

***East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Eastern Lay School of Ministry***

***Information & Registration
2017-2018***

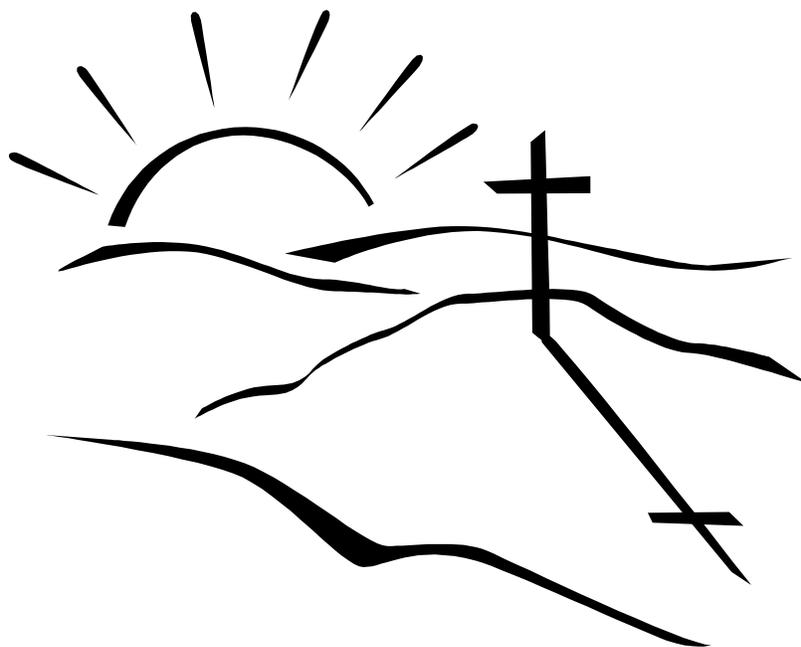


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Mission and Vision

The Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirms the universal priesthood of all its baptized members and it commits itself to the equipping and supporting of all of its members for their ministries in this church and the world.

To that end, the Eastern Lay School of Ministry (ELSM) was established in 1996 through the efforts of the Bishop's Office of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin and under the auspices of the synod council. The goal is to prepare theologically and biblically articulate laypersons for ministry in their daily lives.

The needs of the twenty-first century call for a new paradigm of Christian life together that will seek an ever-expanding role for equipped laity in both traditional and innovative ministries. Ordained clergy have a unique call to a ministry of Word and Sacrament that also asks them to lead, guide, and equip laity for greater involvement in shared ministry to the world. As lay people receive theological education, exposure to congregational and community ministries, and opportunities for personal spiritual formation, they will seek to expand their service as everyday evangelists and instruments of justice.

Lay School Process

Students enroll for a two-year program (or take individual courses) that takes them through a process of intellectual stimulation, self-discovery and transformation. Students will learn, grow, and explore their faith, gifts, calling, and commitment to service.

The Lay School process allows students to identify their gifts for ministry through study, prayer, and the development of relationships with other students, staff, and instructors. Graduates return to their congregations and communities with greater knowledge and increased faith, energized to be catalysts for spreading the Gospel.

Although a few lay school participants have discerned a call to ordained ministry during their time of study, most students use the experience to clarify their role in lay ministry in both their local congregation and the community.

Monthly Meeting Dates 2017-2018

:

September 9, 2017
October 14, 2017
November 11, 2017
December 9, 2017
January 13, 2018

February 10, 2018
March 10, 2018
April 14, 2018
May 5, 2018 (Graduation)

Classes

A unique feature of our Lay School is the high level of theological education provided by seminary professors, ordained clergy, and gifted church leaders. Seminary level textbooks are used. The ELSM purposefully does not offer academic credit, certification or credentialing so that every student has the opportunity to progress and participate at his or her own level of ability. Personal study outside of class is expected.

Course descriptions by year are listed below. 2017-2018 course offerings are described in Year B below.

Year A (2018-2019)

❖ Worship and Liturgy

This course teaches about worship from the time of ancient Israel to the present. Special focus is placed on how Lutherans worship together in meaningful ways. Practical components of the class prepare students to assist in planning worship services and in participating as assisting ministers during the liturgy.

❖ Systematic Theology

This course explores the Lutheran witness to the Gospel and its meaning for life in conversation with the religiously plural context that is the American and global context. Students will examine the creative potential of both biblical and Lutheran tradition to open new insights into who God is, what God has done in Jesus Christ, and what that means for human life. A central conviction is that God has created humanity for communion with God, which includes communion with one another and with the world. Students will reflect on the Trinitarian mystery and the wonder of God's grace in creation and redemption; the One who speaks in creating the world and in sending the Son; the Word who is with God and is God, through whom all things exist, who became flesh in Jesus Christ; the Spirit, the all-pervading presence of God as the course of life, who makes actual what God speaks and draws everything created into living communion with all else and with God.

