

## ***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 serves according to the 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 you discern your call to ministry.



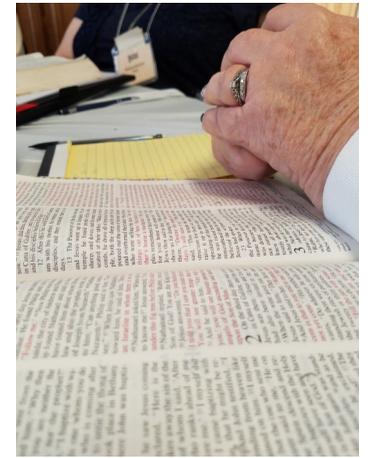
PMAs feeling called to an even deeper commitment to learning and service are encouraged to pursue ordination as a pastor or deacon. A wide variety of study options are available.

Serve  
the LORD  
with  
Gladness

## ***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



## ***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](http://www.nebraskasynod.org). All program information is there 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.

# Parish Ministry Associate

## Required Training

Self-paced course over two to five years  
29 credit hours of required courses  
5 credit hours of electives  
Attend 2 PMA Convocations  
(usually in March or April)

Courses take place in Nebraska  
Either through a facilitator-led course with other students  
or online with Select Learning  
Tuition varies dependent on 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  
Leadership course

### Spiritual Discernment & Faith Development

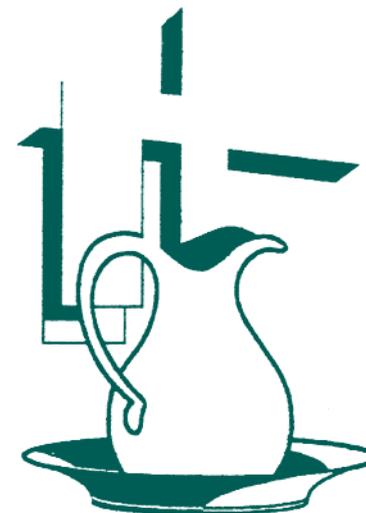
### Electives

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

For more information, contact:

Pastor Kathy Montira  
PMA Administrator  
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Mail applications to:  
PMA Office  
Nebraska Synod, ELCA  
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Omaha, NE 68152



Nebraska Synod

Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America