

# 25 Ways

---

- *A Pastor Can Support the Teachers in His Parish*
- *Members of a Lutheran Church Can Support Their Lutheran School Teachers*
- *A Principal Can Support the Teachers in the School*
- *Parents Can Support Teachers*



## **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

- Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support
- 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295
- (314) 996-1378
- <http://cmgs.lcms.org>

## *Twenty-Five Ways A Pastor Can Support the Teachers in His Parish*

1. Lift the spirits of the teachers—reward them in staff meetings.
2. Pair up with the teachers in prayer partner groups.
3. Hold a yearly staff appreciation week.
4. Have a “Shepherd’s Staff” store where the teachers can choose two items each week (candy bars, chips, pens, etc.). This works well at the beginning of faculty meetings.
5. Place a little surprise in their mailboxes every now and then. Include a note about how you appreciate them.
6. Sell them on “The Mission of the Church” and how they fit into that mission.
7. Build up your teachers—one-on-one.
8. Write a letter to each teacher telling them that they are important to the church and its mission.
9. Write a letter to the faculty as a whole telling them of the importance of the staff to the congregation.
10. Have a custom-made Christmas gift made with their name and a Bible verse (sticky pads, pens, T-shirts, etc.).
11. Give them something to lift their spirits after a long day (honey candy, hearts, special snack or drink).
12. Help them to see the pastor’s presence in their lives—work on a true relationship with them, see them as persons.
13. Get people from the church to visit the classrooms and share unique hobbies (adult show-and-tell).
14. Find a way to involve people in the congregation in other ways so that the congregation feels the importance of the school and what the teachers are doing for the mission of the church.
15. Honor your teachers in church: installation Sunday, other special Sundays. Let the congregation know who these teachers are.
16. Put the teachers’ pictures up in the church so that all people know them. Include the class picture with the teacher.
17. Have a special week or month to honor a teacher and their class. Have the classes do a special activity for the good of the church.
18. Pray for the teachers as a staff and as individuals.



---

## *Twenty-Five Ways A Pastor Can Support the Teachers in His Parish*

19. Include the teachers' ministries in the church newsletter. Let the honors come from you as the pastor and not just always from the principal.
20. Dedicate a committee for teacher support. They could provide special lunches, time off for a period from the class, etc. Let them be advocates for teacher concerns.
21. Encourage alumni to write or visit the teachers who have made an impact on their lives.
22. Assign a hospitality coordinator for events to take the burden of every detail off the teachers.
23. Write notes of appreciation for special things that the teachers have done, such as guiding a child and family to baptism through the contacts made in the classroom.
24. Affirm their ministries.
25. Look at them as members of the team of the church.



## *Members of a Lutheran Church Can Support the Teachers in the School*

*(even if they don't have children in the school)*

1. Pray daily for each teacher by name.
2. Send a Christmas card/birthday card to each teacher.
3. Write a letter of appreciation to individual teachers for a specific duty accomplished successfully.
4. Write a letter of appreciation to the Board of Education expressing your appreciation for the school and the teachers. Send a copy of the letter to the principal.
5. Acknowledge a good student's behavior, attitudes, etc., in public meetings.
6. Tell the spouse of a teacher how much you appreciate his/her spouse.
7. Attend school events like musicals, band concerts, sports events, open houses, etc.
8. Arrange to visit the school and classrooms during the day.
9. Offer to purchase some classroom needs. (Check with the principal.)
10. Offer to talk to classes about personal experiences appropriate to the curriculum.
11. Offer to pay for continuing education classes for teachers.
12. Supply the teachers with plants for their classrooms. (Check with the teacher.)
13. Business owners offer a field trip to their place of business appropriate to the curriculum.
14. Offer to help as a classroom aid.
15. Offer to take over a classroom bulletin board.
16. Donate appropriate equipment to the school or classroom. (Check with the principal.)
17. Offer to coach a sport, direct a musical, drive a bus for a field trip, as talents permit.
18. Take faculty to a lunch buffet during preschool workshops.
19. Serve a special lunch during the school year for the teachers.
20. Organize an appreciation dinner or potluck for the teachers at the end of the school year.
21. Send each teacher a gift certificate from a school supply store.
22. Send each teacher a personal gift certificate from a store or your place of business.
23. Offer to do additional cleaning in a classroom.
24. Serve a birthday dinner to a teacher at school. Arrange to have his/her supervision duties covered.
25. Offer to baby-sit for an evening for the teacher's children so that the teacher and spouse can go out for the evening.



