

Lay Ministry Training Program

Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA



The **Lay Ministry Training Program** has several components, some of which are done in partnership with other synods. The entire program **may** be completed in the same **2-year** period, or participants may choose to participate in individual components as their time allows. Participants are also welcome to take an individual Formation course.

Participants who complete both layers of this program will receive a **Certificate of Completion** and will be considered **Certified Lay Assisting Ministers (CLAMs)**. Certified Lay Assisting Ministers are equipped to serve as Lay Ministers in the life and ministry of their congregation and the larger Church, and **may** be authorized to serve as **Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs)** when a need arises.

Academic Courses:

We have partnered with the North Texas North Louisiana synod, so our students complete their academic coursework through their Parish Lay Ministry Academy (PLMA) program. More information can be found at <https://www.ntnl.org/ministries/plma/description-registration/>

Formation Courses:

We have partnered with the Southeastern IA Synod, the Western IA Synod, and the South Central Synod of Wisconsin to offer Formation courses on practical ministry topics.

Mentoring:

Participants meet regularly with a mentor, who is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament serving in the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Participants often meet together as a cohort with their mentor to share their learnings.

Retreats:

Once or twice a year, participants will gather for in-person retreats.

For more information, or to apply, go to <https://neiasynod.org/2025/08/lmt-2024/> or contact Pr. Kristen Rod, rodk@neiasynod.org, 319-352-1414.

	When do courses meet?	What will I learn about and do?	How much does it cost?
Academic Courses	Typically the 2 nd Saturday of the month during September, October, & November, and March, April, & May, 9:30am–3:30pm on Zoom.	PLMA courses cover topics like Bible, Lutheran theology, church history, and worship.	Tuition for the PLMA program is currently \$225 per semester, plus the cost of books.
Formation Courses	Formation courses typically meet on Zoom from 9:30am to noon, typically one Saturday a month for 3 months per semester (fall and spring). 9:30am–noon on Zoom.	Formation courses cover practical ministry topics such as preaching, faith formation, pastoral care, and congregational administration.	Provided to participants at no cost. These courses are fully funded through the generous Mission Support contributions of congregations in our partnering synods.
Mentoring	About once a month, scheduling with their mentor at times that work for all involved, on Zoom or in person.	Mentors will offer scholastic, emotional, and spiritual support. Mentors may also review assignments and sermons with participants.	Provided to participants free of charge, supported by the NEIA Synod's Lay Training Fund—established through the 2023 Fall Appeal—and by a Castle Grant from Wartburg Seminary.
Retreats	Retreats are held in-person on Saturdays once or twice per year.	Hands-on opportunities to practice presiding over sacraments and funerals, and other worship experiences	Currently covered by the Lay Training Fund and a Castle Grant. Participants pay only for costs of meals.

