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- Meet Alum-in-residence Katy McCallum Sachse
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Drawing the Young to the Congregation’s Heart
A Revamped Children, Youth and Family Ministry Program Meets Growing Demand
pages 6-10
By Laura Kaslow, Communication Specialist

Luther Seminary conferred degrees on 136 newly prepared witnesses of Christ’s gospel at the 137th Commencement, May 28, at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

Craig Koester, professor of New Testament, gave the commencement address, encouraging the students to be Christ’s witnesses in their new vocations. In his address, Koester noted the uncertainties the students face as they prepare for their new life of ministry.

“...wherever you have been, wherever you are, and wherever you go, there is a need for Christian witness,” the Rev. Dr. Craig Koester told graduate candidates in his commencement speech.

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“...wherever you have been, wherever you are, and wherever you go, there is a need for Christian witness,” the Rev. Dr. Craig Koester told graduate candidates in his commencement speech.

Koester told the graduates Christ has not given them answers, but rather a vocation. He has not given them data, but a calling. Through their calling, Christ has chosen them to accomplish His purposes through the witness they bear.

A Holy Communion service was held the evening before commencement. As the offering donation, the graduate candidates and their families gave $500 toward student scholarship funds.

The class of 2006 hosted the first-ever barbeque on the Bockman Hall lawn following the annual Holy Communion service held the day before commencement.
D.Min Programs (continued)
The Grand Canyon Synod for years has discussed educational possibilities with Luther Seminary, explained Craig Van Gelder, professor of congregational mission. The cohort of students that started in 2003 asked to relocate their January seminars to Arizona.

The seven students stemming from that outreach, along with five from elsewhere in the Western states, will form a cohort that will meet in the Phoenix area for at least one of their two yearly seminar weeks.

“In further partnership with the Synod staff, this cohort will continue to engage in promoting the formation of missional pastoral leadership in the Grand Canyon Synod,” Van Gelder noted.

The Congregational Mission and Leadership program now includes 61 students, making a total of 87 in the entire D.Min program. Members of the first cohort in each concentration are on track to graduate in May 2007.

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Passionate about faith and daily life? Looking for congregational resources? Discover the Centered Life vision for connecting Sunday to Monday, for equipping missional Christians. Centered Life is:

● A rich alternative to the mythical balanced life. It awakens, calls, sets free, and nurtures people for service in God’s world.
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Centered Life Ventures in Vocation October 8-9, 2006
Designed for post-college professionals and college-age students considering a church vocation, this two-day conference:

● Gives participants the chance to talk with church leaders and other conference participants about call and vocation.
● Helps participants explore their own sense of call, gifts and the possibility of ministry in the church.
● Immerse participants in seminary life through:
  - class visits
  - campus tours
  - morning chapel
  - evening prayer
  - discussions with faculty and current students

Questions about admissions, financial aid/housing, and the ELCA candidacy process will also be addressed. Register online at www.luthersem.edu/admissions/ventures, or call 651-641-3521, or toll-free at 1-800-Luther3

Burgess Lecture on Mission October 10, 2006
10:00 a.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation
Lecturer: The Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission/Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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LEARN MORE about the D.Min. programs at Luther Seminary. Hear from students and read some of their projects at www.luthersem.edu/dmin.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Summer 2006

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Why We Do What We Do

The Graduate Response

By Karis Thompson, ’06

Each year the graduating class elects a student as the graduate responder during commencement. M.A. graduate Karis Thompson was the Class of 2006’s choice.

T

he last few years, I’ve had the opportunity to live in St. Anthony Park, the neighborhood surrounding Luther Seminary. During my daily walks to and from campus, I’ll pass by any number of houses with yard or window signs campaigning for myriad political candidates or civic causes.

But one house offers a different sort of message. A plaque on the side of the house asks not for your vote or what you can do for your country, but asks the question, “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

Some days, seeing this question makes me feel a bit badly about needing coffee—or, ever since spring arrived, high doses of a generic Claritin or coffee—or, ever since spring arrived, high doses of a generic Claritin to bring their preaching to a higher level. And pastors from the Southwestern United States are meanwhile looking to Luther to revitalize their congregations.

As the D.Min. program in Biblical Preaching enters its third year, its 26 students are now each equipped with a Creative ZEN MP3 player. Whereas hip digital audio devices like the ZEN and iPod have become a standard for on-the-go music, they’re being used here as a way for students to record and share their sermons.

“There has been a general interest in the seminary about remaining on the cutting edge technologically in teaching and learning, and this is a part of that effort,” said Paul Lokken, associate dean of graduate theological education.

Pastors in Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program are going high-tech to bring their preaching to a higher level. And pastors from the Southwestern United States are meanwhile looking to Luther to revitalize their congregations.

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Luther’s D.Min. program rolled out the sleek ZEN player/recorders, provided under a grant from seminary funding, to students and their instructors this summer. The pastors will share the recorded sermons with their response group of parishioners and post the recordings on the Web for review by both their fellow students and their instructors, who may then respond with their own recorded evaluations.

“There has been a general interest in the seminary about remaining on the cutting edge technologically in teaching and learning, and this is a part of that effort.”

Paul Lokken, associate dean of graduate theological education

The newest D.Min. students in both Biblical Preaching and Congregational Mission and Leadership (CML) concentrations come from several denominations and from across the country. But there’s a particularly high concentration of CML students from the Southwest this year.

Seventy of the 23 new CML students came from the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod as a result of workshops in Phoenix and preaching by D.Min. students in Phoenix-area churches in January of 2005 and 2006.

Biblical Preaching D.Min. students Gene Zeller and Mary Gustafson go over the operation of the Creative ZEN MP3 player they will use in their studies.

Lokken said if the experiment goes well, Luther might also use digital audio devices for other programs for teaching and communication between students, instructors and the seminary at large.
Congregations Band Together to Support New Mission Church

By Andy Behrendt,
Master of Divinity Student

Even as the ELCA pastors in Minnesota’s Brainerd Lakes area—many of them Luther grads—shepherd their own congregations, they have their eyes on a larger flock. The four congregations are working together to support a new mission church to reach a growing number of unchurched residents.

“It’s a huge partnership in ministry where we all see the community as our congregation—so there’s not this idea of stealing sheep—and, seeing that our community is growing at such a fast rate, none of us can really keep up with it,” said Ivy Borgstrom, ’04, associate pastor at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brainerd and a member of the interchurch task force spearheading the mission church.

The mission comes after several years of discussion by leaders of the existing churches. They realized that despite the growth reflected in their memberships, a third of the people moving to the area were unchurched, and all of their support comes from existing churches. They realized that they have their eyes on a larger mission-developer pastor at Rejoice, which averages 45 worshippers, which since March has held worship in a three-year commitment, Larson said. The ELCA is likewise providing support. A local Presbyterian church, of First Lutheran Church in Brainerd; Kristin Kelsey, ’03, of Trinity Lutheran; Hans Anderson, ’05, of Trinity Lutheran, Kristin Kelsey, ’03, of First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, and Darrell Pedersen, ’79, of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter, which itself began as a mission church supported by the others.

With two building sites under consideration, hopes are for Rejoice to reach the 100 confirmed people required for organization by late September. The four churches annually are each providing about $7,500—in sum more than half Rejoice’s funding—in a three-year commitment, Larson said. The ELCA is likewise providing support. A local Presbyterian church, with which Larson has discussed Rejoice Lutheran’s goals and door-to-door efforts, has also donated.

O’Rourke noted the area congregations’ “tremendous willingness” to support the mission while citing the impact of the pastors’ continued teamwork. “Having that kind of a strong support network really just fed into our four congregations and has brought us together, and I think that’s what made this whole project possible,” she said.

“Why do you do what you do?” offers a fuller story of who they are and bear witness to who God is.

Estate Gift Creates Endowed Faculty Chair

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

The Fourth Commandment reads in part, “Honor your father and mother” Ruth Reigstad’s life—and her death—bears witness to that. Her parents, The Rev. Dr. Olin S. and Amanda Fjelstad Reigstad, served Bethlehem Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis for 25 years. Their lives were a model of Christian witness and faithfulness.

Dr. Ruth Reigstad, who spent her career serving in the military and then as a physical therapist, wanted to recognize their ministry. Upon her death in November 2005, she left virtually her entire estate to Luther Seminary to endow a faculty chair in their name. The Olin S and Amanda Fjelstad Reigstad Chair in Theology was announced at Commencement in May.

Dr. Marc Kolden, ’86, has been named the chair’s first recipient. Kolden has taught systematic theology at Luther Seminary for 30 years. He also served as dean of academic affairs from 1996 to 2003.

“The endowment of a chair in theology honors the Reigstad’s faithful Christian service to the church,” Kathleen Hansen, vice president for seminary relations, said. “It was, in Ruth Reigstad’s own words, her wish ‘to help future pastors and church leaders as they struggle with their own profound questions, learn to seek for truth continually, and to accept their longings for the eternal, which can never be completely understood.’”

Reigstad asked that faculty members named to this chair be exemplary teachers who inspire an openness in their students to wrestling with questions of faith.

Kolden’s primary teaching areas are the person and work of Christ and the doctrine of the church. He has also done research and writing on the doctrine of Christian vocation (the Christian’s calling in the world), an interest that began when he was a pastor and thinking with congregational members about ways that God might be working in their lives.
The “old wisdom” was that parents were called to raise up the children in the faith. Confirmation was important, yes, but the faith needed first to be taught at home. The home, for Lutherans, was the locus of spiritual development. It was one of the greatest strengths of our heritage. Luther’s Small Catechism, for example, was designed for home use. Sunday Schools therefore were designed to build on the spiritual foundations laid down in the home. Many Lutherans can still tell marvelous stories about how they learned to pray together as a family at dinner, to read the Bible at their bedside, and memorized the catechism around the kitchen table.

