diakonia program overview

What is diakonia?

“Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone.”
—Mark 10:15

The purpose of the diakonia program is to provide participants the opportunity, discover their God-given gifts, and strengthen their relationship with God so they may serve as stewards of the time, resources and talents God has gifted us.

Is diakonia right for me?

By identifying individual gifts and aptitudes in ministry, and by providing spiritual guidance and encouragement in the use of these gifts, diakonia seeks to fulfill the Great Commission. It is an opportunity for participants to look closely into their own spiritual growth and development in a structured and systematic way, to look at their relationship with God and people, to determine their own gifts and aptitudes, and to search for meaning in their lives.

How is diakonia structured?

The diakonia curriculum consists of twelve courses, six per academic year, all graded on a pass/fail basis. Each course lasts approximately three months, with a reading and assignment due each week. A study day is scheduled at the mid-point of each academic year.

What is the emphasis of diakonia?

The program emphasizes the formation of Christian leaders, who will be able to lead the people of God in the Bi-centennial celebration of the Church, and who will be able to serve the people of the Church in the next century. The program focuses on developing leaders who are able to understand and respond to the needs of the people of God, and who are able to lead the people of God in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

How much does diakonia cost?

Tuition: $1,500 per year (for the two-year program), $750 per semester. Scholarships are available. Books and materials are generally covered by the participant and are available through denominational bookstores.

Where

Brookfield – 420 W. Whitefish Road
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

milwaukee@diakonia.org 414-607-1451
www.diakonia.org 800 244 0262
www.diakonia.org

diakonia
TM
... equipping the saints for diakonia...

building up the body of Christ – Ephesians 4:12

learn more on the website: www.diakonia.org
Introduction to the New Testament

The goals of this course are to understand the gospel message as revealed in the New Testament; to explore the life and faith of the Christian church in the first century; to understand how the Bible came down to us in its present form; and to understand and use a variety of tools for interpreting the Bible. Throughout the course, students will reflect on how the New Testament Gospel has shaped our Christian lives.

Church History – The First 400 Years

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the doctrinal, liturgical, and organizational development of the Christian tradition in its first four centuries. The internal and external political, cultural, and religious forces which shaped our church and our statements of faith are covered. The course concludes with the unification of Christian thought in the Creeds.

Practical Ministry I: Biblical Images of the Life of the Church

In this course each biblical image (diakonia, koinonia, leitourgia, kerygma) is examined for its meaning and usage in the New Testament. Students will consider the implications for the life of congregations and their ministries. These concepts are related to the ongoing work of preaching, teaching, counseling, worship, social ministry, and acts of mercy carried out individually and corporately by the Church and her servants. They are studied in their interrelatedness, all centered in the “Great Commission” given to us by Christ. This practical theology course will explore the meaning of Christian discipleship in daily life. The course will help students to balance their baptismal vocation, the priesthood of all believers, and that we all have gifts that may be used. Teachers may spend time helping students discern their own possible gifts for ministry and service to the church and world.

... equipping the saints for diakonia; building up the body of Christ
– Ephesians 4:12

Introduction to the Old Testament

The aims of this course are to give students an overview of the structure and theology of the Hebrew Scriptures and present the varieties of forms used to communicate the truth of God’s Word contained in them. Special attention will be given to the covenant theology and to relating Old Testament theology and history to our understanding of the New Testament.

Christian Doctrine

This course has several main objectives: to introduce students to Systematic Theology, present a vision of the coherence of Christian beliefs to each other, help identify foundational doctrines, give an understanding of orthodoxy and heresy, gain an understanding of the communal and historic nature of doctrines and their spiritual foundations, and to help students understand and express why disciplined thought and faithful confession is crucial for church leaders.

Faith in the American Context

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the history of the Lutheran church in America over the last 385 years, comparing past struggles and themes with issues in our church today, paying special attention to themes of immigration and assimilation (inclusion/exclusion/language), mission and outreach, authority, and identity.

Practical Ministry II: To Communicate the Gospel

This class will explore the role of the parish community of Word and Sacraments as the context for ministry, the source from which the Christian witness flows. Attention will also be paid to identifying 21st century situations where communication of the gospel is essential and how this communication may occur. The focus of this course is to look at opportunities within the parish for communicating the gospel (Bible studies, teaching, youth ministries, etc.) as well as in the community (various forms of evangelism, welcoming visitors and new members, etc.). Students will share personal ministry experiences of how they uniquely communicate the gospel in their lives, and reflect on them both biblically and theologically.