

**Diakonia Annual Report  
Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly  
June 2015**

**Purpose and Description of Diakonia**

Diakonia is a two year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Lutheran church. This process occurs in three basic ways:

- by foundational grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, systematic, historical, and Biblical theology;
- by identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry, and encouraging their use in the local parish;
- by providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students, mentors, and instructors.

**Highlights of the Past Year**

Diakonia began its 15<sup>th</sup> year of classes in Metropolitan Chicago in September of 2013. Classes were offered in Glenview. The initial classes in the program started in September 1999.

A joint graduation service was held with the Northern Illinois synod. The graduation was held at First Lutheran Church in DeKalb. The 2014 graduates of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod diakonia program were:

- Eric Enskat
- Mamie Lightford

**Goals for the Future**

This year we plan to again have a joint graduation service on June 27, 2015 at 2 p.m. The graduation service will be held at Peace Lutheran Church in Morris.

In September, we plan our 17<sup>th</sup> year of classes.

**Contact Information**

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Information about diakonia is available at [www.mtselca.org](http://www.mtselca.org) or at [www.thediakoniaprogram.org](http://www.thediakoniaprogram.org).

Respectfully Submitted and with Thanks to God,

Rebecca Dahlstrom,  
Diakonia Chairperson