Gratitude & Confidence

Also Inside:

Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace
Mid-Winter Convocation
2005 Re-cap
page 15

Seminary Scrapbook
page 18

The Prodigal Pastor
Alum in Residence
Steve Wigdahl, ’84
page 20

Honoring Dr. David L. Tiede as he retires from the presidency of Luther Seminary
David Tiede loves this place. He loves that it is biblical, confessional and missional—a conduit for the Holy Spirit to call and send leaders throughout the world. He loves the passion and strength of the faculty. He loves the hopefulness, the raw faith, even the questioning of the students. In them he sees the future of the church and is gratified. He loves the dedication and enthusiasm of the boards to the mission and well-being of Luther Seminary. And he loves the faithfulness of the donors. “They get what we’re doing here,” he says.

It’s this love, and the love of the gospel, that has fueled Dr. Tiede during his presidency at Luther Seminary. On June 30, he retires after 18 years in office.

Ask Dr. Tiede what has surprised him during his presidency, and he mentions:

- He uses every skill the Lord has given him—including a short stint in real estate that taught him how to create a business plan—and everything he’s ever studied. “I’m a witness that whatever students bring to their calls, they will use,” he says.
- He loves working with donors. They are a constant and unexpected delight to him. He is still amazed that, in his inexperience in fundraising as a new president, “the donors taught me. God was in their lives way before I showed up.”
- While he expected to wear many hats as president, he didn’t realize how pastoral the work would be. “Like a pastor you are invited into the sacred ground of people’s lives, deep hopes and yearnings,” he explains.

And wear many hats, he has: pastor, teacher, leader, fundraiser and more.

To adequately tell the whole story of the presidency of David L. Tiede would require more pages than are available in this issue of Story. What follows are memories and heartfelt observations from those who know and love him. They speak volumes.

Meeting parishioners, Trinity Lutheran Church, Madelia, Minn., 2001

Reading time at Wee Care Day Care, 2002

With Gratitude and Confidence

The David L. Tiede presidency, 1987-2005
If you went to one of his past students you would hear that he was a very fine professor. He could make people excited about the New Testament. They found his classes very stimulating. He really missed teaching, and the direct contact with the students. I am hoping that in his retirement he will do a little more of that again. He was always really excited when a congregation would ask him to come and teach their Sunday School class. Kathryn Tiede-Hottinger, daughter, ELCA pastor serving as rector of Saint Francis Episcopal Church of Greenville, S.C.

I remember him as a young New Testament professor. We both came to the faculty in the early ’70s. He was serving a parish at the same time those first few years and was very well liked by the students. He had tenure before anyone else from our class did … David is a Luke scholar, and he was quite unflappable when he was a professor. One of the pros called him Cool Hand Luke. We thought it just about suited him. Marc Kolden, professor of systematic theology, academic dean 1996-2003, Luther Seminary classmate of David Tiede

I was a colleague with him on the faculty for about 20 years. There were two times that I know of that other schools tried to get him away from us, and I told him, “Nothing doing. We have other plans for you here.” Olaf Storsaali, professor emeritus of New Testament

One word comes to mind and that is grace. He manifests the meaning of that word in his life and teaching. He has the gift of “creating space” for his students and associates where mental and spiritual development can take place. His is always an affirming presence that promotes growth and faith in those of us who are privileged to know him and to sit in his classes. Clifford Swanson, retired campus pastor, St. Olaf College

Presidential Statistics 1987-2005

ENROLLMENT
1987-88: 723 students; 2004-05: 804 students
Women enrolled:
1987-88: 247
2004-05: 381
Master of Arts/Master of Sacred Music enrollment:
1987-88: 53
2004-05: 182
Non-ELCA students:
1987-88: 86
2004-05: 132, 17 percent of the student body.

FACULTY
1987-88: five women on faculty
2004-05: 10 women on faculty

ENDOWMENT
Endowment growth:
1987-88: $15,966,135
2003-04 (last annual report): $53,652,550
Financial Aid:
1987-88: $484,907
2003-04 (last annual report): $3,191,745

FUNDRAISING
$98.2 million raised in two completed capital campaigns, with a combined $12.2 million over goal.
$86.9 million (90 percent) raised in the current $96.7 million Called & Sent campaign, which concludes June 30, 2006.
Luther Seminary Partners (Donors who pledged $250 or more a year):
1987: 87
2003-04 (last annual report): 1,900
Heritage Society (Donors who have included Luther Seminary in their will or estate plan):
1987: 295
2005: 2,043 (living and deceased)
Leader

My time was about turning the seminary toward the world—or creating leaders that turn congregations toward the world. That's important. And always to keep the seminary and my leadership accountable to Scripture. David Tiede

One of the things that stands out for me is David’s openness. The seminary sought input on the mission statement and the strategic plan as these were being drafted. He listens well to the board, the faculty, the students, and the donors. He communicates well about the trends and issues and what is being considered.

We thought ourselves very fortunate in 1987 to have David Tiede available to provide leadership as the next president of Luther Seminary. The results over these last 18 years have proven that [naming him as seminary president] was a good move. David has provided solid gospel leadership and has sought to keep the seminary abreast of the finest in confessional Lutheran teaching and learning. He is an outstanding theologian and first-rate biblical scholar, and he has a winsome personality. He led the seminary through the transition into the ELCA. That was not a simple task. He also has given leadership in difficult financial times and been instrumental in assembling great support for the seminary. David is deeply committed to the mission of the church and spreading the gospel.

David Preus, former bishop of the American Lutheran Church, former director of Global Mission Institute

I was just out of college when Dad became president of the seminary. Luther Seminary has absolutely been his passion. I envy him because although I enjoy very much what I do, his job has been an essential part of his being. He really does feel a calling. We tease him that even when he is sleeping, he is wearing Luther Seminary pajamas. I’m not sure if such a thing exists, but if they were made, he would wear them. He does wear a Luther Seminary watch. He has engrossed himself in his vocation as much as anyone I have ever seen anywhere because he is so passionate about that school and its broader role in the church. He talks with such conviction about the school and where it is going.

It is wonderful to see somebody who feels that way about what they do. It is really, really core to who he is. Things have gone well there, and that has been very gratifying to him, particularly since he has such a passion for the place. I have gained an appreciation for that kind of passion. He sets a tremendous example in all kinds of ways. Peter Tiede, son, attorney

I think he was meant for it—for this time and this place. Muffy Tiede, spouse, curriculum consultant, retired educator

When David became president, he wrote to all of the alums asking them to send him their suggestions, and he got more than 500 letters. One of the major themes was “Stop preparing pastors for a church that no longer exists.” What they were saying is that it is not Christendom anymore. People are not coming to church anymore just because they always did, and you at the seminary have to shape up. David really heard that before the rest of us got it. Very early in his presidency, he got a committee to work for several years on a new curriculum that would respond to this different situation where Lutheran pastors were almost feeling like missionaries. This new curriculum, put in place in 1993, was done with considerable involvement of the whole faculty, and about that same time we developed a new mission statement: “Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit, to bear witness to salvation through Jesus Christ, and to serve in God’s world.” That emphasis on preparing persons for leadership for Christian
Leader (continued)

communities focused our minds. David repeated it so often, we all got it memorized. Then the strategic planning process for 1995-2000 got us moving, and we had a more extensive planning process that created the strategic plan for 2000-2005, Serving the Promise of Our Mission. That probably made more of a difference than any single thing in my memory because it was detailed and specific and incredibly challenging. We had to say by the year 2005, we will have accomplished these specific things that we weren’t doing yet, such as creating the Center for Lifelong Learning that was to be our primary point of contact with the larger church, and then Graduate Theological Education, which has us starting the Biblical Preaching Doctor of Ministry degree program and Congregational Mission and Leadership D.Min. and Ph.D. programs. They have both really taken off.

