



Licensed Lay Ministry LLM

In the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Licensed Lay Ministry
Northeastern
Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Why Should I Consider Becoming a Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM)?

Have you ever asked yourself, "What is God calling me to do right now? How can I best serve God and my neighbor? What gifts do I have that I am not using?" If so, perhaps becoming a LLM could be the answer to those profound, discerning questions. The Church has always needed and benefited from lay leaders and the variety of gifts they bring to the Church community.

What Do Licensed Lay Ministers Do?

Licensed Lay Ministers serve congregations and 6261 Ministry Communities in a variety of ways. They make themselves available for pulpit supply when a pastor is away, visit members at home and in the hospital, become assisting ministers for worship, and serve on a variety of synod and congregational committees. Some even serve as the primary minister in a congregation during a pastoral vacancy. Some participate in the LLM formation path because their pastor saw gifts in them; others want to broaden their knowledge of the Bible and the Church.

How Do I Start the Process to Become a Licensed Lay Minister?

To become a Licensed Lay Ministry candidate, applicants must submit the following items:

1. A completed application form.
2. A letter of reference from the applicant's pastor (or a former pastor if no current pastor).
3. A letter of reference from the applicant's congregational council, along with the Congregational Education Agreement.
4. Copies of Child Abuse Clearances, State Police Clearances, and FBI Clearances.

What Does the LLM Formation Path Look Like?

The LLM course consists of 3 parts over the course of two years:

1. **Foundational Courses** in four areas of study: Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Christian Scriptures (New Testament), Theology and Beliefs, and Church History
2. **Four Weekend Retreats** focusing on Lutheran Preaching, Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Theology/Confessions, and Pastoral Care
3. **Mentor Guided Activities** including Sermon Development, Planning and Leading Bible Study, Visitation, Prayer, and Care of Souls, and Teaching the Catechism

How Much Does it Cost?

- The LLM Formation Path costs \$1,000, which pays for 2 years of synodical weekend retreats.
- The cost of tuition for the 4 required classes taken at the candidate's chosen institution for higher learning (often online). This cost varies by institution (usually \$300 - \$750 per course).
- The cost of books for the retreats and classes.

How Do I Start?

You can start the process of becoming a Licensed Lay Minister by going here to submit an online application:

<https://nepasynod.org/llm/>

What if I Have Questions?

Our LLM Director would love to answer your questions.

Please email Pastor Jira Albers at: llm@nepasynod.org

