January Interim 2027 – Opportunities as of 16 October 2027

Wartburg Theological Seminary

This particular document is still a work in progress, to be updated as new information becomes known. Please contact the faculty leader/advisor listed for each January or May opportunity for more information about that particular J course, including questions of tentative dates and anticipated costs.

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PART A – J-TERM REQUIREMENT

For Students Who Started Their Degree in Fall Semester 2025 and Earlier:

For MDiv and MADM Students:

- Your Cross-Cultural Requirement Still Remains, if not already completed. You still need to complete this requirement for 3 credits based on directions in Part B below.
- For the rest of your J-Term requirement, for the one (MADM) or two (MDiv) J-Term courses beyond the cross-cultural requirement, which totals a minimum of 2 (MADM) or 4 (MDiv) credits, any uncompleted J-Terms not already finished can now be filled by additional elective credits in any academic term. These credits are added on top of the elective credits otherwise defined for your catalog definition of the MADM or MDiv degree that you started under. You do not need to complete these credits in January as such.

For MA Students – If you have not already completed your one required J-Term requirement, that requirement is now replaced with needing instead to complete 2 elective credits in a course(s) of your choosing to replace that prior requirement. These 2 elective credits are in addition to the elective credits defined for the MA degree program and can be taken in any academic term.

For Students Who Started Their Degree in Spring Semester 2026, Fall Semester 2026, or after:

For MDiv and MADM Students – You do not have a "January" or "J-Term" requirement as such, but you do still have a Cross-Cultural requirement. You need to complete a 3-credit experience that is designated by the seminary as eligible to fulfill your Cross-Cultural Requirement. Currently, the majority of the identified cross-cultural courses will likely still be taught during the January Interim, although our intention is also to offer at times courses taught either as a Late Summer (late-July and August) or as an Early Summer (late-May and June) experience.

For MA Students – You do not have a "January" or "J-Term" requirement with your degree program. Nor do you have a Cross-Cultural requirement. You are welcome to utilize one of the January offerings or a cross-cultural experience to replacement your degree's elective credits, although you should note that you are not eligible for a cross-cultural travel subsidy.

J-Term Course Grading, Credits, and Tuition Billing: All January and May courses taught by Wartburg Theological Seminary are normally graded as Credit/No-Credit grading only. Courses taken as cross-registrations with another ELCA seminary may receive the grade taught authorized by that particular host school.

Courses that fulfill the MDiv and MADM Cross-Cultural requirement will be 3 credits, regardless of whether taught in January or May. All other January and May courses (regardless of involving travel course or not) will be scheduled for the number of credits indicated. Courses taught by Wartburg Theological Seminary or taken as cross-registered courses through another ELCA seminary will be billed for the number of credits listed at Wartburg Seminary per-credit tuition rate. As billing is through Wartburg Seminary, a student may be able to receive institutional or other financial aid coverage for January or May courses based on other financial aid procedures.

Courses taught through the Hispanic Scholars Program (HSP) have their own tuition rate, charged by the HSP host school directly to the student, with the students needing to arrange with the HSP host school to have their grade transferred back to Wartburg Seminary.

Limits to January Registration – One "J-Term" Course Per Year. Due to financial aid restrictions (by the U.S. Department of Education and their Title IV program), only one course per year can be registered for in each January Interim. This restriction includes independent studies when registered for in January.

PART B – CROSS-CULTURAL TRAVEL SUBSIDY

The Cross-Cultural "January" Requirement: For students in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry (MADM) degree programs, you must complete one (1) course to fulfill your Cross-Cultural requirement. This course must be completed using a designated course that is designed as a group-based course that involves immersion activities (and often travel of some form). Going forward, these designated Cross-Cultural courses will all be offered as 3 credit courses. For the moment, the majority of these eligible cross-cultural courses are likely to be taught as January courses, although our intention is to occasionally offer courses in the Early

Summer (late May and early June). Independent studies are normally not allowed for fulfilling your cross-cultural requirement.

Courses for the Cross-Cultural requirement are normally graded Credit/No-Credit grading only. Tuition for the Cross-Cultural requirement will be billed on the same per-credit basis as other courses, although you may have additional travel-related expenses.

