



*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season. . . Ps 1:3*

PSALM

Southwestern Washington Synod-ELCA

Lay Minister Formation

The Southwestern Washington Synod seeks to form and support trustworthy, inclusive lay leaders who are grounded in Christian faith and in a Lutheran expression of faith.

The Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry (PSALM) is designed for congregation members who have discerned a call to more intentional and public lay leadership in their congregation and community.

PSALM is a two-year program that takes place over four terms. Each term is approximately 6 months long and begins with an overnight retreat. The coursework for the term is introduced at the retreat by a variety of presenters who bring expertise to the topics.

In addition to course assignments each term, students will work on practical ministry projects in their congregation or ministry setting. They will have an opportunity to share these projects with each other as part of the retreats.

Important Dates

May 1- Applications Open-- *There are 10 spots in the program each year, so early application encouraged. Application period will close when spots are filled.*

August 22, 10am-Noon- Orientation Immanuel Lutheran, Centralia

October 2-3, 2020—Fall/Winter Retreat

March 5-6, 2021—Spring/Summer Retreat

Program Costs

PSALM costs \$500 per term (\$2000 for entire program) to be paid before the date of the retreat. This fee covers the cost of retreats, books, presenters, background checks, and administration.

An additional cost to the student is mileage to and from the retreats.

Congregations are encouraged to contribute to the cost of the program.

Scholarships are available upon request.

Support

Each PSALM student is supported by a mentor (most commonly their pastor), their cohort of students and the SWWA Synod Staff. Between retreats students are invited to a monthly Zoom call with their cohort to check in about assignments and projects, joys and challenges.

Retreats

Retreats take place at Seabeck Conference and Center on Hood Canal. Students are provided with single rooms and all meals. All retreats are required for completion of program. If it is necessary to miss one, student may come the following year when the same topic is presented, provided space allows.

To apply for PSALM

You must be a member of an ELCA congregation in the Southwestern Washington Synod, receive the **recommendation of the congregation's pastor** and the **endorsement of the Church Council**. In addition you must **complete a PSALM application**. All of these materials may be found at www.lutheranssw.org under the "Leader Resources" tab. To be accepted into the program you must **complete and pass a background check** used by the Synod for its leaders. A link will be sent to you after your application is received.

Coursework and Project Topics for PSALM

YEAR 1

Fall/Winter
Term

Pacific
Northwest
Context

Introduction to
Old and New
Testaments

Spring/Summer
Term

Lutheran
Worship

Pastoral Care

YEAR 2

Fall/Winter
Term

Church
History

Evangelism in a
Pluralistic
Culture

Spring/Summer
Term

The Craft of
Preaching

Lutheran
Theology