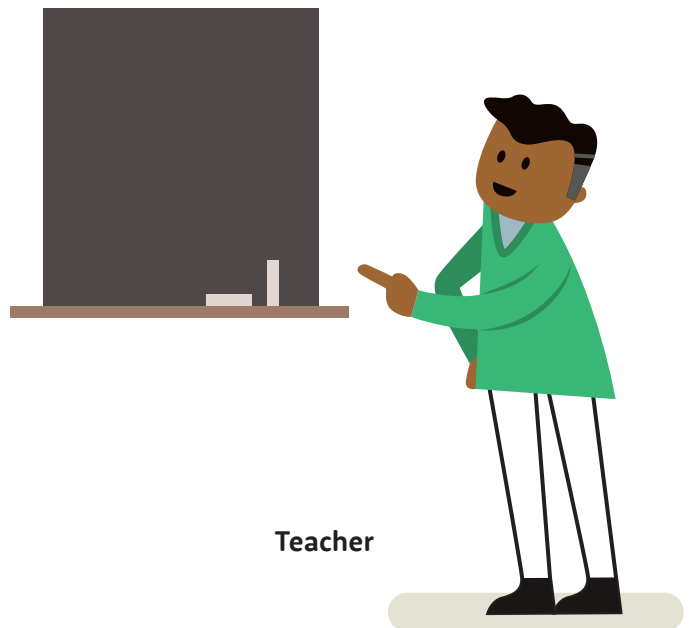
Pastor



Deaconess

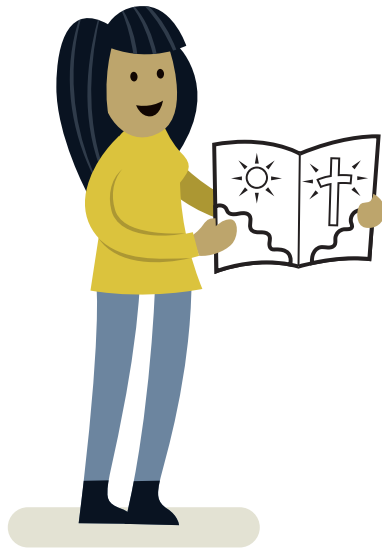


Director of Christian Education (DCE)



Teacher

Continue to color in each picture. Would you like to be a church worker someday?
Circle the church workers you might like to be when you grow up.



Director of Family
Life Ministry (DFLM)



Director of Church
Ministries (DCM)



Director of Parish Music
(DPM)



Director of
Christian
Outreach (DCO)

Bible Verse

“Follow Me, and I will
make you fishers of men.”
(Matthew 4:19)



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

GRADES 1–3

STUDENT BOOK



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The Fourth Commandment and Luther's explanation in Lesson 3 are taken from Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

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LESSON 1

Matthew 28:16–20

What Is the Church?

All Authority Is Given to Me

Listen to the Bible passage, and work together to circle the correct answer.

1. The disciples went to Galilee, to the _____ to which Jesus had directed them.

city

mountain

2. And when they saw Him they _____ Him.

hugged

worshiped

3. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to _____.

Jesus

Pastor

4. Go and make _____ of all nations.

disciples

teachers

5. _____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Bless

Baptize

6. Teach them to obey _____ that I have commanded you.

all

most

7. Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the end of the _____."

finish line

age

8. _____ teach us God's Word today.

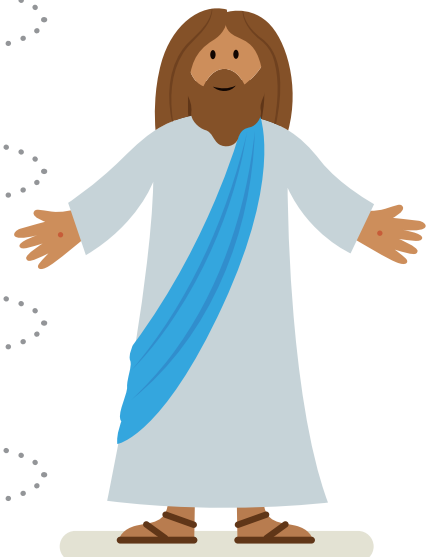
Pastors

Athletes

9. We become God's disciples in _____.

Baptism

work



Making Disciples

Where do pastors preach, teach, and baptize today? Who helps pastors teach?



Teaching and Baptizing

Point to each of these pictures, and share with a friend how you see each of these being used at church.



Bible Verse

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

(Matthew 28:19–20)

LESSON 2

Acts 6:1–7

Who Are Our Church Workers?

Church Workers Serve God and His People

Listen to or read the Bible passage. Work together to discuss these questions.

1. What was the main work of the apostles?
2. Why is this important?
3. What was the church doing to care for the widows?
4. Why is this important?

Church Workers Serve God and His People

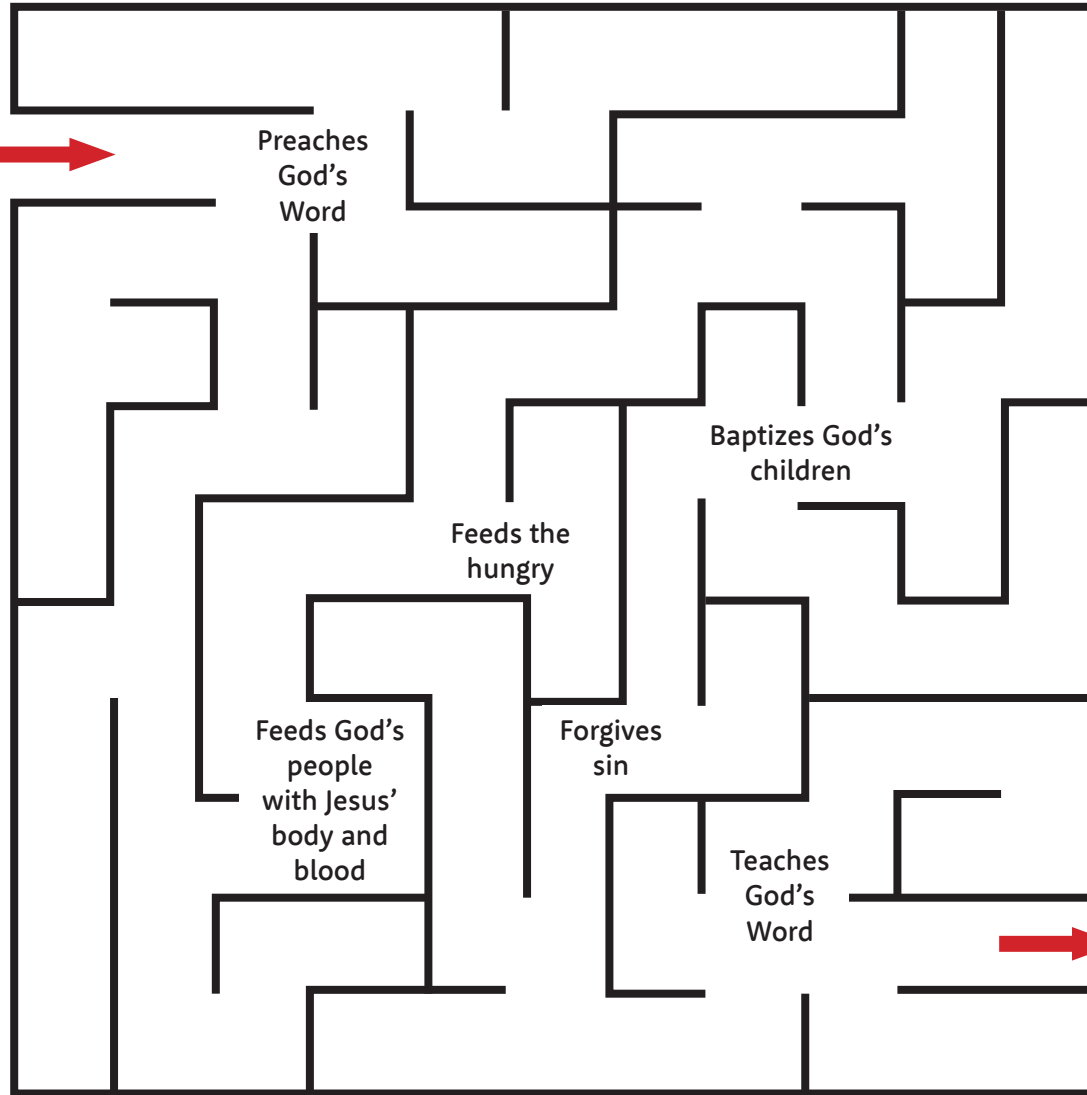
How does the Christian Church help people today? How do church workers help and lead?



The Life of the Church

Complete the maze. What different things does the church do?

The
Christian
Church



Serves
God
and His
people

Bible Verse

"It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:2–4)



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

GRADES 4–6

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LESSON 1

Matthew 16:13–19

What Is the Church?

Too Many Gods

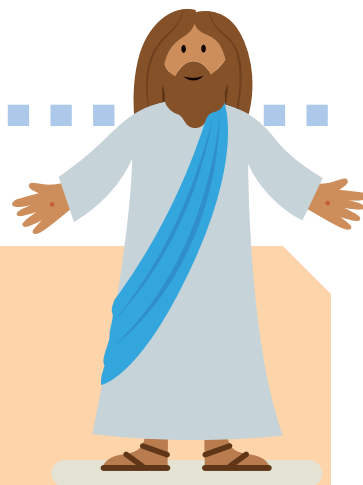
Read **Matthew 16:13–19**. The people who lived in Caesarea Philippi worshiped many false gods. Does our world have false idols? Write down some examples.

On This Rock I Will Build This Church

Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” What answers did the disciples give? Write them down here.

Jesus then asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” What was Peter’s answer?

Who do you say that Jesus is? What would you tell a friend or family member who asked you about Jesus?



The Anointed One

Review Matthew 16:13–19.

- Was Peter right about Jesus?
- What does Jesus then say to Peter?

Pointing to the Rock

Peter was a disciple who pointed people to Jesus, the Rock. Who do you know who does that today?

Whom does God call and ordain to preach Peter's mighty confession about Jesus and to forgive the sins of God's people?

Did You Know?

Jesus said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church." The word *Peter* means "rock." The word Jesus uses for Peter is *petros*. This is a masculine word meaning rock or stone. The word Jesus uses for "on this rock I will build My church" is *petra*. This is the feminine word for rock. Jesus is not building His church on the apostle Peter; He is building His church on Peter's confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

LESSON 2

John 1:35–51

Who Are Our Church Workers?

Jesus' Disciples

Read John 1:35–51.

1. John the Baptist identified Jesus as the _____ of God.
2. Andrew told Peter, “We have found the _____.”
3. Jesus found Philip and said, “_____ Me.”
4. After Nathanael said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said, “_____ and see.”
5. Nathanael said to Jesus, “Rabbi, You are the _____ of God!”
6. Nathanael called Jesus the _____ of Israel.
7. Jesus said to Nathanael, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see _____ opened.”
8. Today, Jesus calls _____, teachers, deaconesses, and other full-time church workers to preach and teach God’s Word.

What Is a Church Worker?

Have you heard the term *church worker* before? What do you think it means?



So Many Full-Time Church-Work Vocations

There are eight types of professional church workers for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. These people receive special training to serve Christ and His church. Take a look:

1. _____: men who serve in the office of the holy ministry, the one sacred office given by God for the sake of the church.
2. _____: support pastors by working to provide an education rooted in God's Word to the learners in their care.
3. _____: serve within congregations to assist and support pastors as they teach the faith to children, youth, and adults. This often means leading a youth group.
4. _____: women who support pastors as they share the Gospel and serve God's people through works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith.
5. _____: support their pastors by helping congregations witness outside the church and share the Gospel so that people may believe in Jesus Christ.
6. _____: support pastors by working within congregations to strengthen and equip Christian homes to live and serve God and their neighbors.
7. _____: support their pastors by assisting with worship planning; providing musical education; and directing choirs, ensembles, and musicians.
8. _____: support their pastors by leading various ministries in a congregation, such as Bible studies and community outreach.

What about You?

Is there one of these vocations you might like to do someday?

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Augsburg Confession

The Book of Concord is a collection of writings that explain what Lutherans believe and that teach the basics of the Holy Scriptures. One document is the Augsburg Confession. This is what it has to say about the office of the holy ministry:

“So that we may obtain this faith [in Jesus Christ], the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given” (Article V, paragraphs 1–2).



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

GRADES 7–8

STUDENT BOOK



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LESSON 1

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

What Is the Church?

What Is the Church?

Pick a few questions to discuss together.

- How important is the church as part of your identity?
- Do your friends know you go to church?
- Do you plan to go to church when you grow up?

What Is Number One?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–4.

- What does Paul mean by “first importance”?
- What is the church all about?
- Why does Paul say that Jesus’ death and resurrection is the most important thing?
- Does Jesus only matter to you at church?



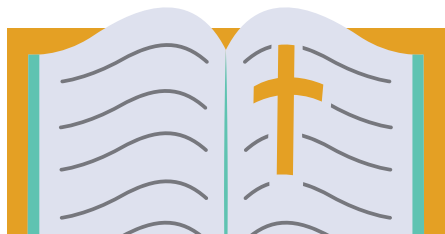
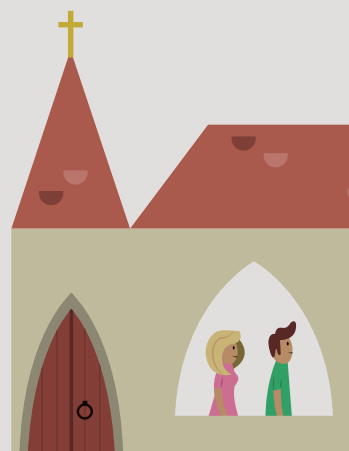
Third Article of the Creed and Explanation

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

"What does this mean?" I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise up me and all the dead and will give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true."

(Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with Luther's explanation)

■ What does the Holy Spirit do for you that you can't do for yourself?



Take It Home

- If you haven't begun a habit of daily Bible reading, start one. Read one chapter of the Bible every night before bed (it will only take a minute or two). Start with the Gospel of John or Romans. Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Download an audio version of the Bible to your phone so that when you want to listen to something, you can listen to the Bible.
- As you read through the Bible, you will encounter things you don't fully understand. Ask your pastor about these passages. He will be happy to talk to you about God's Word.
- If your family doesn't have devotions together, ask if you can begin at dinnertime or another time when you are all together. You can read through the Gospel of John or Romans one chapter at a time and pray the Lord's Prayer together. You can sing a hymn from the hymnal or confess the Apostles' Creed.
- Pray before you go to bed. The Lord's Prayer and Luther's Evening Prayer (in the Small Catechism) are good prayers to use.

LESSON 2

John 20:19–23

Who Are Our Church Workers?

Represent!

Read **Matthew 16:18–19** and **John 20:19–23**.

- What does Jesus tell Peter to do as His representative?
- What does Jesus tell the disciples to do with the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- How is the work of the office of the holy ministry an extension of what Jesus did while on earth?

Shepherding the Flock

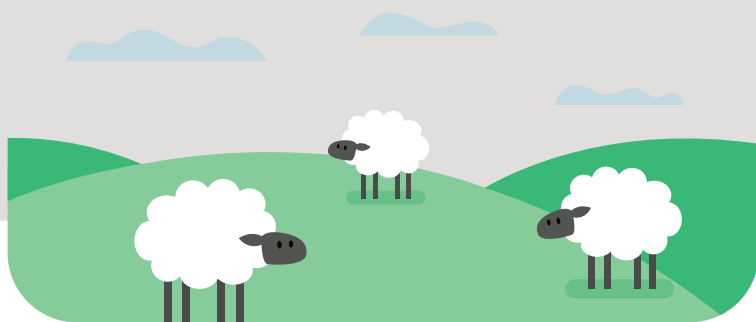
Read **John 21:15–17**.

- What does Jesus tell Peter to do?
- What does the word *pastor* mean?



The Good Shepherd

- Who is the Good Shepherd?
- When will you no longer need a pastor?
- How important is the pastor in the church today?