❖ Mission and Ministry: Faith in Daily Life

This class encourages students to explore the mission that God has for all believers and to discern areas where they may apply what they have learned to ministry among God's people.

❖ Biblical Studies – Old Testament

Biblical Studies courses are designed to give an overview of Scripture and to introduce students to Lutheran perspectives on reading and interpreting the Bible for daily living. Special emphasis is placed on Scripture as literature – noting their place in history and the context in which they were written. In addition, many theological concepts are introduced, especially as they impact daily congregational life and ministry.

Year B (2017-2018)

❖ Luther for Today

Luther for Today offers participants opportunities to reflect upon traditional Lutheran doctrine in order to sense its relevance for today; to apply major concepts of doctrine to contemporary issues; and to dialogue with major Lutheran resources such as the Catechism, Confessions, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, with an ease that promotes their use as references as future issues are encountered.

❖ Church History

Explore how the church began, functioned and evolved over time to influence and shape what we believe and how we practice our faith today. Gain an understanding of how governments, economics, education, and people changed church history.

❖ Spiritual Disciplines

This class teaches active spirituality through a process of lecture and small group sharing to both learn and experience an abundant and more faithful life. The goal is to learn how to balance one's life for growing in God's grace through increased nourishment of piety, study, small group sharing, prayer, thanksgiving, and action in all environments of life.

❖ Biblical Studies – New Testament

Biblical Studies courses are designed to give an overview of Scripture and to introduce students to Lutheran perspectives on reading and interpreting the Bible for daily living. Special emphasis is placed on Scripture as literature – noting their place in history and the context in which they were written. In addition, many theological concepts are introduced, especially as they impact daily congregational life and ministry.

Course Selection/Tuition

The full Lay School experience is designed to be completed in two years, with students taking all the classes offered each year. However, some students aren't able to commit to 4 classes per year and may choose to take individual classes as their schedules allow.

Tuition: \$450 per year for all classes (\$100 deposit due with registration)
\$150 per year for one course (\$50 deposit due with registration)

The remainder of tuition can be paid in full in September or in monthly installments, with all tuition due in April.

Books: Once registered, students will be given a book list. Students are responsible for acquiring their own books. The cost for all new books typically runs between \$100 - \$150 per year. Some students borrow books and/or purchase used copies to reduce the cost.

Additional Aspects of Lay School

❖ Covenant Groups

Every student is assigned to a covenant group at the start of Lay School. These groups are important for processing information, sharing reactions to the topics discussed in class, and peer support. Students stay their same covenant group throughout Lay School.

❖ Devotions

Both first and second year students have the opportunity to lead a brief devotion. Devotions can be based on experiences in your personal prayer time, current events, topics in your classes, or other areas of life. This brief time of focusing on God's word and God's message for living will help students focus before class begins.

❖ Worship

Worship is a significant part of the Lay School experience, and affords opportunities for both expression of faith and personal growth. The monthly worship service is planned and led by a group of second-year students, and it is approximately 20 minutes in length. Every student is encouraged to work with a worship planning team at least once during his or her second year.

❖ Mentorship

The mentor/student relationship is a critical component Lay School. Each student must select and work with a pastor mentor. This relationship offers students the opportunity to integrate knowledge with experience, and faith with practice. Mentors help students explore and discover their gifts and paths of service, clarify areas of confusion, provide resources to enhance learning, and serve as sounding boards.

Students are encouraged to meet monthly with their mentors. Students should initiate this contact and come to those meetings with an idea of what they'd like to discuss/share/explore. Honesty, openness, and trust are critical to the mentor relationship.

Ideally a mentor pastor will be the pastor of the congregation where the student is a member. If your pastor cannot serve in this role, you may seek out another pastor to serve as your mentor. The mentor pastor should sign the registration form.

A member of the coordinating team will contact each student's mentor pastor to ensure that all mentors have a clear understanding of their roles. Please contact the C-Team if you have questions or concerns about mentoring.

Important to Know

❖ Bible

You will need to bring a bible to class. Many students use the New Revised Standard Version, but any translation is welcome.

❖ Meals / Snacks

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and soda will be available all day.

An optional catered lunch is available on Saturdays at a cost of \$9.00, or students can bring their own from home. Please plan to stay at the church for lunch.

