

The **Limited Public Ministry** (LPM) Program



Immanuel Lutheran Seminary
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The Limited Public Ministry Program

Offered at ILC for the Benefit of the CLC

After working at a career for many years, do you feel called to do something more meaningful—something with a lasting impact? Have you considered the public ministry, only to abandon the idea because it would require you to “start over” with your education?

If you want to preach the Gospel and lead others to the Savior, the **LIMITED PUBLIC MINISTRY (LPM)** program may be for you.

The LPM program is established for men who fit the description of a non-traditional student (older or second career) and have the desire to study for a limited public ministry.

A working knowledge of Greek and Hebrew is not required, nor any previous college experience. Over the course of three years, students will complete college-level courses, seminary courses, and two pastoral internships. After graduation, an individual’s eligibility as a candidate for the limited public ministry in the Church of the Lutheran Confession will be determined by a committee composed of the CLC president, the ILC president, the dean of the seminary, and the second pastoral internship supervising pastor.

Personal Qualifications

It is necessary that the applicant not only “desires the office of a bishop” (overseer), but that he has the qualifications laid down in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He should be mindful of the need to strive for the following personal characteristics in connection with his public ministry:

<i>Sincerity</i>	Titus 2:7
<i>Selflessness</i>	Philippians 3:8
<i>Humility</i>	Philippians 2:3-8
<i>Dignity</i>	Titus 2:7
<i>Cheerfulness</i>	Philippians 4:4
<i>Purity</i>	1 Timothy 4:12
<i>Tact</i>	2 Samuel 12:1ff
<i>Patience</i>	2 Timothy 2:24
<i>Faithfulness</i>	1 Corinthians 4:2
<i>Accountability</i>	Hebrews 13:17

History of the Program

The Limited Public Ministry (LPM) program began as a Convention directive of the CLC in 1974. From the beginning, it was designed for “experienced laymen who have expressed the desire to be of greater assistance in the ministry of the church,” having “the opportunity for early retirement from their secular career and ... convinced that they have both zeal and energies to combine with their experience toward a fruitful service in the public ministry” (Proceedings 1974).

After it was formally set up, a few early-retirement-age men enrolled in the program in the late 1970s. At this time, required courses included specialized classes outside the traditional curriculum. In 2010, course work of the program was updated. Prior to the June 2021 Convention, the Limited Public Ministry program went through another revision in which **CLC men aged 35 or older could now enroll in a required three-year program that consists mainly of seminary courses in the traditional seminary curriculum.**

The Limited Public Ministry is “that ministry which is limited by the candidate’s training and/or the call of the congregation. For example, the call may include vacancy work, phases of pastoral work, mission calls, institutional work, etc. The call would be limited not only by the candidate’s gifts and preparation, but is limited in point of responsibility, for he will carry out his work under the guidance of a supervising pastor” (1974 Proceedings 36).

Contact Information

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Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply to the Limited Public Ministry program?

The Limited Public Ministry program (LPM) is available only for male non-traditional students (aged 35 or older) who are communicant members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).

What service opportunities are available to a graduate of the program?

The training given to LPM students is intended to prepare them for full-time work in the limited public ministry, with the understanding that his work is under the supervision of another CLC pastor.

Graduates of the program may

- Serve as a vacancy or interim pastor under the supervision of the conference visitor;
- Serve as a resident pastor whose call would have limitations similar to that of a vicar (supervised closely by a neighboring pastor or the conference visitor);
- Serve as an assistant pastor (or pastoral assistant) of one or more CLC congregations;
- Serve as a mission helper, part-time overseas missionary, or outreach evangelist to a congregation.

The type and extent of work to be done by the LPM candidate is determined by the call extended to him (do not assume that the call is part-time only).

How long does it take to complete the program?

The Limited Public Ministry program requires three years of course work, two of which must be taken in residence.

What is the cost of the program?

All tuition charges for Limited Public Ministry students will be calculated at the seminary rate if the student is enrolled full-time in the program. This rate applies also to any college courses taken as part of the Limited Public Ministry program.

Is financial aid available to enrolled students?

Students in the LPM program will be eligible for grants and other forms of student aid if enrolled full-time. The CRM (reverend ministry) program and the LPM program are both approved for VA Benefits and also approved by the Department of Homeland Security for the enrollment of foreign students.

Is the program offered online?

If requested by the student, agreed upon by his pastor or a qualified individual (retired pastor or professor), and approved by the seminary dean, the college and seminary courses listed below may be taken in a correspondence-course format, with the pastor or qualified individual serving as the tutor/instructor/facilitator and the ILC course instructor serving in a supervisory role.

