The Seedbed

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

(1 Cor 3.6)

**Smarter, Stronger, Sooner!**

The church is mildly interested in how many people are enrolled at Luther Seminary. What it really cares about is how many will graduate ready to lead Christian communities in the callings God gives them. As one bishop said, “We need more of your graduates, and we need them smarter, stronger and sooner!” What does that mean to you?

“Smarter” means IQ (intelligence quotient). It also means EQ (emotional intelligence) and LQ (wisdom for leadership), and especially GQ (discernment of the gospel). When the graduates process across the platform at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis, the faculty in the front rows are proud of their bright scholars. They know that many will prove to be superb pastors, musicians, youth leaders and evangelical ministers. After an annual meeting or two, the graduates will have learned lessons the school could not teach. “Smarter” means readiness to learn from others and to listen to what the Spirit is saying in the mission contexts of the churches. The deepest lessons will require a lifetime. “Go and learn what this means,” said our Lord, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” (Mt 9.13)

“Stronger” means depth of faith, sturdiness of character and healthy living. Leadership in Christian communities is taxing work, never finished, open to criticism, enmeshed in family and community systems. God’s gift of forgiveness in Christ Jesus still confronts sin in the church and the world. A dean from the University of Minnesota reviewed our curriculum after its reform in the late 1990s. He said, “This is a remarkable educational strategy to prepare people to lead in a time of mission.” Then he paused, “The single biggest predictor of your success will be who comes in the front door of the seminary.” Agreed! And the largest factor in our practical control is how burdened are our graduates by their debt load. “Stronger” means spiritual, physical, emotional and financial health.

Coming to a (congregation, organization, school, community) near you: 2004 graduates Dorothy Tate (M.A.), Jennifer Fuhr (M.Div.), Kyle Sidlo (M.Div.), Joshua Auchenbach (M.Div.), Catherine Rhodes (M.Div.), Sara Yotter (M.Div.), Janet Gwin (M.Div.) and Scott McAnally (M.Div.).
“Sooner” means the church needs these leaders now. The current shortage of first call candidates will increase as the retirement curve catches up with the roster. God is in these changes too, teaching the church to value its leaders, inviting new configurations of congregations and staffing, and creating space to develop community-based leadership. One graduate smiled, “I crammed four years of seminary into nine!” She was teaching when she began, gave birth to two children, and attended well to her studies. But the slow path is often required to keep bread on the table, and still the debt mounts. “Sooner” means providing encouragement, support and incentives to complete seminary.

The news is promising. For the past few years, we have asked you to join the prayer to the Lord of the harvest for laborers (Mt 9.37-38). The Alumni/ae Calling Team (ACT, see www.luthersem.edu/act) has sought to rally 5,000 recruiters in communities throughout the nation and the world. The Previews campus days of high school students with their pastors and youth leaders have expanded to 500 participants. And the enrollments rose this past year, with a sharp increase coming next September. A large class will come in our front door next year, and they excel by the “smarter” and “stronger” measures.

Be careful when you pray, but never cease. The students who are our answered prayers are also our sacred trust. We are going to need hundreds of congregations and individuals to “adopt a seminarian” so they can finish “sooner” and “stronger.” They will make their sacrifices, take on the mantles of their callings, and discipline themselves to get ready. This is joyful, complex, and costly work. You can walk with them and make a difference.

David L. Tiede
President

Introducing the Class of 2004: Some of Luther Seminary’s newest alumni posed on the steps of Bockman Hall. Take a look: Among these smiling faces may be your future pastor, chaplain, youth minister, Christian ed or music director, professor, associate in ministry... the list goes on!
“We believe God is calling and sending the church of Jesus Christ into apostolic mission in the 21st century world of many cultures and religions.”

Opening statement of Luther Seminary’s 2000-2005 strategic plan, “Serving the Promise of our Mission.”

Anyone who has heard Luther Seminary President David Tiede speak in the past few years has heard him utter this phrase. He tells of a critical time for the church, with many challenges ahead for Luther Seminary’s graduates. Like early Christian leaders, they are heading into a world that knows little, if anything, about the Christian story.

To meet this challenge, Luther’s strategic plan is ambitious. It calls on the seminary to help develop high caliber leaders who are both confessional and missional. These leaders are to be well-grounded in biblical preaching, worship, and congregational mission and leadership. They must reach out to the growing populations of those who are unchurched, and be a part of the global community that is no longer half a world away, but right at their doorsteps.

For the past 10 years, Luther Seminary has refined its curriculum and academic requirements to more accurately reflect the changes in congregations, communities and the student body. In particular, Luther has:

- changed the academic calendar from a quarter to a semester system;
- developed new kinds of courses, and the means to teach them;
- revamped the internship and field education qualifications; and
- re-organized academic administration to best serve students.
- to work with interns at a distance.

Changing Courses While Staying the Course

“Our vision is to build on the foundations already laid as we seek to strengthen within our master of divinity education the theological perspective and skills required for motivating and empowering the laity to share in the ministry of the church to itself and in the world.”

From “Serving the Promise of Our Mission.”

Luther requested the help of graduating students to rate their own learning over the course of their seminary education. Each year, seniors take a survey developed by former Academic Dean Marc Kolden. In addition, entering students are surveyed about their expectations.

“The result of all this work, along with numerous in-class evaluations and online surveys on a variety of topics, has been continual course re-vamping within the parameters of the curricular structure of the early ’90s,” said Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament, who has served as the associate dean—missional pastors, for three years.

She cited two good examples of how evaluation and change continue to shape the master of divinity curriculum. First, is the work of the faculty’s Leadership Division. “Clarifying goals and the means of evaluation have made them into a team, modeling that kind of work for all of us,” Henrich said. “Their primary goal of engaging students precisely as adult learners is pressing them to wrestle with more traditional educational structures. Their findings have generated significant proposals that the faculty will discuss in the coming year.”

A second example, she continued, is the work that has been done to make the required introduction to worship course the best that it can be. “Our professor of education attended the course, worked with the syllabus and with students and made some recommendations concerning the course. We then spent a year talking about worship with input from a wide swath of the community and outside of it. Coming from these discussions we hope to...
implement a more cohesive program in teaching and experiencing worship at Luther Seminary.”

Leadership in Context

“Our vision is to integrate fully learning pastoral leadership in the context of missional congregations and other Christian communities in such a way that it becomes a complementary part of the whole theological education of master of divinity students.”

From “Serving the Promise of Our Mission”

In 1999, Luther Seminary received a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. to redesign the seminary’s contextual education program. In the past, the program consisted mainly of overseeing contextual education (con-ed) congregational sites and internships for master of divinity students, and cross-cultural education. The five-year grant, which has just ended, allowed the seminary to reorganize contextual education into the “Twin Cities Strategy,” required of all first- and second-year master of divinity students.

