

# Gifted for Ministry

*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 for the Church.*

## Calling Forth Gifts for Ministry

How do you describe the qualities of a pastor or other ministry leader? What gifts do they bring for ministry?

Have you seen these gifts in any one you know? Have you told them? If you haven't, why not?

Many pastors say they pursued the vocation of ministry after other people named their gifts or asked them, "Have you ever thought about being a pastor?" When you name someone's gifts for ministry, this is the Holy Spirit at work. You are participating in God's kingdom work of caring for the Church!

Some gifts for ministry you may recognize:

- Openly expresses love for Jesus
- Cares deeply for the well-being of others
- Communicates well
- Enjoys teaching
- Shows leadership in the congregation
- Works well with all ages, visiting with seniors, chatting with children, and going deep with youth and young adults
- Builds community, bringing people together for a common purpose

What other gifts might you name? Whom do you know that exhibits these types of gifts?

All of us are to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations and communities to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel. If you know someone who shows a gift for ministry, help mentor, and foster them. Together – pastors, deacons, lay people – we can bring the word of God to the world.

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## Meet Brian Moeller, a C/SIS Ministry Candidate

Grace and Peace to you! Like many other “second career” seminarians, my sense of call and the process to ordination has been multi-faceted and incredibly rewarding.

But it all fell into place when I let go of the need to plan out every detail, and instead put my faith in God and his timing, which is always right. Perhaps more difficult was practicing what I was learning to preach: to be in the world, but not of it. My call required letting go of the need to store up security in all its various forms. To stop chasing all the unnecessary material things the world expects us to have. To instead trust that God will provide.



Along the way, I've had the opportunity to find a deeper understanding of our Lutheran theology, participate in detailed studies of the scriptures, and observe preachers who are masters at their craft. I've become a theologian of the cross and look forward to a lifetime of study, worship, and service.

If you feel called to ministry, there are synod and seminary staff ready to walk with you on the journey. Today more than ever, classes are offered at times that make it possible to keep your job during the process. Financial assistance that was unheard of only a few years ago is readily available. Opportunities are out there to help you stay centered and to experience God's love in new and unexpected ways. I encourage you to trust in God's timing, and his plan for your future.



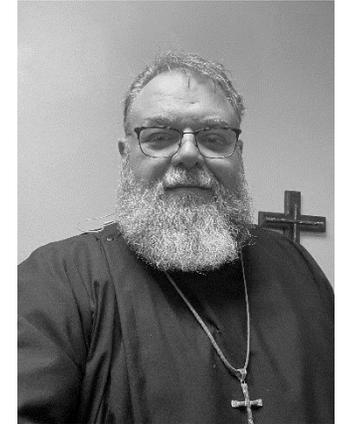
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