

SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS OFFICE OF PASTORAL EDUCATION | \$100,000

Preparing Generations to Serve as Church Workers

Leader: Lord Jesus, we give You thanks for the workers You have raised up to share Your saving Word through Your Church on earth. Yet we desire more. We need faithful teachers, pastors, and servants of the Church who will gladly share Your Good News of salvation. Bless those whom You will send into the mission field with wisdom from above and knowledge of Holy Scripture so that their efforts would bring others into the one true faith. In Your name we pray.

All: Amen.

Hymn: "Come Follow Me' the Savior Spake" LSB 688 (all verses)

Reader: The Lord Calls Samuel. 1 Samuel 3:10-14, 19. *And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel!" And Samuel said "Speak, for your servant hears." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.*

Leader: Lord, for us Christians, our faith in Christ is simply trusting God to finish the good work that He started in our lives when we were first saved, trusting God's Spirit to work in us for our Christian growth and serving Him. May our trust be not in vain but guide our children to see our trust in God to serve Him and tell others about God's word. We ask that our mite offerings for *Set Apart to Serve* provide wisdom and knowledge to help congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers to recruit the next generation of pastors and commissioned full-time church workers. Help us, Lord, to hear Your voice in the cries of the world and to affirm our faithful response to Your eternal love; speak, O Lord, for Your servant is listening.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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).

Reader: *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 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 9:35–38).*

Hymn: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” LSB 388 (all verses)

Leader: Almighty Father, You desire all people to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth of life and salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ. You bid Your Church to pray to the Lord of the harvest to form and recruit and send out workers into the harvest field. You call pastors and commissioned church workers to preach and teach the Good News of Jesus Christ in full time vocations. We pray Your blessing on this church work formation recruitment effort of *Set Apart to Serve*. Raise up a new generation of adults to preach and teach our children and grandchildren, our family and friends, our neighbors and all the world, that all people of all nations come together, that we may stand before You and Your heavenly throne. In Jesus Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

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).

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