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So Faith May Flourish
In Memory

Oscar Anderson, ’42, died Aug. 25. He was 89. Anderson served parishes in Minneapolis and Moorhead before becoming president of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, from 1963-80. During that time the campus more than doubled in size.

David John Campbell, ’53, died Oct. 10. He was survived by wife Opal; daughters, Miriam and Mary Beth (Bob) Berg; sons, Eric (Deb), Jon (Ginny), and Kent; and 12 loving grandchildren.

Stewart Govig, ’52, died unexpectedly in April. He had been a long-time religion professor at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. He is survived by his wife, Alice Tanner Govig, and three children: John, Bruce and Ellen.

Alum (continued)

The Round Robin Bunch: 55 Years and Counting!
Almost 55 years ago a group of young people came together and bonded through college, seminary, marriage, parenthood and ordination. As they spread out to various Lutheran parishes throughout the Midwest, the women of the group created a round robin letter to keep in touch. A few months later the men followed suit with their own letter. The letter has survived for 45 years. This past summer the “Round Robin Bunch” met at Mount Carmel Ministries Retreat Center, Alexandria, Minn., to celebrate their friendship. They are, from left: Orval, ’60, and Bernell Moren; Harold, ’60, and Virginia Staal; Donohue, ’60, and Marilyn Sarff; Ervin, ’61, and Sylvia Overland; Robert, ’60, and Diane Bergland; Russell, ’60, and Helen Lee; and Thomas, ’60, and Loretta Hoversten. Not pictured: Dorothy Holoen and Jim, ’60, and Audrey Pearson.

Mid-Winter Convocation 2006:
“Living Out Our Callings in the Community”
Jan. 4–6
Speakers: Raymond Bakke, Diane Kaufmann and Gary Simpson


Visit the Convos Web site at www.luthersem.edu/convos for more information, and to register.

Sign up now! Registration closes Dec. 15

Aus Memorial Lecture
“Preaching the Gospel at Mars’ Hill in Athens”
March 7-8
Chapel of the Incarnation, Olson Campus Center
Lecturer: Michael Rogness, Alvin N. Rogness Professor of Preaching, Luther Seminary

Hein-Fry Lectures:
“Living Together in the 21st Century as Lutherans in the ELCA”
Thursday, March 23
Chapel of the Incarnation, Olson Campus Center

SAVE THE DATE!
Annual Lutheran Mission Conference
Saturday, March 25
Speaker: Dr. Monica Melanchthon, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Chennai (Madras), India
The ‘00s

Scott McAnally, ‘04, took the Dale Carnegie Leadership Course this past summer, and was awarded the “Highest Award for Achievement” for overall growth and performance throughout the course, and for the one who best represents Dale Carnegie principles in leadership.

Sunitha Mortha, ‘00, started working as the associate director for global events and mission interpretation at the ELCA churchwide office in the Division for Global Mission on June 1.

Kris Snyder, ‘02, and his wife, Randi Jo, had a daughter, Kjersti Margit, in April, 15 minutes before Kris was to lead a funeral. “Thank goodness for a wonderful group of pastors in our area who acted quickly to make sure I could be with my wife,” Kris wrote.

The ‘90s

Sonja Hagander, ‘94 and her husband Jonathan Gusdal announce the birth of Emilia Ruth, sister to big brother Benjamin. Emilia was born on April 30. Sonja is Associate College Pastor at Augsburg College.


The ‘80s

Joe Campeau, ‘83, published Ordinary Joy: Finding Fresh Promise in Routine Moments (Augsburg Fortress). The book leads readers to discover how joy arrives when they are able to identify God’s fingerprints on the surface of each day. Discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter. Joe is senior pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Santa Clarita, Calif.

Dolores Eddy Dunnett, ‘86, received her doctorate in worship studies in June. Her dissertation was on “The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.” The degree was conferred upon her by the Institute for Worship Studies, Florida Campus.

Rusty Edwards, ‘85, will publish five hymns in Evangelical Lutheran Worship in October 2006. His hymns have been used by 30 denominations worldwide.

Patrick L. Hall, ‘89, was called to be the senior pastor at Frontline Church in Maplewood, Minn., in August. Frontline Church is an 11-year-old non-denominational church founded by Pastors Bill and Lisa Arrigoni of Hudson, Wis.

The ‘70s

Darrell D. Morton, ‘77, became assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on July 1. Before assuming the position, he was chief of personnel and readiness in the Office of the Air Force Chief of Chaplains. He and his wife, Wendy, live in Woodbridge, Va.

