

Licensed Lay Ministry Academy

Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA

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Cost per class:

Academy Students \$125.00

Academy is for students who want to become licensed as a Lay Minister for SEMI Synod

Non-Academy/Class Audit \$50.00

Students who want to gain deeper knowledge about topics and interested in auditing classes in the SEMI Synod

Ministry Academy Class Schedule 2021 - 2025

Classes are generally held on five (5) consecutive Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m.- 12 noon, unless decided upon differently by the instructor and class members. Class descriptions can be found at the end of this document. The dates listed are subject to change.

2021

January 9 - February 6, 2021	Christian Worship
February 27 - March 27, 2021	Lutheran Confessions
April 10 - May 8, 2021	Issues in Ethics
SEPTEMBER 11, 2021	Retreat
September 18 - October 9, 2021	Christian Discipleship
October 30 - November 27, 2021	Old Testament

2022

January 8 - February 5, 2022	New Testament
February 12, 2022	Winter Retreat & Interviews
February 26 - March 26, 2022	Communicating the Gospel
April 16 - May 14, 2022	Systematic Theology

August 13, 2022	“It’s All About the Eucharist” with Bishop Kreiss
September 10 - October 8, 2022	Preaching the Word with Pastor Marie Duquette
October 22, 2022	Day-Long Retreat
October 29 – December 3, 2022	Bowen Family Systems with Pastor Dana Runestad <i>*Open to current, former LLM students + others from SEMI Synod</i>

2023

January 14 - February 11, 2023	Church History with Pastor Ken Grant
February 18, 2023	Winter Retreat & Interviews
February 25 - March 25, 2023	Christian Worship with Pastor Matthew Bode*
April 15 - May 13, 2023	Teaching the Word with Pastor Justin Dittrich*

Note: Synod Assembly, May 18-20

September 9 - October 7, 2023	Lutheran Confessions with Pastor Sharon Janot
October 14, 2023	Retreat
October 21 - November 18, 2023	Issues in Ethics

**** these courses switched dates***

2024

January 13 - February 10, 2024	Christian Discipleship
February 24, 2024	Winter Retreat & Interviews
March 2 - March 30, 2024	Old Testament
April 20 - May 18, 2024	New Testament
September 14 - October 12, 2024	Communicating the Gospel
October 24, 2024	Retreat
November 2 - November 30, 2024	Systematic Theology

2025

January 11 - February 8, 2025	Practical Ministry / Spiritual Care
February 15 or February 22, 2025	Retreat
March 1- March 29, 2025	Teaching the Word
April 19 - May 17, 2025	Church History
September 13 - October 11, 2025	Christian Worship
October 18, 2025	Retreat
November 1 - November 29, 2025	Lutheran Confessions

Core Courses (10)

Presented as 5 sessions of 3 hours per session, taught by a pastor or retired pastor

Lutheran Confessions

Exploration of key elements of the Lutheran faith tradition, focused on the Book of Concord. The class covers portions of Dr. Luther's life, challenges faced by the church in the 1500s, and how Luther's and Melancthon's writings address those issues. Instructor, Pr. Sharon Janot

Introduction to the Old Testament

Introduce the elements and context of the Hebrew scriptures. Describe the different types of books and authors of the OT, with in-depth study of a few books. The class also covers important techniques in reading the Bible in preparation for preaching and teaching. Instructor, Pr. Dennis Bux

Introduction to the New Testament

Introduce the elements and context of the witness to Jesus and the witness of apostles. Describe the different types of books and authors of the NT, with in-depth study of a few books. The class also covers important techniques in reading the Bible in preparation for preaching and teaching. Instructor, Pr. Dennis Bux

Christian Discipleship

Examine different Lutheran and Christian perspectives for living as disciples of Christ. Studies have included: reading Bonhoeffer's Cost of Discipleship; readings from Dr. M. L. King; Sabbath keeping, guest speakers on racial and gender justice. Various Instructors

Proclaiming the Gospel / Preaching

Instruction on sermon preparation, including multiple sessions of students delivering short messages and receiving feedback. How to use the lectionary; how to construct sermon series; resources to use in preparation. Instructors, Pr. Mark Evans, Pr. Marie Duquette

Christian Ethics / Ethics with Lutheran Flavor

Introduction to ethical thinking and decision-making. Uses ELCA Social Statements as illustrations; encourages students to consider potential questions or controversies from an ethics informed by the Bible and Lutheran perspectives. Instructor, Pr. Dennis Bux

Church History

Survey of the history of the Christian church, from the early church through the Reformation. Studies the influence of Greek and Roman societies on Christian thought; sampling of heresies and the church's response. Supplemented with video lessons from the instructor. Instructor, Pr. Ken Grant

Christian Worship

Introduction to Christian and Lutheran worship traditions, especially in the USA. Understanding key elements of worship; Lutheran understanding of sacraments and their role in worship. Instructor, Pr. Matthew Bode

Systematic Theology

Explore and discuss key theological concepts, e.g., Christology, using Luther's theology of the cross. Emphasize the importance of making use of Christ and bringing good news to sinful people. Instructor, Pr. Dennis Bux

Teaching the Word

Prepare students for leading adult Bible studies and adult faith formation classes. Introduce different learning styles and resources. Instructor, Pr. Justin Dittrich

ADDITIONAL / NON-CORE CLASSES

Spiritual Care / Pastoral Ministry

Introduction to visitation and providing pastoral care for people in hospital, hospice, or home visits. Students are encouraged to journal some of their encounters when providing care.

Bowen Family Systems Theory

Introduction to BFST and how its ideas may be applied to groups / leadership of faith communities. Taught by Pr. Dana Runestad

Updated February 2023