LUTHER SEMINARY

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Annual Report 2006-2007
Preparing Thousands of Leaders to Impact Millions of Lives

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There are currently about 6,500 alumni/ae of Luther Seminary serving the church. Over the course of their ministries, each of the graduates will touch thousands more lives. The ministries of Luther Seminary graduates vary greatly. Many serve in a congregation, each Sunday sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. There are those called to nurture the faith of children and those called to heal the sick. Some become missionaries bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Others go on to teach the next generation of church leaders. The combined impact of the ministries of Luther Seminary graduates is profound.

In creating the cover for this year’s annual report, we want to represent just a few of the millions of lives that are impacted by Luther Seminary alums. Our graduates are sent out into the world to touch the lives of others, such as those seen in the photos in this year’s annual report. While we can’t picture everyone, we hope to give you a snapshot of the people who are making an impact on others through their ministry, and those who lives are being touched by these graduates.
F or no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.” I Cor. 3: 10

It took only four seconds for the massive steel structure spanning the Mississippi to buckle and fall into the river. As a result, since late this past summer we Minnesotans have been focused on bridges in particular and the nation’s infrastructure in general.

Focusing on “infrastructure” is vital not only for our political leaders but for our church leaders as well. Are our foundations strong enough today to hold our visions for the future?

In order to keep our focus on Christ as our sure foundation, we will be lifting up three dimensions of our seminary’s call this year:

First: We are called to be Servants of Evangelical Renewal

We need leaders who can see the Spirit at work and the promise of God’s activity in their churches and neighborhoods. For this to happen, leaders must be captured by an evangelical imagination for ministry.

Second: We are called to be Heralds of Hope

Because we serve a God who promises new life and resurrection, we live in hope, we preach hope and we commit ourselves to educate leaders of hope. Our high calling is to encourage our church’s leaders, present and future, with a vision full of promise.

Third: We are called to be Catalysts for Change and Mission

A commitment to evangelical renewal brings with it a call for change and continuous reform, essential parts of our Reformation heritage.

By focusing on our callings as servants of evangelical renewal, heralds of hope and catalysts for change and mission, we will keep working on the foundational infrastructure of equipping leaders for Christian communities. As you read this annual report, please notice not only the facts and figures, but also the faces. These people are the building blocks upon which we construct our future; namely, our students, faculty, staff, alumni/ae and donors. Our work together, with Christ as our sure foundation, is the bridge that will carry us into the future.

Pax,

Richard H. Bliese
President
Luther Seminary
Tania Haber’s preaching is shaped by the solid theological foundation she received at Luther Seminary. Preaching has always been important at Luther, but these days, she says, the seminary is emphasizing it even more.

“We’re talking about preaching in more creative ways,” says Haber (’85), senior pastor at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, Minn. “This wonderful task of interpreting God’s Word for people deserves our time, energy and imagination—now more than ever.”

Haber recently participated in the H.B. Hanson Preaching Seminar, part of Luther Seminary’s ongoing emphasis on building strong biblical preaching. The program is funded by John Hanson in memory of his father, a campus pastor at St. Olaf College who was known for mentoring other preachers.

Participants included six Twin Cities pastors and two mentors. Haber was chosen to mentor three pastors from Minneapolis, but she quickly discovered that they had a lot to teach her, too.

“Most of the pastors were second-career people with rich and interesting backgrounds. We were all close to the same age, so we became mentors for each other,” she says. “...I now think about preaching in a new way, and I approach some subjects differently.”

Since coming to Westwood four years ago, Haber has inspired the congregation to focus more on the needs of the community, says parishioner Doug Waterman.

“Pastor Haber is a sincere, straightforward preacher with a strong message,” he says.

Westwood is spreading the Gospel by combining resources with three other Lutheran churches to form Spark Collaborative Ministries of St. Louis Park. Through Spark, the congregations are reaching out in new ways to unchurched members of the community. “It’s a shared commitment to a new way of being church,” says Pastor Kevin Bergeson (’07), who was called by Spark this past summer.

Bergeson was attracted to Spark because the project’s stated values were “resonant with the biblical narrative and what we’re trying to accomplish as preachers, which is to proclaim the message of a gracious God so that it will be heard by people in their own context.”

Haber agrees, “Spark’s values of evangelical ministry, diversity, relationship, contextuality, risk-taking and courage in faith are the basis of good preaching. And the message of both is that God is calling us to something new and transforming.”

Dedicated to building strong biblical preachers

• Commitment to train leaders who can bear compelling witness to Christ
• Biblically rooted preaching courses
• Investment in the Center for Biblical Preaching, which equips pastors to be faithful and effective in their ministry of proclamation
Rob Myallis had finished college and was working in New York when he applied to Luther. He had felt the call to ministry for some time. Even so, deciding to enter seminary was not easy. “It’s difficult to give up your financial independence,” he says. “It’s like trading a weekly paycheck for a weekly bill.”