Additionally, a number of the college and seminary courses can be taken online for credit. Online college courses as part of the LPM program are arranged through the academic dean. Online seminary courses as part of the LPM program are arranged through the seminary dean.

How do I apply for the program?

Submit a completed enrollment application to the seminary dean by June 15 for enrollment in the upcoming school year. The application needs to be accompanied by two detailed letters of recommendation: one from the applicant's pastor and one from the pertinent CLC conference visitor. Applications for enrollment will be reviewed by the seminary admissions committee.

If you have a question that is not answered here or you wish to receive an enrollment application, please contact John Ude, dean of Immanuel Lutheran Seminary (john.ude@ilc.edu 715-271-5641).

Academic Requirements

To be considered as a candidate for the Limited Public Ministry (LPM) in the CLC, an enrolled student shall successfully complete all the courses below. It is recommended that Limited Public Ministry students complete the required courses and internships in consecutive years. Other college and seminary courses listed in the catalog may be taken for credit or audited by LPM students as time and other factors allow.

A working knowledge of biblical Greek and Hebrew is not required to enter this program.

The required classes in college and seminary are offered within a cycle sequence as shown on pages 8-10. From year to year the order of the cycles taken by an enrolled student changes. Contact the appropriate dean (academic dean for college, seminary dean for seminary) about the availability of these courses in an online or distance-learning format during a given academic year.

1. **RELIGION 101-102:** College survey courses of the Old Testament consisting of 6 credits in two consecutive semesters have the following descriptions from the college catalog. Religion 101 (3 credits) involves “a detailed study of the major events and individuals of the book of Genesis and God’s dealings with Israel from the birth of Moses to his death.” Religion 102 (3 credits) involves “a survey of God’s relationship with Israel from the time of Joshua through that of Malachi, with special emphasis upon Messianic prophecies.”
2. **RELIGION 203-204:** College survey courses of the New Testament consisting of 6 credits in two consecutive semesters have the following descriptions from the college catalog. Religion 203 (3 credits) involves “studies in the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, with focus on various topics pertaining to the work of Jesus Christ and the nature of His kingdom.” Religion 204 (3 credits) involves “studies in the growth of the Word of the Lord as detailed in the book of Acts and also a survey of the doctrines presented in the New Testament epistles.”
3. **HISTORY 251:** A 3-credit college survey course of Church History taken in one fall semester has the following course description: “A survey of the history of Christianity from apostolic times to the twenty-first century, with emphasis on how God has preserved His truth in the midst of a diversity of errors.”

4. **RELIGION 305-306:** College Symbolics courses covering the Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions in two consecutive semesters totaling 6 credits have the following course descriptions from the college catalog. Religion 305 (3 credits) involves a “study of the history, development, and contents of the three universal creeds and of the Lutheran Confessions from 1524-1530 (Augsburg Confession and the Apology, Luther’s Catechisms).” Religion 306 (3 credits) involves a “study of the history, development, and contents of the Lutheran Confessions from 1530-1580 (Smalcald Articles, Formula of Concord, and the Book of Concord).”
5. **RELIGION 411:** A one-semester college religion course devoted to “a Bible-based comprehensive study of C.F.W. Walther’s *Proper Distinction of Law and Gospel*.”
6. **GREEK 101-102:** College introductory courses on Biblical Greek total 10 credits for two consecutive semesters, with the following course descriptions. Greek 101 (5 credits) covers “New Testament Koine Greek for beginners” and “includes a progressive study of basic vocabulary, grammatical forms, and syntax.” Greek 102 (5 credits) is a “continuation of Greek 101,” which concludes with the “reading [translating] of 1 John 1-3.”
7. **METHODS 326:** A college religion methods course to acquire basic methods of instruction for teaching children totals 3 credits in one fall semester and may be waived under special circumstances.
8. **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 512, 514, 516:** Seminary courses on the pastor’s role as teacher of children and adults total 6 credits in three spring semesters.
9. **BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS 501:** Seminary course on the methods of Biblical interpretation totals 2 credits in one fall semester.
10. **ALL HOMILETICS COURSES:** All seminary courses on preparing and presenting sermons are required of LPM students; these are Homiletics I 501-502 for juniors, Homiletics II 551-552 for middlers, and Preaching 511-516.
11. **PASTORAL THEOLOGY 511-514:** Seminary courses on pastoral practice and responsibilities in the care of souls are offered in cycles 1 and 2. The study of Evangelism 521 (outreach and mission work) and Pastoral Counseling 522 are offered in cycle 3. LPM students will take all such courses; see course descriptions below for Pastoral Theology, Evangelism, and Pastoral Counseling.

