

## 2.2

### Church Structure

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

*I Corinthians 12:27*

### Objectives:

#### Recruit

1. State the name of your church and give its location.
2. Locate your church on a map.
3. Name the chief officer of your church (president, chairman).
4. Name your pastor(s).

#### Camper

1. Name the elected and appointed offices of your church and the duties of each.
2. List the regular meeting dates of your church's voters.
3. Give a brief history of your church.
4. Make a chart showing the membership changes in your church.
5. State the name of your synod.
6. State the location of your synod's office and locate it on a map.
7. List the foreign mission fields in which your synod is currently operating.

#### Frontiersman

1. Diagram the structure of your church,

# UNIT 2

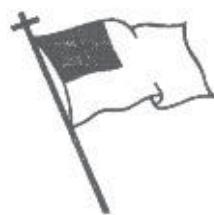
## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP

**CHAPTER 1 - Lutheran Pioneer Structure**

**CHAPTER 2 - Church Structure**

**CHAPTER 3 - Citizenship**

**CHAPTER 4 - Service**



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listing the titles and names of people currently filling those positions.

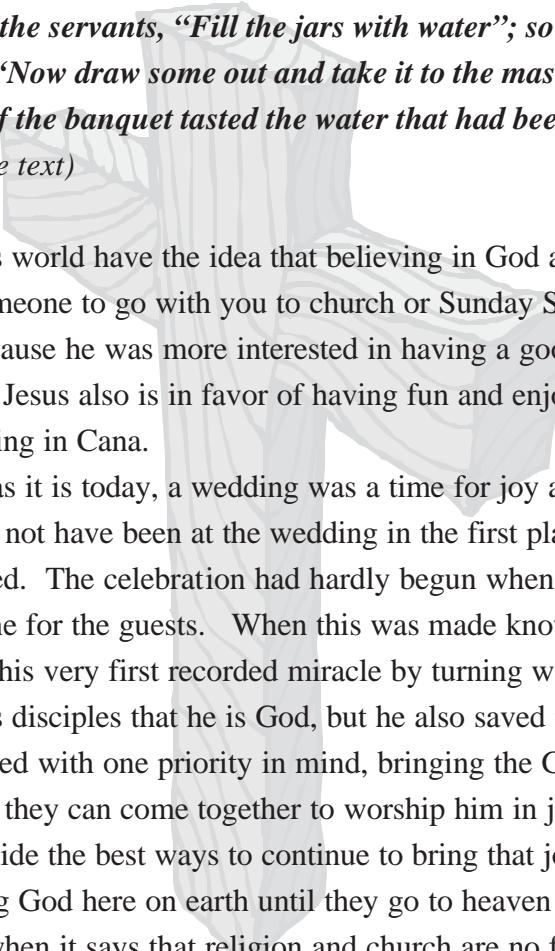
2. Explain, using a diagram if possible, the procedure to use to have something acted upon by your congregation's voters.
3. List the chief officers of your synod and give their duties.
4. State the location of your synod-operated schools and locate them on a map.
5. Give a short history of your synod.
6. Make a chart showing the membership changes in your synod.
7. Write to a foreign missionary to have some question answered and report back to the Train.

# Applying God's Word to the Lesson

## DEVOTION #1

John 2:1-11 *"Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.*

*"Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. (use your Bible for the complete text)*



A lot of people in this world have the idea that believing in God and going to church are no fun. Perhaps you have asked someone to go with you to church or Sunday School only for him to respond that he would not come because he was more interested in having a good time. Well, it might surprise him (and you) to know that Jesus also is in favor of having fun and enjoying life. We see that clearly in what happened at the wedding in Cana.

In the days of Jesus, as it is today, a wedding was a time for joy and fun making. If Jesus had been against that, he would not have been at the wedding in the first place. Now at this wedding a very embarrassing thing happened. The celebration had hardly begun when those who were serving noticed that they had run out of wine for the guests. When this was made known to Jesus he decided to help them, and so he performed his very first recorded miracle by turning water into wine. By doing this, Jesus not only proved to his disciples that he is God, but he also saved the wedding from being spoiled.

Our church is organized with one priority in mind, bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of the world, so that they can come together to worship him in joy. Those who organize our church meet together to decide the best ways to continue to bring that joy to people and to present opportunities for worshiping God here on earth until they go to heaven to praise God before his throne.

The world is wrong when it says that religion and church are no fun. In fact, real fun and true enjoyment are simply impossible if Jesus is not there to share it with us. Just think how sad and dreary our weddings would be if Jesus were not there as a guest. Think of how empty and cheerless our homes would be if Jesus were not living there with us. Far from spoiling our fun, it is Jesus who gives it meaning. Above all, remember this—all our joy in this life is only a small taste of that joy which awaits us in heaven. The psalmist says, "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (Psalm 16:11).