Financial aid in the form of a Presidential Scholarship and an ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission Scholarship relieved the stress Rob felt about going into debt. The support also helped in another way. “It affirmed that I was gifted and making the right decision,” says Rob, who is completing a Master of Divinity degree.

For Rob’s wife, Emily, financial support was also a crucial factor in her decision to begin a Master of Arts degree in Cross Cultural Ministries at Luther. She was already carrying a moderate amount of debt from her undergraduate education. A full-tuition scholarship from the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission made it possible to come to seminary without running up more debt. Receiving the scholarship was also an affirmation of her call.

Rob and Emily, who married just before Rob’s internship year, also received support from their home congregations, and Rob received synodical support. “So many people have invested in us, and we want to give back by serving in a congregation,” Rob says. “Having less debt at graduation means we can be more open in our choice of call.”

Scholarship aid also eased the financial burden of seminary education for recent graduates William and Chue Siong. Although the couple does carry some educational debt, their payments are manageable. As a result, William can focus on his ministry as senior pastor at Hmong Central Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

The congregation pays only a very modest salary and can’t afford the standard ELCA benefits package. “Without the scholarship, we would owe at least $60,000, and I couldn’t afford to serve,” says William, who completed his Master of Divinity degree in 2004.

Both William and Chue, who earned a Master of Arts degree in Mission and World Christianity in 2007, received Spectrum Scholarships, which are awarded to students of color. Without this help, many people can’t consider going to seminary, Chue says. The scholarship encourages them to take the leap.

“I’d like to thank everyone who has donated to Luther for their financial support and their prayers,” William says. “Without them, we wouldn’t be here.”

Rob echoes this sentiment. “God has blessed us,” he says. “We are grateful for all the resources we’ve been given, and we hope and pray for the day when no student will leave seminary with massive debt.”

“Scholarship support is an area of great need where your gift will make an immediate difference. Helping reduce student debt now will help the church in the long run, both in the United States and globally.”

– Janet Anderson

See the impact of your gifts on student debt on page 13.
When Amanda Olson de Castillo went to Guatemala in 2004 to complete work for her Graduate Preaching Fellowship, the Luther graduate didn’t intend to stay more than a few weeks. But then, she says, “I was put to work.”

Last June, Olson de Castillo was ordained into the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG) by its president, Padre Horacio Castillo, who became her father-in-law in 2006. Her missionary presence was commissioned by the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Southeastern U.S. Region and the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA.

Olson de Castillo helps attend to 17 congregations—both urban and rural—throughout Guatemala. The people she serves live on the margins of society. Most are still suffering from the after-effects of Guatemala’s 36-year civil war. During the war, many people fled to Mexico. Now, a decade after the war’s end, they are returning home. But the hardships and dislocation they experienced have destroyed their sense of community.

Olson de Castillo and her fellow Lutherans reach out to Guatemalans in a ministry of accompaniment.

“We put on rubber boots and hike in to be with them,” she says. “We want to show them that they are not forgotten, to walk with them, and to help them understand that they can put their trust in Christ.”

Padre Castillo praises Olson de Castillo’s sincerity, understanding and ability to work creatively with the pastoral team.

“She identifies with the people of God and demonstrates a spirit of love and passion for the unfolding work of ministry in Christ,” he says.

Jorge Mario Aba, 16, who serves as treasurer of his congregation in Guatemala City, has seen a change in the church since Olson de Castillo’s arrival.

“We had young people in the church but there was nothing for them,” he says. “Then two years ago, she began to work with the youth and teach classes to the children.”

The focus on education is an essential element of ILAG’s ministry. Many church members are illiterate. Others have only a second- or third-grade education. The long-term goal of the pastoral team is to promote literacy and make it possible for congregational leaders to complete a high school education.

Olson de Castillo credits Luther Seminary with giving her a solid foundation in biblical study, the Lutheran confessions and the history of the church.

“These are valuable and necessary tools that allow one to go where the Spirit leads, preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments,” she says. “I had teachers who preached while they taught. They showed us not only how to talk about Christ, but also how to hand him over to those we are called to pastor.”

“Global mission has been one of the strongest legacies of Luther Seminary from the very beginning. The call to mission has always been understood as ‘to the nations.’ It has always played that critical role of lifting our eyes to see the entire world that God loves.”

- President Richard Bliese

Amanda Olson de Castillo (’04) is pictured working with two youth she serves. Above right, Olson de Castillo is pictured with parishioners in the sanctuary of another congregation she serves. For more information on Luther’s global mission work go to www.luthersem.edu/gmi.
After 23 years in banking, Maryanne Kehlenbach answered God’s call to full-time youth ministry. She already had volunteer experience in her parish, St. Mark Lutheran Church in Dunedin, Fla. But she wanted more formal education in the theology of youth ministry.

