

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.

Seminary Pathways

Seminary education to become a pastor in the ELCA generally consists of an equivalent of three years of coursework, a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education and a twelve-month internship. Traditionally students were physically located on a seminary campus, with two years of coursework, a year of internship, followed by a final year of coursework. Now there are additional paths for moving through this formation process.

Distributed Learning: Most coursework is online with some on-campus coursework throughout the years. While full-time coursework is covered over a three-year period, students can extend the timeline based on life circumstances. A twelve-month internship falls near or at the conclusion of coursework.

Collaborative Learning: Students spend four years embedded in a congregation, working twenty hours per week with most coursework online and one week on campus each semester. Eighteen months of the four years will be a full-time internship.

Wartburg 3+3 Accelerated Ministry Program: This program includes three years of BA education at Wartburg College with at least one semester interfacing with Wartburg Seminary online learning. The three Wartburg Seminary years may be spent on campus with a twelve-month congregational internship or in a collaborative learning context.

Trinity Seminary 2+2 Structure: Two years of full-time on campus coursework and contextual education in congregations and two years of internship and continued online coursework, with some on campus coursework.

ELCASeminaries.org

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Meet Brett Gosteli, a C/SIS Ministry Candidate

The path through candidacy to ordained ministry can be a long and uncertain one, particularly if you will be a “second career pastor” (meaning you’re leaving an already-established career to become a pastor). Having full support of your home congregation—prayers, encouragement, opportunities to practice what you are learning, and financial assistance—is crucial to a candidate’s success. I feel very blessed to have the full support of my home congregation, First English Lutheran Church in Peoria.

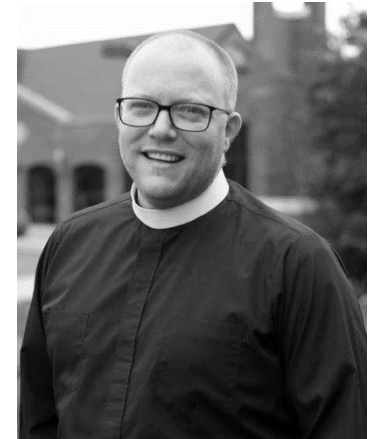


I am currently in my fifth year of seminary, which is my internship year (having already completed four years of study) and owe a lot of my progress to the support my congregation has given me. Over such a long period, there are times of confidence and times of doubt. There are times when everything is going smoothly and when it looks like it all might fall apart. Having a bedrock of support to lend a hand when it is needed, to offer encouragement in periods of doubt, and to faithfully pray for you as you continue on this venture is invaluable.

I am humbly grateful to God and to my congregation for the blessings I have had along the way during my candidacy journey.

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