

These four lessons introduce children in grades 3-5 to the public ministry through the story of “Mr. Johnson,” a Lutheran teacher who receives a call to another Lutheran school. As Mr. Johnson thinks about his call, he talks to his class about the public ministry and about Martin Luther College, where he received his ministry preparation.

Note that the four narratives focus more on the teaching ministry in order to sustain the story, but the discussion questions and activities also touch on the pastoral ministry. (The position of staff minister, which some MLC students are preparing for, is not included in these lessons in order to keep things simple.)

- 1 **What’s a Divine Call?** (*Mr. Johnson Gets a Call*)
- 2 **What Do Lutheran Teachers Do?** (*Mr. Johnson Talks to His Class*)
- 3 **How Do You Become a Lutheran Teacher?** (*Mr. Johnson Talks About College*)
- 4 **Could You Become a Lutheran Teacher or Pastor?** (*Mr. Johnson Talks About the Future*)

Each lesson has six parts:

- 1 **Narrative:** Make copies of the first page of each lesson and hand it out. After you read it to your class (or with your class), they will be asked to write a bit on the sheet during the discussion.
- 2 **Discussion Questions:** These are just starters. Take your students in any direction you wish.
- 3 **Memory Treasure:** We’ve included a different Bible passage for every day—with two words missing. You can ask the students to look them up and fill in the missing words. You could spend time memorizing them, or you may prefer to stick with your normal memorization schedule.
- 4 **Activity:**
 - Day 1: Circle Talk (make copies for the students)
 - Day 2: Gifts and Talents for Ministry (make copies for the students)
 - Day 3: Your Journey to the Ministry (only teacher needs copy)
 - Day 4: Special Training (make copies for the students)
 - Other Options:
 - Make a video for MLC Day. You could videotape the activity for Lesson 3 and send part of that to us for MLC Day. Or you could create any kind of fun video you like!
 - Write a prayer for MLC students. Possible starts: *Dear Jesus, thank you for all the students at MLC studying to be . . . Bless them as they . . . Give them strength to . . .*

- Write a thank-you letter to a called worker. Possible starts: *I'm so glad you became a pastor/ teacher/staff minister. I like how you . . . Thank you for sharing God's Word with me, especially . . . I remember that time when you . . . You've really helped my family by . . .*

5 Prayer

- 6 Optional Hymn:** Use the hymn as a lesson opener or closer if you wish.

Note: We understand that there's a big difference between third graders and fifth graders. If you feel that these lessons are too advanced for your third graders, feel free to adapt them as you see fit. Or use the K-2 lessons.