12. **LITURGICS 511-514:** LPM students will take all Liturgics courses available to them during their time of enrollment (1, 1) (1, 1).
13. **GOSPELS I-III 521-526:** LPM students will take all seminary courses on the harmony and content of the four Gospels, taken in chronological order, with cursory exegesis attempted throughout.
14. **DOGMATICS 500, 511-516:** All seminary dogmatics courses are required of LPM students; these are Prolegomena, Dogmatics I, II, and III.
15. **OT AND NT ISAGOGICS 513, 515, 524, 526:** LPM students only take the Bible-survey seminary isagogics courses. The Isagogics courses on Canon and Text are not required in the LPM program.
16. **PASTORAL INTERNSHIP 550 and PASTORAL INTERNSHIP 560:** As part of the second and third years the seminary dean arranges two internships in separate congregations, adding up to 12 weeks ordinarily, to be supervised by two host CLC pastors with their evaluations given in written reports. The scheduling of the six-week internships will retain flexibility and not necessarily coincide with the CRM program internships taking place during the first session in the fall semester (due to college courses that the LPM vicar may need to take). The pastoral internships must be completed successfully for the student to be recommended as a candidate for the limited public ministry in the CLC.

Courses are offered in cycles

When students begin seminary instruction, the courses taken in their first year of enrollment could be those in cycle 1, cycle 2, or cycle 3. The actual order of the cycles does not pose academic issues for the students. For illustration purposes the three-year LPM program below assumes the student begins with cycle 1.

Credit hours for each semester are indicated in parentheses; e.g., (2, 2) means 2 credits first semester and 2 credits second semester. Seminary courses completed during junior orientation are noted with *.

Total credits required (ordinarily) to complete LPM program: 125

It is highly recommended that in the second and third years of enrollment, LPM students audit additional seminary courses and/or biblical language courses. Consult with the seminary dean on specific courses to audit. See the full seminary catalog for more information, including the academic expectations pertaining to the auditing of seminary courses.

CYCLE 1
Greek 101-102 (5, 5)
Religion 101-102 OT (3, 3)
Hermeneutics 501* (2, 0)
Gospels I 521-522 (2, 2)
Prolegomena 500* (1, 0) and Dogmatics I 511-512 (3, 3)
Homiletics I 501-502* (2, 2)
Preaching 511-512 (1, 1)
Pastoral Theology I 511-512 (2, 2)
Christian Education I 512 (0, 2)
NT Isagogics 524 (0, 2)
<i>Total credits required in cycle 1: 43 (21, 22)</i>

CYCLE 2
Religion 203-204 NT (3, 3)
* Methods 326 (3, 0)
OT Isagogics 513 (2, 0)
NT Isagogics 526 (0, 2)
Gospels II 523-524 (2, 2)
Dogmatics II 513-514 (3, 3)
Homiletics II 551-552 (midders – 1, 1)
Preaching 513-514 (1,1)
Pastoral Theology II 513-514 (2, 2)
Christian Education II 514 (0, 2)
Liturgics I 511-512 (1, 1)
<i>Total credits required in cycle 2: 35 (18, 17)</i>

CYCLE 3
Religion 305-306 Symbolics (3, 3)
Religion 411 Law and Gospel (0, 3)
(Church) History 251 (3, 0)
OT Isagogics 515 (2, 0)
Gospels III 515-516 (2, 2)
Dogmatics III 515-516 (3, 3)
Preaching 515-516 (1, 1)
Evangelism 521 (3, 0)
Pastoral Counseling 522 (0, 2)
Christian Education III 516 (0, 2)
Liturgics II 513-514 (1, 1)
<i>Total credits required in cycle 3: 35 (18, 17)</i>

Additionally, students will complete Pastoral Internships I 550 and II 560: 12 (6 and 6).

Note: Any college courses marked with * can be waived for a student if the additional course causes an overload in a given cycle, such as in the first year of enrollment.

Eligibility for Graduation and for a Call:

During their time of enrollment LPM students will go through the same evaluation protocols that apply to pre-theology students and CRM seminary students. A recommendation from the seminary faculty is required to proceed to the last step.

When the LPM student has completed all required college courses, all required seminary courses, and the pastoral internships, and has received the graduation recommendation specified in the seminary catalog, his eligibility as a candidate for the limited public ministry in the Church of the Lutheran Confession will be determined by a committee composed of the CLC president, the ILC president, the dean of the seminary, and the second pastoral internship supervising pastor.

Seminary Course Descriptions

Total credit hours for the following courses as stipulated in the three-year CRM program are indicated in parentheses. Courses marked with a double asterisk are required in the LPM program. Some of the other courses may be viable options as courses that could be audited by LPM students.