The present-day “reality” is that children often bring their parents to church. Home devotions, family prayer and home catechesis are becoming more difficult to organize on a regular basis. Some public schools even plan home catechesis are becoming more difficult to organize on a regular basis. Some public schools even plan classroom and field studies are theoretically rigorous, biblically grounded and attuned to the changing sociological and emotional needs of children—from infancy to young adulthood—and their families. Our students are bright, dedicated and excited about their ministry. They are already working in the mission field.

The experiments in children, youth and family ministries are striking, and “interactive mission groups” have already working in the mission field. The church is revitalized children, youth and family program are the new missionaries. And they are being given tools far more powerful than a guitar and a repertoire of camp songs. Their classroom and field studies are “very engaging in the interaction of teaching, whether it’s confirmation or adult education class, make it all worthwhile.”

And this is exactly what is happening. The experiments in children, youth and family ministries are striking, and some of the newest initiatives are nothing less than breathtaking. Sunday morning “outreach events” and “interactive mission groups” have replaced the older school/curriculum models. Inter-generational groups are popping up everywhere in the church where Christians explore their discipleship in groups of old and young. Music, hands-on activities and technology have become powerful tools for teaching the word of God and good doctrine. “Sunday School” has moved to weeknights for many congregations, where they find their children are better focused on catechesis and teaching. Retreats and mission trips are gaining in importance as young people learn the faith while they do the faith. And congregations are bringing families together to explore their separate vocations and callings from Monday through Saturday. It’s an exciting time for experimentation and adventures in learning as the church uses new methods to tell “the old, old story of Jesus and his love.”

Families are the new mission field. In Africa, mission historians tell us that the most effective missionaries of the 19th and 20th centuries were the ones who could best enter the home with the good news of Jesus Christ. The same is true today.

The students in Luther Seminary’s revitalized children, youth and family program are the new missionaries. And they are being given tools far more powerful than a guitar and a repertoire of camp songs. Their classroom and field studies are thematically rigorous, biblically grounded and attuned to the changing sociological and emotional needs of children—from infancy to young adulthood—and their families. Our students are bright, dedicated and excited about their ministry. They are already working in the mission field.

Richard Bliese, President and Associate Professor of Missions

STORY Summer 2006

Do you know an alum with an exciting ministry to share with seminary students? The Luther Seminary Alumni/ae Council invites you to nominate her or him for alum in residence. Send in a nomination now by filling out the online form at www.luthersem.edu/alumni/council/alumres.asp. Nominations are due August 31, 2006.

Katy McCallum Sachse was the 2006 alum in residence.

While the Northwest’s general distrust of institutions can hinder the church, it’s “not necessarily a bad thing,” she said. There’s less tendency to resist change and say, “we’ve always done it this way,” she said.

Cœur d’Alene, a rural town of 35,000, was once the headquarters of the paramilitary separatist group Aryan Nations, causing residents to ask themselves, “Are we going to let that voice be the public voice of Coeur d’Alene?” McCallum Sachse said. Similarly, they see that fundamentalists often claim to speak for Christianity. “There are a lot of people looking for another way,” she said.

Although she said it was “bizarre” to be on campus without her classmates, participating in the program is very re-energizing.” Because there are not a lot of Lutherans in Idaho, she said, her seminary connections are especially valuable. “You have these people you don’t have to explain your life to,” she said. “Being here reminds me how much I treasure my seminary education.”

She treasures the work that education prepared her for, as well. The mundane tasks of operating a church, like attending meetings, opening the mail and unstoping plugged toilets takes more time than you’d wish, she said. But leading worship, preaching and engaging in the interaction of teaching, whether it’s confirmation or adult education class, make it all worthwhile.

The seed her childhood pastor planted—and many others tended—finally sprouted. “It was the right decision,” she said. “I do really feel fulfilled by what I’m doing.”

Richard Bliese, President and Associate Professor of Missions
Planting the Seed, Growing Where God Puts You

Alum-in-Residence Katy McCallum Sachse, ’99, Shares Thoughts on Ministry

March 6-10, she preached at chapel, visited classes and answered student questions. A “Women in Ministry” lunch forum offered female students the opportunity to talk in depth with McCallum Sachse, now lead pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

Although McCallum Sachse is the first female pastor for her 100-year-old congregation, it “hasn’t at all been a problem,” she said. “More than gender, I think age has been more an issue for me.” But tragic circumstances—the senior pastor’s battle with cancer—have provided a bonding experience with the members of the congregation, she said, so the 33-year-old’s age is no longer a concern.

Nor was it an issue as she stood before a Luther class on the Prophets and fielded students’ questions on such topics as discrimination and advocacy. Asked how to handle social justice issues from the pulpit, McCallum Sachse said it’s important to distinguish between politics and justice and letting Scripture “lead the way.”

What part of her Luther education has been most helpful in her work? Students are likely to cringe at her answer: the Bible Proficiency Exam. Having memorized Bible texts and references for the test has been “extremely helpful,” she said. In addition to favorite Bible, theology and worship classes, she appreciates the teaching model provided by faculty as well as “the way I learned to think,” she said. “I can’t think of a seminary class that was a waste of time.”

Leaving her native Pacific Northwest for seminary was likewise beneficial. Religious participation in her home region is so low as to cause many to consider it a mission field. Going to a place where Lutherans are virtually a dime a dozen and church attendance common was a “cross-cultural experience,” McCallum Sachse said. “It’s just a very different culture here.”

Drawing the Young to the Congregation’s Heart

A revamped Children, Youth and Family Ministry meets growing demand

By Marc Hequet

Remember the boy who fell out the window? Apostle Paul spoke far into the night at Troas. The lad, sitting in the window, dozed off—and fell out.

Some feared he was dead. Paul rushed to the street, pronounced him alive—and hurried back to his meeting on the third floor.

If that resembles your church’s youth ministry, get with the program—Luther’s updated Children, Youth and Family Ministry (CYF) program.

Churches now work hard to draw young people to the midst of the congregation. From 2003 to 2005, ELCA congregations created more than 1,300 new jobs in children, youth and family ministry.

Meanwhile, Luther Seminary expanded its youth ministry program—launched in the 1970s, one of the first—to broaden and deepen training for church workers and to provide training for congregations as well.

The need for new knowledge and skills was clear. “We see greater and greater complexity in what it means to be a person growing in faith across the first third of life,” says Roland Martinson, ’68, Carrie Olson Baalsön Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

The CYF revamp draws upon youth ministry best practices that Martinson identified in a study of 131 congregations from seven denominations.

Interest in the new CYF was immediate. Thirty residential learners and 32 distributive learners (who take online and week-long intensive courses) across the country enrolled for the first year of the new program in 2005. This autumn CYF expects around 50 residential students and 42 distributive learners. By 2007 the program expects to have nearly 100 residential students with steady growth in distributive learners.

Luther made CYF available online so church workers could enroll and keep their jobs. Moreover, after years of partnering with outside resources, the program now is fully in-house to assure long-term continuity and stability.

The updated CYF extends beyond youth and family to include children and young adults. Classroom work grounds students in theology, youth culture, practical leadership and more.

Instructors help incoming students assess their strengths and identify growth areas. “The old program was kind of one-size-fits-all,” says Terri Elton, CYF’s Ministry Leadership Coordinator. “The new program doesn’t assume everyone is at the same point.”

On-campus students take jobs in churches and other ministries for up to 20 hours per week and receive coaching and mentoring at both job and seminary. Distributive learners with church jobs establish a support
Martinson and Krista Lind

Mary Hess

Team: first row, from left: Children, Youth and Family Above: Members of the discerners. I want them to be able of youth and family ministry: “We are

Adds Andrew Root, assistant professor

third of life?”

journey of those living in the first

faculty member and mentor coordi-

and family ministry in a theology of

is the starting point—“anchoring youth

Bedrock Christian theology, however,

lending “a kind of urgency to the task

church challenges into class discussions,

student,” says Martinson.

become, in fact, co-learners with the


Not least important, the CYF program

reaches beyond the seminary with learning events for congregations. On a May Sunday afternoon, for example, 40 members of University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis met with Martinson, Elton and Audrey Keller, the CYF student working there. The church wants to extend its existing youth program to reach young adults at the nearby University of Minnesota.

Seminary involvement in such church planning helps the CYF student worker, says Elton—and can “move the congregation to a place they wouldn’t have gotten before. What we’re trying to do is listen deeply.”

By training church professionals and volunteers to conduct more such events, Luther hopes to multiply the impact of its new CYF ministry coast to coast. Says Elton: “We hope to blur the line between Luther, the church and the world.”

Traditional youth ministry has been important—but may inadvertently isolate youth from the rest of the congregation. At worst, says Hess, “you put them in the basement with comfortable couches and forget about them.”

Far better to draw those young people and their families out of their youth room and into the congrega-
tion’s midst—lest we drone on as they fall asleep. Or out the window.

CAROLE JOYCE

Carole Joyce is a valuable asset. She entered Luther’s CYF program with 22 years’ experience in church work. “It was time for growth and change,” says the mother of three from Rochester, Minn. “I knew that God was calling me to do something different.”

She wants deeper roots in theology for her ministry with children, youth and adults—and to learn more about research and issues.

Joyce finds classroom discussion a persistent adventure—and she is always happy to contribute her own experience. “It’s not just academic,” she says. “What we talk about in class is real life.”

Placing the young at the heart of the church is her personal mission. Where

Alum News (continued)

Mike Widner, ’02, and his wife, Heidi, announce the birth of their baby girl, Violet. She was born on Feb. 17.

