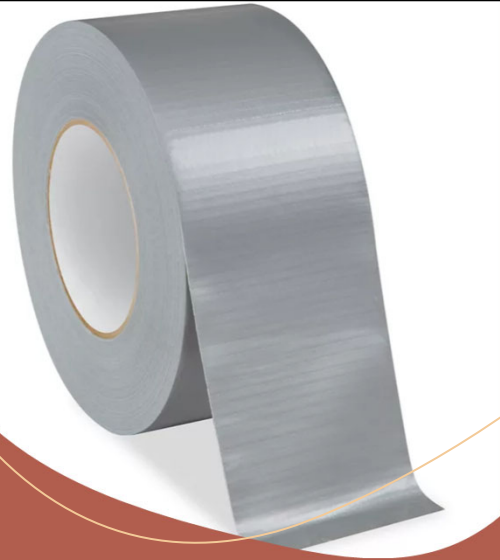


All in a Day's Work

Deacons:
The Duct Tape that Holds
the Church Together



1

What's a Deacon?

- When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed in 1988 it established three rosters: Pastors, Deaconesses, and Associates in Ministry.
- In 1993 a roster of Diaconal Ministers was added, and the first were consecrated in 1995.
- These rostered leaders are called through the ELCA to serve congregations as well as through other officially called ministries. Some on each of the rosters of the ELCA are chaplains, therapists, musicians and cantors, seminary faculty and administrators, social workers and churchwide and synod leaders.
- At the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly changes were made to the three rosters of lay leaders. As of January 1, 2017, those who have served on the lay rosters as Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Deaconesses are now part of **one unified roster of 'Ministers of Word and Service,'** and are called Deacons. The other roster of the ELCA continues to be known as "Ministers of Word and Sacrament," called Pastors.

"Welcome to our Deacons! Wait, what? What's a Deacon?"
Carol Schickel, Deacon

2

The Ways in Which We Serve



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3

Deacon Lavelva Stevens Music Director and Organist Holy Trinity, Wytheville



- Ordained in 1981
- As Director of Music, I play the organ and piano for worship services, direct the Handbell Choir and coordinate special music

4

Deacon Liz Brendle Fox Hampton Healthy Families



- Ordained in 2011
- Work with Hampton Healthy Families which serves ALL families in Hampton with preventative resources
- Trained in Postpartum Depression Screenings, ACES, and getting direct support to families
- The best part of my job, I serve everyone and there are no requirements to receive services, you just have to live in Hampton

5

Deacon Lisa Geiger St. Michael, Virginia Beach



- Ordained in 2018
- General ministry in the parish with emphasis on administration
- Also serve the Synod as the Candidacy Process Administrator and Secretary of the Assembly
- Deacon is a “second career” for me

6

Deacon Emily Edmonds Staff Chaplain Central Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg



- Ordained in 2021
- Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Alumni
- Hospital Chaplain specializing in acute psychiatric care
- Board Certification through the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) in 2023

7

Sister Phyllis Cox Regional Faith Outreach Coordinator Virginia Interfaith Power and Light(VAIPL) Shenandoah and Roanoke Valleys



- Ordained in 2021
- My work helps others learn about VAIPL and its mission
- Assist VAIPL with their legislative work in the VA General Assembly
- Work with the folks who are reviving RAISE- Roanoke Area Interfaith Stewards of the Earth

8

Myth Busters

- Deacons are Pastors in training
- Deacons are Pastors' assistants
- Deacons want to be pastors
- Becoming a Deacon takes less time and education than becoming a pastor
- Pastors "outrank" Deacons
- Deacons are not clergy

9



Q&A

10