EXEGETICAL THEOLOGY

P. Naumann, S. Sippert

Introduction to Old Testament Exegesis 500 (junior orientation course)

Selections from the book of Jonah are employed to exercise the application of exegetical principles and to give new students preliminary practice in working with the Hebrew text (1).

**** Biblical Hermeneutics 501**

Beginning in junior orientation and through the end of the first semester, the principles and methods of biblical interpretation, as applied to both Testaments, are taught to first-year students (2).

**** Biblical Introduction (Isagogics)**

Isagogics courses focus on the general background and overall content of the 66 books of the Bible and also include a study of their canonicity and textual integrity. Courses cycle over three years in the two areas of Old Testament Isagogics 511, 513, 515 (6 - first semester) and New Testament Isagogics 522, 524, 526 (6 - second semester).

Biblical Interpretation (Exegesis)

Exegesis courses focus on the interpretation of Scripture texts in their original languages. During a three-year cycle course areas include Old Testament Exegesis of texts in Genesis, Psalms, and Isaiah (18); and New Testament exegesis of Ephesians, Galatians, and Romans 1-6 (12). Exegesis 511-512 (Genesis), Exegesis 513-514 (Psalms), and Exegesis 515-516 (Isaiah) meet three times a week. Exegesis 531-532 (Ephesians), Exegesis

533-534 (Galatians), and Exegesis 535-536 (Romans) meet two times a week.

**** Harmony and Synopsis of the Gospels I-III (Exegesis 521-526)**

During a three-year cycle the life and ministry of Christ as recorded in the four Gospels are studied chronologically, with some attention given to cursory exegesis of the Greek text and to the harmonizing of parallel narratives (12).

SYSTEMATIC (DOCTRINAL) THEOLOGY

J. Ude

**** Dogmatics I-III 511-616 and Dogmatics—Prolegomena 500**

The systematic study of all Christian doctrines taught in Scripture is covered in a three-year cycle, using the class notes of J. P. Meyer as a guide (18). Included as part of the junior orientation is the four-week course Dogmatics—Prolegomena 500 (1).

Symbolics I-II 511-514

The study of the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church is covered in four semesters (8).

Symbolics 522 Comparative Religions

The study of comparative religions is covered in one semester (2).

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

P. Naumann

History of the Ancient Church (Ch. History 511-512)

Two semesters of study are devoted to the history of Christianity from the

ascension of Christ through the Council of Nicea in AD 325 (6).

History of the Middle Ages and the Reformation (Ch. History 513-514)

Two semesters of study are devoted to the history of Christianity as it progressed from the post-Nicene period through the Reformation and to the publication of the Book of Concord in AD 1580 (6).

Modern Church History (Ch. History 515-516)

Two semesters of study devoted to the history of Christianity from the Counter-Reformation to the present, including the developments in American Lutheranism leading to the formation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (6).

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

P. Naumann, D. Schaller, J. Ude

Introduction to Theological Studies 500 (junior orientation course)

A general orientation is given to incoming students, with some focus given to the branches of theology and the various subjects taught and suggested methods for students to derive maximum benefit from their studies (0.5).

**** Homiletics**

The principles and practice of preaching are formally studied in the junior and middler years under the courses named Homiletics I 501-502 (4) and Homiletics II 551-552 (2). All students, including seniors, participate in the student preaching class (course name Preaching 511-516), which meets once a week (6).

**** Liturgics I-II 511-514**

In a formal study of Christian worship and especially the pastor's role as worship leader, course material focuses on hymnody, psalmody, and the liturgy (4).

**** Christian Education 512, 514, and 516**

Three second-semester courses are devoted to the principles and problems of conducting religious instruction in the pastoral ministry. While recognizing every opportunity to teach and apply the Word in the routine of pastoral work, special attention is given to confirmation instruction, both of young people and adults (6).

**** Evangelism 521**

One semester is devoted to the study of mission perspectives from the Old and New Testaments, with attention given also to past and current mission philosophies and to methods of promoting and conducting evangelism in the congregation and synod (3).

**** Pastoral Theology I-II 511-514**

The principles of biblical pastoral practice applied to present-day conditions are studied in a two-year cycle that totals four semesters (8).

**** Pastoral Counseling 522**

In addition to a study of Scriptures to apply in specific situations, focus is given to the objectives, problems, and methods of pastoral counseling (2).

**** Pastoral Internship 550 and 560**

In the setting of a CLC congregation, extended opportunities are given for the student to gain hands-on pastoral experience by observing the host pastor in doing tasks of ministry and by performing similar tasks under the pastor's supervision and evaluation. The CRM and LPM programs both require two internships, one at the beginning of the middler year and one at the beginning of the senior year.