

Lay Ministry Training

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Purpose

To train and equip men and women to assist Pacific Southwest District-LCMS pastors and congregations in carrying out the Great Commission.

Areas of Service

Upon completion of the Lay Ministry Training program, one may serve in a variety of areas within the congregation as determined by the pastor which may include but not limited to:

- Developing outreach ministries
- Assimilation of new members
- Leading small group ministries
- Assist in administration and in developing stewardship programs
- Assist in care-giving ministry of the parish (hospital, home and care centers)
- Conducting Bible studies in care centers
- Assist in family life education
- Assist in children's ministry
- Youth ministry
- Keeping in touch with members who are not worshipping on a regular basis
- Developing men's and women's ministries
- Summer camps for children and youth
- Prayer ministry

Program Levels

The program is designed to foster development of personal and leadership competencies on three levels.

- **Level 1:** This level focuses on personal enrichment to equip individuals to use their specific gifts in reaching people to be connected to Jesus.
- **Level 2:** This level is for men and women who desire to become a Parish Ministry Assistant. The first eight courses are required.
- **Level 3:** This level is for men who desire to become a deacon. All ten courses are required.

Courses Offered

Lay Ministry Training offers a series of ten courses, using qualified LCMS pastors and educators to equip servant leaders to assist pastors and congregations in carrying out the Great Commission. Courses are open to all members of congregations in the Pacific Southwest District to equip them in their area of interest to serve in their congregation. Training is also offered to become a deacon or parish ministry assistant with their congregation.

- **Old Testament:** This study will focus on God's plan of salvation as revealed in the Old Testament and leading to the New Testament.
- **New Testament:** The New Testament study will focus on the person and work of our Savior to show the completion of God's plan of salvation.
- **Christian Doctrine:** In this course, the basic teaching of God's Word as recorded in Scripture and supported in the Book of Concord will be studied.
- **Care-Giving:** Concern for those in special need will be stressed, including those home-bound, in hospitals and rest homes, and those in bereavement.
- **Leadership Skills:** This study will include certain fundamental understandings, attitudes, and behaviors required for successful ministry.
- **Church History & Polity:** This study will provide a basic understanding of the history of Lutheranism and the polity of the Lutheran church.
- **Evangelism & Assimilation:** Developing an effective program of outreach and assimilation is central to this course. Small group ministry is included.
- **Teaching the Faith:** This course will examine the essential elements of the teaching-learning process as it applies to teaching the Christian faith.
- **Lutheran Worship:** In this course the applicant will study the basic elements of Lutheran worship, including confession and absolution, the Word and Sacrament, and prayer and how they are included in a variety of worship forms.
- **Homiletics:** In this course the deacon applicant will concentrate on the basic preparation and delivery of a sermon.

Program Requirements & Cost

All courses require a minimum of 18 class hours. The cost of each course is \$200. Textbooks and materials are purchased by each student.

Scholarships

Partial scholarships available through the Thomas Eggers Memorial fund for levels 2 and 3 students who demonstrate a need. A scholarship form must be requested from and returned to the Director of Lay Leadership Training, Victoria Waufle.

Mission Training Center (MTC) Online Learning

MTC (www.missiontrainingcenter.com) has on their website has Lay Ministry course equivalents for the Pacific Southwest District. Learning online is available for those who live in remote areas or have a schedule that is not conducive to attending traditional courses. The fee per online course is \$300 and is paid to MTC. Contact Victoria Waufle for additional information.