

North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Equipping **L**eaders for **M**ission and **M**inistry (ELMM)

OVERVIEW

Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry equips leaders for service in our congregations and communities. Over a three-year period, students complete 12 two-day and 6 one-day learning events, focusing on biblical overview, Lutheran theology, practical skills, and gift discernment. Those who complete the program may be commissioned by their congregations for specific areas of ministry as deemed appropriate by their respective pastors and congregation councils.

The cost to complete the program ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000 depending on lodging accommodation preferences. There may be additional costs for books and travel expenses. Many congregations choose to support the leader who makes a commitment to the program by covering a portion of the costs. Scholarship funds are available for those who need additional financial support.

Prerequisites for entry:

- Active member of an ELCA congregation
- Application with three references (one of whom is the applicant's pastor)

Students may begin the three-year process at any time and are recognized by Synod Assembly following completion of the program.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio partners with our synod to provide biblical instruction. Rostered and lay leaders provide additional instruction relevant to service in our congregations and to synod-wide ministries. Congregations in our synod host our learning events and lodging accommodations are arranged at nearby hotels.

For more information, application materials, or scholarship details, contact Rebecca Bossenbroek at rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net or 517-927-4755.

Registration Instructions

1. Email the following information to rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net by the registration deadline:
 - a. Date of event you plan to attend
 - b. Lodging requirements (commuter \$50, double \$95, single \$140)
2. Make your check payable to North/West Lower Michigan Synod and write ELMM and the event date (MMDDYY) on the memo line. If you are making an annual tuition payment, indicate this on the memo line.
3. Mail your check to Rebecca Bossenbroek, NWLMS ELMM Administrator, 1622 Royal Crescent Dr., Holt MI 48842
4. Receive via email confirmation of your registration and payment as well as map, agenda, etc.
5. Administrator will arrange for your lodging accommodations by submitting a group rooming list to the hotel

RETREATS

Prophets Before the Exile

The Rev. Dr. Carol Marie Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament, Western Theological Seminary

Before joining Western's faculty in 1994, Carol Bechtel taught at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. She has also served as a teaching fellow at Yale Divinity School and as interim pastor of Turn of River Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Connecticut. Dr. Bechtel preaches and teaches widely and is a General Synod Professor of Theology in the Reformed Church in America. She served as President of the RCA's General Synod from 2009-2010. Dr. Bechtel grew up on a farm in Fulton, Illinois. She attended Hope College, Western Theological Seminary and received her Ph.D. in Old Testament from Yale University in 1992. She now lives in Holland, Michigan with her husband, Tom Mullens. They have four children: Elyssa, Andrew, Ian, and Ellen, and a grandson, Michael. Her hobbies include singing, cooking, gardening, and the Celtic harp.

The Hebrew people wanted a more stable form of government that would bring separate tribes together. They wanted a king, like other nations (1 Samuel 8). At first the prophet Samuel objected to this idea: since the Lord is the ruler of Israel, there is no place for a human king.

Also in this session: *Worship and Liturgy*

Rev. Andreas Teich, Messiah Lutheran Church, Bay City MI

Dates: Friday (9am) –Saturday (3pm), March 3-4, 2017
Retreat site: [Good Shepherd Lutheran Church](#), 3990 112th Ave, Holland MI 49424
Lodging site: [Microtel Inn & Suites](#), 643 Hastings Ave, Holland MI 49423
Cost: Commuter \$50; Double occupancy \$95; Single occupancy \$140
Registration deadline: January 31, 2017

The Writings

The Rev. Dr. Carol Marie Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament, Western Theological Seminary

Historians, priests and prophets were not the only ones with something to say. Others in Israel expressed their faith in a variety of ways, and some of their writings are also in the Bible. Because these works are so varied, they are called simply the "Writings." In this session, we will take a brief look at all of these works, as well as the books of Ruth and Jonah.

Also in this session: *Creeds and Sacraments*

Rev. Andreas Teich, Messiah Lutheran Church, Bay City MI

Dates: Friday (9am) –Saturday (3pm), March 31 – April 1, 2017
Retreat site: [Christ United Church](#), 1000 W Webb Rd, Dewitt MI 48820
Lodging site: [Sleep Inn](#), 1101 Commerce Park Dr, Dewitt MI 48820
Cost: Commuter \$50; Double occupancy \$95; Single occupancy \$140
Registration deadline: February 28, 2017