THE TRAINING

A self-paced course of study over two to five years including 29 credit hours of required courses, 5 credit hours of electives, and 2 PMA Convocations, typically held in March or April. Courses take place in Nebraska and can be self-study, with other students and a pastor/facilitator, or online. Tuition varies by learning method and credit hours.

REQUIRED COURSES

Bible:

How Lutherans Interpret the Bible
Introduction to the Old Testament
Introduction to the New Testament

Theology & Ethics:

Getting Down to Basics: Augsburg
  Confession & Small Catechism
Systematic Theology: Fundamentals of
  Christian Theology
Ethics in Lutheran Perspective

Church History:

From Jesus to Luther

Reformation Roots

We Must Plant the Church

Ministry Practice:

Foundations of Biblical Preaching

Good God Questions

Let's Talk About Death

**Spiritual Discernment & Faith
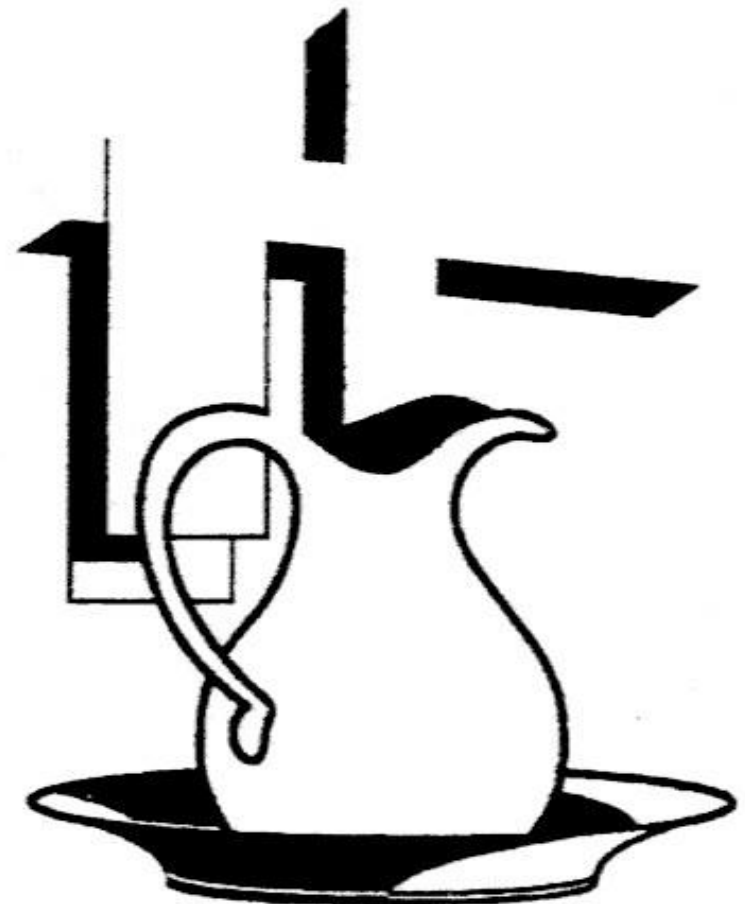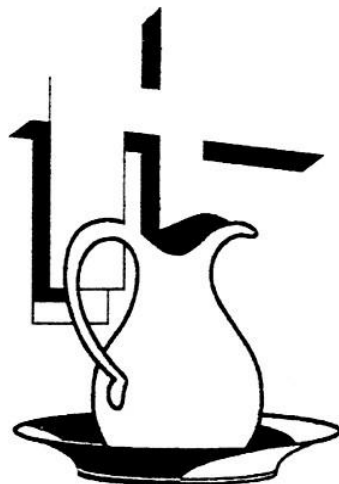 Development**

ELECTIVES

Explore more deeply an area of interest to you or broaden the scope of your studies. We encourage studies in Worship, Outreach, Youth Ministry, Education, Stewardship, and Leadership.

Parish Ministry Associate Program

**Nebraska Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
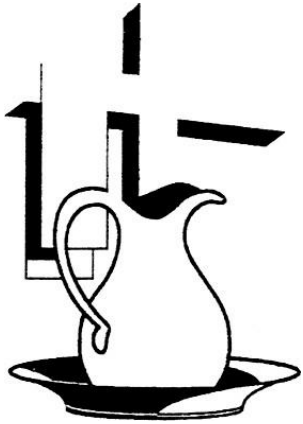
ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO:

+ Desires to develop skills in Bible, pastoral care, church history, spirituality, leadership, and more?
+ Has a heart for the people of God and an interest in serving others as a member of the "priesthood of all believers?"
+ Demonstrates spiritual maturity?
+ Demonstrates leadership skills which can nurture and guide others?
+ Feels a deep sense of commitment to serve Jesus Christ and the Church?

If so, we invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a Parish Ministry Associate in the Nebraska Synod, ELCA.

The PMA Program helps you identify God-given gifts and equips you for the ministry of sharing the Good News among all people in response to the unique ministry needs in our Nebraska Synod. PMAs answer God's call and serve according to their interests and availability:

- specialized volunteer in their home congregation
- pulpit supply in their area
- serving on a church or parish staff
- assignment by the bishop to a congregation where full-time pastoral services are not possible.

Pastors, congregation members, spiritual directors, friends, and synod staff can help your discern your call to ministry.

PMAs feeling called to an even deeper commitment to learning and service are encouraged to pursue ordination as a pastor or deacon. A wide variety of study options are available.

FORMS OF MINISTRY

Upon successful completion of requirements and certification for ministry, PMAs serve their congregation or our synod by providing leadership in areas such as:

+ Worship Leadership
+ Pulpit Supply
+ Christian Education
+ Pastoral Care
+ Church Administration
+ Youth & Family Ministry
+ Transitional Ministry in Congregations

Serve the Lord with gladness

Psalm 100:2

EXPECTATIONS

+ Commitment to completing your studies in two to five years
+ An active relationship with a mentoring pastor
+ Financial commitment to your studies
+ Endorsement by your pastor and home congregation
+ A willingness to serve after being trained, including in ways you may not have imagined
+ Always working in partnership and support of pastors
+ 12 hours of continuing education per year

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application packet is on the Parish Ministry Associate page at www.nebraskasynod.org. All program information is here and downloadable. Send your completed application to the PMA Office address listed on the back page. Checks are payable to Nebraska Synod. In the memo line please write "PMA Application."

Admission decisions are made by the PMA Steering Committee and include a background check.