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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 + 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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Excerpt from the Response by Darrell Jodock to the Christus Lux Mundi Award given to the Reverend Gudina Tumsa

The Rev. Gudina Tumsa posthumously received the Christus Lux Mundi (Christ, the Light of the World) Award, Luther Seminary’s highest honor. Tumsa was a student at Luther from 1963 to 1966. Dr. Darrell Jodock, professor of religion, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn., accepted the award on behalf of Tumsa’s family.

My deepest thanks to those who decided to honor Gudina Tumsa in this way. The tribute is more than fitting because the center of his faith, the center of his witness, and the center of his theology was Christ as the light of the world. His life illustrates both the profound influence a witness to that faith can have and how much that faith may cost.

Gudina came to Luther Seminary in 1963. That year he and I were roommates on the third floor of Rockman Hall. He was 34. His wife and five children remained in Ethiopia. Their picture would make

Brad Anderson, CEO and vice chair of Best Buy Companies, Inc., was this year’s commencement speaker. Once a Northwestern Lutheran Seminary student, he spoke on the importance of call in whatever vocation God plans for us.

A balloon joined well-wishers at the 2004 commencement ceremonies at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.
Walker has worked to improve the quality of housing for elderly and low income people in the Twin Cities. Established in 1988, the Preus Award is presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary servant leadership in community and religious life.

Andrew S. Burgess Lecture on Global Mission
Monday, Oct. 4, 2004, 10 a.m., Chapel of the Incarnation, Olson Campus Center

Dr. Dana Robert presents, “What Happened to the Christian Home? Controversies over Gender and Mission in the 21st Century.” Robert is the Truman Collins Professor of World Mission at the School of Theology, Boston University. In her lecture, she explores liberal and conservative views of community and discusses how they affect the church’s approach to mission.

The Andrew S. Burgess Lectures in Global Mission bring leading scholars in global mission to Luther Seminary each year.

Reformation Celebration Features Dinner and Singing the Faith
Sunday, Oct. 31, 2004, Olson Campus Center 5:30 p.m.: Festival Dinner; 7:00 p.m.: Singing the Faith

This year’s Singing the Faith service will focus on The Lord’s Prayer and the meanings of the petitions. The service will feature the combined Roseville, Minn. choirs of Roseville Lutheran Church Choir, directed by John Helgen, and St. Michael’s Lutheran Church Choir, directed by Karen Wilkerson. A free will offering will be collected during the service. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Luther Seminary FRIENDS Endowed Scholarship Fund for seminary students.

The festival buffet dinner will feature delicious, ethnic-inspired foods. Tickets are $14 per person. Advance registrations for the dinner are required by Oct. 26. Call (651) 641-3419 for ticket information.

The Luther Seminary FRIENDS is a group of 200 men and women from Twin Cities congregations that is committed to supporting the seminary through prayer, financial gifts and as volunteers.

Gudina Tumsa (continued)

him so lonesome that, when he studied, he had to hide it from view. Already that first year there were suggestions that he should become the secretary of the church when he returned. But at that point he was not pleased with the idea. He wanted to return to his home, to be a pastor, and to work among the people he’d come to know as an evangelist.

Gudina had shown promise in Ethiopia, and the same was true here. Working in a language in which he was not yet completely fluent, lacking the college education that American students had, he did well in his courses, especially (during that first year) biblical studies. At 6 feet 6 inches tall, he was not only intelligent and intensely thoughtful but also exhibited a quick wit and a wonderful sense of humor. His deep piety was combined with a good deal of wisdom about human beings.

After three years at Luther, Gudina returned to Ethiopia, where he served from 1986-79 as the General Secretary of the [Lutheran] Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. His accomplishments were remarkable. For example, as the emperor was replaced by a highly nationalistic Marxist-Leninist government and the country went from feudalism to socialism ... he led the church to adjust to its new political situation. As part of this adjustment, he recognized the need for it to move away from its heavy dependence on overseas assistance. The divided territories of the different missions were also reflected in the church, so he worked to unite it.

His leadership also helped to form an ecumenical alliance—the Council for Cooperation of Churches in

Gudina Tumsa
Ethiopia—and he was elected its first chairman. The Council grew out of his recognition that the churches, when faced with a government suspicious of religion and of anything other than its own influence, needed a united voice. He also led his own church to join the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation.

His leadership kept the church focused on the gospel, on human dignity and on social justice. He was a Christ-centered theology concerned about the whole person. It reflected the best of the African mission tradition, with education, medical care, micro-development, a strong sense of community, and Christian piety all rolled into one. Belo...
The Seedbed

The young people of Plymouth Youth Center, the young seminarians were themselves mentored by their Lutheran Seminary professors, of whom Muus spoke very highly: “In the midst of our learning, others sometimes looked to us for their learning. It’s a wonderful cycle, isn’t it?”

The fourth commandment to honor your father and mother is accompanied by the promise, “so that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12). In his Lutheran beliefs, Martin Luther also saw that this commandment requires adults to “devote serious attention to the young.” Moses, Martin, and Emma had this straight. Listen to Martin: “If we want capable and qualified people for both the civil and the spiritual realms, we must really spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and the world. We must not think only of amusing money and property for them. God can provide for them and make them rich without our help, as indeed he does daily. But he has given us children and entrusted them to us precisely so that we may raise and govern them according to his will; otherwise, God would have no need of fathers and mothers.”

The honor due to fathers and mothers belongs to their callings, or, as Luther said God’s “need of fathers and mothers’” Luther’s challenge to “spare no effort, time and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and the world” also prompts us to hear what God needs from Lutheran Seminary and from our graduates who are pastors, teachers, and youth leaders. The fourth commandment leads us to honor our children and their callings. It is a sacred trust, with God leading us beyond duty to joy.

Our children are entrusted to us from God, the “Fount of every blessing,” because God’s “streams of mercy” flow through us and them to the world God loves. From the time we rock our babies until we are laid to rest, may our lives give voice to Emma’s song, “Teach me ever to adore thee, May I still thy goodness prove.”

Seminarium-Founded PCYC Celebrates 50 Years

By Melanie Boulay Becker, special correspondent

“The literally would not have been founded without the people at Lutheran Seminary,” said Anne Long, executive director of the Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) in North Minneapolis. The center celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Founded in 1954 by Lutheran Seminary students as a Christian settlement house program, PCYC today teaches young people life skills, educates them in alternative schools and provides a loving, supportive environment for the schools and the North Minneapolis community.

PCYC focuses on helping kids succeed. “We figure out what needs to be done to give kids that boost that they need,” said Long, who describes the young people at PCYC at “as promise” as well as at risk. “They come here and find there’s a real caring institution,” said Paul Minson, ’61, a retired pastor and volunteer who helps PCYC build congregational relationships.

Parents have good things to say about PCYC. According to PCYC mom, Leslie Wilson, the after school program keeps kids off the street and gets them doing positive activities. “I know it makes a difference in the neighborhood,” said Wilson.

Although PCYC has involved more than 500 Lutheran Seminary students and alumni/or over the years, it was started by just a handful of the semi- nary’s students. Founders included Ham Muus, ’56, who served as founding director and now lives in Arizona and Grand Marais, Minn., Kurt Johnson, ’56, who served as director from 1967-1975, and now lives in Bayfield, Wis., and Bob Evans, deceased.

