

DEAR FAMILY,

Christians know that God works through people to provide for the people of this world. Someone built the home where you live. Someone grew the food you eat. Someone taught you how to read. God works through people to provide for people. Each person is called by God to serve his or her neighbor in a variety of ways. This is what we mean by *vocation*. When we learn that God is the one working through these vocations, we understand that the point of our lives is first to believe in Jesus Christ and then to live our faith in service to God and our neighbor.

Perhaps your child has thought about his or her future. Ask these questions:

- What does your life look like?
- How will you make sure that your first vocation as a believer in Jesus Christ continues for all eternity?
- How will your relationships with your family continue?
- How will your relationships with your family change as you mature and grow up?
- How does what you know about vocation influence the way you think about your career choices?

God calls some people to serve in full-time church-work vocations. Just as God gave us Jesus, He also gives to us the means of grace. And God gives church workers who proclaim the Word and administer the Sacraments. He gives people to the church through whom He works faith by His Word. Has your child ever considered the possibility that he or she could serve God and His church as a full-time church worker?



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

AUXILIARY OFFICES

Just like the early church, the LCMS recognized that there is too much work in many settings for the pastor to be the sole church worker. So the LCMS created auxiliary offices to the office of the holy ministry that serve the pastor as he works to bring God's Word and Sacraments to God's people. Visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to learn more about these roles.

DIGGING IN THE WORD

Read John 20:19–23 and consider these questions.

- What did 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?
- What is the difference between pastors and Jesus?

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Thank God for the community that He has placed your family in. This could be your city, neighborhood, school, jobs, and so on. Brainstorm ways that you can serve as a family in your community.

LESSON 4 HANDOUT

Ephesians 2:1–10

A Culture of Church Work

Living in Grace

You're saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

- Now that God has saved you by grace, how do you live in this world?
- How does the fact that you are a Christian impact your life?



**“And whatever you do,
in word or deed, do
everything in the name
of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the
Father through Him.”
(Colossians 3:17)**

Thinking about Vocation

Read **Ephesians 2:1–10** and **Romans 12:1–8**.

- How is the church a family?
- Besides your faith, into what other vocations has God called you?
- Before whom do we do good works?
- How does God work through different vocations to provide for the people of this world?



A Question of Vocation

Christians know that God works through people to provide for the people of this world. Someone built the road you drove on to get here this morning. Someone grew the food you eat. Someone built this building. Someone taught you how to read. God works through people to provide for people. Each person is called by God to serve their neighbor in a variety of ways. This is what we mean by vocation. When we learn that God is the one working through these vocations, we understand that the point of our lives is first to believe in Jesus Christ and then to live our faith in service to God and our neighbor.

- How important are church-work vocations?
- How important are laypeople in the life of the congregation?
- How does the concept of vocation shape your family/life at home?
- How does the concept of vocation shape the way you work at your job?

Set Apart to Serve

God calls some people to serve in full-time church-work vocations. Just as God gave us Jesus, He also gave to us the means of grace. And God gives to the church those workers who proclaim the Word and serve the Sacraments. He gives people to the church through whom He works faith by His Word. You have been called by God to be a Lutheran Christian.

- Have you ever considered the possibility that you could serve God and His church as a full-time church worker?
- Are there others in your congregation you could encourage to become a church worker?

For Further Study

- Read Romans 12:6–8, 1 Peter 4:10–11, and 1 Corinthians 12, which talk more about the variety of gifts that God gives to us to serve one another in love.

