

**SET APART TO SERVE**

LCMS OFFICE OF PASTORAL EDUCATION | \$100,000



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*Preparing Generations to Serve as Church Workers*

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 of other Christian education programs. The seminaries have experienced a combined decrease of 55% of those enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree.

*Set Apart to Serve* seeks to encourage and form new 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.

The home, congregation, and Lutheran schools are the foundation of the church worker. Encouragement and mentoring from pastors, parents, Lutheran school teachers, and other church workers will help guide children to be Lutheran Christians who have the potential to serve as church workers.

This LWML mission 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 the manner in which 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.

*You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:9-10).*

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