In the early years, the Plymouth Youth Center, as it was called until the 1960s, included primarily the “Kinsmen mentoring program and the Wilderness Canoe Base program. In addition to benefiting those served, the experience of founding and working at PCYC proved to be a formative one for the seminarians.” It broadens you and gives you an outlook that you don’t get otherwise,” said Johnson. He also explained that it was part of an effort that moved the church ahead in understanding a variety of cultures.

In addition to serving as mentors to the young people at Plymouth Youth Center, the young seminarians were themselves mentored by their Lutheran Seminary professors, of whom Muus spoke very highly: “In the midst of our learning, others sometimes looked to us for their learning. It’s a wonderful cycle, isn’t it?”

Today, PCYC alumni continue the mentoring cycle. Alumnus Nick Krier, for example, now works as an instructor. “It’s challenging, but the rewards are when you see kids becoming successful—getting a diploma, going on to college or getting a job. These kids have a lot of ways to be successful.”

Luther Seminary continues its con- nections with PCYC. Muffy Tiede, wife of Luther President David Tiede, serves on the board, as does Janet Anderson, chair of the Luther Seminary Foundation Board of Trustees.

To celebrate their anniversary in May 2004, PCYC dedicated a new $5 million building at 2210 Olive Avenue North. It houses the 30-student junior high school, youth and family-development programs, and the center’s staff of 50. Across the street, the 1920s-era Capri Theater houses classrooms and a performance space for the after school and summer creative arts and performing arts programs that PCYC offers.

The children in PCYC’s After School Enrichment Program honor Congressman Martin Saba by planting a Star Magnolia tree in front of the new PCYC building. Looking on at left is John Evans, son of PCYC’s founding director, the late Rev. Bob Evans, and Rev. Skip Reeves, ’74, PCYC Board President.

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Alum Survey Asks, “What Can Luther Seminary Do for You? What Can You Do for Luther?”

By Jeanne Markquart, ’01, Alumnae Council member

In January of 2004, more than 1,500 alumnae of Luther Seminary and its predecessor bodies responded enthusiastically to a survey initiated by the Luther Seminary Alumnae/ae Council. The council hoped to span the information gap between Luther and alumns, and “to listen better to the actual needs of our constituency,” said Joel Quie, ’86, president of the Alumnae/ae Council. The survey addressed:

■ Alumnae/ae’s experience with Luther Seminary as an equipping institution;
■ Their ongoing needs as leaders in Christian communities and how Luther Seminary might be a resource; and
■ Their willingness to encourage others to pursue a call to ministry at Luther Seminary.

The data was divided into three demographic categories: All respondents, Class of 1960 and beyond, and Class of 1990 and beyond. These distinctions allow us to look at more specific needs and trends for groups at different stages in their ministry.

What Did We Learn from our Survey Respondents?

■ After reviewing Luther Seminary’s mission statement, 84.7 percent believe that Luther Seminary is fulfilling its mission or fulfilling it very well.
■ Approximately 92 percent have encouraged individuals with gifts to pursue a call to ministry. About 80 percent have encouraged individu-
als to attend Luther Seminary.

■ Our alumnae/ae are committed to encouraging the next generation of leaders for the church. Overall, 89.6 percent of respondents would encourage individuals with gifts for ministry to pursue their call by attending Luther Seminary. Among recent graduates (Class of 1990 and beyond), 93.3 percent of respondents would encourage others to attend Luther Seminary.

■ Among the resources for ministry that Luther Seminary offers, respondents expressed that it is more important for Luther Seminary to provide continuing education opportunities, resources and information via the Web Site than provide opportunities for networking with colleagues in their geographic area.

■ Of respondents from the Class of 1990 and beyond, 70.4 percent believe it is very important for their ministry that Luther Seminary provides continuing education opportunities.

■ 43.1 percent of respondents who have attended Mid-Winter Convocation at any time since 2000 have found it very helpful to their ministry. An additional 51 percent have found it somewhat helpful.

Additional questions were asked about specific continuing education opportunities and other ministry resources. These results have been shared with those working directly in these areas.

What Will We Do with the Data?

The Alumnae/ae Council’s role is to facilitate the relationship between the alumnae/ae of Luther Seminary and its predecessor bodies, and the seminary community and its resources. The information gathered shows some of what Luther Seminary is able to provide that has ongoing value to those leaders already witnessing to salvation in Jesus Christ and serving in God’s world.

The council would like to focus on the types of resources that build value for real life ministry. These results will shape our discussion as, according to Joel Quie, we ask the question, “How can Luther Seminary be an advocate, a blessing so that those who are prospering, surviving, or thriving receive ongoing support?” The flip side of that question is, how can alumnae/ae benefit and bless a great institution like Luther Seminary?” As Luther Seminary pursues its mission, our alumnae/ae, with their experience and passion for the gospel, are an important resource for shaping how the next generation of leaders will be educated.

Survey Distribution & Demographics

About 3,400 surveys were sent via email to all alumnae/ae for whom Luther had an e-mail address. Another 2,800 surveys were sent via standard mail. A total of 1,562 surveys were completed for an exceptional overall response rate of 25 percent.

Of those who responded:

■ 86 percent graduated in 1960 and after
■ 27 percent graduated in 1990 and after
■ 19.8 percent of respondents were female, 80.2 percent were male
■ 69 percent are between the ages of 40 and 69

The Luther Seminary Alumnae/ae Council thanks all who participated in this survey.

Strategic Plan Update: M.A./M.S.M. Degree Programs:
Affirming Callings, Strengthening Christian Witness

D ennis serves a Colorado congrega-
tion as minister of worship and music. Brunt is a school social worker in Minnesota. Amy is a director of family ministries at a North Carolina church. Francis runs a foundation in Hong Kong. What they have in common is they do what they love with the gifts God gave them, and they are alumnae/ae of Luther Seminary’s Master of Arts (M.A.)/Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.) programs.

Our various concentrations both fulfill our core value of continuing our excellent offerings in the classical disciplines as well as match Luther Seminary’s strategic initiatives,” said Diane Jacobson, associate dean, M.A./M.S.M. degrees, and professor of Old Testament. “They are designed to meet leadership needs in congregations and within diverse ecclesiastical, ethnic and economic populations.”

Some noteworthy concentrations include:

■ Since 2003, the Youth and Family concentration has been offered both residentially and as a distributed learning program. The course work is the same for both programs, but the latter enables students to continue their youth work in congregations across the country while they study (see article on page 8).

■ The M.A. in Islamic Studies continues to thrive. “This program has been well positioned to respond to the increased desire on the part of Christians since 9/11 to understand Islam and to work with Muslims both nationally and internationally,” Jacobson said. “We have strengthened our ties to the Muslim community in the Twin Cities. We have military chaplains and even several Muslims enrolled in our program. Alongside this concentration, we have added a new concentration in Mission and World Christianity. This program should help strengthen our ties...
Many of the Cross Cultural Studies degrees, the seminary continued, are designed to contribute to the burgeoning field of congregational studies, Jacobson noted.

Luther Seminary is working towards integrating its CenteredLife initiative into the curriculum through its Ministry in Daily Life concentration. “This specialization has the potential of educating congregational leadership for lay ministry and fostering intimate connections with various congregations and organizations committed to the ministry of the laity,” Jacobson said.

Several of the concentrations and specializations help Luther form fruitful partnerships with a variety of other institutions in the Twin Cities and elsewhere. In both the M.S.M. and the dual M.A./M.S.W. degrees, the seminary partners with other educational institutions (St. Olaf for the M.S.M. program, Augsburg, St. Catherine’s and St. Thomas for the M.S.W. program).

