



To: Bishop Erik Gronberg, and the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Council

From: Jeanne Heggen and Pr. Jesus Escamilla, PLMA Deans

SUBJECT: Report of the Parish Lay Ministry Academy, April 2026

Jeanne Heggen continues as Dean of the English-speaking module. Pr Jesus Escamilla continues as Dean of the Spanish-speaking module.

During the Covid pandemic, we began PLMA classes taught via Zoom. The English track continues this practice as it enables students from conferences outside of the metroplex join in. A blessing! The Spanish track has switched to meeting via Zoom, and it is working well!

The English track continues to enroll students from the Northeast Iowa Synod. And we got a call from someone in the Arkansas Synod who asked if they could enroll.

Our Spring 2025 class includes 20 students: nine from the NTNL and six from Iowa, along with five in the Spanish module. Thanks to Pastors Kyle Rouze, Kendra Mohn, Paul Mussachio, Jesus Escamilla, Irma Banales, and Moises Carrasquillo for teaching.

Our Fall 2025 class was a total of 22 students: 15 from the NTNL, six from the synods up north, and one from Arkansas in the English module, and five in the Spanish module. Thanks to Pastors Kristin Klade, Adam Stockton, Kris Totzke, Jesus Escamilla, Irma Banales, and Moises Carrasquillo for their teaching talents.

Bad news: The winter storm in January forced us to cancel our graduation. Students were sad. Good news: You, Synod Council, as well as the entire Assembly will be witness to our graduating the class of 2025 at worship on Saturday, April 25. Please congratulate our five graduating students:

Carrie Enockson, Central, Dallas

Tom Lee, Grace, Ft Worth

Karen Oehler, Resurrection, Plano

Craig Ongley, Preston Meadow, Plano

Sherree Wood, Messiah, Weatherford

Our Spring 2026 class is getting started with 29 students: 12 from the NTNL, eight from NE Iowa, one from Arkansas in the English-speaking module, and 8 in the Spanish module. Thanks to Pastors Darlene Hopkins, Jon Lee, and Bishop Erik Gronberg, as well as Pastors Jesus Escamilla, Irma Banales, and Moises Carrasquillo for teaching.

Our first graduation was in 2002, so our 2027 graduation marks 25 years of raising strong leaders in the NTNL by way of our Parish Lay Ministers Academy! We are planning a PLMA reunion for Saturday, January 16th at 2pm at Calvary Lutheran Church, Richland Hills! We hope for graduates

from years past, as well as instructors, and pastor mentors – okay everybody to join us in this celebration!

Between the larger class size of the English tracks and the financial commitment of the Hispanic Coalition, we are operating comfortably in the black.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Heggen and Pr, Jesus Escamilla