

RETREATS

We meet twice a year for a Friday/Saturday retreat in the Fall and the Spring. Location is typically centrally located in the synod and time is TBD but will be advertised months in advance.

We arrive by dinner time on Friday to spend the evening growing and connecting with some education. We also go over the coursework for the term. We end the day with a Prayer/Contemplative Service.

Saturday, we have guest presenters to teach/introduce the 2 subjects/courses for that term.

We end the retreat with a sending service with communion.



Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Romans 12:2



WANT TO APPLY?

Contact Pastor Michelle de Beauchamp,
Bishop's Associate at
michelle.debeauchamp@swwasynod.org
or call
Southwestern Washington Synod office
at 253-999-1190.

Pastor Michelle will provide you with an application.

Please note to apply you will need to be an active member in one of our Synod congregations.

Pastor Michelle will also provide you with the required pastoral recommendation and council covenant of support. These 2 documents will need to be submitted directly from your congregation.

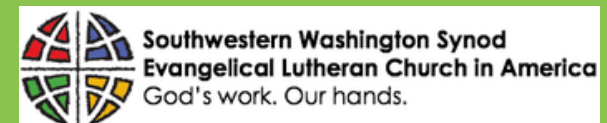
Visit www.swwasynod.org for more information.

PSALM

PATH FOR STRENGTHENING ACTIVE LAY MINISTRY



Formation and Education for congregational lay leaders



WHAT IS PSALM?

The Southwestern Washington Synod seeks to form and support trustworthy, inclusive lay leaders who are grounded in Christian faith and in a Lutheran expression of faith. The Path for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry (PSALM) is designed for congregation members who have discerned a call to more intentional and public lay leadership in their congregation and community.

PSALM is a two-year small group program that takes place over four terms. Each term is approximately 6 months long and begins with an overnight retreat. The coursework for the term is introduced at the retreat by a variety of presenters who bring expertise to the topics. In addition to course assignments each term, students will work on practical ministry projects in their congregation or ministry setting. They will have an opportunity to share these projects with each other as part of the retreats.



PSALM PROGRAM

Year 1

- April 2026 Friday/Saturday Spring Retreat
- Coursework May-September 2026
- October 2026 Fall Retreat
- Coursework November-March 2027

Year 2

- Spring 2027 Retreat
- Coursework May-September 2027
- Fall Retreat
- Coursework November-March 2027
- Synod Assembly PSALM Celebration June 2027 (for all cohorts)

Cost

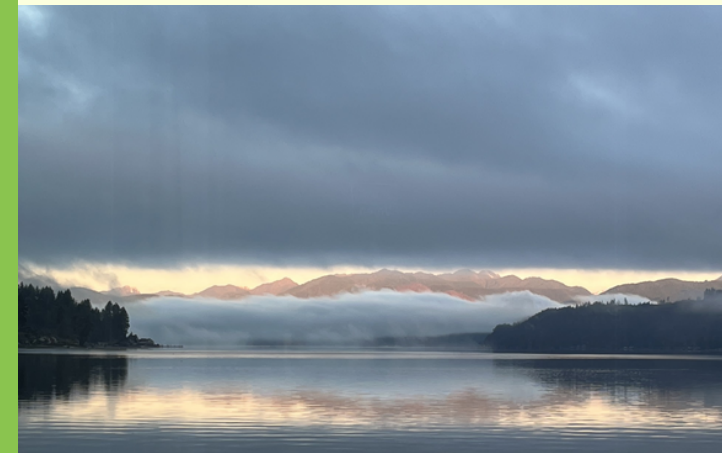
PSALM fees are \$500 per term (\$2,000 total) payable prior to each retreat.

Scholarships are available for anyone who requests it. Thank you to our generous donors for making that possible.

COURSES INCLUDE:

Worship and Leadership
Spiritual Care
New Testament
Hebrew Scripture
Lutheran Theology for Today
Pacific Northwest Context
Preaching
Leadership in Context

Additional educational opportunities outside the PSALM program will be available to enhance your program on leadership, stewardship, first third of life (youth ministry), what is a Lutheran, spiritual practices and more.



PSALM Students have a monthly zoom conversations to allow time for us to share our experiences, seek wisdom from each other and stay connected.