Student volunteers typically provide continental breakfast and snack items.

❖ Partial Scholarships

Many congregations contribute money toward ELSM tuition and book fees. A number of conferences in the Synod also contribute money toward ELSM tuition. Students must request scholarships on their own behalf. For more information, please see one of the C-Team members.

❖ Overnight Accommodations

We have two options for those who want to stay overnight on Friday prior to Lay School classes on Saturday morning:

Area Hotels: The Grand Stay in Appleton offers a reduced rate if you request the rate for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Many other area hotels are also available. It is up to you to make your own reservations.

Host Families: If you are interested in staying with a host family (typically in another student's home), please contact the C-Team and we will help facilitate that connection.

❖ Emergency Contact

Phone calls to the church will generally not be answered during Lay School weekends. Please leave this number with your families for emergencies: 920-540-7883 (Wendy Seegers, C-Team, Cell)

❖ Class Cancellations (Weather-Related or Otherwise)

If for any reason classes need to be cancelled, emails will be sent to all students.

Cancellation will also be posted on the Lay School Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/easternlayschoolofministry>. We will make every attempt to make cancellation determinations as soon as reasonably possible.

❖ Orientation Meeting

A Lay School orientation session will be held on August 16th, 2017 at 6:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to meet the staff and students and get your questions answered prior to the start of classes. Registered students as well as students interested in learning more about Lay School are all encouraged to attend. The orientation session will take place at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Appleton, the same place where classes are held each month.

❖ **Lay School Staff – Coordinating Team (C-Team)**

The team works together to coordinate all aspects of the school. We look forward to seeing all of you during the weekends. Our C-Team members are:

Wendy Seegers – Administration/Registration

Bonnie Priebe - Finance

Leann Boll – Hospitality/Volunteer Coordination

Linda Tipler - Communication

Rev. Karen Rendall – Worship and Mentor Coordination

All C-team members can be contacted via: easternlayschool@gmail.com

❖ **Questions**

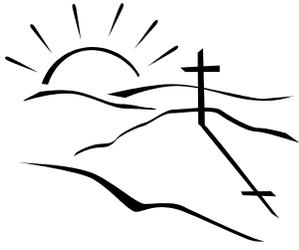
If you would like more information or have any questions regarding the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Eastern Lay School of Ministry, please contact us via email at easternlayschool@gmail.com or if you prefer to call, contact Wendy Seegers at (920) 540-7883.



Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/easternlayschoolofministry>

Do Something Just For You!

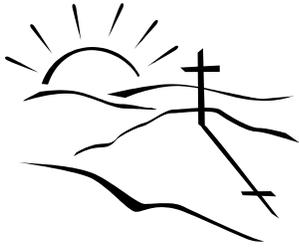
Participating in the Lay School of Ministry is a gift you give yourself. Fill out the attached registration form and join us in beginning a transformative faith journey unlike any other.



East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Eastern Lay School of Ministry

**Saturday Schedule
2017-2018**

8:00 - 8:30 AM	Coffee/Fellowship
8:30 - 8:45 AM	Student-lead Devotion
8:45 - 10:30 AM	New Testament – Biblical Studies Instructor: Rev Clarence Harms
10:45 AM – Noon	Luther For Today Instructor: Dr. Beth Leeper
Noon – 12:20 PM	Student-lead Worship
12:20 – 12:50 PM	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Church History Instructor: Dr. Beth Leeper
2:40 – 3:20 PM	Spiritual Disciplines Instructor: Rev. Dr. Karen Rendall
3:20 – 3:50 PM	Covenant Groups



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REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Name as you wish it to appear on nametag _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Phone _____ Emergency Contact _____

Congregation _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Pastor _____ Telephone _____

Mentor Pastor (if different from above) _____

Mentor's Email address _____

Mentor's Phone Number _____

Do you have any special dietary needs? Yes ___ No ___ (If yes, explain)

Do you have any medical conditions we should know about? Yes ___ No ___
(If yes, explain)

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

_____ **Full Year B Program** (\$450 total, tuition deposit of \$100 due with registration)

_____ **New Testament Class ONLY** 8:45 – 10:30 AM (\$150 total, \$50 deposit due with registration)

Why do you wish to participate in the Lay School of Ministry?

What do you hope to learn and experience as part of your Lay School experience?

Any other information you'd like us to know:

Student Signature

Date

Signature of Mentor Pastor

Date

Return this application with your tuition deposit to:

Lay Ministry School
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
3009 N. Meade St.
Appleton, WI 54911

Make checks payable to: **East Central Synod of Wisconsin (or ECSW)**