The ‘60s

Craig Koester, ’80, professor of New Testament, and Nancy Koester, ’80, adjunct instructor of church history, co-authored a two-part study of Revelation and the Left Behind novels, which purport to tell of the earth’s last days. The study is designed for use in congregations and will be published by Westminster John Knox Press.

Gary Simpson, professor of systematic theology, led a class on “Introduction to Christian Thought and Ethics” as part of the South Dakota Synod’s Faith Builders education and leadership development program in October. He also spoke on the topic “When is War Just?” at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, in October.

Debra J. Wells, ’93, ecumenical coordinator, was elected to the board of the North American Academy of Ecumenists at its annual meeting in New York in September.

Coming to a Town Near You

Charles Amjad-Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Justice and Christian Community, will be in Johannesburg, South Africa, in January for the launching of his new book. The book is based on lectures he delivered in South Africa last summer for the Centre for Anti-Racism and Anti-Sexism around the theme of “Islamophobia: A New Form of Racism.”

Richard Bliese, president and associate professor of mission, will speak at the St. Paul Area Synod fall ministerium Thursday, Nov. 17, at First Lutheran Church, St. Paul. He is one of the featured presenters at the Pacifica Synod’s professional leaders’ conference in Palm Desert, Calif., Oct. 24-27.


Kelly Fryer, assistant professor of congregational leadership, will be the guest evangelist for Mission Sunday at Advent Lutheran, Maple Grove, Minn., Nov. 6. She is the keynote speaker for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod’s convocation Nov. 9-11.

Frederick Gaiser, professor of Old Testament, will be the keynote speaker at the conference on “Tending the Garden, Cultivating the Commons: Faith-Based Approaches to Shared Environmental Challenges” in Denver, Colo., Nov. 4-5. The conference is sponsored by the National Council of Churches’ Eco-Justice Program.

Mary Jane Haemig, associate professor of church history, will speak on the historical significance of Law and Gospel in the Reformation at the Fall Theological Conference for the Southeastern Iowa Synod in Iowa City, Oct. 23-25. She will speak at the Aquinas/Luther Conference at Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, N.C., Oct. 27-29.

Arland J. Hultgren, Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament, will present a lecture on “Unity and Diversity in Early Christianity” for the local clergy association of Fairfield, Conn., and a series of presentations at forums at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Fairfield, on Feb. 3-5, 2006.

Matthew Skinner, assistant professor of New Testament, is this year’s visiting preaching scholar at Como Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul. He will lead adult forums and preach five times in the upcoming year, focusing on how we encounter Jesus in the New Testament. One such presentation will be on ‘Jesus’ Passion: The Gospels of Mark and Matthew,” Nov. 6.

A Window of Opportunity to Give More!

The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (KETRA) provides a window of opportunity for individuals wishing to make additional gifts this year that would normally cause tax payers to encounter the three percent charitable deduction limitations. In KETRA, Congress temporarily suspended limitations on deductions for cash gifts made to qualified charities during the period beginning on Aug. 28, 2005 and ending on Dec. 31, 2005.

In addition, KETRA states that assets held in tax-favored retirement accounts, such as IRA accounts, may be used to make additional gifts before Dec. 31 without being subjected to the 10 percent penalty tax for early withdrawal. You are encouraged to visit with your tax preparer to see how KETRA’s tax law changes apply to you.
Charles Amjad-Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Justice and Christian Community, led the Bible study at the Western North Dakota Synod Assembly, and spoke at the Anglican Diocese of Toronto’s clergy conference on “Islam: Challenge for Christian Theology and Vocation” in June. In August, he was the keynote speaker at the North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church’s Ministry Development Event on “Globalization and the Clash of Civilizations: Crises of Modernity.” He is a member of the editorial board and editor-in-charge of the section on Pakistan for the forthcoming Dictionary of South Asian Christianity and a consulting scholar for Orbis Books’ series on History of the World Christian Movement.


Kelly Fryer, assistant professor of congregational leadership, and Rolf Jacobson, ’91, assistant professor of Old Testament, are co-authors of No Experience Necessary: The Bible Study, a new series from Augsburg Fortress. The Bible study is based on Fryer’s book, No Experience Necessary: Everybody’s Welcome (Augsburg Fortress, 2005). Fryer was the keynote speaker at the 150th anniversary gathering at Bethel Lutheran, Madison, Wis., and at the joint ELCA and Episcopalian evangelism event in northeast Ohio in October. She also published an article entitled “Creative Outreach: How’s It Going Where You Are?” in the April 2005 issue of The Lutheran.

