

## Where should I go to prepare for a church work vocation?

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01/09

# Prepare for a Church Work Vocation



**SERVICE TO CHURCH AND WORLD**

## SERVICE TO CHURCH AND WORLD



God's people join together around Word and Sacrament, reaching out to a lost world. Dedicated, faithful workers assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, building up the Body of Christ. The vocations given in this brochure represent some of the many ways in which you can serve the Church in its vital ministries.

### ■ Pastor

Martin Luther wrote, "There is no more precious treasure, no nobler thing on earth, than a pious, faithful pastor or preacher."

As a pastor, you will be looked to as both shepherd and servant of God's flock. Through you, on a daily basis, God will carry out His most wonderful work, that of saving the lost.

As you care for the members of a congregation, you will be active in preaching, teaching, administering the Sacraments, visiting members, comforting the sorrowing, giving godly counsel, and providing a vision of outreach. You may also serve as a military or institutional chaplain, a missionary, a church administrator, an educator, or a campus pastor.

Preparation for this calling requires four years of undergraduate study, preferably with a Christian liberal arts emphasis, followed by four years of theological study at a seminary.

### ■ Teacher

As a Christian teacher, your life will be dedicated to the exciting and enriching experience of the development of searching minds and the formation of personalities. You will partner with pastors and parents in the joy and satisfaction of preparing children for a life of service to Jesus Christ.

Certified teachers serve in a Lutheran preschool, elementary school or high school. In addition, you will be able to use your gifts and talents in coaching, music programs, adult education, youth programs and/or administration.

You will attend college for four or five years, during which time you will work under supervision in actual classrooms.

*"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:11-12).*

# SERVICE TO CHURCH AND WORLD

## ■ Deaconess

Deaconess means “servant.” As a Christian woman you are given the gifts to serve in a unique way, both within and outside the church. Your vital tasks as a deaconess include spiritual care, teaching God’s Word, administration and social service. You will accomplish these tasks in a variety of arenas: parishes, hospitals, welfare institutions, college campuses, inner cities and foreign mission fields.

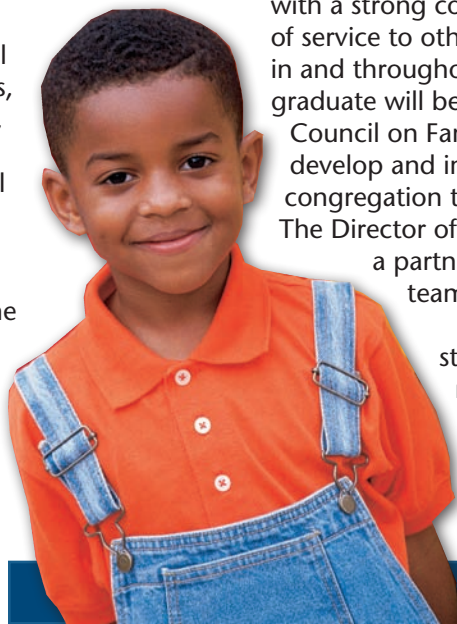
Certification as a deaconess follows one to four years of study (depending on previous education), majoring in theology with an additional area of special interest, followed by a year of internship.

## ■ Director of Christian Education

As congregations grow and adapt to changing demographics in a mobile society, DCEs are needed to provide vision and leadership in coordinating a congregation’s various educational ministries. This can involve all ages, nourishing children, youth, adults, and family groups in Christian instruction and growth in personal faith.

In time you will be qualified to lead, supervise, administer, coordinate, train and instruct in the various educational activities in a congregation.

Academic preparation leading to certification as a Director of Christian Education involves four years of higher education plus one year of internship in a congregation.



## ■ Director of Christian Outreach

As a Director of Christian Outreach, you are a valuable member of an outreach-oriented ministry team. Your primary function is to stimulate, educate, mobilize, and support parishioners in witnessing, evangelizing, and assimilating new members. You might also serve in a mission congregation or develop cross-cultural outreach in the United States or on a foreign mission field.

Your program of study requires four years of higher education and one year of internship.

## ■ Director of Family Life Ministry

Families are the basic social institution that impact individual and communal life. Families with a strong commitment to Christ and a life of service to others provide a positive influence in and throughout the world. The Family Life graduate will be certified by the National Council on Family Relations and equipped to develop and implement programming in a congregation to strengthen healthy families. The Director of Family Life Ministry will serve as a partner on a congregation’s ministry team.

Four years of undergraduate study and a practicum are required for certification.

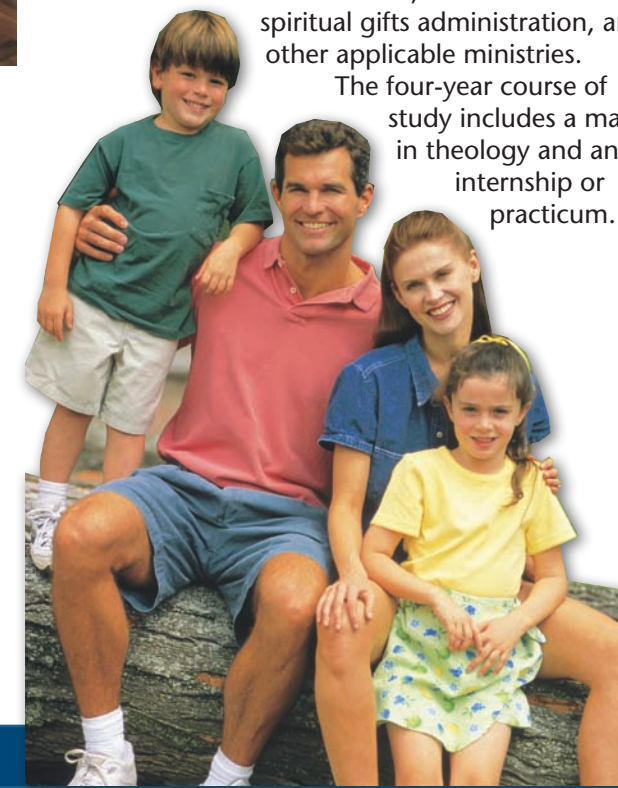


## ■ Director of Parish Music

Music is a delightful, noble gift of God, one of His gifts to His people. As a Director of Parish Music, you will use your talents and spiritual sensitivity to enhance the musical life and worship experiences in a congregation.

You will give leadership to choirs, bands and soloists by playing an integral role in the life of the church and by enhancing your congregation’s love for communal worship.

Your program of preparation requires four years of study along with a practicum in an area church.



*“But the Lord said to me,  
‘Do not say, “I am only a child.”  
You must go to everyone  
I send you to and say whatever  
I command you. Do not be afraid  
of them, for I am with you and will  
rescue you,’ declares the Lord.”  
Jeremiah 1:7-8*

## ■ Lay Minister

Ministry is a team effort. The lay minister works under a pastor’s guidance and direction in a great variety of ways, depending on talents and area of specialty. Your position description could include evangelism, visitation, Christian education, youth work, senior ministries, parish administration, assimilation and spiritual gifts administration, and other applicable ministries.

The four-year course of study includes a major in theology and an internship or practicum.