Many of the Cross Cultural Studies courses are offered in partnership with other national and international ministries. The rural courses are often offered at Shalom Hill Farm in Windom, Minn. The urban courses are offered as part of a collaboration within the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools as well as through the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE) in Chicago.

The group of adjuncts who help to teach courses in Educational Leadership are located in congregations throughout the Twin Cities.

In the area of Congregational and Community Care, students and faculty make use of Luther’s connections with hospitals, colleges and congregations, and are developing a relationship with the nursing school at the University of Minnesota. “These partnerships and others both help our students receive a broad and varied education, and help Luther Seminary to stay connected to local, national and international congregations and communities,” Jacobson said.

Alum News (continued)

Emily Roza-Hegener, ’99, (nee Nester Joel Roza-Hegener, 01)

The ‘80s

Mark Brown, ’82, began his new responsibilities as the regional representative for the Lutheran World Federation field programs in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the surrounding region. He completed service on April 14 as the assistant director for international affairs and human rights at the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs.

Sarah Dille’s, ’84, book Missing Metaphor: God as Mother and Father in Deuter-Isaiah will be released this fall by T&T Clark International. Dille is associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, Ontario. She resides in Waterloo with her husband of one year, Daniel Stauffer.

David Skilbred, ’86, was recently named director of government relations for the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota (ICBM). Previously he was the executive director of the Minnesota State Council on Disability. He has held several staff positions in the Minnesota State Senate, including serving as assistant to Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe. He has worked on a variety of public policy issue areas including banking, health care, insurance, workforce development and housing.

The ‘60s

Joseph Everson, ’65, was appointed to serve as interim provost at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif. He joined the CLU religious studies faculty in 1980. He has served as chair of the religion department and chair of the faculty. Most recently he chaired the task force that drafted the University’s leadership statement and co-chaired the school’s Now is the Time campaign.

Lanny Knuston, ’69, began serving as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn. She has served as chair of the religion department and chair of the faculty. Most recently she chaired the task force that drafted the University’s leadership statement and co-chaired the school’s Now is the Time campaign.

Order Advent Devotionals for Your Congregation

Once again Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary are offering Advent devotion booklets to congregations. The 2004 theme is “Be Not Afraid.”

Cost is $12.50 per 25, plus exact shipping costs. TO GUARANTEE DELIVERY, ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY OCT. 18.

Order copies for your congregation online at www.luthersem.edu/advent, or contact the Luther Seminary bookstore at 651-641-3440, or toll-free at 1-800-541-4187.

The ‘50s

Thor Ryken, 51, retired from over 12 years of ministry at Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo, N.D. He and his wife, Cathryn live in West Fargo.

In Memory

Owen Gangstad, 43, died on June 17, 2004. Following his ordination in 1983, he served congregations in Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa. He also served as director of church relations at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, until his retirement in January 1999. He is survived by four children, Lois, Rebecca, Stephen and Daniel.

Youth and Family M.A. student Ingeblau Leiber (right) with two church youth.

Making a Match with M.A./M.S.M. Alums and Christian Communities

What does an M.A./M.S.M. graduate do? The choices are many. In the case of those with the M.S.M. degree or Youth and Family specialization, congregations are clamoring for them. A number of M.A./M.S.M. students from the ELCA are also candidates for rostered ministry. These students are working toward being one of the public leaders in the ELCA, rostered as either an Associate in Ministry, a Diocesan Minister, or a Deaconess. The Contextual Leadership Initiative Office is available to work with candidates for Diocesan Ministry in securing a field experience, and the Office of Candidacy and Placement oversees the entire candidacy process for candidates. Currently, 24 M.A. students are at some stage in preparation for rostered ministry in the ELCA.

The Office of Candidacy and Placement also helps students with traditional career development issues (such as job hunting, resumes and cover letters, interviewing and compensation negotiation). In addition, the office works with students to better identify and articulate their own vocation goals. “The goal of the office is less about placement of students in jobs and more about helping each student reach their vocational goals through strengths-based counseling and networking ideas,” said Krista Lind, ELCA candidacy and placement coordinator at Luther Seminary.

The ELCA recently launched a new nationwide, Web-based mobilization system entitled ‘People and Places’ specifically for lay rostered leaders to help them find calls that suit their gifts.

“At Luther, we have been eager to encourage the church to think outside the box in creatively using the talents of those whose call is to something other than the ministry of the ordained,” Lind said. “We have begun this conversation by hosting a ‘Stirring the Imagination’ conference, which sought to hear the stories of lay rostered leaders, and think strategically about how seminaries, synods and candidates can work together to lift up the gifts of all theologically trained leaders.”
The ‘00s

ALUM NEWS CORRECTION: Anne Andert, ’00, and David Andert, ’74, have been serving together full time at Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Benson, Minn., instead of St. John’s Lutheran Church.

Tom Glasoe, ’01, married Rachel Downey on July 31 in Ely, Penn. Glasoe accepted a call to serve at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Cypress, Calif. The two began their ministry there on Aug. 15.


Dennis Sanders, ’01, was ordained a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Sept. 8, 2002 at First Christian Church in Minneapolis. He was installed as parish associate at Lake Harriet Christian Church in Minneapolis on May 23.

Andrew Wilson, ’02, received a master of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in May.


Scott Johnson, ’03 and Kristin Mooneyham, ’03 were married on May 29th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minn.

Matthew Philya, ’04, and his wife Jennifer announce the birth of son, Thomas Andrews, on June 24. Thomas was 7 pounds 6 ounces and 20 inches long at birth. Both mom and baby are doing well.

The ‘90s

Beverly Stratton, ’91, was promoted to full professor at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Hired as an assistant professor of mathematics in 1986, she transitioned to assistant professor of religion, was promoted to associate professor 10 years later, and tenured in 1998. She has chaired the religion department and served the college on a wide range of committees and has been instrumental in grant administration. She has published a book, Out of Eden: Reading Rhetoric and Ideology in Genesis 2.3.

Eric Carlson, ’93, was called to serve as the senior pastor at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa, in July. He and his wife, Beth, have two children, Greta and Benjamin.

Nancy (Amburn) Fisher, ’94, accepted a call in May 2003 to serve the Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana Synod as assistant to the bishop for congregational life and mission. Her main focus, among many, is growing disciples in the communities of the synod. Her husband, Thad Fisher, ’95, has a new and challenging call as a stay-at-home dad with their three children. Thad also serves as a part-time interim pastor at Living Waters Lutheran Community in Mansfield, Texas. The Fishers live in Arlington, Texas.

Jonathan Case, ’95, has been re- signed by Global Partners/Wesleyan World Missions. After serving for seven years as lecturer in theological studies at Kingsley College in Melbourne, Australia, Case and his family relocated to Auckland, New Zealand, where he will serve as regional theological educator for the South Pacific.

Barb Spaulding, ’97, accepted a call as discipleship pastor to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa.


Melinda Halom, ’99, and Martin Hallstrom, ’99, announce the birth of their second child, Megan Elizabeth. She was born on December 9, 2003. Their older daughter, Katie, is three in January. Matthew serves as pastor at First Lutheran Church in Penticton, Wis., and Zion Lutheran Church in Brantwood, Wis.