“I knew that Luther Seminary would help me become better equipped to faithfully answer the call,” says Kehlenbach, who is earning a Master of Arts degree with a concentration in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry through the distributed learning program.

Through the distributed learning program, Maryanne takes online classes and comes to campus several times a year for intensive courses. She applies her new knowledge every day in her work with youth and adult volunteers on her ministry team.

After studying Professor Roland Martinson’s research on exemplary youth ministry, Maryanne took his findings back to the congregation.

“We assessed St. Mark against the criteria,” she says. “As a result, we’re now rewriting our vision statement for this year.”

Maryanne credits a course on the theology of the cross with changing the way she relates to youth.

“It was a freeing experience. I realized that it’s OK not to have all the answers for the kids. We know Christ’s presence through struggles and asking questions together. It is a privilege to be used by God in this way.”

Christine Barberis, 15, has seen a definite difference in the church’s youth ministry since Maryanne started working on her master’s degree. “Maryanne is more able to bring the youth together,” Christine says.

The high school students recently led congregational worship. The teens planned the service, baked the communion bread, did the readings and preached. The result, says Christine, was “beautiful and very moving.”

Maryanne is also encouraging the high school students to become involved with the younger children. During a Wednesday night session, the older kids helped the younger students make prayer books, establishing new faith-based relationships.

Christine says that such activities have helped her “become more involved in church and learning about God.”

Pastor Alan Wolkenhauer (’86) has seen growth in Maryanne since she began her studies.

“Maryanne has always been extremely gifted for ministry,” he says. “But now she’s more confident and grounded in Lutheran theology. And she’s more able to focus her ministry in ways that help the whole congregation grow in faith.”

Pastor Wolkenhauer has also benefited from Maryanne’s studies at Luther.

“I enjoy mentoring Maryanne, and our discussions of her coursework are a form of continuing education for me. I’m learning from what she’s learning,” he says.
LUTHER SEMINARY STUDENTS 2006–2007

836 STUDENTS
51% Male
49% Female

ENROLLMENT BY DEGREE PROGRAM
49% Master of Divinity
24% Ph.D., Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry Programs
23% Master of Arts Program
4% Non-degree Program

ELCA STUDENTS BY REGION

Map shows the numbers of candidates for rostered ministry in the nine regions of the ELCA who are studying at Luther Seminary.

49 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS
20 INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES

2 Cameroon
2 China
1 Ghana
1 Guyana
1 Hong Kong
1 Japan
1 India
2 Indonesia
8 Kenya
4 Liberia
1 Malaysia
2 Nigeria
2 Norway
1 Pakistan
1 Slovakia
1 South Africa
13 South Korea
3 Tanzania
1 Turkey
1 Turks and Caicos Islands

164 ECUMENICAL STUDENTS
20 DENOMINATIONS REPRESENTED AT LUTHER SEMINARY

29 Presbyterian
27 Baptist
17 United Methodist
16 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
7 Episcopal
6 Evangelical Covenant
5 Christian Missionary Alliance
4 Roman Catholic
3 United Church of Christ
3 Assembly of God
3 African Methodist Episcopal
2 Conference of Congregational Christian Churches
2 Salvation Army
5 Other Denominations
8 Non-denominational
25 No designation
2 Islam

18% OF THE STUDENT BODY

Median age of a Luther Seminary student in the incoming Master of Arts and Master of Divinity class during the 2006-2007 academic year.
HOW LUTHER SEMINARY SPENDS ITS MONEY

Student Educational & Support Programs: $8,000,000
Institutional Support: $5,900,000
Grants, Scholarships: $2,300,000
Physical Plant, Maintenance: $970,000

Total Budget Expenses: $17,170,000

HOW LUTHER SEMINARY IS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED

Gifts, Grants: $7,670,000
Tuition, Fees: $4,700,000
Endowment Income: $2,700,000
Churchwide/Synod Support: $2,100,000

Total Income Budget: $17,170,000

LUTHER SEMINARY ENDOWMENT

Size of Luther Seminary’s endowment: $82,200,000
Investment returns for past year: 17.4%

BUDGET FACTS

• Every dollar spent on fundraising returns $7.60 to Luther Seminary’s educational programs.
• Luther Seminary provides more than $2.3 million in financial aid to students each year.
• In addition, local congregations provide another $1.2 million in assistance.
• On average, these efforts cover approximately two-thirds of the cost of tuition, but students still incur significant living expenses that must be covered through employment, loans or other sources of income.

GENEROUS GIFTS MAKE AN IMPACT!

Gifts from individuals are vital. Churchwide and synodical support covers about 12 percent of Luther Seminary’s $17.2 million budget. Generous gifts from donors make up 45 percent of the seminary’s budget.

A LUTHER SEMINARY STUDENT BUDGET*

The average student receives $5,821.44 in scholarships and grants. As the sample student budget below shows, this leaves a significant gap for students to fill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>9,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
<td>5,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and Fees</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>1,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Personal</td>
<td>4,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,086</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sfigures are for a typical single student living on campus for the 2006-07 school year.

