

**MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF MISSIONAL FORMATION  
DEACON, PRE-SMP (SPECIFIC MINISTRY PROGRAM)  
AND MINISTRY ASSISTANT CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**



[Old Testament Survey](#)

This seminar serves as an introduction to the Bible, its history, versions, and the basic principles when interpreting it. Special emphasis is placed on the Pentateuch and the history of the Old Testament with regard to Israel from the Egyptian exile and return to the Babylonian captivity.

[New Testament Survey](#)

This seminar builds on the Old Testament Survey Seminar and acquaints participants with the general content of the New Testament. Emphasis is placed on the harmony of the Gospels, history of the early Christian Church and the letters of Paul and others. Participants will be able to learn and reflect on the content and theology of the New Testament.

[Leadership](#)

This seminar addresses the participants' own leadership skills and how they are important in the Deacon's congregational service and beyond. Attention is given to congregational systems, triangulation, self-differentiation, decision making, the dynamics of change, governance models, planning, church and ministry (CFW), priesthood of all believers, responsibility, authority, accountability, leadership, visioning, chairing and serving on committees, Theory X Theory Y, narcissism and servanthood.

[Teaching the Faith](#)

This seminar is designed to identify and nurture the specific skills of teaching adults. The seminar addresses andragogy vs. pedagogy, learning theory, the component skills of teaching, the taxonomy of questioning, listening, nurturing the development of faith, designing an effective teaching plan, the various methods of teaching, Law and Gospel in Bible class teaching and the theology of the cross, and the implications of post-modernism in the church today.

[Doctrine I](#)

This seminar presents a systematic study of the historic doctrine of the Christian Church on the articles of creation and redemption in the context of the confessional understanding of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Emphasis is placed on the “theology of the Cross” and its implications when discussing other denominations, as well as the proper distinction of Law and Gospel.

[Doctrine II](#)

The focus of this seminar is to study a number of aspects of the Christian life, so that Christianity can be the foundation for all of life. One's relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is a gift from God to use not only in personal faith, but also in service to Him through serving one's fellow human beings. It will include the review of Law and Gospel, the growth in Christ, the sanctified life, good works, living in Baptism and Holy Communion, life in the church, the position of other denominations and religions, and the joy of eternal life.

[Proclaiming the Word \(Homiletics\)](#)

The purpose of this seminar is to guide the student into an understanding of the issues related to the preaching process. Students will learn the proper protocol for the preparation and writing of sermons, as well as studying and learning effective presentation of sermons. Writing, presentation, and evaluation of sermons provide a “hands-on” learning experience.

### [Biblical Greek I](#)

In this seminar, students will study the basics of the Koine (New Testament) Greek language utilizing the first twelve chapters of the Greek textbook *Fundamental Greek Grammar*, fourth revised edition, by Dr. James Voelz. The goal will be to equip each student to be able to translate passages of Scripture from Greek to English with unlimited time and resources. The practical application of word-studies in preparation for preaching and teaching will also be discussed.

### [Biblical Greek II](#)

In this seminar, students will explore deeper study and application of the biblical Greek language. In particular, they will be looking at such topics as: Insights into John 1, Inspiration of Scripture; Canon of Scripture; copyist's errors and their impact on Scripture; Moods; tenses and voice; faith; Greek cases; tense, verbal aspect and Aktionsart. The different words used for anger in the New Testament and their application; the meaning of the phrase, "the righteousness of God" as used by Paul; the biblical view of marriage and its application; participles and their use in the New Testament; and infinitives and their use in the New Testament.

### [Lutheran Worship](#)

Participants will study the basic elements of Lutheran worship. Some of the segments are: Word, Sacraments, Confession and Absolution, and prayer. For worship to be Lutheran, it should have a number of components. Participants will discuss the difference between worship substance and style. Worship is God's service among us and our response to God's invitation. Because of the need/concern, participants will investigate traditional Lutheran worship, contemporary worship, and Special Orders of the Day.

### [Christian Caregiving](#)

The purpose of this seminar is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and tools to "carry each other's burdens" within the context of the Christian faith tradition, and thereby "fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:1–2). Effective listening and communication skills will be emphasized, along with the basic components of a caregiving visit. Discussion of personal and professional boundaries, referrals, and components of self-care are also included.

### [Office of the Ministry](#)

This seminar will lead students to a fuller understanding of the Office of the Ministry through the study of related biblical texts, Lutheran confessional writings, and synodical CTCR documents. The seminar will discuss responsibilities of a church worker, how to work within staff relationships, the limitations of various offices and how each relates to the Pastoral Office, and the character qualities of those who serve in ministry.

### [Church History, from the time of Christ to the LCMS of today](#)

This seminar serves only as an introduction to a broad field of study; but seeks to inspire the student for additional study of God's activity through the Christian Church. The students will learn to view history from a number of perspectives: doctrinal, institutional, ethical, and cultural.

### [Outreach: Reaching the Not-yet Christian](#)

This seminar is designed to expose the student to various aspects of Christian outreach, first on a personal level, and then to examine ways to increase the missional focus of the congregation they serve. Through the use of readily available demographic data, each student will identify one or more people groups who might be uniquely served by their congregation. Each student will develop a strategy for reaching out to a selected people group with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This seminar is designed to be both practical and motivational.