

Want More Information?

For more information on the School of Lay Ministry visit the School's website at

www.nesynodslm.com

or contact one of the following members of the School of Lay Ministry Board for further information:

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For more information about the school or candidacy for rostered ministry, contact the Associates to the Bishop

Bishop Hazelwood –
School of Lay Ministry Synod Liaison

Contact: Lyn Wasilewski,
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THE SCHOOL OF LAY MINISTRY

The School of Lay Ministry
of the
New England Synod ELCA
20 Upland Street
Worcester, MA 01607
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New England Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our hands.

Mission Statement

The educational opportunities presented by the School of Lay Ministry embody belief in the “priesthood of all believers.” As baptized Christians and members of the Body of Christ, all have been given gifts to share for the edification of the church and our neighbor.

The School of Lay Ministry (the School) is an innovative program designed to give adult students an opportunity to grow in their faith for the purpose of personal spiritual development, biblical enrichment, and life-long learning.

This program seeks to assist those who have a desire to broaden their faith understanding and expand their skills for service in their local congregation. It also can serve as a vehicle for discerning specific spiritual gifts that may be put to use in the student’s congregation and community.



Enrollment

The course is organized in a two-year cycle. One year includes studies in the Old and New Testaments. The other includes studies in theology, church history, Martin Luther, Lutheran confessional heritage and the American religious experience. Students may enter the program at the beginning of either year.

There are two mandatory retreats each year. The retreats are opportunities to connect with other students as well as to learn from respected teachers from a variety of disciplines. Completion of these retreats, in their entirety, is required for completion of the school.

Study groups are organized at the fall retreat, usually scheduled at the end of September. They receive videos and study guides offered by SELECT Learning, Mosaic, and PBS. Each group establishes its own flexible study schedule for the year. A pastor or another qualified person is expected to serve as each group’s mentor. The study year concludes with a spring retreat.

The costs for the program:

- \$550 per year tuition (covers enrollment fee and retreats)
- \$80-120 per year for textbooks
- Transportation to and from all events is the responsibility of the student

Applications must be received by August 15 to be enrolled in the fall term. The application fee of \$100 is applied toward the \$550 tuition. Students are encouraged to seek financial support from their local congregation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate in the School?

Anyone age 18 and over is welcome to apply. A desire for a deeper understanding of God and an open mind for intense biblical reading are all that is required. Keep in mind that this program is designed for personal enrichment through theological study. The School is not an avenue to employment in the church.

What can I do after completing the program?

After completing the two-year program of the School of Lay Ministry, you may feel more confident about taking on different or additional leadership roles in your home congregation. Hopefully your time with the School will encourage you to continue to be a lifelong learner.

How does participation in the School relate to other ministry opportunities?

Students may find that their experience leads them to explore the possibility of serving in public ministry as an associate in ministry, deaconess, diaconal minister, or pastor. These are ELCA public ministries that have churchwide standards for training and approval.

By itself, completion of the School of Lay Ministry is not sufficient preparation for rostered lay ministry, and any ministry performed by a graduate should be under the guidance of a local pastor.