
Become a Rostered Leader Making a difference in the world

Choices for a life of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are many — we need pastors, diaconal ministers and deaconesses, associates in ministry. *The ELCA has many positions to fill as we carry out our mission to share God's boundless love with the world.*

So how do you know if you should become a leader in the ELCA?

Do you have a sense of wonder?

We need aware, caring, courageous passionate, joy-filled, and adventurous people who want to bring healing and hope to other people in this broken world.

Are you looking for a way to share your life that uses your gifts of creativity, that requires an appreciation of spirituality and ritual, that will be a way for you to give voice to God's call?

Are you interested in benefits such as leading quality worship, a chance to teach, good colleagues, a caring community, variety, lifelong learning on the job, incredible opportunity to care for others, and a place to use your imagination?

Are you searching for meaning in your life?

Many people have become disillusioned with the culture of work in our world. *The church still looks for people to lead who have a deep sense of compassion, who want to know that the work they are doing is significant in the world.* The ELCA provides this opportunity.

We all have gifts.



What are yours?

Maybe you share these gifts — they are especially important for church leaders to use in their daily ministry:

- A love for Jesus Christ
- Grace-filled living
- Integrity
- A passion for justice
- Compassion for God's people
- Self-awareness
- Leadership skills
- The ability to learn and share the faith
- A capacity for critical reflection

If you think you have a calling to become a leader in the ELCA, give your call a voice. Talk to your pastor, youth director, music minister, or another church leader about your call. If God is calling for you to become a rostered leader, learn about candidacy, then contact your synod office to begin the process!

Candidacy What is Candidacy?

Candidacy is the name of a process. This process raises up, prepares, certifies and places public leaders in the ELCA. Public ministers include commissioned Associates in Ministry, consecrated Diaconal Ministers and Deaconesses, and ordained Pastors.

Candidacy is an offering! Because of God's love, we notice the world around us and the needs of our neighbors. The world's needs call out our gifts in service to our neighbor — and then we figure out how we need to be equipped to live out that service. This is the vocation (the calling) of all the baptized as we live out our callings in the world.

Some are called to consider professional service in the life of the church. Candidates for public ministry consider both the call that wells up within them, as well as the call that is affirmed by others in the church, in a process of professional leadership development we call *candidacy*.

Candidacy is a partnered process. Candidates, their family and friends; congregations, along with campus and outdoor ministries that nurture and develop faith; synods and their candidacy committees; seminaries and their faculties and staff; and staff from the churchwide organization, all play important roles in the candidacy process.

Ask Yourself:

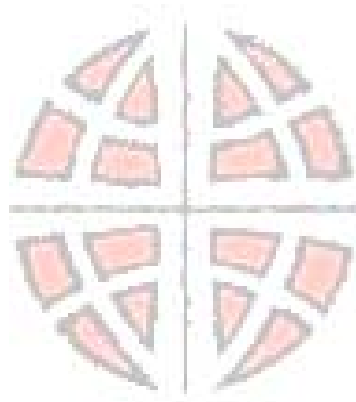
- ✘ What would I like to do?
- ✘ What am I really good at?
- ✘ What am I passionate about?
- ✘ What is needed in my community?
- ✘ How does my faith live and breathe every day?

Imagine Yourself...being who God created you to be!

Lutherans believe that we are all living out our callings or our "vocations" in the ways we help our neighbors and share the love of Christ with them. You don't have to be a pastor to have a vocation! In fact, you've lived your vocation every day since you were born. Lutherans believe vocation exists in four main areas of life:

- Ω work/school,
- Ω family and friends,
- Ω community and world, and
- Ω faith community.

More information is also available at www.elca.org under the vocation link



For Further information Contact:

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Have you heard the word?

Is God calling you to a life of service in the church?

Maybe...

Really?

REALLY!



Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

God's Work. Our Hands.

www.wisynod.org