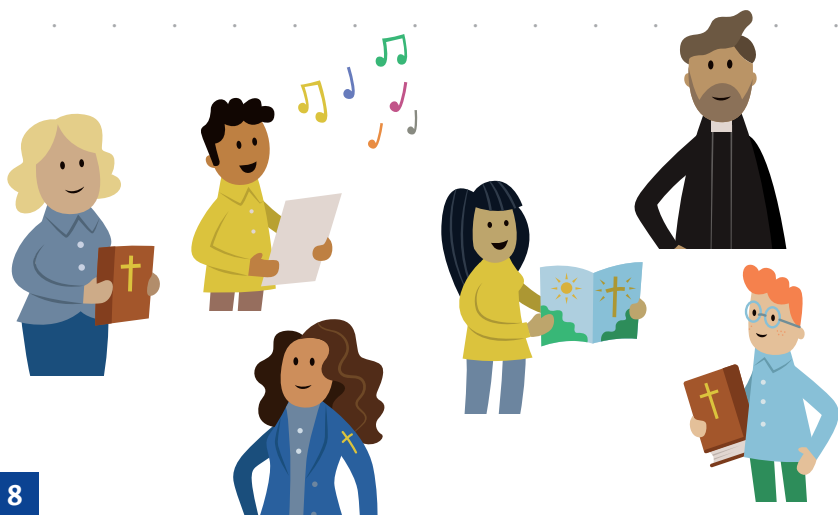
Set Apart to Serve

What are some church-work roles that you have heard of? Visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to learn more.

A large rectangular area with a light grey background and a grid of small dots for writing.

Take It Home

- Talk to your parents about how you as a family can show your pastor and others who work at church how thankful you are for them.
- Think if there is something you can do for your pastor.
- Consider writing a thank-you note to your pastor, Lutheran school teacher, DCE, or anyone who works at your church.





SET APART TO SERVE

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

LEADER GUIDE



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Early
Childhood
Leader Guide

LESSON 1



What Is the Church?

Acts 2:37–47

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

The church belongs to Christ. It is His church. He created and loves His church.

BIBLE VERSE

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42).

LEARNER GOAL

I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I go to church to hear His Word. The church is all about Jesus.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered” (Augsburg Confession, Article VII, paragraph 1).



LESSON PREP

Read Acts 2:37–47. Acts 2:42 contains four key elements that characterize the church and her worship. The “apostles’ teaching” is the Word of God, which they learned from the teaching and preaching of Jesus Christ (see Acts 1:3). The “fellowship” describes the Christians coming together as the Body of Christ to hear God’s Word, through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains saving faith. The “breaking of bread” is Holy Communion, which is the very body and blood of Jesus Christ in and with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of sin, the strengthening of saving faith, and the promise of eternal life. The “prayers” are the speaking back to God what He has spoken to us in His Word. Today this gathering takes place in the weekly Divine Service and other Services of the Word at church.



SUPPLY LIST

- Bible; *Little Ones Sing Praise*; *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, 2017 Edition
- Device with downloaded music
- *Set Apart to Serve Student Book*, Early Childhood
- Pencils, crayons
- Supplies for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross to make me Your child. Help me to gladly hear and learn Your Word in church. In Your name I pray. Amen.

SING

Choose one of these songs from *Little Ones Sing Praise*: “Do You Know Who Died for Me” (p. 93), “Our Church Family” (p. 11), “God Loves Me Dearly” (p. 85), “We Are in God’s House Today” (p. 12), or “My Bible Book” (p. 54).

INTRODUCE THE LESSON

Hold up your Bible.

SAY Listen to these words from the Bible in Acts 2:42. “[Those who believed in Jesus] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Let’s find out what that means.

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

Pass out Student Books and help children find the first page of Lesson 1. Point to the picture of the church.

SAY Look at this picture. What do you see? Give children time to name different parts of the picture. **Look at the crucifix. Why is the crucifix important? Who died on the cross?** (Jesus died on the cross to take our sins away and to make us His children. The church is all about Jesus, especially His death and resurrection.) Invite the children to draw Jesus on the cross and to color the cross. Another option is to offer a generic heart sticker for the cross. **These people are listening to God’s Word. God’s Word tells us about how much Jesus loves us and how He died to forgive our sins. These people are also learning about how Jesus rose from the dead so we can live with Him forever.**

SAY Do you see the baptismal font? Invite children to circle the font. Talk about how God calls us His children in Baptism. **What do you see on the altar?** Invite children to circle the communionware. Talk about God’s gift of the Lord’s Supper. **Do you see the Bible?** Invite children to circle the Bible. Talk about God’s gift of His Word. **When we hear God’s Word at church, we learn about Jesus.**

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

Have students turn to the second page of Lesson 1 in their books.

SAY Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Those who believe in Jesus gather together to hear His Word. Do you know what we call this? Invite children to answer. **We call this THE CHURCH. Draw a picture of yourself by the other children.**

SAY Repeat after me. Jesus is our Savior (*make a cross with two index fingers*). We hear His Word (*cup hand around your ear*). We are the church (*extend arms outward pointing to one another*).

If your children are not readers, let them know that the words in the middle of this page are the chant you just learned. Tell them that when they take this book home, their families can help read the words, and they can help teach the actions! As time allows, let the kids color in the simple shapes on the bottom half of the page.

SAY The church is all believers in Jesus throughout the world!

Wrap up by reading the Bible verse again, pointing to it in the Student Book. **This Bible passage is talking about the church soon after Jesus rose from the dead. We still gather together, listen to God’s Word, and pray!**

LESSON 1 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ GOD’S FAMILY

Sing to the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.”

This is the way we read God’s Word, (4 times)
(*Make open book with hands.*)

We’re in God’s family. (*Spread arms wide.*)

This is the way hear God’s love, (4 times)
(*Cup hands around ears.*)

We’re in God’s family. (*Spread arms wide.*)

This is the way we share God’s love, (4 times)
(*Pretend to pass food or a gift to others.*)

We’re in God’s family. (*Spread arms wide.*)

■ WE ARE THE CHURCH

Sing “We Are the Church” from *Little Ones Sing Praise* (p. 106).

Have the children point to themselves (“I am the church”) and their friends (“you are the church”), and then spread their arms out wide (“we are the church together”). On the last half of the refrain, the children can hold hands to form and walk around in a circle. Look at a picture of the earth and have the children pretend to be the “world” (a circle).

■ THE CHURCH PROCLAIMS

Show a picture of Jesus teaching the people at the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). Briefly read the story from a Bible story book or review the Bible story. **What is Jesus doing in this picture?** (Jesus is teaching God’s Word to the people. Through this teaching, the people believe He is God and that He came to save them from their sins.) **Today, pastors tell us God’s Word when they preach and teach. Pastors tell us that God loves us, that He forgives our sins, and that we will live with Him forever. God’s people go to church to hear God’s Word read from the Bible and to listen to the pastor preach about Jesus. We go to church because we believe in Jesus.**

■ WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Go into the church sanctuary, if possible. Ask the children some of these questions: Can you point out all the crosses? What color is on the altar? Who can point out the pulpit (where our pastor preaches God’s Word)? Where is the baptismal font? When do people go to the altar and kneel? What do they receive? Point out the various pieces of church art (stained glass, pictures, banners, and so on). **All these things tell us about Jesus and what He did to save us. The things in church teach us how God the Father saves us through Jesus. When you come to church, look at the cross and know that Jesus loves you and forgives your sins. Look at the baptismal font and remember that you are a baptized child of God. He loves you. Talk to your parents about taking Communion, and listen to the blessing the pastor says when you kneel at the altar.**

■ THE APOSTLES’ CREED

The church confesses our faith in the triune God in the Apostles’ Creed. Early childhood children can learn the Apostles’ Creed by hearing and saying it regularly. You can begin teaching the Apostles’ Creed to early childhood children in your classroom. Begin by speaking a small portion of each article of the Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” “And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.” “I believe in the Holy Spirit.” Over time, you can add to each section. You may point out that when we say, “I believe in the Holy Spirit,” we also believe in the “holy Christian Church,” the theme of this lesson. As children learn the Apostles’ Creed by heart, they will soon be confessing the Christian faith out loud with the whole church.

DEAR FAMILY,

Today, we talked about the church. We learned that the church belongs to Jesus Christ. He created us and bought us with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. As the baptized children of God in His church, we gather to hear His Word and receive His Sacraments, through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains saving faith in us.

Our lesson today focused on Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” This is what we do when we go to church. We gather in fellowship with other Christians to hear God’s Word. The Bible tells us that saving faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). We also gather to receive Christ’s body and blood in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith, which Luke called “the breaking of bread” in Acts 2:42. We also pray together as the Body of Christ, believing the Word of God and speaking God’s Word back to Him.

The Bible tells us that there is nothing more important for you and your children than Jesus Christ, who gives us life and salvation solely through His death and resurrection. Teaching the Christian faith at home and bringing your children to church to hear God’s Word is your greatest responsibility as a parent. Knowing and believing in Jesus, and in Him alone, is our eternal salvation.

God bless you as you share Jesus with your child and teach him or her what it means to be a child of God in His church. Please consider doing some of the family activities listed below.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

JESUS TIME

Families are busy. Often, activities distract us from God’s Word. Consider setting aside five to ten minutes each day for “Jesus Time.” Consider the time that best works for your family. Turn off the TV and put away cell phones. Learn together as a family and make it fun. Consider doing the following:

- Learn Acts 2:42 by heart.
- Say the Apostles’ Creed.
- Pray together.

CARING FOR OTHERS

Many congregations have people in the hospital or assisted living facilities and people who are unable to leave their homes. Ask your pastor if there are such individuals in your congregation. As a family, arrange to visit one or more of these people. Ask if you can read a favorite Bible passage, sing a song, and pray with this person. You can tell this person you are learning about the church and read Acts 2:42–47.

CHURCH INVITATION

As you get to know a neighbor, coworker, or unchurched family at your school, invite them to come to church with you. Tell them why you believe in Jesus and what your faith in Jesus means to you. Tell them you will sit with them and help them feel comfortable at your church. You and your family may want to pray for this person days and weeks before extending the invitation.



Early
Childhood
Leader Guide

LESSON 2



Who Are Our Church Workers?

Matthew 4:12–25

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

God supplies His church with pastors and other full-time church workers to teach the Word of God for life and salvation in Jesus Christ.

BIBLE VERSE

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

LEARNER GOAL

I can describe the work of my pastor, Lutheran school teacher, and other church workers in my congregation and school, especially in their role of preaching and teaching God’s Word.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted” (Augsburg Confession, Article V, paragraph 1).



LESSON PREP

Read Matthew 4:12–25. Jesus begins His public ministry. A main work of Jesus was preaching, and His message was “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (v. 17). Jesus called His first disciples to be preachers of the Word. He said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (v. 19). Through the preaching of the Word, God’s people are gathered to believe in Him and have eternal life. Calling these men to be apostles, Jesus established the office of the holy ministry (the pastoral office). Today, God calls qualified men and sends them as His ministers to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to administer the Sacraments publicly in His stead and by His command. The LCMS also established commissioned workers to support the office of the holy ministry and to assist the faithful in their God-given vocations.



SUPPLY LIST

- Story Bible; *Little Ones Sing Praise*
- Device with downloaded music
- *Set Apart to Serve* Student Book, Early Childhood
- Crayons, picture of Jesus and disciples
- Supplies for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Dear Jesus, be with our pastors and teachers and all those who teach Your Word to us. Gather us in Your church to live with You forever. In Your name I pray. Amen.

SING

“Jesus Loves Me,
This I Know”
(LOSP, p. 42),
“Helpers, Helpers,
Everywhere”
(LOSP, p. 107),
or “Father Wel-
comes” (LSB 605)

INTRODUCE THE LESSON

Use a Bible story book or picture of Jesus calling His disciples at a boat.

SAY Listen to these words from the Bible. Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Look at this picture. What do you see? Show a picture of the disciples fishing and Jesus calling them to follow Him from a Bible story book or from online. What are these men doing? Allow for responses. Yes, they are fishing. That was their job. At the time of Jesus, men fished with nets, and people bought these fish to eat. What did Jesus say to these fishermen? You may have to read the passage again and have the children repeat Jesus’ words, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” To follow Jesus means to be His disciple and to learn His Word. But Jesus gave certain men a special job—to be fishers of men. Being a fisher of men means to tell others about Jesus and how He came to die on the cross to forgive their sins so they can be gathered into the church and live with Jesus forever.

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

Pass out Student Books and help children find the first page of Lesson 2.

SAY Let’s look at the pictures in this book. Jesus’ twelve disciples became pastors. Pastors today are “fishers of men”—they preach about Jesus and teach us His Word. We also have those who help the pastor teach God’s Word. Point to each as you name them on this first page. On this page, we see a teacher, a director of Christian education (DCE), and a deaconess. The pastor preaches from the pulpit in church, teachers teach God’s Word in the classroom, DCEs teach God’s Word to the youth and others, and deaconesses may teach and share God’s Word in an assisted-living facility to the elderly.

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

Have students turn to the second page of Lesson 2 in their books.

SAY Here are more people who help pastors! Again, point to each as you name them. Here, we see a director of Christian outreach (DCO), a director of parish music (DPM), a director of family life ministry (DFLM), and a director of church ministries (DCM). DCOs help people in church tell others about Jesus. DPMs teach and lead music. DFLMs help show parents and others how to teach God’s Word in their families. DCMs help to make sure things run smoothly at church.

SAY Where do you see these people teaching about Jesus in our church and school? Highlight those who serve at your congregation or school.

SAY Would any of you boys like to be a pastor someday? How about the girls—would you like to be a deaconess someday? Would any of you like to be a teacher in a Lutheran school? Would any of you like to play the organ or direct the choir? How about leading the youth group? This question puts the thought into their hearts and minds. Invite the children to finish coloring the people and even circle some if the child might like to serve as one of these church workers someday.

Direct children to the bottom of the second page and read the Bible verse.

LESSON 2 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ GOD’S FAMILY

Review the Bible account of Jesus feeding the five thousand (Mark 6:30–43), using a Bible story book with pictures. When Jesus saw the crowd that had traveled to find Him, He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd—no one was teaching the Word of God to them. They did not know about the forgiveness of sin and eternal life that Jesus came to bring. Jesus taught the people about God’s love and took care of them by feeding them when they got hungry. Jesus calls Himself “the bread of life” (John 6:35) who came from heaven to feed His people with forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Today, God sends church workers to feed His people by preaching and teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. God wants people to know and believe in His love in Jesus and to be saved from their sin. One way people hear about Jesus is when every Christian loves their neighbor by telling them about Jesus.

■ CHURCH WORKER PHOTO BOOK

Make an “Our Church Workers” photo book to help children get to know the men and women who work in your church and school. Take pictures of the church workers in your congregation: the teachers, pastor(s), deaconess, DCE, musicians, and others. Print out 8 × 10 pictures and laminate them. If you are not able to laminate them, put the printed pictures in clear presentation report covers. Tape pages together with mailing tape on one side to create a book spine. Use a permanent marker or a label to write the person’s name and position under each picture. Look through the book with your class and leave it out for children to look at so they recognize Jesus’ helpers in your church and school! Add a final page with a picture of the class. Label this page with the question “Do you want to be a church worker when you grow up?”

■ CHURCH WORKERS SONG

Sing about what church workers do to the tune “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.”

Pastors teach and preach God’s Word (*open hands like a book*), preach God’s Word, preach God’s Word. Pastors teach and preach God’s Word. They are Jesus’ helpers. (*Give a thumbs-up.*)

Deaconesses share Christ’s love (*side-hug a friend*), share Christ’s love, share Christ’s love. Deaconesses share Christ’s love. They are Jesus’ helpers. (*Give a thumbs-up.*)

DCEs help teach the faith (*use index fingers to make a cross*), teach the faith, teach the faith. DCEs help teach the faith. They are Jesus’ helpers. (*Give a thumbs-up.*)

Teachers help us learn of Christ (*point finger to head*), learn of Christ, learn of Christ. Teachers help us learn of Christ. They are Jesus’ helpers. (*Give a thumbs-up.*)

Church musicians help us sing (*cup hands around mouth*), help us sing, help us sing. Church musicians help us sing. They are Jesus’ helpers. (*Give a thumbs-up.*)

I can tell about Jesus’ love (*place hands on heart*), Jesus’ love, Jesus’ love. I can tell about Jesus’ love. I am Jesus’ helper. (*thumbs-up*)

■ CHURCH WORKER VISIT

Invite the pastor, DCE, church musician, or another church worker connected with your school or church to come and talk about his or her vocation. Ask the church workers to explain what they do and how they share Jesus with others. Perhaps the church worker can share a story of a time when he or she was a child and learned about Jesus and His love from a teacher, pastor, or other adult. The church workers could also share stories about the work they do and the people they work with. Allow time for children to ask the church worker questions about what he or she does.