Financial Aid for the Cross-Cultural Requirement: In addition to whatever financial aid you have received that may cover a January, Early Summer, or Late Summer courses, there is a "travel subsidy" available to MDIV and MADM degree students completing a Cross-Cultural-eligible course that meets their required cross-cultural requirement for their program. (Sorry, the travel subsidy is NOT available for MA or Discovery non-degree students, as you do not have a cross-cultural requirement.) You must be a full-time student and in good academic standing to qualify. You can only receive ONE travel subsidy during your degree program, regardless of the amount awarded. Subsidy amounts vary by cross-cultural course, as this subsidy is adjusted to cover approximately half of the major travel cost. Contact the Financial Aid Office for details.

PART C –KNOWN COURSE OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY 2027 AND "MAY TERM" (Early Summer Session) 2027

I. CROSS CULTURAL COURSES

The following courses all meet the MDiv/MADM cross-cultural degree requirement when completed as a cohort, including pre- and post-January meetings. The faculty person named is the local contact for the course, and in most cases the person you will work with in completing the pre- and post-trip requirements for the cross-cultural requirement, as well as sign off on the final grade. Please see that person for more information about the specific trip or course. All cross-cultural courses are usually numbered MN 398W unless noted otherwise.

FOR ALL TRAVEL COURSES, PLEASE CONTACT DIRECTLY THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR LISTED FOR THE LATEST DETAILS ON SPACE AVAILABILITY.

2027 International Cross-Cultural Travel Trips:

- [No International Travel Courses in January 2027]
- **Hungary Immersion in May** (MN 398W-L4, which be registered in the Early Summer Session), **3 Credits** – Led by Prof. Mark Yackel-Juleen. May 17-31. Contact instructor directly for information and in order to make your commitment to this course. Actual academic registration will take place in April 2027, once commitment of students is determined.

2027 Domestic Cross-Cultural Courses (Travel and Course in January):

- **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation** (MN 398W-L1) , **3 Credits** – Led by Prof. Craig Nessan in partnership with the Reconciliation Center at Pine Ridge (South Dakota). January 11-21. Limited to 12 students. Contact

cnessan@wartburgseminary.edu *See further details in Part C below.* As of October 16, 2026, THIS COURSE IS FULL.

- **Milwaukee Urban Immersion** (MN 398W-L2), **3 Credits** – Led by Prof. Cheryl Peterson. January 9-19. Limited to 12 students. Contact cmpeterson@wartburgseminary.edu As of October 16, 2026, this course has 4 students registered and therefore can still include many more students (which will also make the course more viable to run within budgeted costs).
- **American Civil Rights Pilgrimage** (MN 398W-L3), **3 Credits** – Led by Seminary President Kristin Largen and Rev. Lamont Wells. Limited to 12 students. Contact klargen@wartburgseminary.edu *See further details in Part C below.* As of October 16, 2026, this course has 10 students registered and therefore can still take a few more students.

II. Other January and May Courses that may fulfill other degree (or concentration) requirements:

- **MN 397W-L1 J-term Rural Immersion:** Minnesota (one week) and then Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Great Lakes Synod)**. 2 Credits**
  Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen
  Probable Dates: Starting January 4 for two weeks.
  Fulfills: Open to all students; will fulfill the MDiv Rural Requirement
  Course Description Students, together with clergy and lay persons from small town and rural congregations, study issues affecting America's small town and rural (STaR) communities in a highly experiential learning environment. Clergy and lay persons from STaR congregations and communities are engaged as part of the course. The first week of the experience will be centered at Shalom Hill Farm www.shalomhillfarm.org . For Week 2, the group relocates to the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan, to learn from churches within the ELCA's Great Lakes Synod. As of October 16, 2027, this immersion currently has only 1 enrolled student and can easily take more registrations.

- **MN 103W-SD South Dakota Pastoral Practicum**. **2 Credits**. Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen is the point of contact, but not the instructor, as this will be locally led by the South Dakota Synod office in conjunction with congregations in their state. Open to all students; will fulfill the MDiv Rural Ministry requirement. Details are still being worked out. Students will be placed in an active, thriving congregation, where they will learn not only about the ministry of the congregation, but the specific context that shapes its character. Students will be matched with a seasoned pastor or deacon, who can serve as a mentor. This person will not only mentor the student, but also make sure that the expectations for both congregation and student are realistic, and give confidence and structure for the student.

III. ELECTIVE JANUARY COURSES

A. Elective Courses Held during January

- **MN 396W-L1 Technology in Worship**, **2 credits**. Taught by the Rev. Dr. Clayton Faulkner, WTS Dean of the Chapel, January 11-28, with both classroom/synchronous Zoom and asynchronous course pathway options. Enrollment limit of 24 students. *Further details will be added to Part C below as they become*

known. As of October 16, 2026, this course has 11 registrations and can easily accommodate more students.