An M.A. Grad’s Story

By Christopher Kramer, master of divinity student

O n year after graduating from Luther with an M.A. in Christian Leadership, Dawn Alitz directs Children’s Ministries at Farmington Lutheran Church in Farmington, Minn. “I was consecrated in November as a diaconal minister. The position means I get to work with families who have kids ages birth through sixth grade in family faith formation,” she said. “We are re-empowering the ministry of the baptized, getting the parents back into the church’s seat of faith formation. It’s about letting the church be a good resource and a place to come, but letting the Spirit out of the God-box, out of the home and into the community. The family unit is the evangelical tool. How they live their faith outside the house is what grows the church.”

Schooled in music, Alitz never imagined herself in children’s ministry. “I came to Luther through the strange quirk of God,” she explains. “For many years I was relatively unchurched, but I came back in shortly before having children. I realized when I took on a youth position [teaching confirmation] how vitally important parents’ involvement in faith formation was. I had no idea how to do that with my own family. So I thought I’d take a few classes, then I took some more, and now I’ll be back at Luther again this fall doing a Ph.D. in Pastoral Care in Youth and Family Ministry.”

Numerous voices at Luther Seminary have contributed to her evolving ministry...”first and foremost Roland Martinson [Carrie Olson Baadson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry], because I came from a different angle and he encouraged that,” she said “I was able to be creative, more true to my call working with families.” [Professor Emeritus] Bill Smith’s classes also were foundational to Alitz. “He introduced me to spiritual formation. It’s taught me so much about sitting and listening to people’s stories and seeing where God is in the midst of all of that. Bill also introduced me to spiritual direction: It’s not head work so much, but the heart work that we need to do.” To Martinson and Smith’s influences, Alitz added that “[Professor of New Testament] Craig Koester’s raw energy about the gospel changed the way I saw it working in the world.”

Alitz also warmly credited Mary Hess, assistant professor of educational leadership, with presenting an entirely new ministry opportunity to her. “She has a way of opening up Christian education to being new, different and exciting.

I never would have looked at a director of children’s ministry position without what she showed me of its vital importance.”

One year later, Alitz summarizes her work in the parish. “It’s about putting Jesus in front of people, and it’s a humble and wonderful privilege to minister to families in this way.”

The M.A. programs at Luther Seminary include eight concentrations, with eleven specialties within these concentrations:


In addition are the M.S.M. and the M.A. in M.Div. and Master of Social Work dual degree, in association with four nearby educational institutions: the colleges of St. Olaf, Augsburg, St. Catherine’s and the University of St. Thomas.
Youth and Family Distributive Learning Program Lets Students Throughout U.S. Stay in Ministry While Attending Seminary

By Sheri Booms Holm, director of publications, student profiles by Margaret Bese

Youth and family ministry has grown up.

In his nearly three decades of work in youth and family ministry, Hal Weldin, ’84, has seen it mature and evolve, with a significant number of youth ministers having seven or more years’ experience serving congregations.

“Even 15 years ago we didn’t have folks with that kind of tenure. Now we do,” he said. But, most have no theological training, he added, and that concerns him.

While Luther has offered its M.A. in Youth and Family Ministry for 27 years, the program usually meant that students who lived outside the Twin Cities had to relocate in order to attend seminary. “I look out at the Lutheran Church and see people with all this experience who want a master’s level education but aren’t able or willing to leave their ministry,” Weldin said.

How to provide graduate theological education to these ministers and allow them to stay in the ministry to which they are called has been a priority for Luther Seminary, and a personal vision for Weldin.

The result of these planning is the three-year-old Master of Arts in Youth and Family Distributive Learning Program.

Weldin is an adjunct faculty member and coordinator of the program.

Faculty & Staff Notes (continued)

Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, will give the American Scientific Affiliation/Templeton Lectures at McMaster University Divinity College in Ontario, Canada, Sept. 21 and 22. His main lecture is entitled “The Role of God in Modern Science: Where Naturalism and Intelligent Design Go Wrong.” He will also speak on “Does God Know All the Future? Reflections on the Openness of God Debate,” and “The Myth of a Purely Historical Jesus.”

Meet Kelly Fryer

Assistant Professor of Congregational Leadership

When Kelly Fryer looks around, she sees a changing world.

“The mission field isn’t ‘out there’ anymore,” she says. “It’s here in our own communities. Yet we tend to do church in a way that’s out of sync with the mission field that surrounds us.”

Fryer’s title, a new one at Luther, signals a new understanding of congregational leadership. “We must reimagine and rethink what it means to be church, and that means we must reimagine and rethink what it means to be a leader,” she says.

Fifty years ago, church was what happened when people gathered inside the building. “But in a mission field, the church is not a gathering place, but a place from which people are sent,” Fryer says. “Our job is to equip people to work in the world—in banks, beauty parlors, or offices. This view of church changes the meaning of leadership.”

Congregational leaders need to understand the context, speak the language, and understand the needs and perspectives of the congregation.

STORY Third Quarter 2004

Meet Kelly Fryer

Assistant Professor of Congregational Leadership

When Kelly Fryer looks around, she sees a changing world.

“The mission field isn’t ‘out there’ anymore,” she says. “It’s here in our own communities. Yet we tend to do church in a way that’s out of sync with the mission field that surrounds us.”

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Congregational leaders need to understand the context, speak the language, and understand the needs and perspectives of the congregation.

This might mean learning Spanish or the dialect of Chicago’s Southside, understanding Islam or urban life.

An adult convert, Fryer became a Lutheran because she loved the theology of “a God who always comes down to meet us.” This grace-filled message is “at the heart of what it means to be Lutheran,” she says.

Ordained in 1989, Fryer holds a master’s in theology from Lutheran School of Theology in suburban Chicago and is completing a Ph.D. with an emphasis on missiology. Before coming to Luther, she led Cross of Glory, a redeveloping mission congregation in Chicago.

Fryer hopes that her students will leave class with a sense of urgency, a spirit of adventure, and the courage to try new things. “This is God’s world. It’s a good world, but it’s broken. God has called us to be partners in making it whole,” she says, adding, “Either the church is in mission, or it isn’t the church.”

Luedke Appointed

Associate Dean

Dr. Ivan Luedke, associate professor of rural ministry, has been appointed Associate Dean—Massial Pastors, effective July 1, 2004. Luedke joined the Luther Seminary faculty in July 2001. He follows Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament, who has served as an associate dean since 2001.
Kelly Fryer, assistant professor of congregational leadership, is contributing editor of A Story Worth Sharing. Engaging Evangelism, a book for congregational leaders that also contains chapters by Richard Bliese, academic dean, and Patrick Kesfert, professor of systematic theology. This Fall Augsburg Fortress is releasing a video edition of her book, Reclaiming the Lost Voice: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core for use by congregational adult education programs.

Gracia Grintal, ’80, professor of rhetoric, led a group from Mt. Carmel Morningstar through Norway and Denmark as part of a study on the life and legacy of Hans Nielsen Hauge. She led a workshop on paraphrasing the Psalms for the HymnSociety’s summer gathering. Two poems she wrote about former professor Jim Rittelson will be published in an upcoming issue of Theology Today.

Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament, gave a keynote presentation at the St. Olaf College conference on worship, theology and the arts in July. She led the Bible-studies at the East Central Wisconsin Synod Assembly, and spoke at a leadership conference for women church leaders in the Twin Cities in June. This summer she has been researching—with a medieval art historian from the University of St. Thomas—the development of the Christian community in Aquila (Italy) in the early 4th century.

Mary Hess, assistant professor of educational leadership, wrote a chapter on “The Bible and Popular Culture: Engaging Sacred Text in a World of Others” for the book New Paradigms for Bible Study: The Bible in the Third Millennium (Fowler, Blumhofer and Segovia, eds., T & T Clark, 2004).