Marc Kolden, professor of systematic theology, academic dean 1996-2003, Luther Seminary classmate of David Tiede

David Tiede helped transform the faculty enormously, making it more ecumenical and expanding the number of female faculty members. He was bold enough to take a risk on people he thought were really good and had a sense of mission… He pushed the faculty hard in the area of technology, and we have been blessed by his vision in that area. He also pushed us in working with congregations, and that has been a blessing. The seminary really has been transformed under his leadership. Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament

Pastor

I now know in many ways that being a president is more like being a pastor than being a professor. Like a pastor you are invited into the sacred ground of people’s lives, deep hopes and yearnings. David Tiede

A
fter I graduated from college, I lived in Costa Rica for a while and the family came to visit me there. I was working with a group of Protestant Pentecostals. I had no theological language or education at that time, no terminology for any of the things I was experiencing. I remember talking to my dad about a couple of the things people had told me. His eyes welled up with tears, and he responded that people were saying that because they don’t understand grace; they only understand the law. He started talking about the love of Jesus and how freeing that is and how beautiful that is, and he just wept. At that point in my life I didn’t understand why he was crying. Years later I finally thought I understood what he was talking about. To take the gospel and obscure it into something negative and judgmental is a perversion of something so perfect and wonderful. It was a tragedy that struck him so deeply that he cried even talking about it. That had a big impact on me.

He has a very tender heart. Now I know it is simply because he understands grace and mercy and love and forgiveness at such a deep level and he wants everybody to have this understanding, and he is profoundly sad when he thinks that people don’t. Kathryn Tiede-Hottinger, daughter, ELCA pastor serving as rector of Saint Francis Episcopal Church of Greenville, S.C.

One of the remarkable things to me is that David shows up at our Wednesday morning Bible group made up of downtown business executives just like one of the guys, even though we all know better. He doesn’t lead the group, though he has unbelievable insight and an incredible scholarly background.

When we start a new book, we ask him to give us a bit of historical overview and some of his thoughts. Sometimes he has brought over someone from the seminary who has particular expertise in a certain section of the Bible to make us smarter about what we are about to read. His value to the group is unbelievable. I have learned from David an incredible amount about the Bible and how it relates to my own life, not only through the group but also through talks that we have had one on one. As we sit around the table after reading something, we often remark how applicable it is to what we are doing right now in our personal or business lives. Frequently we discuss how it applies to something we are wrestling with in our business. This study group has contributed to how I think about both my personal and professional life. Tad Piper, Vice chair and former CEO of Piper Jaffray

Reading devotions on Israel cross-cultural trip, 1997
I
his early days as president of Luther Seminary, he worked with Arley Bjella to create the foundation board which would concentrate its efforts on fundraising. Arley, who was chair of Lutheran Brotherhood, approached David shortly after the ELCA merger and said, "You’re about to have trouble. Church mergers often result in reduced financial support from the national church body for seminaries." He said Luther Seminary was going to have to raise more money and that he was ready to help. David quickly picked up on it with him.

He had no fundraising experience at that time, but he was a good listener. He listened well to the people he recruited for the foundation, and he wasn’t reluctant to take suggestions about fundraising. He realized that without extra funding, the seminary would be in tough shape. Fifty years ago the seminary was fully funded by the national church, but today the seminary gets just 16 percent of its budget from churchwide and synod support. That was why there was a need to establish the foundation board. David brought in people who had experience raising money and said this would be their primary role with the seminary. This role is very distinct from the seminary’s board of directors which governs seminary operations.

When it comes to fundraising, the president has to play a lead role in accomplishing the job. David is masterful at this. He has a natural knack for it. He is very good with people, and he likes people. That is one of the keys. He has a wonderful feel for people and for meeting the needs of the seminary. When you are really committed to what you are doing, it makes a big, big difference.

Someone who is a pastor and theologian is a key person in fundraising for the seminary because the donors are people of deep faith. They give out of their faith, so when David communicates to them about the gospel it strikes a deep chord.

Many times he would come home and tell me about the generosity and enormous Christian convictions of the seminary’s donors. He would be in awe of their generosity but also their love of the church and the way they will sacrifice for the church. That was something I hadn’t thought about until I started to see this unfold. Work with donors was a learning curve for both of us. Seminary donors love the church, and they know the seminary provides the leaders for the church.

The donors taught me. God was in their lives way

I think donors trust David. He has shown that he is living under God’s direction and that he is a man of prayer. He is able to relate to people in such a wonderful, friendly way, and it is sincere. Marlene Engstrom, former member of Luther Seminary’s Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees

David Tiede

Retirement Reception, June 26

You are invited to a reception with light buffet honoring

David and Muffy Tiede,
Sunday, June 26,
from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.,
in the Olson Campus Center.
A program will be held from
4:30-5:30 p.m.
RSVP by June 10.
Call 651-641-3448.

Tiede

graduates from Luther
Seminary.

Tiede receives teaching
fellowship at Harvard
Divinity School.

Tiede receives PhD from
Harvard Divinity School.
He is ordained.

Tiede becomes Luther
Seminary instructor, and
pastor of Trinity Lutheran
Church, Minneapolis.

Tiede receives full
professorship.

1966

1970

1971

1972

1975

Barbara Andrews, ’69, becomes first woman ordained into the ministry of The American Lutheran Church.

Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools is formally organized.

Tiede

Gratitude & Confidence

STORY Spring 2005
David Tiede has a large vision of theological education, larger than any one theological school. It is formed by what he has done at Luther Seminary, but he understands theological education across denominations and the varying contexts in which this education occurs in North America. That broad vision is very important in his leadership at ATS. David was president of ATS from 2002-04, and now chairs our personnel committee and serves on our executive committee until 2006. His work here has given him an opportunity to contribute to the leadership of theological education as a whole.

Daniel Aleshire, executive director of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)

David Tiede has been a leading member of In Trust’s board of directors since 1999. He knows our purposes, and believes in our mission to enhance the state of governance in North American theological education. I have known David since the late 1980s.

I am convinced that his commitment to good governance grows out of his experience at Luther Seminary, especially during the turbulent days of ecclesiastical reorganization. He understood the precious links between church and seminary grounded in Lutheran and Northwestern’s long histories in their former Lutheran denominations, and could envision a new relationship for a new denomination.

David was able to deepen this wisdom as president of the ATS where he co-authored with our board chair, Robert Cooley, the accrediting standards on theological school governance. David is a leading figure in the movement to elevate governance to greater prominence among seminary leaders as an art and a skill. Christa Klein, president of In Trust, Inc.

