

Lay Leadership Institute
South Dakota District
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

MISSION & MINISTRY

Jesus sends us on our mission:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ ”

Matt 28:18-20 (NIV)

In order to get this Word to others, God has established the Office of the Public Ministry,

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Acts 20:28 (NIV)

and the priesthood of all believers.

“...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”

Rev 1:5b-6 (NIV)

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Pet 2:9 (NIV)

All Christians (laity and pastors) are to proclaim His love.

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”

1 Pet 3:15-16a (NIV)

All Christians have been blessed by the Holy Spirit with gifts that are to be used for the good of all.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

1 Cor 12:4-7 (NIV)

In Luke 10:2, Jesus said, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”* Therefore the Lay Leadership Institute is established in South Dakota. Its mission is to assist the ministry of congregations by equipping lay leaders. These leaders created through this training program will work within their home congregations, under supervision, and will supplement those public ministries which already exist rather than replace them, as per Resolution 1-38 (56th Convention of the South Dakota District-LCMS).

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT

There are three levels of involvement in the Lay Leadership Institute:

- **Level I** is available to anyone seeking a deeper knowledge of Scripture. Course fees and course work is required and a Certificate of Completion will be given after satisfactory completion of the course.
- **Level II** is designed so that congregations may request gifted lay men and women within their congregations to serve in various ministries within the church. Examples are: evangelism, outreach, music, parish administration, parish nursing, youth leader, etc. This level would better equip laity for work spreading His Word.
- **Level III** consists of the following two categories:
 - Men in a congregation who wish to receive training in order to aid their pastor. Such assistance would be under the direct supervision of their pastor with their sermons either prepared or reviewed by their supervising pastor. Their assistance would not involve the administration of the sacraments.
 - Men in a congregation who wish to proceed into the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program.

CURRICULUM

The following classes are available through the Lay Leadership Institute:

- Old Testament Bible
- New Testament Bible
- Interpreting the Bible in Translation
- Summary of Christian Doctrine
- Church History I (Time of Christ-A.D. 1500)
- Church History II (A.D. 1500-present)
- Lutheran Worship
- Fundamentals of Pastoral Care
- Teaching the Faith
- Homiletics (Preaching w/practicum; Required for Pastoral Assistant Level)
- Mission Outreach in Context

Required textbooks for each class are ordered by the South Dakota District Office and paid for through the \$50 non-refundable registration deposit.

A student must complete the classes of: Old Testament, New Testament, Interpreting the Bible in Translation, and Summary of Christian Doctrine before registering for the Homiletics course.

DISTRICT APPROVAL PROCESS

- Level I participation requires no approval from the district.
- Level II participants are requested by their home congregation to take a number of classes in order to serve in a needed ministry area within their church. Participants at this level will receive a Certificate of Completion for each class from the Administrator of the Lay Leadership Institute.
- Level III participants require a formal application process. Men should meet the qualifications set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:6-9. The process will include, but is not limited to, character references, approval of congregation and supervising pastor, and approval by the District President. All eleven classes must be satisfactorily completed. At that time, the applicant will be given an interview with the District Praesidium (District President, 1st Vice President, & 2nd Vice President). Approval is granted by the District Praesidium and is reviewed annually by the District President.

ADMINISTRATION

- The South Dakota District Board of Directors shall have oversight of the Lay Leadership Institute.
- The Executive Secretary of the South Dakota District shall serve as the administrator of the Lay Leadership Institute. The administrator will, among other things:
 - Coordinate the Lay Leadership Institute program
 - Schedule educational events
 - Promote the program and receive applications
 - Arrange course instructors
 - Submit required information (requests for Pastoral Assistant, class evaluations, etc.) to the District President
 - Report to Board of Directors and District President regarding budget, progress of program, enrollment numbers, etc.
- The cost for each course will be reviewed from time to time and will be listed on the class registration form. This fee will pay for:
 - Administration costs
 - Instructor honorarium
 - Course supplies, such as handouts and required textbooks
- A \$50 registration deposit due at the time of registration is non-refundable. A refund of the remaining registration fee will be granted up to four weeks from the first class meeting. After four weeks from the first class meeting, no refund of the registration fee will be given to the student who drops out of the class.
- Travel expenses (meals, lodging) will be the responsibility of the student. Congregational support of the student is expected for levels two and three.
- The Lay Leadership Institute is administered solely by the South Dakota District; academic/college credit is not available for the classes offered.