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THE STORY

LUTHER SEMINARY

Ministry in Ways Never Imagined

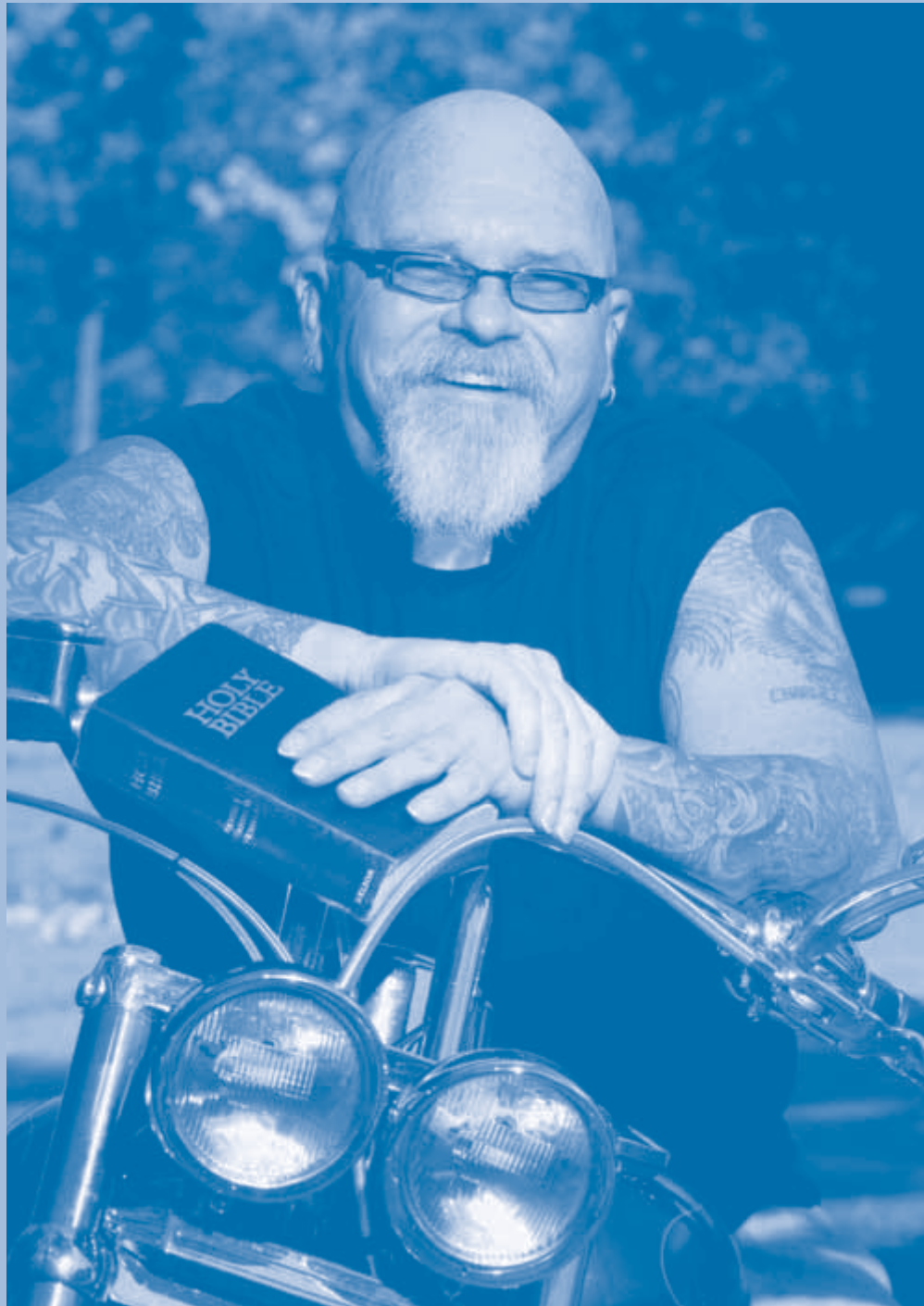
Why a supplemental version of Story this fall? Actually, the 2005-2006 annual report and Called & Sent campaign summary was the fall issue this year. But there is always so much to share—about Luther Seminary, alumni/ae, students, faculty and staff—that we decided to create the supplement as well. If you missed the annual report with its attention-grabbing photo (at right) of **Randy Haas**, '06, you can still read about Randy and other alumni/ae, students and programs, plus financial, enrollment and campaign statistics at www.luthersem.edu/gifts/annual_reports.asp

The ELCA actually has been imagining, and realizing, for a long time an innovative solution to educating ordained ministers in areas where it has traditionally been hard to maintain such leadership. It's called the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries, or TEEM, program. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) has been one of the trailblazers of TEEM, and now Luther Seminary is joining forces with PLTS to create a shared TEEM program. Read about it on pages 2-4.

Speaking of innovative leadership, three such pastors, and alums of Luther Seminary, are being honored with the Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Awards. Meet them on pages 12-14.

Another set of new leaders is Luther Seminary's newest faculty and staff. Meet José Antonio Machado, Amy Marga and Kathryn Schifferdecker on pages 5-6.

And, as always, read about the latest endeavors of faculty and alums, and so much more. There's always something to pique your interest!



Luther and PLTS “TEEM” Up to Provide Innovative Theological Education

By Andy Behrendt,
Master of Divinity Student

Already serving as church leaders, Celeste Waymire and Helen King are nearing ordained ministry in the ELCA through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries, or TEEM, program. They're students of the same ELCA program, which since 1989 has educated leaders for congregations that have a hard time finding or sustaining pastoral staff. But their education has come through different seminaries.

“The TEEM program was really beneficial because nobody had to scramble to replace me here in the congregation, and that, to me, is a huge benefit,” says Waymire, presently an associate in ministry who is taking TEEM courses through Luther Seminary while serving a rural church in Iowa.

“I think that what the TEEM program has done is brought out the best in me in terms of answering the call to full-time ministry,” says King, a mission developer for an African-American and African church in urban Omaha, Neb., who is part of the TEEM program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. “The more you learn about God, the more you have to offer to the world.”

By September 2007, the TEEM program at Luther and its counterpart at PLTS in Berkeley, Calif., will be one and the same. The TEEM-building merger will offer students the combination of PLTS's more extensive program with Luther's larger faculty.