With students, 2003

David is viewed as a president’s president. He is universally respected because he is an excellent scholar and teacher, a very skilled administrator, an excellent fundraiser, and a real churchman, and in addition to all of that he has wisdom … All of us in seminary leadership look to him as one of the real leaders in theological education … David thinks not just about administrative leadership but also intellectual leadership. He takes his own seminary seriously and the Lutheran tradition seriously, but he thinks about higher education and theological education in general, and constantly points us to the big picture.

Richard Mouw, president, Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, Calif.

Chosen: The Story of God and His People, written with Daniel J. Simundson, is published by Augsburg.

"Maximal Functional Unification" between Luther and Northwestern Seminaries begins. Seminary offers M.A. programs for the first time. Lloyd Svendsbye advocates full merger of Luther and Northwestern Seminaries; Lay School of Theology starts with 150 students. Diane Jacobson first woman professor in tenure-eligible position at Luther. Full merger of Luther and Northwestern secured, and name changed to Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary.
Send Your Best Wishes to Dr. Tiede

Contribute to the Online Memory Book

Send Dr. Tiede your prayers, wishes and memories by contributing to the President David Tiede Memory Book at www.luthersem.edu/president/memory_book.asp. Read other well-wishers’ submissions, as well.

Send a Personal Note

Or, you may send a card or letter to Dr. Tiede at:
David Tiede Retirement, Seminary Relations, 2481 Como Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55108.

Churchwide and Community Leader (continued)

David Tiede is a persistent champion of collaborative work and creative, cutting-edge thinking about how the eight seminaries of the ELCA can do more working together than any of them could do alone. He also is held in high regard in the wider world of theological education; he is an experienced elder statesman. He recently completed a two-year term as president of the Association of Theological Schools. He is helping other schools through his accumulated wisdom and his leadership role with organizations that think about theological education. He is trusted and respected. Phyllis Anderson, president, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

A group called On Our Watch is made up of presidents of Lutheran institutions in this area. David was one of the early people involved in this group. We get together about three or four times a year to talk about the common issues that we face even though the institutions are very different.

We also have collaborated on the Faith in the City initiative, which focuses on how these Lutheran institutions can have an impact on the city. Our goal was to bring them together and to have an impact bigger than any of us could have individually for people who really needed our help. How can we help the residents of the poorest neighborhoods of Minneapolis? The people who started these Lutheran institutions years ago came out of these neighborhoods. David was our chair and guided it through its initial stages. We are starting some really interesting things such as a charter school and a financial center to give help to the working poor. David has been influential with this group since its infancy. Bruce Nicholson, president and CEO, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Luther Seminary board member

With students, 1988

David L. Tiede elected president of Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary.

Jesus and the Future is published by Cambridge University Press.

1987 Doctor of Theology degree program begins.
1988 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America formed.
1990 Rural Ministry program and Master of Sacred Music program begin.
1991 Wellspring for the Church Capital Campaign commences with $21 million goal.
Colleague and Friend  

Luther’s great secret weapon has always been its faculty. God has continued to bless and sustain us in amazing ways. This is a place where all gifts are needed. There is a variety of people, but with a single focus: equipping people to lead in a time of mission. David Tiede

David is enormously respectful of the role of the faculty. He remained on the faculty as president. One day he might come home saying a faculty member had preached an unbelievably wonderful sermon at chapel and another day that he heard a different faculty member give a brilliant talk at a national meeting or at the seminary’s board meeting, and he is wowed by how skilled they are. He refers to them as a stable full of thoroughbreds. To be among such talented people makes a person humble. It is wonderful what they can do. Muffy Tiede, spouse, curriculum consultant, retired educator

My husband and I met him when he was doing a sabbatical year at Yale. We had him over for dinner… We were sitting around the dinner table and talking about something in Luke, and within 10 minutes we had the Greek Bible out. We spent quite a while reading Luke in the Greek New Testament. It really got interesting. Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament

I recall David as already a church leader in college because he was president of the St. Olaf student congregation our senior year… David has always been an extraordinary influence on me, both in motivation to be more, as well as an intellect I looked up to in terms of understanding theology and how you apply it to our lives today and every day.

We spent time with each other as I was considering accepting the position as president of LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, and he was considering the call to be president of Luther Seminary, and how we wanted to fulfill our responsibilities. Robert Duea, Lutheran pastor, retired president of LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, classmate of David Tiede at St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary

Though I was just named president of PLTS in February, my relationship with David Tiede goes way back. I marched in the procession for his installation as president. At that time I had just been named director of Theological Education in the ELCA Division for Ministry, where I served for 10 years. Even during the seven years that I served an ecumenical theological school in Seattle, he was an ally in terms of helping to pave the way for our Lutheran students to do their “Lutheran year” at Luther Seminary or PLTS. He would say that we don’t always agree, but we have been able to knock heads and trust one another. There is a great friendship between us.

Phyllis Anderson, president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif. ●

Visiting with board member Bob Torkelson, 2004

During his 18-year tenure as president, Tiede wrote three books, six chapters in books, and 14 articles and essays, as well as numerous reviews.

Tiede takes “Lenten journey” to midwestern and western congregations to listen and learn "What is the Spirit saying to the churches?"
Family Man

I try not to brag too much, but I do tell people I married well. David Tiede

I hope the kind of church my grandchildren will have will be a lively place where there is a sense of joy for life and hope for everlasting life is deeply nurtured and confident—My granddaughter Mary Clare is already modeling herself after her pastor mother.

One day she was preaching to her stuffed animals. Her mother asked, “Mary Clare, what are you saying?” Her daughter replied, “Some times I don’t know what I’m talking about, but I keep preaching and preaching.” It’s that kind of exuberant spirit and creativity that I hope will be nurtured, welcomed and prospered. David Tiede

I remember one sermon where he talked about Mary Clare, his granddaughter. The theme of it was marching in the light of God, and he talked about Mary Clare singing this song to her grandmother to cheer her up after her father had died. Then she made Muffy and David get up and twirl with her. He twirled around in the pulpit to show us. It was so adorable. It was a side of him that is so charming, and that’s not the right word because it was a deeper moment. Mary Clare pushed him in a place where he wouldn’t normally go, and it thrilled him.

Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament

Dad really enjoys the grandfather role. He always says that when he retires, one of his priorities is spending time with his six grandchildren. They call him Boppa. There aren’t too many people who can call him that. He gets right down on the floor and rolls around with them. He is very affectionate with the kids. He and my mom have set up their cottage in Pine City as a place for the grandchildren. Over the door hangs a sign that says “Welcome to Mine Cabin” because that is what one of their

The Tiedes in Israel, 1997

Tiede serves as chair of advisory committee on theological education leadership, Association of Theological Schools.

Tiede celebrates 10 years as president.

First online class offered. The online Bible Tutor is introduced. First “Previews” event for high school youth is held on campus.

A Lilly grant study allows Luther to study congregations’ needs.

Luther Seminary begins two-year process of creating a strategic plan for the coming millennium.

Wellspring for the Church II campaign concludes, raises $72.5 million. Luther Seminary adopts “Serving the Promise of our Mission” 2000-2005 strategic plan. Students receive Luther e-mail accounts.
**Family Man (continued)**

grandchildren calls it. He is delighted by that. He wants the kids to feel that it is their cabin. Peter Tiede, son, attorney

One of the things that he and I used to do together is go canoeing. His idea of how to go canoeing is to sit in the canoe and fish. We tended to go down a river because I could paddle from the stern and he could fish from the bow, and we would both have a great time. We took a trip to the BWCA together one time, and I was obsessive about getting up early to paddle and see as many lakes as possible. He wanted to sleep late and then go fishing. He puts in long hours working but also has an amazing gift for recreation. My brother Peter takes him hunting and fishing.

