Courage and Faith
Luther Seminary equips leaders who have the faith and courage to share the gospel in the 21st century world of many cultures and religions.

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Dr. David Tiede announced Oct. 18 that he will retire from the Office of the President, Luther Seminary on June 30, 2005. The date will mark his 34th anniversary as a Luther Seminary professor of New Testament, his 18th year as president and the conclusion of his current five-year term linked to the seminary’s strategic plan. It will also be the day following his 65th birthday.

“I am blessed,” said Dr. Tiede. “The boards have worked carefully with me to discern the best moment for the succession in the seminary’s life and mine. Luther Seminary is ready to call a new leader to help fulfill its promise for the church’s future. I am looking forward to time for renewal of my vocations—a student of the New Testament, husband, grandfather, and a friend of the callings of the institutions of the church and their leaders.”

“We are deeply grateful to Dr. Tiede for his outstanding service to the seminary,” said Dr. Susan Jenkins, chair of Luther Seminary’s board of directors. “He has led the seminary through years of significant change within the seminary and the larger church, always adhering to the seminary’s mission to prepare leaders to serve Christian communities. He has been instrumental in the strengthening of the seminary’s financial position and has articulated a visionary understanding of how seminary education must change to meet the changing needs of the church.”

During Dr. Tiede’s tenure, Luther Seminary accomplished a major curriculum reform; adopted its distinctive mission statement; graduated thousands of able leaders for the ELCA and 28 other national and international churches; grew its endowment from $14.8 million (1987) to $53.6 million; inaugurated a Ph.D. program; called superb faculty, staff, and boards; networked directly and electronically with many other institutions in and beyond the ELCA; strengthened its ties with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in serving the regions of the western U.S.; and implemented its current strategic plan focused on five areas of excellence: Biblical Preaching and Worship; Lifelong Learning for Leadership; Congregational Mission and Leadership; Children, Youth and Family Ministry; and World Christianity and Islam. From 2002-04, he served as president of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. He was only the second Lutheran to be elected to that office.

A search committee has already begun a nationwide search. The committee is chaired by Dr. Paul Dovre, vice-chair of the Luther Seminary Board of Directors and president emeritus of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. “We invite the constituencies of Luther Seminary, including students, faculty, staff, congregational representatives and church leaders, to share their insights about the future leadership needs of the seminary with the committee as we prepare for the search,” said Dovre. “We solicit the prayers and counsel of all as we look for a leader with a deep commitment to Luther Seminary’s mission, strategic direction and theological tradition.”

To nominate an individual for the position of President of Luther Seminary, please contact Dr. Paul Dovre, Search Committee Chair, at pdovre@lutherseminary.edu or c/o Luther Seminary, 2481 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, or visit the presidential search Web site at www.lutherseminary.edu/pres-search/.
Last month, we dedicated a magnificent sculpture in the Garden of the Resurrection at Luther Seminary (see photo on the cover of this issue of *Story*). The sculptor, Jeff Barber, a graduate of Luther Seminary (M.A. ’82), entitled the work “Living Hope of the Resurrection.” His comments were inspiring: “I cannot see the resurrection, but I see the whole world differently in the light of the resurrection.”

The Apostle Paul agreed. In the fifth chapter of his second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul’s testimony sings with conviction. Because Christ died and was raised, all believers have died to themselves so that now they can live for others. The chapter concludes with the declaration of God’s mission and ours: “In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.”

To see the world differently, behold the crucified and risen Messiah, Jesus. To understand the mission to which Christians are called, remember God’s remarkable purpose of reconciling the world to himself, not counting their sins against them.

By the time this issue of *Story* reaches you, the political campaigns will have concluded in a national election. The attack ads and fierce talk about “killing our enemies” have made shameless appeals to our fears. Both parties have made shrill promises of national security through increased violence. To be sure, naïve appeals to peace will not appease the evils of terrorism, but the carnage of war must not be confused with the Christian cause.

Most of the so-called mainline denominations are mired in debates about sexual identities and behavior. Paul also had to deal with such questions in Corinth because the Christian mission moves into cultures and contexts where destructive behaviors must be curbed for the well-being of the neighbor. But Paul’s apostolic witness drove to the main point: not losing its strength in the moral controversies. God’s mission in Jesus’ death and resurrection is centered in God’s reconciliation of the world’s enmity through forgiveness of sin. Christians are ambassadors for this mission. This is our calling.

Nobody says it will be easy. If you want to experience the cost of reconciliation, begin with your own family members or neighbors or a colleague at work, the one who has regularly nailed you. To use Paul’s words, “from a human point of view” they deserve your disrespect. At one time, says Paul, “we knew Christ from a human point of view,” which meant Paul saw him as a troublemaker and enemy of Israel. But in the light of the resurrection, Paul could no longer view Christ “in that way” (2 Cor 5.16).

The spiral of violence swirls unabated when fueled by blind hatred. To support our troops, we must face their peril and suffering. We must not avert our eyes when a soldier dies, or close our ears when a chaplain reports, “Killing wounds the souls of our young warriors. They pay a price.” We also need to see the human faces of thousands of Iraqis who are dying, even the terrorists, not just their hooded bodies.

We have seen the smoldering ruins of the Twin Towers. These images have been used to justify our nation’s invasion of Afghanistan, and perhaps Iraq. Even from a human point of view, justifiable war must continue to meet several standards. These are difficult judgments for which we hold our public leaders accountable. So does God.

We still know what it is to see our enemy from a human point of view, but Christ “died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view” (2 Cor 5.15-16). Christ crucified and raised gives us new eyes to see. The righteousness of God fulfilled in forgiveness is the soul of our calling and commission. This vision illumines our Christian cause. God needs us to be about it. So does the world.

David L. Tiede
President and Professor of New Testament
When a suicide bomber strikes 500 meters from your doorstep, it’s a dark day to look on the bright side—but Rev. Mark Brown, ’82, tries.

“It’s easier to be a faithful Christian here,” he says quietly. “You’re prompted every day to wake up and reaffirm that today is the day that the Lord has made.”

The Lord makes strange days for Palestinians and Israelis, locked in a struggle for the same Holy Land. The September attack in Jerusalem near Brown’s home and office killed the Palestinian woman bomber and two Israeli police officers.

Patient optimism may serve Brown well in his new job. He started in April as Lutheran World Federation’s regional representative for Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Rev. Paul Wee, ’63, professor at George Washington University, says he and other friends of Brown were “elated” at the appointment. Adds Anna Rhee, a consultant with Churches for Middle East Peace in Washington, D.C.: “Mark was always able to see the hope and the positive. He has this fantastic quality about him to be able to remember the longer term vision, to remember why we’re all in it and to keep that hope alive.”

