

BIBLE STUDY

~ WORKERS AMONG YOU ~

GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY:

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in the steadfast faith we may serve you and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As a congregation of the Indiana District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod you have been blessed with church workers who serve their Risen Lord in your local congregation. This document has been carefully prepared to assist you in evaluating the salaries you will pay the workers among you. Take a moment at this time to pray for the church workers in your congregation. I also invite you to pray for the congregations of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, that they may be equipped by God to nurture the faithful and reach out to the lost and erring in their midst. To this end, may God be glorified in the church through the faithful preaching and teaching of his Word to all people.

Prayer:

Lord God, heavenly Father, You have sent laborers into the harvest field. Grant them Your Holy Spirit and to give them power from on high. We give thanks that You have called _____ as Your servant (s) and entrusted them to serve You in this location. We ask that You bless their labors in Your Church. Open everywhere the hearts of the faithful that Your Word may be received and that laborers in Your harvest may not be lacking. Cause your Church to grow up into Him who is the head, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

As God's People, we gather around God's Word to hear how our Lord addresses the congregation and church worker relationship.

Please remember that God Himself has established the office of the Holy Ministry. Under the spiritual guiding of the local pastor, you may also be blessed with additional church workers serving in the schools, preschools, and daycares of our congregations.

GOD'S WORD TELLS US:

"The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:14 NIV

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:6-7 NIV

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 1 Timothy 5:17-18 NIV

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other." 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 NIV

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." Hebrews 13:17 NIV

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD:

As you evaluate the salary offered to church workers reflect on these questions:

Does the salary we offer our church worker (s) ...

- + Provide them with an adequate **living from the Gospel?** 1 Cor. 9:14
- + **Share all good things** with our church workers? Gal. 6:6-7
- + **Honor** the worker (s) serving our congregation? 1 Timothy 5:17-18
- + Show **respect** to the church worker? 1 Thess. 5:12-13
- + Place the church worker **in the highest regard?** 1 Thess. 5:12-13
- + Bring **joy** to the church worker? Heb. 13:17

May God bless the congregations of our District and Synod with faithful workers and congregations who serve their risen Lord with gladness.

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