The TEEM program does not end in a degree—it ends in ordination. Candidates, who are directed to the program by their synods, are not required to hold a bachelor's degree to enter the program, but they must follow the same candidacy procedures as Master of Divinity students who plan on ordination. A theological review panel helps decide the number and nature of courses, the type of clinical pastoral education and length of internship required for the candidate to round out his or her skills.

“TEEM provides ministry to many communities that otherwise have none,” says Edmond Yee, PLTS professor of Asian studies and director of its TEEM program “It raises leadership in ethnic, urban/rural and deaf communities.”

Whereas Luther includes TEEM students in existing courses for its degree programs, PLTS offers a track of 15 courses on the Bible, theology, history and pastoral theology, plus four workshops, in addition to internships and clinical pastoral education. While the program still lasts an average of three years with ongoing study, students only need to be on campus three times a year—in October, February and June.

Combining the two programs will make Luther's TEEM program much more flexible and accessible, says Rod Maeker, Luther Seminary's director of cross-cultural education.

Another key change: the addition of mentors, who in the PLTS program work one-on-one with the TEEM students.

Nengyia Her (Luther Seminary)



Already serving the Minneapolis-St. Paul-area Hmong community in various roles, Nengyia Her will be serving the population through ordained ministry within a few years.

“I think we need more Hmong pastors in the ELCA,” says Her, 49, a case manager and outreach specialist for Lutheran Social Service.

Her came to Minnesota from Thailand in 1986. Within a year, he became a Christian. He now serves as Hmong outreach director at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis. With Hmong families now making up about a third of the congregation, Her leads local outreach, works with worship and children's programming

and once a month preaches in the Hmong language.

Her's pastor, Wayne Stumme, '92, encouraged him to consider the TEEM program. He started in the Luther Seminary program in 2005 under a plan to take a call at another church with a large Hmong population after he is ordained. A father of six, he is taking one course per semester and expects to be completed within two and a half years.

“When it started, it was very difficult for me, but now it's getting better as I get used to it,” says Her, noting a mentor from his church has helped him revise his course projects. “That's very important and very helpful.” ●

Luther and PLTS “TEEM” (continued)

“Every student will be assigned a mentor,” Maeker says. “If you talk about a three-legged stool of an internship supervisor, a mentor and a faculty who teaches a course, the mentor is the most important leg of that stool because they are the ones who work hopefully weekly with that student to do their studies.”

TEEM is designed to benefit churches serving various ethnic-specific ministries. Funding of \$100,000 from the ELCA will provide scholarships and program support for students who will serve Latino and Asian-American communities. Especially targeted within that funding are Hmong pastoral candidates, due to the ELCA's need of theologically prepared leaders for Hmong congregations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. The Twin Cities are home to the nation's largest urban Hmong population, estimated above 60,000. The Hmong people, many of whom assisted the United States in the Vietnam War, have immigrated to the United States since 1975, when communists took control of their home country of Laos.

The TEEM program is also planning how to better accommodate Spanish-speaking students.

Also aiding in the joint TEEM program's development is \$381,600 from Lilly Endowment Inc., part of a larger \$1 million grant awarded to the two seminaries.

Administration would likely be centered at PLTS, but both campuses—and

(Continued)



Helen King (PLTS)

Recruited by the ELCA to begin an African-American and African ministry in urban Omaha, Neb., Helen King started in 1999 with nothing more than an empty church. Fontenelle Community Church has taken steps forward with its programming and membership since then, and in November, King will step forward as its ELCA-ordained pastor.

Already ordained as a Pentecostal minister and experienced as the past operator of an evangelical nonprofit organization, King, now 53, started with the TEEM program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2003. The program was crucial in allowing her to stay involved as Fontenelle's mission developer.

“Because who would have been here? And they have tried to get people here,” King says, noting the church's community is the highest-crime area in the state. “It's just a hard ministry, and so it hadn't been sustainable. So for this type of ministry, the TEEM program would really be the only program that would work.”

King chose PLTS over other seminaries because of its more established TEEM program. Now PLTS's TEEM student body president, she has been flying to California for on-campus sessions three times a year. She notes that commuting instead to Luther Seminary under a merged program would be beneficial for other Nebraska-based TEEM students. ●



Celeste Waymire (Luther Seminary)

Faith Lutheran Church in Griswold, Iowa, has been counting on Celeste Waymire in the last two years as she has studied to become its ordained pastor.

“My church is walking this journey with me. They called me, and that was a leap of faith because I'm not a traditional, ordained minister. But yet they said, ‘That's OK, come,’” Waymire, 53, says with a laugh.

Faith Lutheran is classified as a rural church, and because of its size—“230 people, two dogs and one cat”—has had difficulty finding and supporting an ordained pastor. Waymire, first a church organist and an associate in ministry since

1999, has been serving the church part time.

Waymire's bishop directed her to both Faith Lutheran and the TEEM program. A Luther Seminary TEEM student since 2004, she has taken mostly online courses but last semester studied on campus and racked up some big-time mileage while commuting to and from Iowa on weekends. She expects to be ordained in February.

“The TEEM program, or some other alternate route to ordination, probably was the only way I would seek ordination, because of my age and education,” Waymire says. “I think the information in the courses made a lot of sense because I immediately put it to daily ministry use.” ●

Luther and PLTS "TEEM" (continued)

potentially other contextual sites nationwide—would likely host courses. Meanwhile, Luther Seminary faculty is sure to become more involved. That would lend support to the smaller faculty at PLTS, says Richard Nysse, Luther Seminary professor of Old Testament, who has taught

TEEM courses at PLTS since the program's inception in 1989.

As those at both seminaries agree, the merger is primarily for the benefit of students. Nysse says that while TEEM students at Luther are hardly aware of each other, the short but intense course meetings under the PLTS model create deep connections between the students. And those

meetings don't detach the students from the congregations that have already greatly prepared them.

"You take the education to their ministry context rather than pulling students out and placing them in school," Nysse says. "They have very brief periods of detachment from their context, but it allows a deep intensity while gathered for class." ●

Notes from the Mission Field The Luther Community Affirms Next Steps in Strategic Plan Process

The strategic planning process is alive and well! Two task forces have been working all summer to put together a draft of a possible process for strategic planning. I've been encouraged by the level of energy and commitment that has gone into the planning thus far. For strategic planning to work, it must first take strong involvement and support from the whole Luther community.

The faculty met in retreat in September to discuss the strategic planning process. Here is a brief update from that meeting.