Brown inherited a mounting crisis. LWF’s Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem mainly serves poor Palestinians, a flickering hope for an angry people. Israel, however, has yanked AVH’s tax exemption and is walling out hospital staff.

The hospital had been exempt from taxes under a 1967 deal, but in 2002 an Israeli court terminated the agreement. A hearing on LWF’s appeal will be May 17, 2005. A loss in the case would add a potentially crippling tax burden of five percent, or $600,000 per year, to LWF’s costs.

Meanwhile, Israel’s security wall to keep out terrorists will separate the hospital from the homes of 85 percent of its staff, including 27 of its 30 doctors. Getting to and from work will be harder—impossible, if staff can’t get travel permits.

Together, the moves may drive the hospital out of business—making Palestinians’ lives still harder and fueling still more violence.

“To this seemingly hopeless situation, Mark Brown brings a rare gift,” says Wee. “Trust. He is well known and trusted by the Palestinian leadership as well as by leaders in the Israeli government. Both know that he can listen with empathy but also that he is capable of speaking a very clear and often hard word.”

Brown’s career issues are peace, justice and poverty. He first visited the Middle East as an undergraduate and returned as a Luther Seminary intern in Egypt. After graduation and ordination in 1982, he joined ELCA’s Division for Global Mission, moving to the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C., in 1991.

He has organized initiatives to combat poverty, fight HIV, get rid of land mines and cancel poor nations’ debt.

He has years of experience in the Middle East. In Ramallah, West Bank, he taught ethics and religion at a girls’ school and was assistant pastor at Lutheran Church of Hope, a Palestinian Christian congregation. He also served as director of the Jerusalem office for the Middle East Council of Churches.

With LWF, Brown will go slowly. It may be the only way to go in the anguished Holy Land. Brown’s mission is nothing less than peace and justice.

If that makes him a dreamer, he’s not alone. “Jesus took sides,” says Brown. “He was there for those who were oppressed and those who were suffering.”
M.A. Student Crosses Borders to Build Up Congregational Leadership

By Sheri Booms Holm

E ach month Francis Tsui, ‘05, travels to what he calls the “outposts” of Christianity in such countries as China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Mongolia and Thailand. There, he uses curriculum he has developed to teach local church leaders who are hungering for more theological training.

Tsui works for Asian Outreach, a 40-year-old interdenominational organization that helps spread the gospel throughout Asia through leadership training and mission support. Though headquartered in Hong Kong, where he lives with his wife, May Wong-Tsui, ‘03, Tsui is also a Luther M.A. student, specializing in congregational mission and leadership. Both he and May have been able to complete their coursework through a combination of on-campus and online classes, independent study, and courses taught at a Hong Kong seminary.

Tsui is currently writing his final thesis and plans to graduate from Luther in May. It’s been a long journey for someone whose professional life has included college instructor, financial planner, and administrator for a foundation. He and May both sensed a call at the same time. They enrolled at Luther in 1999. Originally Tsui was in the Master of Divinity program, and May in the M.A. program but within a year they both realized God had different plans for them. The couple switched their degree tracks. In 2003, May graduated from the M.Div. program. She now serves as an associate pastor at Union Church in Hong Kong.

Tsui expressed thankfulness for how accommodating Luther Seminary has been. “Luther has been so good to us, a blessing to us. I haven’t met anyone who hasn’t been helpful,” he said. And he has always felt a part of Luther, thanks to its Web site and Intranet, he added.

“You have to have faith—God knows why he calls you. He may not be as quick as we hope, but he’ll never be late.”

Francis Tsui
M.A. Student

Courses Helped Him See His Call More Clearly

Tsui credits his classes and professors for seeing mission with new eyes. The “Reading the Audiences” course, taught by co-instructors Craig Van Gelder, professor of congregational mission and leadership, and Professor Emeritus Paul Sponheim, “planted the thought—we’re in a post-modern society and mission is changing, even in a traditional church setting. I had a desire to learn more about mission.” He learned to assess individual congregations and their environments, and to fashion mission within the congregation’s context, creating a unique, vital ministry.

Tsui found he could apply this idea to his mission work at Asian Outreach—and vice versa. “For someone who lives overseas, crossing borders so often, I was convinced that what was happening ‘in the trenches’ is formative for congregations to learn in terms of how to do things.”

This is the premise of Tsui’s thesis. “I want to take what God allows me to experience and use it to be helpful to the church.”

It All Comes Together

A couple years ago, Tsui was running a Christian foundation when he started going on short mission trips through Asian Outreach to the ‘frontlines’ of Christian mission. “I was humbled, excited and exhilarated all at the same time,” he said.

Soon, he was working full-time as a mission/leader developer. Recently he was promoted to vice president, with responsibilities in administration and finance. With this melding of his past experience and love of mission, Tsui has seen his call fall into place. “There’s a sense of a convergence of my past to this time,” he said. “I was thankful God called me from somewhere, but I didn’t know what God called me to. It was scary and uncertain, but now it feels right. You have to have faith—God knows why he calls you. He may not be as quick as we hope, but he’ll never be late.”

STORY Fourth Quarter 2004
Julie Anderson admits she likes to stir things up. That may not be the first trait you’d request in a new parish pastor... or is it?

Anderson, a Master of Divinity student, likens her stirring process to cooking soup. Stirring blends the ingredients and prevents them from sticking to the bottom and burning. Or, it is like keeping water moving, which would otherwise become stagnant. Christians are called to be “living waters,” Anderson said.

It was in this spirit that Anderson, while serving as lay interim pastor, recently led three rural North Dakota churches through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s “Journey Together Faithfully” study on human sexuality.

Through the study, the ELCA is soliciting congregant feedback in preparation for its sexuality report to be released next year. “Wouldn’t you rather make an informed decision?” Anderson asked her parishioners.

Earlier, Anderson was one of about 50 people to participate in the Luther Seminary course, “Deliberating Issues in the Small Town and Rural (STaR) Congregation.” The class discussed the issue of homosexuality and the church in an effort to help participants develop skills to lead congregational talks on social issues.

Some ideas she took from the class:
- create an environment in which all voices are heard;
- treat all opinions with respect; and
- acknowledge the contributions of all participants.

Armed with these lessons, Anderson invited members of the Clifford and Galesburg, N.D., congregations she served to participate in the study. Although they completed the sexuality study, the curriculum seemed almost secondary, Anderson said. There had been tension among the three churches as a result of losses in their communities. There had been debate about how to use limited resources.

