

# ENRICH YOUR USE OF THE SAS CURRICULUM

## Honoring Future Church Workers

*Holding a chapel service is a great way to acknowledge any high school student who will be entering a church work program at a Concordia university.*

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA (CUNE), SEWARD, NEB.,** recently developed a special way to recognize new church work students by sending them a welcome packet that includes a “letter of intent.” CUNE suggested having the letter signed in front of the student’s congregation or school as a way of inspiring others to consider pursuing church work.

Camryn Beikmann, of Linn, Kan., is one high school student who recently signed her letter of intent to study at CUNE to become a Lutheran school teacher. Her parents, Diane and David Beikmann, who are both church workers and CUNE alumni, arranged a special chapel service at Camryn’s former Lutheran elementary school to recognize this future church worker.

Below, you’ll find an outline of their plans for the event, along with Diane Beikmann’s own explanation of their arrangements. Though not every Concordia university sends a “letter of intent,” the plans for a chapel service below can be used for any student intending to pursue church work at any Concordia university. They can also be tailored to suit a high school or a grade school chapel service. We hope you will find this idea an inspiring way to hold up church work as a sacred and joyful vocation in your congregation or school.

### Preparing for the chapel service

- Invite influential adults to the chapel service, like pastors, other church workers, youth group leaders and family members — all people who may have encouraged the student to pursue church work.
- Set up a display table with Concordia university brochures, Concordia seminary brochures, and *Set Apart to Serve* resources. After the chapel service, use this display table to sign the letter of intent.

### Planning the service itself

- In the chapel message, the pastor can talk about vocation. What is God’s calling for every Christian? What does it mean to pursue a church work vocation?
- Invite a local vicar, a student teacher, a deaconess intern, or another new church worker to talk about their experience studying to become a church worker.
- Ask the student signing his or her letter of intent to give a brief statement about the decision to pursue church work.

**“WE INVITED** *some special people to attend the chapel with us,”* writes Diane. *“This included her former Lutheran school teachers. It also included her current youth group leaders, the pastors from our school association churches, her grandparents, and some friends from high school.”*

**“WE ASKED** *Vicar Jacob Harding to explain what had made him decide to go into church work in a brief statement,”* writes Diane. *“During the chapel service, Vicar Harding was able to share that he had started out studying education, but he felt God calling him to pastoral ministry instead.”*

**“WE ASKED** *Camryn to tell the students what made her decide to be a teacher, and not only a teacher, a Lutheran school teacher. She discussed having family members in Lutheran education as being influential, as well as observing faithful teachers in her life,”* writes Diane.

# Sample Order of Service for Chapel

NOTE: Feel free to select hymns from the hymnal that your school typically uses for chapel — whether that's *Lutheran Service Book*, *One and All Rejoice*, or *All God's People Sing*.

## Welcome and Introductions

**Opening Hymn:** "Christ Be My Leader" (*LSB* 856)

**Psalm:** Psalm 23

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 9:35–38

## Message

**Hymn:** "Take My Life and Let It Be" (*LSB* 783) or "O Christ Who Called the Twelve" (*LSB* 856)

## Offering

## Prayers

**Pastor:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation:** Lord have mercy. (Repeat after each petition)

**Pastor:** For all the preschools, grade schools and high schools of the church, let us pray to the Lord.

For the universities and seminaries of the church, let us pray to the Lord.

For all teachers and students of the Word, let us pray to the Lord.

For all missionaries of the church, let us pray to the Lord.

For those called to be full-time church workers, let us pray to the Lord.

For the teachers at our school, let us pray to the Lord.

For the students at our school, let us pray to the Lord.

**Brief presentation** by a new or interning church worker (a vicar, deaconess intern, student teacher, etc.) about church work

**Brief statement** by the student pursuing church work

## Benediction

**Closing Hymn:** "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" (*LSB* 685)

**Letter of Intent Signing** (Can be done before or after chapel)