

SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS OFFICE OF PASTORAL EDUCATION | \$100,000



Preparing Generations to Serve as Church Workers

Set Apart to Serve is an initiative of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The purpose and goals are to create fruitful engagement in the home, congregations, and Lutheran schools between influential adults and youth — to encourage a journey toward full-time church work vocations so that the Synod’s congregations and schools are served in the coming decades.

The LCMS has developed a comprehensive system in forming our church workers. They have established a Lutheran school system of 1,741 preschools, 828 elementary schools, 97 high schools, three international schools, six colleges and universities, and two seminaries with an estimated 144,460 students. In the last 14 years, the LCMS has experienced a 59% decrease in their pre-seminary Concordia University enrollment along with a dramatic decrease in enrollment in other Christian education programs. The seminaries have experienced a decrease of 55% in those enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree.

Set Apart to Serve seeks to form pastors and church workers to teach the saving faith to God’s people — passing on the Christian faith from one generation to the next until our Savior’s return. God raises up those who will serve in the church in the next generation.

The grant will assist in the funding of expenses associated with a broad, rigorously planned, and well-constructed, multi-year sustained effort across the LCMS, to affect a major positive, cultural change in how church worker vocations are perceived. Prospective students — from the earliest years of their life in the family household — are encouraged and inspired to consider and appropriately prepare to serve the Church in lifelong professions that advance the Gospel and deliver God’s mercy.

Then he said to his disciples, “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).