



## *Here's what pastors have to say about Teaching Diakonia!*



**Pastor Dick Inglett**

"The real reason I love to teach in the Diakonia program has nothing to do with numbers or leadership development. I love to teach because of the relationships that are developed. I love to teach because there are so few places in our daily life where we can think deeply, try out new thoughts without being judged, study scripture in a way that challenges us instead of making scripture conform to us. It is the best experience to see a student's face light up when they get it. Not that I, as the teacher, told them but that they just got it, through their struggle, the support of the group, the movement of the Holy Spirit the light bulb just simply turned on and they say oh and ah. My simple observation is that in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin it is Diakonia School now and Lay School before that has led the way in encouraging, developing and empowering leadership within our synod for the good of the greater church." ~Dick Inglett

"I have been ordained for nineteen years and I have served in a variety of ministry settings. I love thinking about theological matters and concepts. When I was invited to teach "Introduction to Christian Doctrine," I realized this was an opportunity to intentionally study and reflect upon the basic systematic constructs of our life of faith. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading and contemplating doctrinal matters once again. My hope for the Diakonia students, who engage in the "Introduction to Christian Doctrine," is for students to recognize how they already know many of these constructs but simply did not have a name for them. I hope they become interested and energized by what we talk about together as a means to deeper faith and life of faithfulness." ~Naomi Garber



**Pastor Naomi Garber**



**Rev. Rich Johnson**

"I retired from 35 years of pastoral ministry, most recently at All Saints, Fitchburg, WI as mission developer/pastor. I've enjoyed outreach, deaconess supervision, lay school mentoring, and the ELCA coaching ministry, so I look forward to the Christian Worship session. I invite students to be part of this to explore, rediscover, and reflect on the joys of worship, the power and presence of the Sacraments, Gospel, and our Lutheran treasures in the liturgy and lectionary. I hope participants will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in their personal and congregational worship, add tools in worship design, appreciation, and teaching, as well as desire to invite others to worship." ~ Rich Johnson

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See reverse for testimonials on the benefits of sending members to Diakonia.

Check the Synod Ministries > Diakonia page on the synod website for registration forms and additional information.  
[www.scsw-elca.org](http://www.scsw-elca.org)





## *Here's what pastors have to say about Sending Members to Diakonia!*



**Pastor Bryan Lagerstam**

"Linda Wulff attended and completed the Diakonia program. Throughout and after the program, she has developed her qualities as a lay leader in the church. She is trusted and liked by the congregation to lead worship, particularly in the absence of the pastor. So she has saved us a lot of money on pulpit supply! For about a year, she led a small prayer service on Wednesday evenings, specifically designed to not be pastor-led, but a small group of lay people gathering around scripture and prayer. To lead that, we met weekly to talk about the scripture readings, and it was very enlivening to me to have someone to talk deeply with about scripture. We continue to talk about ways in which she can use the skills and knowledge she acquired through Diakonia to benefit the congregation." ~ *Pastor Bryan Lagerstam, St. John's (Beaver Dam)*

"New Heights has been gifted with a humble servant leader who shares her gifts in a variety of ways. Growing in confidence, Janean has been empowered and encouraged to step out of her comfort zone and step-up into new roles. Sometimes that is in leadership, other times, it means quietly serving in important ways behind the scenes. What I value most is Janean's openness to growing, learning and serving. She seeks to follow Jesus faithfully each day and that has an deep impact for her personally as well as for our church." ~ *Pastor Rob Nelson, New Heights (Black Earth)*



**Pastor Rob Nelson**



**Pastor Tim Hansen**

"I am happy to support the work of the Diakona program in the church. At Our Savior's we have had a number of students participate and grow in their faith. While it may lead to new discernment about how to use certain gifts, it is even more valuable for the growth in their understanding of their own faith. As a result of such learning it has impacted our ministry around this place through new eyes to see and new questions asked. I would heartily recommend this program to anyone who wants to intentionally grow deeper in their faith." *Pastor Tim Hansen, Our Savior's (Sun Prairie)*

**If you are looking for ways to equip and affirm your members, Diakonia is for you! Send your lay leaders to a discernment event near you. If 7 or more students sign up in a conference, we can bring the classes to you!**

**If you would like to teach a course, please contact Diakonia Coordinator, Barb Zimmerman at (608) 535-0264 or email Barb at [scswdiakonia@gmail.com](mailto:scswdiakonia@gmail.com)**

**Interested students should call or text the Diakonia Registrar, Linda Wulff at (920) 210-2675 to register for the program and sign up for classes.**