Joel Wight Hoogheem, ’02, and Karen Wight Hoogheem, ’02, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Hannah Irene on July 27, 2005. In addition to being new parents, they accepted calls to serve as pastors at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa. Joel is serving as the pastor for discipleship, evangelism and outreach. Karen is serving as the pastor for spiritual care and prayer and visitation. They began their new calls April 1.

Robert O. Smith, ’03, accepted a call to serve as campus pastor to the University of Chicago, where he will conduct his ministry in conjunction with nearby Augustana Lutheran Church.

Claire Bischoff, ’04, co-edited and contributed to the recently published My Red Couch and Other Stories on Seeking a Feminist Faith (Pilgrim Press) with Rachel Gaffron, Ellie Roscher ’05 and Megan Thovilson ’07 also contributed essays to this multi-denominational collection of young women’s stories about trying to reconcile Christian faith and feminist commitments.

Lorinda Schuler, ’05, recently published Visitation Handbook for Christian Parish Nurses: A registered nurse and a leader in the field of parish nursing, she lives in Marshall, Minn., which provides counseling for those involved in addiction and offers assistance to family members as they get loved ones into treatment. A large, up-to-date addiction library also serves the community. Brunsberg also works with Crossroads, a congregation in Fargo for addicts and co-dependents.

Harry N. Huxhold, ’48, died May 18. His ministry encompassed more than 50 years in urban, rural and suburban parishes in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, most recently at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Indianapolis. He was also a campus pastor at the University of Minnesota, a teacher at the high school and college level, and a Bishop’s Associate and Interim Bishop for the ELCA. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ceil, four children, seven grandchildren and two sisters.

Clarence Solberg, ’42, died in October, 2004. He served as a pastor, member of the Home Mission staff in the ELCA, and eventually as bishop in the ALC. He retired as bishop of the North Pacific District. In 1981, he and his wife, Helen, coordinated contact with all 41 members of his class. Solberg’s fellow classmates express deep appreciation for his work encouraging the classmates to “keep in touch.”

A Recovery Ministry

Since the congregation began worshipping in 2003, it has grown from about two dozen to close to 200 attending every Sunday. “We are running out of room,” he said. The program has gained attention in Fargo-Moorhead, even serving as the subject of a DVD, “Come As You Are: A story of amazing grace” made by Concordia College students.

Lost and Found is sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Brunsberg serves as chaplain to both ministries.

In Memory

Charles A. Daley, ’74, died in San Diego on May 13, 2006, of cancer. In addition to his wife Carol, he is survived by two children and a brother. Robert W. Chuck was a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead. At the time of his death, he was the Pastor of Congregational Life at Penasquitos Lutheran Church in San Diego.

Harry N. Huxhold, ’48, died May 18. His ministry encompassed more than 50 years in urban, rural and suburban parishes in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, most recently at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Indianapolis. He was also a campus pastor at the University of Minnesota, a teacher at the high school and college level, and a Bishop’s Associate and Interim Bishop for the ELCA. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ceil, four children, seven grandchildren and two sisters.

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The ‘50s
James Hofrenning, ’53, Wija
Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., has recently published a book, *Easter People in a Good Friday World—Making Wise Moral Decisions* (Lutheran University Press, 2005, St. Louis Park, Minn.) It is designed as a study book for congregations.

The ‘60s
Dale Brand, ’65, recently published a devotional book based on Paul’s Letter to the Romans: The book, *New Life, a deep spiritual analysis of one or more verses a day for the entire year*. Its purpose is to help the reader discover and live a new life in Jesus Christ through the words of Paul to the Romans. *New Life* can be reviewed at www.lulu.com/content/218736. Brand is pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in San Antonio.

The ‘70s
Ronald Marshall, ’75, published an op-ed piece entitled “Teaching Qu’ran Helps Understand Muslims” in the *West Seattle Herald*, April 19, 2006. In addition, the hymn commissioned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination was recorded by the Seattle-based Renaissance Singers. The hymn was based on a 1792 poem by William Cowper and written by Dr. Carl F. Schlechter, ’77, and a half. He also works with Paul J. Strawhecker, Inc., Omaha, Neb., to help non-profit organizations with strategic planning, stewardship and capital fund appeals.

The ‘80s
Richard Swanson, ’81, was promoted to the rank of full professor in the Department of Religion/Philosophy Classics at Augsburg College, Sioux Falls, S.D. His third book, *Proclaiming the Gospel of Luke: A Storyteller’s Commentary*, will be published this spring by the Pilgrim Press. Swanson is currently co-chair of the Bible in Ancient and Modern Media for the Society of Biblical Literature, and the director of the Provoking the Gospel Storytelling Project.

The ‘90s
Kate Schlechter, ’92, received a Master of Science degree from Seattle Pacific University in Marriage and Family Therapy in June 2005. She specializes in systemic thought and the Bowen Family Systems theory.

An interim pastor for the Northwest Washington Synod, she is leading the consolidation of three congregations into one. She is also a facilitator and trainer for Healthy Congregations and is developing her private practice as a registered family therapist.

Steve Weston, ’93, and Evelyn Weston, ’92, were called last year to serve at Healing Waters Parish, the first “area parish” in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Along with the lead pastor, the Westons serve seven congregations. They enjoy living in a country parishage with their three sons.

Corinne Thul, ’94, accepted a call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Logan, Utah. She will also do campus ministry at Utah State University.


The ‘00s
Karl Hendricks-McCracken, ’02, was installed May 7, 2006, as Northwestern Minnesota Synod Minister of Youth and Family Ministry.

Ben Ranstrom, ’02, earned a Master of Science in nursing from the University of Minnesota in June 2005. He is working as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Hennepin County Medical Center in the newborn nursery and pediatric clinic. He is also an instructor at the U of M’s School of Nursing, where he enjoys helping students learn to care for children and their families.

Dawn Spies, ’02, began part-time service as campus pastor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in February. She also serves as pastor at Ezekiel Lutheran Church in River Falls, with her husband Dan, ’02.

She knows that at CYF she’s helping to build something important: A program that includes field experience, theological rigor, leadership skills and support and ideas from faculty and other students. “This,” Hager says, “is going to be huge for future students.”

Matthew Maas joyfully witnessed one of his church’s teens baptized last April—a 15-year-old girl. “It was just a great moment seeing God’s spirit come over her in that way,” says Maas, director of children, youth and family ministries at Holy Cross Lutheran in Minneapolis.

As a CYF student at Luther, Maas can share his joy. Students and faculty readily relate “intimate moments in their ministry and lives and how God has really drawn them into relationship,” says Maas.

Likewise, he values the academic rigor. “This is not Ultimate Frisbee 101,” says Maas. “We’re really pressing up against some of the deep theological questions that those in the first third of life have. ‘Who is God? Who am I in this whole God story?’”

So how do you explain baptism to a 15-year-old? Maas is ready for that one. “It’s sort of like an embrace,” he says. “God is embracing you forever.”

MEGHAN OLSEN

She worried about being entirely on her own if she took a church job—but that didn’t happen. “I have this connection,” says Meghan Olsen, “with a lot of other people in the same situation.”

The CYF student gets support, coaching, mentoring and ideas from faculty and from other students facing the same kinds of challenges at their church jobs. “You never get the feeling that you’re alone,” says Olsen, age 22.

She grew up on Long Island and helped at church-sponsored wilderness camps for New York City children after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

That strong experience notwithstanding, Olsen knows she has her work cut out for her in her new job at Como Park Lutheran in St. Paul. Kids are the same everywhere—but they’re also different. “I’m learning what it’s like to be a 15-year-old girl in St. Paul,” says Olsen. “I just got to St. Paul myself.” •
15 Ways to Engage a Young Man’s Faith

W
what does it take to keep younger men interested and active in the church? In Coming of Age: Exploring the Identity and Spirituality of Younger Men, authors David W. Anderson, ’89, Paul G. Hill, affiliated faculty in Children, Youth and Family Ministry, and Roland Martinson, ’68, Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, recorded the results of the Young Male Spirituality Project (www.elca.org/fmm/resources.html).

The project team interviewed 88 diverse young men ages 18-35 and listened carefully to what they had to say about their lives, faith and faith practices.

Among the findings: a ‘kinesthetic’ connection to their identity and spirituality, ‘experienced through their bodies as much as through their minds,’” the authors noted.

“Our research shows that most of these young men identify nature and sports as profoundly significant in nurturing and expressing their identity and spirituality.” The respondents further identified five experiences they found in sports and nature, and offered several ministry strategies that congregations can use to create effective ministries for younger men. Here are 15.

Recreation:
- Consider creating a weight or exercise room in your church;
- Sponsor a sports league;
- Attend sports events of members of your church and perhaps start a church fan club.

Peace:
- Go camping together;
- Provide childcare so young couples can go hiking, running, biking or exercising together on weekends;
- Provide devotions, retreats and Bible studies in natural settings.

Identity:
- Post news clippings of the sports performances of members of your church;
- Ask young men to demonstrate a sport or nature activity and involve others—especially boys;
- Integrate a Bible study on God’s call and vocation into a sports outing.

Bonding:
- Take a cross-generational group of men on an adventure trip or retreat;
- Help groom and maintain cross-country, ATV and snowmobile trails as a service and witness to the larger community;
- Create your own “Christian Sports Café” for Monday night football and Super Bowl Sunday.

Inspiration:
- Incorporate illustrations, metaphors and stories that come from the world of sports and nature into preaching and teaching;
- Go to an outdoor ministry facility for a week or retreat weekend;
- Hold a worship service for hunters and fishermen before the opening of the season. Emphasize the stewardship of creation.

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Learn more about Pastor Mann at www.luthersem.edu/news.

