

Who is a Deacon? ...



... a construction worker who hears the call

... a doctor who wants to share hope

... a businessman who seeks to serve the Lord

"Since most Deacons come to us as second career workers, they can bring into the parish unique talents and abilities to enhance and complement the goals of ministry."

Rev. John Duerr
Hope, Warren



Have you Heard the Call?

Visit www.michigandistrict.org/deacons
for more information

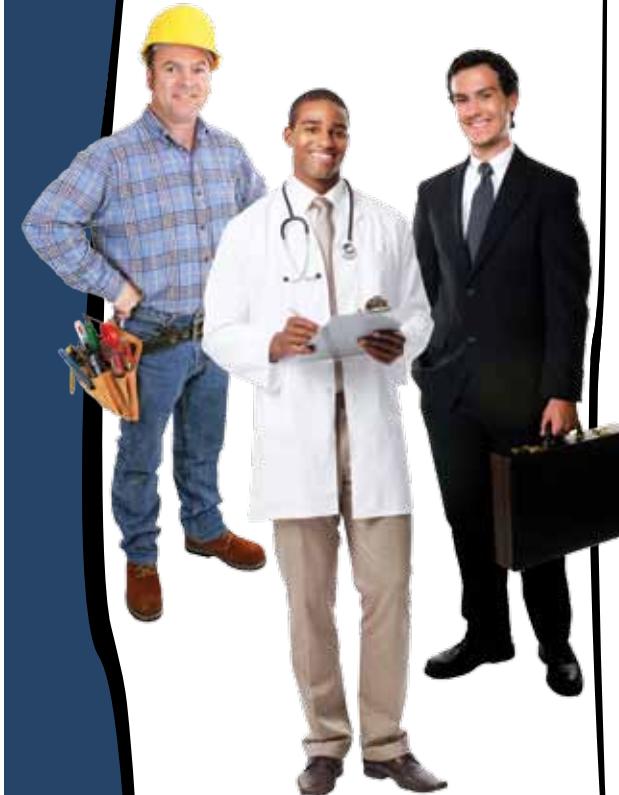
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Who is a Deacon?



Deacons come from all walks of life as well-trained servant-leaders of the Lord Jesus and His Church.



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Michigan District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
People of Hope ... Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ



What are the Demands of the Training?

- Thirteen Seminars that include Exegetical, Historical, Systematic, and Practical disciplines of Lutheran Theology. All seminars require a minimum of 24 contact hours and are conducted through eight-hour sessions, usually on three Saturdays spread over a three-month period.
- In general, the training is a 2-3 year process which includes internships.
- For a complete listing of seminars and a brief description of each, please visit www.michigandistrict.org/deacons.

Why Consider Deacon Training?

- You have sensed the Holy Spirit directing you to a greater leadership role in the ministry of your congregation, and others have confirmed that desire in you.
- You desire to be better prepared theologically and practically to serve your congregation as a servant-leader under the supervision of your pastor.
- You desire to “extend the reach” of pastoral care for the home-bound and hospitalized, sharing the love of Jesus.
- You desire, under the direction of a pastor, to open new fields of ministry and the sowing of God’s Word; and by the Holy Spirit’s blessing, to reap a harvest of new believers.

What is the purpose of the Deacon/Pre-SMP Training Program?

- To provide thorough and on-going theological training for laymen to serve more effectively in congregational ministry under the supervision of an Ordained Pastor.
- To provide initial theological training for laymen preparing to enter Synod’s Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) track toward ordination.



Can Women Take These Seminars?

Yes! Women are welcome to take any of the seminars and will receive a certificate of completion. However, this education will not result in their serving as Deaconesses.

Qualifications

What are the qualifications for admission into the Deacon/Pre-SMP Training Program?

- Fulfilling the same qualifications as that of an “elder” described in 1 Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:6-9;
- A reasonable amount of experience as an active Lutheran in an LCMS congregation;
- A high school diploma or GED;
- A recommendation from the applicant’s congregation and proposed supervisory pastor; and
- A willingness to study, learn, and receive mentoring.

What do People say About the Program?

“I truly believe anyone that loves working in the church and feels that God is calling him to do something more, should consider this program.”

Deacon Ken David
Good News Ministries, Whittemore

“Our pastor recently retired and I believe that without my deacon ministry supporting the great work of our vacancy pastor the challenges of transition would have been more difficult for our congregation.”

Deacon Chris Rubino
St. Mark, Kentwood

“As a Deacon I currently co-teach confirmation class and fill in for our pastor when he is on vacation or sick, or just to help lighten his work load. One of the greatest joys of the Deacon ministry experience is to be able to serve my congregation in Word and Sacrament ministry—to carry out the true meaning of the priesthood of believers.”

Deacon David Moran
Christ, Marshall

“Our clear understanding of the means of grace, our resounding proclamation of the Gospel, our reliance on the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion; all this offer true hope to lives too often left in despair in our cities. Deacons multiply these gifts from God by enabling the church to bring God’s precious gifts where they are needed most desperately.”

Rev. Steven Essenburg
Charity, Detroit
Missionary-at-Large - Detroit