DEAR FAMILY,

Today, we learned about Jesus calling His disciples to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). Jesus was calling His disciples to tell others about the salvation of all through His death and resurrection so that all would be gathered into His eternal kingdom. In the Bible, we learn that the office of the holy ministry (pastors) is commanded by God to preach His Word and administer His Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion (male-only office). The LCMS established other full-time church-work vocations to support the office of the pastoral ministry in teaching God's Word to His people. These vocations are Lutheran school teachers, deaconesses (female-only vocation), directors of Christian education (DCEs), directors of Christian outreach (DCOs), directors of parish music (DPMs), directors of family life ministry (DFLMs), and directors of church ministries (DCMs). These are honorable, sacred, and joyful vocations in the church. As you talk with your child about church workers, here are some things you can discuss:

- God calls people to work and serve in His church. Discuss how your child has been chosen by God to be His child in Holy Baptism. As baptized children of God, we have the joy and privilege to tell others about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation.
- God calls some of His baptized children to serve Him and His church in special ways. Talk about the church workers you know and how they serve God and others in their work at your church and school. Talk about how pastors preach and teach God's Word, forgive sins, give us God's gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion, and minister to us every day with God's Word. Talk about how teachers share the Good News of Jesus in their classroom in Bible Time, chapel, and throughout the day. If your church has other church workers, talk about them as well, emphasizing that they are all gifts from God.
- One of the best ways for young children to learn is through experience and hands-on learning. When you go to church this week, point out the church workers you see: pastor, church musician, deaconess, teacher, or other church workers. Talk about what each of these people does as he or she serves and shares God's Word.
- Early childhood—age children often pretend to be astronauts, veterinarians, firefighters, or other vocations. They even talk about what they want to be when they grow up. Ask your child if he or she would like to be a pastor, a Lutheran school teacher, a deaconess, or another church worker when grown up. Talk about what he or she could do in these vocations.

God bless you as you talk about the blessing of church workers for you, your family, and your congregation.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

PLAY SCHOOL

Gather some dolls and plush animals and set them up in a row. Help your child “teach” the class about Jesus! Help your child tell a story about Jesus from a Bible story book—maybe Jesus calling His disciples, Jesus’ birth, His death and resurrection, or another favorite Bible story. Maybe say the Apostles’ Creed like you do at church. Sing a song or hymn or part of the liturgy.

CARING FOR HELPERS

Arrange a time for you and your child to visit with your pastor, a Lutheran school teacher, or another church worker. This can be at the church or school, your home, or a local restaurant or coffee shop. Ask the church worker to spend a few moments telling your child what he or she does at church or school and why he or she became a church worker.

MATCHING GAME

Cut two matching squares with labels and faces for each church-work vocation, including pastor, teacher, deaconess, director of Christian education, director of Christian outreach, director of family life ministry, director of church ministries, and director of parish music. Mix them up and take turns matching the vocations.



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

GRADES 1–3

LEADER GUIDE



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Grades 1–3
Leader Guide

LESSON 1



What Is the Church?

Matthew 28:16–20

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

The church belongs to Christ and He has all authority over it. Those who belong to Christ's church are His disciples, as they are baptized into Him and taught His Holy Word.

BIBLE VERSE

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20).

LEARNER GOAL

I can confess that the church belongs to Jesus. There I am baptized into Christ and hear His Word of the forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“This Church alone is called Christ's body, which Christ renews, sanctifies, and governs by His Spirit. . . . No matter how great the multitude of the wicked is, we may know that the Church still exists and Christ provides those gifts He has promised to the Church—to forgive sins, to hear prayer, to give the Holy Spirit. . . . Therefore, the Church, which is truly Christ's kingdom, is properly the congregation of saints” (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Articles VII and VIII, paragraphs 5, 9, and 16).



LESSON PREP

Read **Matthew 28:16–20**. This passage is mostly about Jesus and His church. The church is not a man-made earthly organization. It belongs to Christ. He tells the remaining eleven disciples that all authority has been given to Him. He is the King of all nations and of His church on earth and in heaven. As the Head of the church, Jesus commissions His disciples, now apostles, to carry on His work of teaching to all the world His Word concerning life and salvation through His death and resurrection. He also instructs His church to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, through which one becomes a disciple of Christ in His church. Christ promises to always be with His people, even to the end of the age. He fulfills this promise by being present in His Word, in our Baptism, and in the Sacrament of the Altar. On the Last Day, He will raise all believers to be with Him in His eternal church triumphant.



SUPPLY LIST

- Story Bible; hymnal or songbook
- *Set Apart to Serve* Student Book, Grades 1–3
- Device with downloaded music
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Supplies for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Dear Jesus, You are the King of the church. I thank You that through Baptism You have made me a child of God. Teach me Your Word, that I may believe in You now and forever. In Your name I pray. Amen.

SING

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” (OAR 252 or LSB 594); teach the first stanza with the lesson and remaining stanzas throughout the year.

INTRODUCE THE LESSON

Use a picture of Jesus talking to His disciples in a Bible story book or online. This Bible account is often called Jesus’ ascension, which can help you search.

SAY I want to tell you about Jesus and His disciples at the end of the Gospel of Matthew. Point to the passage in the Bible. This account happens after Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead on Easter morning. All His work of saving us is finished, and He is about to go back into heaven. Jesus and His disciples are on the top of a mountain. Point to the picture. When Jesus arrived, the disciples worshiped Him. They believed that Jesus is God.

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

Direct students to the first page in the Student Books. Read **Matthew 28:16–20** if you haven’t already.

SAY Listen to what Jesus said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” What do you think that means? Allow answers. Jesus was telling His disciples that He is the King over everything—over the whole world and over His church. Using His authority, what did Jesus instruct the apostles to do? (Go make disciples of all nations.) How were they to do that? (Baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach God’s Word.) As a group or in pairs, work through the activity, circling the answers. (mountain, worshiped, Jesus, disciples, Baptize, all, age, Pastors, Baptism)

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

Direct students to the second page in the Student Books.

SAY What do you think the church is? Allow answers. The church belongs to Jesus. And everyone who is baptized and believes in Jesus belongs to His church. Everyone who belongs to Jesus’ church gathers together in church to learn about Jesus by hearing His Word.

SAY Point out the picture of a pastor with the Bible and a teacher teaching children. When Jesus was talking to His disciples, He taught them what His church was all about. He told them to baptize people all around the world and to teach them His Word. This is how people come to believe in Jesus and live with Him forever. Invite the children to draw hearts around the pastor and the teacher.

SAY Point out the pictures of the communionware, baptismal shell, and Bible. We see these things in our church today, don’t we? Have you ever seen a baby baptized? Allow for responses. That’s what Jesus was talking about. Have you ever heard your pastor preach in church? He is teaching us God’s Word. Even right now, I’m teaching God’s Word to you. This is what Jesus told us to do in His church.

SAY Let’s remember what we learned today. Whom does the church belong to? (Jesus) What does Jesus want His church to do? (baptize people and teach His Word) Why does He want us to do that? (so everyone believes in Him and lives with Him forever)

Wrap up by reading the Bible verse at the bottom of the page.

LESSON 1 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ ACT OUT MATTHEW 28:16–20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee (*walk in place*) to the mountain to which Jesus directed them (*climb a mountain*). When they saw Him, they worshiped Him (*bow down*). Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me (*say, “Jesus is our King”*). Go and make disciples of all nations (*point in all different directions*), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (*make sign of the cross*), teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (*open hands as Bible*). And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (*say, “Amen!”*).”

■ MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

Go to LCMS.org and search for information about current missionaries. Use the search term “missionary map” to find a map of where missionaries serve. Point out the countries where The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has missionaries around the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them God’s Word.

■ THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

Read the Bible account of Pentecost from a Bible story book. The Holy Spirit filled Jesus’ disciples so that when they spoke, people from many different countries and languages could understand the Good News of Jesus. The Spirit worked in the hearts of the people who were listening, and more than three thousand people came to believe in Jesus that day. We sometimes call that Pentecost the birthday of the Christian Church. Have the children say “Jesus is our Savior” in other languages. Use an online translator to hear the pronunciation.

- (Spanish) Jesús es nuestro Salvador.
- (German) Jesus ist unser Heiland.
- (Swahili) Yesu ni Mwokozi wetu.
- (Chinese) Yēsū shì wǒmen de jiù zhǔ.

■ GOOD NEWS BRACELETS

The church proclaims the Good News about Jesus. Show students how to make Good News bracelets that tell the story of salvation. Use elastic cord and pony beads in these colors:

Black or gray: All people sin and deserve punishment.

Red: God the Father sent Jesus to take our punishment as He died on the cross.

Orange: Jesus didn’t stay dead. He rose, and because He lives, we will live.

Green: The Holy Spirit works through God’s Word to help us live new lives for Jesus.

Yellow: One day, Jesus will come again and take all believers to live with Him in the new heavens and earth.

Students can wear their bracelets and share the message with others. They could also make a second bracelet to give to a friend.

■ ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Have students sit in a circle facing one another. Have the students roll a soft indoor ball to one another. Encourage students to roll the ball to someone who has not yet received it. Each time a student receives the ball, he or she should name a city, state, or country. After the student names the place, everyone should say, “God’s church is in [name of place]!” Remind students that there are believers in Jesus who live all around the world. But there are some people who have never heard about Jesus. It is the church’s job to go and tell the Good News so that everyone can be part of God’s church!

DEAR FAMILY,

Today, we learned about the church. We learned that the church belongs to Jesus and that He has authority over it. Those who believe and have been baptized into Him and learn His Holy Word are His church. Martin Luther wrote, “Thank God, <today> a seven-year-old child knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd” (Smalcald Articles, Article XII, paragraph 2).

Our Bible account was Matthew 28:16–20. After Easter and just before His ascension, Jesus gathered His disciples and taught them about the church. He told them that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. As the King over all creation and of His church, He instructed them to go and make disciples of all nations. He told them how He wanted them to do this—by baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and by teaching God’s Word. Through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in Christ Jesus and forms His church. That’s why teaching His Word is so important.

Parents have a significant role in forming their children in the Word. First, they bring their children to be baptized to become children of God. They also have their children immersed in God’s Word at home, church, and school. This is no easy task. All the forces of sin and evil are against our children having saving faith in Jesus. Consider one of the “Family Activities” below as you teach your child God’s Word and raise him or her in the Christian faith. God be with you as you take on this godly task.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

TEN MINUTES

Commit ten minutes a day to lead your family in God’s Word:

- Read one reading from last Sunday’s church service and close with the Lord’s Prayer.
- Purchase a Bible story book and read one account per day. Ask your child a few questions.
- Read a few pages of Luther’s Small Catechism each day and discuss.
- Read a section of a Gospel (maybe start with Mark).

SET TIME ASIDE

If you are not already gathering for a family meal, now is a good time to start. Meals are important times to gather the family around food and conversation. Meals are also a great time for the father and mother to gather the family around the Word. Because family schedules can become busy, many families choose to gather around the breakfast meal. During the meal, the head of the household may choose from one of the ideas in “Ten Minutes.”

PRAYER TIME

In Luther’s Small Catechism, the Second Commandment is “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.” This means we call upon God’s name “in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.” God gives parents the responsibility to teach their children to pray.

In Luther’s Small Catechism, there is a “Daily Prayers” section with advice on how to include prayer throughout the entire day. Try praying together morning, noon, and night!



Grades 1–3
Leader Guide

LESSON 2



Who Are Our Church Workers?

Acts 6:1–7

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

Throughout history, the Christian Church has selected faithful people to work in support of the office of the holy ministry to teach God’s Word to God’s people.

BIBLE VERSE

“It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:2–4).

LEARNER GOAL

I can know that God gives the church pastors to preach, teach, and administer the Sacraments in His church, and that the church chooses others to help the pastor teach God’s Word to God’s people.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call” (Augsburg Confession, Article XIV).



LESSON PREP

Read **Acts 6:1–7**. In Acts 6, Luke writes that the number of believers in Jesus Christ is increasing. The church believed that caring for one another—spiritually and physically—was important. The apostles were organizing the daily distribution of food, and jealousy rose between two groups of widows. The workload became too much for the apostles to do alone. The main task of the apostles (as for pastors today) is the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments. The apostles instructed the church to choose men of good reputation and who were full of the Spirit (students of God’s Word) and wisdom to assist them. The additional workers would not only oversee the acts of mercy but would also assist the apostles teaching God’s Word. While different from today, Acts 6 is an example of the church establishing vocations to assist the office of the holy ministry.



SUPPLY LIST

- Bible; hymnal or songbook; canned food
- *Set Apart to Serve* Student Book, Grades 1–3
- Device with downloaded music
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Supplies for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for pastors and teachers in our church and school who tell us about Jesus. Be with us as we care for one another, just like the church in the Bible made sure the widows had food. In Your name we pray. Amen.

SING

“The Church’s One Foundation” (LSB 644:1), “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” (LSB 651:1, 3), or “We Are the Church” (LOSP, p. 106)

INTRODUCE THE LESSON

Have a Bible and some canned or boxed food handy.

- SAY** Today, we want to talk about the story that takes place in the Bible in Acts 6. Hold up the Bible. The leaders of the church at this time were the twelve apostles. How many can you remember? (Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, another James, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Matthias [who replaced Judas])
- SAY** What do you think was the main work of the apostles? Allow answers. Hold up the Bible. Jesus chose His apostles to preach the Word of God, to baptize, and to feed God’s people with the body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion, like our pastors do today.
- SAY** More and more people were believing in Jesus. Some of these people were widows. A widow is a woman who was married, but her husband died, so she was often poor and couldn’t afford food. Hold up the canned or boxed food. Let’s learn more about what happened.

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

Direct students to the first page in the Student Books. Read Acts 6:1–7.

- SAY** The apostles called a meeting. They said, “We don’t have time to preach and help the hungry. Jesus called us to preach His Word; we can’t give up preaching, since that’s the most important thing we do. We need someone to help with caring for the widows. That’s important too—that we love one another.” The apostles said they needed to find helpers who were known by other people for living like children of God. They also needed to be students of the Word of God, and they needed wisdom to make good decisions.
- SAY** The other people in the church agreed. So they choose seven men to help with making sure the widows had something to eat. Some of these men also helped teach God’s Word. Go over the first four questions to review. (1. Preach God’s Word 2. The Holy Spirit creates saving faith through the Word. 3. Collecting and giving food 4. God’s people love their neighbors, including widows, orphans, and the poor.)
- SAY** What about today? Who serves today? Give children time to write or draw their answer at the bottom of the page. The pastor preaches God’s Word, baptizes, and gives God’s people Holy Communion. Other church workers are teachers, directors of Christian education, deaconesses, and others. They are to have a good reputation and make good decisions too, just like the people in our Bible story.

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

Direct students to the second page. Let them work through the maze.

- SAY** As you went through the maze, what phrases did you come across? Ask students to read the phrases. You can write them out in a list on the board to reinforce. God uses His church today to share His Word and to care for others, just as He did during the time of the apostles. Would any of you be interested in being a church worker someday?

Wrap up by reading the Bible verse at the bottom of the page.