**PRAYER:** My heart for joy is springing and can no more be sad, 'tis full of mirth and singing, sees naught but sunshine glad. The Sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my King; the heaven I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing. Amen.

**HYMN:** 132 (TLH) 85 (CW)

# Applying God's Word to the Lesson

## DEVOTION #2

TEXT: Exodus 17:8-13

THEME: Many Workers for the Lord

Here is a strange and beautiful account from the Holy Scriptures. Two men, Aaron and Hur, are given a job which seems so unimportant, small and even laughable. Yet how important their work was for the success of Israel!

The Israelites are engaged in their first real battle after being attacked by the Amalekites. Joshua, the commander-in-chief of the army, has taken the best men into the fight. Moses, the spiritual leader of Israel, has climbed a high hill and raised his hands in prayer for victory. As long as Moses has his hands raised in prayer, the children of Israel win. But as Moses tires, his hands become heavier and heavier. As they fall the battle shifts against God's people. Quickly Aaron and Hur take their places, one on each side of Moses, holding up his hands, and at sunset God's people have won.

Aaron and Hur were asked to play an important part in this campaign, and so are you. The Church is at war in a most vicious battle against Satan. Jesus, our commander-in-chief, is in the field with his soldiers. The pastors of the Word lift up their hands in prayer. At times our pastors also get discouraged and tired, and their hands begin to fall. That is where you and the other members of the church come in. You can work with your pastor, encourage him and pray for him that the victory may be won. Your role is important, just as that of Aaron and Hur was.

**PRAAYER:** Lord, make us faithful. Help us to honor and gladly obey you in our pastors, work with and pray for them; let us receive the prophet of the Lord and gain his own reward. Amen.

## DEVOTION #3

TEXT: Luke 10:1-4

THEME: Order Gets Things Done

## OUTLINE

1. Jesus gave very specific instructions to his missionaries as he sent them out because he knew what they would face.
2. Our churches are organized, knowing the work that God has called us to do in his kingdom and using God's Word as our primary guide.

## Additional References:

- Exodus 18:18-23
- Job 25:2
- Proverbs 14:22
- Proverbs 21:30
- Ecclesiastes 8:5,6
- Isaiah 14:26
- Amos 3:7
- Micah 4:12
- Mark 3:14
- Acts 6:2
- Romans 12:16
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- 1 Corinthians 14:40
- Ephesians 1:11
- Colossians 2:5
- 2 Timothy 2:24
- 1 Peter 2:17
- 1 Peter 5:2-4

**1****Introducing the Lesson**

This lesson may have attached to it some of the same anticipated boredom and book-learning as the previous chapter. However, since it is relatively unknown to many people (and especially to the Pioneers), they may come into the lesson with more curiosity and eagerness to find out about it.

The primary focus of this chapter should not be *HOW* the church is organized, but *WHY* the church is organized. The presenter should focus on the great commission and the purpose of the church and explain its organization in that light. Perhaps you can begin the lesson in the sanctuary of the church, discussing some of the symbols and what they mean to our church to set the proper tone for the lesson.

As in the previous lesson, the material may be more meaningful to the boys if they can talk to those people who hold the different positions within the church. This, of course, requires planning and organization on your part as a leader, if you wish to have some congregational (or even synod) leaders available for the Pioneers to use as a resource.

If you have already done the leadership

## CHAPTER 2 - CHURCH STRUCTURE

*In those days, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against those of the Aramaic-speaking community because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word." This proposal pleased the whole group. Acts 6:1-5*

The New Testament church was growing and with that growth came some problems. It seems that some of the widows were being overlooked when it came to the distribution of food. These widows had no one else to care for them and the Christians were trying to help everyone, but some were missed. Someone brought this to the attention of the Twelve apostles and asked them to fix the problem. The Twelve, however, knew that their main work was to preach the Gospel and instruct people in God's Word, not feed people. They suggested that the believers elect seven men to take over the work of helping those in need. This could be considered the first New Testament Church Council.



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### Possible Materials for Teaching and Demonstrating this Lesson

**Camera and Film (or digital camera and disk)**

**Poster board or computer for creating charts and displays**

**Current information about your church's and your synod's leadership**

**Video from the Lutheran Pioneer National Office or your church's own video**

**Recruitment/information video(s) from synod schools**

**World Map**

Today, congregations elect men to serve them and help their pastor with the work of the church. Your pastor is called by your congregation to preach and teach God's Word. He doesn't have time to handle all the many other things that go on in the church, like mowing the lawn, cleaning the building, locking the doors, painting and changing light bulbs. That is where the various church boards and committees come in. They can help the congregation to see that all of this gets done.