- **MN 396W-L2 Practicum - Leadership & Larger Church Contexts. 2 Credits**. Led by the Rev. Krs Stache. In-person/On-Site at churches that are arranged. Enrollment limit initially set for 6 students. *See Part C below for more details.*- As of October 16, 2026, this course is tentatively full at six students and the number of churches with arrangements made, with already at least 2 more students on a wait list.

IV. Known J-Term Opportunities that are offered by/through another ELCA seminary:
Each year there are courses shared between the ELCA seminaries. Oftentimes such courses are shared through a long-standing cross-registration agreement between these seminaries whereby the student normally pays their home seminary the expected J-Term tuition fee, and then the student only pays the other host seminary any additional expenses needed for their local onsite participation.

The following course will be offered in January by Trinity Lutheran Seminary (at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio):

- **HTS-2307 WOMANIST THEOLOGY: Centering the perspectives and lived experiences of Black women for theological reflection, interpretation, and ethics. 3 Credits.** January 4-8, 2027, 9 am to 3:30 pm Eastern Time. I believe this is a Synchronous Zoom/Web Conferenced Course, which still needs to be verified. Description: What is the unique role Black women embody in the Church and the Academy? What is the impact of Womanist theology (theology centered on Black women's experiences) on the Church and society? What are the riches of Womanist theology that can help you better understand your own narrative, context, theology, and Scripture? Explore these questions and more as we discover the transformative insights Womanist theology offers for faith, scholarship, and everyday life.

The following course will be offered in January and is sponsored by the ELCA's Deaconess Community:

- **DIACONAL MINISTRY: HISTORY, FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY. 2 Credits.** January 2-9, 2027, Attend In-Person at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darian, Illinois. See the more complete description (currently on page 14) later in this document for more details, including a link to the application form that the ELCA Deaconess Community collects directly. There is a grant available to cover costs. In the past, this experience has NOT been limited to only those who intend to become deacons, but can be experienced by others if space is available (NOTE: in the past years, including last year, the registrations were actually handled by Luther Seminary on behalf of the Deaconess Community. It is unclear from the materials available whether that arrangement will still be the case, or if WTS will end up having its own listed course just for our students to be registered into once we have confirmation that you are indeed accepted into this learning experience or not.)

MORE ELCA CROSS-SEMINARY OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE ADDED AS THEY BECOME KNOW TO THE WTS REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

V. Other known January opportunities that are not part of the ELCA cross-registration program

J-Term HSP Offering. **"Theology, Race, and Capitalism,"** a January course (3 credits) being taught through the Hispanic Scholars Program (HSP), and handled externally with applications made through the HSP web site and participants competitively selected by HSP. The HSP registration process opened October 1, with selection of students completed entirely by the HSP program, with results of selection or not possibly not known until as late as December (so have a backup plan in mind if you need a January course). Taught online January 4-15, 2027. Taught by Dr. Matthew P. Vega, Ph.D. (University of San Diego). See https://hispanicscholarsprogram.org/program/j-term/ for more details.

PART D – REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

For Wartburg Seminary-Taught January Courses: Please use the MyWTS campus portal (https://mywts.wartburgseminary.edu/ics) and its Add/Drop Courses function (found under the Student tab and then selecting Registration) to register for the courses in the first group. Be sure to change the Term to select "2026-2027 Academic Year - January Interim" and then click again on the Search button to bring up the list of January courses.

The waitlist is enabled for course taught by Wartburg Theological Seminary, should a class be full, but adding yourself to the wait list cannot and will not guarantee you to be later added to the course once it is full. Most of the actual travel courses all have limits due to transportation or overnight stay accommodations that limit the ability to add additional travelers beyond their determined limits. The waitlist in this case is to derive a secondary list of possible alternates (by order of being placed on the list) to invite students from should an opening occur by someone needing to drop the course before we get to January. Even the Technology course has an enrollment limit for other practicum instructional reasons.

For Courses Scheduled for May (Early Summer Session): The "May Term" (Early Summer Session) will have it own registration period that comes in late April. In the meantime, you should be in direct contact with any May term course instructor, particularly the travel courses, to separately get counted on their planning list for participants. Once that pre-registration is determined, the Registrar will likely carry out the needed academic registration on your behalf so that you can be billed tuition and be eligible to receive any appropriate institution aid.