LESSON 2 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ EIGHT CHURCH WORKERS

Show pictures of the eight LCMS church workers and say the following:

- This is a **pastor**. He preaches God's Word, baptizes, and feeds God's people with the body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion. He also visits God's people and shares God's Word and prays with them. God calls men to be pastors. Boys, would you like to be a pastor someday?
- This is a **Lutheran school teacher**. Teachers teach us to read and spell and to learn math, science, and other subjects. Their main job is teach us about Jesus and His love for us. Do you think you would like to be a teacher?
- This is a **director of Christian education**. We often call these people DCEs. DCEs teach God's Word to people from little children through adult. They often lead the youth group in church, which includes teaching students about Jesus and taking them on youth trips, to servant events, and to Lutheran camps. Do you think you would like to be a DCE?
- This is a **director of parish music**. A director of parish music leads the music in church, including directing the choir; leading the handbell choir; and playing the organ, piano, or another instrument to lead God's people to sing praises to God. Do you think you would like to be a director of parish music?
- This is a **director of Christian outreach**, or DCO. A DCO helps the people in the congregation share their faith in Jesus with other people, which is called evangelism and outreach. Do you think you would like to be a DCO?
- This is a **deaconess**. Only women can be deaconesses. Some deaconesses teach God's Word, especially to women and children. Some deaconesses care for elderly people, people with disabilities, or women who are having babies. We call this mercy care. Girls, do you think you would like to be a deaconess?
- This is a **director of family life ministry**. A director of family life ministry works in the congregation teaching about families and how we live together as a family. They also teach about what it means to be a Christian husband and father, wife and mother, and child. Do you think you would like to be a director of family life ministry?
- This is a **director of church ministries**. DCMs serve congregations and support their pastors by leading ministries in a congregation such as Bible studies and community outreach. Many serve as their church's youth director. Do you think you would like to be a director of church ministries?

■ TWELVE APOSTLES

Speak the names of the apostles to a beat. Use rhythm instruments to play along. Review this chant throughout the school year. If you'd like to add pitch, try holding a note along a major scale for every group of names. Speak the last line as a cheer!

Peter and Andrew, James and John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon and Matthias. These are the apostles of Jesus!

■ CHURCH WORKER VISIT

Invite the pastor and church workers in your congregation to talk to your students about their work. Ask the following:

- What they do as a church worker
- Why they decided to be a church worker
- Who encouraged them to consider church work
- What they like best about being a church worker

Have the students prepare thank-you cards for your visitors for teaching God's Word.

DEAR FAMILY,

Today we talked about Acts 6:1–7. Jesus instructed the apostles to preach and teach God’s Word. This is important because the Holy Spirit creates and nourishes saving faith in Christ Jesus through the preaching of the Word (Romans 10:17). God’s Word teaches that we love our neighbor. We see the apostles’ concern with care for people in the church in Acts 6 when the apostles made sure the widows in the church had food to eat. However, preaching God’s Word and providing food for the widows got to be more work than the apostles could handle.

The apostles called the church together to select men who were in the Word and had a good reputation to help in the distribution of the food and to help teach God’s Word. They chose seven godly men and prayed and laid their hands on them, blessing and commissioning them for this important work in the church.

In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), we believe and confess that preaching and teaching God’s Word is the most important thing in the church. God commands and calls pastors to do this work for the life and salvation of His people. Many congregations in the LCMS have Lutheran schools, many members, youth programs, and choirs. This is why the LCMS has established the vocation of other full-time workers in the church who support the office of the holy ministry. This includes teaching, leading the youth group, caring for the physical needs of God’s people, and more.

According to the Holy Scriptures, the parents’ greatest responsibility is to teach their child God’s Word, through which the Holy Spirit forms his or her Christian life and faith—now, throughout his or her life, and even unto death and life everlasting. As you teach the faith at home, you may also introduce your children to the possibility of serving the Lord in a full-time church-work vocation.

The Lord be with you as you teach your child the faith and bring him or her to the Lord’s house to hear His Word.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

LCMS CHURCH WORKERS

Talk about the full-time church-work vocations in the LCMS. As you review each vocation, ask your child if he or she might be interested in being one of these someday. Use lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve for information:

Pastors, Lutheran School Teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Deaconesses, Directors of Parish Music, Directors of Family Life Ministry, Directors of Church Ministries, Directors of Christian Outreach

FAMILY DEVOTION

Read Acts 6:1–7. Ask, What was the work of the apostles? (Preach God’s Word) Who does God call to do that today? (Pastors) Why is God’s Word so important? (The Holy Spirit creates and nourishes saving faith in Jesus in those who hear and believe [Romans 10:17].) Who are the people in our church who assist the pastor? (Answers will vary.) Pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for our pastor and all who teach God’s Word. In Your name we pray. Amen.

HOSTING HELPERS

Your pastor, teacher, or other church workers at your church and school would love to receive an invitation to visit you and your family in your home or at a restaurant or coffee shop. Ask if he or she would share about what he or she does as a church worker. Such a conversation will be beneficial in many ways, including the building of the relationship between your family and the church worker that may extend for months and years.



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

GRADES 4–6

LEADER GUIDE



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Grades 4–6
Leader Guide

LESSON 1



What Is the Church?

Matthew 16:13–19

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. On this confession Christ builds His church. This means the church is built on Christ, the Son of the living God!

BIBLE VERSE

“On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

LEARNER GOAL

I can express that the Holy Christian Church is built on the Rock, Jesus Christ.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“As for the declaration ‘on this rock I will build My church’ [Matthew 16:18], certainly the Church has not been built upon the authority of a man. Rather, it has been built upon the ministry of the confession Peter made, in which he proclaims that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God [Matthew 16:16]. Therefore, Christ addresses Peter as a minister, ‘On this rock, that is, this ministry’ (Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, paragraph 25).



LESSON PREP

Read **Matthew 16:13–19**. To learn about church workers, we must first define the church. The church belongs to Christ. Without Christ, the church does not exist. Jesus takes His disciples to the district of Caesarea Philippi, a pagan region. It is here that the one true God, Jesus Christ, asks His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” He then asks, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answers correctly: “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter does not yet realize all that this would mean, including Jesus’ suffering, death, and rising from the dead in order to reconcile the world to Himself. It is this understanding of the Christ, this confession, on which Christ’s church is built. The church is built upon this Jesus Christ. In Mark 8, Jesus responds to Peter’s confession by saying that the Son of Man must suffer, be rejected, be killed, and after three days rise again.



SUPPLY LIST

- Bibles; *Lutheran Service Book*; *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, 2017 edition
- Device with downloaded music
- *Set Apart to Serve* Student Book, Grades 4–6
- Pens, pencils, map, paper, colored pencils
- Materials for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Dear Jesus, Rock of the church, thank You for the gift of Your church. In Your name we pray. Amen.

SING

"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" (LSB 651), "The Church's One Foundation" (LSB 644), "Built on the Rock" (LSB 645)

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

- SAY** Let's look to the Student Book and read Matthew 16:13–19. Using a map online, point out Caesarea Philippi, north of the Sea of Galilee. Point out Jerusalem and Galilee, areas where Jesus often visited. **The people who lived in Caesarea Philippi worshiped many false gods. People worshiped Baal and sacrificed their children to him, believing it would help their crops grow. It was a very evil place. Does our world have false idols?** Allow time for writing and responses. Anything we put above God is an idol.
- SAY** It's in this setting that Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Do you remember what the disciples answered? Point the students back to the Matthew reading for help. Then, He asked the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" What was Peter's answer? Encourage all students to repeat, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- SAY** We talk about Jesus all the time. But who do you say that Jesus is? What would you tell a friend or family member who asked you about Jesus? Allow students time to think and write. If there are willing volunteers, encourage them to share. **When we say the Apostles' Creed, we are answering this question. You already know the right answer! The Creed tells us about Jesus. Don't be afraid to share what you believe with your friends.**

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

THE ANOINTED ONE

Review Matthew 16:13–19. Walk through these questions together:

- **Was Peter right about Jesus?** (Yes, Jesus is the Christ. The Hebrew word *Messiah* means "Anointed One." *Christ* is the Greek word for the Hebrew word *Messiah*. Jesus is the Anointed, or Chosen, One to take the sins of the world upon Himself to give forgiveness and eternal life. And He is the Son of the living God. That means Jesus is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. He is 100 percent God and 100 percent man at the same time!)
- **What does Jesus then say to Peter?** (First, He blesses Peter. Then, He states that Peter did not come to this answer on his own; the heavenly Father revealed to him that Jesus was the Christ. Jesus uses "Peter" as a play on words. Jesus tells Peter that he will be known as the rock from now on. Then Jesus uses the same word for rock, but in a different form, to show that Peter will be important in the church but not the most important. That role belongs to Jesus alone. The church is built on Jesus, the Rock. Peter will be an important disciple, but without Jesus, Peter is nothing.)

POINTING TO THE ROCK

- **Peter was a disciple who pointed people to Jesus, the Rock. Who do you know who does that today?** Give students time to write answers and share. **Think about it—all the pastors, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, and all those who serve God full-time in His church—they are serving the Christ, the Son of the living God! And this church includes all of us. The church will last forever. Jesus said to Peter, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). There is nothing that can defeat or topple Christ's church!**

LESSON 1 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ DISCOVER ROCK HYMNS

Discover and sing the several hymns that refer to Jesus as the Rock or building His church on this Rock. How do these hymns further describe Christ and His church?

- “Built on the Rock” (LSB 645:1, 3)
- “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head” (LSB 647:1)
- “Glorious Things of You Are Spoken” (LSB 648:1)
- “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (LSB 575:Refrain)
- “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (LSB 761:1, 4)

Can you find any other “Rock” hymns?

■ WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Ask students what would happen if Jesus were to gather a group of people living around your church or school and ask, “Who do people think I am?” How might people respond? (Answers may vary but may include these: He was just a guy who did good things; He was a good teacher; He was a miracle worker; He didn’t really exist; He’s an example of how we should live.) Then ask the question Jesus asked Peter. “But if Jesus asked you, who would you say that He is?” (Lead students toward the following: Jesus is God, who came to earth to take our sins on Himself; He bought us back from sin, death, and the devil with His blood and death; He is the Creator of the world and re-created us in our Baptism through His death and resurrection.) Ask, “Why is it important we know who Jesus is?” (Only through Jesus Christ do we have forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation.)

■ DIGGING DEEPER IN THE CATECHISM

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism, putting “Christian doctrine into this brief, plain, and simple form” (Luther’s Preface). Since the time of Luther, the Lutheran Church has developed “An Explanation of the Small Catechism,” which includes expanded questions and answers. In the 2017 edition of *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, look at the following questions:

- Question 201. What makes me a member of the church? (Read Ephesians 2:19–22.)
- Question 202. What is the church? (Read John 10:16; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Revelation 5:9.)
- Question 203A. What makes the church “Christian”? (Read Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23.)
- Question 203B. How is the church unique among the communities in the world? (Read Colossians 1:13–14.)
- Question 203C. On what is the church founded? (Read Ephesians 2:19–20.)
- Question 203D. How many holy Christian churches are there? (Read Ephesians 4:4–6.)
- Question 334. What special authority has Christ given to His church? (Read John 20:22–23.)

Consider dividing the students into smaller groups and allowing them to pick a question they would like to study and present to the rest of the class.

■ DRAWING MATTHEW 16:18

Using artistic freedom, colored pencils, and paper, draw a picture that depicts these words of Jesus: “I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Remind students that Jesus is the Rock. Ask volunteers to show and explain their drawing.

DEAR FAMILY,

Today, we began a four-lesson study on church work. We'll explore what it means to be a church worker and how people become church workers. We will be answering the following questions:

- What is the church?
- Who are our full-time workers in the church?
- How do we care for our church workers?
- How do we form a culture of church work?

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37–38). God calls full-time workers in His church so that the Good News of Jesus Christ is taught and shared to all people. These workers include pastors, Lutheran school teachers, directors of Christian education, deaconesses, and more.

Today, we talked about the Holy Christian Church. We learned from Matthew 16 that the church is built on Christ, the solid Rock. We learned that the church is where the Word of God is purely preached and taught and the Sacraments are faithfully given. Martin Luther said, "Thank God, <today> a seven-year-old child knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd" (Smalcald Articles, Part III, Article XII, paragraph 2). When we go to church, Jesus is preaching His Word through the voice of our shepherd, whom we call "pastor." This is what we mean in the Apostles' Creed when we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church." We enter the church through the waters of Holy Baptism, where we are given new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God bless you and your child richly as citizens of Christ's church, where you hear and receive Christ's Word and Sacraments for life and salvation. Please keep your congregation and school in your daily prayers, praying that God's Word be taught in its truth and purity for the benefit of your eternal body and soul and that all who hear would believe.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

CHRISTIAN PARENTS

God gives Christian fathers and mothers the responsibility of raising their children in the Christian faith. Discuss with your family the importance of knowing Jesus for eternal life and salvation. Commit to making it a priority to go to church each Sunday to receive Christ's Word and Sacraments.

THE VERY BEST

Brainstorm with your family all the things moms and dads desire for their children (answers may include happiness, success, and Christian spouses). Read 1 Timothy 2:1–7. What does our heavenly Father most desire for all His people? The Small Catechism is a great way for families to learn the faith. A free version can be found at catechism.cph.org.

CHURCH SUPPORT

The whole church hears and teaches God's Word together. Make a list with your child of people in his or her life who teach God's Word so he or she knows Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Say a prayer of thanks for these people who show their love by teaching about Jesus.



Grades 4–6
Leader Guide

LESSON 2



Who Are Our Church Workers?

John 1:35–51

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

Jesus calls pastors and church workers today through His church to preach and teach His Word that all may have life and salvation.

BIBLE VERSE

“The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me’” (John 1:43).

LEARNER GOAL

I can say that, through His church, God calls pastors and other workers for His church to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the life and salvation of His people.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given [John 20:22]” (Augsburg Confession, Article V, paragraph 1).



LESSON PREP

Read **John 1:35–51**. John the Baptist is preaching and baptizing near the Jordan River, north of the Dead Sea. This is the same river the Israelites crossed to enter the Promised Land after their slavery in Egypt and forty years wandering in the wilderness. John has disciples who listen to his preaching about the coming Christ. When Jesus approaches, John identifies Him as the Lamb of God and the fulfillment of Isaiah 53, the Lamb upon whom the Lord lays the sins of us all. Jesus now calls John’s disciples to join His disciples. John’s disciples witness the Baptism of Jesus when the Spirit of God descends on Him and the heavenly Father speaks: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16–17). It is this Jesus, God in the flesh, who calls His disciples to be workers in the harvest (Matthew 9:35–38).



SUPPLY LIST

- Bibles; *Lutheran Service Book*
- Device with downloaded music
- *Set Apart to Serve* Student Book, Grades 4–6; poster
- Pens, pencils, and props as desired
- Materials for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for calling workers to serve the church and to teach us about You. Help us also to serve You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SING

“‘Come Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake” (LSB 688),
“Preach You the Word” (LSB 586),
“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve” (LSB 856)

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

SAY Let's look to the Student Book and read John 1:35–51. Ask volunteers to act out the narrative as you read. You will need actors for John the Baptist, Andrew, “Other Disciple” (probably John), Jesus, Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael. Use props as desired. As the Bible passage is read, pause to allow the volunteers to silently demonstrate each action. **To review, let's fill in the blanks in the “Jesus' Disciples” section of your book.** Answers to the activity are as follows: (1) Lamb, (2) Messiah, (3) Follow, (4) Come, (5) Son, (6) King, (7) heaven, and (8) pastors.

SAY Jesus' first disciples were Andrew and John, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael. Jesus would call twelve disciples in all. Today, Jesus calls people to serve Him in many ways. We all serve Him as His baptized children as we love God and love one another. Jesus also calls people to serve Him full-time. Do you know what these people are called? Point to the section at the bottom of the page, “What Is a Church Worker?” Let kids write down their thoughts, and invite responses. **A church worker is someone who serves the church. In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), there are eight ways you can serve God and the church full-time. We'll learn more about these on the next page.**

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

SO MANY FULL-TIME CHURCH-WORK VOCATIONS

SAY Let's look to the activity at the top of the next page. Ask volunteers to read the directions and then to take turns reading a description. Then ask if anyone has a guess as to which vocation is being described. Help by giving answers after each description is read: (1) Pastors, (2) Lutheran school teachers, (3) Directors of Christian education, (4) Deaconesses, (5) Directors of Christian outreach, (6) Directors of family life ministry, (7) Directors of parish music, and (8) Directors of church ministries.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Give time to let students think about the last question on this page. If anyone is willing to answer, encourage the student to find out more, or make a note to connect this student with a church worker. (If the student wants to be a pastor, encourage him to talk with the pastor. Introduce a deaconess to a girl who is interested in this vocation.) **God supplies the church with these vocations to serve His people with the Gospel. It's wonderful how He uses various people to serve Him.** If students are not interested in becoming a church worker, ask who they think might be a great church worker. Often, it takes encouragement from others for people to consider church work for themselves.

