My name is Gwen Miller and I graduated from the Diakonia program on June 18, 2016 at St. Peters Lutheran Church - Huntington Station. Next to the birth of my son, this was proudest day of my life. Twice to this visit, Diakonia representatives visited my church Our Saviour Lutheran - Jamaica and twice before I sat and listened to the table-talks not feeling adequate to take the leap. This time, the holy spirit spoke softly and said “what are you afraid of? Surrender and the Lord will address all the rest of your concerns.” Three weeks later I attended the orientation meeting. I knew this is where the Lord had been calling me to all these time.

I met these amazing people, my classmates, (featured in the photo by the brick wall), received encouragement and guidance from Roberta Detmers our Program Coordinator and obtained a wealth of knowledge about faith, worship, serve and the bible from supportive Pastors. These classmates are friends whom are still part of my life.

The curriculum was varied, easy to follow at a self-pace. I still recall the engaging conversations about worship, faith, ethic, Lutheranism and how we became “The Church.” It was the best two year investment of my life. What I gave up does not compare to the knowledge, spiritual growth, insight and confident to share my faith and step up into leadership to minister to the needs of my congregation and beyond.

Diakonia “Grow In Faith” is exactly what this program is all about. I am currently an Diaconate Intern for this is where discernment from the “Grow In Faith” Diakonia program has lead me. Wether you pursue going beyond or not does not matter. What you will gain when you “Grow In Faith” is obtain the knowledge to equip you to become the servant the Lord intended of you. Grow in Faith, the Diakonia program gives you the tools to be an effect servant to your church and others as a disciple of Christ; is that not what WE as the body of Christ are called to do?

Gwen Miller - Class 2016 - Queens Location - Astoria NY