Meet Luther’s New Seminary Pastor—The Rev. Dr. John Martin Mann

A
long with the many first-year students on campus this fall, Luther Seminary welcomes another new face, Pastor John Martin Mann, who has accepted the call as seminary pastor. Mann has over 30 years of pastoral experience including campus ministry and launching two outreach ministries—Iglesia Luterana La Trinidad and Red Door Outreach Mission, both in Canton, Ohio. He currently serves as senior pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Canton. Mann received the Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC, and the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Ohio Theological Consortium and Hamma Divinity School, Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio. His thesis was “The Training of Lay Pastoral Assistants in Campus Ministry through the Use of the Clinical Pastoral Education Model.”

Mann recently answered several questions to help the Luther community get to know him better.

What is most important for the Luther Seminary community to know about you and your ministry?

The core of my ministry is relational. The core of my theology is relational. The Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—means God is present primarily in relationship and we get woven into that relationship.

What piqued your interest about the seminary pastor role at Luther Seminary?

I enjoy being in a reflective place that grapples with what ministry will call for in the future. If you do it right, you influence the quality of the community now and the quality of church life through students as they serve in the years to come. It’s an exciting opportunity!

Campus ministry has been an important part of your career. What excites you about campus ministry?

It’s the opportunity to engage in a campus community. Students have vibrancy and curiosity. They have more questions than most of us. Academic communities fascinate me. People are messing with ideas, putting things in new ways, talking about life and its meaning. The tension between exploring and an academic tradition is creative.

What do you like to do on your off hours?

I absolutely love downhill skiing. I love the water—sailing, swimming and just being near the water. I like to bike and I do a little running and hope to do more in the future. I love music, both concerts and CDs. Jazz and classical are my favorites but I have eclectic taste.

The thing I probably do the most is reading. It’s less a hobby and more for personal growth and professional engagement.

I have four dogs, all Shar-Peis: Lucy, Be, Benjamin and KC (a six-month-old puppy). Lucy believes she is the alpha male of the pack. I’ve written two family systems papers on their relationships!

What do you most look forward to at Luther?

As one who has lived most of my ministry in the church and academy, I eagerly await involvement with a seminary community committed to confessional mission development as the future of the church in the 21st century.
Charles Amjad-Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor for Justice and Christian Community, published Islamophobia or Restorative Justice: Tearing the Veils of Ignorance. The book was launched in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he taught and wrote while on sabatical this year, in May.

Lois Farag, assistant professor of early church history, spoke at St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church, South St. Paul on the topics “Susanna and the Life of Prayer” and “Theology of the Paschal Liturgical Prayers.” She led an adult forum on “Coptic Christianity, its history, theology and art” at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis in May That month, she was also a panelist for Luther Seminary’s African Immigrant Church series session on “The Church in Egypt and Ethiopian Egyptian and Ethiopian Christians in Minnesota.”


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Alvin Luedcke, associate professor of rural ministry, is the co-author (with Steve Murdock, Chris Kelley, Jeffrey Jordan and Beverly Pecotte) of Demographics: A Guide to Methods and Data Sources for Media, Business and Government (Paradigm Publishers, 2006).

Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, and Patrick Keifert, professor of systematic theology, are the editors of But Is It All True? The Bible and the Question of Truth (Eerdmans, 2006). Padgett also contributed a chapter on “The Relationship between Theology and Philosophy” in For Faith and Clarity: Philosophical Contributions to Christian Theology (Baker Academic, 2006).

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

Mark Hillmer: Reconnecting Life and the Gospel

In Psalm 71, the writer describes the twists and turns life can take—highs and lows, youth to old age. But all along, one thing is constant: God’s help and presence every step of the way. That image fits the teaching career of Mark Hillmer, Louise Grunow Professor of Old Testament. Hillmer, whose philosophy about teaching evolved as his own life took a different turn, retired this spring after 39 years at Luther Seminary.

Hillmer grew up in the shadow of the church. His father was a Wisconsin Synod pastor. Hillmer was the youngest of four boys, all of whom went into ministry. Was that his dad’s doing? No, he says. “My father didn’t care what we did. But we really were products of the Wisconsin Synod system. After years of parochial school, high school and college, we were totally unequipped to do anything else but go into ministry.”

Hillmer received a Fulbright scholarship to study his subject seriously in Germany. But after two years, he returned to Minnesota. He joined the LCA (one of the predecessors of the ELCA) shortly after joining the Northwestern Seminary faculty as a Hebrew instructor in 1967.

Through the first decade of his career, he was the only professor of Old Testament at Northwestern Seminary. Over the years, he came to focus on Isaiah and Ezekiel in the classroom, and participated in numerous digs in Israel. His classroom style was old-school: “I was probably more militant and discipline-oriented in the class.” He took his subject seriously and expected the students would too.

In 1991, though, he met and married Bonnie Littlefield, who had been recently widowed. It changed his heart both in the classroom and outside it. “Since that time, I have found a strong bond to reconnecting life and the gospel. I see my mission as a teacher differently. It’s not just about passing on the subject matter; it’s about seeing the students as people. In the last 14 years, I said, ‘I never want to have a student disappear as a number. I want to know who they are.’”

This attitude has changed the way he’s taught his classes. Every course involves having the students share an autobiography, especially as it is framed by scripture. It’s transformed the atmosphere in the room, he says. “When we tell our stories in class, it breaks down barriers between students. It’s preparing them to be real people in the parish.” And Hillmer includes himself in this assignment. “I tell my story, too. I want them to know I am flesh and blood, I have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.”

Part of his quest to rediscover himself led him back to the theater. He has acted in a number of community plays, and has earned quite a reputation as an excellent presenter of Martin Luther. For a number of years, Hillmer (as Luther) led the Mukula Mass parade and worship for children during Luther Seminary’s Reformation Festival. Now, he says, he’s invited to visit local congregations in costume several times a year.

It’s also renewed his participation in the parish. A longtime member of the Lutheran Charismatic movement, he enjoys exploring the gift of the Holy Spirit. “There’s nothing like what the Holy Spirit does when you are preaching,” he said. “Every Christian’s text for acting is the Bible. When we work with that script, it works its way into us.”

Hillmer, an avid reader, values texts both ancient and modern. “Luther is the sun and C.S. Lewis is the moon on my theological horizon,” he said. “I appreciate Lewis’ quote, ‘For every new book you read, read two old ones as a mouthwash.’” It’s one reason his own spiritual tending involves spending time with the Psalms in both English and Hebrew. “Luther said that if you read and the Holy Spirit starts talking to you, stop and listen. I’m sure I’ll keep hearing new things even now.”

Want to invite a faculty or staff member to present in your congregation? Visit www.lutherseminary.edu/resourceguide for up-to-date topic listings and contact information.
In Memory

Jon Anttila 1958-2006
Luther Seminary this spring lost Accounting Director Jon Anttila, a man with a mind for numbers and a heart for those around him. He died April 13 while surrounded by family members who were called to the hospital to be with him.


“He helped all of us be better at our work,” wrote Kathy Hansen, vice president for Seminary Relations and executive director of the Luther Seminary Foundation. “His amazing memory was a tremendous asset not only in his professional work in the business office, but also in keeping the rest of us up-to-date on our colleagues’ birthdays and anniversaries as well as on arcane baseball stats.”

Anttila shared a positive attitude despite lifelong health issues. And despite working behind the scenes, he was a blessing for recent graduate John S. Fleno Jr., who last fall had been denied registration for his final year as an M.A. student when his sponsor failed to pay his bill and he suddenly owed $13,000.

“I would have had to go back home without achieving what I came for,” said Fleno, who hopes to start a Christian university in his native Liberia. He was directed to Anttila, who reassured him that God would complete what he started in his life.

“He then stood up and held my hand and said, ‘Let’s talk to Him,’” Fleno recalled. “He prayed for my financial situation.” Anttila then took Fleno to the registrar’s office to allow his bill to be paid later. And it was.

James H. Burtness 1928-2006
Jim Burtness’ teaching career at Luther Seminary lasted more than 40 years. And with great thanks to God, his students continue to carry his lessons into the world.

A professor emeritus of systematic theology, Burtness died April 10 from injuries received in a serious fall in January. More than 120 people have celebrated him as a teacher, speaker, colleague and friend at his online memory book on Luther Seminary’s Web site www.luthersem.edu/ memorial/james_burtness.asp.

Burtness’ primary work was in Christian ethics, but he was best known for his scholarship of the life and works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Students recall his energetic teaching and conversations that often stretched into the home he shared with his wife, Dolores. And they relish his enduring friendships. For many, Burtness was their favorite teacher at Luther Seminary or even the reason why they came here.

“I thank God for Dr. Burtness,” wrote Lauryl Ivers Stockness, ’50, Ellsworth, Wis. “He opened my mind to other viewpoints and helped me clarify my own. He helped me articulate what living like Christ means. I will not forget his kind and wise guidance; it has shaped my life and ministry.”

Early students remember Burtness’ impact right from the start at Luther Seminary. After graduating with a B.Th. degree there, he began in 1953 as an instructor in New Testament Greek and systematic theology. He became an assistant professor in 1960, was named a full professor in 1972 and retired in 1998.

Among his worldwide journeys, Burtness’ first sabbatical in 1966 was spent in Berlin with students who knew Bonhoeffer. He also held a B.A. degree from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and a doctorate in theology from Princeton Seminary. Ordained in 1958, he served pastorates in Oregon, Minnesota and Colorado.

Marc Kolden, ’66, who was his student and later a fellow systematic theology faculty member for more than 20 years, recalled how Burtness stood up for his sometimes-disputed theological views and confronted those of others.

“He was a supportive and interesting colleague, not least because of his indefatigable theological curiosity,” wrote Kolden. “But he could also seem like a pain because he was a stickler for doing things well, allowing every faculty member to have his/her say in every decision and debate.”

Endowment Seeks to Preserve Legacy of Gerhard Forde

In addition to supporting the theological journal, the endowment will fund research programs and other forthcoming books.

