

What will I learn at diakonia™?

To Confidently Share Your Faith: You'll learn how to confidently share your faith in the most effective way and for the best reasons.

To Use & Live Biblical Principles: You'll discover how to use biblical principles to point you toward what is truly important in living a Christian life of shared faith and how your living witness can impact those around you while building up the kingdom.

To Boldly Serve Others: You'll be equipped with the necessary knowledge and understanding to embolden your faith and empower you to fearlessly serve others to the glory of God.

To Provide Christian Caregiving: You'll learn the principles and develop the skills necessary to equip you to care for others in a distinctively Christian way.

How much does diakonia™ cost?

Tuition: \$360 per year (for the two year program).

Fees: A non-refundable Registration Fee of \$30. An additional fee of \$30 at the conclusion of the program covers graduation expenses, including the presenting of a commemorative diakonia™ cross.

Books: Costs for books vary from course to course, averaging between \$25-\$30.

Retreat: One per year at a cost of approximately \$20.

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 of a financial need.

Northern Illinois Locations

Salem Lutheran Church
1724 15th Street
Moline, IL 61265-3843

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
404 N. Green St.
McHenry, IL 60050

St. John Lutheran Church
2000 Luther Drive
Peru, IL 61354

St. Mark Lutheran Church
675 N. Mulford Rd
Rockford, IL 61107-3893
Thursday evenings

St. John Lutheran Church
703 Third Avenue
Sterling, IL 61081-3634

St. John Lutheran Church
2650 Plainfield Road (US 30)
Joliet, IL 60435-1163

First Lutheran Church
324 N. Third St.
DeKalb, IL 60115

Christ Lutheran Church
600 N. Main St.
Stockton, IL 61085

Registration and Financial Aid information are available by contacting:

Denise L. Rode
2800 Country Club Lane
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-756-8321
drode@lstc.edu
drode1@niu.edu

Further information about diakonia™ may also be found online at: www.nisynod.org/diakonia or www.thediakoniprogram.org



equipping
God's people
for service





- Are you looking for a deeper faith life?
- Want to be better equipped for Christian Service?
- Curious about what God has planned for you?

diakonia™ may be just what you're looking for....



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)."

and Jesus said,

"Let the one who would be great among you be your servant."

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.

diakonia™ Course Outline

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

Courses offered in SERIES A:

- Introduction to the New Testament
- Church History: The First 400 Years
- Practical Ministry I: Biblical Images of the Life of the Church
- Lutheran Creeds and Confessions
- Practical Ministry II: Visitation
- The Daily Life of the Christian

Courses offered in SERIES B:

- Introduction to the Old Testament
- Lutheran Faith in the American Context
- Christian Doctrine
- Christian Worship
- Themes & Issues in Christian Ethics
- Practical Ministry III: Communicating the Gospel