

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

“As the Apostles in the book of Acts needed help to carry out ministry, so it is today—churches need more help to do ministry. The Deacon program allows churches to receive properly trained men to assist in church ministry, especially when the shortage of pastors grows.”

Rev. Drew Gruenhagen
St. Michael, Wayne



Where do I start?

Visit www.michigandistrict.org/missional for more information

or contact

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Michigan District

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Deacon Training

• CLASSIC PLUS 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.

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 are the Demands of the Training?

- Fourteen Seminars that include Exegetical, Historical, Systematic, and Practical disciplines of Lutheran Theology.
- Students in the Classic Plus Program will receive a hybrid of both in-person and online training.
- 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/missional.

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.



COSTS

- \$350 per class
- It is estimated that an intentional student could complete the Classic Plus Program in 24 months.

What do People say About the Program?

“I have always loved to learn. I love the Lord. I love my family. I have learned that nothing is more important than building relationships—with Him and with each other. The Deacon journey has broadened and deepened my vision of servant leadership with Staff and Ministry Leaders. It has given me insight for being ‘better together’ in serving Him. Being a Deacon and Minister of Life Groups has been and continues to be a blessing in my life.”

Deacon Greg Exner
St. Paul, Trenton

“The Deacon program has equipped me with the tools necessary to serve and minister to others. It has been incredibly rewarding to see how God has directed me through the program and how the courses seamlessly tie into the work I do within the church.”

Jeff Rauschert, Deacon
Good Shepherd, Saginaw

“The Deacon program was a true blessing in my life, both spiritually and emotionally—truly one of the highlights of my life! The classes, training, and support given by the instructors prepared me to move forward to become an SMP Pastor. I’ve learned that the greatest thing we can do is to be a humble servant to the Lord and His people. It’s challenging, but well worth the effort. The Holy Spirit will use you in ways you never imagined—enjoy the journey!”

Rev. Franklin Dohanyos
SALT Lutheran Church, Troy