SCHOLARSHIPS ALLOW MORE STUDENTS TO SAY “YES”

Students enter into the ministry at great cost to themselves. The cost of a seminary education is rising and with it the level of student debt. Thirty percent of seminary graduates leave without educational debt. For the remaining 70 percent, the average educational indebtedness was $41,681. High debt levels limit the types of calls students can accept, especially to rural or inner-city congregations that cannot pay high enough salaries to allow students to cover their debt payments. Scholarship gifts are an important way to help curb student debt and allow more students to say “yes” to God’s call.
## Luther Seminary and Foundation Consolidated Balance Sheet – June 30, 2007 and 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>4,701,300</td>
<td>3,392,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Accounts and Notes Receivable</td>
<td>3,170,500</td>
<td>2,981,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Receivable</td>
<td>5,892,493</td>
<td>5,223,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Interest Receivable</td>
<td>215,561</td>
<td>382,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>425,078</td>
<td>451,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>14,404,932</td>
<td>12,332,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>92,666,901</td>
<td>80,490,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, Buildings and Equipment</td>
<td>10,778,481</td>
<td>11,083,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>2,274,205</td>
<td>5,749,298</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>105,719,587</td>
<td>97,323,096</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>120,124,519</td>
<td>109,655,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>621,293</td>
<td>754,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>891,650</td>
<td>763,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits and Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>938,577</td>
<td>1,016,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>2,451,520</td>
<td>2,534,538</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Gift Obligations</td>
<td>4,914,285</td>
<td>6,477,469</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes Payable</td>
<td>1,562,286</td>
<td>1,558,167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Leases</td>
<td>27,865</td>
<td>23,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances from Government for Federal Loans</td>
<td>1,944,570</td>
<td>1,812,040</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>8,449,006</td>
<td>9,870,817</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>10,900,526</td>
<td>21,405,355</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>15,393,303</td>
<td>14,156,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>31,670,478</td>
<td>25,775,392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>62,160,212</td>
<td>57,317,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>109,223,993</td>
<td>97,249,901</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2008 Faithfulness in Ministry Cross honorees

Someone who sticks with something from start to finish is often described as “faithful.” The 2008 Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Award winners demonstrate that it takes special tenacity and vision to bring new life to communities struggling to survive. They’ve used their God-given gifts to nurture diverse communities around the world. Awards will be given to all the recipients during Mid-Winter Convocation, Jan. 9-11.

By Allison K. Schmitt, ’07 M.A.

Located in Hudson, S.D., about 50 miles from Sioux Falls, the church faced challenges typical for small, rural congregations. High staff turnover, declining Sunday school enrollment and a divided membership faced Fast when she began her first call at Hudson in September 2004.

Under Fast’s guidance, the church enlisted a team of counselors trained to work with ailing congregations. They emerged from the six-month program with a renewed sense of purpose and made a number of positive changes.

“These adjustments challenged both the members of the congregation and their pastor to move forward together in faith and trust,” Hanson said.

Most visible of these changes was eliminating Sunday school in favor of a weeknight church school program. In the traditional format, teachers sometimes outnumbered students. But after adopting “rotation curriculum” and moving to Wednesday nights, attendance tripled.

Fast has proven her leadership gifts outside church walls as well. Many low-income Sioux Falls residents work multiple jobs, yet cannot afford food for midday meals. So Fast brought together clergy and community leaders to create Lunch is Served Inc., a project of the Sioux Falls Ministerial Association that provides free sack lunches for day laborers who might otherwise go without. Fast is now pastor of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Yutan, Neb., where she was called in Oct. 2006.
Faithfulness in Ministry Honorees (continued)

25 years or fewer:
Rev. Mark Brown, 1982
Lutheran World Federation, Jerusalem

If the Rev. Mark Brown had intended to get in the middle of an intractable problem, he could have done no better. As regional representative for Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Jerusalem, Brown negotiates the complex politics of the region while providing medical and other services to Palestinians.

Brown is responsible for Augusta Victoria Hospital, a humanitarian project of the LWF since 1950. It is the primary medical facility for Palestinians living in Israel’s West Bank. The hospital, hostage to the political winds of Israel and the institution’s donor countries, faces continuous financial challenges. Further, the Israeli government’s concrete security wall makes reaching the hospital difficult for employees and patients.

“Despite the complex legal issues, Brown has worked cooperatively and creatively to give the hospital a viable future,” wrote Professor Craig Koester, ’80, in nominating Brown for the award.

Brown also runs a job-training program for Palestinians, manages a LWF olive grove and is exploring ways to provide affordable housing in Jerusalem.

“In a region divided by political and religious disputes, the need for such humanitarian work is crucial,” Koester said.

