

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CENTRAL STATES SYNOD



Devotion Ideas for Call Committees

Living under the banner of *Changed by love ... Sent in love ... To Serve*, the congregations and ministries that compose the Central States Synod have adopted four missional directions for our life together:

Igniting spiritual renewal;
Raising up leaders of all ages for the church;
Building bridges across the differences that divide our society;
Inspiring and equipping people to be a part of what God is up to in their everyday lives.

Part of the joy of life in the Central States Synod is that we live in such diverse communities. A call to God's work in your setting will look different from a call to another ministry in the same synod. What do those statements mean in your context? Where is spiritual renewal taking place in your ministry? How are you raising up leaders for the church? What differences exist in your community? How do you help people to see and talk about God in their daily lives?

As you prepare to call a new spiritual leader for your ministry, how do those directives apply to the priorities you have for your leader? Which statements most closely fit what the congregation is currently doing? Which statements most closely fit your hopes for the future? What gifts do you need in your next leader to help you work toward those directives?

Read Romans 12:1-8. Give thanks to God for the variety of gifts placed in your congregation, and pray for wisdom to put those gifts to use in God's mission beyond the congregation. Pray for those you will meet in the call process, that they will see the ways they can help you live out your calling to ignite spiritual renewal, raise up leaders, build bridges, and equip others to see what God is doing in their daily lives.

Consider the great call stories in scripture. Have each committee member choose a favorite Bible story of God calling someone to ministry: Moses, Abraham, Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Mary, Paul, Peter, Andrew, Lydia, etc. Each meeting, have a different member take a turn telling why they chose that story, and how the story informs their own life. Look for the surprises in those call stories as God did amazing works through ordinary people.

Print out the text or provide Bibles so that everyone has a copy of the gospel for the coming Sunday. After reading through it, allow 5 minutes of silence while individuals silently consider the questions, "What is God doing in this text?" and "What is God saying to me in this text?" Spend 15 minutes sharing reflections. Close in prayer for each other, for God's work among you, and for the candidates who will be considering a call to ministry with you.

Other texts to read and let feed you in the same manner include Ephesians 4:1-13, Luke 10:1-12, Philippians 4:4-9, I Corinthians 12:14-27