

# Program Levels

Lay Leadership Training is designed to foster development of personal and leadership competencies on three levels.

## Level I Personal Growth

This level will focus on personal growth, such as growing in one's discipleship while not intending to assume a leadership role in a congregation as a parish ministry assistant or deacon.

## Level II Parish Ministry Assistant

Congregations are encouraged to engage gifted men and women within their membership to serve as parish ministry assistants in various ministries such as education for all ages, evangelism, visitation, music, care-giving and other ministries. Upon successful completion of all requirements, parish ministry assistants will be certified by the Pacific Southwest District President.

## Level III Deacon

Upon successful completion of all program requirements, including six-month mentoring under his pastor, he will be licensed by the Pacific Southwest District President. With the approval of the congregation and under the supervision of an ordained pastor, the deacon may serve in various ministries which could include Word and Sacrament ministry, as approved by the guidelines of the LCMS.

PACIFIC  
SOUTHWEST  
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LCMS

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# Lay Leadership



## Mission Statement

Lay Leadership, through a series of established courses, trains, equips and certifies lay persons to assist LCMS pastors and congregations in carrying out the Great Commission.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST  
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# Areas of Service

Graduates will be able to work in a variety of areas of service in the local parish, including but not limited to the following as determined by the pastor and congregation. Possibilities may include:

- Assist in developing outreach ministries
- Assimilation of new members
- Assist in developing stewardship programs
- Assist in developing small-group ministries
- Assist in family-life education
- Assist in the care-giving ministry of the parish, including hospital, home visits and care centers
- Assist in children's ministries
- Assist in youth ministries
- Give assistance in keeping in touch with members who are not worshipping regularly
- Developing men's and women's ministries
- Developing summer day camps for children and youth
- Prayer ministry
- Licensed deacons leading worship services under the supervision of an LCMS pastor at the request of the congregation

# Courses

Lay Training offers a series of ten courses, using qualified LCMS pastors and educators to equip servant leaders to assist pastors and congregations in carrying out the Great Commission and enable those who are qualified to enter the LCMS Distance Education Leading to Ordination (DELTO) Program, upon recommendation by the Pacific Southwest District President. Courses include:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christian Doctrine
- Care-Giving
- Leadership Skills
- Church History & Polity from a Lutheran Perspective
- Evangelism and Assimilation
- Teaching the Faith
- Lutheran Worship
- Homiletics

The first eight of the above courses are required for women who wish to be a parish ministry assistant. All ten of the above courses are required for men desiring to be a licensed deacon.

Continuing education courses are highly encouraged for licensed deacons and certified parish ministry assistants.

## Course Requirements and Cost

All courses require a minimum of 18 class hours. The cost for each course is \$150. Textbooks and materials are purchased by each student. All checks are to be made payable to the *Pacific Southwest District*.

## Certified Parish Ministry Assistants and Licensed Deacons

A certified parish ministry assistant and a licensed deacon are persons who have successfully completed all requirements of the program and are certified and licensed by the Pacific Southwest District President. They are to serve under the supervision of an ordained pastor. Deacons may assume pastoral responsibilities as described in the guidelines approved by the LCMS.

## Entry Requirements

Candidates enrolling to become a certified parish ministry assistant at Level II or a deacon at Level III, shall hold a minimum of a high school diploma or its equivalent. A psychological evaluation of each candidate is required. More information will be received shortly after enrolling in the program. These requirements are for the wellbeing of both the candidate and the church.