Wrote Pastor Said Ailabouni, ’79, of Nazareth, “Mark has been a prophetic voice in the ELCA and globally regarding the need for a just resolution of the Middle East conflict. He refused to be quiet even when it was not popular to speak on behalf of the Palestinians.”

“I give thanks to God for the gift of Mark Brown, who has been a faithful advocate on behalf of the oppressed and a champion for the poor and powerless,” wrote Ailabouni.

More than 25 years:
Rev. Simon Lee, (Simon Wing-Shing), 1978
Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu, Honolulu, Hawaii

When the Rev. Simon Lee joined the Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu in the early 1980s, it was a small Mandarin-speaking congregation. Today, nearly 400 attend its weekly Mandarin, Cantonese and English services. It is the largest Chinese Lutheran church in North America despite economic conditions in Honolulu that contribute to constant membership turnover.

Though he is responsible for a large congregation, Lee cares for the individual. In his letter of support, the Rev. Tony Wong, ’99, described Lee’s help when Wong’s college roommate from Hong Kong fell into legal trouble.

“It was a scary moment for my roommate as he was alone in this country,” Wong said. Pastor Lee accompanied my roommate to the court proceedings, thus “providing pastoral care during this critical time in his life.”

Indeed, Lee’s shared experience as a minority has allowed him to “provide vision and purpose to many immigrants who have faced similar circumstances,” wrote nominator Rev. Duain Vierow.

Under Lee’s leadership, the congregation moved from borrowed quarters to a new three-story building on a half-acre. Not long after he visited China, Lee spearheaded efforts to raise more than $120,000 to build a new sanctuary for a Lutheran church there. His work also includes writing books and translating English books into Chinese.

Lee has had a role in shaping future church leaders as well. Nearly 20 members of his church have attended seminary at his encouragement. Among them are five Luther graduates.

Is there someone whose ministry has inspired you? Download a nomination form at www.luthersem.edu/fim.

Nominations are due Aug. 3, 2008.

Questions? Contact Mary Steeber at msteeber@luthersem.edu or 651-641-3596.
Luther Seminary friend announces new challenge

By Andy Behrendt, M.Div. middler

Last financial year, a challenge from Fred Fox doubled the impact of nearly $1 million in donors’ gifts to Luther Seminary’s Sustaining Fund. This year, Fox is promising even more bang for the buck.

The new challenge from Fox, a friend of Luther Seminary who believes strongly in its mission, is in effect for the 2008 fiscal year that began on July 1.

For donors who gave to the Sustaining Fund in Fiscal Year 2007, a Sustaining Fund gift that is double or more the size of their 2007 gift will be fully matched by Fox. So if a donor who gave $1,000 to the Sustaining Fund in Fiscal Year 2007 gives $2,000 to the fund before June 30, 2008, Fox will respond with a matching $2,000. In all, the impact of the gift for Luther Seminary will quadruple from the previous year.

The new challenge is even more appealing for donors who gave to the Sustaining Fund in the past but didn’t give in the 2007 financial year. For those folks, any gift to the Sustaining Fund in Fiscal Year 2008 will merit a double-match from Fox. For example, a $1,000 Sustaining Fund gift from such a returning donor would get $2,000 in matching funds.

Fox will match gifts as large as $50,000 in either bracket.

The Sustaining Fund fuels much of Luther Seminary’s operations—from faculty and staff salaries to snow removal—and makes up about a third of the seminary’s budget.

“It’s obviously vital to the institution,” said CloEve Demmer, Director of the Sustaining Fund. “It’s crucial for the mission of Luther Seminary and for the church as we prepare strong leaders who can preach the gospel soundly and biblically.”

The seminary seeks to raise $4.5 million for the Fund in Fiscal Year 2008.

The giving levels for Luther Seminary’s PARTNERS program have remained unchanged since the seminary created the program in 1987. A yearly gift of $250 still qualifies a donor to become a PARTNER and take part in an annual event. But after 20 years, inflation has cut almost in half the original impact of such a gift. Thankfully, many donors have increased their giving to keep up with inflation. Here’s a look at what’s needed today to achieve each giving level’s original impact, according to the Consumer Price Index.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Giving club</th>
<th>Giving level minimum as set in 1987</th>
<th>Amount needed to achieve the 1987 impact in 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founders</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Stewards</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Builders</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$4,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investors</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$9,170</td>
</tr>
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Starting with the new church year, begin a new morning routine. Sign up to receive free Advent devotions in your inbox throughout the Advent season and you’ll continue to receive God Pause, Luther Seminary’s daily e-mail devotion, throughout the year.

Go to www.luthersem.edu/godpause to begin receiving your devotions today!

Advent devotions are written by staff of Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary as part of their shared initiatives through the Western Mission Cluster.
Brad and Janet Anderson to share
David W. Preus Leadership Award

By Allison K. Schmitt, ’07 M.A.