Frederick Gaiser, professor of Old Testament, spent a week teaching at Christikon Bible Camp in Montana this summer. He was the Lund Lecturer at North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, in September, presenting “‘O Lord, Heal Me’: The Primal Witness of Psalm 6” and “‘What I Have I Give You’: Healing in the Name of Jesus (Acts 3:1-26).” He also participated at North Park’s annual symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture, presenting “‘Your Sins are Forgiven … Stand up and Walk’: A Theological Reading of Mark 2:1-12 in the Light of Psalm 103.” He represented the ELCA at the World Council of Churches Consultation on “The Global Health Situation and the Mission of the Church in the 21st Century” in Breklum, Germany.

Mary Jane Haemig, associate professor of church history, taught and preached this summer at three Washington state congregations: First, Bothell; Zion, Kent; and Emmanuel, Tacoma.

Mary Hess, associate professor of educational leadership, participated in an International Study Commission meeting on Media, Religion and Culture in Melbourne, Australia, in July. In September, she gave a presentation in Faverges, France, to an international group as part of the World Council of Churches’ consultation on copyright issues.

Arland J. Hultgren, Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament, preached at an annual service using the liturgy of the Augustana Lutheran Church at Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, Minn., on Sunday, Sept. 25. He also spoke at adult forums at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, St. Paul, during September.

Professor Emeritus Martin Lehmann talks with former student Kurt Nordby, ’76, during a reception celebrating Lehmann’s 65 years of ministry. The celebration was held this summer at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mediapolis, Iowa. Lehmann was professor of church history from 1967-1983.
Lee, Svennungsen Honored with Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Award

Pastors Gary Lee, ’66, and Ann Svennungsen, ’81, have several things in common. They are exemplary preachers and worship leaders, their nominators say. They are mentors and role models. They care deeply about who will lead the church of the future. And they are the 2006 honorees of Luther Seminary’s Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Awards.

To serve in congregational ministry for almost 40 years is a mark of faithfulness. To have done so while preparing over 30 others to be pastors is a mark of excellence,” wrote nominator Steven Gjerde, ’00, of Pastor Gary Lee, who served as his internship supervisor.

In his 32 years at First Lutheran Church, Lee has built a reputation as a gifted preacher, an insightful theologian, a compassionate counselor, and an innovative leader. But his dedication to training future leaders of the church has left perhaps the greatest legacy. First’s reputation as a top-notch internship site has developed because of Lee’s belief that interns should have a full pastoral experience—teaching, preaching, visitation and collegial reflection.

James Bangsund, ’78, who interned at First Lutheran in the late 1970s, said, “Gary was clearly concerned that I should grow and become further empowered to do what God had called me to do. And I clearly saw that a proper internship would mean more work for the supervising pastors, not less.”

“With his leadership, our intern program has flourished and is a dynamic part of our congregation,” said Betty Schmitt, church secretary and office manager at First Lutheran. “He has challenged our congregation, and the congregation has met the challenge of financially supporting the intern program and enthusiastically encouraging it.”

Lee served his first call in Williams Bay, Wis., for seven years before coming to First Lutheran.

Pastor Ann Svennungsen’s commitment to the future of the church is evident in her résumé. A nationally-known speaker, writer and Bible study leader, she has served both as a parish pastor and as leader of the Fund for Theological Education (FTE). The FTE is a leading advocate for excellence and diversity in Christian ministry.

“Her pastoral presence and broad grasp of the doctrine of vocation make her not only uniquely qualified to lead the institution but to receive this award for her faithfulness to the church in general and the office of ministry in particular,” Chris Enstad, ’00, wrote in his nomination letter.

“All throughout her parish ministry Ann has had a knack for noticing gifts and abilities for service,” said colleague Nancy Windels, ’94. “Now at FTE she can do the same ministry by putting ‘legs’ under the invitation and help young people find a way to come to ordained ministry.”

Svennungsen is both the first woman president of the FTE and the first to come directly out of parish ministry. Before accepting the call to FTE, she was the senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Minn., and served congregations in Minneapolis and Iowa City, Iowa.

Patricia Lull, dean of students at Luther Seminary, said, “Ann is a significant role model for women in ministry. As a preacher and parish pastor, she embodies the kind of pastoral imagination that helps the Gospel sing in the 21st century. She has served in a variety of contexts, maintained her poise and passion for ordained service through challenges of parenting, dual-career family, and health crisis. That’s my idea of faithfulness.”