Students are assigned to a congregation as their contextual education site. This congregation is part of a cluster of churches that represents a different context, such as inner city, first-tier suburbs and outer suburbs. The clusters are unique because they bring the pastors, students and a faculty member together the first Wednesday of every month for intentional conversation. In this way, students, pastors and professors learn from each other, and congregations and the seminary work together to provide the church with strong missional leaders.

The grant also allowed Luther Seminary to develop distance site theological education plans. “While this is still a work in progress, we have had significant success in the site of Shalom Hill Farm (in southwestern Minnesota) for the provision of seminary courses. We continue to work to develop sustainable sites in the Pacific Northwest, in Phoenix in Denver. This work has involved assessment of numbers of likely students in an area, the ability of an area to provide supervision for students, technology, and space for education. Our own technological capacity has continued to increase dramatically since 1994. We hope to do a better job serving students not able to come to the Luther campus for their entire program.”

One of the largest changes that came out of the Lilly grant is the creation of the Contextual Leadership Initiative (CLI)—a contextual education “department” that belongs both to Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran School of Theology (PLTS) in Berkeley, Calif.

By consolidating contextual education offices, Luther and PLTS are able to provide a wider variety of sites and greater geographic diversity to interns, and reduce costs at the same time, said Randy Nelson, director of CLI. “Our smaller staff and budget have pressed us to make good use of both technology and of local supervisors to work with interns at a distance.

“As one can see, taking context seriously has begun to shape theological education at Luther in very profound ways, forcing faculty in particular continually to think and re-think their own work in regard to assignments, evaluation techniques, the building of a ‘class community,’ the development of an ethos, theological formation and the like,” Henrich said. “The residential faculty is required to trust offsite instructors in an unprecedented way to do much of the work of formation and ethos building, as well as instruction.”
FLEAS are on campus and they’re catching. Not the irritating little critters, mind you, but the Fellowship of Leaders in Evangelism Attending Seminary (FLEAS). This student-led organization is so excited about mission they want to begin now, while still in seminary. In particular, FLEAS members are eager to become mission developers and redevelopers whose goal it is to plant and revitalize congregations.

Ask how FLEAS came about and you find that it was a series of events—conversation and prayer after a campus campfire worship, spirited discussions between students, faculty and others during “The Missional Church in Context” 2003 January Term course, and an invitation to a meeting last September for students interested in an emphasis on congregational leadership. The event was hosted by Craig Van Gelder, professor of congregational mission, and Kelly Fryer, instructor in congregational leadership. Sixty students showed up.

It’s about transformational ministry,” said Rob James, master of divinity middler and FLEAS coordinator. “Many students are interested in learning more than academics at seminary. There’s a common interest in beginning ministry now. We want to be trained as evangelists, not only as pastors or theologians.

One of FLEAS’—and mission development’s—tenets is that the church needs leaders, not shepherds or caretakers. “To be a leader in the church right now is to stand for something,” said Jedediah Scharmer, master of divinity middler and member of the FLEAS recruitment team. “We are blessed to be a blessing. We need to stand up and say, ‘This is what we believe in.’ Say who we are, and speak to that.”

“And continually explore,” James added. “[Mission development] takes seriously how to minister to people outside of the church. It’s less inward-focused, more outward-focused. It’s a model of empowering laity and coaching ministry—leadership isn’t done by one person or an executive committee. You come, you bring gifts.”

The fact that so many seminarians are interested in mission development and redevelopment is a good sign for the ELCA and other mainline denominations. Nearly 75 percent of ELCA congregations are experiencing either a plateau or a decline in membership, a statistic similarly shared by other denominations.

Since that interest meeting in September, the group has organized and given itself a name that’s hard to forget. FLEAS sponsors monthly worship and forums, provides resources related to evangelism, leadership mission development and congregational renewal, and engages in dialogue regarding evangelism and mission with the seminary community, the wider church and beyond.

James expressed appreciation for the support FLEAS has received from the Luther Seminary faculty and staff, and also the ELCA’s Region 3 and the Division for Outreach.

FLEAS tapped staff from the Division for Outreach, plus visiting scholars and clergy, as speakers and resources. They invited Dave Daubert, ELCA Executive for Renewal of Congregations, to present a January retreat on how to lead an organization through guiding principles. FLEAS took advantage of this workshop to create a team to develop FLEAS’ own mission statement.
and guiding principles (see sidebar, “Purpose-Driven FLEAS”).

It’s typical for a FLEAS forum to become a hands-on learning experience. The workshops are structured in a way so participants learn how they would conduct the same event in a congregation. “Anything we do reflects what we plan to do when we leave seminary, so it can be used as a model of ministry,” said master of divinity junior Matt Knopf, FLEAS communicator and worship team member.

Another integral part of each gathering is worship. The FLEAS group has been thankful for the participation of Luther Seminary faculty who preach at the events. “Prayer and scripture are key for us, and to have an open heart,” Knopf said.

Even planning meetings are biblically based. “We always begin with prayer, then we open our Bibles and have a Bible study. Then we go into the agenda. That way we are grounded when we come to the table—hearing God through the same texts together,” Scharmer said.

The demographics of FLEAS members run the gamut, from conservative to liberal. “We’re able to come together and talk about mission. If there are any special interests, it’s the interest of God’s mission to all,” James said.

In just a few months, James, Scharmer and Knopf have seen how FLEAS has changed—it’s not just about mission development/renovation. “All leaders need to be missional, not just developers or redevelopers. We all need to be missional people,” James said.

Similar to its insect namesake, FLEAS is contagious. Members have participated in a mission developer conference and an ELCA Region 3 consultation, and recently coordinated a Region 3 “Come, See, Discover” event on campus that invites college students with gifts for ministry to explore mission development. “These connections are incredible. We know we have a voice to use now and the ELCA and larger church wants to hear it,” James said.

Other seminaries have expressed interest in the FLEAS concept. “Although they don’t have to keep the name,” James said with a smile.

James and Scharmer will both begin internships in mission congregations in the fall. James will head to a booming exurb (a residential area beyond suburbs) outside of Minneapolis, and Scharmer to San Antonio, Texas. Neither of the congregations have the funds for interns, so both James and Scharmer are raising their own money for the year.

“God provides when he wants you to go someplace. So I follow,” Scharmer said.

### Purpose-Driven FLEAS

Through prayer and the Scriptures, members of FLEAS developed the following purpose statement and guiding principles.

