Deaconess internship

After completing the prerequisite coursework and fieldwork, all deaconess students are placed in a paid internship for one year of domestic or two years of international service. This time is devoted to the practical hands-on application of theological studies and skills acquired for the delivery of diaconal ministry. Periodic reviews and evaluation of interns provide guidance for their professional growth and development.

Internships may be served in LCMS congregations, institutions or Recognized Service Organizations. Each LCMS training program places its own deaconess intern candidates, matching women with placement assignments tailored to the individual skills of the student, ideally providing focus for future service.

Application for an intern

LCMS congregations, institutions or RSOs considering the services of a deaconess intern may contact the following for more information:

Deaconess Jennie J. Asher
Concordia University Chicago
jennie.asher@cuchicago.edu

Rev. Dr. Erik Hermann
Concordia Seminary
herrmanne@csl.edu

Rev. Dr. James G. Bushur
Concordia Theological Seminary
james.bushur@ctsfw.edu

Rev. Timothy Eckert
Deaf Institute of Theology
deaflutheran@q.com

Rev. John Loum
Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology
loumj@csl.edu

Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez
Center for Hispanic Studies
sanchezl@csl.edu

© The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
World Relief and Human Care,
under the Office of International Mission, 2011

Deaconess Internships

LCMS World Relief and Human Care

Mercy forever.

The Church shares Jesus' heart for mercy

Christ our Lord is the physical embodiment of mercy. He came into this world to address the many needs of His creation, both body and soul.

The church continues His work. While pastors preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, congregations and institutions have the opportunity to employ a deaconess intern to assist in reaching out to people in need.

As student deaconesses in the field, interns work in a variety of settings: classrooms, offices, hospitals, homes, shelters, soup kitchens, pregnancy centers, residences for the elderly, special needs facilities and so on.

Congregational settings

Possible areas of service

- Visitation for the sick or immobile
- Women's Bible studies
- Youth ministry
- Older adult ministry
- Sunday school and day school
- Music ministries
- Family assistance ministry
- Grief support and assistance
- Outreach to the poor
- Special needs
- Disability ministry
- Dementia and Alzheimer's ministry
- Blind or deaf minisry
- After-school programs for children
- Bilingual outreach and ESL classes
- Young adult or singles ministry
- Food and clothing pantries
- Coordinating volunteers
- Evangelism or other programs
- Stimulating new mercy outreach

Institutional settings

Possible areas of service

- Chaplaincy care in hospitals, prisons, convalescent homes or hospice
- Parochial schools, childcare, eldercare or other educational programs
- Meal assistance, food pantries, soup kitchens
- Shelters and safe houses
- Homes for people with physical or mental disabilities
- Pregnancy or maternity assistance centers
- Charitable organizations providing community assistance and spiritual care
- Projects and programs designed for specific groups, such as the bereaved, terminally ill, recovering addicts, troubled families, mentally challenged and those who need counseling
- Specializations: deaf ministry, bilingual ministry, cultural ministry and family ministry
- Office specialist, including administration of non-profit organizations