

October is Church Worker Appreciation Month!

September 2023

Dear Brothers in Christ,

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 1:2–3).

I am truly thankful for your steadfast service to congregations and schools, ordained and commissioned church workers, and all those under your ecclesiastical supervision and care. The *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* leadership team wishes to express deep appreciation to you for your service in our Lord’s kingdom.

Since 2019, SAS has designated and continues to develop resources for Church Worker Appreciation Month for the month of October. Church workers — specifically the eight ordained and commissioned church work vocations in the LCMS — are vital to our life together in Christ.

While we encourage the expression of appreciation for all our church workers, this year SAS is focusing on our Lutheran school teachers. In the LCMS, we have approximately 5,400 active rostered and 10,700 non-rostered teachers forming our children in God’s Word and academics. You know these teachers — they are faithful, committed, and they love Lutheran education. You also know their challenges — they work long hours, often with low wages.

To help our congregations and schools celebrate Church Worker Appreciation Month this year, SAS is:

1. Sending a letter to our congregations and schools to encourage them to recognize their church workers for their service. This letter will direct them to resources that will help them plan for Church Worker Appreciation Month (resources.lcms.org/general/ways-to-show-your-gratitude-and-support-for-church-workers/). We will also be encouraging our congregations and schools to express their appreciation not only in October, but throughout the year.
2. Sending a [downloadable bulletin insert](#) to our congregations that expresses thanks and appreciation to our church workers on behalf of SAS.
3. Sending a letter to our LCMS teachers and principals, thanking them for their service and commitment to Lutheran education and assisting and strengthening Christian fathers and mothers in their God-given responsibility to rear their children in the instruction of the Lord.
4. Featuring Dr. Alan Freeman, director of LCMS School Ministry, on KFJL *Coffee Hour*, who will express his appreciation for our Lutheran school teachers.
5. Featuring a church worker appreciation article in the September *Lutheran Witness* and in the October *Reporter*.
6. Releasing a church worker appreciation social media campaign.

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Thank you for partnering with *SAS* by encouraging the congregations and schools in your district to celebrate Church Worker Appreciation Month. Please consider extending your appreciation to the church workers in your district through your official communication channel(s). Most of all, we give thanks to God for providing men and women in His church who preach, teach and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of all.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. James A. Baneck
Executive Director
LCMS Office of Pastoral Education

PS: The ladies of the LWML also provide resources for showing support and encouragement to our church workers. These can be found at lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission.