

# 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



## Where do I start?

Visit [www.michigandistrict.org/deacons](http://www.michigandistrict.org/deacons)  
for more information

or contact

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# Deacon Program

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



## Why Consider Deacon Training?

Maybe you are experiencing some of these or similar thoughts...

- 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 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](http://www.michigandistrict.org/deacons).

## Is this a route to Ordination?

It *can* be. Deacon training provides thorough and on-going theological training for laymen to serve more effectively in congregational ministry under the supervision of an Ordained Pastor. It is also a good way to test the water, providing initial theological training for laymen preparing to enter Synod’s Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) track toward ordination.



## Ministry Assistant

Women are welcome to take any of the seminars and will receive a Parish Assistant certificate. To become a Deaconess, a woman must complete the program at one of the LCMS Seminaries.

## 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?

“Being a Deacon for 9 years has opened me to needs of people and how I can serve them as well as the joy I’ve gotten in sharing the love of Christ with them. Taking communion to shut-ins, bringing worship to nursing homes, and just sharing the Word with those I meet has become a full time passion.”

*Deacon Dale Noel  
Heart of the Shepherd, Howell*

“The Deacon program has equipped me with the tools to better serve others in and outside our congregation. What I’ve learned in these classes has been a solid stepping stone as I continue to minister and make disciples. If you’re considering one of these courses, I strongly urge you to try it. You won’t be disappointed.”

*Jeff Rauschert, Deacon in Training  
Good Shepherd, Saginaw*

“The Deacon program is both spiritually and emotionally stimulating and uplifting. Through the classes, training, and serving as a Deacon, I’ve learned that the greatest thing we can do is be a servant to the Lord and to others. The Holy Spirit will use you in ways you never imagined. It is sometimes challenging, but always rewarding! Enjoy your new journey!”

*Deacon Franklin Dohanyos  
SALT Lutheran Church, Troy*

“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*