Pastors Lee and Svennungsen will receive the Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Award on Jan. 5 at 11 a.m. during Luther Seminary’s 2006 Mid-Winter Convocation.
From coast to coast and beyond the memories poured in. He was a mentor, a pastor, a teacher and a colleague. He was a champion for peace and justice, who held an unwavering spotlight on the devastation of domestic violence and substance abuse. But most of all, they said, he was a friend.

Richard Wallace, ’96, associate professor of pastoral care at Luther, was Wallace’s doctoral advisor. “He brought a unique perspective to the field of pastoral care in having his feet firmly planted in two cultures, namely that of his African American heritage as well as that of the dominant culture … Most noteworthy in the midst of his academic accomplishments was that he never wavered in his own conviction that his primary identity was that of a pastor. His students and parishioners will attest to this fact.”

His gentle compassion didn’t mean he was a pushover, said Charles Amjad-Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Justice and Christian Community, at the memorial service. “…added to his gentle and considerate side was a moral timbre which never shied away from taking a stand and putting his conviction into praxis for justice and change. He believed with Martin Luther King that “…this is what Jesus expects. We must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the dove, a tough mind and a tender heart.”(The Strength of Love, 1963)

“He will be missed sorely for he was one of the voices of sanity, balance and reason which reminded us of the task which continues to be ours in the seminary, the church and the world,” Amjad-Ali said.

Wallace joined the Luther Seminary faculty in 1999 after serving as director at the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta (LTCA) since 1997. His experience in pastoral care centered on his interest in youth, teaching and community, with a special focus on counseling people affected by substance abuse and sexual abuse. An ELCA-ordained pastor, Wallace served parishes in Minnesota, California and Georgia. He taught at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

Wallace is survived by his wife, Beverly, his children, William, Erica, Sarah and Yolanda, son-in-law Jesse Hightower, and grandchildren Jaylen and Erin.
New Faculty (continued)

across the United States and is a
team leader for the ELCA’s national youth gathering. He is also the co-
author of *Coming of Age: Exploring Spirituality and Identity in Young Men.* “Adolescent and men’s ministry
is my passion,” Hill says. “If we don’t
learn to connect with them, we’ll
lose all their gifts and abilities, and
the world will become even more
chaotic.”

Carol Miles
Associate Professor of Preaching

C

arol Miles loves the
challenge of biblical
preaching. “The Bible
is filled with texts that
reflect a different time
and culture. They can
seem strange, even alien
to a contemporary congregation. Yet
they continue to speak to us today
as a word of address—as the Word
of God,” she says.

Miles wants the men and women in
her classes to be passionate students
of the Bible and to understand
themselves as practical theologians
who interpret texts for particular
congregations living out their faith
in the world.

To do this means paying attention not
only to the Bible’s historical setting, but
to the literary details and rhetorical
devices used by the biblical authors.
“In our preaching, we need to lift up
and explicate those details because it
is often there, in the language, that
the theological freight is carried,”
Miles says.

A Presbyterian who holds a Ph.D.
from Princeton Theological Seminary,
Miles is pleased to be at Luther.
“I appreciate the richness of Lutheran
theology and worship. And because I
come from a tradition that emphasizes
the preached word, I am excited about
the seminary’s strong commitment
to biblical preaching,” she says.

Miles sees herself as a coach for
preaching students. “I know they
often feel vulnerable in class. I want
them to become more confident of
their own voice and more comfortable
with their call to ministry, while
developing their preaching skills. I
especially want them to be capable of
good self-critique. This means asking
the right questions of their
own sermons,” she says.

Above all, Miles wants
students to share her
sense of urgency about
the gospel and preaching:
“There are preachers who
speak from the pulpit as
though absolutely nothing
were at stake. We serve a
risen Christ who is alive and present
and active in the world. If we preached
as though that were true, who knows
what could happen?”

Andrew Root
Assistant Professor
of Youth and Family
Ministry

A

ndrew Root hopes
that his students
will develop into
practitioners who contin-
ually reflect on their own
experience of ministry.
He also wants them “to reflect on the
complications of human experience,
and in that complication, see the
distinct activity of God in the world.”

Root came to faith as a teenager
through his participation in church
ministries to youth. Eventually, he
became a youth minister. But as he
worked with kids, especially those
in difficult economic and family
situations, he realized that something
was lacking.