But throughout the study, Anderson saw parishioners learn to speak to each other without vindictiveness. She saw them seek to understand one another. She saw them talk about their fears. She saw them build trust.

Ultimately, they learned that they have the same goal—for their churches to be stronger, more open and more hospitable—although they have different ideas of how to get there.

What they learned from the curriculum itself confirmed their positions on homosexuality, but now they could defend their positions and honestly say they had considered others. They were better able to extend grace though they deemed homosexuality sinful. All wrote “eloquent and informed statements” about their views, Anderson said.

While it is uncomfortable for people to challenge their perceptions, their actions and, in the church, their way of interpreting the Bible, it is productive when “skeletons [are] coming out of closets and being rattled,” Anderson said.
The more the church seeks to be missional to God’s call, the more it’s going to see conflict, says Anita Bradshaw, director of conflict and mission at Church Innovations. Church Innovations, founded by Luther Professor of Systematic Theology Pat Keifert, is a non-profit organization that assists congregations with renewal, transformation and conflict resolution. Bradshaw is also a Ph.D candidate at Luther Seminary studying conflict in congregations.

“The prevailing opinion is that there should not be conflict or risk [in the church]. Yet, Jesus’ ministry was full of conflict and disturbing people, particularly the religious folk. It was a ministry that led to a cross,” Bradshaw says, adding that it is the cross that is at the heart of our faith.

Being a missional community means talking together to discern God’s call, she continues. But when members don’t agree on that call, it takes a lot of work to determine how a congregation as a whole is called and sent.

She explains how many conflict resolution processes hinder more than help. They may be forums with speakers from extreme ends of the issue who end up screaming at each other; or perhaps two separate events where the speakers only pitch their points of view. What is needed, Bradshaw says, is a safe place where questions can rise up and be discussed openly before moving on to the decision-making process. “None of us has all of the truth, but God has given us the ability to think and pray together. At Church Innovations we believe God has given people the gifts needed to deal with the issue.”

Church Innovations uses a process called “Growing Healthier Congregations.” The staff has found this three-pronged method helpful for sounding out just about any kind of congregational issue.

1. Dwell in God’s word
   Bradshaw always begins with a reading of Philippians 2:5-11 (“The Christ Hymn”), and then encourages those present to share their thoughts on the meaning of the text. “This isn’t a Bible study,” she says. “The focus is how the word is speaking to each of us.”

2. Discuss why the issue is so difficult to talk about.
   Bradshaw finds that people have great difficulty discussing their faith, let alone some of the burning issues of the church and our culture.

3. Look at the issue from three perspectives
   Bradshaw has the participants brainstorm about the topic from three perspectives:
   a. The traditional viewpoints such as Scripture, church stance and teaching, hymns and family.
   b. Society and culture’s viewpoints.
   c. Experiences “of the faithful.”
   “What this does is take what has been a flat understanding of a subject and makes it richer and deeper,” Bradshaw says of the process. “This isn’t just a yes-or-no issue, any more.” Once finished, only then can a congregation enter into conversation. “It creates a safer environment for each individual to voice his or her thoughts,” she explains. She recommends several sessions of no more than 90 minutes each.

For more information visit www.churchinnovations.org or call 651-644-3653.

New From Luther Productions

**Biology and Belief (DVD)**

This six-part video series features some of the best minds of science and faith. They help us unravel some of the most perplexing and challenging issues of our day. (Also available in VHS.)

**Meeting God in Prayer (DVD)**

What is prayer? What does Scripture have to say about it? Why do we pray? Enjoy intimate conversations with teachers of the church as they share their biblical understanding and their own stories of prayer. (Also available in VHS and audio CD.)

To order, visit the Luther Productions Web site at www.lutherproductions.com, and click on “New Resources.”
The Faithfulness in Ministry Cross award was established in 1991 by the Luther Seminary Alumni/ae Council to “identify, recognize, celebrate and give thanks for alums, both clergy and lay, who have lived lives of faithfulness in ministry.” Candidates must be alumni/ae of Luther Seminary or its antecedent schools, and are nominated by fellow alums or other colleagues. It is with thanksgiving that Luther Seminary honors this year’s recipients: Alvin Erickson, ’61, Delmar Gusdal, ’58, and Theodore Vinger, ’57.

Alvin Erickson, ’61: Specialized Ministry
Alvin Erickson’s prophetic voice bellows in the wilderness of modern-day pornography and prostitution. “It is very human to believe that the destructive realities of prostitution and pornography will never touch people we care about,” he says. “That assumption misses a major theme in the Psalms that shows treachery—ambushing the unsuspecting and vulnerable—is common in human history.”

For 23 years, Erickson has tirelessly combated commercial sexual exploitation first-hand. He initially learned his trade while volunteering for one year in Hollywood “on the sidewalks and streets, listening and learning [while] he worked with the least, the lost and the leftovers of our society,” says James Hanson, a retired pastor from Tuscola, Texas.

In 1982 Erickson moved to inner city Minneapolis to begin a street ministry of his own, the Grass Roots Ministry Alliance. The ministry grew slowly and Erickson and his wife endured “ridicule, physical attacks, attempts to burn their home and car, and rocks and gunshots into their home,” says colleague Rev. David Teff. But despite this “they hung in there, persevering, ministering, helping and caring,” adds Hanson.

By the 1990’s Erickson concluded that rehabilitation efforts alone could never heal the horror of sexual exploitation for both victims and their families. He refocused on prevention and set out to educate the public, especially church leaders, by calling them to prayer and action. Today, Erickson pursues this mission through the nationwide reach of his ministry Adults Saving Kids (ASK) and his faith-based six-lesson curriculum Wise As Serpents, a carefully constructed teaching tool designed to equip junior high youth to deal with the burgeoning sex industry.

“Al has been a courageous fighter, challenging the corrupt system which profits from using kids’ bodies… working to rescue kids from the enslavement of pimps, and bringing comfort, hope and reconciliation to the families caught in this nightmare,” says Bruce Kuenzel, pastor at Granite Falls Lutheran Church in Granite Falls, Minn. “[He is] an imaginative, creative grass roots leader … and a prophetic voice in his call to change the legal, economic and social systems that fail to protect kids from sexual predators.”

To learn more about ASK, visit their Web site at www.adultssavingkids.org

Delmar Gusdal, ’58: Urban/Suburban Ministry
Delmar Gusdal hinged his ministry on mission development in African-American communities and providing services to the poor. “We have been richly blessed by the gospel and Luther has clearly taught us as part of our thanksgiving that ‘God has no need of my goods,’
therefore serve the needy,” says Gusdal. It is a call Gusdal takes very seriously and has dedicated his life to it.