## *A Principal Can Support the Teachers in the School*

1. Pray for each one individually.
2. Compliment each teacher once a week
3. Bring in baked goods/snacks for the faculty lounge.
4. Support your teachers in budgetary meetings—shoot for church coverage of insurance for spouse and family, pay for meals at conferences, give extra spending money at the beginning of the year for incidentals within the classroom.
5. Supply lunch on in-service days.
6. Respect and acknowledge the amount of time each teacher puts in before and after school as well as on weekends.
7. Encourage church members to pray for teachers through the bulletin or newsletters.
8. Acknowledge and praise the extracurricular duties of teachers to the congregation.
9. Defend teachers publicly.
10. Socialize with your teachers.
11. Supply teachers with dinner the night of the school Christmas service or at other similar events like plays or musicals.
12. Provide compensation time for conferences and late nights.
13. Be supportive of the teacher's family and their needs by providing personal days.
14. Choose a Bible verse for each teacher, communicate it to him/her with a short passage telling him/her you are thinking of them.
15. Make buttons that say "\_\_\_\_\_faculty is number one" or something similar and hand them out.
16. Encourage the PTL, school board, or whomever to purchase faculty shirts and surprise the faculty.
17. Arrange to substitute for a teacher and surprise them with extra planning time or a chance to go home early once a year.
18. Put a treat (chocolate bar/bag of snack chips) in their faculty box.
19. Have a "giveaway" at staff meetings . . . package of gum, pencils, red pens, Tootsie Pops and start the meeting by handing them out





---

## *A Principal Can Support the Teachers in the School*

20. Purchase a book for each faculty member that can be discussed throughout the year in faculty meetings.
21. Recognize the gifts your faculty members have and give responsibilities according to their talents.
22. Send baptismal birthday cards to your faculty.
23. Always keep evaluations positive . . . there should be more positive statements than negative ones.
24. Always take the time to recognize and speak to them in the hall, lunchroom, etc.
25. Ask for their opinions and don't shoot them down, even if you don't agree.



1. Pray for the teachers. Send a note to the teachers to let them know they are in your prayers.
2. Remember the teachers on their birthday. A nice birthday card with a handwritten message goes a long way.
3. Offer to do the classroom book order (Scholastic, Troll, etc.).
4. When baking cookies or some special treat for your family, send a small plate to the teacher.
5. Make a treat and take it to the faculty lounge along with a note showing your appreciation for all teachers do.
6. Pack your child's teacher a lunch. Just be sure to let the teacher know the day before.
7. Invite the teacher over for dinner. This is especially nice for a single teacher.
8. Buy a package of motivational stickers for teachers to use and send it to school with your child.
9. Ask your teachers if there is anything special they need. Teachers at many Lutheran schools are expected to buy their own classroom supplies (tape, markers, etc.).
10. If your schedule permits, offer to copy papers for a teacher. This can usually be planned around your schedule.
11. Offer to fill in the spaces on the Achievement Test booklets. This is especially helpful for teachers of younger students.
12. For no special reason, send a note thanking the teacher for everything he/she does.
13. Offer to sit with the class at lunch. This will free the teacher to make important phone calls or just to relax for a few minutes.
14. Support the teacher. If you have concerns, talk to the teacher—not to other parents on the parking lot or phone.
15. Encourage the school board to compensate the teachers in a just way. Some Lutheran teachers are working at poverty level.



16. Encourage your congregation to make funds available for continuing education.

17. Talk with the pastor and Board of Education about hosting a teacher appreciation coffee or dinner.

18. Encourage your congregation to



remember the teachers at Christmas. Quite often pastors are given a gift from the congregation, but teachers receive nothing.

19. Say, "Thank you" and really mean it.

20. Teachers usually don't mind being called at home, but don't abuse it. Teachers have a life outside the classroom.

21. Many teachers do not live near their family.

Invite them to family events at your home.

22. Get a group together and take a meal to school. This would be a welcome change from school lunches or sack lunches. Even a salad luncheon or loaded baked potatoes would be great!
23. Teach your child manners. It makes a teacher's day when a child says "please" and "thank you."
24. When your child comes home from school excited about a class project or lesson, let the teacher know. A quick note means a lot.
25. Send a note to the principal telling him/her how much you appreciate the work your child's teacher is doing.