1. The mission statement was "exegeted" in detail. Each word and phrase from Luther Seminary's Mission Statement was unpacked for meaning and impact.
2. A second discussion involved both feedback from last year's "listening process" and a presentation about three Cs that inform the president's vision for the future. Those Cs name Luther Seminary as being a. a **Community** of Hope, b. a **Catalyst** for Change, Renewal and

Mission and, 3. **Committed** to being fully and intentionally Evangelical.

3. The third session took up the draft of the Strategic Planning Process for review and feedback.



The writing was on the wall: Board members, faculty, students and staff met around the lunch table to discuss challenges and opportunities for Luther Seminary. Each table then wrote or drew their findings on paper around the dining room.

The retreat ended with a strong affirmation of the next steps of the process.

Next, the present draft for the strategic planning process went to the Board for discussion Oct. 21, and was unanimously approved.

Ken Inskeep, director of research and evaluation of the ELCA, presented a paper to our community Oct. 20. A community lunch and discussion of his paper followed. It was wonderful to see board members, faculty, students and staff putting their heads together to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Luther Seminary.

As we move forward with this process, your prayers, involvement and wisdom are appreciated. ●

Richard Bliese,
President and
Associate Professor of Missions



Amy Marga

Assistant Professor of Systemic Theology

Amy Marga considered becoming a parish pastor but eventually came to realize that teaching was her true calling. “I believe in the importance of lay leadership in the church. Every single one of us is called to do something in the kingdom of God,” she says. “And teaching is where my gifts and passions lie.”

A life-long Lutheran, Marga likes teaching in a seminary that is both confessional and missional. “Lutherans need to have a profile in today’s pluralistic society, but we are still called to share the one message of God who has reconciled the world to Godself,” she says. She praises Luther students as “serious about their call to study God’s word and open to one another.”

Marga’s experience as a Christian education director taught her that all Christians think about and question their faith. So she wants her students to understand that theology is for everyone, not just for theologians.

She points out that theology is a critical reflection on what we do as a believing community—and what we do needs to be continually rethought and reformed.

Marga says with a chuckle that for her, most theological roads lead to

Meet Luther’s New Faculty

*By Nancy Giguere,
Special Correspondent*

Martin Luther: “He did not write a systematic theology, but he always wrote to his own context. He was sometimes contradictory, but he was incredibly human and down-to-earth. And that’s a good way to do theology.”

Above all, Marga wants her students to take heart in the immensity, awesomeness and mystery of God: “God seeks you out when you feel helpless and weak—when you feel you can’t. Allow yourself to enjoy being swept up, to be moved by the Spirit, to let God move you out of your comfort zone. Have the courage to let God use you. Don’t be afraid.”

Learn more about Amy Marga on her Web page at www.luthersem.edu/amarga ●

Kathryn Schifferdecker has always been fascinated by the Book of Job. “Many Christians find it impious to question or lament. But God wants to be in relationship with us, and it is a faithful response to hold God to God’s promises,” she says. “Job’s laments, as well as those of the prophets and psalmists, are a treasure for the Christian church,” she says.

Schifferdecker wants her students to know these and other treasures contained in the Old Testament. “I want them to encounter the Bible as the word of God for their lives and the lives of the people they minister to,” she says. “I hope their imagination will be sparked by the story of God’s love for God’s people through the centuries.”



Kathryn Schifferdecker

Assistant Professor of Old Testament

In addition, she wants students to imagine how Old Testament texts can be used in parish ministry for preaching, teaching or in the context of pastoral care.

Before coming to Luther, Schifferdecker spent five years as associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Arkdale, Wis. Although she loved being in the parish, she had long been drawn to teaching. Her work at Luther combines the calls of teacher and pastor.

She enjoys working with the students, whom she calls “bright, engaged and excited.” Among her classes is a course on the Pentateuch, which she teaches online. “This is a new way of doing theological education, and Luther is at the forefront,” she says.

Schifferdecker is overjoyed to find herself at Luther. “I’m a Lutheran born and bred, and this feels like home,” she says. “The seminary is committed to building up the body of Christ by equipping lay and ordained ministers for the work of mission and ministry. And I’m excited to be a part of that effort.”

Learn more about Kathryn Schifferdecker at www.luthersem.edu/kschiffer ●

Machado Named Western Mission Cluster Coordinator For Vocational Formation

By Laura Kaslow,
Communication Specialist

Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) have appointed Rev. José Antonio Machado as the new coordinator for vocational formation in the Western Mission Cluster, a partnership between Luther and PLTS. Machado, '89, has served parishes in Puerto Rico, Miami, Fla. and most recently Minneapolis-St. Paul.

The coordinator for vocational formation is a three-year call. Machado will collaborate with the admission staffs of both Luther Seminary and PLTS to expand existing recruitment efforts to young women and men who discern that they are called by God for public leadership in Christ's church, and to position the seminaries of the Western Mission Cluster as their first-tier choices for theological education. Special attention will be given to work in faith communities and institutions that have significant ministries with persons of color, languages other than English and new immigrants.

Machado sees the new position as pivotal for the future of the whole church. "The way we deal with our nation and communities is vastly changing," Machado said. "There is now greater opportunity for mission in the U.S. This is an opportunity for Luther and PLTS to build relationships in communities that they have not had strong relationships with in the past. This will allow us to try new

things and connect with new people in a different way."

The coordinator for vocational formation position was created using funds from a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. This three-year grant encourages the Western Mission Cluster to prepare more leaders for the church, particularly students of color and those called to ministry in underserved areas of the church, including urban, remote-rural, multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries.

"The staffs of this initiative in St. Paul and Berkeley are excited by the wealth of experience Antonio brings, including his obvious passion for helping others discover their vocation."

Patricia Lull,
dean of students

"The staffs of this initiative in St. Paul and Berkeley are excited by the wealth of experience Antonio brings, including his obvious passion for helping others discover their vocation," said Patricia Lull, dean of students at Luther Seminary and project director for the Lilly Grant. "He is already regarded



as a leader in multicultural initiatives in the ELCA. We are eager to see what God can do as we team up for this three-year effort."