#### God’s Purpose for FLEAS is...

To Equip and Give Voice to Leaders Reawakening to the Church’s Missional Identity


#### FLEAS Guiding Principles

1. **God’s Direction is Discernable**
   - James 1:5-8, 1 Cor 2:12-16, Acts 16:6-7, Jer 29:11-13

2. **The Church Needs Leaders**
   - Matt 4:16-22, Mark 1:16-20, 1 Cor 3:5-9, 1 Cor 12:28

3. **All Leaders Need to be Missional**
   - Isaiah 29:13-16, Gal 5:1, Mark 1:16-20

4. **The Spirit Uses People to Awaken and Equip**
   - Gal 3:1-5, 1 Cor 12, 1 Cor 2:10

5. **We Will be Changed**
   - 1 Cor 4:6-7, Rom 12:1-2
Students Discover Hope Amidst Hardship during Mexico City Cross-Cultural Trip

By Brian Ferguson, ’04

Last January, through the Contextual Leadership Initiative, I spent two weeks in Mexico City at the Lutheran Center with 17 other students representing six of the eight ELCA seminaries. Our immersion began by visiting important historical and cultural sites. These experiences were built upon by guest lecturers and presentations that tied historical trends to the contemporary realities. Following this crash course in Mexican culture we were ready to spend a weekend living with a local family.

I returned having witnessed first-hand the economic poverty in which a majority of Mexican people must live. My home stay put a real face on the lectures I had heard. In a city of 25 million, it is important to move from statistical facts to personal realities. Our group spent the last few days in Mexico struggling with the biblical and theological themes we had been working with.

How should we respond to the injustices we had seen and heard? We had seen with our eyes children working and begging on the streets trying to earn a few extra pesos for their family. We heard with our ears that 50 percent of working Mexicans earned less than two dollars per day. We heard mothers speak of how they worried each day where they might find enough food for their children to eat.

The root of all this suffering is complex. Corrupt politicians, billions of dollars of foreign debt, and unfair trade practices are just a few of the challenges. Compounding all of this is globalization. Some argue that globalization is the most effective way to bring about positive change. Yet from the perspective of those who are suffering, globalization is the 21st century’s equivalent to colonization. They perceive it to be an economic, political, and cultural invasion by the industrialized countries.

How could we respond to this? The issue was so complex that we, as relatively well off Americans, had become part of the problem. It was tempting to consider the situation hopeless. But as people of faith, we can always find hope. We found hope in Mexico by seeking out the places where God’s word in its truth and purity was proclaimed. These were not places that were affecting global economic policies. They were the neighborhoods where small grassroots organizations were living lives responsive to the true and pure word of God.

We found hope in organizations like Amextra, where affordable day care is offered so that mothers can work and children no longer have to beg on the streets, and where parenting classes are offered to help prevent abuse in the home. We found hope in Christian-based community groups that are working to create neighborhoods where people know the needs of their neighbor. Mexico showed me the power of the word that we have been called to faithfully proclaim to all people.
God loves a cheerful giver,” writes Paul in 2 Corinthians. A new challenge gift will help Luther Seminary educate and inspire its graduates to be cheerful givers themselves, so they can, in turn, lead their congregations to lives of abundance in Christ. The gift, which was introduced with the launch of the Called and Sent Campaign in May, will support the seminary’s efforts to emphasize generosity and practical financial intelligence. Called “The Fund for Financial Leadership in Christian Communities,” the gift will be a part of the seminary’s initiative for congregational mission and leadership.

The goal is to raise $1.25 million dollars, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous donor with a deep passion for stewardship and who recognizes that the church needs to be more intentional about training leaders who share that passion. The match ends Dec. 31, 2007.

“Generosity is something you learn. Most people instinctively hold on to their money,” said Glenn Taibl, major gifts consultant in the office of seminary relations. “But God’s vision for us is that we would live lives of generosity that flow from the abundance of God’s gifts to us. If our students haven’t learned generosity from someone, they need to, so they can live out of their abundance.

“We’ve discovered that students need better financial management skills, both for themselves personally, and then as leaders of the church,” Taibl said. One way to do that is to pair students with mentors who can talk about how their lives have been enriched through giving. Providing free access to a professional money manager can give students—many of whom graduate with significant debt—a clear path of how fiscal success and generosity can be achieved.

New projects funded through the match will add to the work that Luther Seminary’s Stewardship Council has undertaken for the past 10 years. They have worked to strengthen stewardship attitudes, knowledge and skills for the future pastors of our church. The Stewardship in the 21st Century Web site (www.luthersem.edu/stewardship) offers ideas, stories, quotes and resource materials for congregations looking to engage and motivate their church’s members. And two recent events for seminary graduates—Stewardship 2000 and Stewardship 2003—got attendees excited about the ways they could share their stories. These efforts, combined with faculty involvement and assistance from outside resources, can make a difference both in the lives of the seminary’s students and in its reputation as a place that trains pastors who provide exceptional stewardship leadership.

YOU ARE INVITED to accept the challenge! Help train seminarians for financial leadership by giving to “The Fund for Financial Leadership in Christian Communities.” Contact the Office of Seminary Relations, 651-641-3448, or toll-free at 1-888-358-8437.

Donor Hopes New $1.25 Million Stewardship Challenge Grant Will Inspire Giving in Others ... for a Lifetime

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

Augustana Lutheran Church Gives $10,000 Gift to New Fund

Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul, Minn., is known for its understanding of stewardship and generous, giving spirit. So, when Senior Pastor Mark Aune, ’86, heard of Luther Seminary’s new “Fund for Financial Leadership in Christian Communities,” the wheels started turning in his mind. “Wouldn’t it be neat if Augustana was the first to give a gift to the fund?” he remembered thinking.

The congregation had just received a bequest from a member’s life insurance policy. The bequest came from Ethel Rintala, an active worshiper who never married and had no children. “I thought it would be nice to give some of Ethel’s stewardship to someone else besides Augustana,” Aune said. “I wanted to give a little joy to Luther.”

He received the go-ahead from the congregation’s giving committee, and soon a check for $10,000 was making its way to the seminary.

Aune expressed appreciation for Luther Seminary’s vision to train leaders who are able to guide their congregations to lives of abundance in Christ. “Stewardship is critical for parish pastors to understand,” he said. “If they don’t understand, they won’t make it.”
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has awarded a $240,000 grant to help Luther Seminary collect and make accessible microfilm copies of 16th Century European Reformation print materials and documents for historical-theological education.

The Lutheran Grant will support the efforts of the seminary and its Thrivent Reformation Research Program’s “Project Wittenberg” complete a library of 40,000 titles that help build the history of the Reformation.