The turbulent civil rights movement of the 60’s, especially in 1968, convinced Gusdal of the need for greater ministry to African-American communities. As pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago, Gusdal began reaching out to African-Americans, eventually turning Trinity Lutheran into a majority African-American congregation. Since then, Gusdal has inspired African-American congregations in Illinois, Florida and Alabama to transform and grow as well. “Delmar has always had a commitment to sensitize pastors and congregations to the need and importance for inner city social ministry and word and sacrament,” says Michael A. Steinke, a ministry peer and pastor for Westville Correctional Facility in Westville, Ind.

In his quest to serve the poor, Gusdal has transformed many community and human relations organizations into effective social ministry hubs. In 1977, Gusdal became executive director of Florida Lutheran Council on Social Ministries (now Lutheran Services of Florida), where under his leadership “the agency grew rapidly, with innovative programs for indigent elderly, guardianship, employment training and job procurement, medical, educational and economic services for Haitian [immigrants] and numerous other creative responses to human need,” says Paul W. Weber, a colleague from Sarasota, Florida. As a result, Weber notes that today Florida has one of the strongest social ministry agencies in the nation.

“[Gusdal] has been a developer with a vision for mission, an eloquent preacher, an articulate teacher and, most of all, God’s humble servant with a unique sense of discipleship,” says Weber. Steinke echoes this sentiment: “As I reflect on his ministry over the years, I am reminded of a pastor who is always concerned about the poor and the plight of minorities and one who is willing to challenge the status quo in an effort to move church folk to help those in need.”

Ted Vinger, ‘57: Rural/Small Town Ministry

Ted Vinger, knows just how to weave unobtrusively into the fabric of a community, providing consistent, compassionate support and excellent word and sacrament ministry.

For 35 years Vinger brought to rural and urban congregations, both small and large, “a ministry that fits the needs of God’s people in that place,” says Duane Hoven, a retired pastor from Rochester, Minn. “Wherever he has lived with his family, Ted has immersed himself in the local community … reaching out to people and conveying a genuine interest in them.” Hoven notes that even in retirement in the small town of Zumbrota, Minn., Vinger is frequently requested to preach for pastors of various protestant denominations who are on vacation or leave because “he knows ‘the turf’ and has become a vital part of the local scene.”

Vinger’s relational gifts have also helped him to effectively shepherd church leaders and spread a deeper appreciation of Lutheran theological education. He has created books and resources for pastors and lay leaders and mentored many pastors, guiding them in reflection about their ministries and leading them in textual studies. “His personal characteristics have always been exemplary—a deep religious faith coupled with a sturdy intellect, a fine ability to synthesize, coach and lead, and an extraordinary compassion for people,” says Herbert Stellner, Jr., of Kasson, Minn.

From Vinger’s point of view, however, his ministry is not about what he has accomplished, but rather what God has accomplished through God’s steadfast love and the gift of endless new beginnings. “I have failed many times,” says Vinger, “but the Lord of the Church has never failed … In ministry, one finds it very important to remember who one is—a baptized child of God—and to remember that one’s real calling is faithfulness to a word and sacrament ministry within the framework of the gift of our Lutheran heritage.”

Michael Lockerby, pastor of Holden Dale Lutheran Parish in Kenyon, Minn., sums up Vinger’s years of faithful service to God’s call for his life: “Ted has seriously and joyfully served the church … He has been a steadfast and skilled laborer in the Lord’s vineyard.”
Without the theologians of the church, where would the exciting, thought-provoking, groundbreaking ideas that shape our Christian mission come from?

Without the teachers of the church, who would train our future leaders?

And without the leaders of the church, who would shepherd our congregations for ministry in the world?

Luther Seminary prepares students for their callings as professors, scholars, ministers and leaders in the church through its Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Master of Theology (M.Th.) and Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree programs. Luther’s 2000-2005 strategic plan, “Serving the Promise of Our Mission,” made it a priority to foster confessional scholars who are able to address the needs of the church in a new era of mission. As part of the plan, and of the seminary’s recent re-accreditation process with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), faculty affirmed and retooled its graduate programs for a “re-energized vision of God’s mission in a changing world in the 21st century,” according to Paul Lokken, associate dean—graduate theological education.

This vision focuses on two areas that Luther is shaping into centers of excellence for all its degree and continuing education programs: biblical preaching and congregational mission and leadership.

Luther implemented a new Ph.D. concentration in congregational mission and leadership, and two new D.Min. programs in biblical preaching and congregational mission and leadership.

The D.Min. programs were created for parish pastors who wish to stay in their congregations but desire advanced professional study that will re-vitalize their ministries. Pastors go through the program with a small group of their peers. The cohort assembles on campus for seminars and residencies, and stays in touch via an online community during the rest of the year. The pastors encourage and support each other throughout the process. They also work with and in their own congregations, working on projects for their particular context (see page 11 to learn about some of these projects).

“We’re taking leaders already in congregations and giving them new tools and new ideas to re-energize their ministries,” Lokken said. “These programs are prime examples of how Luther’s strategic initiatives are finding concrete expression.”

Luther also has paid attention to the caliber of scholars it trains. “This institution cares about the type of leaders it provides,” Lokken said. “We’re improving the pool of students in order to produce the scholars and preachers our church needs.”

One pressing concern, however, is the lack of increase in endowed scholarship funds for students in the Ph.D. and M.Th. programs. “Without additional support of this type it may be difficult to sustain the effort and advances … that have so far been made in realizing the goals of the strategic plan,” Lokken explained.

What You Can Do:

- Encourage those with gifts for theological scholarship and teaching to consider an advanced degree (maybe it’s you!). Visit www.luthersem.edu/gradstudies.
- Pray for pastors, scholars and seminary faculty.
- Provide a financial gift to increase the amount of scholarship funds available to Ph.D. and M.Th. students. Contact Seminary Relations at 651-641-3448, or 1-888-358-8437, or visit www.luthersem.edu/gifts.

Strategic Plan Update: Post-Graduate Programs Train Scholars/Preachers to Re-energize the Church

Apply to a D.Min. Program Now!

Application deadline for the Biblical Preaching Program is Feb. 1, 2005.

Applications for the Congregational Mission and Leadership Program are due Mar. 1, 2005.

For more information or to apply online, visit www.luthersem.edu/dmin/ or call the Office of Graduate Theological Education at 651-641-3203.
I love to preach. I couldn’t not preach. It’s what God made me to do,” says Christopher Smith, ‘93, pastor at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minn. Smith is also enrolled in Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry program in biblical preaching.

