

# How do I start?

Have a chat to your pastor, and discuss this with your family and close friends in the church.

**It's a big decision, and you will need support.**

As part of those discussions, we also encourage you to contact the College to:

- talk over any questions you might have
- get further information on admission into ALC's Discover program.

## What is Discover?

Discover is a program of academic study integrated with a personal journey of discernment. This is delivered through a fully accredited Diploma in Theology. There is also a postgraduate Discover option for people who have already completed a tertiary award at an undergraduate level.

Discover can be counted as the first year of the pastoral program. See [alc.edu.au/discover](http://alc.edu.au/discover).



*Jesus said: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'*

Matthew 28:19–20



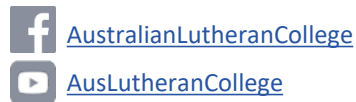
AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE  
L E A R N I N G F O R L I F E



## Contact us

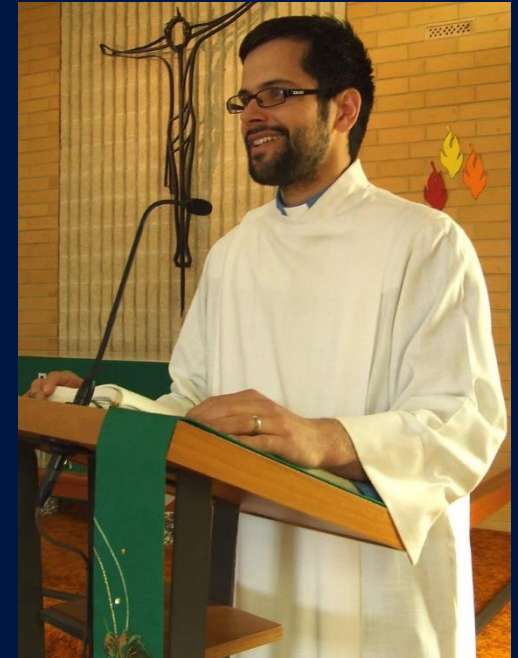
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# Could God be calling you to serve as a pastor?



L E A R N I N G F O R L I F E

# “Following that call”

Tom entered the Pastoral Studies Stream in 2019 with previous studies in journalism and teaching. He also has a background in youth work and disability support in the greater Adelaide area.

‘My time working with young people and supporting people with disabilities has taught me a lot and helped me discover where God was calling me to be. So, I’m following that call to be with the Church and its people and I’m really excited about what the future holds.

‘I’m only just starting out on this journey but I’m looking forward to the many rewards and challenges that lie ahead. It’s great to be a part of both the local community at ALC and the broader Lutheran Church.’

Tom Kitson  
*Pastoral studies student*



## Preparing tomorrow’s pastors

Have you ever wondered whether you might be suited to serving as a pastor? Have members of your family, friends or people at church ever commented to you that you might be well-suited for pastoral ministry?

Now more than ever the church needs pastors, and we thank God that he sends students to train for ministry at ALC. We see that God plants the seed of this vocation in peoples’ hearts and minds, bringing them to a change in their life’s direction, to prepare them for service to his people. All kinds of candidates make up our pastoral student body: young as well as older men, from off the land and from business, professional, scientific, engineering, and many other backgrounds.

Do you doubt that your faith is strong enough, or are you concerned about your ability to speak and teach in public? Or perhaps you feel a bit worried about coping with academic study? At ALC we have teaching staff who, step by step, help students work on and learn these key skills, and support students in the learning and formational journey.

The pastoral studies stream at ALC in Adelaide trains and equips men for service as

pastors in the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ), and our students come to us from all over the church.

### Serving the Church

ALC’s pastoral program trains pastors primarily to serve in congregations, where God’s people gather to hear the gospel preached and to receive the holy sacraments. Here pastors work with all kinds of people—youth, families, singles and the elderly.

Depending on where they serve and the needs of the church, pastors may also be called to serve in:

- Lutheran schools
- wider mission work
- assisting Aboriginal pastors and congregations
- institutional and defence force chaplaincy
- service in facilities which focus on aged care
- ministry to people with a variety of cultural backgrounds

### Academic courses

As they prepare for ordination and service in the church, students enrol in theology and ministry units, following a set program of academic studies.

This study program is both thorough and ministry-oriented. It involves the biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek), pastoral theology, church history and the Lutheran Confessions.

You can read more about this in the student handbook. See <https://alc.edu.au/study/higher-education/handbooks/>

### Formation and Vicarage

In addition to completing academic courses, the students in the Pastoral Studies Stream participate in many activities that help to develop the skills, insights and understandings related to pastoral ministry.

Students are involved in field education within congregations under the guidance of an experienced pastor of the LCANZ and participate in a wide variety of practical activities in preparation for ministry.

At regular intervals, students reflect on their sense of call and take part in vocational interviews, which include members of the teaching staff, the Director of Formation and selected peers.

These interviews help students review their pastoral formation and also help teaching staff to assist them further during their studies.

In the later years of their studies, students complete a full-time vicarage with a supervising pastor and mentor in one of the congregations of the LCANZ.

No matter what stage you’re at in your thinking about pastoral ministry, we encourage you to make contact with the college to discuss study options.