In the grant request, the late James Kittelson, Thrivent Reformation Research Program Director, wrote, “The program has become a central attraction for several top reformation scholars who have joined the seminary faculty. This in turn has helped integrate the program more fully into the general academic life.

“This year marks the beginning of the next phase of the Thrivent Reformation Research Program. As part of this final phase of integration into the library, we will continue to look for new and better ways to bring these treasures of the Lutheran heritage to the people of the church and beyond.”

“Thrivent Financial for Lutherans takes great pride in being able to help this useful and historic program,” said Jim Yagow, manager of Lutheran Community Relations for Thrivent Financial’s Church Relations. “Before his untimely death, James Kittelson did so much to help make this an outstanding collection of information that is important to so many. We know that James played a major role in turning over leadership of the program to the capable hands of Prof. Mary Jane Haemig. We also know that this program will be a legacy for generations to come from James Kittelson. We are honored to help a project run with such total dedication and commitment.”

Haemig Named Director of Thrivent Reformation Research Program

Mary Jane Haemig, associate professor of church history, has accepted the position of director of the Thrivent Reformation Research Program at Luther Seminary. Her duties officially begin July 1, 2004. Haemig, along with Mary Anderson, ’04, covered the various duties and responsibilities within the research program after the death of Professor James Kittelson last fall.

“We thank them for their hard work during this difficult time. We look forward to Dr. Haemig’s leadership in the coming years with this rich collection and unique program,” said Richard Bliese, academic dean.

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Three years ago, in July 2001, Luther Seminary quietly began raising funds for the Called and Sent campaign. It was a time to articulate the vision among major seminary donors and enlist their support. There were big dreams for what the seminary needed to do to continue to prepare excellent, faithful church leaders.

And then, two months later, the country was devastated by terrorist attacks. The questions were raised: Is this the right time to undergo a major fundraising initiative? Should we wait? There were conversations, strategy sessions, lots of prayers. Luther Seminary’s trustees were clear: perhaps in times of crisis more than ever, the church needs strong leaders. The seminary had to press on with its vision. The campaign—with the goal of raising $96.7 million dollars and increasing the number of donors to Luther Seminary by 50 percent—would continue.

Since then, incredible progress has been made toward achieving this goal. More than $71 million has been pledged; the number of new donors has increased 16 percent. In May, the Called and Sent campaign entered a new phase: taking its message of hope for the future to the people of the church at large—to alumni/ae, congregations, faithful servants who care deeply about God’s mission.

Those at the May 14 kick-off celebration heard about the urgent need facing the seminary and its students: In 1950, the national churches paid 100 percent of the seminary’s bills.

Continued on next page.

A FAMILY AFFAIR  Jean and Robert Spong posed for a photo with the Markquart family, Lee and Mary and their daughter Jeanne, ’01. Lee and Mary serve as campaign volunteers. Lee is on the Luther Seminary Foundation Board of Trustees.

Donor Snapshots

Norman and Eunice Jones
Fargo, North Dakota

Norman and Eunice Jones enjoy seeing the fruits of their giving—so much so that they have made it possible for many others to share the joy of giving to Luther Seminary.

A founding member of the Luther Seminary Foundation Board of Trustees and its former chair, Norman Jones not only contributes, but also helps lead fundraising efforts.

His spirit and enthusiasm for a worthwhile cause allow Jones to be a top volunteer on behalf of Luther Seminary. He is passionate about telling the seminary’s story to others, and displays a strong commitment to the gospel of Jesus, the church and future leaders.

“When people hear the story and the need for support, the number of new students we need, they are generous with their gifts. We have to continue to work hard to get the message out there. It’s exciting to see how well that message is received,” Jones said.

“I was recently taking with a friend of mine in Fargo who supported Luther Seminary’s last campaign. I asked him, ‘Will you help us again?’ He didn’t even hesitate. He just said, ‘I sure will.’ People know the need is there. They’re committed to helping meet it.”
Donor Snapshots

Janet and Brad Anderson
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Several years ago, a pastor noticed something about Janet Anderson and her husband, Brad: they loved to hear a good sermon. “Good preaching is so important to me,” she commented. “It was a first-call associate pastor who took us aside and said, ‘You know, you really should be supporting the seminary.’”

Since then, the Andersons have embraced Luther Seminary’s work, mission and vision in exciting ways. She has participated in several classes for lay leaders in congregations, has served on the seminary’s Foundation Board of Trustees, and has chaired the Partnership Gifts Committee. This year she was elected the foundation board’s chair. “God is calling me to do this,” she said. “It feels like a call!”

Anderson joined the board three years ago, as the seminary’s strategic plan, “Serving the Promise of Our Mission,” was being considered.

“It just resonated with me. This is where the seminary should be going,” I thought. I was aware of the need for increasing the financial resources of the seminary to carry out the plan.”

The Called and Sent campaign promises to build upon that vision, she said. “We’re working on developing new programs and expanding the kinds of programs already offered here. It will help to develop professional and lay leaders who are called to reach out in innovative ways with the message of the gospel.”

Called and Sent (continued)

In 1980, that figure was 50 percent. This past year, churchwide and synodical support represented just 16 percent of Luther Seminary’s budget.

“The ELCA’s support of the seminary is significant, but its nature has changed,” Kathy Hansen, vice president of seminary relations, said. “Now, more and more comes directly from individuals who care about the future pastors, and teachers, and musicians and youth directors of our church.”

Many of those individuals have already offered their financial support and hard work to the seminary’s efforts. One, Janet Anderson, is the chair of the Luther Seminary Foundation Board of Trustees.

“I am keenly aware of the need for additional resources, both in dollars and in the number of donors,” Anderson said. “This has become a clear and compelling challenge: how can we enable Luther Seminary to affect the quality of our future church leaders?”

Anderson and her husband, Brad, became connected with Luther Seminary through their former pastor, Rolf Jacobson (now assistant professor of Old Testament). A few years ago, she said, Jacobson told her, “Janet, you and Brad really ought to be supporting Luther Seminary.” He brought them to chapel, introduced them to faculty. She began attending Lay School of Theology classes. “I realized right away the seminary’s vision for leadership and my interest in biblical preaching really meshed in this place.”

Their support has become one way they can, in her words, “follow the excellent model of pastors and parents in my life, to share the incredible blessing of financial resources God has given my family, and to actively live out my faith.”

The cornerstone elements of the campaign include major funding for faculty, student scholarships, research and programs in the areas of Biblical Preaching and Worship; Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Congregational Mission and Leadership; and Lifelong Learning. Other key programs, such as World Christianity and Islam, are also included.
More than $17 million is designated for student support through scholarships, with the goal of reducing the amount of educational debt graduates take with them into their ministries. The Adopt a Seminarian program has been helpful in raising awareness of the fiscal challenges facing many graduates. Other endowed and presidential scholarships have also made a great impact.