Arland Hultgren, Asher O and Carrie Niabky Professor of New Testament, is many as a ‘thriller,’ ‘can’t put it down,’ and ‘it gave me strange warning of the fret.’ It is one of the few theological tomes ‘properly illustrated’ by cartoons.

Paul Sponsheim, ’77, professor emeritus of systematic theology, gave the concluding plenary lecture at the Summer Theological Conference at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., in July. The conference focused on “God and Science.”


Coming to a Town Near You

Kelly Fryer, assistant professor of congregational leadership, will give the keynote presentation at the Thrivent conference in Springfield, Ill., Sept. 23, and at the Partners in Faith Tri-Synod Event for the Delaware/Maryland/Metropolitan Washington D.C. synods in October. She will also give the keynote address at the Oregon Synod’s Congregational Resource Event Oct. 8-9 and the Western North Dakota GTFS gathering Nov. 5-6.

Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament, will teach a five-part class on the book of Romans at Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, Minn., in October and November.

Distributive Learning (continued)

your course has no set place or time—unless you yourself set them.

“We send a box of Luther Seminary’s Swinnerton Books to new students, including a student with their own Swinnerton Books. Students are given the book of their choice to read and reflect on during the school year,” said Rev. Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament. ‘The Funct

Five Reasons Your Congregation’s Youth and Family Minister (Maybe that’s You) Should Receive a Theological Education

Hal Weldon explains why advanced theological training is so important for those ministering to adolescents and their families.

1. The vocation of youth and family ministry has come into adulthood. Congregations need both skilled and theologically trained people. For many of our M.A. grads, they and the church’s pastors are the only ones with formal theological training.

2. Our North American culture, entering adulthood has become increasingly more difficult. For one thing, adolescence lasts longer—some say 11 to 24. We need new thinking, and skilled practitioners to care for and nurture the spiritual needs of these young people, especially those in the later adolescent years.

3. The family structure has changed drastically. Moms and dads need spiritual nurturing, too. We need trained ministers who can be there for whole families.

4. For those called to serve youth and families in congregations, teaching one’s own stuff gets old after a few years. Theological education changes how you look at everything, bringing new insights. Youth and family ministers are so hungry to learn. They are looking for deep theological reflection.

5. This program is a great way for congregations to invest not just in their youth and family director, but in their entire youth and family ministry program. The longer a director stays, the greater the chances of having a more established and stronger ministry.
Meet Two Distributive Learning Students

Heather Hansen

Heather Hansen, director of youth and family ministry at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas, was one of the first students to participate in Luther’s distance learning program. Hansen says that “balancing school and work” has been a challenge, but it is better than moving,” which was a large component in her decision to pursue a degree from Luther. “It’s been a blessing to stay in my setting, it’s been easier to incorporate the new things I learn.” In particular, Hansen cites the on-campus courses as productive. “They’re all-day classes with a lot of material. You do the reading beforehand, and the homework afterwards, but they’re really intense because there is a lot of thinking.” Hansen graduated with a B.S. in bio-medical engineering from Texas A&M. Her work in the church began when she realized “I enjoyed working with people in relational jobs—that’s where my strengths are.” She began working in youth ministry part-time, and found her calling. “A child I was working with asked how long I was going to be at the church, and that was an eye-opening question.” Hansen has worked a full-time at her parish for three years. Her decision to attend Luther Seminary arose from her realization that she “needed a stronger background to do what I wanted to do. I grew up Lutheran, but I wasn’t very familiar with the Bible. I felt good as an activities director, but I didn’t feel as good at ministry.” Hansen feels her experiences at Luther have already helped her in her ministry in San Antonio. “The benefits have definitely been worth it. Every class I’ve taken has felt very practical. It’s been a long process, but I’ve already grown and changed.” In particular, Hansen notes her increasing skills at writing curriculum and having conversations about faith with the church’s youth. “My philosophy has changed, I want to reach the whole family, to teach faith at home and not just create another group for kids to participate in.”

After graduating this December ‘04, Hansen plans to remain with her current parish and continue her work. “Long-term goals have come from my studies. I want to be better about outreach and have the church grow out towards the neighborhood.” In addition, Hansen plans to become more involved in her synod, including attending the tri-synodical convention. “This education has been a life-changing experience. It’s been challenging, and I’m growing professionally and in my own faith.”

Jason Miller

Jason Miller just finished his first year in the distributive learning program. Prior to his studies at Luther, Miller felt “at a loss to find a program that would enable me to study but stay in my ministry at home.” Miller is currently the director of youth and family ministries at his parish at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church in Sarasota, Fla. His experience in the program has been a positive one. “The fact that some of the classes are online forces you to contribute, forces you to learn.”

It is more rewarding.” Miller has participated in on-campus classes both in St. Paul and during the summer term, and during the fall he participated in a one-week intensive course in June. “The intensives allow you to match the classes with the names you’re striving towards. You also get to work face to face with the instructors.”

Coming to the campus “allows me to identify as a Luther student.” Attending classes on campus helps build a “sense of community as both a Luther student and a Luther graduate,” he said.

Miller’s reasons for coming to Luther are twofold. First, the theology degree takes care of the requirements needed to go on the roster as an associate in ministry in the ELCA. The second is to aid his job of nurturing young people in their relationship with God. “I came back to the church rather late in life, and I felt I needed a strong background in Lutheran theology.” His aspirations during his time at Luther include learning “about God and how God’s word fits together with my life, and how I can grow professionally and in my own faith.”

Denny Everson Retires

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

Denny Everson, B.D. ’66, M.T.H. ’72, was serving as a parish pastor in Erskine, Minn., when he got a call from former Luther Seminary and Northwestern Seminary director of contextual education, Dick Vangruyl, asking him to consider interviewing for a new faculty position in contextual education. “I told him no,” Everson said. “I’d only been at my congregation for three years, and it didn’t feel right to leave that soon. [Vangruyl] was disappointed, but he said he understood.” Shortly afterwards, Everson shared about the phone call with his bishop. “He told me, ‘You have no choice. You must go.’ I asked him why. He said, ‘If the seminary can’t get who they want, where will the church be then?’”

For 26 years, Everson put the church’s need for strong teachers and leaders in their seminaries ahead of his love for parish ministry. He served as director for contextual education at Luther Seminary from 1979 until he retired in June 2004. “My call is to the ministry of the church,” he said. “I have gone where the call takes me.”

“Over the years, I had several opportunities to return to the parish. But each time the seminary asked me to stay. And I am glad I did.”

In many ways, he discovered, being on the Luther Seminary faculty gave him a bigger perspective of the church at large than simply working in one congregation. Much of his job involved relating to students during their internship year, and then processing that year with seniors once they returned to campus. “You could see such a change in those seniors—in their sense of call, their focus on theological study. One study showed such a significant internship was such a watershed experience for so many of them,” he said: “I gained great satisfaction of working with students of, of trying to be their pastor while they were away on internship. It was a privilege to travel to their congregations and visit them.”

Everson’s heart for bringing the gospel to God’s people has led him across the globe. Fresh out of seminary, he spent nine years as a missionary in Ethiopia for the American Lutheran Church, where he served as a pastor, taught at Mekane Yesus Seminary, and managed the mass-media program for the American Lutheran Church’s Division for World Mission. He has also been a visiting professor in Tanzania and Papua New Guinea, and a visiting pastor in Poland and Switzerland.