For Cross-Registered (other ELCA seminary) January and May Courses: For courses taught by other seminaries, please contact the Registrar directly to arrange for your cross-registration. There is an additional form that the Registrar fills out, which goes to the other seminary to start the process, and typically you will be expected to complete a separate admissions application directly with the other school in order to become a non-degree students with them. Once the cross-registration arrangements are complete, the Registrar will create the needed local WTS registration to match the cross-registration in order you to be billed and receive institutional financial aid.

For the Hispanic Scholars Program (HSP) Courses: For courses taught through the HSP, they have their own online application process. The application process will be competitive between students applying from an unknown number of seminaries, and so there can be no promise that you will be selected for a course. You will pay HSP tuition directly to the seminary teaching the course, and will need to arrange for your grade to returned back to Wartburg Seminary as transfer credit.

PART E
JANUARY AND MAY 2027 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
(Not all courses may have further detailed description available at this time; See the Registrar or the faculty contact person/instructor for more details)

MN 398W-L1 PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION
Instructor: Prof. Craig Nessan
January 11-21, 2027
3 Credits
CROSS-CULTURAL COURSE

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

92 East Main Street
PO Box 862
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

605-867-5262
email: pineridge.center@gmail.com
website: pineridgereconciliationcenter.org

In Person J-Term Session: January 11-21, 2027

The Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center works to build mutual trust, respect, and understanding while addressing poverty on the reservation. This J-term course offers seminary students a cross-cultural opportunity to examine the Christian Church's role in our shared history with the Lakota people—both in causing harm and in pursuing healing. Through this experience, students will reflect on their ministry calling in a time of racial and spiritual reckoning.

PROGRAM FEE: The program fee is $850.00 per student. Half of the fee is due by December 1, 2026, and the remaining balance is due on the first day of class. Transportation to and from the Rapid City airport is available for $50.00 per person.

SCHEDULE: Each day will include two to three presentations or activities and conclude with a talking circle. Students are expected to participate fully in presentations and talking circles. Participants are also encouraged to engage with Center staff and the surrounding community. A detailed course schedule will be provided as the session approaches.

Presenters will share perspectives on life on the reservation, economic and housing concerns, the impact of the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890, and generational trauma. Activities will include visits to local historical sites and ministries, along with discussions of video clips and articles on topics such as boarding schools, accompaniment, and advocacy.

REQUIREMENTS: Complete and submit the online application form. The required readings and assignments for the J-term course are listed below. The remainder of the

course will focus primarily on participation in presentations and discussions. Please contact the Center with any questions.

Required Readings
They Called Me Uncivilized by Walter Littlemoon
The Four Vision Quests of Jesus by Steven Charleston
Native by Kaitlin B. Curtice

Students should read each required text and prepare a one- to two-page reflection paper for each book. The reflection paper for *They Called Me Uncivilized* is due January 1, 2027. Reflection papers for *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus* and *Native* are due January 11, 2027.

MN 398W-L2 MILWAUKEE URBAN IMMERSION
Instructor: Prof. Cheryl Peterson
January 9-19, 2027 (including travel says)
3 Credits
CROSS-CULTURAL COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This cross-cultural immersion in Milwaukee provides students with experience of and reflection upon the challenges and joys of ministry in urban settings. Learning will happen through conversation, service, worship, fellowship and readings. In addition to engaging concepts and practices for effective urban ministry, the immersion will also examine issues of race, culture, social systems, and community organizing from the perspective of Christian faith.

OBJECTIVES
1. To explain theories and practices for urban ministry and apply these skills to other ministry settlings.
2. To practice listening to the views of others, especially to the witness of those whose voices are not often heard by dominant cultures in church and society, to contrast these with one's own perspectives, and to critically reflect on the differences.
3. To articulate an awareness of institutional racism and to explore and reflect on antiracism strategies for use in congregations and local communities.

PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS
Attendance & Participation: The group will spend nine days in Milwaukee (January 10-18), including two Sundays. Travel days are January 9 and 19. Full attendance—including active participation—is expected. Any absences put successful completion of the course at risk. Responsible, respectful, Golden-Rule-style behavior is expected and will be a factor in successfully completing the course.
Reading & Writing: Readings should be completed by the end of the immersion. Students will keep a journal in which they record daily reflections on experiences and readings; this journal must be turned in on or before January 31 as the primary form of written assessment.
Group Expenses: Participants should keep records of expenses on behalf of the group. Individual food or transportation costs are the students' responsibilities. Submit relevant expenses to Dr.