My dad is a tinkerer. He can fix anything—plumbing, electrical work, roofing. The man can build and fix anything. He has remodeled houses and helped build buildings. That has often been a healthy break for him from his professional life.

He loves to take the grandchildren fishing. When my son John was two years old, Dad took him out fishing and John caught his first fish. He has been part of helping many of the grandchildren catch their first fish. The kids get all excited about driving the pontoon boat. His babysitting method is very sweet. Once when he was babysitting, he snuggled the baby up in his arms in this wonderful embrace to watch the football game on TV, and then they both fall asleep. I came home and got a great picture of it. He is such a sweet man. He has a heart, an enormous heart full of love. Kathryn Tiede-Hottinger, daughter, ELCA pastor serving as rector of Saint Francis Episcopal Church of Greenville, S.C.

Christmas with the grandchildren, 2003

---

**Make a Gift Honoring Dr. Tiede**

Consider making a gift toward a permanent endowment fund in honor of Dr. Tiede. The fund will provide scholarships for seminary students.

Make an online gift at www.luthersem.edu/gifts.

**Send gifts via the inserted envelope.** Simply fill out the form on the envelope and mail.
In his letter “to the saints with the bishops and deacons in Philippi,” the Apostle Paul expressed thankfulness to God for them and confidence that “the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1.3-6). Paul’s greeting is also his hopeful farewell.

My final year as president of Luther Seminary is also about “Gratitude and Confidence.” It’s about you and God! Gratitude to you means thankfulness to God for you. Confidence is hope in God’s ultimate redemption of whatever good has begun with your partnership in the gospel. In Christ Jesus, the best is yet to be.

The gratitude is filled with 18 years of memories and surprises. Some of the more difficult challenges have proved to be great blessings. Let me tell you a story.

Last week, my wife Muffy and I were discussing The Augsburg Academy for Health Careers, a new school sponsored by Augsburg College and Fairview Health Systems and supported by a grant from the Gates Foundation. The school is a project of Faith in the City, a collaboration of Lutheran institutions and the synods in the Twin Cities.

The Augsburg Academy and Faith in the City are great stories in themselves, but when Muffy related a conversation she had with a workman at the school, I knew, “She has it right!” (Muffy often has it right!) She agreed to write it down for you:

One of the fun things about getting involved in a big project is how many interesting people you meet. A few weeks ago I had a conversation with a workman who has spent many hours on The Augsburg Academy for Health Careers. As it turns out, he is a Lutheran layman who was surprised to discover the relationship between this start-up high school and Luther Seminary. He was further intrigued to find that I was married to the president of Luther Seminary.

He asked me what a seminary president does, and when I put “raise money” right up near the top of the list he suggested that he could never do that. I related my similar feelings when David was first elected to the job. I figured all of it would be a perfect fit for his training, loyalty to the church, and love of teaching, except that part about raising money. I couldn’t imagine how anyone could enjoy asking someone for money. But I told him that it has turned out to be one of David’s joys in life. The conversation went something like this:

“You’re kidding! He enjoys asking for money? Who does he ask?”

...the Apostle Paul expressed thankfulness to God for them and confidence that “the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1.3-6)
The Seedbed (continued)

“Well, it’s people just like you: Lutheran lay people who are active in and concerned for their own congregations, who know that the seminary produced their current church leaders and will send the next generation of leaders. They are pastors and lay people who care about the future of the church that will serve and challenge and love their children and grandchildren.”

“How does the seminary identify the people who are rich enough to give?”

“Compared to most of the world, we are all wealthy. And these people know that. I’ve heard some of the donors talk about how their grandparents and great-grandparents, who had nothing compared to all of us, had the vision, faith and courage to build the wonderful Lutheran institutions we all enjoy today. Think of the beautiful country churches that poor farmers built, the colleges, the hospitals, the fraternal societies, the nursing homes, the social agencies. Our ancestors didn’t live extravagantly, but they built the framework that still impresses and inspires us today. These are people who believe that all of us should at least be able to maintain and protect what we were given.”

“So you identify a giver. Do they give more than once, or do they figure they have done their job and it is now somebody else’s responsibility?”

“That’s the most wonderful surprise of all to me. Generous people love to give. They know they won’t be taking it with them. As my father-in-law once said, ‘I’ve never seen a U-Haul behind a hearse.’ They give from gratitude to God, from love of the church, from their faithful vision of a better future ahead. They encourage their friends to get in on the joy of sharing.”

David and Muffy Tiede visit with donors Louise and Lee Sundet.

“I’ve never thought about this before. I suppose you’re thinking that I could be a donor myself.”

“Bingo! Did I say that? I think you’ve got it!”

For many years, I have loved Max DePree’s wisdom about leadership. He says, “The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between the two the leader must become a servant and a debtor.” (Leadership is an Art, p. 11).

Defining reality is probably the most exciting part of a calling like the presidency of Luther Seminary. As in any other ministry of leadership, it is a theological task, alive to God’s promises and accountable to God’s purposes.

In time, the servant and debtor roles emerge because the triumphs are God’s through work of so many other people. The failures so often are yours. One of my faculty friends says, “You are humble because you have so much to be humble about!”

But I did marry well! So being a servant and a debtor is actually a happy state. And one of the great privileges of this job is the generous people both Muffy and I have met. Your gifts have sustained the mission. Your faith and kindness have brought Christ Jesus to us.

We thank you, and we give thanks to God for you “confident that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” ●
Tiede Receives Joseph A Sittler Award for Theological Leadership

President David L. Tiede is the 2005 recipient of the Joseph A. Sittler Award for Theological Leadership from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. The award will be presented at Trinity’s 2005 commencement ceremonies, June 4, 2005.

The award honors teachers in the discipline of theological education who leave an impact in the world of theology and church. In his letter of congratulations, Dr. Mark Ramseth, president of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, told Dr. Tiede that “your long history as a teacher of the New Testament, your distinguished service in the office of President at Luther Seminary, and your leadership in The Association of Theological Schools and the entire Lutheran communion is representative of the leadership that this award is meant to honor.”

Prayer is Key to Presidential Search Committee

Over the past seven months, the presidential search committee, under the direction of Paul Dovre, has worked faithfully and diligently in its search for Luther Seminary’s next president. In its deliberations, prayer has been key. Each meeting includes prayers and petitions, not just for the committee and the task before it, but also for those who have shared their cares and concerns with the members.

Throughout the process, the Luther Seminary Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees—led by Pastor Mary Brown, ’91, trustee member—have asked the Luther community, alumni/ae, donors and friends to keep the search committee, the candidates and President Tiede in their prayers. In response, the Luther Seminary community has included the search committee’s members in its prayers each Wednesday during the seminary chapel service.