“My hope is that a lot more scholarship money will be available for our students. We are working hard so that none of our students will graduate with huge debt loads,” Norm Jones, chair of the Called and Sent campaign, said. “There has been a great improvement in this area, but there are still so many students who struggle to pay for seminary. I see scholarship endowments as one of the key goals of this campaign.”

The public launch of the campaign comes at a critical time for the ELCA and for the church at large. Yet, President David Tiede said, “Ships are not built to ride out the storm in the harbor. We are called to serve God’s mission of love in the world.”

THE ELCA needs future leaders. And Luther Seminary is an outstanding seminary with many gifted students,” he said. “However, developing leaders costs both the student and the seminary a lot of money today. Even more will be needed in the future. Anything I can do to increase the amount of financial support so generously and cheerfully given to the seminary will serve the future of the Lutheran church well.”

Steel’s passion for ministry is to pass on the gift of spiritual growth that results from the ministry of effective Christian leaders. “My wife, Gail, and I have received ministry in many a deep and meaningful way from our church leaders,” he said. “Faith-filled leaders produce faith-filled followers. Whatever we can do to pass on this gift is a treasured opportunity.”

**Donor Snapshots**

**John Steel**

San Diego, California

Ask John Steel why he serves as a Luther Seminary volunteer and he’ll tell you it’s an arrangement where a little effort goes a long way.

A retired marketing and sales executive for the electronics industry, Steel has served on the seminary’s board of trustees and has chaired the Major Gifts Committee for two years. “It’s easy to get totally engaged with the seminary’s work, the strategic plan and the obvious passion of all those who serve at and with the seminary,” he said. “Their focus and commitment to the seminary’s mission is contagious.”

Steel’s service is motivated by his desire to financially make it possible for students called to ministry to attend seminary. “The Lutheran church needs future leaders. And Luther Seminary is an outstanding seminary with many gifted students,” he said. “However, developing leaders costs both the student and the seminary a lot of money today. Even more will be needed in the future. Anything I can do to increase the amount of financial support so generously and cheerfully given to the seminary will serve the future of the Lutheran church well.”

Steel’s passion for ministry is to pass on the gift of spiritual growth that results from the ministry of effective Christian leaders. “My wife, Gail, and I have received ministry in many a deep and meaningful way from our church leaders,” he said. “Faith-filled leaders produce faith-filled followers. Whatever we can do to pass on this gift is a treasured opportunity.”
**Donor Snapshots**

**David and Andrea Hayes**  
*Half Moon Bay, California*

David Hayes and his wife, Andrea, have financially supported Luther Seminary for eight years. David is a member of the Luther Seminary Board of Directors. The Hayeses recently contributed $25,000 to refurbish a pipe organ acquired by the seminary from St. Olaf College. The organ, now valued at nearly $100,000 because of the refurbishment, will serve as a much needed practice instrument for students in the seminary’s master of sacred music program.

Church music has had a great impact on David’s life. A trained musician, David studied organ for 10 years, and he served as a substitute organist for two years. “Music is a gift from God,” he said. “There is nothing more thrilling for a trained church organist than to lead a congregation of voices in a vigorous hymn of faith or praise.”

Whether it is by music or preaching of God’s Word, the Hayeses have a strong passion for getting the word out about the gospel. “With all the issues the church faces from time to time that are controversial, and as modern times bring ever-new pressures from a secular society into our lives, we sometimes get caught up in the issues of the day and lose sight of the cross,” said David. “We must remain focused on getting the good news of Jesus Christ out into the world.”

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**Called and Sent (continued)**

The coming years will present both great challenges and great opportunities to help the seminary carry out that mission.

“I have great confidence in the seminary’s visionary leadership,” Anderson said. “Luther Seminary is one of the places where I feel I can live out what it means to be a child of God.”

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Charles Amjad-Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Justice and Christian Community, met with other scholars compiling the new multi-volume History of the World Christian Movement for open discussion and colloquium at Union Theological Seminary in New York in March. He will spend much of the summer in South Africa making connections with organizations and academic institutions in preparation for a possible semester-long residence in South Africa, which will be beneficial for the seminary’s future M.A. degree in theology, justice and ethics.


Fred Gaiser, professor of Old Testament, gave lectures on “Human Sexuality in Biblical Perspective” in Spokane, Issaquah, and Tacoma, Wash., and Portland, Ore. in February. In March, he spoke at the South Dakota Synod Symposium on Homosexuality, addressing the question, “How do folks reading the same Bible arrive at totally different positions on the issues confronting the church regarding homosexual behavior?”

Fred Gonnerman, retired director of public relations, received a DeRose Hinkhouse Award of Excellence and the “Best in Class” award for writing by the Religion Communicators Council for his book, Getting the Word Out: The Alban Guide to Church Communications (Alban Institute, 2003). He will also receive the 2004 Gold Pen Award, given by the Metro Lutheran newspaper of the Twin Cities. The award recognizes excellence in the work of a religion communicator.


Nicole Mason, communication specialist, received a Crystal Clarion Award of Merit from Women in Communications for Luther Seminary’s 2002-2003 annual report.

Lynne Moratzka, coordinator of donor relations in the office of seminary relations, has been chosen as “Swede of the Year” by Svenskarnas Dag of Minneapolis. She will be honored at a ceremony in Minnehaha Park June 27.

Steven Paulson, ’84, associate professor of systematic theology, was the featured speaker at the Third Annual Peder Waldum Memorial Spring Renewal at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell, Mont.

Maria Thompson, director of communication, received a DeRose Hinkhouse Award of Excellence for electronic media by the Religion Communicators Council for Luther Seminary’s CD-ROM, “God Could Use Someone Like You.”

Coming to a Town Near You

Richard Bliese, academic dean and associate professor of missions, will participate in the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Barcelona, Spain, July 7-14. He will speak and teach in Gurukul, India, July 28.

Jack Fortin, ’71, executive director of the Center for Lifelong Learning, will speak and lead a workshop at the 29th Annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry at Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash., July 12-16. The conference will focus on “The Church and the Marketplace: The Relationship Between Work and Christian Faith.”

Shauna Hannan, ’98, associate director of admissions, will be at Holden Village in Chelan, Wash., the first week of August. This summer’s theme at Holden is “ Summon Out
Faculty & Staff Notes (continued)

What Shall Be.” She will begin studying for a Ph.D. degree in homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary in the fall.

