

How Do You Become a Lutheran Teacher?

Kelsey's class was very quiet for the next few days. What would their school be like if Mr. Johnson left? Ryan worried that his teacher might leave because he didn't always finish his homework. But Mr. Johnson assured the whole class that if he accepted this call, it would not be because he was tired of any of them. He loved their class!

One day Sophie asked, "Mr. Johnson, where were you before?"

"I taught sixth grade for a few years in Gibbon, Minnesota," he said, "and before that I went to college to become a teacher."

"That's Martin Luther College, right?" Mike asked. His brother went to Martin Luther College. One day Mike had even shown the class the college website.

"What do people study at that college anyway?" Kelsey asked.

"They study God's Word, English, math—just like you do. But they also learn other things teachers need to know, like how to teach Spanish to high schoolers and how to teach first graders how to read, and how to teach kids like you how to—"

"Do long division?" Ryan suggested.

"Use a microscope!" offered Siri, and everyone smiled, remembering last week's science lesson.

"And the men who want to be pastors study things like how to read Greek and Hebrew before they go on to another school called the Seminary. Anyone know why they study Greek and Hebrew?"

More hands went up. He had taught them that the Bible was first written in Greek and Hebrew.

"Did you like it at MLC?" Mike asked. "My brother does!"

"I had a great time there," Mr. Johnson said. "It's hard work, but it's fun learning more about Jesus our Savior and knowing that you're preparing to be a teacher or a pastor in Jesus' church." He paused. "Any of you think you might go there someday?"

Colossians 3:16 Let the message of _____ dwell
among you _____.

Discussion

1. Where had Mr. Johnson been before he came to Kelsey's school? *He had taught at a different school, in Gibbon, Minnesota. And before that, he had gone to Martin Luther College to study how to be a teacher.*
2. What are some of the things Mr. Johnson studied at Martin Luther College? *God's Word, English, math—just like at their school. But also special things that teachers need to know, like how little kids and big kids learn in different ways, and how to teach reading (and math and science and music . . .)*
3. If a man wants to be a pastor, what special things does he study? *Greek and Hebrew, the languages the Bible was first written in.*
4. Why did Mr. Johnson like MLC? *Underline the answer in your devotion. Last paragraph: "It's hard work, but it's fun learning more about Jesus our Savior and knowing that you're preparing to be a teacher or a pastor in Jesus' church."*
5. Let's look at Colossians 3:16: What two words are missing there? *Christ, richly.* Whether or not you become a pastor or teacher, what will you always want to learn more about? *The Word of Christ. Letting it dwell in you richly means to fill yourself up with it. Encourage the students to always attend church and Sunday school and Bible class, because nothing is more important than knowing Jesus and growing stronger through his Word.*

Activity – Your Journey to the Ministry

You only need one copy of this worksheet. Cut the boxes apart and pass them out to your students at random. Then let the students ask you the questions, in numerical order or at random. They may have additional questions. Encourage it!

Other options:

- Bring in college photos or your college yearbook to show your students.
- Trade classrooms after the interview so that the students can interview another teacher.
- Bring two classrooms together so that the children can interview two teachers at one time.
- Videotape the interviews and share them with other classrooms.
- **Videotape the interview and send a snippet to MLC. We would love to see you interact with your students, talking about your college years and your journey to the ministry. And we know that your words might encourage others as well!**

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, help us to learn all we can about you and what you did to save us, as you've shown us in your Word. And be with all the students here as they think about their future. If it's your will, guide some of them to go to Martin Luther College to learn about becoming a pastor or teacher. Amen.

Optional Hymn: 919:1,4 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word