“I went to seminary because what
I learned about youth ministry in
college didn’t match up with what
I saw in the field,” Root says. “My
question was: How do you minister
to people who refuse your care, but
continue to ask for it?”

This led him to reflect on how the
church interacts with the world. “The
work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and
Karl Barth became very significant
for me,” he says. “I realized that real
ministry is about faithfulness to the
person and to God’s call.”

This realization was reinforced by
his experience as a gang prevention
counselor. “I worked with kids one-
on-one. Many had parents or other
family members who were on drugs,
in gangs, or incarcerated. I couldn’t
change these things. But I could, for
one hour a week, enter into their
suffering and listen to their story
so they could understand that they
were not alone,” Root says.

This kind of ministry goes beyond
cultural strategy and personal influence,
and becomes truly incarnational. “Working with
youth takes more than a
skateboard and a guitar,”
he says. “Adolescents need
people who’ll enter into
their lives and love them.
This is a relationship
between an ‘I’ and a
‘You.’ Christ is not the
‘third thing’ that we
bring people to. Christ is present
in the relationship itself.”
Lois Farag
Assistant Professor of Early Church History

Lois Farag believes that “if you want to understand the church today, you need to understand what the church was like in its formative years.”

Early Christians were consumed by the discussion of theology and spirituality. And there was an extraordinary concern with the Bible and its interpretation. “Christianity was a way of life, not simply a name,” Farag says.

She also stresses the human aspect of the early church. People of that time were much like us, and they asked many of the same questions that we do. And because human nature doesn’t change, the early church also dealt with the same problems as we do—politics, finances and disagreements. The lesson here is that “God has taken care of the church, from early times until now,” Farag says.

She points out that we owe the foundation of our faith to the early church. This was the time when the biblical canon was defined. Fundamental doctrines like the nature of Christ and the Trinity were also defined, and the Nicene Creed was written.

But to understand the writings of important figures like Athanasius, Cyril of Alexandria, Augustine, and Ambrose, one must understand the times they lived in. “Every new generation must learn about the context of these important documents,” Farag says.

A nun in the Coptic Orthodox Church, Farag holds a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a doctorate in early Christian studies from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. She was drawn to Luther because of its high ethical standards: “People here are truly living the Word.”

Farag hopes that her students will be inspired by the example of early Christians. “It was hard to keep the faith in those days,” she says. “But in a way, it was also easy because the faithful supported each other. And for that reason, the early church was fruitful.”

Paul Hill
Affiliated Faculty, Mentor Coordinator Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Paul Hill believes that any ministry to and with youth and families must focus on two key questions: Who is Jesus and what does he mean for human life? And how do we pass on the faith to the next generation?

“When it comes to passing on the faith, we can see the work of the Holy Spirit in paradigms, principles and practices that are rooted in the Bible, early church history, our Lutheran confessional heritage, contemporary research on the spiritual needs of adolescents, and the neurology of the brain,” he says.

The Book of Deuteronomy, for example, is a manual for parents living in exile. “There’s a lot in it that’s transferable to post-modern and post-Christian America. Parents are exhorted to teach the Shema to their children when they are awake and when they are lying down—a 24/7 life of faithfulness,” Hill says.

Early Christians likewise passed on the faith through their unwavering vision and passion for Jesus of Nazareth. During the Reformation, Luther wrote the Small Catechism out of pastoral concern for youth. “We’ve turned the Small Catechism into a junior high school torture instrument,” Hill says. “But it was written as a guide for parents and contains good advice about how to speak to young people.”

Neuroscience has discovered that the adolescent brain is still developing the ability to understand consequences and choose wisely. Research shows that young people need—and want—caring adults to walk with them in pilgrimage. “Transformational youth ministry goes way beyond what I call the ‘Six Flags Over Jesus’ approach,” Hill says.

In addition to teaching at Luther, Hill is the director of mentoring for all the M.A., M.Div., and distributive learning students in the Children, Youth and Family initiative. He leads seminars and consults with churches
Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities
+ called and sent by the Holy Spirit
+ to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ
+ and to serve in God’s world.

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Luther Seminary, the largest of the eight seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a part of the ELCA’s Western Mission Cluster, along with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The Luther Seminary Story is published three times a year and distributed via third class mail to alumni/ae and donors by Luther Seminary, 2481 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Correspondence concerning The Luther Seminary Story should be sent to Office of Communication, Luther Seminary, 2481 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108, or via e-mail to sholm@luthersem.edu.

