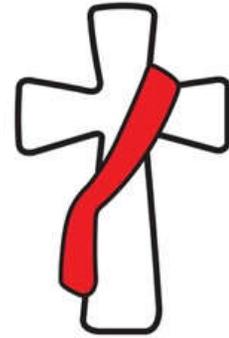


Functions of Synod Parish Deacons



Synod Parish Deacons will exercise their calling in the below listed areas. These areas reflect the historic context of diaconal ministry as well as the present context of the Church.

Liturgical

1. To assist in Worship as determined with the pastor. To lead occasional services, rites, ceremonies, prayer services, as well as lead worship such as the Service of the Word, Matins, Vespers, and Compline. These services are found in the *Lutheran Book of Worship and The Occasional Services*, worship books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
2. To carry the Paschal Candle (Easter Vigil, Baptisms) in procession.
3. To assist in Liturgies and Sacraments.
4. To read the gospel lesson in worship.
5. To compose and say the bidding prayers of the congregation at worship services.
6. To prepare the table for Eucharist at worship.
7. To distribute Communion to sick and homebound, and to train other lay assistants to distribute communion to the homebound.
8. To lead music and other specific forms of ministry if trained.

Pastoral

1. To visit the sick and homebound.
2. To visit prospective new members of the congregation.
3. To participate in new member orientation.
4. To teach catechism and other classes.
5. To lead study groups and prayer groups.
6. To coordinate and train ushers, greeters, Altar Care and other liturgical participants.

7. To respond in crisis situations providing physical and spiritual attendance.
8. To provide leadership at Congregational spiritual retreats.

Outreach and Service Ministry

As a ministry of Word and service of the laity, the ministry of the Synod Parish Deacon is also directed outward from the congregation, modeling the Baptismal calling to the mission priesthood of believers. Based upon congregational needs and the personal gifts of the particular Synod Parish Deacon, the ministry is also directed in service to the community as a ministry and witness to both members of the congregation and community.

Ongoing Ministry

1. To meet with the pastor regularly for ongoing study and nurture.
2. To attend to deacon's own spiritual growth.
3. To meet with the pastor for "mutual consolation and conversation."

Accountability

Deacons will submit regular reports to the pastor.