Machado was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, raised in Bronx, N.Y. and now resides in Minnesota. He grew up in an extended family and speaks both Spanish and English fluently. His extensive experience includes teaching in the New York City school system and at Florida International University. He has taught literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. In addition to his parish work, he has traveled extensively throughout Latin America with Lutheran World Federation to "make church relevant" to people in poor urban areas. Machado is the 1997 recipient of Luther Seminary's Race, Church, Change award, which recognizes individuals who have significantly impacted society through multicultural ministry, race relations and reconciliation. He is also the 2004 recipient of the Latino Pastor of the Year award in Minneapolis, Minn. Machado received the Bachelor of Science degree in political science from City College, New York City, N.Y. in 1973 and his Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in 1989. ●

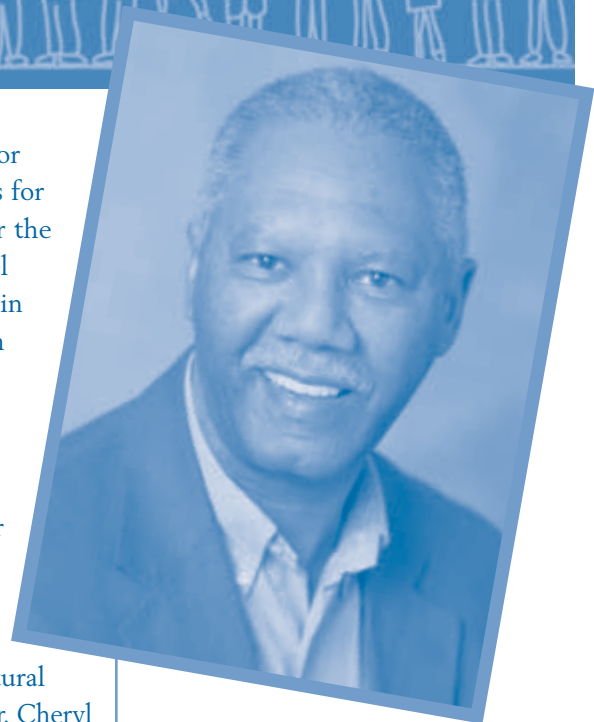
Pastor Kelly Chatman Receives Race, Church, Change Award

By Laura Kaslow,
Communication Specialist

In tribute to his devoted ministry and exemplary work toward creating social and racial justice, Pastor Kelly Chatman was honored with the Race, Church, Change Award at Luther Seminary on Nov. 1. The Race, Church, Change Award recognizes individuals who have significantly impacted society through multicultural ministry, race relations and reconciliation. Luther Seminary annually presents the award to a person who has heroically served in his or her community with the hope that such recognition will inspire others to similar ministry or improve the world around them.

Chatman has helped congregations, seminary students and his community deal with the realities of racism and community building in a positive way. Through outreach work in his community, Chatman led Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis' Hawthorne neighborhood to be a "Church for the Community." He also developed a Peace Palace, which is a building close to his congregation where young people in the community can go after school and be mentored by adults in their school work and Christian faith development.

Chatman has been a facilitator for cross-cultural experiences for Luther Seminary students for the past four years. He is a model pastor for seminary students in urban settings, teaching them about the challenges that his inner-city church faces. Additionally, Chatman has worked with contextual leadership students at Luther over the past six years. In this role, he helps students see and practice effective urban ministry in a multicultural context. Chatman's spouse, Dr. Cheryl Chatman, serves on the Luther Seminary Board of Directors. ●



Step Up to the Challenge!

Here are a few ways to make your gift to Luther Seminary go farther.

Fox Sustaining Fund Challenge

Fred Fox, a close friend of Luther Seminary, believes so strongly in the mission of the seminary that he has agreed to generously match your entire gift to Luther Seminary's Sustaining Fund when you increase your gift to a higher giving level.

Thrivent or Employer Matches

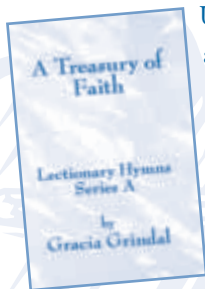
Your gift will multiply even more if you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and/or if your employer matches charitable contributions. We are poised to help you identify additional matching opportunities. ●

Learn more and make a gift online.
Visit www.luthersem.edu/gifts/matching_gifts

Lois Farag, assistant professor of early church history, spoke on “Coptic Christianity, History, Art and Mission” at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at St John’s University in Collegeville, Minn., on Oct. 11.

Farag also presented a session entitled, “Beyond Their Gender: Coptic Female Monasticism in the Twentieth Century” at the AAR/SBL conference in Washington, D.C., Nov. 18.

Gracia Grindal, '80, professor of rhetoric, introduced her new book, *A Treasury of Faith—Lectionary Series A* (Wayne Leupols Publishing, 2006), at the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada gathering at DePauw University in July. It is a collection of hymn texts for every Sunday and festival in the church year according to the Revised Common Lectionary.



Marie Hayes, international student coordinator, recently published *A Handbook for the Minister Studying or Visiting the United States* (Luther Seminary, 2006). Knowing it is seldom easy to understand all the rules and regulations for someone entering another country to study or visit, Hayes walks clergy and other religious personnel from around the globe through the processes required for entrance and study into the United States. Copies of the handbook are available from the Luther Seminary Bookstore, 1-800-541-4187 (local 651-641-3440).



Faculty & Staff NOTES



Want to invite a faculty or staff member to present in your congregation? Visit www.luthersem.edu/resource-guide-for-up-to-date-topic-listings-and-contact-information.

Arland J. Hultgren, Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament, is the author of an essay on “Salvation: Its Forms and Dynamics in the New Testament” in the fall issue of *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*.

Craig Koester, '80, professor of New Testament, was a visiting lecturer at the University of Pretoria and Northwest University in South Africa in early August. His presentations, which were made to faculty members and post-graduate students, focused on the death and resurrection of Jesus according to John’s gospel. On Aug. 5, he was interviewed on South African National Television. He addressed questions about the book of Revelation, Armageddon and recent developments in the Middle East. Before going to South Africa, he attended a conference in Aberdeen, Scotland, chairing sessions on the theme of resurrection in the Gospel of John.

Alvin Luedke, associate professor of rural ministry, gave a short address on priorities for rural ministry at the Western Mission Cluster Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) training meeting at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in early October. He was a resource person at the North Dakota Conference of Churches Rural Life Convocation in June. He attended the Small Town and Rural (STaR) Ministry Alliance annual meeting at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania in July.

Luedke also spoke about rural ministry at a gathering of congregational leaders in the South Dakota Synod, Oct. 29-31.

Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, spoke at a conference on “The Redemption of Reason” at the University of Chicago Nov. 9-11. His lecture was entitled, “The Glory of Science and the Glory of God.”

Robert Roth, '45, professor emeritus of systematic theology, recently published *Divine Disclosure: Meditations on Godly Matters or Licorice from the Box of God* (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006).





Fretheim Honored with Festschrift

The campus celebrated the ministry of **Terence Fretheim**, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament, with the release of a festschrift in honor of his 70th birthday in the spring. The festschrift, entitled *And God Saw That It Was Good: Essays on Creation and God in Honor of Terence E. Fretheim*, includes 20 essays, including 10 by current and former Luther Seminary faculty members. It was published in collaboration with Word & World. Copies are available online at www.luthersem.edu/word&world

Fretheim visited with colleagues like **Jim Boyce**, professor of New Testament (above), and signed copies for students after chapel (left).



From left to right: **Thomas Nyiwe**, '96, keynote speaker **Bishop Zephania Kameeta** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, **Musa Filibus**, '98, **Joseph Bvumbwe**, '05, **Anastasia Boniface-Malle**, '99, **Musa Biyela**, '94, and **Gary Simpson**.

Luther Seminary Doctoral Graduates Lead Lutherans in Africa to Face Challenges

Three Luther Seminary former PhD students and Systematic Theology Professor Gary Simpson made major presentations at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Consultation on Poverty and the Mission of the Church in Africa, Sept. 4-8. More than 70 Lutheran leaders from sub-Saharan Africa gathered in Arusha, Tanzania, to worship, study and deliberate how Christian mission in the 21st century can take shape in the contexts of extensive poverty.

The Rev. Dr. Musa P. Filibus, '98, LWF area secretary for Africa, organized the consultation and led the discussions over the five days. Bishop Musa Biyela, '94, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa, Swaziland, gave a major presentation, "Mission

in the Context of Poverty: Diakonia as Empowerment of All Believers." The Rev. Dr. Thomas Nyiwe, '98, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon, and vice-chair of the LWF Program Committee for Theology and Studies presented "The Challenges of Sustainability in the Churches in Africa: Realities and Prospects." Simpson offered theological reflections about what this all means in his address, "Africa is the Lord's and the Fullness Thereof." Drs. Filibus, Biyele and Nyiwe all studied with Simpson during the 1990s. Two other former Luther Seminary graduates also participated in the consultation: the Rev. Dr. Joseph Bvumbwe, '05,

bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi, and the Rev. Dr. Anastasia Boniface-Malle, '99, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the United Bible Societies.

"It's very important that we at Luther Seminary recognize and appreciate the fruits that God is bringing about around the world through our graduate theological education programs," says Simpson.

Biyela, Boniface-Malle, and Nyiwe stressed the continuing importance for the global church of a strong Luther Seminary graduate program. ●

The '00s

Amy Swanson, '00 and Jon Meyer were married on May 27, 2006 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in South Bend, Ind., where Amy's been serving as associate pastor for two years.

Cyril Fayose, '01, has been named the next president of Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana, and asks for the seminary's prayers: "It is an awesome responsibility to shoulder alone without your prayer support and the abundant grace of God. So bear me up in your prayers. Shalom and God bless you."

Jennifer Larson, '01, recently accepted a call to diaconal ministry with China Service Ventures. She will serve as the administrator to this not-for-profit group, which was founded in 2001. It is committed to fostering mutually enriching relationships between Christians in North America with communities in China. For more, log on to: www.csventures.org.

Nestor Joel Rova-Hegener, '01, and **Emily Rova-Hegener**, '99, are excited to announce the blessing of a second son, Johan Matti, born on July 18, 2006. Emily and Joel also accepted new calls as co-pastors of United in Christ Lutheran in Eveleth, Minn., in September.

Michael Short, '01, has accepted a new call as senior pastor of First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, Wis.

Erik Sevig, '03, began his second call as associate pastor at Community of the Cross Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minn., in August.

James Page II, '04, and wife, Michelle, celebrated the birth of their first born, Benjamin James, on Aug. 15. Page, along with four ELCA pastors from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin ran in the Great River Relay on Aug. 25-26. The relay

Alum News



You are invited to send alum information to:
Luther Seminary
Office of Communication
2481 Como Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
or e-mail:
lkaslow001@luthersem.edu
Additional alumni/ae information is on the Luther Seminary Web site at www.luthersem.edu/alums

began in La Crosse, Wis., and ended in St. Paul, Minn. The "Faster Pastors" joined their four congregations, along with Thrivent Financial, to raise funds for "camperships" at Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, Wis. The "Faster Pastors" consist of **Brian Ferguson**, '04, **Jim Page II**, '04, **Chad Kohlmeyer**, '05, and **Jay Ticknor**, '05. The other two team members are Angie Vetsch, whose husband is a current ELCA pastor, and Jim Johnson, who is a member of Mt. Zion in Hudson, Wis.

Matt Philaya, '04, began a call to First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn., as pastor of education and family life in July. Matt and his wife, Jenny, and their son, Tommy, have moved to Fergus Falls.

Hans Dahl, '05, received a call to Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn., as associate pastor. He was ordained on Aug. 26 at Gustavus.

Katie Pence Dahl, '05, recently accepted a position as the associate director of the Global Mission Institute at Luther Seminary.

Natacha Kemp, '06, began her first call as senior pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kan., on Sept. 17.

The '90s

Kevin Massey, '93, is the author of *Light Our Way*, a newly published guidebook on spiritual care in disaster commissioned by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. A copy of the book can be downloaded at www.nvoad.org/articles/Light_Our_Way_LINKS.pdf

Tim Nelson, '93, joined HealthEast Care System in St. Paul, Minn., as a hospice chaplain after serving most recently as pastor of Living Waters Lutheran Church in Lino Lakes, Minn. Tim continues to offer spiritual direction with individuals and groups in the wider community.

Gail Nord Ginsburg, '97, was recently named adjunct faculty in the Department of Philosophy at Oakton College, suburban Chicago. She makes her home in Evanston, Ill., along with her husband, Rabbi Jonathan Ginsburg.

Kathleen Armstrong (Hesterberg), '98, received a new call to Cross of Christ Lutheran in Broomfield, Colo. Kathleen moved from Northeast Iowa where she served in Frederika, Iowa and Waverly, Iowa. She has two boys, Brune, who is 4 years old, and Kaden, who is 2 years old. Her husband, Tim, is a middle school Spanish teacher.