His connection with students on internship underscores his belief that the church needs to intentionally train leaders in how to share Christ’s story. Earlier this year, he taught practical missiology at the seven-year-old seminary of the Ingrain Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Russia. “Under the former Soviet system, there was no church. The faith was passed along by women who gathered in cemeteries to honor their dead, and secretly baptize babies and pray and share scripture. It wasn’t until 1990 that they were able to start worshiping openly. But God has been at work there, and now they need to train leaders. It was a privilege and great experience for me to do some of that training,” he said. “There are very powerful stories of faith there.”

Everson’s own story of faith includes an incredible love for the parish, something he tried to offer his students during his tenure at Luther Seminary.

“‘There is nothing like tending a flock, having the privilege to walk with them, bringing the word to bear in their lives, having that sacramental touch,’” he said. “It is a combination that is overwhelming for anyone who has some sense of what the Lord is calling them to.”

It was most apparent, he said, when he would make visits. “Sometimes students would be feeling so far away from the seminary—out in Idaho, or South Dakota, or northwestern Minnesota, and I would just show up in those little places where they were serving. And the simple act of my coming to them showed that the seminary cared. I tried to be their father then, to listen carefully, to respond to their concerns, to offer encouragement, to share my own experience.”

Though he is enjoying time in Park Rapids, Minn.—where he has moved with his wife Joanne—Everson also relishes the opportunities that will present themselves over the next few years. He already has invitations to return to the seminaries in Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, and Russia.

“I’m enjoying the freedom right now,” he said. “But there is always this sense that as a pastor, another opportunity to share the gospel is just around the corner.”

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Robert Bruis (continued)

Bruis could be counted to attend the many Luther events, concerts, hymnals, readings, and worship services presented by Master of Sacred Music students.

Bruis has appreciated what the students bring to the worship life of the seminary community. “Students are dedicated to worship. They offer their talents. Without them, worship would be hollow,” he expressed particular gratitude for the many student acclamants who have served with him over the years to make sure daily chapel ran smoothly and meaningfully.

That hasn’t always been easy. Yet another mystery for Bruis to examine and solve has been chapel’s style of worship. Denominationally, and even in the ELCA, “there’s a wide variety of expressions: liturgical, preaching, music,” he said. “It’s been difficult but satisfying finding a balance to these expressions. When students come back for Mid-Winter Convocation or continuing education, they often say what they miss most is daily chapel and the singing.”

Still, Bruis has seen changes to the worship life of the community. As more people live off campus, it’s been harder to sustain some of the occasional services, like evening prayer, he noted. But prayer and meditation are still an integral part of a student’s life. Bruis has developed small chapels in Bobbett Hall for those living and working there, and one in the Sandgren apartment complex, as well.

In all, he was in charge of six chapels. One of Bruis’s joys has been playing baritone with the Luther Brass. The seminary ensemble is comprised of students, faculty and staff. “It’s been a rich and rewarding experience,” he said. “I’m amazed and gratified by the quality of musicians who have been a part of the group.” He has particularly enjoyed the annual reunion of Luther Brass alumni who bring their horns to play with the group during Mid-Winter Convocation.

...you’ll find out that what has been most rewarding for him “is being in relationship with students as their pastor.”

Working with the arts has been meaningful for Bruis, as well. He is a member of the Luther Seminary Fine Arts Committee that oversees the acquisitions of new art and the installation of exhibits at Luther. “I have been amazed at the significant pieces that have been given to the seminary over the years,” he said.

Bruis has liked how the Chapel of the Incarnation acts as a fluid space, allowing for specific season-appropriate art throughout the liturgical year. Bruis has done a lot of writing, such as book reviews and articles for Word & World, Sunday and Seasons, and as co-editor of the annual Advent and Lenten devotional. He has chosen the themes and texts and has written several of the meditations since the devotional’s inception.

Outside of seminary, Bruis, the mystery buff, is a great fan of Sherlock Holmes. He and Lucy are members of the Norwegian Explorers, which is Minnesota’s chapter of the Sherlock Holmes Society. He serves on its board, and is a member of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University of Minnesota’s Wilson Library.

Into the Mystery

Bruis’s plans for retirement? “My hope is to find new things to do, books to read, places to go,” he replied. But he does admit that, beyond that, it is somewhat of a mystery. “This is the first time in 60 years I haven’t been in school!”

Fritz Wehrenberg
University Lutheran Center
Iowa State University, Ames

uestion: Who’s the Typical D.Min. Student? Answer: There Isn’t One.

By Nancy Giguerre, special correspondent

There’s no such thing as a typical Doctor of Ministry student at Luther Seminary. Even though each cohort (a peer group that goes through the program together) studies the same field, the pastors use their own unique ministries to inform the work they do with what they’ve learned.

Meet three D.Min. students in Congregational Mission and Leadership with three very diverse ministries.

He notes that Lutheran participation in honest, faithful public discourse is a part of a tradition that began nearly 500 years ago when Luther posted his 95 theses on the “public bulletin board.”

The program’s required theological readings and biblical work have already altered the direction of Wehrenberg’s ministry. In both his preaching and one-on-one work, he is now interested in learning contextually how students describe their experience of God. “I’m asking different questions, and I’m hearing different stories,” he says. “I’m letting God work through me in a new way.”

As a result, the students are now talking with each other about faith in ways they haven’t done before. Through their participation in a semester-long gift discernment process and in faith-sharing groups, students are beginning to connect the “going-to-church experience” with the rest of their lives.

Wehrenberg notes that the church likes to emphasize youth and family ministry. “But youth stops around age 18 after high school graduation and families start about age 30.” In many ways, those in their 20s are marginalized by the church. That 12-year gap is a mission field,” he says.

Although young adults on campus are very spiritual, Wehrenberg believes it’s a mistake to think that they will return to church once they have their own children. “We have something important to share with people of this age, and we must be articulate, understanding and creative in our ministry,” he says.

When Jill Gendreau chats with parishioners over coffee, she doesn’t do it in the church basement after the Sunday service. She does it at Soul Cafe, a coffee and dessert bar in downtown Hood River, where the town’s unchurched residents come to find community and discuss spiritual concerns.

“We want to provide an opportunity for outsiders to initiate questions,” says Gendreau, who serves as Soul Cafe’s lead mission explorer. “What we hope to do is help people experience and participate in being church.”

It’s a new kind of ministry, and Gendreau admits, “We’re not always sure what we’re doing.” But that’s all right, she says, because Soul Cafe is “about what God is doing.”

Gendreau has found companions for this journey: the unknown in the Doctor of Ministry program. She enjoys the biannual gatherings of her cohort and the opportunity to continue the conversation online. “I’ve grown so much through the give and take of the cohort model,” she says. “The program helped us see the necessity of asking ‘What is church? Why are we here and what are we doing?’”

Fritz Wehrenberg
University Lutheran Center
Iowa State University, Ames

Makena Win-Win Gift Today

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www.luthersem.edu/gifts/plannedgiving

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Soul Cafe has been enriched by projects that connect Gendreau’s class work directly to her ministry. One project involved helping people rethink the Trinity and its impact on the life of faith. Another dealt with the practice of faith in daily life.

In addition to becoming a more effective missional leader in her current ministry, Gendreau looks forward to being a part of the Oregon Synod’s ongoing visioning process. “I want to develop the skills needed to be a leader in the ELCA,” she says. “I love the ELCA, and I want to be a part of its growth, both numerically and spiritually.”