It seems Brad and Janet Anderson have a stereotypical “rags to riches” story. But it’s how their lives depart from that stereotype for which they are awarded the 2007 David W. Preus Award in Leadership.

“In an era of rampant corporate greed, their generosity has been of an almost unparalleled magnitude,” wrote Professor Rolf Jacobson in nominating them for the award, presented Oct. 23.

Since the Andersons’ modest beginnings, their gifts have unfolded in remarkable ways. Brad is the son of a Lutheran pastor. As a young couple, the Andersons relocated to Minnesota so Brad could follow in his father’s footsteps at seminary. He dropped out of Northwestern Seminary (a predecessor institution of Luther Seminary) in less than a year, getting a job at a stereo store. He nearly quit, feeling he failed to find his calling as a salesman. But he turned his career around. Thirty years later, he is now CEO of that store, now called Best Buy.

“I didn’t realize when I was in the seminary that I did have the ability to be a leader,” he said. “I discovered it out of the experience of working here over the years…The unbelievable blessing was to discover that the ability was there.”

Growing up in a small farming community in Illinois, Janet learned from her parents the importance of generosity as they gave their time and money to their church. It was natural for Janet and Brad to give of their wealth and talents to worthy causes too. Her philosophy is “Give until it feels good.”

A retired public school social worker, Janet is currently a full-time volunteer. She is chair of the Luther Seminary Board of Trustees and has been president of Plymouth Christian Youth Center and Como Park Lutheran Church, among other organizations. Brad has lent his leadership skills to Waldorf College, Minnesota Public Radio and the American Film Institute.

“Janet and Brad … are a force for good,” wrote David Tiede, Luther Seminary President Emeritus, in a letter supporting their nomination. “Their thoughtful collaboration as a couple and a family sets an intriguing and inspiring example for others. They clearly understand the biblical wisdom that much is required from those to whom much is entrusted.”

The annual Preus Award is named after the Rev. Dr. David W. Preus, former bishop of the American Lutheran Church (now the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), who received the first award in 1988. As part of the award, a cash gift is designated for a cause dear to the honoree.

Chapel Bibles disappear, make a difference

By Kelsey Holm, Communication Specialist

Visitors to Luther Seminary’s Chapel of the Incarnation are taking the Word of God with them in a new way.

In April, David and Andrea Hayes gifted 300 Bibles to the chapel with the encouragement to “give away the Word of God.” The Hayes supported a similar project in their California congregation, which encourages visitors to take the Bibles home to friends who need them.

Inside the front cover of each Bible a plate reads: “Our mission at Luther Seminary is to give away the Word of God and to educate leaders for Christian communities to do the same. If you are in need of a Bible, or you know someone who needs the Word of God, please accept this Bible as a gift from the seminary. The Bible will be replaced. Pass on the Word!”

It’s been less than six months since 300 Bibles were placed in the pews, and more than half have traveled to places needing the Word. In the interest of continuing the mission, the missing Bibles have been replaced. Several congregations, hearing about this project, have implemented it themselves.
Terence Fretheim, ’60, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament, published “Abraham: Trials of Family and Faith,” part of the “Personalities of the Old Testament” series. He also was the featured presenter at the Midvale Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis., fall retreat in Green Lake, Wis. He spoke on “Is the God of the Old Testament also our God?”

Gracia Grindal, ’83, Professor of Rhetoric, participated in the biennial International Arbeitsgemeinschaft fur Hymnology in Trondheim, Norway. Several of Grindal’s hymn translations were used during hymn festivals and worship services at the event. Norwegian composer Trond Kverno set two texts from her “A Treasury of Faith” to music. These were sung at the gathering and later featured on Norwegian radio.

Mary Jane Haemig, Associate Professor of Church History, attended the International Luther Research Congress in Canoas, Brazil, in July. The Congress, which meets every five years, gathers international Martin Luther researchers. She was named to the planning committee for the 2012 Helsinki Congress.

Chenar Howard, Global Mission Institute Program and Relations Coordinator, attended the annual ELCA Global Mission Event in Columbus, Ohio, in July.

Arland J. Hultgren, Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament, is the author of an article in the summer issue of dialog titled “Flashpoints in Interpreting Paul.” He made presentations on ancient Corinth and Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minn., in September.

Diane Jacobson, Professor of Old Testament, was nominated to lead The Book of Faith initiative by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and the ELCA Church Council this past spring. In August, the ELCA Assembly in Chicago passed the initiative, which invites the whole church to be more fluent in the language of Scripture. Jacobson will continue her teaching half-time while traveling the country in support of the initiative.


Alvin Luedke, Associate Professor of Rural Ministry, served as a resource for a clergy gathering in the Southeastern Cluster of the San Antonio Conference, Southwestern Texas Synod, in July. He also attended the Town and Country Consultation at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 8-10.

Rich Omland, ’73, joined Luther Seminary’s Office of Seminary Relations as a Philanthropic Adviser. He most recently served as bishop of the Montana Synod.