Mark Hasty, '98, and his wife, Paula, welcomed a daughter, Alyson Beth, on Dec. 26, 2005. Alyson joins sisters Hailee and Serena. Mark and Paula live in West Bend, Wis. Mark serves as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Horicon, Wis.

Karl Redelsheimer, '98, and Kimberly Redelsheimer are happy to announce the birth of twins, Micah and Anna Redelsheimer, born on July 5. Karl is pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School on the north side of Chicago.

Alum News (continued)

The '80s

Rusty Edwards, '85, co-wrote the anthem "The Prayer of Saint Benedict" with Jenni Lee Boyden and Jon Payne, which was published in the United Kingdom by the Royal School of Church Music, the patron of which is Her Majesty the Queen.

John Voelker, '88, recently earned a Ph.D. in historical theology from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. John plans to continue his academic research while remaining in parish ministry.

The '70s

Morris Vaagenes, '70, has published a new book, *Baptism: God's Activity of Grace*. The book provides a wealth of insights and rich biblical context on the theories, methods and true meaning of baptism. The book is now available for purchase through Kirk House Publishers. The book costs \$15.

The '60s

Marshall D. Johnson, '61, has completed 60 articles for the *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, forthcoming from Abingdon.

In Memory

David Spencer, '57, died on June 22. He is survived by his wife, Lois, and four sons, David, Leonard, Karl and Todd. He served several parishes throughout the U.S., most recently Queen Valley Community Church, Ariz. from 2000-2006. His friend and classmate Al Solmonson wrote a poem in his memory. Read Al's poem about David here: www.luthersem.edu/alums/resources/alsomonsonpoem.pdf

James A. Lokken, '59, of San Francisco, died unexpectedly Sept. 23. He had served parishes in Barrett, Minn.; Brookings, S.D.; New York City and San Francisco. He is survived by his elder brother, Stanley, Stan's grown children, and many friends at St. Francis' Church, San Francisco, and elsewhere.

Gene V. Sikkink, '60 (M.Div.), '91 (D.Min.), died June 23 in Luverne, Minn., from liver cancer. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; three children and five grandchildren.

Raymond A. Jensen, '63, died on July 6 in Tempe, Ariz. from complications of stomach cancer. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Lori, their three children, Diane, Lisa and Torrey, and seven grandchildren. Ray served churches in Newport, Wash., Teaneck, N.J. and North Tonawanda, N.Y. He retired in 1996. ●

Alums: Meet Your Luther Seminary Alumni/ae Council

They are your representatives to Luther Seminary. The people with your interests at heart, that lifts up the ministry you do. The team that strives to identify and encourage the next generation of Christian leaders (and encourages YOU to do so, too!). Find out about all the Alum Council does and how you can participate at www.luthersem.edu/alums/council.

Leland Armbricht, '05

Comstock, Minn.

Karna Baseman-Stark, '99

Pepin, Wis.

John Bjorge, '90

Forest Lake, Minn.

Joyce Tollefson Capp, '91

New Ulm, Minn.

Raymond Christenson, '68

Henderson, Nev.

Hal Dragseth, '71

St. Paul, Minn.

Dennis Ellingsen, '80

Jamestown, N.D.

Johan Hinderlie, '73, chair

Alexandria, Minn.

James Limburg, '61

New Brighton, Minn.

Jack Niemi, '72

Berkeley, Calif.

Joel Quie, '86

Eden Prairie, Minn.

Mary Rowe, '75

Oakland, Calif.

Kathy Valan, '96

Moorhead, Minn.

Ron Voss, '72

Plainfield, Ill.

Carl Westby, '61

Arden Hills, Minn.

Nancy Winder, '76

Seattle, Wash.

2007 Watanabe Calendars Now on Sale

The Global Mission Institute at Luther Seminary is selling beautiful calendars featuring the work of Christian Japanese artist Sadao Watanabe. This year's image is "Way of Christ." Visit the GMI Web site at www.luthersem.edu/gmi for order and price information. Proceeds support programs of the Global Mission Institute. ●



Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Honorees 2007

By Allison Schmitt,
Master of Arts Student

The 2007 honorees of the Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Award represent three different generations of ministry, but they are united by the exemplary service they provide their congregations and communities. The award, established by the Luther Seminary Alumni/ae Council in 1991, seeks to “identify, recognize, celebrate and give thanks for alums, both clergy and lay, who have lived lives of faithfulness in ministry.” In 2005, the council voted to recognize alums in three ministry categories: 10 years or less, 25 years or less, or more than 25 years.



10 years or less:

Rev. Sherri Sandoz, 1996
Bethel Lutheran Church
Lester Prairie, Minn.

A new pastor's first call can be a daunting experience. Now imagine that call coming from a church in crisis. Rev. Sherri Sandoz not only accepted that challenge but has remained in that parish for nine years, which has healed and grown under her leadership. Nominating

Pastor Michael Short, '01, said Sandoz has “served well to bring God back to the center of [the congregation's] mission.”

In addition to serving as Bethel's pastor, Sandoz is a trainer and leader for Healthy Congregations workshops and serves on the synod stewardship committee. She is active in her local text study group, apparently uninhibited by being the only woman in the room, Short wrote.

“She does it all with a good spirit,” wrote Rev. Harvey L. Nelson, '71. She is a “breath of fresh air,” he said, bringing insights from her Roman Catholic background and business experience to the table. She has helped her congregation look outward to engage in new kinds of ministry employing persistence, good judgment and sound Lutheran doctrine.

“Sherri has worked through lots of issues with her congregation at Lester Prairie and in the process has helped them develop a solid ministry,” wrote Pastor Tim Hansen, '87. “In an age and era where it is much easier to flee rather than educate, Sherri has demonstrated a faithful response to important issues. Her involvement with Healthy Congregations and her work on the synod stewardship committee are reflections of her passion in ministry.” ●

25 years or less:

Jeffrey L. Hawkins, 1980
HOPE CSA
North Manchester, Ind.

As pastors go, Jeffrey Hawkins truly is a man outstanding in his field—a farm field, to be specific.



Since 2003, Hawkins has been executive director of HOPE CSA, or Hands-On Pastoral Education using Clergy Sustaining Agriculture. HOPE CSA is a working farm and teaching ministry for pastors who spend one day a month working and studying at the farm. The objective is to “teach an ‘organic’ way of thinking about all of life, from the vantage point of hopeful Christian conviction,” according to the program's brochure.

