

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
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 North/West Lower Michigan Synod, 2900 N Waverly Rd, Lansing MI 48906. Or bring it along to the event.
4. Receive via email confirmation of your registration and agenda, study guide, etc.
5. Make your own lodging accommodation reservations as instructed by the administrator.

RETREATS

The Gospel of John

Pastor Thomas Mammoser, Peace Lutheran Church, Gaylord MI

The Gospel of John was Martin Luther's favorite gospel. In fact, he thought it was "far to be preferred over the other three" because it will "show you Christ and teach you everything you need to know" (Luther's Works, Vol. 35, Fortress Press, 1960, p. 362). At first, we may be tempted to think Luther is exaggerating. There is much the gospel of John does not tell us. There are no stories about birth, baptism, temptation, or transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus does not tell any parables. He does not cast any demons out of people, and there is no story of Jesus instituting the meal we now call Holy Communion. We would miss a great deal if we had the gospel of John but lacked the other three gospels.

Also in this session: *Ecumenism* with Pastor Betsy Kamphuis, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Greenville

Dates: Friday (9am) –Saturday (3pm), February 2-3, 2018
Retreat site: [St Paul Lutheran Church](#), 9844 SW Greenville Rd, Greenville MI 48838, 616-754-6676
Retreat cost: \$50.00 (includes Friday and Saturday lunch)
Lodging site: [Candlestone Golf & Resort](#), 8100 Storey Rd, Belding MI 48809, 616-794-1580
Lodging deadline: Friday, January 12, 2018
Lodging code: ELMM
Lodging rate: \$104 (includes Saturday breakfast)

The Letters of Paul

Dr. Walter ("Wally") Taylor, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus OH

Paul became a Christian in the 30's of the first century. Most of his writing was done in the decade of the 50's, before the gospels were written. He gives us, therefore, a glimpse of the first generation of Christians. Why not? The earliest congregations were composed of Jews who believed in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. Many of them did not recognize that God wanted the Gentiles (non-Jews) to be included in their congregations. The church of Paul's time, therefore, faced a crucial decision: Shall we bring this message about Jesus to the Gentiles, at the risk of losing some of our identity? Some said, "No." Paul said, "We must."

Also in this session: *Living Water Ministries* with C J Clark, Executive Director

Dates: Friday (9am) –Saturday (3pm), March 9-10, 2018
Retreat site: [Christ United Church](#), 1000 W Webb Rd, Dewitt MI 48820
Retreat cost: \$50.00
Lodging site: [Sleep Inn](#), 1101 Commerce Park Dr, Dewitt MI 48820
Lodging deadline: Friday, February 9, 2018
Lodging code: ELMM
Lodging rate: \$74-\$90