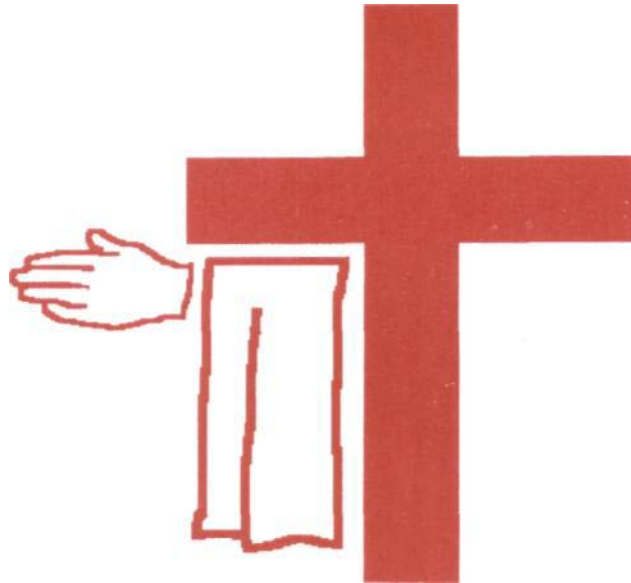


diakonia[®]

Program Overview



*...equipping the saints for diakonia;
building up the Body of Christ*

(Eph. 4:12)

TheDiakoniaProgram.com
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Program Overview

What is diakonia?

diakonia is a two year 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 church-leadership disciplines of practical, systematic, historical and Biblical theology;

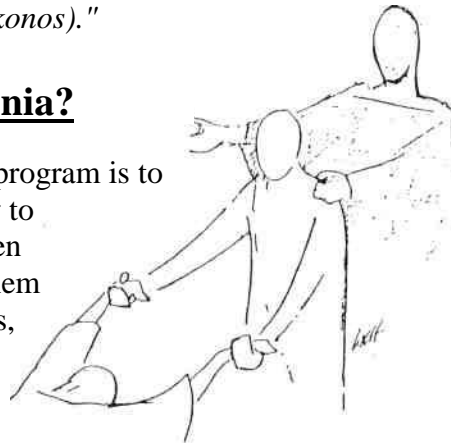
By identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry, and encouraging their use in the local parish;

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. The primary theme and focus of the **diakonia** experience is the word of Jesus in scripture (e.g. Mark 10:43): "Let the one who would be great among you be your servant (Greek: *diakonos*)."

What is the emphasis of diakonia?

The purpose and goal of the **diakonia** program is to provide each participant the opportunity to discover their God-given gifts, strengthen their faith and their abilities, and give them purpose within their own congregations, synods, and the church-wide body of Christ. Through the **diakonia** educational experience, each student's understanding of theology and their relationship to God is allowed to blossom and bear fruit as a light of Christ in society.



diakonia emphasizes the baptismal vocation of all Christians to serve as did our Lord Jesus. Participants are often already leaders in their parishes, and have a high degree of commitment to the ministry of the Church. They want to deepen their life of faith and discern their spiritual gifts for ministry. They are committed to serve through the Church in a variety of ways: teaching,

administration, liturgical leadership, action for social justice, evangelism, visitation of the sick, community organization, youth work, ministry among the elderly, and the like. In every way they seek, and are helped by **diakonia**, to grow closer to the image and example of Christ the servant and to be more comfortable in bearing witness in word and deed about the good news of Jesus Christ.

How is diakonia structured?

The **diakonia** curriculum consists of twelve courses, six per academic year. Each course is 5 sessions in length, and meets weekly for 3 hour sessions. All of the courses are introductory in nature. Weekly readings give students a solid background to the topic. Either weekly assignments or a final assignment will relate the subject matter to the students' context of life and ministry (family, parish, neighborhood area of ministry) or give them new insight into the course's content. Students work at their own level, and assignments reflect the understanding that students are already busy in their families, jobs and parish. Typically, students average approximately three to five hours of study per week in addition to class time.

How much does diakonia cost?

- 1) **Tuition:** \$360 per year (for the two year program) If tuition is paid up front, *pro rata* refunds are given for students who withdraw from the program. Tuition may be paid by class. **diakonia** has a financial aid program.
- 2) **Books:** Actual costs vary from course to course, but instructors try to use books and materials totaling \$35 or less per course. Students have an option of buying their own materials used.
- 3) **Retreats:** The number of retreats is determined by year, normally there is one. Recent retreats have cost less than \$75 per day or \$125 per weekend.
- 4) **Fees:** A non refundable registration fee of \$25 is required at time of registration. An additional fee of \$25-40 at the conclusion of the program covers graduation expenses, including the presentation of a commemorative **diakonia** cross.

2010-2011 diakonia NEW YORK CLASS LOCATIONS

Bronx:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave, Bronx
Location Manager, Ms Hope Card + 718-542-5445
Classes Meet: Mondays 6:30PM-9:30PM

Manhattan/Latino:

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 619 Lexington Ave, Manhattan
Contact: Rev Fabian Arias + 646-244-5404
email: Neuquenedu@aol.com
Ms Marta Serur + 917-670-0126
Classes Meet: Tuesdays 6:30PM-9:30PM

Nassau:

George Mercer School of Theology, Garden City
(Presented jointly by The **diakonia** Program and the Episcopal Church)
Location Manager: Dcn John Prosen + 516-455-9484
email: JohnProsen3@yahoo.com
Classes Meet: Saturdays 8:45AM-11:45AM

Queens:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Long Island City
Location Manager: Dcn Roberta Detmers + 917-232-8373
email: Robo754@aol.com
Classes Meet: Saturdays 9:30AM-12:30PM

Southern Westchester:

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Pleasantville
Location Manager: Dcn Karen Nurmi + 914-762-4495
email: kdn2@optonline.net
Dcn Barbara Meberg + 914-769-4640
email: BPMeberg@verizon.net
Classes Meet: Mondays 7PM-10PM

Suffolk West:

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Fort Salonga
Location Manager: Mrs Mary Jean Weber + 631-269-7525
email: RED5591@aol.com
Classes Meet: Thursdays 7PM-10PM

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