Andrew Root, Assistant Professor of Youth and Family Ministry, is the author of the forthcoming book “Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: From a Strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation.”

Alan Padgett, Professor of Systematic Theology, was chosen to serve as the chair of Luther Seminary’s history/theology division beginning Jan. 1.

Sally Peters, Manager of Centered Life, led a Discover Your Call training course at Whitworth University, Spokane, Wash., Oct. 24-26.

Mary Hinkle Shore, Associate Professor of New Testament, was named Associate Dean for First Theological Degree Programs at Luther Seminary. This full-time administrative position oversees the master of arts, master of sacred music, master of divinity, certificate and distributed learning programs. She is a co-author of “New Proclamation, Series A 2007-2008, Advent-Holy Week,” contributing the portions on Advent and Christmas texts.

Paul Sponheim, ’57, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, spoke at the Summer Institute at Augsburg College. The Institute featured a select group of high school students working with Augsburg religion faculty on the theme of vocation and reading Sponheim’s 2006
Faculties News (continued)

book “Speaking of God: A Relational Theology.” His article, “Against Anthropocentrism: A Jobian Appeal to Science on Theology’s Behalf” will be published in the fall issue of *dialog*. He has accepted an invitation to be a member of the Creation, Science and Ecology working group in the Christian Faith and the Earth Initiative, a five-year study project scheduled to culminate in a conference in Cape Town, South Africa in 2012.

Peter Susag joined the staff of Luther Seminary as primary developer of the new Writing Resource Center. He is currently completing his dissertation in linguistics at the University of Minnesota. Gracia Grindal, Professor of Rhetoric, will also provide faculty leadership for this emerging program.

Gary Wilkerson will serve as Interim Director of the Contextual Leadership Initiative during the search for a permanent director. He recently served as Visiting Professor of Pastoral Care.

Coming to a Town Near You

Terence Fretheim, ’60, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament, will be giving a series of six lectures in Australia Nov. 20-26 at Australian Lutheran College, the Lutheran Faith and Life Centre and the Australasian Theological Forum.

Alvin Luedke, Associate Professor of Rural Ministry, will attend the Rural Church Network meeting, in Kansas City, Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

GMI sponsors new book series

The Fund for Justice in Christian Community and the Global Mission Institute are co-sponsors of a book series focusing on issues facing the global church. The series is being published by Lutheran University Press in partnership with Luther Seminary.

Volumes examining “Encounters in World Christianity” include:

- “Christ as Sacrament and Example: Luther’s Theology of the Cross and its Relevance for South Asia,” by Jhakmak Neeraj Ekka, ’05
- “A Theology of Mission: Challenges and Opportunities in Northeast Asia,” by Gaylan Mathiesen

A second series, “Contemporary Issues in Mission and World Christianity,” features works on:

- “Mission and Migration: Fifty-Two African and Asian Congregations in Minnesota,” by Dana Nelson, ’07
- “Shoulder to Shoulder/Bega Kwa Bega: A Lutheran Partnership between Minnesota and Tanzania,” by Richard Lubawa, former Schiotz Visiting Professor of Mission.

The series is being edited by Charles Amjad-Ali, Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Justice and Christian Community; Frieder Ludwig, Associate Professor of World Christianity; and David Lose, Marbury Anderson Professor of Biblical Preaching.

David Fredrickson leading third trip to Greece

David Fredrickson, Professor of New Testament, will lead a 12-day study tour to Greece in May. “Looking for Paul in all the Right Places: A Cultural Tour of the Apostle’s World,” is Fredrickson’s third trip to Greece, which he is co-hosting with Father John Kostas, a Greek Orthodox priest. There are still openings on the tour, which allows for 26 travelers. A Pauline scholar, Fredrickson says the journey is not meant to directly trace Paul’s footsteps, though some highlights include Philippi and Corinth, where Paul had a strong presence. “What we do on the trip is try and look at places and artifacts that help us understand the cultural world in which Paul had to operate,” said Fredrickson. The trip is open to everyone, and past years have seen a good mix of ages and faiths. To join the trip, contact Fredrickson at 651-644-5632 or dfredric@luthersem.edu.

David Fredrickson with Father John Kostas at the theater in Philippi.
The ‘00s

Lee Ann Machosky Pomrenke, ‘05, married Stefan Pomrenke on May 25 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Manassas, Va., where she is a pastor.

Kyle Fever, ‘03, and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of their second child, Tate Thomas, on June 3.

Robert Smith, ‘03, began serving ELCA Global Mission as continental desk director for Europe and the Middle East in July.

Jennifer Krueger, ‘01, traveled to China, where she taught conversational English to Chinese teachers and middle school students. For three weeks, Jennifer, along with 30 U.S. volunteers, traveled to villages in the Henan Province, leading activities like an American birthday party, baseball games and discussion of U.S. holidays and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Trisha (Hanson) Boese, ‘06, and her husband, Kyle, moved to Centerville, S.D. after Trisha received a first call at Scandia Lutheran Church. Trisha was ordained on Feb. 10 at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. She was installed at Scandia Lutheran on Feb. 11 during worship.