Why study something you already love and are good at? “I have a philosophy of operating, which is a healthy level of dissatisfaction. I know I’m a good preacher, but I could be better,” he explains. “For the sake of the mission which I have bound myself to, I want to be a better preacher.”

Smith chose Luther’s D.Min. program because “I think this is a very structured, disciplined, goal-oriented way to [become a better preacher],” he says. It’s also a way for Smith and other D.Min. students to stay in their ministry throughout their studies.

Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching is a three-year program created to give pastors of many Christian traditions the inspiration, biblical knowledge and skills needed to present consistently thoughtful, dynamic and Scripture-based sermons that bring the biblical stories to life. Pastors remain in their congregation while learning with peers in a class/cohort. Courses are taught through independent, contextually based study, and three-week summer residencies.

Interested in hearing from more students about the D.Min. in biblical preaching? Watch video clips of students at www.luthersem.edu/dmin. Click on “Biblical Preaching.”

**D.Min. Students in Congregational Mission and Leadership Share Lessons Learned**

Need some guidelines for how to walk your church staff, council or congregation through a mission planning process?

Wondering how to reach out to immigrants in your community?

Searching for ways to find God in all the daily decisions, good and bad, that affect you, your family or members of your congregation?

These are just some of the issues tackled by students from the Doctor of Ministry program in congregational mission and leadership. You can learn from their work at www.luthersem.edu/dmin/dmin_Cong_Miss_Ldrshp /student_projects.asp

Melanie Wallschlaeger’s project led her congregation through a visioning process for a new mission statement. She is associate pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, S.D. “We can’t be everything for everyone.

We can only be what God has created us to be,” she states in her presentation. “Each congregation has gifts that, like each individual, contributes to the whole Church. As we consider the calling God has given our congregation, we are to consider our particular giftedness and context.”

While at Immanuel Lutheran in Eden Prairie, Minn., Interim Pastor Chris Hagen created an in-depth plan to reach out to Somali immigrants in the neighborhood. “We are in frequent contact with them at stores, in parks, at work and at school. To improve the quality of life in Eden Prairie for all residents, it is necessary to improve the quality of life of particular people, such as Somalis,” Hagen comments. “Of the different immigrant groups in Eden Prairie, Somalis are the most recent. As a consequence of this and other factors, they are the least assimilated and have the fewest available social supports. It is the general consensus of local social service agencies that the Somalis are the most underserved. Language, culture, religion, history all contain barriers to efficient service delivery.”

Mark Woeltge, Lutheran Church of Concord, Rochester, N.Y., looked at the life circumstances that daily test our faith. “Faced with such decisions we are called to engage our core values, beliefs, and assumptions; our worldview. The very way that we evaluate, interpret, and explain life and allow it to inform our actions is challenged. How do we make sense of our lived experiences?” he asks in his presentation.

Twelve more thoughtful, useful presentations delve into such categories as biblical and theological foundations, congregations in contexts, leadership identity and formation, and ministry practices. Check them out at www.luthersem.edu/dmin/, and click on “Congregational Mission and Leadership.”
Rick Bliese, academic dean and associate professor of missions, spoke on the topic of evangelism at synod gatherings in Northern Illinois, Southwest Minnesota, Arkansas-Oklahoma and Southwest California this fall. He and Craig Van Gelder, professor of congregational mission, are co-editors of the forthcoming book *The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran Contribution*.


Mary Jane Haemig, associate professor of church history, published “Jehoshaphat and His Prayer among Sixteenth-Century Lutherans” in the September 2004 issue of *Church History*.

Marie Y. Hayes, coordinator of international student services, was installed as vice-president of the Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM). OLM provides educational, social and financial information for local Liberian residents. It seeks to foster understanding and development among Liberians and the Minnesota community at large.

Mary Hess, assistant professor of educational leadership, is co-editor (with Peter Horsfield and Adán Medrano) of *Belief in Media: Cultural Perspectives on Media and Christianity* (Ashgate Publishing, 2004).

Mary Hinkle, associate professor of New Testament, presented a workshop on “Matthew: Inspiring the Church’s Imagination” at three congregations in Montana in October. The workshop was given as part of the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology’s fall schedule.

Arland J. Hultgren, Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament, presented a paper in October on “Pistis Christou: Faith in or of Christ” at the Trial Balloon Society (a gathering of New Testament scholars in Minnesota). This fall he spoke on “The Parables of Jesus” at Galilee Lutheran Church, Roseville, Minn., and on “Interpreting Scripture” at Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minn. He also spoke on the Gospel of Matthew at a conference gathering in Fort Dodge, Iowa, in December.

Diane Jacobson, professor of Old Testament, was part of the first meeting of a Lutheran World Federation study team on the “Authority of the Bible in the Life of the Church” that gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, in October. The LWF study team will be writing articles that explore the different challenges to the Bible’s authority in Lutheran churches today. A compilation of these papers will be discussed at the group’s next meeting in 2006.

The study team aims to develop guidelines that could be used in local contexts for approaching biblical texts.

Marc Kolden, ’66, professor of systematic theology, was part of a conference on “The ELCA and Homosexuality: The Traditional Perspective” at First Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minn., in October. His presentation was entitled, “Sexual Morality: A Better Way.”

Roy Harrisville, ’47, professor emeritus of New Testament, spoke on “The Bible and Homosexual Behavior” as part of the same conference.

Walter Sundberg, professor of church history, spoke on “Confessing Christ Today: Being the Church in Troubled Times” at a November gathering sponsored by WordAlone at Calvary Lutheran in Willmar, Minn.


Paul Westermeyer, professor of church music, presented at numerous conferences, including the Montreat Conferences on Worship and Music, Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, N.C. (June 20-July 3); the Hymn Festival of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, St. Benedict’s Monastery, St. Joseph, Minn. (July 13); the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Phoenix, Ariz. (Aug. 4); and Sacred Music on the Prairie, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Cheyenne, Wyo. (Oct. 9).
In Memory: Jennings Mergenthal

Jennings Mergenthal, '62, Luther Seminary Bookstore manager for 37 years, died Oct. 1. Under his tenure, the bookstore became one of the premier theological bookstores in the nation.

As a young man, Mergenthal's body was crushed in a farming accident, leaving him paralyzed from the arms down. He spent four years building up his upper body strength to regain mobility with the help of crutches. In 1955 he attended Concordia College. He also took a correspondence course in accounting, allowing him to sit for the CPA testing. Sensing a call to pastoral ministry, Mergenthal enrolled at Luther Theological Seminary in 1959. At Luther, Mergenthal ran the student-owned and -run dining services and bookstore. With his financial background, he was able to operate the student cooperatives in the black for the first time.

