

LESSON 2 HANDOUT

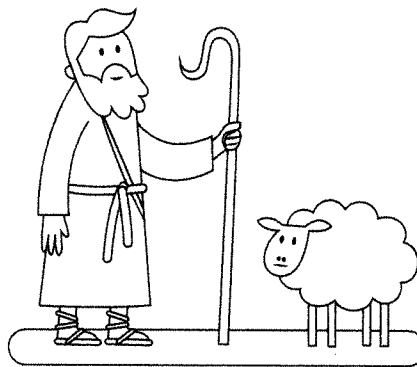
John 21:15–17

Who Are Our Church Workers?

Feed My Sheep

Read John 21:15–17.

- What does Jesus tell Peter to do?
- Who is the Good Shepherd?
- To whom does your pastor point you?
- How important is the pastor in the church today?



**“For thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.’”
(Ezekiel 34:11–12)**

Service Support

Read Acts 6:1–7.

- What happened as the church grew?
- What was the important role of the apostles/pastors?
- What else was there to do in the church?
- What did the church do?

Rejoice and Give Thanks

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

- For what do we give thanks?
- Why does God desire that His church is thankful in all circumstances?
- How can we be thankful even when it seems there is nothing good?

Church Worker Matching

What opportunities exist for men and women to serve in the church today? In small groups, take a look at the titles of the eight ordained and commissioned ministry positions in the LCMS and match each with the description you believe best describes that position.

1. Pastors
 2. Lutheran school teachers
 3. Directors of Christian education (DCE)
 4. Directors of Christian outreach (DCO)
 5. Directors of family life ministry (DFLM)
 6. Directors of parish music (DPM)
 7. Directors of church ministries (DCM)
 8. Deaconesses
- a. support their pastors by assisting with worship planning; providing musical education; and directing choirs, ensembles, and musicians
 - b. support pastors by working to provide an education rooted in God's Word to the learners in their care
 - c. 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
 - d. 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
 - e. men who serve in the office of the holy ministry, the one sacred office given by God for the sake of the church
 - f. support their pastors by helping congregations witness outside the church and share the Gospel so people may believe in Jesus
 - g. support pastors by working within congregations to strengthen and equip Christian homes to love and serve God and their neighbors
 - h. support their pastors by leading various ministries in a congregation, such as Bible studies and community outreach

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