

**1. Educational Qualifications.**

The Apostle Paul’s exhortation to Titus and all elders on the church that came after him, was that Pastors must: (a) be able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2); and (b) hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught to them, so that he/she can encourage others by teaching sound doctrine and refuting those who oppose sound doctrine (Titus 1:9). CALC’s governing documents require that a Pastor of a CALC congregation to preach, teach and administer the Means of Grace in accordance with Scripture, the Ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confession. It is therefore, incumbent upon congregations to call only candidate’s who possesses the academic training and/or professional and personal experience necessary to fulfill the terms of the call to pastoral ministry as set forth above; or is willing to engage in a course of study acceptable to CALC and the Congregation in order to attain the same.

**2. Candidates Trained by a Lutheran Institution.**

**Master of Divinity Degree from a Lutheran Seminary.**

The ideal candidate for call to the office of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in a CALC congregation would be a graduate of a recognized college or university with a bachelors degree and has earned a Master of Divinity degree from a Lutheran seminary. The Master of Divinity degree normally requires three academic years of study, carrying a fulltime course load, while in residence at the seminary, a twelve month supervised internship in a parish setting, and a minimum of two units of supervised Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in a hospital/institutional setting. Candidates who have earned a Master of Divinity degree and meet the personal qualifications for a pastor may be called by a CALC congregation.

**Pastoral Ministry Certificate.**

The Institute of Lutheran Theology of Brookings, South Dakota, offers a Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) a twelve (12) course program – plus a weekend Introductory course. Candidates who have earned a PMC and meet the personal qualifications for a pastor may be called and ordained by a CALC congregation. Information on the PMC can be found in Paragraph 3 immediately below.

**Other Degrees.**

CALC congregations are free to call pastors with educational qualifications other than a Pastoral Ministry Certificate from ILT or Master of Divinity degree from a Lutheran Seminary. Additional acceptable degrees from ILT include their: Associate of Arts in Ministry; Bachelor of Arts in Ministry; and Master of Ministry Degree. Other acceptable degrees conferred by another Lutheran institution include: a Bachelor of Divinity degree; Master of Religious Studies; a Bachelors degree in pastoral or religious studies. Candidates who have earned any of the degrees described above and meet the personal qualifications for a pastor and agree to the expectations for a pastor may be called by a CALC congregation.

**3. Pastoral Ministry Certificate**

This twelve-course program is designed to prepare leaders with no prior theological training to successfully provide pastoral leadership for a congregation. Coursework in the Pastoral Ministry Certificate Program provides a solid introduction to Biblical interpretation, Lutheran theology, church history, and ministerial practice.

**Required Courses:**

BT 221 Principles of Biblical Interpretation	PT 401 Pastoral Theology and Care
BT 311 Old Testament Theology and History (requires BT 221)	PT 411 Lutheran Worship
BT 321 New Testament Theology and History (requires BT 221)	PT 421 Proclaiming God’s Word
EPR 241 Christian Apologetics	<b>Two of the following three course options.</b>
HST 201 Systematic Theology	HST 301 History of the Early Christian Church
HST 321 Luther and His Catechisms	HST 302 History of the Medieval and Reformation Christian Church
HST 331 Lutheran Reformers and the Book of Concord	HST 303 History of the Post-Reformation Christian Church

**Course Descriptions:**

**BT 221: Principles of Biblical Interpretation** (3 Credits)

This course introduces and defends the Lutheran notion of the internal clarity of Scripture. Over and against much of the preceding tradition, Lutherans have claimed that no intermediary is required to interpret Scripture: Scripture interprets itself. This understanding is defended as the necessary condition of doing Lutheran theology faithfully. Various exegetical and hermeneutical methodologies are introduced and evaluated in light of theological pre-understandings.

**BT 311: Old Testament Theology and History** (3 Credits)

This course introduces the Old Testament, giving careful consideration to matters of interpretation and examining theologically the Torah, the Writings, and the Prophets. Old Testament stories are seen against the backdrop of God’s law and Gospel. Prerequisite: BT 221.