The endowment committee will host a day of lectures and remembrance on Aug. 9, the anniversary of Forde’s death. It will be held at Indherred Church in Starbuck, Minn., Forde’s home church. The day’s activities will include addresses by retired bishop and Luther Seminary professor emeritus David Friesen, ’50, and Luther Seminary professor of systematic theology Steven Paulson, ’84, a discussion of Forde’s theological legacy and a time of sharing stories. Anyone interested in participating or remembering Forde’s life and ministry is welcome to attend.

For more information on the day’s events, or to contribute to the Forde Endowment, contact Steve Paulson at spaulson@luthersem.edu, or 651-641-3461.

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Luther Seminary faculty members who were once Storaasli’s students noted his model of commitment and careful study and his encouragement toward faculty since his retirement. The professor emeritus of New Testament is also remembered for later roles—including as a resource for international students with their thesis-writing and as a founder of the Hospitality Center in St. Paul.

“Tbelievewas the kindest person I ever met or worked with. He was truly a gentle man,” shared President Emeritus Lloyd Svendsbye.

Storaasli attended Waldorf College and St. Olaf College, where he received his B.A. degree in 1937. He earned the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in 1941, the Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1942, and his doctorate from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., in 1944.

Storaasli first served as an ordained minister in Philadelphia and as a pastor, professor and seminary president in Saskatoon, Canada. He helped the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada gain independence—after returning to St. Paul, he was elected president of the Canadian church but declined with the belief that a Canadian should lead it.

Emphasizing the importance of mission was always part of Storaasli’s work. “Anyone studying New Testament is introduced to the spread of the church through the book of Acts,” he said in 2001. “You can’t read the Bible without thinking about mission.”

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Jack Fortin, ’71, executive director of the Center for Lifelong Learning, and Sally Peters, manager of Centered Life, led a Centered Life Orientation Conference in Great Falls, Mont., July 21.

Terence Fretheim’s, ’60, book, God and World in the Old Testament: A Relational Theology of Creation (Abingdon Press, 2005) was “the most important book I have read this year,” according to Walter Brueggemann in Christian Century, (May 20, 2006). “Fretheim brings together his immense learning and interpretive imagination to summarize the history, theology, and hermeneutics of the Old Testament, which led to both “the best and worst year of my life,” he said. “It was the best year because I was immersed in the depth of biblical scholarship and I absolutely loved it.” It was a new way of reading and interpreting the Bible. But I also saw I couldn’t go back” into the Wisconsin Synod.

After graduating from Northwestern College in Watertown, Wis., in 1956, Hillmer received a Fulbright scholarship to Heidelberg University in Germany, which led to both “the best and worst year of my life,” he said. “It was the best year because I was immersed in the depth of biblical scholarship and I absolutely loved it.” It was a new assembly in May. Most recently, he was the speaker at the Luther Seminary commencement service at Central Lutheran Church. His Anchor Bible commentary on Hebrews was released in paperback this spring.

Jim Limburg, professor emeritus of Old Testament, has written two books in Encountering Ecclesiastes: A Book for Our Time (Eerdmans, July 2006), he illuminates the contemporary existential themes—the quest for meaning in life, the incompleteness of our knowledge, the place of work in human lives, and the need to discover God amid life’s uncertainties. Limburg takes a much lighter tone in The Other Woman: A Northern Minnesota Love Affair (Zion Publishing), a book chronicling stories surrounding and the history of Woman Lake, where the Limburg family has spent summers for more than 30 years.

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In 1991, though, he met and married Bonnie Littlefield, who had been recently widowed. It changed his heart style in the classroom and outside it. “Since that time, I have found a strong bond to reconnecting life and the gospel. I see my mission as a teacher differently. It’s not just about passing on the subject matter; it’s about seeing the students as people. In the last 14 years, I said, ‘I never want to have a student disappear as a number. I want to know who they are.”

This attitude has changed the way he’s taught his classes. Every course involves having the students share an autobiography, especially as it is framed by scripture. It’s transformed the atmosphere in the room, he says: “When we tell our stories in class, it breaks down barriers between students. It’s preparing them to be real people in the parish.” And Hillmer includes himself in this assignment. “I tell my story, too. I want them to know I am flesh and blood, I have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.”

Part of his quest to rediscovver himself led him back to the theater. He has acted in a number of community plays, and has earned quite a reputation as an excellent portrayor of Martin Luther. For a number of years, Hillmer (as Luther) led the Mukula Mass parade and worship for children during Luther Seminary’s Reformation Festival. Now, he says, he’s invited to visit local congregations in costume several times a year.

It’s also renewed his participation in the parish. A longtime member of the Lutheran Charismatic movement, he enjoys exploring the gift of the Holy Spirit. “There’s nothing like what the Holy Spirit gives you in preaching,” he said. “Every Christian’s text for acting is the Bible. When we work with that script, it works its way into us.”

Hillmer, an avid reader, values texts both ancient and modern. “Luther is the sun and C.S. Lewis is the moon on my theological horizon,” he said. “I appreciate Lewis’ quote, ‘For every new book you read, read two old ones as a mouthwash.’ ” It’s one reason his own spiritual tending involves spending time with the Psalms in both English and Hebrew. “Luther said that if you read and the Holy Spirit starts talking to you, stop and listen. I’m sure I’ll keep hearing new things even now.”

STORY Summer 2006
15 Ways to Engage a Young Man’s Faith

What does it take to keep younger men interested and active in the church? In Coming of Age: Exploring the Identity and Spirituality of Younger Men, authors David W. Anderson, ’89, Paul G. Hill, affiliated faculty in Children, Youth and Family Ministry, and Roland Martinson, ’68, Carrie Olson Baabson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, recorded the results of the Young Male Spirituality Project (www.elca.org/fmm/resources.html). The project team interviewed 88 diverse young men ages 18–35 and listened carefully to what they had to say about their lives, faith and faith practices.

Among the findings: a “kinesthetic” connection to their identity and spirituality, “experienced through their bodies as much as through their minds,” the authors noted. “Our research shows that most of these young men identify nature and sports as profoundly significant in nurturing and expressing their identity and spirituality.” The respondents further identified five experiences they found in sports and nature, and offered several ministry strategies that congregations can use to create effective ministries for younger men. Here are 15.

Recreation:
☐ Consider creating a weight or exercise room in your church;
☐ Sponsor a sports league;
☐ Attend sports events of members of your church and perhaps start a church fan club.

Peace:
☐ Go camping together;
☐ Provide childcare so young couples can go hiking, running, biking or exercising together on weekends;
☐ Provide devotions, retreats and Bible studies in natural settings.

Identity:
☐ Post news clippings of the sports performances of members of your church;
☐ Ask young men to demonstrate a sport or nature activity and involve others—especially boys;
☐ Integrate a Bible study on God’s call and vocation into a sports outing.

Bonding:
☐ Take a cross-generational group of men on an adventure trip or retreat;
☐ Help groom and maintain cross-country, ATV and snowmobile trails as a service and witness to the larger community;
☐ Create your own “Christian Sports Café” for Monday night football and Super Bowl Sunday.

Inspiration:
☐ Incorporate illustrations, metaphors and stories that come from the world of sports and nature into preaching and teaching;
☐ Go to an outdoor ministry facility for a week or retreat weekend;
☐ Hold a worship service for hunters and fisherman before the opening of the season. Emphasize the stewardship of creation.

Meet Luther’s New Seminary Pastor—The Rev. Dr. John Martin Mann

Along with the many first-year students on campus this fall, Luther Seminary welcomes another new face, Pastor John Martin Mann, who has accepted the call as seminary pastor. Mann has over 30 years of pastoral experience including campus ministry and launching two outreach ministries—Iglesia Luterana La Trinidad and Red Door Outreach Mission, both in Canton, Ohio. He currently serves as senior pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Canton.

Mann received the Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC, and the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Ohio Theological Consortium and Hamma Divinity School, Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio. His thesis was “The Training of Lay Pastoral Assistants in Campus Ministry through the Use of the Clinical Pastoral Education Model.”

Mann recently answered several questions to help the Luther community get to know him better.

What is most important for the Luther Seminary community to know about you and your ministry?

The core of my ministry is relational. The core of my theology is relational. The Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—means God is present primarily in relationship and we get woven into that relationship.

What piqued your interest about the seminary pastor role at Luther Seminary?

I enjoy being in a reflective place that grapples with what ministry will call for in the future. If you do it right, you influence the quality of the community now and the quality of church life through students as they serve in the years to come. It’s an exciting opportunity.

Campus ministry has been an important part of your career. What excites you about campus ministry?

It’s the opportunity to engage in a campus community. Students have vibrancy and curiosity. They have more questions than most of us. Academic communities fascinate me. People are messing with ideas, putting things in new ways, talking about life and its meaning. The tension between exploring and an academic tradition is creative.

What do you like to do on your off hours?

I absolutely love downhill skiing. I love the water—sailing, swimming and just being near the water. I like to hike and I do a little running and hope to do more in the future. I love music, both concerts and CDs. Jazz and classical are my favorites but I have eclectic taste.

The thing I probably do the most is reading. It’s less a hobby and more for personal growth and professional engagement.

I have four dogs, all Shar-Peis: Lucy, Bear, Benjamin and KC (a six-month-old puppy). Lucy believes she is the alpha male of the pack. I’ve written two family systems papers on their relationships!

What do you most look forward to at Luther?

As one who has lived most of my ministry in the church and academy, I eagerly await involvement with a seminary community committed to confessional mission development as the future of the church in the 21st century.
**The ‘50s**

James Hofrenning, ’53, Wija
Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., has recently published a book, *Easter People in a Good Friday World—Making Wise Moral Decisions* (Lutheran University Press, 2005, St. Louis Park, Minn.) It is designed as a study book for congregations.