The committee members are:

**Luther Seminary Board of Directors:**
Paul Dovre, Susan Jenkins, Mark Knudson, Blair Anderson, and former director Osamu Matsutani

**Faculty:**
Mary Hinkle, associate professor of New Testament, Rollie Martinson, Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

**Staff:**
Kathy Hansen, vice president for advancement

**Student:**
Justin Grimm, Master of Divinity senior

**Foundation Board of Trustees:**
Janet Anderson, David Nasby

Luther Seminary thanks the committee members for their dedication and prayerful contemplation.
YES! I/we would like to make a gift toward a permanent endowment fund in honor of Dr. David Tiede.

Name/s

Gift Amount: □ $10,000  □ $5,000  □ $1,000  □ $250  □ Other: $______

☐ My/Our check is enclosed. Make checks payable to Luther Seminary. Indicate “David Tiede Retirement” in memo line.

☐ I/We will make a credit card gift: $______________  ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard

______________________________________________  ______________________
Card number  Exp. date

______________________________________________  ______________________
Name on card  Signature

______________________________________________  ______________________
Address  City  State  Zip code
If there was a “Take Your Faith to Work Day,” what or who would you bring? A Bible? Your pastor? Religious music?

The question isn’t really so silly or far-fetched: What does it take to express your faith in the work you do? And pastors, what does it take to empower your parishioners to view their occupations daily through the lens of their beliefs? How would it change how they do their work? How would it change your work?

Faith at Work:

Mid-Winter Convocation Examines How We Live Out Our Callings in the Workplace

By Sheri Booms Holm

If there was a “Take Your Faith to Work Day,” what or who would you bring? A Bible? Your pastor? Religious music?

The question isn’t really so silly or far-fetched: What does it take to express your faith in the work you do? And pastors, what does it take to empower your parishioners to view their occupations daily through the lens of their beliefs? How would it change how they do their work? How would it change your work?

occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

Keynote speakers David Miller, Pamela Moret and Richard Bliese looked at callings in the workplace from both the church’s and the individuals’ perspectives.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

Keynote speakers David Miller, Pamela Moret and Richard Bliese looked at callings in the workplace from both the church’s and the individuals’ perspectives.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.

At this year’s MidWinter Convocation, Jan. 5-7, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace,” plenary speakers Richard Bliese, David Miller and Pamela Moret, plus workshops, panel discussions and sermons, all described the tremendous paradigm shift that occurs when we realize God is calling us to make a difference in the work we do every day.

Rethinking the Mission of the Church

What does it mean to do God’s work in the world? What does that mean for congregations?

Plenary speaker Richard Bliese talked about the chasm that exists between people’s church life and the work they do the rest of the week. Bliese is academic dean at Luther Seminary, and associate professor of missions.

Using this two-worlds framework means “cheating the world by channeling all of God’s mission to the world through church or para-church activities,” Bliese said.
Faith at Work (continued)

How does a congregation break this cycle? Bliese gave some concrete suggestions for a lay-driven church:

1. Use Luther’s three-legged table as a mission test. Martin Luther preached that justification, vocation and location create a three-legged table that carries the weight of a Lutheran understanding of God’s mission in the world.

2. Break the addiction to clericalism. Every member must become a minister!

3. Organize the church as a vocational training center.

4. “Ordain” the laity into their vocations in daily life.

5. Strike the words “retirement” and “volunteer” from your church’s vocabulary.

6. Train and equip the clergy for their own multiple vocations.

The Sunday-Monday Gap

Are we called to pew or to profit, asked plenary speaker David Miller. He is executive director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture and assistant professor of business ethics at Yale Divinity school, New Haven, Conn.

Miller’s answer: “The church is not about Sunday. It is not about life in the pew. Rather, it is about pew and profit, or faith and work.”

He laid out four primary ways that faith can manifest itself at work. He calls them the “Four Es”:

1. *Ethics* is the way of integrating faith and work.

2. *Experience* describes how businesspeople seek meaning and purpose in their work.

3. *Enrichment* is the mode in which businesspeople accent the internal and personal role played at work by faith.

4. *Evangelism* is the way of integrating faith and work in which business people perceive the workplace primarily as a mission field for evangelizing, witness and proselytizing.

Miller exhorts clergy to reframe their current forms of ministry “to support and encourage those called to the workplace and to bridge this false choice between pew and profit.” If clergy can interpret the Bible through the lens of the workplace, their overall ministry to the world of work and the marketplace will be transformed, he concluded.

Living Her Faith Out Loud

“Businesspeople seem to have trouble applying what they hear on Sunday to their day-to-day decision making at work,” said Pamela Moret, executive vice president of marketing and

Don’t be afraid to visit other countries, said travel expert Rick Steves at the Thursday evening presentation. “As a teacher of travel I challenge my students to be engaged. Good travels connect you with real people. Be there. You can be at home there.” The popular host of the PBS series “Travels in Europe” described how he lives his faith in his workplace—Europe—and shared invaluable travel tips.
products for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

She noted that people seldom seek out pastors about work problems, even though they might feel comfortable talking to them about health or relationship issues. “Furthermore, although many people use the power of prayer to guide them in the personal aspects of their lives, they may have more difficulty in doing the same with business decisions,” she added.

How does a person bridge this kind of gap?

Moret identified five areas where she has had opportunities to live her faith out loud during the week.

1. Use of time.
2. Treatment of people.
3. Decision making.
4. Personal development.
5. Visible faith invitations.

“How we make decisions, when we make them, how we communicate them, how clear we are, and how we treat employees, supervisors and co-workers is incredibly important,” Moret concluded. “I believe this is where our faith can really shine through.”

**Missed Convocation and excited to learn more?**

A booklet, “Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace” of the plenary speakers’ entire presentations is available for $7.95. Audio CDs of the plenary sessions as well as the Convocation worship services are also available for $30.

Order via Web at www.centeredlife.org, or call 651-641-3429.

---

**Save the Date!**

The 2006 Mid-Winter Convocation continues with the Living Out Our Callings theme by exploring “Living Out Our Callings in the Community,” Jan. 4-6.
Creative teaching techniques, inspiring preaching, joyful music from around the world—there’s actually more happening at Luther Seminary than just study, study, study (although students may not agree as finals week nears!). Here are just some of the many Luther events and fun that have occurred over the past few months. Want to see more? Visit the Luther Seminary Web site at www.luthersem.edu to view photos of seminary happenings. The photos change frequently, so visit often!

**JANUARY**
Students act out the story of Esther in Professor of New Testament Craig Koester’s, ’81, popular Genesis to Revelation class during January Term. Koester takes his students on a fast but exhilarating tour of the Bible in 10 days.

**FEBRUARY**
The Rev. Dr. John Piper spoke on “Human Longing for Joy and the Need for the Gospel” during this year’s annual Aus Memorial Lectures on Evangelism. The pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Piper’s preaching and teaching is featured on the daily radio program, Desiring God.
MARCH
While visiting Minneapolis this spring, Ann Svennungsen, ’81, (center) president of the Fund for Theological Education, met with the four 2004-2005 FTE scholarship recipients from Luther (left to right): Rebecca Harrington, Karis Thompson, Meta Herrick and Kathryn Nichols.

Ecumenical Coordinator Invites Diverse Faith Traditions to Explore Luther Seminary

Debra Wells, ’93, has joined the Luther Seminary staff as ecumenical coordinator. An ordained clergywoman in the United Methodist Church, she served a 10-year pastorate in a United Methodist Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn., before coming to the seminary. She has also served as a laywoman and theological student in the ECFE, Covenant, Plymouth Brethren, and Baptist churches. In each instance, she said, “I saw God at work in and through the people God calls to do ministry. I am looking forward to the possibilities of being a part of Luther Seminary as we seek to be the place where many diverse faith traditions can send their students, clergy and lay people for a time of education, spiritual formation, and discernment of God’s work in the world.”