Told he could not consider pastoral ministry because of his physical limitations, Mergenthal finished his coursework instead of going on internship. But with the assistance of his home church, he spent a year in an unofficial internship. In 1966, Mergenthal accepted an offer from Luther President Alvin Rogness to return to seminary as coordinator of the bookstore, dining hall and coffee shop. Eventually the bookstore split off from the other services, with Mergenthal at the helm. He went on to create a theological collection that has garnered national and international esteem. In the process, he also created a unique ministry to pastors. “It would probably be safe to say that Jennings knew more pastors in the ELCA than anyone,” said friend and former classmate Alan Solmonson, ’63.

Still sensing a call to pastoral ministry, Mergenthal served as a weekend pastor from 1965 to 1986 to churches in South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin that could not afford a pastor. “His crutches did not prohibit him from preaching, teaching and visitation,” Solmonson said. “Jennings could have very easily become bitter and ‘turned away’ from the church, but instead he embraced it and gave himself to it. Jennings knew what was important. He let go of that which wasn’t.

“We need to hear the story of this wonderful servant who gave his life for the church,” Solmonson said. “We need to hear it and give thanks to God for his gift of ministry, his ministry of books, his ministry in the parishes he served, his ministry in the congregation to which he belonged, his ministry to all of us, the universal church of Jesus Christ!”

Coming to a Town Near You

Mark Swanson, associate professor of Christian history and Islam, will teach two intensive courses at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, in January.

Paul Westermeyer, professor of church music, will present two adult forums at St. Philip’s Lutheran Church, Fridley, Minn., Feb. 20 and 27. He will lecture on “The Nature of Congregational Song,” at Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, April 3, and present at the Pre-Institute of Liturgical Studies Workshop, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., April 4-6.

Sometimes we can all use a little help praying. Centered Life is pleased to offer Real Prayers, a treasury of prayers written and prayed by Wendell Frerichs, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament. Those who have heard Dr. Frerichs pray can attest to the straightforward yet eloquent way he talks with God. Use the book for personal meditation, for praying with others and for special occasions. It makes a lovely gift, too. Cost is $7.95. Call 651-641-3429 for more information, or order online at www.centeredlife.org.
The ‘00s

Tammy L. Devine, ’00, is the new wellness coordinator for the ELCA’s Board of Pensions. Prior to joining the Board of Pensions, Devine served as director of wellness at Martin Luther Manor in Bloomington, Minn. She has also served as the organization’s director of health and community ministries and parish nurse coordinator, and as director of nursing for Southern Metro Medical Clinics in Belle Plaine, Minn.

Shana Ellwood Tischaefer, ’01, and Andrew Tischaefer, welcomed their first child, Samuel Thomas, on June 21. Shana and Andrew currently reside in Sammamish, Wash., where Andy is a software test lead at Microsoft. Shana is serving her new calling as a stay-at-home mom.

Marc Hander, ’01, and Jerilyn (Dunlap) Hander, ’99, and their son, Gabriel, celebrated the birth of Selah Grace Hander on July 20. Marc is in his fourth year as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Greenville, Texas. Jerilyn continues her work as a part-time data control technician for Trust Services, Inc.

Dean Smith, ’01, and Bridget Smith, announce the birth of their second child, David Joseph. He was born on Sept. 6. They have a daughter, Cheryl Katherine, who was born on Feb. 19, 2003. Dean is pastor to youth and families at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Minn.

Kyle Fever, ’03, and Laura Fever, welcomed their daughter, Jaya, into the world on Sept. 17. They are all doing very well. Kyle is in his third semester of the New Testament doctoral program at Loyola University, Chicago.

Dana (Pukrop) Jackson, ’04, married Derek Jackson on Aug. 15. Dana is the associate pastor at Mount Hope Lutheran Church, West Allis, Wis. Derek works as the supervisor of workers compensation finance for United Wisconsin Insurance Company in New Berlin, Wis.

The ‘90s

Paul Tjostem, ’92, was recently recognized by the United Methodist Church communications team for his work in developing a rural after-school computer ministry program called Kingdom Kids Computer Club. Tjostem is an ELCA pastor in Steele, N.D. He partnered with the pastor from the Steele UMC to develop a cooperative rural youth ministry program. This unique program helps train youth in computer skills, as well as basic Bible and Christian education. As a result, many other communities around the U.S. are now developing similar models for after-school youth ministry. The United Methodist Church sent a videographer to Steele and the result can now been viewed over the Internet at: www.umtv.org/newitems/free_computers_for_kids.htm; and www.umtv.org/newitems/kids_teach_seniors_skills.htm.

David Fenrick, ’94, participated in the 2004 Forum for World Evangelization hosted by the Lausanne Committee and Great Commission Roundtable, Sept. 29 – Oct. 5, in Thailand. About 1,600 participants from more than 120 countries were involved in 31 working issue groups related to world mission. Fenrick participated in the issue group on Effective Theological Education for World Evangelization. A final issue group report was published in November 2004.

Efrem Smith, ’96, is the author of Raising Up Young Heroes, published May 2004 by InterVarsity Press. In his book, Smith provides a model for holistic ministry that addresses all the needs of youth—body, soul and spirit.

Brenda (Torgersen) Ulrich, ’96, and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of their son, Caelan Alexander, on May 24. He has a sister, Sydney, age five, and a brother, Austin, age three. Brenda serves as pastor at United Presbyterian Church in Americus, Kan.

Stephen Hultgren, ’97, is an assistant professor of theology at Fordham University, Bronx, N.Y. This fall he was ordained, and called to part-time parish ministry by the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA. He lives in Mt. Vernon, N.Y.


on Sept. 9, Sela, their first child, turned three in April. Karl and Anjanette serve together as associate pastors at First Lutheran in Fremont, Neb. 

The ‘80s

Robert Hall, ’87, was called to serve at Calvary Lutheran Church in Edina, Minn. He began serving there in August. Previously, Hall was senior pastor at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran in Minneapolis. Hall resides in Lakeville, Minn., with his wife, Debbie, and two daughters.

David Apolloni, ’88, is teaching philosophy at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. A popular course he teaches explores the philosophy of sex.