**The ‘60s**

Dale Brand, ’65, recently published a devotional book based on Paul’s Letter to the Romans: The book, *New Life,* is a deep spiritual analysis of one or more verses a day for the entire year. Its purpose is to help the reader discover and live a new life in Jesus Christ through the words of Paul to the Romans. *New Life* can be reviewed at www.lulu.com/content/218736. Brand is pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in San Antonio.

**The ‘70s**


**The ‘80s**

Richard Swanson, ’81, was promoted to the rank of full professor in the Department of Religion/Philosophy/Classics at Augsburg College, Sioux Falls, S.D. His third book, *Proracing the Gospel of Luke: A Storyteller’s Commentary,* will be published this spring by The Pilgrim Press. Swanson is currently co-chair of the Bible in Ancient and Modern Media for the Society of Biblical Literature, and the director of the Provoking the Gospel Storytelling Project.

**The ‘90s**

Kate Schlechter, ’92, received a Master of Science degree from Seattle Pacific University in Marriage and Family Therapy in June 2005. She specializes in systemic thought and the Bowen Family Systems theory.

An interim pastor for the Northwest Washington Synod, she is leading the consolidation of three congregations into one. She is also a facilitator and trainer for Healthy Congregations and is developing her private practice as a registered family therapist.

Steve Weston, ’93, and Evelyn Weston, ’92, were called last year to serve at Healing Waters Parish, the first “area parish” in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Along with the lead pastor, the Westons serve seven congregations. They enjoy living in a country parsonage with their three sons.

Corinne Thul, ’94, accepted a call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Logan, Utah. She will also do campus ministry at Utah State University.


**The ‘00s**

Karl Hendricks-McCranken, ’02, was installed May 7, 2006, as Northwestern Minnesota Synod Minister of Youth and Family Ministry.

Ben Ranstrom, ’02, earned a Master of Science in nursing from the University of Minnesota in June 2005. He is working as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Hennepin County Medical Center in the newborn nursery and pediatric clinic. He is also an instructor at the U of M’s School of Nursing, where he enjoys helping students learn to care for children and their families.

Dawn Spies, ’02, began part-time service as campus pastor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in February. She also serves as pastor at Ezekiel Lutheran Church in River Falls, with her husband Dan, ’02.

She knows that at CYF she’s helping to build something important: A program that includes field experience, theological rigor, leadership skills and support and ideas from faculty and other students. “This,” Hager says, “is going to be huge for future students.”

**CYF student Hager is part-time youth director for about 15 sixth- through 12th-graders—though it’s never part time,” she quickly points out.**

Setting up events and getting kids to attend, she says, can be “like pulling teeth” even with the “tremendous help” of her advisory board from the congregation.

So Hager, a four-year M.Div. student, is grateful for the support from CYF. Terri Elton, CYF Ministry Leadership Coordinator, is “just awesome,” says Hager, age 23. “I almost feel bad for some of the youth directors out there doing this on their own.”

That strong experience notwithstanding, Olsen knows she has her work cut out for her in her new job at Como Park Lutheran in St. Paul. Kids are the same everywhere—but they’re also different. “I’m learning what it’s like to be a 15-year-old girl in St. Paul,” says Olsen. “I just got to St. Paul myself.”

That CYF student gets support, coaching, mentoring and ideas from faculty and from other students facing the same kinds of challenges at their church jobs. “You never get the feeling that you’re alone,” says Olsen, age 22.

She grew up on Long Island and helped at church-sponsored wilderness camps for New York City children after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

**MATTHEW MAAS**

Matthew Maas joyfully witnessed one of his church’s teens baptized last April—a 15-year-old girl. “It was just a great moment seeing God’s spirit come over her in that way,” says Maas, director of children, youth and family ministries at Holy Cross Lutheran in Minneapolis.

As a CYF student at Luther, Maas can share his joy. Students and faculty readily relate “intimate moments in their ministry and lives and how God has really drawn them into a relationship,” says Maas. Likewise, he values the academic rigor. “This is not Ultimate Frisbee 101,” says Maas. “We’re really pressing up against some of the deep theological questions that those in the first third of life have. ‘Who is God? Who am I in this whole God story?’”

So how do you explain baptism to a 15-year-old? Maas is ready for that one. “It’s sort of like an embrace,” he says. “God is embracing you forever.”

**MEGHAN OLSEN**

She worried about being entirely on her own if she took a church job—but that didn’t happen. “I have this connection,” says Meghan Olsen, “with a lot of other people in the same situation.”

The CYF student gets support, coaching, mentoring and ideas from faculty and from other students facing the same kinds of challenges at their church jobs. “You never get the feeling that you’re alone,” says Olsen, age 22.

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group at the church. “Those people become, in fact, co-learners with the student,” says Martinson.

Students eagerly inject their real-life church challenges into class discussions, lending “a kind of urgency to the task of learning,” says Mary Hess, associate professor of educational leadership.

Bedrock Christian theology, however, is the starting point—“anchoring youth and family ministry in a theology of baptism,” says Paul Hill, an affiliated faculty member and mentor coordinator. “How do we tend the baptismal life?”

By training church professionals and volunteers to conduct more such events, Luther hopes to multiply the impact of its new CYF ministry across the United States. Says Elton: “We hope to blur the line between Luther, the church and the world.”

Not least important, the CYF program reaches beyond the seminary with learning events for congregations. On a May Sunday afternoon, for example, 40 members of University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis met with Martinson, Elton and Audrey Keller, the CYF student working there. The church wants to extend its existing youth program to reach young adults at the nearby University of Minnesota.

Seminary involvement in such church planning helps the CYF student worker, says Elton—and can “move the congregation to a place they wouldn’t have gotten before. What we’re trying to do is listen deeply.”

CAROLE JOYCE

Carole Joyce is a valuable asset. She entered Luther’s CYF program with 22 years’ experience in church work. “It was time for growth and change,” says the mother of three from Rochester, Minn. “I knew that God was calling me to do something different.”

She wants deeper roots in theology for her ministry with children, youth and adults—and to learn more about research and issues.

Joyce finds classroom discussion a persistent adventure—and she is always happy to contribute her own experience. “It’s not just academic,” she says. “What we talk about in class is real life.”

Placing the young at the heart of the church is her personal mission. Where

Alum News (continued)

Mike Widner, ’02, and his wife, Heidi, announce the birth of their baby girl, Violet. She was born on Feb. 17.

Joel Wight Hoogeheim, ’02, and Karen Wight Hoogeheim, ’02, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Hannah Irene on July 27, 2005. In addition to being new parents, they accepted calls to serve as pastors at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa. Joel is serving as the pastor for discipleship, evangelism and outreach. Karen is serving as the pastor for spiritual care and prayer and visitation.

Robert O. Smith, ’03, accepted a call to serve as campus pastor to the University of Chicago, where he will conduct his ministry in conjunction with nearby Augustana Lutheran Church.

Claire Bischoff ’04, co-edited and contributed to the recently published My Red Couch and Other Stories on Seeking a Feminist Faith (Pilgrim Press) with Rachel Gafton. Ellie Roscher ’05 and Megan Thorvilson ’07 also contributed essays to this multi-denominational collection of young women’s stories about trying to reconcile Christian faith and feminist commitments.

Loronda Schuler ’05, recently published Visitation Handbook for Christian Parish Nurses. A registered nurse and a leader in the field of parish nursing, she lives in Marshall, Minn.

In Memory

Charles A. Daley, ’74, died in San Diego on May 13, 2006, of cancer. In addition to his wife Carol, he is survived by two children and a brother. Robert Daley Chuck was a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead.

They began their new calls April 1.

Harry N. Huxhold, ’48, died May 18. His ministry encompassed more than 50 years in urban, rural and suburban parishes in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, most recently at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Indianapolis. He was also a campus pastor at the University of Minnesota, a teacher at the high school and college level, and a Bishop’s Associate and Interim Bishop for the ELCA. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ceil, four children, seven grandchildren and two sisters.

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The program has gained attention in Fargo-Moorhead, even serving as the subject of a DVD, “Come As You Are: A story of amazing grace” made by Concordia College students.

Lost and Found is sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Brumbaugh serves as chaplain to both ministries.

A Recovery Ministry

Since the congregation began worshipping in 2003, it has grown from about two dozen to close to 200 attending every Sunday. “We are running out of room,” he said.

When Paul Brumbaugh, ’68, read the article about recovery ministry in the Spring issue of Story [“A Church Reaches Out to the Recovering Community”], he understood and appreciated the need for such efforts.

In 1987, Brumbaugh started Lost and Found, a ministry in Moorhead, Minn., which provides counseling for those involved in addiction and offers assistance to family members as they get loved ones into treatment. A large, up-to-date addiction library also serves the community. Brumbaugh also works with Crossroads, a congregation in Fargo for addicts and co-dependents.

Clarence Solberg, ’42, died in October, 2004. He served as a pastor, member of the Home Mission staff in the ELCA, and eventually as bishop in the ALC. He retired as bishop of the North Pacific District. In 1981, he and his wife, Helen, coordinated contact with all 41 members of his class. Solberg’s fellow classmates express deep appreciation for his work encouraging the classmates to “keep in touch.”

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Planting the Seed, Growing Where God Puts You

Alum-in-Residence Katy McCallum Sachse, ‘99, Shares Thoughts on Ministry

March 6-10, she preached at chapel, visited classes and answered student questions. A “Women in Ministry” lunch forum offered female students the opportunity to talk in depth with McCallum Sachse, now lead pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

Although McCallum Sachse is the first female pastor for her 100-year-old congregation, it “hasn’t at all been a problem,” she said. “More than gender, I think age has been more an issue for me.” But tragic circumstances—the senior pastor’s battle with cancer—have provided a bonding experience with the members of the congregation, she said, so the 33-year-old’s age is no longer a concern.

