

diakonia™

What is diakonia?

The diakonia™ Program is a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or anyone wishing in good faith to study these teachings. This process occurs in three basic ways:

- by thorough grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, systematic, historical and Biblical theology;
- by identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry and encouraging their use in the local parish;
- by providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students, mentors, and instructors.

These are the tools **diakonia** uses to help equip God's people for service in parish and neighborhood ministries. The primary theme and focus of the diakonia experience is found in this word of Scripture: *"Let the one who would be great among you be your servant (diakonos)."*

What is diakonia's emphasis?

The purpose and goal of the **diakonia** program is to provide each participant the opportunity to discover their God-given gifts, strengthen their faith and their abilities, and give them purpose within their own congregations, synods, and the church-wide body of Christ. Through the **diakonia** educational experience, each student's understanding of theology and their relationship to God is allowed to blossom and bear fruit as a light of Christ in society.

How is diakonia structured?

diakonia is a two year course of study which consists of twelve courses - six courses each year. Each course is five weeks in length, meeting once a week for three hours each. Weekly assignments and readings reflect the twin purposes of relating subject matter to the student's context of life and ministry (family, parish, neighborhood, area of ministry), and giving a solid background to the topic. Students work at their own level, and assignments reflect the understanding that students are already busy in their families, jobs and parish. Typically, students average approximately 3-5 hours of study per week in addition to class time.

Fees

How much does diakonia cost?

1. **Tuition:** \$360 per year (for the two year program). Pro-rated refunds are given for students who withdraw from the program.
2. **Fees:** A non-refundable Registration Fee of \$25 is required at the time of registration. An additional fee of \$24-40 at the conclusion of the program covers graduation expenses, including the presenting of a commemorative **diakonia** cross.
3. **Books:** Actual costs for books vary from course to course, but instructors try to provide materials for less than \$25-30 per course.
4. **Retreats:** The number of retreats is determined by year, normally these is one. Retreat costs will vary by location.
5. **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is available, plus we strongly encourage congregations to help support their lay leaders. It is our goal to turn no one away because financial need.

Metropolitan Chicago Locations:

Grace Lutheran Church

7300 W. Division Street
River Forest, IL 60305
708-366-6900
Saturday mornings

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

930 W. Higgins Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60195
847-885-7010
Thursday evenings

Mayfair Lutheran Church

4335 W. Lawrence
Chicago, IL 60630-2645
883-725-7879
Tuesday evenings

Zion Lutheran Church

17100 S. 69th Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477-3412
708-532-1600
Saturday mornings

Registration forms and Financial Aid forms
are available by contacting:

Rebecca Dahlstrom
1117 Erie Street
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-763-0879
centurywanderer1@hotmail.com

Further information may also be found at
the diakonia program website:
www.thediakoniaprogram.org

All courses are taught by pastors and/or lay professionals particularly skilled in that area of instruction or ministry. diakonia courses combine theological knowledge with practical skills. All students are encouraged to work at their own level of theological knowledge, academic training and experience in ministry.

COURSES OFFERED in SERIES A:

- 1. Introduction to the New Testament.**
- 2. Church History: The First 400 Years.**
- 3. Practical Ministry I: Biblical Images of the Life of the Church**
- 4. Lutheran Creeds and Confessions**
- 5. Practical Ministry II: Visitation**
- 6. The Daily Life of the Christian**

COURSES OFFERED in SERIES B:

- 1. Introduction to the Old Testament**
- 2. Lutheran Faith in the American Context**
- 3. Christian Doctrine**
- 4. Christian Worship**
- 5. Themes & Issues in Christian Ethics**
- 6. Practical Ministry III: Communicating the Gospel**

The diakonia™ PROGRAM OVERVIEW and COURSE DESCRIPTIONS