As you grow older you will be asked to help out with the work of your church. There are many roles to fill and many places to use the special talents God has given to you. In this chapter we will talk about some of the work that members of the congregation can do.

## PURPOSE AND MISSION

The Twelve apostles had the right idea. They knew what the main mission or purpose of the church was. God has called each of us to serve Him by reaching out to others with the saving Gospel message of Jesus Christ. As fellow believers we gather together to worship and enjoy each other's company. There are many things that we can do better by using all of our talents together. This is why we form congregations, to do a better job of serving our Lord and doing His work. Your congregation probably has a written Mission Statement. Ask your leader or pastor to show it to you. You can also have them explain its meaning to you if you are not sure what it means.

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exercise described on page 2.1.4, you might help the boys further appreciate the necessity of church structure by having them make a list of the things which the church does. After they compile this list with your help, it won't be hard to convince them that this doesn't just happen with haphazard efforts by individuals. We are all members of the body of Christ, and we must work together to accomplish his purposes for the Church.

The older boys might conduct the same exercise with the functions and services of their synod to appreciate its value and structure.

As leaders of these young Christians, it is your responsibility to lead them "on the Godly road to Christian adulthood." This means helping them see different ways in which they can serve our Lord in his Church. Encourage the boys to think of ways they might like to get involved someday while they learn about their church.

## 2

### Teaching the Lesson

This is another chapter for which it is important for the Pioneers not only to hear about the different positions but also to meet the different people who hold those positions. A general understanding, focusing on the purpose for the church, will be much more beneficial to the boys than knowing every single person.

#### "Expert" Presenters

If you choose to have someone else present this lesson to the boys or just want someone available for the Pioneers to interview or ask questions, here are some suggestions.

- Your train chaplain or any of the church's officers could speak about the structure of your own congregation.
- A long-time member of your congregation might discuss how your church has grown and changed during his/her membership. He might also tell of the positions he has held in the church over the years.
- You might invite a circuit pastor or a District President to describe the typical congregation in your area as well as some of the workings of

### CONGREGATION STRUCTURE

The New Testament church formed their first "church council" by choosing seven men and installing them. Your congregation has some type of structure that it uses to carry out its work. How big or detailed that structure is depends on the size of your congregation. It might also depend on if your church has a Christian Day School or not.

The top group in the congregation structure is your Voters' Assembly. This is made up of the adult male members of the congregation. They may hold meetings during the year to conduct the business of the church and elect officers who take care of the business between meetings. Most churches have quarterly voters' meetings.

To carry out the day to day work of the church, voters elect men to serve as officers of their congregation. Usually there is a Church Council (like a Train Council), that is put in charge. In some cases they elect their own officers and in others the officers are elected by the voters.

Under this Church Council will be several boards or committees. These groups will be in charge of various parts of the work that needs to be done. In most congregations the following boards will be formed: evangelism, stewardship, finance, property, education, elders, worship, budget and worker's care. The number and size of these boards or committees will depend on the size and activities of your congregation.

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### KEYS TO TEACHING FRONTIERSMEN

The best way to understand a group of boys is to work with them on a regular basis. However, there are general principles that can apply to instructing certain age groups. The seventh and eighth grade boys are generally beginning to look for application of what they learn to life—things like sports and hobbies. For this reason, outings and guest speakers can be especially effective for this age group. While this group may be completely content to spend the whole night in the gym playing basketball, this should be avoided. They have also developed a maturity

## PASTORS AND TEACHERS



Your congregation has a pastor who serves you. He has been called by your voters to preach and teach God's Word. He is asked to baptize people, teach instruction classes, marry people, conduct funerals and conduct regular worship services. He also will guide the various boards and committees in spiritual matters. Another job he has is to guide you and other members of your congregation in ways to best use your gifts and talents to God's glory.

If you have a Christian Day School you have one or more teachers who are called to instruct the children of the congregation in God's Word and in the various skills taught in a school. Some congregations have called a teacher even though they do not have a school. This person oversees the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and other education activities. He also assists the pastor in his duties.

Talk with your pastor and teachers about the work they do. They can also tell you about the schooling they have had.

## YOUR SYNOD

Your congregation, its pastor and teachers are part of a group of churches, pastors and teachers we call a synod. Congregations with Lutheran Pioneer Trains are part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical

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that the other boys haven't and often do better when they are separated from the other groups. At the same time, they still look up to their older peers. You can take advantage of this by using your Troopers and high school age Pioneers to teach and lead these young men.

Because they have developed patience, maturity, and many skills as Pioneers, Frontiersmen can be entrusted with larger projects that may span a longer period of time. Try to keep these young men involved in the church. Find ways for them to serve and do projects within the church. Finally, you will want to engage their minds by challenging their intellect. You may be surprised by what they know.

your synod.