Paul Sorensen, ’89, recently published a book entitled *Entrepreneurial Faith* (Randomhouse-Waterbrook Press), along with the Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, senior pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston and Dr. Walt Kallestad, ’78, senior pastor of Community Church of Joy in Phoenix. The book draws upon Sorensen’s research in business entrepreneurship to help congregations build innovative bridges of compassion to their communities. Sorenson is one of the pastors at Community Church of Joy and president of the Joy Leadership Center. He received his doctorate degree in management with a specialization in leadership from the School of Business, Capella University in June. His dissertation, *Entrepreneurial Orientation and Sustained Organizational Vitality*, explored the relationship between the entrepreneurial behaviors of ELCA senior pastors and the attendance and financial giving growth patterns of their congregations.

The ‘70s

Ronald Marshall, ’75, celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination on Sept. 26. The celebration featured a new hymn composed for the occasion by the renowned church musician Dr. Carl F. Schalk (b. 1929) entitled *Thankless for Favours from on High*. The hymn text is a poem by William Cowper (1731-1800) on death, judgment and redemption. Marshall’s ministry experience includes mission work in Vietnam and leading congregations in California, Oregon and Washington. Most of all he has enjoyed leading in-depth Bible classes (three classes on different books) and preaching.

The ‘60s

Arley K. Fadness, ’64, is one of five writers who contributed to a new book entitled *Sermons on the First Readings* by C.S.S. Publishing Co. Fadness’ sermons on the lectionary series A are entitled “Journeys Through the Cactus Patch.” He also has self-published *Holy Moses*, an intergenerational Lenten Series through his Onesimus Press Publications.

A. Joseph Everson, ’65, has been appointed interim provost and dean of the faculty at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif. He is professor of biblical studies and longtime chair of the religion department at CLU. Prior to teaching at CLU, he was a member of the religion department faculty at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and served as pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn.

The ‘50s

Glen E. Peterson, ’59, was one of four Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D. alums who received the Augustana College Distinguished Alumni Award. He was honored at a formal ceremony in October during the College’s homecoming. The award recognizes Augustana alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their fields of endeavor, their communities and/or their churches.

In Memory

Walter A. Hallerud, ’49, died on Sept. 28 in Northfield, Minn. He was a member of Highview Christiana Lutheran Church. In the years following his ordination, he served congregations in North Dakota, Wisconsin and Illinois. He retired in 1972. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren, one brother and sister and two cousins.

David D. Larsen, ’51, died on June 20 at MeritCare Hospital in Fargo, N.D. A retired pastor, Larsen served as visitation pastor at First Lutheran in Fargo. In his years of ministry as a senior pastor, he led congregations in Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Idaho and Washington. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite, six children, eight grandchildren, one brother and several nieces and nephews.
Alum Ministers to Olympic Team
Amidst Joy and Sorrow

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

They say it’s not what you know, it’s who you know that will get you places. And that’s certainly true for Pastor Mark Reitan, ’71, whose prior relationship with Mike Candrea—coach of the women’s U.S. Olympic softball team—led to a trip to Athens last summer as the team’s “softball chaplain.”

But they also say that God puts people in the right place at the right time … and that’s true for the relationship between Reitan and Candrea, too.

Reitan got to know Candrea as the coach of his daughter Julie’s softball team at the University of Arizona. Shortly after Julie started college, Reitan and his wife, Elaine, moved from Arizona to Lynnwood, Wash., where Mark took the call as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. They counted on the coach to help keep an eye on their daughter.

In 1997, Julie had just finished her junior year at Arizona, and her team had won the national championship. The night before she was to read scripture at a former teammate’s wedding, she died unexpectedly in her sleep. The shock and sadness the Reitans felt was tempered by the outpouring of love and support they received from Julie’s friends and teammates.

“Mike was so supportive. He stood by us during that time, and continued to speak of Julie often,” he said. “He has been such a great person, and really honored Julie’s memory.” The two families kept in touch over the years. Reitan was pleased when Candrea was named head coach of the 2004 Olympic team.

Then, about seven months before the Olympics began, Candrea asked Reitan if he’d consider taking on an informal role as the “team chaplain.” Neither one knew exactly what that would look like, but Candrea felt having spiritual support would help the team grow together.

Last spring, Reitan traveled to Tucson to meet the team. It was an emotional weekend for the Reitans—to spend time in the stadium where they’d cheered for their daughter; to see her number 10, which had been retired, hanging in left field. After the game, the team gathered on the mound. He said a few words, and then Lisa Fernandez—the leader of the team—stepped out of the group toward him, reached out her hand, and said, “Welcome to U.S.A. Softball.”

“It was a special moment,” he said.

“To feel so warmly welcomed into this group, several of whom knew Julie well.”

Reitan wasn’t sure what his role as team chaplain would entail, but it certainly changed after the sudden death of Coach Candrea’s wife, Sue, just a few days before the team left for Athens.

Reitan was in Europe on sabbatical. He returned to the states to speak at Sue’s funeral. While in Greece, they spent time grieving with Candrea’s family—including his two children and his mother-in-law. “We were able to care for the people with Christ’s love the way I’ve been cared for by so many people since Julie died,” he said.

Because his role as chaplain was strictly an informal, volunteer position, Reitan didn’t get to sit in the dugout or stay with the team in the Olympic village. But he did get passes to the games, and was able to sit with the alternates in the stands, and spend time with the athletes before and after the games. During some of those visits, he learned just how much his daughter’s faith had influenced some of the players. One shared that Julie had been the one to encourage her in the faith in college, inviting her to Bible studies and praying with her.

And, he wrote a devotional book that included scripture and inspiration for every day of the Olympics. The devotion for the day of the gold medal game was based on Julie’s favorite verse, I Cor. 16:13-14: “Keep alert. Stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be in love.”

Did God put Reitan and Candrea in one another’s lives? Their relationship certainly bears witness to the power of spiritual friendship.
The numbers are in, and enrollment is up—the highest they have been in 10 years. "I think many people have been praying and working to bring us to this glad day," said Patricia Lull, dean of students. "There really is a connection between those prayers to the Lord of the Harvest and the size and quality of the first year class."

The entering class includes 112 Master of Divinity students (a 30 percent increase from last year), 70 Master of Sacred Music students, and 41 Master of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Ministry students. Total enrollment is 804 students, up from last fall’s number of 747.

Largest M.Div. Class in Ten Years Enrolls at Luther

About 18 years ago, Anne Nyquist, director of music ministries at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minn., started a music ministry for youth. She envisioned a touring choir that would appeal to high school-age teens. When not enough youth showed interest to fill out the choir, some parents and adults were asked to join in for that first year to get things off the ground. From that unintentional beginning, Spirit Bound has grown into a 70-plus intergenerational choir that has brought their musical gospel message throughout the United States and Canada. Spirit Bound membership ranges from 9th graders on up to retirees, with equal numbers of Millennial Kids, Gen Xers, Baby Busters and Baby Boomers. About 15-20 percent of the Spirit Bound choir are not members of the congregation, but friends, neighbors and family who have been invited to participate.

