

Congregations of the ELCA are tasked with calling forth ministry leaders to be pastors and deacons. Congregations of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod hope that you will take an active interest in helping to call forth new ministers to serve the whole Church.

What Is Candidacy?

Becoming a rostered minister in the ELCA begins with a sense of call to serve Christ and his church as a pastor or deacon. Discovering this call and what it means is a process of discernment: prayerful exploration of gifts and skills and conversation with one's pastor, synod leadership, and the wider community of the church. This ELCA process is called Candidacy.

Candidacy is a formalized, yet personally and relationally focused journey in discernment and formation as leader in the church. While the candidate discerns their own call to rostered ministry, the community of the Church is also discerning its relationship with and endorsement of the candidate through the Candidacy Committee.

Candidates for rostered ministry journey through a three-phase process of entrance, endorsement, and approval. These take place in conjunction with academic coursework, ministry formation experiences, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and internship.

If you know someone with gifts for ministry, tell that person today! If you yourself sense a call to be a pastor or deacon, begin a conversation with your pastor or spiritual mentor to continue your discernment. Then contact the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Pastor Ken Sandlin, ken.sandlin@csis-elca.org to begin the candidacy process. Candidates should be entranced into ELCA candidacy before enrolling in seminary.

CSIS-ELCA.org/candidacy



Congregations of the ELCA are tasked with calling forth ministry leaders to be pastors and deacons. Congregations of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod hope that you will take an active interest in helping to call forth new ministers to serve the whole Church.

What Is Candidacy?

Becoming a rostered minister in the ELCA begins with a sense of call to serve Christ and his church as a pastor or deacon. Discovering this call and what it means is a process of discernment: prayerful exploration of gifts and skills and conversation with one's pastor, synod leadership, and the wider community of the church. This ELCA process is called Candidacy.

Candidacy is a formalized, yet personally and relationally focused journey in discernment and formation as leader in the church. While the candidate discerns their own call to rostered ministry, the community of the Church is also discerning its relationship with and endorsement of the candidate through the Candidacy Committee.

Candidates for rostered ministry journey through a three-phase process of entrance, endorsement, and approval. These take place in conjunction with academic coursework, ministry formation experiences, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and internship.

If you know someone with gifts for ministry, tell that person today! If you yourself sense a call to be a pastor or deacon, begin a conversation with your pastor or spiritual mentor to continue your discernment. Then contact the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Pastor Ken Sandlin, ken.sandlin@csis-elca.org to begin the candidacy process. Candidates should be entranced into ELCA candidacy before enrolling in seminary.

CSIS-ELCA.org/candidacy



Serving as a Minister

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has two rosters for those who serve the church as public leaders.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament are pastors who offer the hope of the sacraments and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in congregations and other ministry settings, like chaplaincy or campus ministry.

Ministers of Word and Service are deacons whose ministry focuses on connecting the church with the needs of the world.

Every rostered minister goes through theological training and a candidacy process. With new technology, theological training no longer happens solely on a seminary campus. Seminaries offer various programs of online, in-person, and contextual learning. For those preparing to be a pastor, education generally consists of an equivalent of three years of coursework, a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education and a twelve-month internship. For more information about ELCA seminaries visit ELCASeminaries.org.

“It’s not only the job of our seminaries and universities to identify and raise up leaders in the church. This is something that belongs to all of us.”

—Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Synod-Authorized Ministry assists the church in providing Word & Sacrament ministry to congregations when ordained pastors are not available. The synod bishop, with the consent of the congregation, may authorize a lay person to serve in a particular congregation for a designated period of time. Lay people who are members of an ELCA congregation and authorized to serve have been educated through selected adult faith formation classes and mentored by ELCA pastors. Educational courses cover topics such as Old Testament, New Testament, Lutheran Confessions, preaching, and more. For more information about serving in Synod-Authorized Ministry contact Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Ken Tegtmeier at kenneth.tegtmeier@csis-elca.org.

Serving as a Minister

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has two rosters for those who serve the church as public leaders.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament are pastors who offer the hope of the sacraments and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in congregations and other ministry settings, like chaplaincy or campus ministry.

Ministers of Word and Service are deacons whose ministry focuses on connecting the church with the needs of the world.

Every rostered minister goes through theological training and a candidacy process. With new technology, theological training no longer happens solely on a seminary campus. Seminaries offer various programs of online, in-person, and contextual learning. For those preparing to be a pastor, education generally consists of an equivalent of three years of coursework, a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education and a twelve-month internship. For more information about ELCA seminaries visit ELCASeminaries.org.

“It’s not only the job of our seminaries and universities to identify and raise up leaders in the church. This is something that belongs to all of us.”

—Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Synod-Authorized Ministry assists the church in providing Word & Sacrament ministry to congregations when ordained pastors are not available. The synod bishop, with the consent of the congregation, may authorize a lay person to serve in a particular congregation for a designated period of time. Lay people who are members of an ELCA congregation and authorized to serve have been educated through selected adult faith formation classes and mentored by ELCA pastors. Educational courses cover topics such as Old Testament, New Testament, Lutheran Confessions, preaching, and more. For more information about serving in Synod-Authorized Ministry contact Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Ken Tegtmeier at kenneth.tegtmeier@csis-elca.org.