Wrap up by reading the “Augsburg Confession” section.

LESSON 2 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ TIME WITH THE PASTOR

Ask the pastor to take the students on a tour of the church (if nearby). Prepare the students to ask the pastor questions in each space. Give a copy of these questions to the pastor in advance.

- Sanctuary: Why is it called a sanctuary? Why do people sit in pews? What happens to the money collected at the offering?
- Chancel: What is the purpose of the pulpit? lectern? altar? candles? communion rail?
- Sacristy/vestry: What does the pastor wear, and why? Who prepares for Communion?

■ CAREER DAY

Plan a career day:

- Invite church workers from your area representing each of the eight LCMS church-work vocations to give a short presentation.
- Invite someone from a Concordia university to speak about church-work vocations and what it would be like to attend a Concordia university as a church-work student.
- Visit the *Set Apart to Serve* site (lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve). Select “View resources” and browse. Show a video under “Answering God’s call” to encourage church work.

■ DO YOU WANT TO BE A CHURCH WORKER?

In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), there are eight ways you can serve God and the church full-time. You can use the poster included with this curriculum or hand a prop to a student:

- Bible: Boys, you might think about being a pastor. Pastors are men who serve in the office of the holy ministry, the one sacred office given by God for the sake of the church. They proclaim forgiveness, preach and teach God’s Word, administer God’s life-giving Sacraments, and provide faithful pastoral care to His people. Have any of you boys thought about being a pastor?
- Catechism: Deaconesses are women who serve as professional church workers. They support and assist pastors as they share the Gospel and serve God’s people through works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. They serve in congregations, in the mission field, and in a variety of other settings. Have any of you girls thought about being a deaconess?
- Lesson plan book: You might think about being a Lutheran school teacher. Lutheran school teachers provide an education rooted in God’s Word to the children in their care. Lutheran school teachers assist and strengthen Christian parents in their God-given responsibility to teach the faith to children. Have any of you thought about being a Lutheran school teacher?
- Youth Bible study: You might think about being a director of Christian education, or DCE for short. DCEs typically serve within congregations to assist and support pastors as they teach the faith to children, youth, and adults. This often means leading a youth group and working with kids in middle school and high school. Have any of you thought about being a DCE?
- Choir music: Directors of parish music teach and lead the church’s worship. They support their pastors by assisting with worship planning; providing musical education; and directing choirs, ensembles, and musicians. Have any of you thought about being a director of parish music?
- Picture of a family: Directors of family life ministry help families live according to the Bible. Trained in family life studies and biblical theology, they work within congregations to strengthen and equip Christian homes to live and serve God and their neighbors.
- Cross: You might think about being a director of Christian outreach, called a DCO for short. Through their expertise and guidance, DCOs help congregations witness to those outside the church and share the Gospel so that people may believe in Jesus Christ.
- Bible study: You might think about being a director of church ministries. These people lead various ministries in a congregation, such as Bible studies and community outreach.

DEAR FAMILY,

Our Bible account today was about Jesus calling His first disciples. He said to them, “Follow Me.” For the next three years, Jesus taught His Word to His twelve disciples, preparing them to be apostles and pastors in His church. Today, Jesus calls pastors and other full-time church workers to preach and teach His Word to God’s people. Through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in all who hear and believe (Romans 10:17). This is why your pastor and other church workers are so important in the life of your child. God has called them to teach about the love of God in Christ Jesus for eternal life and salvation.

Today we talked about the eight full-time church-work vocations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The office of the holy ministry (pastor) is the one divinely commanded office for His church. In love, the LCMS has established seven other full-time church-work vocations to support the office of the holy ministry. These vocations are Lutheran school teachers, deaconesses, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of family life ministry, directors of parish music, and directors of church ministries. These vocations are honorable, sacred, and joyful.

All baptized children of God in Christ Jesus love God and serve one another in many and various vocations, including as parents, children, employees, employers, husbands, wives, citizens, youth, widows, and many others. People who serve in church-work vocations, however, serve God and one another full-time in His church.

Parents, pastors, Lutheran school teachers, other church workers, and congregation members are all influential in a person’s decision to pursue full-time church work. Their encouragement and support are vital to forming future church workers. If you and your child would like more information about full-time church-work vocations, please talk to your pastor or teacher or go to lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve.

God’s blessings to you and your family as you are fed God’s Word by your pastor, teacher, and other church workers.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

VOCATION CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about how the people in your family have different roles in serving other people. God calls pastors and other workers in direct service of the Gospel. These are called full-time church-work vocations. Discuss if there is anyone in your family who is interested in serving in a full-time church-work vocation. If so, talk to your pastor for more information or look at the *Set Apart to Serve* site (listed above).

EXPLORE TOGETHER

Set Apart to Serve is the church-work formation and recruitment initiative of the LCMS. Explore the website listed above as a family to learn more about full-time church-work vocations. Learn more about the eight LCMS church-work vocations, view short videos about church work, and learn about the Concordia universities, which offer these church-work programs for degrees and certifications.

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Dear heavenly Father, You have adopted us as Your children through Your Word and the waters of Holy Baptism. Help us to rise daily to serve You and our neighbor. If You desire any of us to serve You full-time in Your church, provide the path and resources in preparation for this joyful task. Be with all those who teach Your Word to all Your people for life now and forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

GRADES 7–8

LEADER GUIDE



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Grades 7–8
Leader Guide

LESSON 1

What Is the Church?

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

The church is all about Jesus. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies believers into the church, keeping them with Jesus Christ.

BIBLE VERSE

“I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep” (John 10:14–15).

LEARNER GOAL

I can express that Jesus is the Head of the church, which is the people of God gathered by the Holy Spirit.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” (Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed).

LESSON PREP

Read **1 Corinthians 15:3–4**. The church has been called by different names. In the Old Testament, God’s people were called Israel. The New Testament calls God’s people the church. Today, also, we use the word *church* to talk about the people who believe in Jesus Christ as God’s Son and as the Savior. In this lesson, you are going to talk about the church, learning what the church really is according to the Bible and how that shapes who we are as people who believe in Jesus, as members of the church.

The church is both in the beginning (Genesis) and in the end (Revelation). When we think about the end of all time, when Jesus will come as the judge, the church will be there. The church lasts beyond the end of the world.

SUPPLY LIST

- Bible
- *Set Apart to Serve* Student Book, Grades 7–8
- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Supplies for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Almighty and ever-living God, You fulfilled Your promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to unite disciples of all nations in the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By the preaching of the Gospel spread this gift to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(LSB Collect for Pentecost Eve)

SING

“The Church’s One Foundation”
(LSB 644)

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

SAY Who are the first people mentioned in the Bible? (Adam and Eve)
We think about Adam and Eve as the first people, as the ones who sinned and caused all of us to be sinners. But have you ever thought about Adam and Eve as the first members of the church? They were the first people to believe in God, to gather together to hear from Him, to hear about their sins, and to hear about forgiveness. That’s the church. If Adam and Eve are the first people and are the first people in the church, that means that God always has a church. The church is forever, and you are a member of that forever church.

SAY Let’s look at “What Is the Church?” Divide students into groups, or lead a discussion together with the following questions:

- **How important is the church as part of your identity?** You may want to revisit this question later for review.
- **Do your friends know you go to church?** Ask students to consider reasons why or why not.
- **Do you plan to go to church when you grow up?** This helps students consider the importance of the church throughout their whole lives.

SAY Let’s look at “What Is Number One?” Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:3–4.

- **What does Paul mean by “first importance?”** (Paul tells the church in Corinth that the most important thing for the church and even for all of life is the death and resurrection of Jesus.)
- **What is the church all about?** (The church only exists because of Jesus. Without Jesus, there is no church. And when we talk about Jesus, we should always focus on His death and resurrection.)
- **Why does Paul say that Jesus’ death and resurrection is the most important thing?** (Jesus died to forgive our sins and He rose to give us eternal life, which is the most important.)
- **Does Jesus only matter to you at church?** (We sin every day. We need forgiveness every day. Jesus conquered death for all who believe in Him. That means as a Christian, you will live forever. That matters every day and affects how we live.)

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

THIRD ARTICLE OF THE CREED AND EXPLANATION

Ask students to read the portion of the catechism together.

- **What does the Holy Spirit do for you that you can’t do for yourself?** (The Holy Spirit gives us faith in Jesus Christ. Through this faith, we receive what He accomplished through His death and resurrection.)

SAY This week, think about the Creed and what it means when you say you believe the Creed. By God’s grace, you are part of the church. That means you are loved by and belong to God. That means you will never be alone and never need to question who you are. You are forgiven. You are a child of God. And that is good. Very good.

Wrap up by reading “Take It Home.”

LESSON 1 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ TIMELESS CHURCH

The Christian Church doesn't belong to any one time. It is timeless. Ask students if they could gather any famous Christians from any time and place, whom would they pick? What would they do or talk about together? **At the Lord's Supper, we receive a peek into the Lamb's high feast in heaven. When we commune, we're gathering around God's throne, just as the saints and angels in heaven gather. When the Last Day comes, it will be like the greatest family reunion ever.**

■ CHURCH CONFESSION

We confess the Apostles' Creed every Sunday. There is another time when we confess something in church. At the beginning of worship, we confess our sins. And we speak words from the Bible when we do so. Listen to 1 John 1:7–9. This will sound familiar. These are good words to know by heart. And these are good words to confess. You probably already have verses 8 and 9 memorized from church.

Ask a student to read 1 John 1:7–9.

- Who is Jesus?
- What does His blood do?
- Why do we confess our sins?
- What happens if someone is not forgiven?
- What is the eternal effect of forgiveness?

The church consists of sinners who confess their sins and trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness. The church is rooted in who Jesus is and what He has done. Those who believe in Jesus and trust in His death and resurrection receive exactly what He earned through His death and resurrection: forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

■ CEMETERY WALK

We tend to think of the church as being only those living on earth who have faith in Jesus, but that's just part of it. The church includes those who have died while holding the Christian faith. They are not former members of the church. They are members now. If your church has a cemetery by it, walk to it as a class. If not, pull up a few images of church cemeteries. **The resurrection of Jesus means that even death does not end the church. Jesus defeated death on the cross and through His resurrection. When people die, we are sad, but we also have the promise of the resurrection. This is true for all who believe in Jesus. As the church lasts forever, all who believe in Jesus live forever.**

■ CATECHISM CONNECTION

The Ecumenical Creeds—Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed—were created to refute false doctrine and to help the church speak with one voice about what Scripture teaches. Centuries later, they're still invaluable tools of faithful confession. Say together the Apostles' Creed, paying special attention to the Third Article about the church.

■ CHURCH TOUR AND SKETCH

Ask your pastor or someone else knowledgeable to take your class on a tour through the sanctuary, explaining the architecture, art, windows, altar, lighting, and other decorations and structures in the church. Ask questions about why certain items are present and why it was designed this way. Churches tend to be filled with symbolism. See if your students can spot any other interesting features. When you're done, have them each choose a spot and make a drawing of any part of the sanctuary they wish (e.g., the whole front of the church, the back window, the altar, a painting, or something else). Have them share what they drew and why they chose it.

DEAR FAMILY,

Where do you meet other people who believe in Jesus? The church is the gathering of people who believe these important things about Jesus, about life, and about living forever. We come to church each and every Sunday because Jesus is the most important thing.

God's church is built on Jesus' death and resurrection. And His church is made up of people, those who believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, who died and rose for the forgiveness of sins. The church is the Body of Christ. And that Body is brought together by faith.

We are going to spend a few lessons talking about the church and those whom God has given to us as church workers. Your child may want to consider church work when thinking about what he or she will do when grown up. Your child is likely thinking about high school and then maybe college. It's a good time to think about a Lutheran high school, a Concordia university, and church work as important options in the future. Talk together about these ideas. Research Lutheran high schools and look at the LCMS Concordia universities.

We are going to look at Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed. Your child is discussing these words in confirmation and may already know them by heart. We are going to spend some time thinking about what these words mean when we think about the church and those God has given us as church workers.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In the lesson, your child considered questions about the importance of the church and in going to church. Consider the following questions together:

- Does it matter to you that you are part of the church?
- Do your friends and family go to church?
- Have you thought about working as a church worker when you grow up?

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Unlike anything else in your life, the church lasts forever. That means that no matter where you go or what you do, your membership in the church matters now and for eternity.

How does this influence the way you think about gathering with other members of the church on Sunday? Plan your Sundays around going to church and Bible class. How does your schedule reflect what is most important to you?

COMMON CONFESSION

When do you say out loud what you believe about the church? To say out loud what you believe is called "confessing." We confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed. And the Third Article of the Creed talks about the Holy Spirit and the church.

As a family, confess together the Third Article of the Creed. If you don't have it memorized, work on learning it by heart together.



Grades 7–8
Leader Guide

LESSON 2



Who Are Our Church Workers?

John 20:19–23

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

God calls people to work and serve in His church. We give thanks to God for the gift of church workers.

BIBLE VERSE

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

LEARNER GOAL

I give thanks to God for our pastors and other church workers who share His Word and the truth of Jesus Christ so that I may believe in Him and be saved.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith” (Luther’s explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed).



LESSON PREP

Read **John 20:19–23**. The church is the Body of Christ, the people bought by the blood of Jesus, those who believe in Jesus by the power of God. The means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments, are the instruments through which God works to give people faith in Jesus. The primary way God creates faith in a person is through His Word. We read God’s Word in the Scriptures. Our pastor proclaims God’s Word to us in sermons. That same Word, through which the Holy Spirit creates faith, is present and active in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper to give faith and forgiveness. The means of grace, the Word and Sacraments, are God’s chosen ways to grant faith in what Jesus accomplished on the cross and in His resurrection. Pastors deliver these means of grace, and other church workers give support, for which we thank God.



SUPPLY LIST

- Bible
- *Set Apart to Serve* Student Book, Grades 7–8
- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Supplies for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Dear Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, who lovingly cares for His sheep. Thank You for taking care of us by calling pastors and church workers who share Your Word with us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

SING

“Christ Be My Leader” (LSB 861)

STUDENT BOOK, FIRST PAGE

SAY God loves to forgive and to save His people (1 John 4:10; 1 Timothy 2:3–5). He created us. He saves us through His Son and calls us into His church. He gives us the means of grace. Within the church, God gives people through whom He delivers His means of grace. We call these people church workers. Jesus gave pastors to His church.

SAY Let’s look at “Represent!” Ask a volunteer to read **Matthew 16:18–19** and **John 20:19–23**. Lead a discussion with the following questions:

- **What does Jesus tell Peter to do as His representative?** (Peter represents the disciples when Jesus asks His disciples who they say that He is. In the same way, Jesus gives this duty of forgiving and retaining sins to Peter as a representative of Jesus’ disciples. This is the first mention of the church in the New Testament. In God’s design, He gives to His church men called to forgive and retain sins. This is the office of the holy ministry, or what we call our pastors.)
- **What does Jesus tell the disciples to do with the gift of the Holy Spirit?** (Jesus instructs His apostles to forgive sins and to convict sinners of their guilt. If people do not repent, the apostles are also to announce that their sins are not forgiven.)
- **How is the work of the office of the holy ministry an extension of what Jesus did while on earth?** (Pastors give the forgiveness of sins that Jesus won through His perfect life, death, and resurrection.)

SAY Let’s look at “Shepherding the Flock.” Read **John 21:15–17**.

- **What does Jesus tell Peter to do?** (Jesus here tells Peter three times to care for His lambs/sheep. In other words, Jesus tells Peter to be a shepherd for the sheep that belong to Jesus.)
- **What does the word *pastor* mean?** (Pastor is from the Latin word for shepherd, so *pastor* really means “to shepherd.”)

STUDENT BOOK, SECOND PAGE

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Ask students to read **John 10:14–15**.