The ‘90s

Eric Berg, ‘99, Professor of Philosophy at MacMurray College, was presented the 2007 Dewey E. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Teaching during the College’s 156th commencement in May.

Evelyn Dahlke, ‘99, published the book “BUTTERFLY SONG: A Battered Woman’s Journey Back into Life,” which explores from a Christian woman’s perspective her journey into, through and out of her abusive marriage. Dahlke is a pastor at Northeast Community Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

J. Todd Bruning, ’97, and Jamie Segaran Bruning, ’97. Todd was installed as senior pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Plano, Texas on June 17. Jamie, who was an assistant to the bishop in the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod, will take a brief leave as they await the birth of a baby in March.

Peter K. Muschinske, ‘92, accepted a call from the ELCA Church Council. He was selected as the first chaplain from the U.S. Navy Reserve to be recalled to active duty to recruit Navy chaplains and chaplain candidates.

The ‘80s


The ‘70s

Ron Pierre Vignec, ’78, is the 2007 recipient of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize. In 1985, Ron established the Salishan/Eastside Lutheran Mission and has played a key role in revitalizing the Salishan neighborhood in East Tacoma, Wash.

Gary Hatcher, ’77, celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination on July 30th. The celebration was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Greene, Iowa.

The ‘60s

Adimael Lema, ’63, is completing a book on three students from East Africa who studied at Luther between 1959 and 1963. They came on an airlift organized by Tom Mboya of Kenya and funded by the Kennedy family, to become nation builders after East Africa’s independence. Lema served as the executive director of the African American Students Foundation, which helped the airlifted students. He would be grateful for information anyone can provide to aid in completion of his book. Please contact Cora Weiss at cweiss@igc.org with any information.

The ‘30s

Richard Knudsen, ’37, of Minneapolis, died July 10 at age 95.
Luther Seminary Alumni/ae Council helps lower student debt

By Andy Behrendt, M.Div. middler

When it comes to rallying support for a new generation of seminarians, the members of Luther Seminary’s Alumni/ae Council practice what they preach. That became especially clear earlier this year, when the 17-member council of Luther graduates pooled $5,000 of personal gifts to sponsor a student through Luther’s Adopt a Seminarian program.

“Most of us on the current Alumni/ae Council went to the seminary when tuition was non-existent or so low that it wasn’t an issue. We are aware that this is no longer the case,” explains Jack Niemi, ‘72.

For the Alumni/ae Council, a liaison body that supports the seminary and its graduates, student debt has been an area of concern in recent years. Hal Dragseth, ’71, says the council knows how graduates are impacted by debt in their first years of ministry.

“We expect pastors and other church leaders to be role models for stewardship, yet the burden of debt can limit their capacity to be generous,” he says. “It became apparent that voicing our concern without demonstrating our commitment would ring hollow.”

The Adopt a Seminarian program, in which individuals and congregations can sponsor students with half-tuition gifts or adopt students with full-tuition gifts, became a way to take action. Heightening the motivation was an offer from Board of Trustees Chair Janet Anderson and her husband, Brad, to match financial-aid gifts for students made in the last quarter of the 2007 financial year, which completed in June.

Alumni/ae Council members agreed to give money beyond their individual donations to create a half-tuition gift. With the Andersons’ match, the result was a $10,000 impact for students. The money assisted students with financial need or great academic merit.

“Our intent was to witness to all alums that this is important and worthy of their support and that gifts should be in addition to those alums are currently giving to the Sustaining Fund,” Niemi says.

Nearly 70 percent of Luther Seminary students graduate with educational debt, and their student loans average more than $41,000 at the time of graduation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2008 Children’s Summit
April 4-5
Luther Seminary
Join us for two days filled with worship, plenary sessions, workshops, resources and networking. Keynote speakers include Joyce Mercer, author of “Welcoming Children,” and Mary Hess, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Luther Seminary.

All activities will focus on efforts to respond to the needs of children today. For more information, visit www.luthersem.edu/childrens_summit/

Mid-Winter Convocation: Engaging Scripture in a Lutheran Key with Heart, Mind and Spirit
Jan. 9-11
Luther Seminary
Gain a deeper understanding of how to engage scripture from a Lutheran perspective. Convocation offers theological enrichment for lay and ordained ministry leaders and the Christian community. This conference features scholars and teachers from Luther Seminary and around the world.

For additional information and updates, visit www.luthersem.edu/convo, call 651-523-1640 or e-mail us at convo@luthersem.edu.

Take Lay School Classes Online!
www.luthersem.edu/layschool

For complete information on this year’s Kairos courses go to www.luthersem.edu/kairos

STORY Fall 2007
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.

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