

Report of the Western North Dakota Synod Candidacy Committee

May 21, 2026

Who is Called to Ministry? YOU Are!

This church affirms the **universal priesthood of all its baptized members**. In its function and its structure this church commits itself to the equipping and supporting of all its members for their ministries in the world and in this church.



Ministers of Word and Service Ministers of Word and Sacrament

It is within this context of ministry that **this church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries** in this church.

(Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 7.11)

We call these leaders rostered ministers: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors) and Ministers of Word and Service (deacons). Those called to these ministries serve in distinct yet complimentary roles.

Every Minister of Word and Sacrament shall

- 1) preach the Word;
- 2) administer the sacraments;
- 3) conduct public worship;
- 4) provide pastoral care;
- 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
- 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications;
- 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.



b. **Each pastor with a congregational call shall**, within the congregation:

- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
- 2) relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;
- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
- 4) with the council, administer discipline; and
- 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and its synod.
- 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

(C9.03. Model Constitution for Congregations and 7.31.02 ELCA Constitution)

Every Minister of Word and Service shall:

- a. be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- b. advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- d. equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation
- h. share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.



(C9.23 Model Constitution for Congregations and 7.61.02. ELCA Constitution)

The role of the synod candidacy committee is to accompany those preparing for these rostered ministries as they prepare to serve. The candidacy process includes seminary study, supervised internship and ongoing ministry formation

By the Numbers: Current Candidates from the Western North Dakota Synod

Candidates for Word and Sacrament: 11

Candidates for Word and Service: 1

Upcoming Ordinations in 2026: 0