- Most called workers, students at synodical schools or recruiters from the schools could address briefly the characteristics of their school, its purpose, and what it's like to go to school there.

### Field Trips

Here are some possible sites to visit with your Pioneers to see and learn about the church, especially at the synod level.

- If possible, a tour of your synod's office and/or historical society could open some eyes about the range and scope of your synod's work.
- If possible, a tour of an area Lutheran high school, preparatory school, worker-training college or seminary will let the boys see the work that goes on there and encourage them to consider attending.

### Other Resources

There are other resources available to help you learn about church organization and history before you present the lesson. These might give you new ideas or tools to use for your presentation.

- The Lutheran Pioneer Library has one video about this subject
- A synod history video will help you

- and your Pioneers learn about your synod.
- Your synod's website has much information about its current organization and ministries.

### Projects & Activities

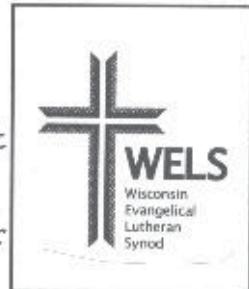
Getting the boys involved in projects or activities often will keep them interested in the subject matter. Here are a few ideas for activities for teaching *Church Structure*.

- Construct a graph or chart to display that shows church growth.
- Mount a world map on a bulletin board, plywood, or heavy cardboard, and mark world mission fields with markers or push-pins.
- Create a map of your synod, showing districts and other selected details. Then display this map somewhere in your church or school.
- Create a timeline of your synod's history. Then display this timeline somewhere in your church or school.
- Get permission and attend one or more meetings of one of your church's committees or boards and report back what you observe and learn.
- Create a chart of the structure of your church, complete with names and photographs (if possible).

Lutheran Synod (ELS.) In a couple of cases the congregation is independent but is in fellowship with either of the two synods.

A synod is group of churches, pastors and teachers that believe the same things based on God's Word. We say they are in fellowship with one another based on their beliefs. Your pastor can explain the details about our fellowship. Ask him to come and talk to you and the rest of your Train about it.

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) began in Milwaukee, WI many years ago. It was formed by congregations that were mostly made up of people who had come to America from Germany. Their services were conducted in German and children learned their catechism in German. Since its beginning the WELS has grown to well over 1200 congregations in all 50 states and Canada. It also has missions throughout the world. The WELS is headquartered at 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222.



The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) began as a group of churches started by people who had come to the United States from Norway. It has over 125 congregations throughout the United States. The ELS is headquartered at 447 Division St., Mankato, MN 56001.

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### AV Materials for This Chapter Available from Lutheran Pioneers

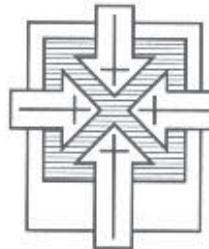
AV 640 DAYBREAK - 17 Minutes - All ages

The synod usually has a convention every other year. At the convention delegates hear reports on the work that is going on. They also make decisions on how to carry out the work of the Lord in the coming two years. At the convention, the delegates elect the synod's officers. There is a president, vice president and a secretary that are elected.

The synod is divided into districts. In the year that there is no synod convention, the district will hold a convention and elect its officers, hear reports on the Lord's work going on in the district and plan the work for the coming years. Each district is divided into conferences and each conference into circuits. At the lower levels of this structure, pastors and teachers often get together to hold meetings and training sessions where they can improve their skills.

By joining together in a synod, we are able to do more than if each congregation tried to do things alone. With a synod we are able to have area Lutheran High Schools, synod-wide high schools, pastor and teacher training college and a seminary where pastors can be trained. Our synod also has its own publishing house where books, catechisms, hymnals and other materials can be published for use by our churches. By working together we are able to do mission work in foreign countries because we can use the resources of all of us.

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### 3

### Practicing and Testing the Material

If the research and involvement of the Pioneers in creating some of the projects is thorough, this may be testing enough. They may end up with a display or something they can keep and take home or display in church, school or a Pioneer meeting room.

For the most part, any testing for this chapter should be done by discussion. Encourage all of the Pioneers to participate in the discussion. If the boys do different projects for the chapter, they might explain their project to another boy who then presents it to the entire group for discussion. Once again, be sure to include in your discussion the purpose for the church.

### Expanding the Lesson—Adopt-a-Mission

If you are looking for ways to expand this lesson either for Troopers who have already completed their Frontiersman requirements or simply to mix it up and give your boys a little more information, foreign missions may be the way to turn. You could invite a former missionary or a missionary on furlough to visit your Train and make a presentation. Your train, or each boy individually, could select a specific world mission field, write to the missionaries there to learn about them, and support them with prayers, letters of encouragement, and even offerings. This certainly drives home the reason for having a synod to carry out worldwide work. Information about missionaries is available from your pastor, mission society, or synod office.