Nor was it an issue as she stood before a Luther class on the Prophets and fielded students’ questions on such topics as discrimination and advocacy. Asked how to handle social justice issues from the pulpit, McCallum Sachse said it’s important to distinguish between politics and justice and letting Scripture “lead the way.”

What part of her Luther education has been most helpful in her work? Students are likely to cringe at her answer: the Bible Proficiency Exam. Having memorized Bible texts and references for the test has been “extremely helpful,” she said. In addition to favorite Bible, theology and worship classes, she appreciates the teaching models provided by faculty as well as “the way I learned to think,” she said. “I can’t think of a seminary class that was a waste of time.”

Leaving her native Pacific Northwest for seminary was likewise beneficial. Religious participation in her home region is so low as to cause many to consider it a mission field. Going to a place where Lutherans are virtually a dime a dozen and church attendance common was a “cross-cultural experience,” McCallum Sachse said. “It’s just a very different culture here.”

By Allison Schmitt, M.A. Student

When she tells a young parishioner, “you’d make a good pastor” and the response is an “Oh, Pastor Katy” and a roll of the eyes, Rev. Katy McCallum Sachse isn’t fazed. The pastor who spoke similar words to her as a 15-year-old isn’t a believer in telling people you see something in them.”

McCallum Sachse, a 1999 Luther Seminary Master of Divinity graduate, is the 2006 Alum-in-Residence. Sponsored by the Luther Seminary Alumni/ae Council, the program invites alums to share insight and expertise with students and discuss the kinds of seminary experiences that are most helpful to them in their work. During her campus stay McCallum Sachse spoke to students in Terry Fretheim’s Pentateuch class.

Drawing the Young to the Congregation’s Heart

A revamped Children, Youth and Family Ministry meets growing demand

By Marc Hequet

Remember the boy who fell out the window? Apostle Paul spoke far into the night at Troas. The lad, sitting in the window, dozed off—and fell out.

Some feared he was dead. Paul rushed to the street, pronounced him alive—and fell out. Paul made CYF available online so church workers could enroll and keep their jobs. Moreover, after years of partnering with outside resources, the program now is fully in-house to assure long-term stability.

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By Marc Hequet

Churches now work hard to draw young people to the midst of the congregation. From 2003 to 2005, ELCA congregations created more than 1,300 new jobs in children, youth and family ministry.

Meanwhile, Luther Seminary expanded its youth ministry program—launched in the 1970s, one of the first—to broaden and deepen training for church workers and to provide training for congregations as well.

The need for new knowledge and skills was clear. “We see greater and greater complexity in what it means to be a person growing in faith across the first third of life,” says Roland Martinson, ’68, Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

The CYF revamp draws upon youth ministry best practices that Martinson identified in a study of 131 congregations from seven denominations.

Interest in the new CYF was immediate. Thirty residential learners and 32 distributive learners (who take online and week-long intensive courses) across the country enrolled for the first year of the new program in 2005. This autumn CYF expects around 50 residential students and 42 distributive learners. By 2007 the program expects to have nearly 100 residential students with steady growth in distributive learners.

Luther made CYF available online so church workers could enroll and keep their jobs. Moreover, after years of partnering with outside resources, the program now is fully in-house to assure long-term stability.

By Marc Hequet

The updated CYF extends beyond youth and family to include children and young adults. Classroom work grounds students in theology, youth culture, practical leadership and more.

Instructors help incoming students assess their strengths and identify growth areas. “The old program was kind of one-size-fits-all,” says Terri Elton, CYF’s Ministry Leadership Coordinator. “The new program doesn’t assume everyone is at the same point.”

On-campus students take jobs in churches and other ministries for up to 20 hours per week and receive coaching and mentoring at both job and seminary. Distributive learners with church jobs establish a support

By Marc Hequet

Christ has entered the city. He gives a strong testimony of this to his people in the words of a prophet. The prophecy which he quotes from Isaiah is a solemn warning addressed to all who enter Jerusalem (Isaiah 66:20). On the one hand, it declares what shall happen to those who shut the door and refuse to enter the city; on the other, it predicts the joy and happiness of those who enter and welcome Christ in his Son. The contrast is sharp: for God's people who enter the city shall be blessed, but for those who shut the door, the Lord will cause a great darkness over them (Isaiah 66:24).

By Marc Hequet

The picture of the city in Revelation is one of joy and peace. The gates of the city are open, and the gates are made of pearl (Revelation 21:24). Christ is the new Jerusalem, the city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2). The city of God is a place of perfect peace and security, a place where there is no need for fear or trembling (Revelation 22:4). The city of God is a place of perfect joy and happiness, a place where there is no sorrow or pain (Revelation 22:4). The city of God is a place of perfect love and unity, a place where there is no division or strife (Revelation 22:4).

By Marc Hequet

The vision of the new Jerusalem in Revelation 21:1-27 is a vision of a city whose gates are made of pearl and whose walls are made of jasper (Revelation 21:11-19). The city is not only beautiful, but also secure, for it is surrounded by a river of pure water (Revelation 22:1). The city is not only beautiful, but also eternal, for it has no end (Revelation 22:3-5). The city is not only beautiful, but also holy, for it is set apart for God's people (Revelation 21:22-23). The city is not only beautiful, but also sacred, for it is the dwelling place of God (Revelation 21:22). The city is not only beautiful, but also full of life, for it is filled with the glory of God (Revelation 21:23). The city is not only beautiful, but also full of light, for it is filled with the brightness of the sun (Revelation 21:23). The city is not only beautiful, but also full of love, for it is filled with the love of God (Revelation 21:23).

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The old wisdom was that parents were called to raise up the children in the faith. Confirmation was important, yes, but the faith needed first to be taught at home. The home, for Lutherans, was the locus of spiritual development. It was one of the greatest strengths of our heritage. Luther’s Small Catechism, for example, was designed for home use. Sunday Schools therefore were designed to build on the spiritual foundations laid down in the home. Many Lutherans can still tell marvelous stories about how they learned to pray together as a family at dinner, to read the Bible at their bedside, and memorized the catechism around the kitchen table.

The present day ‘reality’ is that children often bring their parents to church. Home devotions, family prayer and home catechesis are becoming more difficult to organize on a regular basis. Some public schools even plan sporting events on Sunday mornings. Parents don’t feel empowered or equipped to carry out their roles as spiritual guides to their children. They are so busy themselves, just making ends meet.

Families today are looking for help! Parents will join almost any congregation where their children are happy. Parents want to be surrounded by a strong church family that supports them with their call to pass along the faith to their children. What they—and many congregations—have realized is simple: The home is the new mission field. The church that can effectively engage this new mission field of children, youth and family will be on the cutting edge of ministry in the future.

And this is exactly what is happening. The experiments in children, youth and family ministries are striking, and some of the newest initiatives are nothing less than breathtaking. Sunday morning “outreach events” and “interactive mission groups” have replaced the older school/curriculum models. Inter-generational groups are popping up everywhere in the church where Christians explore their discipleship in groups of old and young. Music, hands-on activities and technology have become powerful tools for teaching the word of God and good doctrine. “Sunday School” has moved to weeknights for many congregations, where they find their children are better focused on catechesis and teaching. Retreats and mission trips are gaining in importance as young people learn the faith while they do the faith. And congregations are bringing families together to explore their separate vocations and callings from Monday through Saturday. It’s an exciting time for experimentation and adventures in learning as the church uses new methods to tell “the old, old story of Jesus and his love.”

Families are the new mission field. In Africa, mission historians tell us that the most effective missionaries of the 19th and 20th centuries were the ones who could best enter the home with the good news of Jesus Christ. The same is true today.

The students in Luther Seminary’s revitalized children, youth and family program are the new missionaries. And they are being given tools far more powerful than a guitar and a repertoire of camp songs. Their classroom and field studies are theologically rigorous, biblically grounded and attuned to the changing sociological and emotional needs of children—from infancy to young adulthood—and their families. Our students are bright, dedicated and excited about their ministry. They are already working in the mission field.

Richard Bliese, President and Associate Professor of Missions
churches and their pastors have a resort areas, the four local ELCA in one of the nation's fastest-growing the mission church. The four congregations are working together to support a new mission church to reach a growing number of unchurched residents. “It’s a huge partnership in ministry where we all see the community as our congregation—so there’s not this idea of stealing sheep—and, seeing that our community is growing at such a fast rate, none of us can really keep up with it,” said Ivy Borgstrom, minister of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter, which itself began as a mission church supported by the others. With two building sites under consideration, hopes are for Rejoice to reach the 100 confirmed people required for organization by late September. The four churches are each providing about $7,500—in sum more than half Rejoice’s funding—in a three-year commitment, Larson said. The ELCA is likewise providing support. A local Presbyterian church, which Larson has discussed Rejoice Lutheran’s goals and door-to-door efforts, has also donated. O’Rourke noted the area congregations’ “tremendous willingness” to support the mission while citing the impact of the pastors’ continued teamwork. “Having that kind of a strong support network really just fed into our four congregations and has brought us together, and I think that’s what made this whole project possible,” she said.

O’Rourke, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd for more than 40 years and a member of the task force. The task force also includes Luther alumni pastors Hans Anderson, ’05, of Trinity Lutheran, Kristin Relsey, ’03, of First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, and Darrell Pedersen, ’79, of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter, which itself began as a mission church supported by the others. With two building sites under consideration, hopes are for Rejoice to reach the 100 confirmed people required for organization by late September. The four churches are each providing about $7,500—in sum more than half Rejoice’s funding—in a three-year commitment, Larson said. The ELCA is likewise providing support. A local Presbyterian church, which Larson has discussed Rejoice Lutheran’s goals and door-to-door efforts, has also donated. O’Rourke noted the area congregations’ “tremendous willingness” to support the mission while citing the impact of the pastors’ continued teamwork. “Having that kind of a strong support network really just fed into our four congregations and has brought us together, and I think that’s what made this whole project possible,” she said.

