

# Living Out Our Lutheran Identity

## Serving Together without Serving Together: A Closer Look at the Relationship Between Lay Leaders and Called Workers

November 3, 2020



1. Share one thing Pastor Heckendorf and/or Mr. Tappe said that resonated with you.
2. Share one thing Pastor Heckendorf and/or Mr. Tappe said that you found to be thought-provoking (for whatever reason).
3. Read the passage below, and identify several principles that apply to called workers and lay people serving together.

**Ephesians 4:11-16** - <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

4. List ways in which trust and respect can be built up between lay people and called workers.

Give an example of something that a called worker did that made you feel respected.

5. The presenters talked about the concept of a congregation being “pastor fed and lay led.” Pastor Heckendorf suggested that this may not be the ideal in every setting. What do you see as the roles of pastor(s) and lay people in leading Riverview at this point in our history? Explain your answer.

6. For pastors and lay members to work together well, we need to know each other's gifts. How can we better recognize and blend the various gifts of called and lay workers in our ministry at Riverview?

7. Read the passages below. Discuss meaningful ways that called workers and lay people can encourage one another.

**Romans 1:11-12** - <sup>11</sup> I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—<sup>12</sup> that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** - <sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

8. Read the passage below. Leaders in God's church are held accountable by God for their faithfulness in carrying out the work entrusted to them. What can we do to hold both called workers and lay people accountable, as we serve our Savior together?

**Hebrews 13:17** - <sup>17</sup> Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

What stands in the way of that accountability? What negative outcomes can result when we don't hold one another accountable?

9. Read the passage below. Pastor Heckendorf said, "It's not about you, your congregation, our synod. It's about the church at large and about ministry." Why is that important to remember? What steps or strategies can we take to keep that in mind?

**1 Corinthians 3:5-9** - <sup>5</sup> What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup> I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.