Arland Hultgren, Asher O. and Carrie Nasby Professor of New Testament, led a Bible study at the South Dakota Synod Assembly in Sioux Falls June 4-6. He will be a guest lecturer at the continuing education retreat at Christikon in Montana Aug. 2-4.

Diane Jacobson, professor of Old Testament, will give a theological response to questions raised at the “Re-Thinking Justice and Forgiveness: A Forum on Moral Leadership” conference at St. John’s University School of Theology, Collegeville, Minn., July 8.

Marc Kolden, ’66, professor of systematic theology, will speak, preach and teach pastors and other rostered ministers in the Dagmar Lutheran Parish in northeast Montana June 26-27.

Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, will speak at an international conference on science and theology sponsored in part by the Piero Caldirola International Center for the Promotion of Science, Oct. 10-13. The conference will be held in Milan and Varenna, Italy. His presentation will be on the history of the concept of the laws of nature.

Gary Simpson, professor of systematic theology, will attend the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., in June through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He will join 30 professors for a month-long seminar on “War and Morality.” In September he will travel to Belfast, Ireland, to give the keynote address at the conference “A Place for All? Comparing Civil Societies in Scotland and Northern Ireland,” hosted by the University of Edinburgh and Trinity College-Dublin. His address is titled, “God in Civil Society: Theological Imagination, Ecclesial Strategies, and Global Implications.”

Visit www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_presentations.asp for more Luther faculty speaking engagements.

Prof Picks

Mary Hess, assistant professor for congregational leadership, recommends Finding Faith at the Movies, by Barbara Mraz, Free Culture by Lawrence Lessig, and Get Up Off Your Knees: Preaching the U2 Catalog, Raewynn Whiteley and Beth Maynard, eds.

Craig Koester Featured in New ELCA Video on the Life of Apostle Paul

Craig Koester, ’80, professor of New Testament, is featured prominently in a new 45-minute video from the ELCA titled: “The Life of Apostle Paul with Rick Steves.” The video follows noted public television host Rick Steves as he travels through Turkey and Greece, following in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. Koester provides biblical context and scholarly observation throughout the piece.

He became involved when the ELCA producer discovered the extensive information about Paul’s journeys on Koester’s Luther Seminary-hosted Web site, www.luthersem.edu/ckoester/paul/main.htm. Find out more about the video by visiting www.elca.org/mosaic/
Change for the Better
Alum in Residence Sees Positive Changes in Church, Society and Seminary

By Sheri Booms Holm, director of publications

Many people may look at the last 40 years and not see the positive changes that Jon R. Lee, ’66, has witnessed. The average person on the street will talk to you about spirituality (“something no one did when I started ministry”), churches are banding together with other organizations to accomplish amazing things in communities, and seminaries are changing the way they teach, within context and in a way that models what students may encounter in the parish.

Lee is senior pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church, in Dallas, Texas. He spent Mar. 8-12 at Luther Seminary as this year’s alum in residence. Lee was nominated for the honor by his peers. The Luther Seminary Alum in Residence Program invites alumni/ae to share their experiences, insights and expertise with students. While on campus, Lee preached in chapel, met with students and faculty, and participated in several classes. Lee, who hadn’t been to Luther Seminary since graduation, remarked, “It’s a different place since I was here, and a joy to discover.”

Classroom Participation
One large difference at Luther Seminary that Lee observed is how classes are taught. “I came from an era when it was mainly lecture. I’m thrilled with how teaching is done today.”

Case in point, Lee noted, is the Synoptic Gospel of Mark course taught by Jim Boyce, professor of New Testament. “His style is wonderfully interactive. He lets the questions guide how he is going to do his teaching, leading his students into the mystery of God. It’s not about giving answers; it’s about leading students more deeply into their faith journey. It was an exciting hour. He is modeling teaching that the student can use in the parish—it is so alive and interactive.”

Lee experienced this over and over—highly participative classes that asked students to reflect and interact, and challenged them as well. And that included Lee, himself. In the Human Sexuality and the Christian Faith course taught by professors Roland Martinson and Janet Ramsey, he was asked to give the pastor’s perspective on how to deal pastorally, for example, in pre-marriage counseling when working with couples who are cohabiting.

In the preaching class, Lee spoke on how to connect the gospel with people’s lives. “I shared with them that the gospel is always an invitation, not a command. Preaching is wooing people,” Lee said. The class also asked Lee about preaching styles and managing time for sermon preparation.

Continued on next page.

“How can we be a church that is identical to 10 years ago and expect to be responsive to what people need today?”

Jon R. Lee, ’66

As Alum in Residence, Lee (front) had the opportunity to participate in several classes during his residency.
Alum in Residence (continued)

Proclaiming Where the People Are

How do you preach to people not attending church? Lee encountered this question in the Ministry of Evangelism in Congregations course, taught by Craig Van Gelder, professor of congregational mission.

“It’s about getting out and talking to people where you find them, with the realization they are willing to talk [about spirituality]—spirituality may be the contact point of initial conversation, not joining a church,” Lee said. “God’s going to have to lead us. Where will that lead? What will that look like? It might be small groups outside of church. We know we are in a new post-Christian era. I am so thrilled that the seminary is asking questions and encouraging students to think out of the box. The seminary has said creative leadership is a priority. Ministry is going to have to be creative as we move into new unexplored arenas.

“What pleases me about Luther is it’s willingness to listen to congregations. That process of listening is reshaping the vision for the seminary. The process has changed their strategic plan. That’s potent stuff,” Lee said.

Keeping It Fresh and Challenging

Lee has been at King of Glory for 32 years, and ministry hasn’t gotten stale yet, he says. “I suppose selfishly I don’t want to get bored, or stale. You keep your eyes open, look and pray,” he explained.

“I don’t understand ministry to be primarily about maintenance. In a fast changing world it’s the realization that ministry has to change. How can we be a church that is identical to 10 years ago and expect to be responsive to what people need today? The Spirit invites us into ministry. That’s where joy is found. It’s being in relationship, listening, paying attention, caring, imagining—that’s when things happen.”

Lee’s congregation built in the growing area of north Dallas, visible and easily accessible from the highway. Given the proximity, he calls King of Glory a regional “freeway” church, with members coming from all over the area. One reason Lee’s ministry stays fresh is the mobility of his congregation. Many of the members have been Lutheran transplants from other states who have moved fairly often, particularly in the 1980s-1990s. “I became the stability zone of the congregation. The majority of members have known me only about eight or nine years,” Lee said.

Although mobile, the members are very active, and key to King of Glory’s ministry.

