

### **Lay Worship Leader Training**

Allegheny, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Upper Susquehanna Synods  
Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) Joint Training Program (JTP)

The ALWL Joint Training Program consists of four six-to-eight-week courses of distributed and in person learning across the territories of the three synods.

Individuals interested in the ALWL Joint Training Program will contact their respective synod's leadership and follow their synod's discernment and application process.

The Joint Training Program courses consist of the following four courses: Old/New Testament, Lutheran Theology, Worship/Liturgy and Homiletics/Preaching. Each course builds upon the previous course. Students in the Upper Susquehanna Synod participate in a Holy Communion Practicum and a Preaching Practicum.

### **Current Worship Leader Student Information**

Four candidates from the Upper Susquehanna Synod have completed their coursework and with successful completion of essay and sermon assignments were recommended by the LMI Board for commissioning by Bishop Miller. The candidates were commissioned on May 4, 2024 during a worship service at St. John Northumberland where Bishop Miller presided. The newly commissioned candidates served as communion assistants. New Authorized Lay Worship Leaders are: Tina Baucher, Gordon Lee, Michelle Shearer, and John Yingling.

Three students from the Upper Susquehanna Synod continue their coursework in the Lay Worship Leader Training program. They are studying Lutheran Theology with Bishop Michael Lozano.

### **Training Information:**

May 4, 2024 – Sponsored “*A Variety of Gifts*” day of learning and fellowship open to anyone in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Learning topics included: Worship Planning Basics, Worship Planning Advanced, Home Communion (1), Home Communion (2), Using Your Gifts, Recordkeeping/Archiving. 50 people from throughout the synod participated in the event, which was held at St. John Northumberland.

### **Lay Ministry Institute Board**

The LMI Board met on March 21, 2024. Highlights from the meeting:

- Still looking for two lay members to serve on LMI Board.
- Reviewed current ALWL/SAM Roster.
- Board recommended the commissioning of the four Authorized Lay Worship Leaders referred to Bishop Miller and plan made to formally commission them on May 4, 2024.
- Plans made to continue to update the ALWL Handbook.
- Discussed plans for the day of learning and fellowship.
- Tabled discussion on levels of authorization and compensation levels.

Lay Ministry Institute (LMI)  
Report for May2024 Synod Council Meeting  
Written on May 10, 2024

- In the future will work on evaluation sheet for students.
- Next meeting we will assign relators to the three current ALWL students.

The next LMI Board meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2024 at 2 pm in the Synod Office.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Bubb, SAM  
LMI Chair  
May 10, 2024