“Throughout Jeff's ministry, he has been a farmer at heart,” wrote nominator Rev. Dr. Dennis Wenzel, '80. Wenzel cited Hawkins' “innovative approach in parish education for the sustainability and growth of agricultural issues and increasing the health of parish pastors.”

Before creating HOPE CSA, Hawkins served several Wisconsin and Indiana parishes since his 1980 ordination. He inherited his grandparents' 99-acre farm in north central Indiana in 1987, eventually moving there and adding farm duties to his routine. Hawkins then felt himself torn between his love for the people of God and for the land. The solution came not by eliminating one or the other but by combining them in HOPE CSA.

Faith in Ministry (continued)

“By engaging participants in a rhythm of work, rest and reflection, many have grown in their ability to lead the church in its mission,” wrote Rev. Dr. James Stuck in support of Hawkins’ nomination.

Rev. Stephen Flynn concurred enthusiastically in his letter of support. HOPE CSA provides “a very special opportunity for church leaders to grow in faith and spirit in an on-going way that is more effective and far-reaching than any other continuing education I have been involved with in my 13 years of parish ministry,” Flynn wrote. “His approach deals with the whole person—physical, mental and spiritual. This is an integrative approach that touches upon all aspects of one’s ministry, life and faith.” ●



More than 25 years:
Rev. Dr. Dick E. Hamlin,
1958
Cave Creek, Ariz.

Pastor Rod Anderson, '74, describes Rev. Dr. Dick E. Hamlin as a pastor with a heart “as big as the house of God.” Anderson nominated Hamlin for the Faithfulness in Ministry Cross for his 45 years of passionate and energetic ministry, culminating in his “transformational” work as interim pastor in parishes across the country.

“Countless legions of lay people would join me and other church leaders in thanking God for Dick’s interim ministry that changed their lives permanently,” Anderson wrote. Since retiring at Shepherd of the Valley in Phoenix, Hamlin has continued to mentor church leaders and laity through Hamlin’s Horizons Ministries, in addition to holding interim positions in the Southwest and Minnesota. While in the active ministry, Hamlin created and led “Life in G-major” evangelism conferences attended by hundreds, Anderson wrote.

Rev. Mark Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, has followed Hamlin’s ministry since they served concurrently in the St. Paul Area Synod. Hanson describes Hamlin as bringing “a passion for the gospel, a commitment to mission that is infectious, an ability to discern when to challenge and when to console. He has been a strong partner with the larger church.”

Hamlin, according to Rev. Michael J. Neils, former bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, came to him shortly after his call as bishop, and said, “I am now 70 years old, and I just want to go over my plans for the next 10 years of ministry,” Neils wrote.

“Dick is a faithful and effective pastor. He brings great honor to Luther Seminary as an alum,” wrote Rev. Jack Niemi, '72. In the 1980s, Hamlin received an honorary doctorate from California Lutheran University alongside the late Sen. Paul Simon and entertainer Bob Hope.

Hamlin has been “a blessing unimagined before in the expectations of every parish he has served,” Anderson wrote. “I can’t imagine one more deserving and appropriate for the Faithfulness in Ministry Cross than Rev. Dr. Dick Hamlin!” ●

Pastors Hamlin, Hawkins and Sandoz will receive the Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Award on Jan. 11 at 11 a.m. during Luther Seminary’s Mid-Winter Convocation (www.luthersem.edu/convo). Read about all the Faithfulness in Ministry honorees in a new display in the Olson Campus Center, just outside of the Chapel of the Incarnation, 1490 Fulham St., St. Paul.

Sign Up to Receive Advent and Lenten Devotionals

Each year Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary send Advent and Lenten devotion booklets to their alumni/ae, donors and friends. If you normally don’t receive a devotional and would like one for yourself, family members, friends, even your congregation, sign up at www.luthersem.edu/advent or www.luthersem.edu/lent. Choose between a booklet (available until supplies run out) or daily e-mail.

D.Min.'s Project Becomes Call for Transformation for Moravian Congregations

By Andrew Behrendt,
Master of Divinity Student

Betsy Miller joined Luther Seminary's Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program in Congregational Mission and Leadership because it closely matched her new job title with the Moravian Church.

And what a match it proved to be: Her first major course project became a call for transformation that was presented to leaders of about 40 Moravian churches from Michigan to California this year.

"I never would have done that project had I not been in the D.Min. program," Miller says. "The project forced me to create a new way to communicate a whole new concept to my colleagues and therefore with the leaders."

Miller, of Lake Mills, Wis., was a pastor for 20 years before becoming director of congregational leadership and resources for the Moravian Church in North America's Western District of the Northern Province in early 2005. Just then, she came across an advertisement for the Luther program's suitably titled Congregational Mission and Leadership concentration and was compelled to apply. "It was one of those God things," she says.

In Miller's first course, Systematic Theology Professor Gary Simpson required students to create a PowerPoint presentation—something completely new for Miller. Meanwhile, the leaders in her district aimed to motivate their roughly 40 Moravian churches

into transforming from inwardly focused "maintenance congregations" into "missional congregations" that make disciples and actively participate in God's mission to the world.

"The project forced me to create a new way to communicate a whole new concept to my colleagues and therefore with the leaders."



Betsy Miller: "Everything that I'm doing at Luther is rolling into what I'm doing in the church."

Miller's course project and the Moravians' gear-shifting goals soon became united. After some revising, district leaders in early 2006 presented the PowerPoint project to local leaders at all churches in their expansive

region and made DVD copies available for all congregations.

"It gave everybody a common language. It provided a wake-up call and a common goal toward which to strive," Miller says.

The doctoral program "broadened a personal educational opportunity into a denominational educational opportunity," she says. "It's applied—it's practical. It assumes you're in the midst of doing something and that you want to be more effective at doing it."

Miller, now in her second year of Luther's five-year program, notes that the once-foreign PowerPoint has become a regular tool in her work with the district's churches. And she has begun to incorporate the language and theology of the missional church into her presentations and sermons.