Cool Congregational Idea: This Intergenerational Outreach Idea is One for the Road

A bout 18 years ago, Anne Nyquist, director of music ministries at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minn., started a music ministry for youth. She envisioned a touring choir that would appeal to high school-age teens. When not enough youth showed interest to fill out the choir, some parents and adults were asked to join in for that first year to get things off the ground. From that unintentional beginning, Spirit Bound has grown into a 70-plus intergenerational choir that has brought their musical gospel message throughout the United States and Canada. Spirit Bound membership ranges from 9th graders on up to retirees, with equal numbers of Millennial Kids, Gen Xers, Baby Busters and Baby Boomers. About 15-20 percent of the Spirit Bound choir are not members of the congregation, but friends, neighbors and family who have been invited to participate.

Order Lenten Devotionals for Your Congregation

Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary are offering Lenten devotion booklets to congregations. The Lent 2005 theme is "Abiding in the Shadows." Cost is $12.50 per 25, plus exact shipping costs. To guarantee delivery, orders must be placed by Monday, Jan. 3. Orders received after Jan. 3 will be filled as supplies allow.

To place an order, contact the Luther Seminary Bookstore at 651-641-3440, or toll-free at 1-800-541-4187, or order online at www.luthersem.edu/lent.

Sign up to receive devotionals via e-mail for free at www.luthersem.edu/email.
2005 Winter Events

Lay School of Theology, Winter and Spring Sessions

Winter Session: Jan. 10–Feb. 14
Spring Session: March 14–April 11

Winter and spring session classes will be held on Mondays at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Winter offerings:

“Spiritual Maturity: The Journey of Faith” with Richard Beckmen, retired Lutheran pastor; spiritual director and teacher at Christos Center, Lino Lakes, Minn. This class will meet on Monday afternoons from 12-2 p.m.


“What Does It Mean to be Human? Biblical Teachings in Dialogue with Science” with Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology

Spring offerings:

“God, Evil and Suffering” with Paul Sponheim, professor emeritus of systematic theology

“Bonhoeffer for Today” with Gary Simpson, professor of systematic theology

“Sisters to Paul: Paul’s Letters and the Leadership of Women in the Church” with Mary Hinkle, associate professor of New Testament

These informal, non-credit classes are designed for laypeople who want to learn more about matters that relate to faith and life. Registration is required for participation in the lay school. Early registration is recommended. For more information or to register, visit www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/layschool or call 651-641-3416.

Second Annual Women’s Retreat

Feb. 5, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Stub Hall, Luther Seminary

This year’s retreat will focus on prayer. The guest speakers are: Paul Berge, professor emeritus of New Testament; Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament; and Lori Lathrop, a parish nurse and Luther Seminary Master of Divinity senior.

Early registration is encouraged. Space is limited. The cost is $25 per person. Registrations are due Feb. 1. For additional information or to register, contact Lynne Moratzka, 651-641-3419. This retreat is hosted and sponsored by the Luther Seminary FRIENDS, a group of 200 men and women from Twin Cities area congregations that are committed to supporting the seminary through prayer, financial gifts and as volunteers.

A Day in the Life

A Luther Experience for College Students
February 20-21, 2005

- Attend class
- Meet professors and seminary students
- Meet students from other regional colleges
- Stay overnight on campus
- Learn about degree programs offered at Luther Seminary.

It’s free! For more information or to register online, visit www.luthersem.edu/dayinthe8life

Jennifer Harsch, first year Master of Divinity student
The George Aus Lectures on Evangelism
Feb. 22–23
Chapel of the Incarnation
(free and open to the public)

This year’s Aus Lectures will feature John Piper, senior pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis. Piper will present his first lecture “God’s Glory and Human Need” on Tuesday, Feb. 22. His presentations will continue on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at the 10 a.m. chapel service. His sermon is titled “God’s Passion for His Glory and the Spread of the Gospel.” His second lecture, “Human Longing for Joy and the Need for the Gospel” will follow the service.

KAIROS Seminars Explore Youth Ministry Challenges and Opportunities
Feb. 22–24
Stub Hall, Luther Seminary

Continuing Education at Luther Seminary will offer two seminars that focus on youth ministry. The sessions will feature Kris Causton from Youth Leadership, Minneapolis, and a panel of seasoned youth workers.

“Re-Imagining High School Ministry,” Feb. 22-23, will explore a variety of approaches to high school ministry and work to discover which approaches are most effective.

“Self-Care for the Youth Worker,” Feb. 23-24, will discuss the challenge of balancing ministry to others and caring for self. It will offer participants some insights and ideas for remaining emotionally, physically and spiritually healthy in the midst of youth ministry.

Registration is required. The cost is $120 per seminar or $200 for both. Contact hours are available for these sessions. For more information or to register visit www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/Kairos or call 651-641-3416.

Spend a Week with Luther Seminary’s New Faculty
March 28–April 1
Stub Hall, Luther Seminary

Get to know the new faculty members at Luther Seminary! Within the last six years, several instructors have joined the seminary’s faculty. This five-day seminar allows participants the opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy some good biblical and theological conversation and soak in some practical ideas.

Seminar leaders are:
Richard Bliese, academic dean and associate professor of missions
Jack Fortin, executive director of the Center for Lifelong Learning
Mary Hess, assistant professor of educational leadership
Rolf Jacobson, assistant professor of Old Testament
Paul Lokken, associate dean—graduate theological education
David Lose, assistant professor of homiletics
Frieder Ludwig, associate professor of missions and world Christianity
Alvin Luedke, professor of rural ministry, associate dean—missional pastors

Registration is required. The cost is $225 per person. Contact hours are available for this seminar. For more information or to register visit www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/Kairos or call 651-641-3416.

20th Annual Jewish-Christian Seminar
March 29


Save the Date!
Previews 2005
Offered April 21 and 28

Pastors, mark your calendar to bring your congregation’s high school youth to Previews for a sneak peek at seminary life. Visit www.luthersem.edu/previews for more details, or call 651-641-3419 (toll free 888-358-8437).
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**Story Moves from Four to Three Times a Year**

As a cost savings measure, *Story* magazine will be published three times a year instead of four. In 2005, *Story* will be mailed in March, July and November.