“We’ve been blessed with tremendous lay leadership. The ministry is exciting because people have been empowered, and have taken on roles that may have been previously viewed as a pastoral position,” Lee said. “The challenges keep coming. The laity is changing, they are growing, thinking. They have high expectations and are very responsive. I am mentored by the leading lay people in the congregation. It’s our lay people that help me with the running of the church and the staffing. A lot of initiative comes from them. Ideas begin to bubble up; they say, ‘Come on, let’s do it’."

As a congregation, and because of its location, King of Glory chose to stay connected to the city.

“We invest time and energy working with the city. We belong to a Dallas Area Interfaith organization with a passion for community development. Our congregation made a shift from primarily acts of charity to involving ourselves in justice and structural issues—empowering people to act in the communities in which they live,” Lee said.

One area of focus is an impoverished area of south Dallas, where congregation members use their specific skills to help out. “We partner with the groups already there—such as in drug rehabilitation and gang intervention, helping create centers such as a computer center, a teen night club, working with the YMCA, school and providing teachers for ESL classes,” Lee said.

Mentoring a New Generation of Pastors

In his chapel sermon at Luther Seminary, Lee quoted alarming statistics from the ELCA about the general health of its pastors, including the fact that one in five pastors experiences depression. One major reason is the sense of isolation that many pastors feel, Lee said. “Often it’s a self-imposed loneliness. Pastors aren’t open to going to another pastor to ask how things are going. There would be less depression if pastors would come together and work with each other.”

Lee feels peer mentoring and coaching would aid pastors substantially. And, as is typical of Lee, he does see positive change, “We have in our synod (Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod) a ministry for first-call pastors. I work with that group. It’s been a gift.”
The ‘00s

Anne, ’00, and David, ’74, Andert, have been serving together full time at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Benson, Minn. Anne is currently serving on the ELCA Division for Ministry Board of Directors, Luther Seminary Board of Directors, and SW MN Synod Advisory Board for Pastor to Pastor Initiative. They have three college-age daughters.

Amy Swanson, ’00, accepted a second call to serve as Associate Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in South Bend, Ind., in January 2004. She will be installed on Feb. 22. Jennifer Jelinek, ’00, will be the guest preacher at the service.

Clint Schnekloth, ’02, is currently serving as associate pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Oregon, Wis. He recently received a grant from the Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton, N.J., to participate in its Pastor-Theologians Program, a three-year grant program funded by the Lilly Foundation.

Erik Sevig, ’03, and his wife, Amy, announce the birth of their son, Isak Karl. He was born in March. Sevig serves as a pastor at Ridgeland-Hay River Lutheran Parish in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

Trisha (Hanson) Boese, ’99, will return to Luther Seminary to earn a master of divinity degree with an emphasis in youth and family ministry. Her husband, Kyle, two cats and a house will remain in Sioux Falls during this pursuit. He owns a computer business. She writes: “Fortunately, his love and support go with me—especially during summer Greek!”

The ‘90s

Beverly Stratton, ’91, ’95, was promoted from associate to full professor at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. She is a faculty member in the school’s religion department. Since her beginning at Augsburg in 1986, she has served the college on a wide range of committees, and has been instrumental in grant administration. She has published a book, *Out of Eden: Reading, Rhetoric and Ideology in Genesis 2-3* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1995).


The ‘80s

Eric Burtness, ’81, wrote Augsburg Fortress’ discussion guide “Up for Discussion: The Purpose Driven Church.” The guide is downloadable from www.augsburgfortress.org for $4.95. Burtness is pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Beaverton, Ore.
Alum News (continued)

Ann Svennungsen, ’81, is the featured speaker in May, June and July episodes of “Day 1,” an award-winning radio program (formerly known as the “Protestant Hour”). The show is broadcasted on more than 150 stations on the American Forces Network and with U.S. service men and women listeners around the world and online at www.day1.net. Svennungsen is president of the Fund for Theological Education.

Stephen Seibel, ’83, received a doctor of ministry degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia on May 23. His project was entitled: Using a mission statement to fulfill the developmental tasks of Intentional Interim Ministry.

Jess Abbott, ’88, is serving as an Army Chaplain in Qatar. He was called to active duty in early December and will be in Qatar for one year. His wife Cindy, his sons and everyone in the family are very proud of his service to God and country. He is a pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cincinnati.

Patrick Hall, ’89, was called to serve as the Minnesota state director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in June 2003. He is currently enrolled in the doctor of ministry program through the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools. He and his wife, Debbie, reside in Burnsville, Minn.

The ‘70s

David Andert, ’74 (See Anne Andert, ’00.)

Ronald Marshall, ’75, published, “Preaching Against the Cross” in Lutheran Partners (Sept/Oct 2003). The article was also selected for discussion at the Fall 2003 Lutheran Seminary faculty retreat. His recently published book, Making a New World, was recognized by Dr. Brevard S. Childs, Yale Divinity School, as “…a distinct service to the church in our time.” The 40-page book covers Martin Luther’s 12 rules for reading the Bible. In August, Marshall will celebrate his 25th year of ministry at First Lutheran Church of West Seattle. His wife, Dr. Jane L. Harty, received an award for 25 years of teaching from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. She teaches keyboard studies in the university’s music department.

Timothy Wengert, ’77, co-wrote the book In Christian Assembly: Marks of the Church in a Pluralistic Age (Fortress Press, 2004) with Gordon W. Lathrop. The authors seek to answer the questions, How do you know the Christian church when you encounter it? And what are its marks? Wengert is professor of church history at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

The ‘60s


The books have questions at the end of each chapter for discussion by adult Sunday school classes, Bible study groups or other small groups. Saving Grace and other books by Ron Lavin are available at the Lutheran Seminary library or may be purchased directly from CSS (800-537-1030).

In Memory

Olin “Ole” Nordsletten, ’52, died in February after a lengthy illness. He was pastor of Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenmore, Wash., for 32 years. He retired in 1987. Before serving at Prince of Peace, he was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Atkinson, Wis. He is most remembered for his determination and sometimes unorthodox approach in serving others. A sign outside his church read: “Pray, but swing the hammer.” He was known to live that motto throughout his life—for him prayer was important and action was critical in making a difference in others’ lives. In addition to serving at Prince of Peace, he worked with county officials to establish the Paramount House low-income apartments for the elderly and disabled. He also wrote and produced Christmas plays, performed by young people both at the church and on local television. He is survived by his wife, Arlett, four daughters, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a brother, a sister and a sister-in-law.