- **Who is the Good Shepherd?** (Jesus said that He is the Good Shepherd, the one whom David described in Psalm 23. Jesus is the Lord who shepherds His people through the valley of the shadow of death to life.)
- **When will you no longer need a pastor?** (We will need a pastor until Christ’s return at the end times. Then, Jesus will raise us up in the final resurrection. We will live where He is, and He will live with us and shepherd us forever [Revelation 7:17].)
- **How important is the pastor in the church today?** (The church needs a pastor, since God has given the pastor to the church to preach the Word of God and to serve the Sacraments. Until Jesus returns, the church needs pastors to preach, teach, forgive sins, and administer the Sacraments.)

SAY What are other church-work roles that you have heard of? Give students time to answer; use lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve for help.

Wrap up by reading “Take It Home.”

LESSON 2 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ INDIVIDUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

When asked what led them to enter professional church work, most people's stories start with "A long time ago, _____ mentioned that I have gifts that would serve the church." God works through the encouragement of others to lead people into ministry!

If there are any students in your class who you've noticed show a special interest in God's Word and caring for others, don't pass up the opportunity to encourage them to think about whether they might like to serve God and His church in full-time ministry.

■ HIGHER LEARNING RESEARCH

Go onto the websites of the various colleges and universities in the Concordia system and research what programs each offers. Talk together about which programs sound interesting and if students would like to learn more about these colleges. If people in your congregation attended a Concordia college or university, invite them to come share their experiences with your students. College may seem like a long way off to your seventh graders, but it's never too early to get them thinking!

■ SET APART TO SERVE

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recognizes that there is simply too much work in many settings for the pastor to be the sole church worker. As schools grew, Lutheran schools needed teachers. So the LCMS created auxiliary offices to the office of the holy ministry. These other church workers serve the pastor as He works to bring God's Word and Sacraments to God's people.

Just as God provides pastors to serve the church, so He provides other church workers (the auxiliary offices) to assist the pastor in His work. These church-work vocations are blessings to the church and ensure that the Word of God is not bound by the limitations of one man. Lutheran school teachers teach in classrooms; DCEs help with education within the congregation. Deaconesses serve in various capacities to help the pastor and congregation; musicians assist the congregation's worship life and teach the church to glorify God through music.

As a class, visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to explore church-work vocations.

■ GIFTS OF GRACE

God's Word, Holy Baptism, and the Lord's Supper are the means through which God delivers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to believers in Jesus Christ. God gives His church pastors, who deliver God's means of grace to His people. This pastoral ministry continues the ministry of Jesus, through which God saved sinners. The means of grace bring to us what Jesus accomplished for us in His incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, and ascension. These means of grace grant us forgiveness and eternal life in which we live in hope knowing that Jesus will return at the end times as the judge of the living and the dead.

Just as God chose to give us Jesus as our Savior and God chose the means of grace as the way He gives faith to people, so also God has chosen to give pastors to His church.

Record a video in which each student thanks your pastor(s) for delivering to them the means of grace. Share the video with the pastor(s).

God gives pastors to the church for the eternal benefit of Christians. That is an amazing gift from a God who loves His people. Therefore, we thank God for our pastor. Therefore, we treat our pastor as a gift from God. Therefore, we look to our pastor to instruct us in the Word, to encourage us to remember our Baptism, and to regularly administer the Sacrament of the Altar.

DEAR FAMILY,

Today, we talked about the gift of pastors and others who serve the church in a professional vocation. In the Bible, Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd, who lovingly cares for His sheep (that’s us!). One way He does this is by calling men and women to serve the church in a variety of ways so that the beautiful truth of His Word will be taught, and people will know His grace and mercy.

In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we have many of these professional church workers, who are trained in our seminaries and universities and are called by the church to serve. Men in our church can attend seminary and then be called as pastors to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments (Baptism and Communion), and proclaim the forgiveness of sins. Women can serve the church as deaconesses, sharing mercy and giving support in a variety of ways. Both men and women can serve as teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of church ministries, directors of family life ministry, and directors of parish music. All of these vocations are so important to the church.

God’s love and grace are shown in His providing the church with pastors and other church workers to proclaim and teach His Word, that all might know and believe in Jesus and thereby be saved. When we think of our pastor or other church workers, we should first and foremost praise and thank God for providing a way for us to hear His Word and receive His Sacraments for our eternal salvation.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

PRAYER LIST

- Add your pastor and other church workers to your family prayers before you go to bed.
- Pray for missionaries, seminary professors, military chaplains, and others who serve the church.
- Pray that God would provide the church with more church workers, that all might hear the Gospel.

DINNER CHAT

Over dinner or while in the car, talk about what might be appealing or challenging about being a professional church worker. Talk about whether any of the kids in your family might have an interest in church work or encourage your children to consider ways they could serve the church. If anyone expresses interest in one of these vocations, pray together that God would give wisdom and guidance in this consideration.

EXPLORE VOCATIONS

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has lots of information and resources about professional church-work positions. As a family, visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to watch videos and read about various vocations and educational opportunities for those who feel called to serve in the church full-time.



SET APART ^{TO} SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

YOUTH

LEADER GUIDE & STUDENT HANDOUTS



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Youth
Leader Guide

LESSON 1



What Is the Church?

Matthew 16:16–19

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

Jesus is the Head of the church. In and through the church, the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies believers.

BIBLE VERSE

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

LEARNER GOAL

I can express that Jesus is the Head of the church, which is the people of God gathered by the Holy Spirit around the Word of God and the promise of Christ.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

“Our churches teach that one holy Church is to remain forever. The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered” (Augsburg Confession, Article VII, paragraph 1).



LESSON PREP

Read **Matthew 16:16–19**. This is the first passage in the New Testament that mentions the church (*ecclesia* in Greek). The context of this first use of the word *church* is important. In Matthew 16, Jesus asks His disciples about His identity. Peter answers correctly, and then Jesus explains what He must do as the Messiah—that He must die and rise. The true foundation of the church is Jesus and what He has done for sinners. Look at Matthew 16 and think about the church in terms of Jesus.

The church is not just in the beginning (Genesis) but also in the end (Revelation). When we think about the end of all time, when Jesus will come as the judge, the church will be there. The church lasts beyond the end of the world.



SUPPLY LIST

- Bibles; hymnals
- *Set Apart to Serve* handouts, reproduced
- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Supplies for “Active Learning,” as desired

PRAY

Almighty and ever-living God,
You fulfilled
Your promise by
sending the gift of
the Holy Spirit to
unite disciples of
all nations in the
cross and resur-
rection of Your
Son, Jesus Christ.
By the preach-
ing of the Gospel
spread this gift to
the ends of the
earth; through the
same Jesus Christ,
our Lord, who
lives and reigns
with You and the
Holy Spirit, one
God, now and
forever. Amen.

(Prayer based on LSB
Collect for Pentecost Eve)

SING

“The Church’s
One Foundation”
(LSB 644)

HANDOUT, PAGE 1

- SAY** In the Old Testament, God’s people were called Israel. In the New Testament, God’s people were called the church. We continue to call God’s people the church today. We are going to talk about the church, learning what the church really is according to the Bible and how that shapes who we are as people who believe in Jesus, as members of the church.
- SAY** Let’s look at “What Is the Church?” on the handout. Divide the class into groups, or lead a discussion together with the following questions:
- **Does it matter to you that you are part of the church?** You may have youth write their answers first before you invite volunteers to share.
 - **Do you plan to go to church when you grow up?** Ask students to consider reasons why or why not.
 - **If you have kids, will you raise them to go to church?** This helps students think about priorities.
- SAY** Unlike anything else in your life, the church is eternal. That means that no matter where you go or what you do, your membership in the church matters now and for eternity. Do you live like the church is an essential part of your identity?
- SAY** Let’s look at “Built on the Rock.” Ask a volunteer to read **Matthew 16:16–19** and **Colossians 1:13–14**. Let youth consider the questions and answer as they are able before discussion. Allow for working in pairs.
- SAY** Like Peter, the church confesses that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (v. 16). The Father in heaven revealed this to Peter and to the church through the Holy Spirit (see v. 17). The truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior, is the rock upon which the church is built. Jesus is a solid foundation!

HANDOUT, PAGE 2

- SAY** Let’s look at the section “A Great Multitude” about the church in heaven. Read **Revelation 7:9–17**, and discuss the questions together.
- **Where is their focus?** (The people were standing before God the Father and the Lamb, Jesus Christ.)
 - **What is the content of their praise?** Encourage the students to focus on verses 10 and 12.
 - **How does this eternal promise give the church hope now?** (The church is eternal just as God is eternal. And just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so the church will live forever with God in heaven.)
- SAY** Let’s wrap up with “Purchased and Cleansed.” Let students work in small groups, then share their answers. **The church consists of sinners who confess their sins and trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness. The church is rooted in who Jesus is and what He has done. Those who believe in Jesus and trust in His death and resurrection receive exactly what He earned through His death and resurrection: forgiveness of sins and eternal life.**

Wrap up by reading “Take It Home.”

LESSON 1 ACTIVE LEARNING

Choose from the following activities to enrich your lesson. Look carefully for necessary supplies!

■ CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE

Since the church is the Body of Christ, we begin our discussion on the church by looking at what the Bible says about Jesus. Philippians 2:5–11 summarizes much of what the Bible says about Jesus—who He is and what He did.

Philippians is a letter of Paul the apostle to the church in Philippi. Like the other letters of Paul, Philippians points the church to Jesus as God's Son who accomplished salvation for all who believe through His death on the cross and resurrection on the third day. Philippians is known as the "Epistle of Joy" because of this famous verse: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice" (4:4). After his introduction in chapter 1, Paul tells the church that they should reflect Jesus' own humility (2:1–5). What follows (2:5–11) is a poetic section that describes Jesus' humility, that He is indeed God yet willingly became a man and died on the cross for the sake of sinners. This humility was in accordance with God the Father's will, and therefore, Jesus now reigns as the King of kings and Lord of lords, and every knee will bow to Jesus as Lord.

Ask a student to read Philippians 2:5–11.

- Identify the main character in this passage.
- Whose attitude is to be like that of Jesus?
- What is the most important thing that Jesus did?
- Who is Jesus now?
- How will all of history end?

In Philippians 2, Paul tells the church that their attitude should be like that of Jesus. The church is called the Body of Christ and therefore people in the church are to be like Jesus. But even more importantly, the church exists because of Jesus' humble sacrifice. He died for all sinners. He died for you.

■ TIMELESS CHURCH

The Christian Church doesn't belong to any one time. It is timeless. Ask students if they could gather any famous Christians from any time and place, whom would they pick? What would they do or talk about at this party? **At the Lord's Supper, we receive a peek into the Lamb's high feast in heaven. When we commune, we're gathering around God's throne, just as the saints and angels in heaven gather. When the Last Day has come, it will be like the greatest family reunion ever.**

■ THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Your learners likely don't have a lot of exposure to Christians around the world. Consider one or more of the following options.

- Look up Lutheran church bodies online; perhaps reference The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or the International Lutheran Council websites. Have each learner pick a church body and give a brief report on that Lutheran church body.
- Do a quick search together, looking at statistics of Christians in countries around the world.
- Look up LCMS missionaries online. Read their stories, and write them letters or emails of support. It's quite likely that they would love to set up a call with your group to share their story.

■ CATECHISM CONNECTION

The Ecumenical Creeds—Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed—were created to refute false doctrine and to help the church speak with one voice about what Scripture teaches. Centuries later, they're still invaluable tools of faithful confession. Say together the Apostles' Creed, paying special attention to the Third Article about the church.

DEAR FAMILY,

What do you think of when you hear the word *church*? What is the church? Who is the church? What is essential for the church to exist? Is the church something society made up? Is the church important? Is the church relevant to daily life?

Adam and Eve are the first people mentioned in the Bible. We think about them as the first people, as the ones who sinned. But have you ever thought about Adam and Eve as the first members of the church? They were. Adam and Eve were the first people to believe in God, to gather together to hear from Him, to hear about their sins, and to hear about forgiveness. That's church. If Adam and Eve are the first people and the first people in the church, that means that God has always had a church. God always calls people to belong to Him, to rejoice in His love and forgiveness.

Where do you meet other people who believe in Jesus? The church is the gathering of people who believe these important things about Jesus, about life, and about living forever. We come to church each and every Sunday to receive what we need: God's grace and forgiveness in His Word and Sacrament.

God's church is built on Jesus' death and resurrection. And His church is made up of those people who believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, who died and rose for the forgiveness of sins. The church is the Body of Christ. And that Body is brought together by faith. We are going to spend a few lessons talking about the church and those whom God has given to us as church workers. Blessings as you continue this conversation in your homes!



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In the lesson, your child considered questions about the importance of the church. Read Matthew 16:16–19 and discuss these questions together:

- Is Peter correct about Jesus?
- What does the church confess about Jesus?
- If the church is built on Jesus, how solid is that foundation?

THINKING AHEAD

Your youth may want to consider church work when thinking about what he or she will do when grown up. Your youth is likely thinking about higher education and career options. It's a good time to think about a Concordia university and church work as important options in the future. Talk together about these ideas. Research church-work vocations and look at the LCMS Concordia universities.

COMMON CONFESSION

When do you say out loud what you believe about the church? To say out loud what you believe is called "confessing." We confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed. And the Third Article of the Creed talks about the Holy Spirit and the church.

As a family, confess together the Third Article of the Creed. If you don't have it memorized, work on learning it by heart together.

LESSON 1
HANDOUT

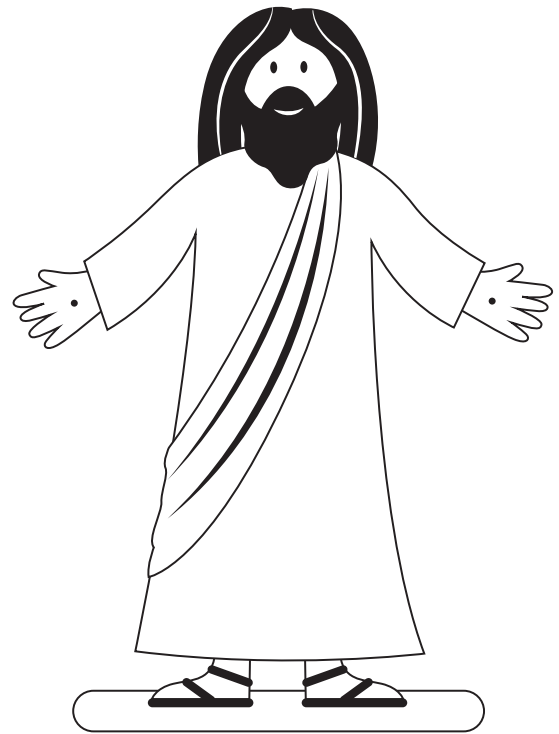
Matthew 16:16–19

What Is the Church?

What Is the Church?

What do you think of when you hear the word *church*? What is the church? Who is the church? Is the church relevant to daily life?

- Does it matter to you that you are part of the church?
- Do you plan to go to church when you grow up?
- If you have kids, will you raise them to go to church?



Built on the Rock

Read **Matthew 16:16–19**. What does the church confess about Jesus? How did the church learn this truth? What is the rock on which the church is built?

The word *church* can be translated as “the ones who have been called” or “the ones who have been gathered.” Read **Colossians 1:13–14**. In your own words, on the lines below, write down what it means to be called or gathered by God.

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“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

A Great Multitude

Read **Revelation 7:9–17**. This describes the church in heaven.

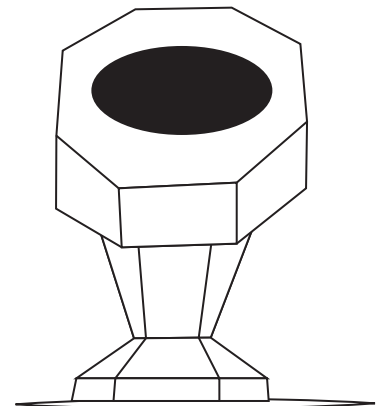
- Where is their focus?
- What is the content of their praise?
- How does this eternal promise give the church hope now?

“Salvation belongs
to our God who sits
on the throne, and
to the Lamb!”
(Revelation 7:10)

Purchased and Cleansed

Read **1 John 1:7–9** and **1 Corinthians 6:20**.

- What does the blood of Jesus do?
- Why do we confess our sins?
- What is the eternal effect of forgiveness?
- What price did Jesus pay for sinners?



