

2016-17 Offerings

Series B

Introduction to the Old Testament

Sept 10, 17, 24, Oct 1, 8

Christian Doctrine

Oct 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12

Faith in the North American Context

Nov 19, Dec 3, 10, 17, Jan 7

Practical Ministry: To Communicate the Gospel

Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 18

Christian Worship

Feb 25, Mar 4, 18, 25, Apr 1

Themes & Issues in Christian Ethics

Apr 8, 22, May 6, 13, 20

Saturdays, 9-12

St Mark's Lutheran Church
605 Spruce Street, Madison, WI

2017-18 Offerings

Series A

Introduction to the New Testament

Church History: The First 400 Years

Practical Ministry: Biblical Images – Life of the Church

Lutheran Creeds and Confessions

Practical Ministry: Visitation

Daily Life of a Christian

How much does diakonia cost?

Tuition: \$60 per course.

Books: Actual costs vary from course to course, but average \$25-30 per class.

Fees: A non-refundable Registration Fee of \$25 is required of first-time students. Students who complete all 12 courses of the program and choose to participate in a graduation ceremony will be asked to pay a \$25 fee to cover graduation expenses, including the presentation of a commemorative *diakonia* cross.

Financial Aid: Financial aid for tuition (not books) is available: congregations are encouraged to help with the cost of the program. It is our goal to turn no one away due to financial need.

To register for the program

Download the program application form from the synod website, complete it and mail to the synod office, along with \$25 registration fee. This will get you on the list to be sent information about new courses, schedule changes, etc.

To sign up for a class

Email scswdiakonia@gmail.com or call Barb Zimmerman at 608-535-0264 and leave a message. Please do this at least 2 weeks in advance of the first class (If this is your very first class, please also register for the program, if you haven't already done that.).

To volunteer to teach

Email scswdiakonia@gmail.com with your name, phone, email, address, and home congregation or call Barb Zimmerman at 608-535-0264 and leave a message.

To find forms, information

Go to the Synod website, choose Congregations, click on diakonia. Or email scswdiakonia@gmail.com or call Barb Zimmerman at 608-535-0264 and leave a message.



diakonia

South Central Synod

2016-17



Looking for a deeper faith life?

Curious about what God has in mind for you?

Do you want to be better equipped for Christian Service?

Diakonia may be just what you're looking for!

Purpose

Provide participants with the opportunity to

- discover their God-given gifts,
- strengthen their faith and their abilities, and
- give them deeper purpose within their own congregations, synods, and the church-wide body of Christ.

Through the *diakonia* experience, each student's relationship to God and understanding of theology is allowed to blossom and bear fruit as a light of Christ in society.

***Diakonia = Spirit empowered service
guided by faith***

Testimonials

"A powerful experience I would recommend to anyone," diakonia student

"The students added to my thinking about God. Their questions and reflections are still on my mind," diakonia instructor

"Faith grows in me as I study and think," diakonia student

"Amazing how the Holy Spirit works!"
"You are the answer to my latest prayer!"
lay leaders in congregation where diakonia students stepped up during pastoral vacancy

diakonia®

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).*"

The *diakonia* program is a 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.

How is *diakonia* structured?

The *diakonia* program consists of 12 different, five-week courses. Classes meet once a week for three hours. Child care will be provided as requested in advance.

Students may participate in 1 to 6 courses a year. Upon successful completion of all 12 courses, students are invited to participate in a graduation ceremony, typically held in early June.

Courses are taught by pastors and/or lay professionals particularly skilled in that area of instruction or ministry.

Classes combine theological knowledge with practical skills. Assignments and readings aim to be relevant while also developing a solid background on the topic.

All students are encouraged to work at their own level of theological knowledge, academic training, and experience in ministry.

Assignments reflect the understanding that students are already busy in their families, jobs, and parish, typically 3-5 hours of study per week.

All potential students are asked to enroll in the program and pay a one-time registration fee. This will ensure that you are on a list for all *diakonia* communications, such as course announcements, schedule changes, etc.. However, enrollment does not in any way imply a commitment to complete any or all 12 courses.