**BT 321: New Testament Theology and History** (3 Credits)

This course introduces the New Testament, giving careful consideration to matters of interpretation and examining theologically the Synoptic Gospels, John, Acts, the Pauline Epistles, the Pastoral Epistles, and the Book of Revelation. Prerequisite: BT 221.

**EPR 241 Christian Apologetics** (3 Credits)

This course is a survey of the nature, objectives, and the importance of Christian apologetics in contemporary culture, with particular emphasis on the application of Christian education and evangelism.

**HST 201: Systematic Theology I** (3 Credits)

This course explores from a Trinitarian perspective the traditional topics of theology: God, creation, fall, human beings, sin, Christ, justification, atonement, regeneration, Holy Spirit, sanctification, Church, sacraments, eschatology, and vocation. It also introduces the essential distinctions necessary for conducting systematic theology.

**HST 321: Luther and His Catechisms** (3 Credits)

This course studies the life of Dr. Martin Luther within his historical context. His theological innovations are highlighted and related to our contemporary cultural understandings. Special attention is given to his Large Catechism and Small Catechism, documents that display clearly the depth of his thinking. Students are taught to think theologically in the way of the Lutheran Reformation. Major theological doctrines forged in the Reformation are carefully considered and applied to parish ministry today.

**HST 331: Lutheran Reformers and the Book of Concord** (3 Credits)

This course examines the classical theological roots of the Lutheran Reformation, its leading figures, and its key documents – especially those collected in the Book of Concord. Students are encouraged to think theologically in the way of the Lutheran Reformation. Major theological doctrines forged in the Reformation are carefully considered in light of how they apply to parish ministry today.

**PT 401: Pastoral Theology and Care** (3 Credits)

This course investigates the relationship between the office of pastor, the content of historical faith, and concrete issues arising within a context of pastoral counseling. Emphasis is placed upon the methodological and hermeneutical priority of the Law/Gospel approach within a context of care of souls.

**PT 411: Lutheran Worship** (3 Credits)

This course examines the components of Lutheran corporate worship. Students study the theological foundations of worship. Historical and contemporary issues impacting worship are investigated for the purpose of better understanding the work of God in His Word and Sacrament.

**PT 421: Proclaiming God's Word** (3 Credits)

The student will learn basic techniques and methods for studying Biblical passages and discerning a suitable message for preaching. In particular, the student will be taught the proper place of both Law and Gospel in Biblical preaching. Various approaches to developing and delivering a sermon will be examined. The students will write and deliver sermons as a crucial part of their development of proclaiming God's word.

**HST 301 History of the Early Christian Church** (3 Credits)

This course examines the development of the Christian movement from the time of the New Testament to the end of the eighth century, what is widely considered the conclusion of the age of the Church Fathers. Special attention is given to the development and repudiation of classical heresies as well as the decrees and theology of the seven ecumenical church councils. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of Church history for Christian proclamation.

**HST 302 History of the Medieval and Reformation Christian Church** (3 Credits)

This course examines the Christian movement through developments in both the West and the East from the beginning of the medieval era (ca. 800 A.D.) to the end of the Reformation of the Western Christian Church with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 A.D. Special attention is given to the physical expansion of Christianity, tension and division between Eastern and Western Christianity, the Crusades, liturgical development, medieval heresies, scholasticism, and mysticism. Much focus is placed on calls for the reform of Western Christianity and the emergence and development of Lutheranism and other Reformation traditions. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of Church history for Christian proclamation.

**HST 303 History of the Post-Reformation Christian Church** (3 Credits)

This course examines the Christian movement from the beginning of the modern era (ca. 1650 A.D.) to the present. Topics to be considered will be the development of Protestant scholasticism and orthodoxy, the emergence of various forms of

Pietism, the age of the Enlightenment, developments in Anglicanism, Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy, and Nordic revival movements. Immigration and developments in American Christianity will also be addressed, with a special focus on American Lutheran history. Lastly, missionary movements in the modern era and the emergence of Christianity as a world religion will be discussed. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of Church history for Christian proclamation.