Take It Home

- If you haven't begun a habit of daily Bible reading, start one. Read one chapter of the Bible every night before bed. Start with the Gospel of John or Romans.
- As you read through the Bible, you will encounter things you don't fully understand. Ask your pastor about these passages. He will be happy to talk to you about God's Word.
- If your family doesn't have devotions together, ask if you can begin at dinnertime or another time when you are all together. You can read through the Gospel of John or Romans one chapter at a time and pray the Lord's Prayer together. You can sing a hymn from the hymnal or confess the Apostles' Creed.
- Pray before you go to bed. The Lord's Prayer or Luther's Evening Prayer (in the Small Catechism) are good prayers to use.



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

ADULT

LEADER GUIDE & STUDENT HANDOUTS



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**Adult
Leader Guide
LESSON 1**



What Is the Church?

Ephesians 1

OVERVIEW

LESSON POINT

God's church is built on Jesus' death and resurrection. His church is made up of those people who believe in Jesus as Christ, the Son of the living God, and that He died and rose for the forgiveness of sins. The church is the Body of Christ, brought together by faith.

BIBLE VERSE

"And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:22–23).

LEARNER GOAL

I confess that Jesus is the Head of the church, which is the people of God gathered by the Holy Spirit and given faith to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

"Our churches teach that one holy Church is to remain forever. The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered" (Augsburg Confession, Article VII, paragraph 1).



LESSON PREP

Read **Ephesians 1**. Jesus is the Head of the church, and the church is His Body. The people of the church are those who receive from God His eternal grace and mercy through Jesus. Pastors and church workers are those through whom God delivers His Word and Sacraments to His people. Buildings are helpful as places for us to gather to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments. But nothing matters as much as Jesus. He is the church's Head, and without Him the church does not exist.

Ephesians 1:22 says that God put all things under Jesus' feet and that this same Jesus is Head of the church. In all the things that we face in life, in all that changes and falls apart, the church will remain for all time, since the church's Head cannot be defeated. God's grace and mercy in Jesus are truly eternal.



SUPPLY LIST

- Bibles; *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, 2017 edition; hymnals
- *Set Apart to Serve* handouts, reproduced
- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils

PRAY

Almighty and ever-living God, You fulfilled Your promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to unite disciples of all nations in the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May this gift go forth to the ends of the earth through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Prayer based on LSB Collect for Pentecost Eve.)

SING

“The Church’s One Foundation”
(LSB 644)

HANDOUT, FIRST PAGE

SAY We are going to talk about the church, learning what the church really is according to the Bible and how that shapes who we are as people who believe in Jesus, as members of the church. Read through Ephesians 1 before working through the questions.

- **How does Paul discuss Jesus’ death and resurrection in light of eternity?** (Paul talks about the eternal will of God to save sinners, accomplished through Jesus’ death and resurrection [vv. 7–12]. Throughout Ephesians, Paul talks about the church and how God’s people live in light of God’s love and the salvation accomplished by Jesus [see 2:10].)
- **For how long has God loved sinners?** (Before the world was made, God loved and chose sinners. Jesus has been God’s plan and promise from before creation. All of history—including Jesus’ incarnation, death, and resurrection—is understood in light of Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s love.)
- **What does it mean that our salvation is eternal?** (This means your salvation is sure. There is nothing that can oppose God’s love for you. The forgiveness and love of God in Christ Jesus was prior to and will outlast everything. This gives Christians hope and security in the midst of suffering and trial. God’s love is solid and secure.)
- **How does the eternal perspective in the beginning of the chapter shape our understanding of the church at the end of Ephesians 1?** (Since God’s love for sinners and plan of salvation are eternal, His church is everlasting. The church began with the first believers in Jesus, Adam and Eve, and will continue even beyond the end of times.)
- **Who is your Lord?** (Each person who belongs to the church also belongs to the church’s Lord. Just as the Head of the church is Lord over all things, so your Savior is Lord of all things, and just as He lives and reigns to all eternity, so you have eternal hope.)

HANDOUT, SECOND PAGE

SAY Jesus is the Head of the church. Read 1 John 1:7–9 together.

- **Who is Jesus?** (Jesus is both God and man—the Son of God and the one who sheds blood. This is a confession of the truth of who Jesus is.)
- **What does His blood do?** (His blood cleanses from sin. This forgiveness was accomplished on the cross and is received by faith.)
- **Why do we confess our sins?** (God’s Word teaches us that we are sinners; we speak in accord with God’s Word. We also confess because God promises forgiveness through Jesus’ blood. We confess knowing that, because of Jesus, God will always respond with forgiveness.)
- **What is the eternal effect of forgiveness?** (Forgiveness means we will share in the resurrection to eternal life at the end of times, that we live in the eternal church with all the saints. God’s eternal love results in eternal forgiveness for all those who are in Christ Jesus.)

SAY The church consists of sinners who confess their sins and trust in Jesus for forgiveness. The church is rooted in who Jesus is and what He has done. Those who believe in Jesus and trust in His death and resurrection receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

LESSON 1 EXTENDING THE LESSON

Following the discussion through the lesson handout, consider using one or more of the options below to add further learning. As you know your learners' needs and interests, choose from the following.

■ THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN

Read **Revelation 7:9–17**. This describes the church in heaven.

- **Where are the people focusing?** (The church is gathered before Jesus on His throne. This reminds us of our weekly gathering before the altar of God, where Jesus gives us His body and blood; before the font, where we were baptized into Christ; and before the pulpit and lectern, where God comes to us through His Holy Word. The church is properly understood as the sheep who hear the voice of their shepherd. This means the church gathers before Jesus to hear from Him and receive from Him. This is true now and even in eternity.)
- **How are they dressed?** (They are dressed in white robes because they have been washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. A pastor's robes remind us that sinners are covered with the robe of Christ's righteousness.)
- **What is the content of their praise?** (The saints of God, the church, praise God because of salvation. Praise is based on God's action to save sinners. From this gift of salvation, from the grace of God in Jesus Christ, flows all good gifts.)
- **How does this eternal promise give the church hope now?** (This picture of the church in the eternal heavens grants us hope and perseverance as we continue to battle with sin and failure, with death and pain. We know that we have an eternal promise and hope, that we will rise from the dead on the Last Day and live forever with all the saints in the presence of our eternal Savior.)

Notice that the church is not defined by context or community. Since the church is not a man-made organization or institution, the church does not change over time. The church is eternal just as God is eternal. And just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so the church will live forever with God in heaven. What in your life is eternal?

■ ONE MORE THOUGHT

In 1 John 1:7, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Paul speaks similarly in 1 Corinthians 6:20, where he reminds the church that they have been bought at a price—the price of Jesus' own blood. This same idea is also found in Acts 20:28, where Paul describes the church as bought "with [God's] own blood."

As a member of the church (those who believe in Jesus), this means you have been bought with a price—the blood of Jesus—and your sins are forgiven. This is who you are. And that is true for all eternity.

■ HYMN STUDY

Pass around some hymnals and do a short study of the hymn "The Church's One Foundation" (*LSB* 644). Read through the hymn one stanza at a time, prompting your learners to identify words or phrases that catch their attention or help shine more light on what the church is and why the church matters. Encourage them to share these reflections in small groups or in the large group.

- What is the rock on which the church is built?
- If the church is built on Jesus, how solid is that foundation?

Finish by singing the hymn together and closing with the Lord's Prayer.

DEAR FAMILY,

What do you think of when you hear the word *church*? Matthew 16:16–19 is the first passage in the New Testament that mentions the church (*ecclesia* in Greek). The context of this first use of the word *church* is important. In Matthew 16, Jesus asks His disciples about His identity. Peter answers correctly that Jesus is the Messiah, and then Jesus explains what He must do as the Messiah—that He must die and rise. The true foundation of the church is the identity and work of Jesus.

The church is the gathering of people who believe these important things about Jesus, about life, and about living forever. We come to church each and every Sunday because that is where Jesus’ Word is preached to us and where we receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

God’s church is built on Jesus’ death and resurrection. His church is made up of people, those who believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, who died and rose for the forgiveness of sins. The church is the Body of Christ. That Body is brought together by faith. We are going to spend a few lessons talking about the church and those whom God has given to us as church workers. Blessings as you continue this conversation in your homes!



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 16:16–19 and consider these questions:

- Is Peter correct about Jesus?
- How did Peter know this truth?
- What does the church confess about Jesus?
- How did the church learn this truth?

THINKING AHEAD

Your child may want to consider church work when thinking about what he or she will do when grown up. Your child is likely thinking about high school and then maybe college. Talk about a Lutheran high school, a Concordia university, and church work as important options in the future. Research Lutheran high schools and look at the LCMS Concordia universities.

COMMON CONFESSION

When do you say out loud what you believe about the church? To say out loud what you believe is called “confessing.” We confess our faith in the words of the Creed. And the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed talks about the Holy Spirit and the church.

As a family, confess together the Apostles’ Creed. If you don’t have it memorized, work on learning it by heart together.



LESSON 1 HANDOUT

Ephesians 1

What Is the Church?



What Is the Church?

We are going to talk about the church, learning what the church really is according to the Bible and how that shapes who we are as people who believe in Jesus, as members of the church. Read **Ephesians 1**.

- How does Paul discuss Jesus' death and resurrection in light of eternity?
- For how long has God loved sinners?
- What does it mean that our salvation is eternal?
- How does the eternal perspective in the beginning of the chapter shape our understanding of the church at the end of Ephesians 1?
- Who is your Lord?

Simply defined, the church is the Body of Christ—that is, all people whom the Spirit, by the means of grace, has gathered to Christ in faith throughout the world.

“And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22–23).



Christ, the Head of the Church

Jesus is the Head of the church. Read **1 John 1:7–9** together.

- Who is Jesus?
- What does His blood do?
- Why do we confess our sins?
- What is the eternal effect of forgiveness?

Church Workers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

In the following lessons, we will explore the need for and gift of full-time church workers. Here are the eight full-time church-work vocations. Have you heard of all of these before?

1. Pastor
2. Lutheran school teacher
3. Deaconess
4. Director of Christian education (DCE)
5. Director of parish music (DPM)
6. Director of Christian outreach (DCO)
7. Director of family life ministry (DFLM)
8. Director of church ministries (DCM)

For Further Study

- Read Questions 201 through 218 in the 2017 edition of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH).
- In the Book of Concord, read the Augsburg Confession, Articles VII and VIII, as well as the Apology, Articles VII and VIII.



CHAPEL 1: BUILT ON THE ROCK

If using this *Set Apart to Serve* curriculum in a school setting, this outline can serve as a chapel service. If your school uses a consistent liturgy, such as Matins, Morning Prayer, or Service of Prayer and Preaching, you may wish to look at the optional hymn and message outline below. If using these materials in a church setting, you may wish to abbreviate this outline for a Sunday School opening or children's message in the Divine Service.

Invocation

LEADER: In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Matthew 28:19

LEADER: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

PEOPLE: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Psalms 118:1

LEADER: The LORD is my strength and my song;

PEOPLE: He has become my salvation.

Psalms 118:14

LEADER: I thank You that You have answered me

PEOPLE: and have become my salvation.

LEADER: The stone that the builders rejected

PEOPLE: has become the cornerstone.

LEADER: This is the LORD's doing;

PEOPLE: it is marvelous in our eyes.

LEADER: This is the day that the LORD has made;

PEOPLE: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:21–24

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 2:12–22; Matthew 16:13–20

Hymn

You may want to choose one of the following.

"The Church's One Foundation" (LSB 644)

"Built on the Rock" (LSB 645)

"Church of God, Elect and Glorious" (LSB 646)

"Our Church Family" (LOSP, p. 11)

"We Are in God's House Today" (LOSP, p. 12)

Message

(Set up a tower of cardboard or wooden blocks as a visual. Write "Jesus" on the cornerstone block. Write "apostles and prophets" on the bottom foundation blocks. You may want more than one tower to avoid cleanup during the message.) **Sometimes when we hear the word *church*, we think about a church building. When we "go to church," we usually go into**

a building and into a special room that we call a sanctuary. (If you're in a sanctuary right now, you can take a moment to point out special features of your setting—a cross, candles, the baptismal font, etc.) **Sometimes, when the Bible talks about church, it is talking about a building (a temple or a house).**

But most of the time, when the Bible talks about the church, it's talking about Jesus, His Word, and His people. In our reading today, Paul tells the church that “you are . . . members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19–20).

Look at my tower. Look at this block that says “Jesus.” We call this block the cornerstone. What would happen if we pulled “Jesus, the cornerstone” out of our tower? (Allow answers. Pull the cornerstone out.) Yes, the whole tower falls. Without Jesus, there is no church. The church must have Jesus to be the church! Look at these foundation pieces. They say “apostles and prophets.” God inspired the apostles to write the New Testament of the Bible, and He inspired the prophets to write the Old Testament of the Bible. The Old and New Testaments are God's Word. The church must have God's Word to be the church. Without God's Word, there is no church. And God's Word is all about Jesus!

Then Paul said that we are “members of the household of God.” That's us, the children of God. In His church we gather around Jesus Christ where He feeds us His Word. We come to hear His Word in church. Through His Word, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. Christ, His Word, His forgiven children—this is the church!

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Offering

You might decide to give this offering to fund the support of church-work students in your congregation or the LCMS Set Apart to Serve church-work recruitment initiative.

Prayers

Include your typical prayers. Prayers can be found in Lutheran Service Book and One and All Rejoice. If desired, you can also use the options below.

Lord of the Harvest, You call us to pray to You for laborers to serve Your church. You have faithfully provided pastors and other church workers for the church in generations past. We humbly ask that You continue to bless us with laborers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Lead us to care for the church workers that You have provided. Use us to encourage and support those who are considering and pursuing full-time church-work vocations. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Cornerstone and Head of Your church. You have called us to be members of the household of God in the waters of Holy Baptism. By Your grace and through Your Holy Spirit, enable us to serve You, one another, and the world according to Your holy will. Guide us to support one another and to joyfully serve You in our daily vocations. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Benedicamus and Blessing

LEADER: Let us bless the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Hymn

You may want to choose one of the following.

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone" (LSB 912)

"Our Church Family" (LOSP, p. 11)

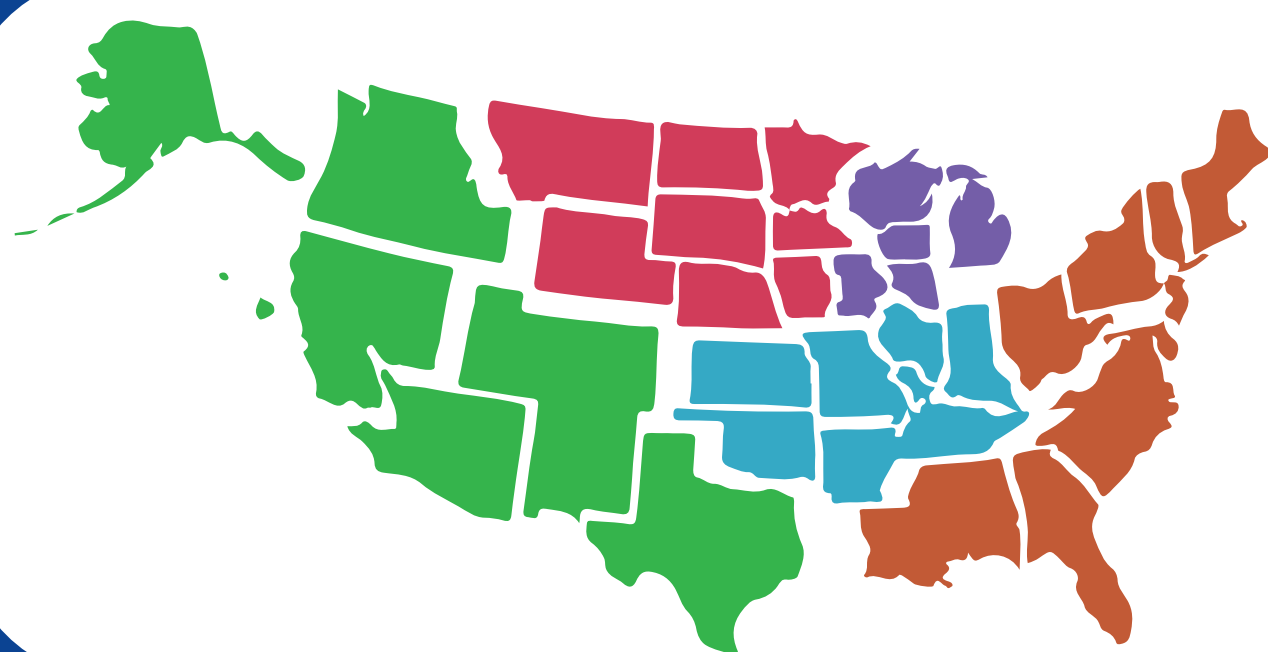
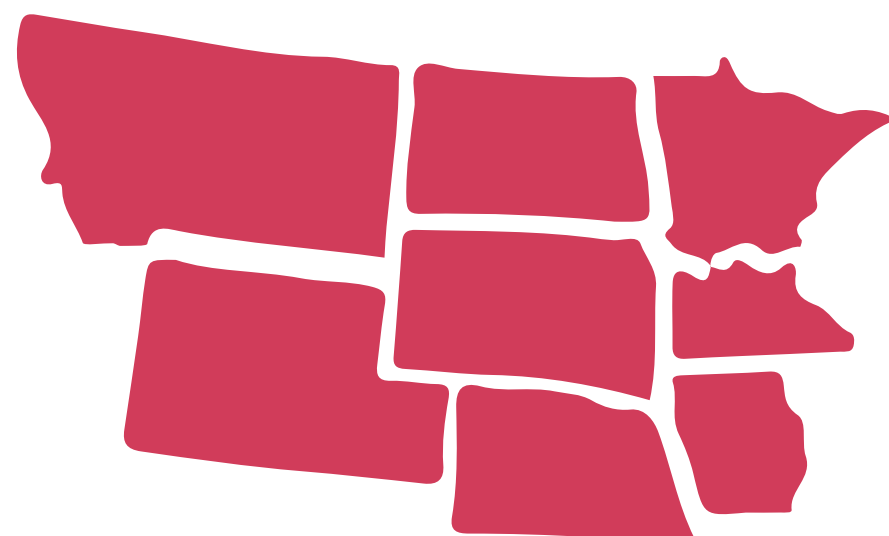
How Does the Church Work Together?