J. Thomas Housholder, Jr., ’60, died in April at his home in Overland Park, Kan., from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He was a gifted preacher, writer and innovative church leader with a passion for evangelism. He served congregations in Idaho, Montana, Illinois and Kansas. In addition to serving congregations, Housholder, was the director of evangelism for the ALC (1975-1979) during which time he served as a consultant for churches worldwide. He was an unconventional pastor and colorful personality, a blessing to his family, friends and someone who glorified God in his daily life. He is survived by his wife, Delphine, three sons and six grandchildren.
Messiah Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis used the Lent season to increase its connection with its mission partner churches. Each Wednesday, members of Messiah worshipped at a different partner congregation, and gathered for fellowship and community-building during the evening’s meal. A church-organized carpool made it possible for more people to attend the services. On several nights, Messiah’s choir also joined with the host congregation’s choir to enrich the music.

Church anniversaries often celebrate where a congregation has been—but First Lutheran, St. Paul, brought those roots to life as part of its 150th anniversary celebration this summer. The church hosted a concert by the choir from Älghult Church, Älghult, Sweden—the hometown of Erland Carlsson, a missionary who founded First Lutheran Church and a number of other congregations in Illinois and Minnesota. The choir is touring North America in celebration of his accomplishments. First Lutheran’s year-long festivities also include a trolley tour of the Swede Hollow neighborhood of St. Paul and a reunion at Bay Lake Camp, which the church has supported since 1926.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wis., encourages its members to pray by including a “Prayer Chain Calendar” in its monthly newsletter. It lists a prayer for every day of the month that relates to what’s happening in the life of the congregation. A recent calendar included prayers for the quilters meeting at the church (and those who will be blessed by their work), a couple getting married one Saturday, the church blood drive, the birthday of the church’s music director, and the one-year anniversary of the death of a longtime Trinity member.

Sometimes ministry means keeping a lot of balls in the air, but Jordan New Life Community Church in Minneapolis has given that idea a new spin. The congregation, a recent mission start in a downtown neighborhood, sponsored its first Pastors’ Ping Pong Tournament, a friendly competition between the pastors of Jordan New Life’s mission partners: House of Hope Lutheran, Richfield, Bethlehem Lutheran, Minneapolis, Maple Grove Lutheran, Maple Grove, and the Minneapolis Area Synod’s Urban Ministry Division—though “any other pastor who feels up to the challenge” was welcome to participate.

“This event presents a unique opportunity to uplift the Jordan neighborhood with our presence, support, and fellowship—not to mention an opportunity to cheer your pastors on,” Bethlehem Lutheran Church advertised. “It will be an afternoon like no other before.” Proceeds from ticket and refreshment sales for the tournament went to Jordan New Life.

Confirmation students at St. James Lutheran Church in Crystal got out of town for a weekend to see what rural life was like as part of their studies of the differences in God’s kingdom. Their weekend immersion experience in Austin, Minn., included a visit to the Spam Museum and a meeting with a meatpacking union leader, a trip to an Alpaca ranch and an extensive exploration of a hog farm. The students stayed at a local country church and joined the congregation for worship before heading back home.
Ventures in Vocation
Post-college professionals are invited to immerse themselves in seminary life for two days, Oct. 10-11. At Ventures in Vocation, participants reflect on their gifts for ministry and mission, discuss the roles of lay and ordained ministers, examine effective church leadership in today’s world and learn about the programs offered at Luther Seminary. The conference includes class visits, campus tours and discussions with faculty and students.

Registration is required and the cost is $35 per person. Registration is due by Oct. 1. Housing and meals are provided. Transportation to and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is available. For more information or to register online, visit www.luthersem.edu/admissions/ventures, or contact the office of admission at 651-523-1730 or 800-588-4373.

Visit Luther Seminary’s Web site for stories featured in E-lert, Luther Seminary’s monthly e-mail newsletter. To sign up to receive E-lert, go to www.luthersem.edu/email.

Central America Becomes Teaching Ground for 2004-2005 Preaching Fellow
Master of Divinity senior Amanda Olson was set to go on Luther Seminary’s cross-cultural mission trip to Guatemala this past January when a severe back injury from a sledding accident kept her grounded in the U.S. An admitted “travel bug,” Amanda was disappointed not to be going, but there’s a silver lining to the story. Now, instead of a few weeks in Guatemala, Amanda will spend a year studying in Central America as the recipient of Luther Seminary’s 2004-2005 Graduate Preaching Fellowship.

Read more about Amanda at www.luthersem.edu/Elerts/more_story.asp

“Adopted” Seminarian Thankful for Congregation’s Generosity
Imagine Jason Bryan-Wegner’s amazement when he found out he was adopted … by a congregation. The first-year master of divinity student recently received a letter informing him that American Lutheran Church in Sun City, Ariz., will pay half his tuition throughout his seminary education, as part of Luther Seminary’s Adopt-a-Seminarian program.

Read more about Jason and American Lutheran Church at www.luthersem.edu/Elerts/more_story.asp

Faculty and Students Ponder The Passion
It’s become a media phenomenon. The Passion of the Christ is the highest grossing independent film ever. It has elicited conversation in congregations, coffeehouses and around the company water cooler. On campus, the Luther Seminary community was invited to a panel discussion March 17 to hear from noted scholars and talk about the film’s varying messages.

Read the whole story at www.luthersem.edu/Elerts/more_story.asp

View the entire panel discussion online. Visit www.luthersem.edu/resources/panel_passion.asp
Quilt Projects Stitch Students Together

When one of the students in Associate Professor of New Testament Sarah Henrich’s discipleship group announced she was having a baby, the other group members set about coming up with a one-of-a-kind gift. Since Henrich is a quilter, they decided that each student would make a block and Henrich would stitch it into a colorful baby quilt.

Henrich also used her quilting skills on a unique stole that was given to graduating master of divinity senior Paul Koch, who was Henrich’s teaching assistant. Koch taught a Greek class during J-term that continued with Henrich during the spring. “The students had such a good experience with Paul and he has been such a great TA for me that it seemed like a good idea to do something a little special for him. Some years back a group of Greek students had made a stole for me in the same way: they collected squares done by individuals and one member of the class assembled them. It’s one of my prized possessions. We figured Paul would prize this also, and went to work to create it. We choose green for the Pentecost season since it is so long and a change of stoles might be welcome.”

Western Mission Cluster Events

Next year’s interns and their supervisors met at Luther Seminary in May to get acquainted and plan for the upcoming year. The event was sponsored by the Contextual Leadership Initiative of Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. A similar event was held at PLTS. This was the first time interns and supervisors came together as a group.

A Joint Luther Seminary/Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary consultation in Berkeley found Interim PLTS President Ted Peters and Luther President David Tiede in front of each other’s school banner. As part of the ELCA’s Western Mission Cluster, the two seminaries work together to provide theological education to the western half of the United States.
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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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