

A GUIDE FOR RAISING UP ELCA ROSTERED LEADERS



ENCOURAGEMENT

The ELCA is enriched by leaders with diverse backgrounds and experiences. When you meet someone with gifts for ministry leadership, encourage them to consider becoming a pastor or deacon in the ELCA. Share with them about the joys and challenges of ministry, pray with and for them, help connect them to resources, and walk alongside them in the process of discernment.

DISCERNMENT

There are many resources available for individuals discerning a call to rostered ministry!

Encourage those interested to explore:

- Online discernment groups and/or one-on-one conversations with a discernment advocate. To sign up visit: <https://elcaseminaries.org/>
- Journi, a self-paced online tool to help focus your faith, your actions, and your relationship with the Lutheran church: <https://www.journi.faith/how-it-works>



FLEXIBILITY

Seminarians don't have to quit their jobs and move to seminary anymore to follow their call! Most ELCA seminaries offer distance learning, hybrid, in-person, part and full time options for study. Explore ELCA seminaries at: <https://elcaseminaries.org/>

FINANCES

The ELCA Fund for Leaders offer full-tuition scholarships for candidates attending ELCA seminaries. Learn more at: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Leadership/ELCA-Fund-for-Leaders>.

Application deadline is Feb. 24, 2025.

Many congregations, seminaries and synods also offer scholarship opportunities.



CANDIDACY

Candidacy continues to be part of the process to become a rostered leader in the ELCA. If someone is considering going to seminary, encourage them to connect with the staff person in their synod working with candidacy! This person's name and contact information should be readily available on your synod's website