APRIL
Master of Arts senior Evangeline Christie visits with Don and Dori Lund at a Called & Sent campaign dinner in Golden Valley, Minn. ●
The Prodigal Pastor
Alum in Residence Steve Wigdahl Couldn’t Escape His Calling

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

This year’s alum-in-residence almost wasn’t.

You wouldn’t have guessed it watching Steve Wigdahl, ’84, grow up. He appeared destined for parish ministry: His family church—Zion Lutheran in Ruthven, Iowa—had been founded by his great-grandfather in 1886. In high school, he was active in Luther League, serving as president of the Iowa Luther League, and on the national Luther League board. “In my family, I was the one who had the mantle dropped on me,” he said. “It seemed like I was set to follow that call.”

Wigdahl came to Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary straight from Luther College in 1975, but quit after seven weeks. “It just wasn’t what I expected. I left with the intent of never coming back.” Instead, he moved to Wyoming and northern Minnesota and spent four years in radio and TV broadcasting. Ultimately, though, God kept prodding him until he reenrolled in 1980.

“Those years were what I call the ‘dark night of the soul’ time of my life. I wasn’t so much called back as crawled back—with a sense of believing that God was still shaping me,” he said. “I had much more of a sense of the need for change in my life. I really needed to be shaped.”

Some of his shaping came on internship, which he spent in the shadow of the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in his first call to Ascension Lutheran Church in Ogden, Utah.

In Utah, he met his wife Keri, who had been raised in the Mormon church. (“We had plenty of interesting conversations about faith along the way,” he said.) He came to understand the challenges that come with helping a church grow. One of the biggest accomplishments: relocating the congregation from a side street to a space on the main drag in town. He also began to wrestle with a concept that has formed a cornerstone of his ministry: that of *authentic faith*. He sees ‘authentic faith’ as coming through Paul’s description in Ephesians 1. “When ‘the eyes of the heart are enlightened,’ the gospel begins to transform us,” Wigdahl said. “I really believe that the longest journey anybody makes is from the head to the heart, or perhaps conversely at times, from the heart to the head, informing better decision making! We can’t—and shouldn’t—witness to something unless it is genuinely rooted in our lives. People can pick up when we’re just playing a role.”

One of his favorite passages of scripture, Romans 4:20, echoes this idea. “We grow strong in our faith as we give glory to God. God is convinced that God can accomplish through us what God purposes,” Wigdahl said. “I get real convicted by that. I’ve seen too many of my shortcomings. It’s like Frederick Buechner said, ‘You look in the mirror and realize you are at least eight parts chicken, phony and...”

There’s no doubt that the lives of the people you minister to—and want to minister to—are filled with lots of distractions. The challenge is being patient to see how God wants you to respond.

Steve Wigdahl
The Prodigal Pastor (continued)
slob. But then you realize that God loves you, God claims you, God makes the extraordinary out of the ordinary. It’s powerful stuff.”

It’s a concept that resonates with the members of his current congregation, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Naples, Florida. The church, which has about 1,000 members, worships an astonishing 800 or so each week. Why? In part, because of the demographics. “A lot of people who come down to Florida on a seasonal basis are already connected with churches ‘back home,’” he said. “They want to stay connected. But they’re also discovering that retired life just spent on the golf course brings nominal reward.”

The congregation is discerning how to reach out to a growing number of immigrants in the area, and a blossoming younger unchurched population. It’s poised to make some major decisions on how to reach out into the community. Wigdahl compares the challenges of facing growth with a lesson he learned growing up:

“My dad ran a hardware store in Iowa for many years. When the larger companies came, he lost his business in retirement. He just shut it down. His business simply couldn’t survive. So many small churches are feeling the same squeeze—as churches become larger and larger, and offer more and more, the small churches just can’t survive. Furthermore, the larger churches grow in complexity in terms of how you manage and minister. There’s no doubt that the lives of the people you minister to—and want to minister to—are filled with lots of distractions. The challenge is being patient to see how God wants you to respond.”

During his week at Luther Seminary, Wigdahl visited with students, attended class, met with faculty and staff leaders, and had the opportunity to preach in chapel. Was it hard for him to return to a place he quit more than 25 years ago? No, he says, but it was—like so many things he’s realized about ministry—a reminder that a bigger God is at work in the world.

“These students come to Luther Seminary with the expectation that it will be a place worth journeying to, a real conviction that their education will equip them to serve faithfully. They bring such breadth of experience, such depth of commitment, such enthusiasm. It increases my optimism for the future of the church. I have a greater appreciation for places like Luther Seminary, a place on the front line of bringing people into ministry. The Holy Spirit is birthing authentic faith here!”

And as for the family mantle? He smiles when he thinks of it. “In my office, there is an old stately chair, with a high back and a hard seat. It was my great-grandfather’s chair in the front of the church. I like to sit in it when I pray. It keeps me connected to that family line of preaching the gospel. And it reminds me that God is still at work in me, too.”

Do you know an alum with an exciting ministry to share with the seminary? Nominate her or him for Alum in Residence

The Luther Seminary Alumni/ae Council is receiving nominations for the 2005-2006 Alum in Residence Program at Luther Seminary. All Luther Seminary graduates are eligible.

The alum in residence stays on campus for approximately one week, preaches in chapel, speaks in classes, meets with faculty, visits formally and informally with students, and eats meals in the dining room. All expenses are covered by the Office of Seminary Relations.

The schedule is flexible to meet the needs of the seminary and the alum. To nominate someone, send a letter of submission by August 31, 2005, to:

Office of Seminary Relations
Luther Seminary
2481 Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

For more information, call 651-641-3448, or toll free at 888-358-8437.
Jack Fortin, ’71, director of the Center for Lifelong Learning, spoke on “Perspectives of the Missional Church,” “Connecting Sunday to Monday,” and “Centered Life” at the 2005 Presbytery event in Louisville, Ky., in February.

Mary Jane Haemig, associate professor of church history, taught a class on “Lutherans in America” at the Lay School of Theology of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Wash., in January. She also addressed “Whose Side is God On?” at Grace Lutheran Church, Port Townsend, Wash., and “Christians and Politics” at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Beaverton, Ore.


Mary Hess, assistant professor of educational leadership, led several sessions at “Watering Holes and Tar Pits: The Ministry of Lifelong Learning,” a gathering for ELCA Lifelong Learning Partners in Delray Beach, Fla., Apr. 8-11.


Alvin Luedke, associate professor of rural ministry, and Craig Van Gelder, professor of congregational mission, were the featured presenters at the Seminary on the Prairie gathering in Cooperstown, N.D., in January. The gathering focused on cooperative models for ministry. Luedke spoke at the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod’s Rural Church Conference in Abilene, Tex., in February, and made an adult education presentation at Bethel Lutheran Church in Avoca, Texas. He also spoke at the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly April 9-10, and the Rural Church Network Meeting in Sewanee, Tenn., April 15-17.


Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, delivered the Beck Lecture and preached in chapel at Southwestern College (Kansas) on “Genesis in Space and Time” in February. In March, he traveled to Rome to present “The Doctrine of Original Sin in the Evangelical (Lutheran) Tradition in Light of Modern Science,” as part of the Congress on Original Sin.

Steven Paulson, ’84, associate professor of systematic theology, spoke on “Remember the Sabbath Day, to Keep It Holy: Why Lutheran Worship Makes a Difference,” at Zion Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn., in November. The day’s discussion about the ways Lutheran worship shapes the direction and purposes of its churches was facilitated by the local chapter of the WordAlone Network. He gave a public lecture on “The God Who Hides” at the Teologiske Menighetsfakultet (Norwegian Lutheran School of Theology) Mar. 9-13.

Sally Peters, manager of Centered Life, gave an adult forum on “Faith in the Workplace” at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., on April 10. On April 30, she led
workshops on “Connecting Sunday to Monday” at the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly in Brainerd, Minn.


Mark Swanson, associate professor of Christian history and Islam, taught a January-term course on Arabic Christian Literature as part of his role as visiting professor at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt.

Mons Teig, professor of worship, ’61, is serving as Theologian in Residence at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, this spring. This involves consulting on renovation of their worship space, ideas on seasonal worship planning, and occasional teaching and preaching during the year. He also led worship and a subsequent discussion on using the liturgy with imagination and creativity at United Seminary, a seminary of the United Church of Christ, in March.

**Coming to a Town Near You**

Rick Bliese, academic dean and associate professor of missions, will be speaking to the Southern Ohio Synod staff May 19-21.

Jack Fortin, ’71, director of the Center for Lifelong Learning, will lead the Bible study at the St. Paul Area Synod assembly June 3. He will be the keynote speaker at the Montana Synod Assembly in Havre June 10-12.

Sally Peters, manager of Centered Life, will lead workshops on “Discover Your Dependable Strengths: A Resource for Congregations” at the St. Paul Area Synod Assembly June 3.

Mons Teig, professor of worship, ’61, will be one of the presenters at the North American Association for the Catechumenate annual meeting July 21-24 in Chicago. His topic centers on creative ideas for doing a congregational Easter Vigil as part of the catechumenal process.

Even in retirement, Gerhard Forde, professor emeritus of systematic theology, continues to spark the theological imagination. His latest book, The Captivation of the Will: Luther vs. Erasmus on Freedom and Bondage, has been published by Lutheran Quarterly Books. The book’s introduction was written by Professor of Church History Jim Nestingen, ’71. It was edited by Steve Paulson, ’84, associate professor of systematic theology. Forde recently published a collection of his essays, and a second edition publication of his lectures and sermons is forthcoming. In addition, a festschrift, By Faith Alone: Essays on Justification in Honor of Gerhard O. Forde, (Eerdmans, 2004) was produced last year.
The ‘00s

**Joan Conroy, ’00,** was called to serve as pastor developer of the new Woyatan Multicultural Ministry in Rapid City, S.D.

**Paul Tjostem, ’00,** was recognized by the United Methodist Church communications team for his work in developing a rural after-school computer ministry program called Kingdom Kids Computer Club (www.umtv.org/newitems/free_computers_for_kids.htm; and www.umtv.org/newitems/kids_teach_seniors_skills.htm). Paul is an ELCA pastor in Steele, N.D. He partnered with the pastor from the Steele UMC to develop a cooperative rural youth ministry program. This unique program helps train youth in computer skills, as well as in basic Bible and Christian education.

**Kathryn Reid Cutler, ’03,** married Bilhenry Walker on Jan. 2 in Stillwater, Minn. Kathryn continues to seek a call to ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Bilhenry is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and a sculptor. They live in Milwaukee.

**Dan and Laura Overbo,** both ’03, celebrated the birth of their son, Kyan James. Kyan was born on Sept. 20, 2004. They live in Bristol, S.D. and serve congregations in Bristol and Summit, S.D.

**Susan Wright, ’03,** and **Jeffrey Engholm, ’87,** were married Oct. 30, 2004 at Telemarken Lutheran Church in Watertown, S.D. Susan serves as a pastor at First Lutheran Church in St. James, Minn. Jeffrey serves as a synod minister in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. His ministry focus areas are outreach, call process, outdoor ministries, men’s ministry, youth ministry and campus ministry.

The ‘90s

**JoAnn Weishan, ’94,** and her husband, James, announce the birth of their son, Soren James. Soren was born on June 23, 2004. JoAnn is the project director at the Argosy Foundation/CSA Philanthropy in Milwaukee. She and James attend Mt. Hope Lutheran Church in West Allis, Wis.

**Wendy Sue Earle Kissa, ’96,** and her husband, Karl, celebrate the birth of their first daughter, Emily Elisabeth. Emily was born on Jan. 14, 2005. They reside in West Simsbury, Conn.

**Karl Redelsheimer, ’98,** and his wife Kimberly announce the birth of their son, Samuel Hendrik, born Feb. 23. Karl is pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, Chicago, Ill.

**Scott Hagen, ’99,** was deployed to Afghanistan in May 2004. He serves as a chaplain with the 367th Engineer Battalion, a unit of the U.S. Army Reserve. He is at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, where he serves his unit and provides coverage for other units without chaplains on the base. This May he will return home and to his position as associate pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Faribault, Minn.

**Katy McCallum, ’99,** and Brian Sachse were married Nov. 13, 2004, at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Spokane, Wash. Brian is a teacher and coach at Ferris High School in Spokane; Katy is the lead pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. They live in Spokane. Katy is commuting the half-hour to Coeur d’Alene. A number of seminary alums were part of the wedding, including Liz Hanley, ’99, Laura Duffee, ’99, Lori Morton, ’99, and Karl and Anjanette Rist, ’99.

The ‘80s

**Bill Bentzinger, ’80,** accepted the position of church building consultant and staff architect with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. As deployed staff, he will be responsible for Region 4. This summer he and his wife, Bev, will relocate to Houston. They currently live in Sioux Falls, S.D.


**David Schick, ’86,** and his wife, Carla, recently moved to Bratislava, Slovakia where they will serve as missionaries for three years. David has been called to serve as a pastor of the International English congregation and a teacher at the Evangelical Lyceum. Carla serves as a librarian at the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary.
Alum News (continued)

David Skilbred, ’86, was promoted to vice president of government relations by the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota. He has served as ICBM’s director of government relations since October 2003. He and his family reside in St. Paul, Minn.

The ’70s

Jarvis Streeter, ’78, was recently promoted to the rank of full professor of religion at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif.

The ’60s

Ron Lavin, ’60, recently published his 20th book, The Big Ten: Another Look at the Ten Commandments (CSS Publishing Company). This is his fifth book in the Another Look series. The books are aimed at clergy and lay people for personal inspiration, sermon preparation, adult education classes and small groups. A sixth book, People Who Meet Jesus, will be released in 2006. All of his books are available from CSS Publishing.

Roger Aus, ’67, recently published Matthew 1-2 and the Virginal Conception (University Press of America, 2004). He retired in 1993 after serving as a pastor in Berlin for more than 20 years.