The ELCA pastors in Minnesota’s Brainerd Lakes area—many of them Luther graduates—shepherded their own congregations, they have their eyes on a larger flock. The four congregations are working together to support a new mission church to reach a growing number of unchurched residents. “It’s a huge partnership in ministry where we all see the community as our congregation—so there’s not this idea of stealing sheep—and, seeing that our community is growing at such a fast rate, none of us can really keep up with it,” said Ivy Borgstrom, minister of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter, which itself began as a mission church supported by the others. With two building sites under consideration, hopes are for Rejoice to reach the 100 confirmed people required for organization by late September. The four churches are each providing about $7,500—in sum more than half Rejoice’s funding—in a three-year commitment, Larson said. The ELCA is likewise providing support. A local Presbyterian church, which Larson has discussed Rejoice Lutheran’s goals and door-to-door efforts, has also donated. O’Rourke noted the area congregations’ “tremendous willingness” to support the mission while citing the impact of the pastors’ continued teamwork. “Having that kind of a strong support network really just fed into our four congregations and has brought us together, and I think that’s what made this whole project possible,” she said.

The mission comes after several years of discussion by leaders of the existing churches. They realized that despite the growth reflected in their memberships, a third of the people considered unchurched. “It’s not a model that you’ll see anywhere else.”

With two building sites under consideration, hopes are for Rejoice to reach the 100 confirmed people required for organization by late September. The four churches are each providing about $7,500—in sum more than half Rejoice’s funding—in a three-year commitment, Larson said. The ELCA is likewise providing support. A local Presbyterian church, which Larson has discussed Rejoice Lutheran’s goals and door-to-door efforts, has also donated. O’Rourke noted the area congregations’ “tremendous willingness” to support the mission while citing the impact of the pastors’ continued teamwork. “Having that kind of a strong support network really just fed into our four congregations and has brought us together, and I think that’s what made this whole project possible,” she said.

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Estate Gift Creates Endowed Faculty Chair

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

T he Fourth Commandment reads in part, “Honor your father and mother.” Ruth Reigstad’s life—and her death—bears witness to that. Her parents, The Rev. Dr. Olin S. and Amanda Fjelstad Reigstad, served Bethlehem Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis for 25 years. Their lives were a model of Christian witness and faithfulness.

Dr. Ruth Reigstad, who spent her career serving in the military and then as a physical therapist, wanted to recognize their ministry. Upon her death in November 2005, she left virtually her entire estate to Luther Seminary to endow a faculty chair in their name. The Olin S. and Amanda Fjelstad Reigstad Chair in Theology was announced at Commencement in May.

Dr. Marc Kolden, ’66, has been named the chair’s first recipient. Kolden has taught systematic theology at Luther Seminary for 30 years. He also served as dean of academic affairs from 1996 to 2003.

“The endowment of a chair in theology honors the Reigstads’ faithful Christian service to the church,” Kathleen Hansen, vice president for seminary relations, said. “It was, in Ruth Reigstad’s own words, her wish ‘to help future pastors and church leaders as they struggle with their own profound questions, learn to seek for truth continually, and to accept their longings for the eternal, which can never be completely understood.’”

Reigstad asked that faculty members named to this chair be exemplary teachers who inspire an openness in their students to wrestling with questions of faith.

Kolden’s primary teaching areas are the person and work of Christ and the doctrine of the church. He has also done research and writing on the doctrine of Christian vocation (the Christian’s calling in the world), an interest that began when he was a pastor and thinking with congregational members about ways that God might be working in their lives.
Why We Do
What We Do

The Graduate Response

By Karis Thompson, ’06

Each year the graduating class selects a student as the graduate responder during commencement. M.A. graduate Karis Thompson was the Class of 2006’s choice.

The last few years, I’ve had the opportunity to live in St. Anthony Park, the neighborhood surrounding Luther Seminary. During my daily walks to and from campus, I’ll pass by any number of houses with yard or window signs campaigning for myriad political candidates or civic causes. But one house offers a different sort of message. A plaque on the side of the house asks not for your vote or what you can do for your country, but asks the question, “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” Some days, seeing this question makes me feel a bit badly about needing to answer the question, “What are you going to do?” Indeed, it would be mighty difficult to function at all if we were unable to answer these questions.

In our contexts, your vocation is your identification. Whether succinct or open-ended—to, “What do you do?” or, for those of us who have just graduated, “What are you going to do?”—indeed, it would be bound up less in a specific call and more in why we do what we do? Bound up less in a specific call and more in why we do what we do?

Bound up less in a specific call and more in why we do what we do? Bound up less in a specific call and more in why we do what we do?

But during the time since he received his last medical degree, Tony had no ready response. To this question, and to his own shock, Tony had no ready response. But during the time since he received his last medical degree, Tony had no ready response.


Tony, who had handled a variation of this question that had been phrased so many ways, fielded a variation of this question that he couldn’t answer so immediately or extensively. A child, who Tony had never met, called and insistently asked him, “Why do you do what you do?”

But what if our identities were bound up less in what we do but in why we do what we do? Bound up less in a specific call and more in the One who calls?

Graduating senior JoAnne Amaral and her husband Jim will be going to China to teach for two years and saw it as an effective way to allow students to record their sermons and also to transmit them electronically for evaluation by professors—and then as a convenient and useful way for professors to respond back promptly to their work,” he said.

By Andy Behrendt, Master of Divinity Student

Pastors in Luther Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program are going high-tech to bring their preaching to a higher level. And pastors from the Southwestern United States are meanwhile looking to Luther to revitalize their congregations.

As the D.Min. program in Biblical Preaching enters its third year, its 26 students are now each equipped with a Creative ZEN MP3 player. Whereas hip digital audio devices like the ZEN and iPod have become a standard for on-the-go music, they’re being used here as a way for students to record and share their sermons.

“There has been a general interest in the seminary about remaining on the cutting edge technologically in teaching and learning, and this is a part of that effort,” said Paul Lokken, associate dean of graduate theological education.

Luther’s D.Min. program rolled out the sleek ZEN player/recorders, provided under a grant from seminary founding donors and their instructors this summer. The pastors will share the recorded sermons with their respective parishes and post the recordings on the Web for review by both their fellow students and their instructors, who may then respond with their own recorded evaluations.

“‘There has been a general interest in the seminary about remaining on the cutting edge technologically in teaching and learning, and this is a part of that effort.’”

—Paul Lokken, associate dean of graduate theological education

Lokken said if the experiment goes well, Luther might also use digital audio devices for other programs for teaching and communication between students, instructors and the seminary at large.

The newest D.Min. students in both Biblical Preaching and Congregational Mission and Leadership (CML) concentrations come from several denominations and from across the country. But there’s particularly high concentration of CML students from the Southwest this year.

Seven of the 23 new CML students came from the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod as a result of workshops in Phoenix and preaching by D.Min. students in Phoenix-area churches in January of 2005 and 2006.
### Centered Life® Orientation Conference
**August 15, 2006**

**Ventures in Vocation**
**October 8-9, 2006**

- Designed for post-college professionals and college-age students considering a church vocation, this two-day conference.
- Helps participants explore their own sense of call, gifts and the possibility of ministry in the church.
- Immerse participants in seminary life through sessions with faculty and current students.
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- Register online at [www.luthersem.edu/admissions/ventures](http://www.luthersem.edu/admissions/ventures), or call 651-641-3521, or toll-free at 1-800-Luther3

### Burgess Lecture on Mission
**October 10, 2006**

**Chapel of the Incarnation**

**Lecturer:** The Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission/Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### Commencement 2006

- **Dr. Jacobson and Luedke Receive Tenure**
  - Dr. Rolf Jacobson, ’91, associate professor of Old Testament, received tenure. Jacobson joined Luther Seminary in July 2003. Prior to that, he was an assistant professor of religion at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary and was ordained in 1991. He served five years as associate pastor at Como Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul.
  - Dr. Alvin Luedke, associate professor of rural ministry and associate dean of missional pastors, also received tenure. Luedke joined Luther Seminary in 2001 with extensive parish ministry experience and a background in sociological research. Luedke serves on the board of directors for Shalom Hill Farm and is a member of numerous rural ministry organizations. Luedke is a frequent speaker at synod conferences and congregations.

- **Dr. Paulson Promoted to Full Professor**
  - Dr. Steven Paulson, ’84, professor of systematic theology, has been promoted to full professor. He joined the Luther Seminary faculty in 1998 after serving as assistant professor of religion at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., since 1993.

- **Kolden Recognized as The Olin S. and Amanda Fjelstad Reigstad Chair in Theology**
  - Dr. Marc Kolden, ’66, was named the Olin S. and Amanda Fjelstad Reigstad Chair in Theology (see article on page 5). He has taught systematic theology at Luther Seminary for 30 years. He served as dean of academic affairs from 1996 to 2003. Kolden’s primary teaching areas are the person and work of Christ and the doctrine of the church.
Together in Mission ... and Planning

Luther Seminary faculty, its Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Trustees, took part in a first-ever joint retreat at the end of May. During the overnight gathering, held at the Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska, Minn., members of the boards and faculty took the first steps toward a planning process that will guide the work of the seminary over the coming years. Faculty and boards were very much involved in the development of Serving the Promise of Our Mission, Luther Seminary’s strategic plan covering the years 2000-2005. This joint retreat, however, began an even more intentional effort in shared governance and collaboration.

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

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