

SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

REPORT TO THE SYNOD PRESIDENT

— and over 600 significant collaborators and stakeholders —

OCTOBER '25

KEY POINTS FOR THIS MONTH

- 1 Teacher Colloquy Webinar
- 2 CUS/SAS Summit
- 3 Lutheran Education Association (LEA)
- 4 SAS Newsletters for Two Major Audiences

Teacher Colloquy Webinar

Set Apart to Serve and Concordia University Education Network (CUEnet), in partnership with LCMS Colloquy, hosted a teacher colloquy webinar on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 7–8 p.m. (CT).

- › Hosted by the Rev. Dr. Paul Philp (executive director of CUEnet) and Wendi Murphy (office operations manager and registrar for CUEnet).
- › This webinar reviewed the colloquy process, the requirements and benefits of becoming rostered as an LCMS Minister of Religion—Commissioned, coursework, timing, financial aid, colloquy myths and more.
- › Teacher colloquy is a pathway for qualified educators who did not complete a Concordia university LCMS teacher certification program to gain a robust theological grounding to become LCMS Ministers of Religion—Commissioned as Lutheran teachers.
- › There were 129 attendees on the live webinar.
- › The recorded webinar is available at resources.lcms.org/multimedia/teacher-colloquy-webinar/.
- › Resources:
 - Colloquy 101
 - LCMS Colloquy Journey: A Visual Roadmap from Application to Certification
- › Please forward this link to the non-rostered teachers at your school and encourage them to consider teacher colloquy. Additionally, this link could be forwarded to principals who want to learn more about teacher colloquy to discuss with non-rostered teachers at their schools.

CUS/SAS Summit

On Oct. 16 – 17, Concordia University System (CUS) and SAS held a church work formation and recruitment summit with representatives from all of the LCMS Concordia universities and two seminaries. Attending the summit were:

1. Rev. Dr. James Baneck, SAS
2. Mr. Glenn Rollins, SAS
3. Rev. Jonathan Manor, SAS
4. Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, CUS
5. Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel, CUS
6. Michael Ten Clay, Standing Partnership
7. Nick Sargent, Standing Partnership
8. Rev. Dr. Aaron Moldenhauer, CUW Chief Mission Officer
9. Jeff Frosch, CUW LCMS Admissions Counselor
10. Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, CSP President
11. Kristi Bauer, CSP Director of LCMS Placement, Colloquy and Church Relations
12. Rev. Dr. Steve Mueller, CUI Vice President and Chief Mission Officer
13. Carrie Donahoe, CUI Christ College Program Coordinator
14. Dr. Bernard Bull, CUNE President
15. Aaron Rohd, CUNE Church Work Recruiter
16. Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall, CUC Associate Vice President for Church Relations and Mission
17. Deaconess Kristin Wassilak, CUC Dean, College of Theology, Arts and Humanities
18. Mr. Kyle Thoms, CUC Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Enrollment
19. Rev. Jesse Kueker, CSL Director of Enrollment
20. Rev. Dr. Ron Mudge, CSL Provost
21. Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, CTSFW Admissions Counselor
22. Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, CTSFW President
23. Trey Stickler, Director of Operations, David's Harp

The purpose of the summit was to discuss our alignment around a culture of forming, recruiting and educating LCMS church workers to supply the church with workers for generations to come.

Participants engaged in discussions around:

- › University and seminary trends, challenges and plans for church work recruitment and enrollment
- › Short- and long-term goals
- › Collaboration toward helping admissions staff be successful
- › Strengthening a collaborative partnership between universities, seminaries, CUS and SAS
- › Goals and work toward a culture of worker wellness
- › Supplying the universities and seminaries with quality leads
- › Discussion on next steps

Lutheran Education Association (LEA)

LEA, a recognized service organization (RSO) of the LCMS, links, equips and affirms educators and workers in ministry for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. LEA recently held its triennial convocation from Oct. 2–4 in St. Louis. Nearly 3,000 teachers and administrators from Lutheran schools around the Synod attended.

Set Apart to Serve had the opportunity to meet with educators to discuss their roles in forming, recruiting and encouraging students to consider full-time church work. We distributed more than 80 Concordia Publishing House (CPH) SAS curriculum boxes, promoted the teacher colloquy webinar, and shared best practices in church work formation and recruitment.

SAS Newsletters for Two Major Audiences

Since October 2024, SAS has been sending a short, concise quarterly newsletter designed to support and inform district education executives so that they can partner with *Set Apart to Serve* (SAS) in building a culture of church work formation and recruitment in every LCMS congregation, school, family, district and entity. Each newsletter includes:

- › Scripture and prayer
- › The link to a pertinent KFUEO Coffee Hour podcast
- › A best practice related to the CPH SAS curriculum
- › An SAS statistic from our research
- › A resource spotlight from the SAS website

Education executives are asked to share the newsletter with schools, educators and whomever else they serve. See *'Set Apart to Serve' Quarterly Highlights for Educators – Fall 2025*.

In addition, SAS is currently meeting with a pilot group of about a dozen circuit visitors across the Synod to explore how circuit visitors Synodwide can partner with SAS in their role, including congregation visits, circuit conferences and in their own parish ministry. With the pilots' input, SAS has developed a bi-monthly newsletter (except summer months) that will provide circuit visitors with easy-to-share information. See *'Set Apart to Serve' Newsletter for Circuit Visitors – November 2025*.

Set Apart to Serve is funded entirely by donor-designated gifts. To learn more or find out how you can help strengthen a culture of church work recruitment, contact LCMS Mission Advancement at 888-930-4438 or mission.advancement@lcms.org.



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

REV. DR. JAMES BANECK
Executive Director,
LCMS Pastoral Education
James.Baneck@lcms.org