"Everything that I'm doing at Luther is rolling into what I'm doing in the church," she said. "That's the goal for all D.Min students, most of whom serve local congregations. I am able, however, to apply my learnings at the denominational level. It is very exciting." ●

Learn more about Luther Seminary's Doctor of Ministry degree programs, meet more students and see some of their projects at www.luthersem.edu/dmin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

African Immigrant Congregations Connection Series

Nov. 17, 2006: The Church in Liberia/Liberian Christians in Minnesota

Dec. 12, 2006: The Church in Kenya/Kenyan Christians in Minnesota

March 2, 2007: The Church in Tanzania/Tanzanian Christians in Minnesota

March 23, 2007: Cross-Cultural Training & Pastoral Challenges

As part of a grant from the Louisville Institute, Dr. Frieder Ludwig, associate professor of missions, created the African Immigrant Congregation Connection Series as a means of exploring the impact the tremendous increase in African immigrants to Minnesota is having on the church in the Twin Cities. Hear from congregational and religious leaders serving in a variety of settings and learn from the experiences of Africans from different parts of the continent. Snacks and nursery will be provided at each event. Learn more at www.luthersem.edu/aic.



Gerhardt Music Conference

Feb. 10, 2007
8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
with 4 p.m. Bach Cantata #92

Led by members of National Lutheran Choir

Learn more and register online at www.luthersem.edu/gerhardt

Aus Memorial Lectures "Back/Forward to the Basics: Evangelism and Forming Christian Community"

Feb. 27–28, 2007
**Chapel of the Incarnation,
Olson Campus Center**

Lecturer: Patrick R. Keifert, Professor of Systematic Theology, Luther Seminary

Part I - Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.

Part II - Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 11 a.m.

Hein-Fry Lectures: "The State of the Bible in North America"

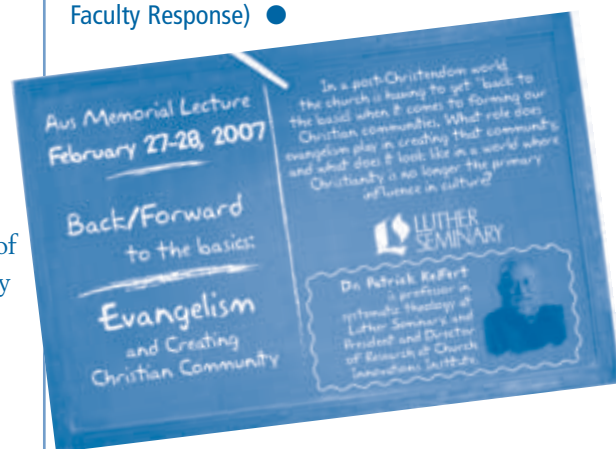
March 14, 2007

Lecturer: Dr. Donald A. Hagner, George Eldon Ladd Professor of New Testament, Fuller Theological Seminary

Lecture I - 10:45 A.M.

Lecture II - 1:15 P.M.

Lecture III - 2:15 P.M. (Luther Seminary Faculty Response) ●



FOR PASTORS, CHURCH STAFF AND LAY LEADERS

Living out our callings in the

CONGREGATION

Mid-Winter Convocation

Jan. 10-12, 2007

Luther Seminary • St. Paul, Minn.

Congregations across the country are helping people grow in faith that is relevant to their real lives—faith that gives them the courage to live lives of integrity. Congregations can be safe places where people wrestle with issues, delve more deeply into their calls and discover what's really important as they participate in God's transformation of the world.

Join us to learn from and be inspired by some of these congregations.

www.luthersem.edu/convo

THE LUTHER SEMINARY
STORY

Fall Supplement 2006 Vol.22, No.3

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.

Editor

Sheri Booms Holm

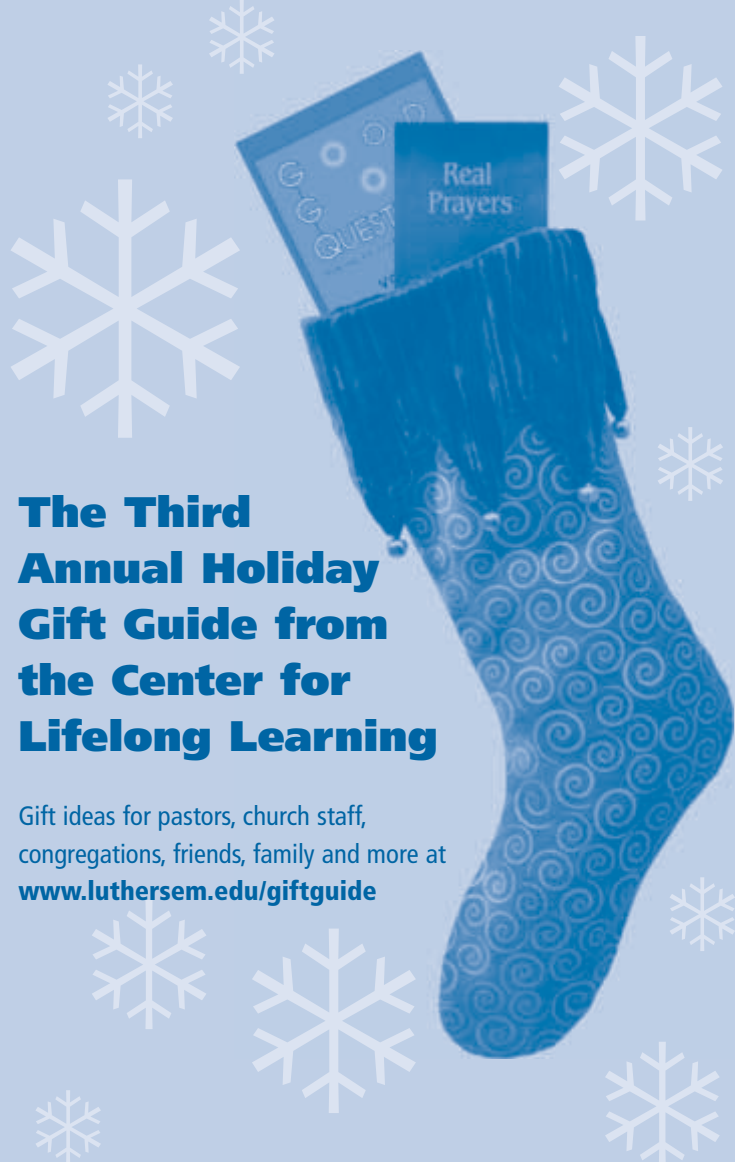
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Luther Seminary, the largest of the eight seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.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

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