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The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12
One of my favorite works of art at Luther Seminary is by He Qi entitled, “Peace Be Still.” The painting takes its inspiration from Mark’s gospel (Mark 4:35f). Jesus is crossing the Sea of Galilee. The winds and waves buffet his boat. Jesus is “asleep on the cushion.” He Qi captures that moment when Jesus awakens and takes command of the stormy seas. “Peace, be still.” The message is clear: Jesus is Lord not only over the forces of nature but also over mission trips “to the other side of the sea.”

This picture near my office serves as a devotional meditation for me every morning: Be at peace! Jesus is in our boat, calming troubled seas and setting the stage for bold new mission ventures. This is a great message for a new president.

God has sent Luther Seminary on a mission trip to educate leaders for Christian communities in a season of “stormy weather.” This is a time of apostolic calling. What an honor to serve this high calling with so many supporters of the seminary all around the country. This annual report shares some of the ways we are striving to answer God’s call and send Christian leaders together. You will find many signs of hope and strength in these pages. God is faithful! The faith will flourish!

As we continue this exciting mission venture of faith, our goal is to keep our eyes fixed on the one at the front of the boat who is calling out to the wind, to the waves and to us.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Pax,

Richard H. Bliese, President
Karen Gutzman, Master of Arts Senior from Chester, S.D.
However that may be, let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God called you.

1 Corinthians 7:17

Karen Gutzman, Master of Arts Student

“I was looking for a quality education and a chance to explore what I’m passionate about in ministry,” relates Karen Gutzman about her decision to come to Luther Seminary to study Christian education. “At Luther Seminary, I learned that ministers are not only challenged to learn doctrine and theology, but to engage culture and media, to be disciples as well as make disciples, to be intentional about preparing people for ministry in their own lives, and to keep God at the center of all things.”

Karen’s decision to enter seminary was tested by her own high expectations for herself. In fact, her powerful intellect and hunger for challenges almost sent her to medical school—Karen already is a registered paramedic. “I decided not to pursue a career in medicine because my passion and creativity didn’t seem to intersect with being a doctor,” recalls Karen. “But I faced the same obstacle in ministry because I didn’t have a driving passion to become a pastor.”

In fact, Karen’s calling was being realized in her life, even before she knew that seminary was where she would eventually arrive. For the last six summers, Karen has worked at summer camps on Christian education leadership teams. For the last three summers, she has served as a program director.

Yet, when her own pastor asked her what God was up to in her life, she struggled to describe a feeling of being called to ministry, but not knowing her place. Her pastor directed her to Luther Seminary.

“I knew that I had found the right fit in educational ministry as soon as I saw the classes and read about the program,” recalls Karen.

The depth of Karen’s discernment and her tremendous gifts represent the best of Luther Seminary’s students. “Admissions decisions are becoming more selective,” explains Patricia Lull, dean of students. “We’re becoming an even more attractive school for a wider variety of students who are seeking a formal theological degree. We believe this is a form of stewardship, ensuring that students can make the most of their academic and contextual opportunities while they are enrolled at Luther Seminary.”

So far, Karen has not been disappointed in her aim to apply all her innate abilities as she pursues her call. “I have been challenged beyond what I can sometimes comprehend and am at times overwhelmed with the task set before the leaders of the church, but my professors always bring me back to Christ. They remind me that I don’t have to carry the burden of ministry alone, but that God is preparing my fellow classmates and the people of the church to be sent into the world.”

Karen’s words highlight the observations of Dean Lull: “Just when I think a class of seminarians can’t get any better, I meet the incoming students like Karen—insightful, poised, open-minded, and generous in their aspirations for serving in the church and world.”
Michael Peck, Doctor of Ministry Student
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Overland, Kan.

Earnest Tate, ’94, Doctor of Ministry Student
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Putting Learning into Practice

Developing leaders for congregations in mission is the vision behind the extraordinary Doctor of Ministry programs provided by Luther Seminary. These programs provide experienced pastors the tools they need to help their religious communities flourish both in numbers and in spiritual growth.

Michael Peck, Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission and Leadership Student

“We’re going where no one has gone before,” says Michael Peck, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland, Kan. Michael is a proud member of the first cohort in Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission and Leadership program. “It’s exciting,” he says. “I like being a trailblazer.”

Venturing into unexplored territory is nothing new for Michael. When he arrived at Holy Cross in 1998, he discovered an “eight-year-old congregation trying to find its way. Worship attendance was about 150. Now it’s 450. The congregation is changing rapidly.”

