



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT A PARISH LAY MINISTER

A Parish Lay Minister...

- is an active and committed layperson who can receive training for an intentional ministry of serving, through the pastor, while remaining in their home congregation.
- participates in a ministry of service, in their home congregation, complementing both the pastoral and lay ministries.
- is inwardly compelled and outwardly affirmed for service in both the congregation and the world.
- Is an essential connection between serving God and serving our neighbor.
- ministers by nurturing their life in Christ, thus grounding their ministry in the gospel, for the sake of the community.

Steps/requirements to become a Parish Lay Minister...

- high school diploma or equivalent
- discernment with pastor, family and friends
- endorsement by one's pastor
- application submitted to the Parish Lay Minister Oversight Committee
- course requirements and practicums
- Table Talk (conversation between candidate, pastor, Bishop's Oversight Committee)
- approval for commission the Parish Lay Minister Oversight Committee
- Commissioning

What are some of the possible functions of a Parish Lay Minister?

- - Liturgical (not to replace other lay leaders, but to work with)**
 - To carry the Paschal Candle in procession.
 - To assist in Liturgies and Sacraments.
 - To read the gospel lesson in worship.
 - To compose and say the bidding prayers of the congregation at worship services.
 - To prepare the table for Eucharist at worship.
 - To distribute Communion to the sick and homebound, and to train other lay assistants to distribute Communion to the homebound.
 - To lead music and other specific forms of ministry if trained.
- **Pastoral**
 - To visit the sick and homebound.
 - To visit a prospective new member of the congregation.
 - To participate in new member orientation.
 - To teach catechism and other classes.
 - To lead study groups and prayer groups.
 - To coordinate and train ushers, greeters, Altar Guild, and other liturgical participants.
 - To respond in crisis situations, providing physical and spiritual attendance.
- **Outreach and Service Ministry**
 - As a ministry of Word and service of the laity, the ministry of the Parish Lay Minister is also directed outward from the congregation, modeling the Baptismal calling to the mission of the priesthood of all believers. Based upon congregational needs and the personal gifts of the particular Parish Lay Minister, the ministry is also directed in service to the community as a ministry and witness to both members of the congregation and the community.
- **Ongoing Ministry**
 - To meet with the pastor regularly for ongoing study and nurture.
 - To attend to the Parish Lay Minister's own spiritual growth and attend the annual PLM retreat.
 - To meet with the pastor for "mutual consolation and conversation."
- **Accountability**
 - Parish Lay Ministers may submit regular reports to the pastor.

OUR MISSION

"To equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)

OUR RESPONSE TO FAITH:

"What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."
(Romans 4:3)

THE SERVICE OF THE BAPTIZED:

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)

Have questions?

Contact the Florida Bahamas Synod office or visit the website at

<https://fbsynod.com/>