Peterson on or before January 31. Group expenses will be tabulated and a balance due for this immersion will appear in a future student account statement from Wartburg's business office.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Vine Deloria, Jr., *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*. (University of Oklahoma, 1988)
Matthew Desmond, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (Crown, 2016)
Ibram X. Kendi, *How to be an Anti-Racist*. (One World, 2023).
Joseph Ellwanger, *Strength for the Struggle: Insights from the Civil Rights Movement and Urban Ministry* (HenschelHAUS, 2014)

MN 398W-L3 AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE
Instructor: Prof. Kristin Largen and Rev. Lamont Wells
January 12-19, 2027
3 Credits
CROSS-CULTURAL COURSE

Dates: January 12-19, 2026.
Arrive in Atlanta by own transportation on Tuesday, January 12 (by late afternoon) and depart on Tuesday, January 19th (at any time) from Atlanta. Ground transportation will be by vans.

This immersion course travels to Tuskegee, Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Atlanta to experience the geography of repression and resistance that encompasses the rich and living history of the Civil Rights Movement. Students will visit sites of memory that recall the agency of those who have endured disparagement and dismissal in their struggle for civil and human rights. The Equal Justice Initiative and other Civil Rights sites of conscience and memory in Montgomery provide a focal point for this immersion course that both lays bare the ongoing racism in the system of incarceration and that issues a call to an ongoing ministry of reconciliation and repair in our own places and lives.

OBJECTIVES:
1. To explore the Civil Rights Movement through readings, films, and immersion experiences.
2. To instill commitment to anti-racism as a spiritual practice, both personal and communal.
3. To foster leadership practices that empower communities to see and act differently.
4. To participate together as Beloved Community in the activities of the course.

PROCEDURE: The course centers on an immersion at Civil Rights sites in Georgia and Alabama. Thus, the participants will travel to Atlanta, GA, Tuskegee, Selma, Montgomery, AL, and other sites to encounter and reflect upon Civil Rights history and its ongoing significance for understanding systemic racism and advocating for civil rights today. The course will include pre- and post-sessions on Zoom to prepare and process the immersion.

EVALUATION: 1) Completion of assigned readings. 2) Active engagement in discussion at pre- and post-sessions. 3) Collegial and respectful involvement in immersion activities on site. 4) Completion and presentation of a summative project/paper based on the immersion course materials.

Required Readings:
A DIFFERENT BOOK HERE?

Bryan Stevenson (2015). *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*.

King, M. L., Jr. (2000). *Why we can't wait*. Signet Classic. (Original work published 1964)

Holt, Thomas (2023). *The Civil Rights Movement: A Very Short Introduction*.

Recommended:
Generals, D., Jr. (2013). *Booker T. Washington, the architect of progressive education*.

PRE IMMERSION MEETING SCHEDULE (90 minutes each)

Tuesday, December 4 or 7: 5 pm Central/6 pm Eastern (Zoom)
Focus on logistics, introductions & expectation.

Tuesday, January 5: 5 pm Central/6 pm Eastern (Zoom)
Complete reading of the Holt text by this meeting.

Complete reading of Stevenson by Monday, January 11th

Complete reading of King during the Pilgrimage

POST IMMERSION MEETING

Thursday, February 11: 5 pm Central/6 pm Eastern (Zoom)
Students share Summative Projects/Papers.

CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

Day 1: Tuesday 1/12 Arrival
Arrival at Atlanta by late afternoon
(participants make their own travel arrangements to Atlanta)
Group travel from Atlanta will be by vans.
Dinner together in Atlanta
Overnight in Atlanta

Day 2 Wednesday 1/13
Atlanta
National Center for Civil & Human Rights
Atlanta University Center (riding tour)
Overnight in/near Tuskegee

Day 3 Thursday 1/14
- Tuskegee, Alabama
  - Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
  - Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site:
    - Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver
- Selma, Alabama
  - Lowndes Interpretive Center
- Edmund Pettus Bridge
- First Baptist Church
- Selma Interpretive Center
- Dinner in Selma
- **Overnight in Montgomery**

Day 4 Friday 1/15
- Montgomery, Alabama
  - Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
  - Rosa Parks Museum
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald Home
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- Other sites
- **Overnight in Montgomery**

Day 5 Saturday 1/16
- Montgomery, Alabama
  - Equal Justice Museum
  - National Memorial for Peace and Justice (National Lynching Memorial)
- **Overnight in Montgomery**