Needing knowledge to lead the congregation in mission growth, Michael applied to Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Mission and Leadership program. “I’d been reading about church growth but found so much of that research wanting,” says Michael. “This program gives me the opportunity to go deeper, to really get the theological underpinnings to the material I’d been reading.”

With less than two years to go before completing the program, Michael credits Luther Seminary with providing him with learning that “relates so well to my ministry and everything that’s taking place at Holy Cross. It’s really helping me to flourish as a pastor.”

Earnest Tate, ’94, Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching Student

“I believe in walking the talk,” says Earnest Tate, a student in Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching program. As an associate pastor at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Earnest joyfully serves the Lord.

“Most of my work at Messiah is in the trenches,” says Earnest. “People come here needing services related to housing, medical issues, lack of language skills and lack of educational opportunities.”

In addition to walking the talk, Earnest talks the walk as well. He specializes in Old Testament preaching, especially the major and minor prophets. “I’m excited about the program at Luther Seminary because I’ve received a reservoir of practical knowledge pertaining to biblical preaching. The constructive verbal and written response to each of my sermons from professors, classmates and the parish response group is a catalyst for my enthusiasm.”

Earnest’s studies at Luther Seminary help him to ground the problems and temptations faced by members of the Messiah congregation: “We read a lot about injustices, about the past. We must decide what is just. What is right in the eyes of God is just. People need to be reminded that the God of the past is the same God as today.” Earnest’s gift in preaching is key to sending that message.
Left: Patti McKitterick, Master of Arts Junior from Brooklyn Park, Minn.
Right: Mary Hinkle Shore, Associate Professor of New Testament; Associate Dean of Learning Systems and Technology, Luther Seminary
Discipleship Groups at Luther Seminary build among students a sense of community with each other and with faculty and, above all, help students be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Patti McKitterick, Master of Arts Student
Mary Hinkle Shore, Associate Professor of New Testament; Associate Dean of Learning Systems and Technology

At Luther Seminary, students explore the implications of being a follower of Jesus Christ by participating in discipleship groups. Held once a week, the gatherings present students with three opportunities for fellowship. “First, we check in on how the week is going, what’s going on,” says professor Mary Hinkle Shore, about the group she facilitates. “Second, we practice a kind of discipline instituted by Ignatius of Loyola, reviewing our day, discovering our high points and low points, our moments of consolation and desolation.” Finally, students and their mentor end the meeting by engaging in prayer.

A dedicated and talented academic who views teaching as her ministry, Mary sees the primary benefit of discipleship group as “the experience of being with other students who come from a variety of backgrounds. What I find beneficial about it is that we come together once a week and check in with one another. We’re able to get to know each other on a more individual, more personal level. It helps to create a fellowship.”

Patti McKitterick, a Master of Arts student in pastoral care who taught special education for 20 years before coming to Luther Seminary, says that participation in her discipleship group “helps me sort through a variety of other viewpoints, through different people’s eyes. I get a different perspective as I go through my week.”

Mary notes that she wants discipleship group students to take from the gatherings the feeling that someone is praying for them. And, Patti definitely appreciates this blessing: “It also helps in that I know that group members are praying for me as I am for them during the course of the week. There’s some investment in one another that is spiritually very comforting.”

Patti sees the discipleship group as “a safe place to bring myself.”

Inspired by the spiritual commitment of Patti and the other dedicated students at Luther Seminary, says Mary, “I am struck year after year through discipleship at the faith that the seminarians bring, and at the connection with God and the eagerness to serve that they feel. And that bolsters my faith. It makes me feel like the church is in good hands. God’s hands.”
Russell Lackey, '01
Reformation Lutheran Church, Westminster, Calif.
So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Galatians 6:10

Russell Lackey, ’01, Reformation Lutheran Church, Westminster, Calif.

“It seemed foreign to see a man in a dress,” says Russell Lackey describing his first visit to a Lutheran church in high school. A Luther Seminary graduate, Russell is now pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church, a growing congregation in Westminster, Calif.

Unfamiliar with the church as a young person, Russell first learned about Lutheranism from a friend who invited him to church. He accepted the invitation, and despite his initial confusion about albs, his faith was quickened and he started attending church. It wasn’t long before he discerned a call to ordained ministry and found himself at Luther Seminary.

