

## Report of the Licensed Lay Ministry Academy & Program

The Licensed Lay Ministry Program offers 12 courses over a 2-year period for individuals interested in deeper dive to study and discuss material that will enhance student understanding of topics such as Old and New Testament and the Lutheran Confessions.

“Licensed Lay Ministers are authorized only by the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA. In bylaw 7.61.01 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, the church addresses the issue of providing Word and Sacrament ministry through the use of synodically authorized ministry (Licensed Lay Ministers), where it is not possible to provide appropriate ordained pastoral leadership.”

Over the years, a vast number of individuals have gone through the process of taking classes, identifying and completing internships, and often supply preaching throughout our synod’s conferences and congregations. There are 29 LLM’s who have completed the process to be licensed by Bishop Don Kreiss to serve in the Southeast Michigan Synod for 2023:

Rachelle (Ricky) Amstutz, Paul Archer, Herb Barents, Joyce Brooks, Gail Cebelak, Dana Fox Chobat, Ray Chobot, Raymond "Wayne" Butts, Jan Campbell, Dale Eckart (*LLM Administrator*), George Evalt, Debra Evens, Rosemary Ireland-Black, Pete Fisher, Robin McCants (*LLM Program Director*), Christine Ritter, Scott Pike, Valinda Vincent, and William Wrobel.

Serving as the Pastoral Presence in a congregation are:

Robert Brannon, Sharon Denomme, Wes Davis, David Corliss, David Hudson, Jim Kroll, Cathy Maxwell, James "Jim" Puhl, Doshia Strong and Geraldine Udell.

We currently have 3-5 students enrolled for classes, that are 15 hours over five-weeks, and taught by pastors of our synod. Classes are offered on a two-year cycle. This year’s class schedule includes:

January 14 - February 11	Church History
February 18	Interviews for Renewal for All LLM’s
February 25 - March 25	Christian Worship
April 15 - May 13	New Testament
September 9 - October 7	Lutheran Confessions
October 14	Fall Retreat for All LLM’s
October 21 - November 18	Issues in Ethics

All are invited to audit classes or register for classes in pursuit of a license. For information, email [r.mccants@semisynod.com](mailto:r.mccants@semisynod.com) or visit [www.semisynod.com/leaders](http://www.semisynod.com/leaders).

Respectfully submitted,  
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Assistant to the Bishop for Advocacy & Urban Ministry