Day 6 Sunday 1/17
- Birmingham
  - Church and Civil Rights Museum
- Drive to Atlanta for "Steeping Afternoon"
- Dinner on your own
- Overnight in Atlanta

Day 7 Monday 1/18
- Ebenezer Baptist Church- Atlanta
- Carter Center
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park (King Home Tour)
- Reflections & Concluding Ritual

Day 8 Tuesday 1/19
- Depart Atlanta (at any time)

MN 396W-L2 PRACTICUM: LEADERSHIP & LARGER CHURCH CONTEXTS
Instructor: Prof. Kris Stache
2 Credits
ELECTIVE COURSE

DESCRIPTION:
An increasing percentage of church-attending people attend large churches. However, the ELCA has increasingly fewer contexts in which a future senior pastor, deacon, or lay leader could learn the administrative and leadership skills necessary to serve in such a context. Large church leadership too easily turns into a business management position rather than a theologically informed leadership task. This course will provide an immersion experience for students interested in learning from large church ministry contexts, as well as invite theological reflection into the enterprise of ministry leadership. Students will travel to, and engage with, a specific congregation on a particular topic from a theological, contextual, and leadership perspective for up to 5-7 days. This January 2027 offering will focus on mission, vision, and planning in a congregational setting.

Cost: Congregations will cover onsite housing, 1-2 meals/day, and provide a travel subsidy to cover costs to the site, including airport transfer if needed, for all enrolled students. Students will be responsible for additional meals as needed. Onsite accommodations will vary between sites.

SEMINARY OUTCOMES:
- Our graduates will be formed personally and spiritually by exercising professional skills for leading worship and sharing public witness.
- Our graduates will provide effective Christian leadership by speaking biblical, theology, and ethical values into complex settings and situations.

PROCEDURE:
Phase 1: **Prepare.** Students will be assigned (in pairs or small groups) a congregation from a predetermined set of congregational partners. Students will become acquainted with their contexts through online study, a zoom meeting with the senior pastor, and complete all assigned reading prior to onsite visit.
Phase 2: Engage. Students will travel to assigned congregation, observe the congregation and context, and engage in a project assessing an aspect of the congregation's ministry from a theological, contextual and leadership perspective. Students will be meeting with church leaders, general membership, and surrounding community.
Phase 3: Reflect. After returning from the immersion, students will complete a final assignment and meet with other groups via zoom to share learnings.

EVALUATION:
Students will be evaluated on their final writing assignment and engagement with context. Full participation in all activities is required for successful completion of course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: (TBD)

Diaconal Ministry: History, Formation and Spirituality – January 2-8, 2027

For the sake of the Gospel and all of God's creation,
the Deaconess Community of the ELCA fosters
intentional community,
diaconal leadership development,
and dynamic partnerships within the church and the world.
Deaconess Community Mission

Welcome to the J-term course sponsored by the ELCA Deaconess Community. This course was created to share the history, spirituality and impact of diaconal ministry with the whole church.

Students in the course may choose one of the following grant options:
Option 1: Tuition: The Deaconess Community will pay the participant's home seminary directly for their tuition
Or
Option 2: Housing and Travel for the in-person component

1. Double Occupancy Housing and Food at the Carmelite Center in Darien, IL from supper on Sunday January 4 through Breakfast as needed on Saturday January 10th. Course begins on Sunday at 4 pm and ends on Friday at 4 pm.
2. Travel Assistance up to $600 for airline, train or bus ticket/baggage/mileage (not to exceed the cost of a round-trip ticket.) If submitting mileage, you will need your odometer reading.

The Grant Form is to be completed by all participants
https://form.jotform.com/240185670313047

Please complete the Grant Form asap. If you withdrawal from the course after December 15th, you will be responsible for paying the Deaconess community for your housing and food as the retreat center does not provide for refunds and cancellations after that point.

Participants desiring a single room should indicate that on the grant application. There is an additional $250 that will need to be paid to the Deaconess Community. Single rooms are subject to availability.

Participants need to make their own travel arrangements. We recommend booking refundable tickets in the event the class is cancelled or you choose to withdrawal from the class.

Participants should plan to arrive and be ready for class at the designated start time – 4 pm CT on January 4th. Please plan on departing after the end of the course – 4 pm CT on Friday.

Please plan on arranging and paying for your own ground transportation through LYFT or UBER – there are also Taxi's at the airport.

We are excited you are taking this course, and I look forward to meeting you in January!
Blessings,

Sister Dottie Almoney, Directing Deaconess
Dottie.almoney@elca.org