A church **congregation** includes people of all ages. Some people serve in the congregation for their full- or part-time work, and other people serve as volunteers. Everyone is important, and everyone works together!



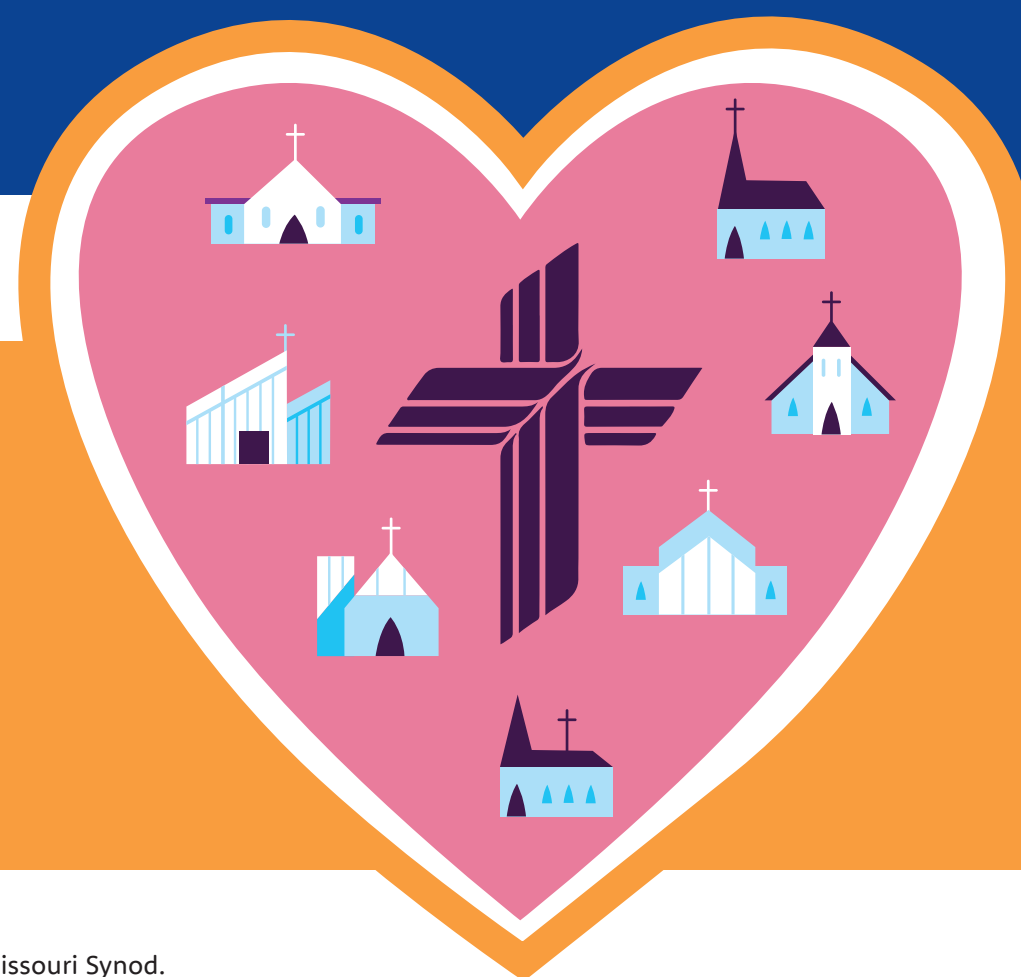
A **circuit** is a small group of congregations. Often, these congregations are close to one another. The pastors and other church workers of these congregations meet together to encourage and support one another. Circuits ask one of the pastors to volunteer to be a circuit visitor, a person who serves and leads the circuit.

A **district** is a group of many circuits together. Districts might be made up of from around 60 to almost 400 congregations. There are 35 districts in our church body, most of which are grouped geographically (by location on a map). Districts have presidents, pastors who have been elected to lead and serve the district. Some districts have other helpers too.



A **region** is made up of several districts. There are five regions.

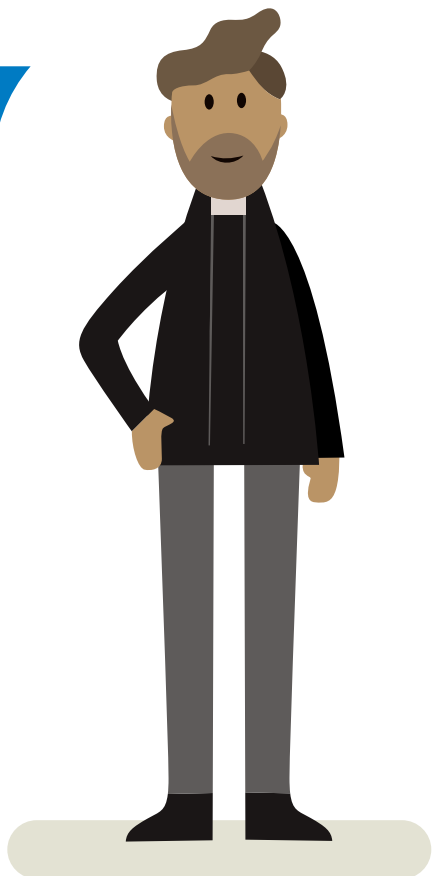
All of these congregations are united into one **synod** to make up the church body that we call The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The congregations vote for a president to lead and serve the Synod. The main office is in Missouri.



What Is a Church Worker?

A commissioned or ordained church worker is someone with a call to serve the church in a special way. Anyone can serve the church as a volunteer! Church workers have special training and are called to serve in ministry on a full- or part-time basis.

A **pastor** preaches, baptizes, gives Communion, and leads a congregation in spiritual matters.



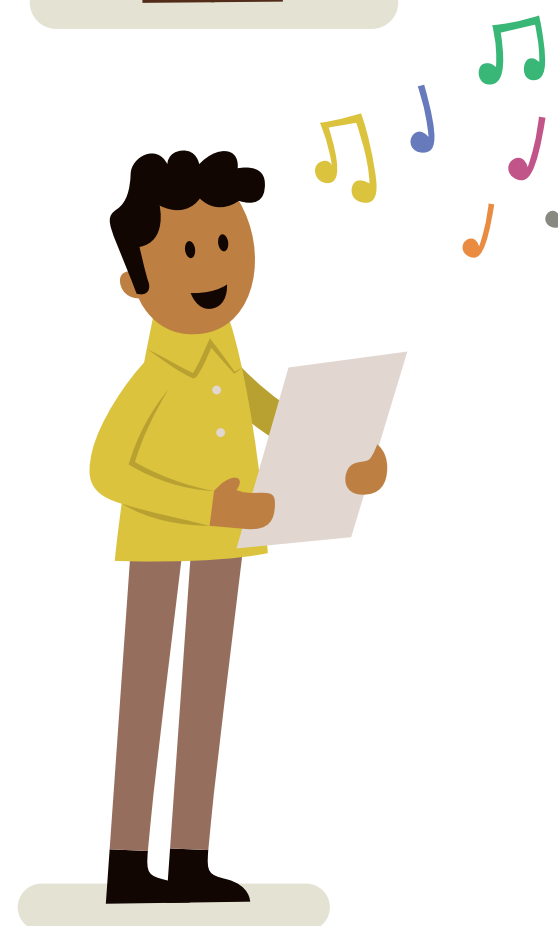
A **deaconess** teaches, shows mercy, and gives spiritual care.



A **director of Christian education** helps to teach the faith to people of all ages in a congregation.



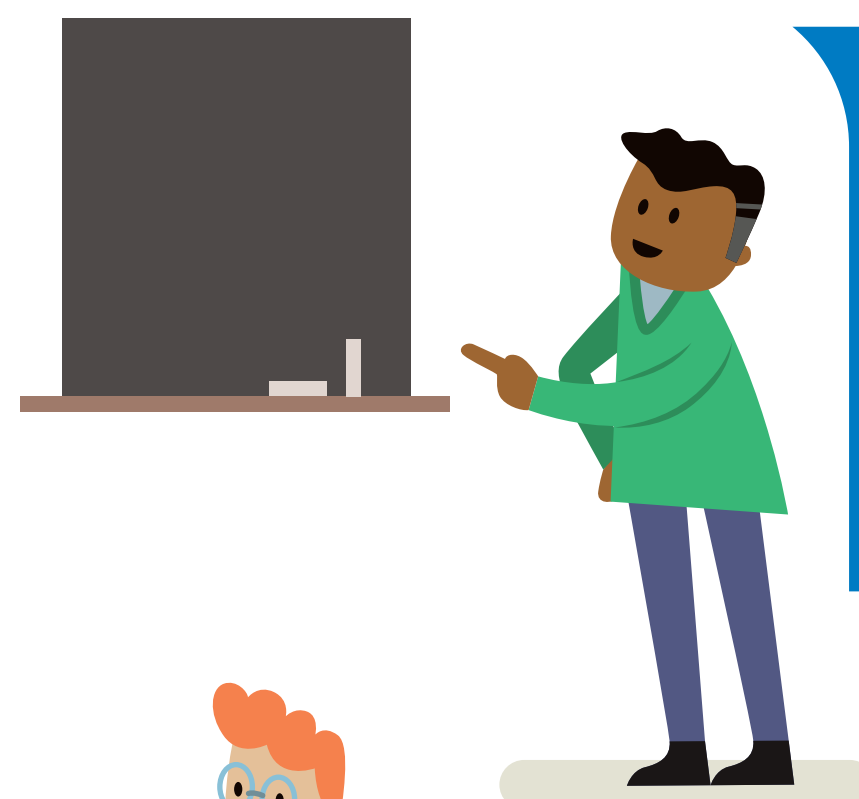
A **director of parish music** helps to plan worship and leads music.



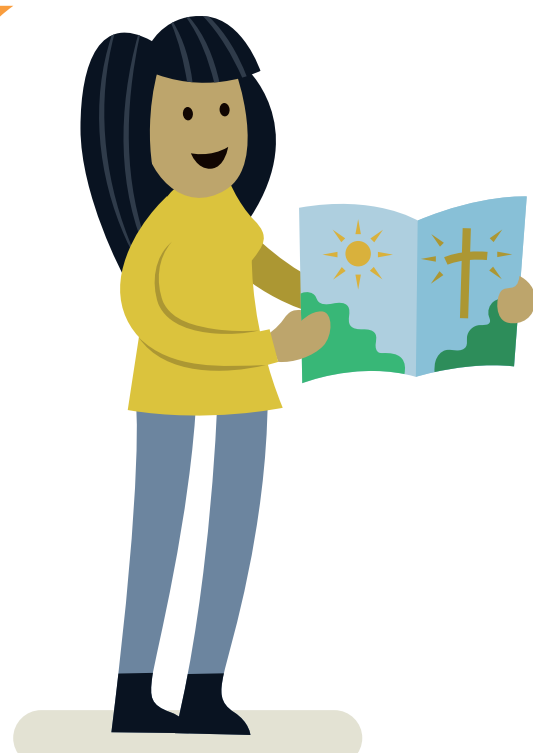
A **director of church ministries** helps with church administration, including programs and the like.



A **teacher** gives academic and Christian education to those in grade schools, high schools, and colleges.



A **director of family life ministry** equips families in the congregation to teach the faith at home.



A **director of Christian outreach** equips the congregation to share the Gospel with others.



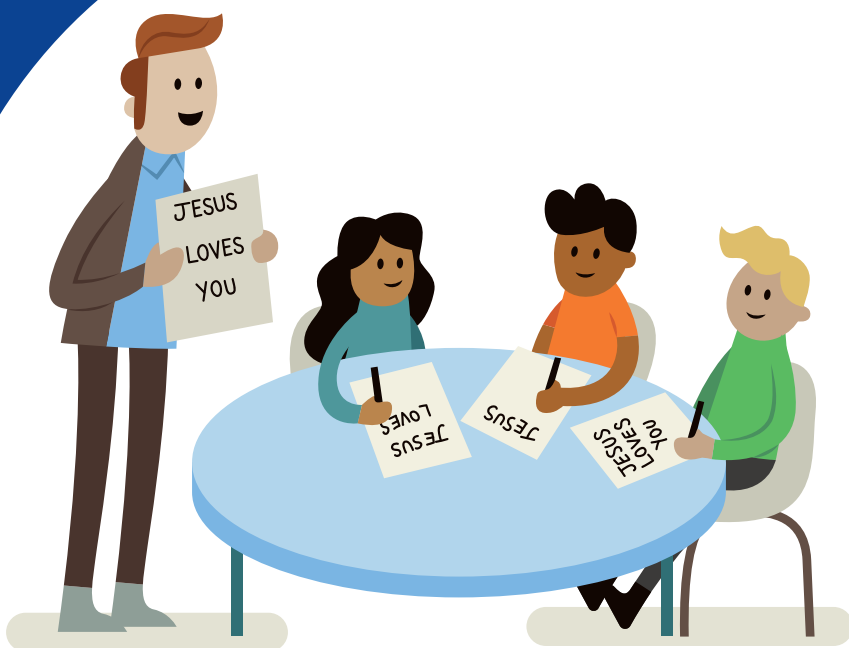
Christian education can be a blessing for everyone!
Many people go to Lutheran grade schools, high schools, colleges, and seminaries for all kinds of paths and careers. Similarly, called professional church workers take many different paths in their training. Here are some ways that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod provides Christian training for those considering church work.

Christian Education



Churches provide opportunities, such as Sunday School, Bible study, Vacation Bible School, and more, to teach God's Word to people of all ages and to help families teach the faith at home.

Lutheran grade schools teach all subjects, all in light of God's Word. Lutheran education can range from a big school to a single family.



Lutheran high schools prepare teenagers for work, service, college, and life. Teenagers often learn about Lutheran universities here.



Teaching
the
Faith



The Concordia University System provides undergraduate and graduate degrees for many vocations, including church work! These are the only colleges that give professional church-work training.



Pastors, deaconesses, and others who want special graduate degrees attend a **seminary**. Men must attend a seminary before becoming a pastor. There are two seminaries that train LCMS pastors.

If someone wants to be a Lutheran church worker and already has a degree, he or she may study in a **colloquy program** to become a called church worker.