After attending seminary, Russell answered his first call, from Reformation Lutheran Church, in Westminster, Calif. “I had wondered what poor sap would take that call. I guess I was the sap! The church had only 20 people worshipping on a Sunday and had been without a pastor for seven years. When I interviewed there, I asked them why they wanted one.” The call committee replied to Russell’s query by saying: “We need help in spreading the gospel to this neighborhood.”

“When I heard that answer, I was hooked;” said Russell. With the skills and values he developed at seminary and his God-given faith, Russell has joyfully carried out the charge of the call committee.

At Luther Seminary, Russell learned that Lutheranism is about knowing that Christ died on the cross, that the Bible is the Word of God, and that we have been freed by Christ to love our neighbor. Having emulated Luther Seminary faculty members in engaging not only Bible texts but also the world at large, Russell knocked on doors in the church’s community.

During his canvassing, Russell quickly found that his tiny congregation was unknown by even its closest neighbors. “I would introduce myself and the church,” says Russell. “The people at home would ask where we were. The church was only eight doors away.” Influenced by his Luther Seminary mentors, Russell was constantly asking: “How does the neighborhood perceive us? What are its needs? How can we meet these needs while remaining faithful to the gospel?”

Making the change from a church that was barely known to one that is alive with activity meant more than just knocking on doors. Where once the appearance of Reformation Lutheran Church was one of a “closed” building, Russell made sure that cars were parked in front; the community was invited to church activities like volleyball games on Sundays and coffee and treats on Halloween. Above all, a personal welcome was made to all visitors, regardless of whether they came to seek spiritual guidance or they simply came to vote because the church was their polling place.

Russell’s dedication has opened the gates to a flood of growth. The church now has over 160 regular Sunday attendees and continues to grow. “I just baptized five high school students,” says Russell proudly. “They asked all sorts of questions.” He laughs. “One of them was why the pastor wears a dress. It’s come full circle.”
There are more than 12 additional students listed as international students that are permanent residents or citizens of the United States.
At A Glance

Finances 2004–2005

Generous Gifts
Make a Difference!

How Luther Seminary Spends Its Money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Programs:</td>
<td>$9,086,638</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Support:</td>
<td>$5,657,930</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants, Scholarships:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Plant, Maintenance:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Budget Expenses:</strong></td>
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How Luther Seminary Is Financially Supported

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts, Grants:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition, Fees:</td>
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<td>Endowment Income:</td>
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<td>Churchwide/Synod Support:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds Used for Operations:</td>
<td>$1,436,237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income Budget:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,656,887</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Luther Seminary Endowment

- Size of Luther Seminary’s endowment: $59,055,077
- Investment returns for past year: 8.5% (average of 10.0% over the past 10 years)

Luther Seminary spends five percent of its endowment every year in support of the overall program, faculty positions and student scholarships. While Luther Seminary’s endowment has grown significantly over the past 10 years, its endowment per full-time-equivalent student ranks in the lower half of ELCA seminaries.

Generous Gifts Make a Difference!

GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS ARE VITAL. Churchwide and synodical support covers only 13 percent of Luther Seminary’s $18 million dollar budget. Generous gifts from donors make up 37 percent of the seminary’s budget.

LUTHER SEMINARY’S ENDOWMENT IS GROWING. It provides 15 percent of the seminary’s income and works to build core strengths—programming, faculty and students. It gives the seminary the flexibility to weather financial downturns while continuing to invest in new initiatives that better prepare men and women for ministry in today’s world.

How Luther Seminary Uses Its Money to Support Students

In 2004–05, Luther Seminary awarded more than $2.1 million in seminary grants and scholarships. In addition, congregations provided over $1.2 million in gifts directed to specific students. Programs like the ELCA’s Fund for Leaders in Mission and the Fund for Theological Education provide an additional $68,500. When added together, this means the average student receives $5,821.44 in scholarships and grants. As the budget below shows, this leaves a significant gap for students to fill.

A Luther Seminary Student Budget*

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition:</td>
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<td>Room and Board:</td>
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<td>Books and Fees:</td>
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<td>Transportation:</td>
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<td>Misc. Personal:</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,116</strong></td>
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*Figures are for a single student, living on campus.
Luther Seminary and Foundation Consolidated Balance Sheet—June 30, 2005 and 2004

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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Student Accounts and Notes Receivable</td>
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<td>Contributions Receivable</td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Land, Buildings and Equipment</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Deposits and Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Deferred Gift Obligations</td>
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<td>Capital Leases</td>
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<td>Advances from Government for Federal Loans</td>
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<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>86,084,038</td>
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*Figures unaudited