The ’40s

Two of Robert Paul Roth’s, ’45, books will be republished this spring by Wipf & Stock Publishers. Story and Reality was first published in 1973 by Eerdmans and was reviewed in Newsweek magazine at the time because it broke ground for narrative theology. The Theatre of God was first published by Fortress Press in 1985. Lee Snook, professor emeritus of systematic theology at Luther Seminary, has written forwards for both books.

In Memory

Malvin Rossing, ’33, died January 2005 in Viroqua, Wis. He was 96. He was a Lutheran missionary to Madagascar from 1937-1967, where he taught education, math and science. He served as director of a teacher-training school. Using his skills and ingenuity, he worked toward ending poverty in Madagascar. He helped the government start cloth-production factories by designing spinning wheels and looms, he modified vehicles to run on the local rum when gas supplies were low, and he improved food production by importing superior bulls and chickens to breed with the local stock.

“He believed, and he lived his life like he believed,” said his son, Mel Rossing. “A non-Christian friend once said, ‘Your father was a missionary, and he lived his mission.’”

Rossing and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to Wisconsin in 1967, where he served as a minister. Elizabeth died in 2003. He is survived by his three children; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

E. Clifford Nelson, ’36, died Feb. 5. He is remembered for his long and distinguished service as a pastor, scholar, teacher and writer. In addition to serving congregations in Chicago, Ellendale, Minn. and Minneapolis, he worked for the U.S. State Department and U.S. High Commissioner in Germany as the religious affairs advisor.

After earning a doctorate degree from Yale University and post-doctorate research in Europe, Clifford taught at Luther Theological Seminary (predecessor of Luther Seminary) and served as dean of the faculty in 1961-1964. He later became the director of the Lutheran World Federation Assembly, held in Minneapolis in 1957. From 1966-1976 Nelson completed his teaching career as professor of religion at St. Olaf College where he was honored with the college’s distinguished alumnus award and regents award.

His interest in historical research led him to author and edit books and articles for journals and various publications. His major works include The Lutheran Church Among Norwegian Americans (coauthored with Eugene Fevold), The Lutherans in North America, Lutheranism in North America 1914-1970 and The Rise of World Lutheranism.

He is survived by his wife, Lois, three children, eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two sisters.

Harry H. Fullilove, ’59, died on Christmas Day 2004. A pastor and missionary, he led congregations in Minnesota, New York and Florida, and served with his late wife, Ruth, in Pakistan, Ghana and India. He retired from full-time ministry in 2001. He is survived by his two brothers, two children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

CORRECTIONS:

In Alum News’ “In Memory” column of the 4th quarter 2004 issue, Martin D. Larsen was incorrectly identified as David D. Larsen. He died June 19. Our apologies to the Rev. Larsen’s family.

In Faculty Notes, Roy Harrisville III, ’81, (not Roy Harrisville, Jr., ’47) spoke with Marc Kolden at the October 2004 conference, “The ELCA and Homosexuality: The Traditional Perspective.”
**Commencement 2005**
Sunday, May 22, 3 p.m.
Central Lutheran Church, 333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis
Speaker: Mark Hanson, Bishop of the ELCA, and President of the Lutheran World Federation.

**Summer Lifelong Learning Courses**
Visit www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/kairos/ for course listings and to register online; or call 651-641-3416.

**2005-2006 Women of the ELCA Bible Study Preparation**
June 16-17
Call 651-3416.

**Lifelong Learning for Lay Leadership (GIFTS/School for Lay Ministry)**
June 27-30
Call 651-641-3416.

**Reception Honoring David and Muffy Tiede**
Sunday, June 26
3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m., program at 4:30 p.m.
Olson Campus Center
Reservations required by June 10. Call 651-641-3448.

---

**Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Award Program Expands**

**Nominations Sought for 2006 Honorees**

We can’t say ‘thank you’ enough! The Alumni/ae Council wants to recognize faithful service by its graduates. Do you know of a classmate, colleague, or friend whose ministry is particularly inspiring to you?

The Council is currently seeking nominations for the 2006 Faithfulness in Ministry award. To reflect the changing nature of ministry, the award categories have been adjusted. At Mid-Winter Convocation, the Council will present three Faithfulness in Ministry crosses to individuals who graduated:
+ within the past 10 years
+ within the past 25 years
+ more than 25 years ago.

“These awards are intended to lift up the ministries of all alums,” Mary Steeber, coordinator of volunteer programs, said. “We’re proud of our people and the work they do for the gospel.”

Nominations are due by May 30. Nomination forms are available online at www.luthersem.edu/alums, or by calling Mary Steeber at 651-641-3596.
More Seminarians Taking the “Initiative” to be Healthy

By Allison Schmitt,
Master of Arts student

There’s a lot of walking, weight-lifting and exercising going on at Luther Seminary these days. You might call it “spring training” for life in the ministry.

But don’t expect talent scouts to arrive on campus any time soon. The activity is actually part of the Healthy Leaders Initiative.

Funded by a Wheat Ridge Ministries grant, the initiative is intended to help students see the connection between lifestyle and health and encourage behavior that contributes to their well being.

Parish nurse Karen Treat’s hope is that it will help Luther graduates model healthy lifestyles as well as healthy spiritual lives in their congregations.

“We’re busy and we have to make sure we’re seeing all areas of ourselves,” she said, pointing to the “Wholeness Wheel” hanging on her door.

Similar to a pie graph, the multi-colored wheel lists five aspects of wellness—physical, emotional, social/interpersonal, vocational and intellectual—surrounded by a ring signifying spiritual well being. Keeping these areas in balance is the goal.

Treat is pleased with the response. About 130 people have signed up for the initiative. Use of the gym in the basement ofStub Hall, known as God’s Gym, is on the rise. “People are moving more,” she said. She is glad “just to know that people are feeling encouraged to change their lifestyle even a little bit.”

Developing health habits needn’t be a huge undertaking. Treat gives these tips for moving in the right direction:

- Walk around campus when you need a study break.
- Walk to another building to use the restroom.
- If exercise bores you, do it in front of the TV or with a friend.
- Take a lap around the store before shopping.

Similarly, student health and wellness coordinator Meta Herrick encourages people to make health a part of things they’re already doing, “not a massive January overhaul,” said the Master of Divinity junior. “Living a healthy lifestyle should be fun.”

The daughter of a pharmacist and a health/physical education teacher, Herrick had the benefit of growing up in a wellness-oriented family. “We grew up making healthy choices,” she said. Being part of the Healthy Leaders Initiative, she said, provides the encouragement people need to form good life-long habits.

One of Herrick’s contributions to the program is recipes for healthy breakfasts, salads, snacks and more. You can find a link to the recipes on the Healthy Leaders Initiative web page, at www.luthersem.edu/healthy_leader/. The Web site also offers a daily health tip, an events schedule for the initiative and other health resources such as a link to the ELCA for Wellness Web site.
Table of Contents
Gratitude and Confidence:
The David Tiede Presidency .......... 2-11
The Seedbed .......................... 12-13
Faith at Work:
Mid-Winter Convocation, 2005 ...... 15-17
Seminary Scrapbook ................... 18-19
The Prodigal Pastor:
Alum in Residence Steve Wigdahl .. 20-21
Faculty & Staff Notes .................. 22-23
Alum News ............................. 24-25
Spring Events: Faithfulness in
Ministry Cross Award Program
Expands .................................. 26
More Seminarians Taking the
"Initiative" to be Healthy ............... 27