She believes that the North American mission field includes many people who consider themselves “spiritual but not religious.” Most are not interested in going to church but are drawn to ministries like Soul Cafe. “Some people in the church see this as a negative,” Gendreau says. “But I think the church is called to respond in a positive way.”

Randy Olson, Ascension Lutheran Church, Paradise Valley, Arizona

Located in an affluent suburb of Phoenix, Ascension Lutheran Church is in the midst of revitalization. Its 40-year-old building, created by a son-in-law of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is at the center of this renewal.

“We are coming to grips with our identity and context,” says Senior Pastor Randy Olson. “Our building is a work of art, and we are finding ways to use art as a vehicle for witness and outreach to neighbors and the community.”

When Olson learned about the Doctor of Ministry from a coworker at the church, he was excited. “It’s emphasis on missional vision fits our needs,” he says. He believes that both he and his congregation will grow through his work in the program. “I’m enrolled, but the congregation is also enrolled,” he says. “We are encouraged to identify projects that connect class work with congregational life. And my projects so far have had a direct impact on our ministry.”

Olson’s participation in the program invites his congregation into the same conversation that he and the members of his cohort are engaged in. He believes his own leadership development will be reflected in the development of the congregation’s leadership. “As I mature as a missional leader, the congregation is maturing as a center for mission. It’s really about the priesthood of all believers,” says Olson, who hopes that he can one day serve as a resource for the Grand Canyon Synod.

Olson believes that the mission field lies outside his door in the affluent community that surrounds Ascension Lutheran. “We have to learn a new language to communicate the gospel to people who are detached from faith practices,” he says. “We also have to learn how to communicate with winter visitors so we can embrace them and integrate them into our ministry.”

Luther’s Doctor of Ministry program provides excellent preparation for this work. “All course content relates to our work as missionaries in the North American context,” Olson says.

For more information, visit www.luthersem.edu/dmin and click on “Congregational Mission and Leadership.”
Martin Luther calls a faithful friend a “blessing and a treasure.” Brother Martin has it exactly right! The financial and prayerful support from our faithful donors is indeed a blessing to this seminary and a gift that will bless congregations and other Christian communities through the leaders they call. As stewards of the gifts we’ve received, we see the difference the generous support has made. Please study this annual report. We send it to recognize our faithful friends and to express how much Luther Seminary treasures them. Thank you!

In good faith,

David L. Tiede
President

Luther Seminary and Foundation
2003–2004 Consolidated Balance Sheet

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<td><strong>$98,157,215</strong></td>
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| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Notes Payable, Current Portion | ($60,031) | ($455,987) |
| Capital leases, Current Portion | (73,832) | (70,713) |
| Accounts Payable | (560,395) | (458,243) |
| Accrued Expenses | (766,853) | (433,482) |
| Deposits and Deferred Revenue | (293,327) | (284,733) |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | **$1,218,438** | **$1,270,715** |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | | |
| Deferred Gift Obligations | ($7,353,338) | ($6,853,400) |
| Notes Payable | (2,051,808) | (2,049,173) |
| Capital leases | (128,106) | (57,392) |
| Advances from Government for Federal Student Loans | (1,986,092) | (1,656,787) |
| **Total Long-Term Liabilities** | **$11,519,344** | **$10,615,841** |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES** | **$13,777,782** | **$11,886,556** |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Change from Current Year Activity | | |
| Unrestricted | ($16,162,377) | ($16,406,180) |
| Temporarily Restricted | (14,425,416) | (16,566,625) |
| Permanently Restricted | (4,695,437) | (52,887,386) |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS** | **$80,042,230** | **$85,840,218** |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | **$93,720,012** | **$98,157,215** |

*figures unaudited
Financial Facts: 2003–2004 Fiscal Year*  

- **Student Academic Programs:** $10,249,867  
- **Institutional Support:** $5,249,875  
- **Grants and Scholarships:** $2,890,395  
- **Physical Plant and Maintenance:** $18,455,859  
- **Total Expenses:** $53,852,559

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM EXPENSES 2003–2004**

- **Gifts and Grants:** $6,952,143  
- **Tuition and Fees:** $3,890,906  
- **Endowment Income:** $2,864,569  
- **Tuition and Fees:** $2,411,538  
- **Restricted Funds Used for Operations:** $1,324,402  
- **Total Income:** $18,585,710

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INCOME 2003–2004**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATION:** 2003–2004 Enrollment

- **Students Representing Non-Lutheran Denominations:** 758 Students
- **544 Full-Time:** 214 Part-Time

**STUDENT BODY PROFILE**

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**NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER REGION OF THE ELCA**

- **758 Students**
- **544 Full-Time:** 214 Part-Time

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

- **29 Students from 26 Countries**
  - **15 Female:** 14 Male
  - **Women:** 15
  - **Men:** 14

**STUDENTS REPRESENTING NON-ELCA TRADITIONS**

- **106 Students from 29 Institutions**
  - **95 Female:** 11 Male
  - **Women:** 95
  - **Men:** 11

**STUDENT AID PROFILE**

- **Financial Aid and Direct Support For Students From Congregations:** $3,191,745
- **United:** $4,000

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

- **Size of Luther Seminary’s Endowment:** $53,852,559
- **Investment Returns For Past Year:** 18% (average of 18% over the past ten years)
- **Current Fund Gift Summary:**
  - **Unrestricted Current Funds:** $4,500,955
  - **Restricted Current Funds:** $2,451,161
  - **Total:** $6,952,143

**Fundraising Costs**

- For every dollar spent on fundraising at Luther Seminary, $7.65 is returned to the academic program. Another way to look at it is that Luther Seminary spends 13 cents to raise $1, well below industry averages.

**FINANCIAL AID PROFILE**

- **Financial Aid and Direct Support For Students From Congregations:** $3,191,745
- **Tuition:** $4,000

**Annual Living Expenses For Students**

- **Including board:** $13,600

**Number of Students Who Receive Financial Aid:** 454

**Average Award Package:** $13,600

**Number of Full Scholarships Awarded:** 44

*Figures unaudited
D.Min. Students (continued)

Soul Cafe has been enriched by projects that connect Gendreau’s class work directly to her ministry. One project involved helping people rethink the Trinity and its impact on the life of faith. Another dealt with the practice of faith in daily life.

In addition to becoming a more effective missional leader in her current ministry, Gendreau looks forward to being a part of the Oregon Synod’s ongoing visioning process. “I want to develop the skills needed to be a leader in the ELCA,” she says. “I love the ELCA, and I want to be a part of its growth, both numerically and spiritually.”

She believes that the North American mission field includes many people who consider themselves “spiritual but not religious.” Most are not interested in going to church but are drawn to ministries like Soul Cafe. “Some people in the church see this as a negative,” Gendreau says. “But I think the church is called to respond in a positive way.”

Pastor Randy Olson. “Our building is a work of art, and we are finding ways to use art as a vehicle for witness and outreach to neighbors and the community.”

When Olson learned about the Doctor of Ministry from a coworker at the church, he was excited. “It’s emphasis on missional vision fit our needs,” he says. He believes that both he and his congregation will grow through his work in the program. “I’m enrolled, but the congregation is also enrolled,” he says. “We are encouraged to identify projects that connect class work with congregational life. And my projects so far have had a direct impact on our ministry.”

Olson’s participation in the program invites his congregation into the same conversation that he and the members of his cohort are engaged in. He believes his own leadership development will be reflected in the development of the congregation’s leadership.

“As I mature as a missional leader, the congregation is maturing as a center for mission. It’s really about the priesthood of all believers,” says Olson, who hopes that he can one day serve as a resource for the Grand Canyon Synod.

Olson believes that the mission field lies outside his door in the affluent community that surrounds Ascension Lutheran. “We have to learn a new language to communicate the gospel to people who are detached from faith practices,” he says. “We also have to learn how to communicate with winter visitors so we can embrace them and integrate them into our ministry.”

Luther’s Doctor of Ministry program provides excellent preparation for this work. “All course content relates to our work as missionaries in the North American context,” Olson says. ●

Meet Some of the New Biblical Preaching D.Min. Students

This past June 14 pastors from across the country met at Luther Seminary for the first Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching cohort.

You can meet some of these pastors, too. Visit Luther’s Web site to see video clips of these new D.Min. students. Find out what drew them to the program. Hear them describe the cohort process, and learn about some of the discoveries in preaching they’ve already uncovered.

To view the videos, visit www.luthersem.edu/dmin/ and click on “Biblical Preaching.” ●

Robert Brusic: Seminary Man of Mystery

By Sheri Booms Holm, director of publications

Bob Brusic loves a mystery.

There is the mystery of the divine revealed in the breaking of the bread, reflected in a Russian icon or echoed in a hymn. Then there are the mysteries solved by the likes of Sherlock Holmes and a bevy of “at least 20 dergy sleuths.” Brusic seeks out and encounters all these mysteries with an ever-present sense of delight.

“It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God through Jesus Christ,” Marty Haugen’s liturgy announces, and for Brusic, who retired this July after 15 years at Luther Seminary as seminary pastor, and more than 30 years in ministry, duty and delight have gone hand in hand.

East Meets Midwest

Growing up and serving parishes on the East Coast, Brusic never thought he’d end up in Minnesota. He was recommended for the call as seminary pastor by Professor Emeritus Lee Snooke, who was teaching systematics at Luther and had served with Brusic in Ithaca, N.Y. A persistent President Tiede encouraged him to prayerfully consider the position, invited him to visit campus several times, and kept the offer in the forefront of Brusic’s mind, even calling on an Easter Sunday. “I don’t know if I said yes, or if I just stopped saying no,” Brusic said with a grin.

There was a reason Tiede was so determined. Brusic came to the seminary wonderfully qualified to minister to a campus parish. Throughout his ministry, reaching out to the local university community was an integral part of the pastoral care he offered.

“I have felt what’s important for the church is to reach out to the neighborhood, and that includes businesses and universities,” he explained.

This has included establishing a Lutheran presence at MIT while still a student at Harvard Divinity School. After graduation he served the Cornell University community with Snooke. In Philadelphia, after serving a Germantown congregation for four years, he became a headmaster for a Missouri Synod parochial school, “the hardest job I ever had.” His tenure involved working to salvage a struggling school by helping it merge with another private academy and moving it to a new campus. After three years, Brusic accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven, Conn., where for 14 years he and his congregation were heavily involved in the community, which included campus ministry. Brusic even taught a polity course at Yale.

Then came Tiede’s first phone call to Brusic during Holy Week of 1989, asking him to submit his name for the call as seminary pastor at Luther Seminary. This out-of-the-blue request from Minnesota may have seemed a mystery to Brusic at the time, and perhaps that’s why he and spouse Lucy just had to find out where it would lead.

Life at Luther

Ask Brusic what his call at Luther has been and he will say that it has been primarily one to oversee the worship life of the seminary. Luten for a while, and you’ll find out that what has been most rewarding for him “is being in relationship with students as their pastor.”

“I’ve really been blessed in all my calls that I can knock heads with students,” Brusic said. “Knocking heads” has translated into being a pastoral presence on campus. “I feel like an undercover agent. Most students have a church pastor. I’m a parish pastor. I mingle with them, I’m part of the community,” he explained.

For example, a simple trip to dinging services for a cup of coffee often grew from a five-minute task to an hour or more as he took time to greet and catch up with students, faculty and staff—all whom he considered members of his parish.

And a presence he has been. Besides the daily work on campus, both
Brus: has developed small chapels in Bockman Hall for those living and working there, and in the Sandgren apartment complex, as well. In all, he was in charge of six chapels.

One of Bruis’s joys has been playing baritone with the Luther Brass. The seminary ensemble is comprised of students, faculty and staff. “It’s been a rich and rewarding experience,” he said. “I’m amazed and gratified by the quality of musicians who have been a part of the group.” He has particularly enjoyed the annual reunion of Luther Brass alumni who bring their horns to play with the group during Mid-Winter Convocation.

...you’ll find out that what has been most rewarding for him “being in relationship with students as their pastor.”

Working with the arts has been meaningful for Bruis, as well. He is a member of the Luther Seminary Fine Arts Committee that oversees the acquisitions of new art and the installation of exhibits at Luther. “I have been amazed at the significant pieces that have been given to the seminary over the years,” he said.

Brus: has liked how the Chapel of the Incarnation acts as a fluid space, allowing for specific season-appropriate art throughout the liturgical year.

He notes that Lutheran participation in honest, faithful public discourse is part of a tradition that began nearly 500 years ago when Luther posted his 95 theses on the “public bulletin board.”

The program’s required theological readings and biblical work have already altered the direction of Wehrenberg’s ministry. In both his preaching and one-on-one work, he is now interested in learning contextually how students describe their experience of God. “I’m asking different questions, and I’m hearing different stories,” he says. “I’m letting God work through me in a new way.”

As a result, the students are now talking with each other about faith in ways they haven’t done before. Through their participation in a semester-long gift discernment process and in faith-sharing groups, students are beginning to connect the “going-to-church experience” with the rest of their lives.

Wehrenberg notes that the church likes to emphasize youth and family ministry. “But youth stops around age 18 after high school graduation, and families start about age 30. In many ways, those in their 20s are marginalized by the church. That 12-year gap is a mission field,” he says.

Although young adults on campus are very spiritual, Wehrenberg believes it’s a mistake to think that they will return to church once they have their own children. “We have something important to share with people of this age, and we must be articulate, understanding and creative in our ministry,” he says.

By Nancy Giguerre, special correspondent

There’s no such thing as a typical Doctor of Ministry student at Luther Seminary. Even though each cohort (a peer group that goes through the program together) studies the same field, the pastors use their own unique ministries to inform the work they do with what they’ve learned.

Meet three D.Min. students in Congregational Mission and Leadership with three very diverse ministries.

Fritz Wehrenberg
University Lutheran Center
Iowa State University, Ames

For Fritz Wehrenberg, campus pastor at Iowa State University in Ames, the Doctor of Ministry program is a natural. “A college campus is full of people whose lives revolve around studying,” he says. “The students love it that I, too, have papers to write.”

More importantly, the program is germane to his work at the University Lutheran Center. “This particular call is to a public institution where people are engaged in serious discussion. It’s important for Lutherans to be at the table,” Wehrenberg says.

While Jill Gendreau chats with parishioners over coffee, she doesn’t do it in the church basement after the Sunday service. She does it at Soul Cafe, a coffee and dessert bar in downtown Hood River, where the town’s unchurched residents come to find community and discuss spiritual concerns.

“We want to provide an opportunity for outsiders to initiate questions,” says Gendreau, who serves as Soul Cafe’s lead mission explorer. “We hope what we do is help people experience and participate in being church.”

It’s a new kind of ministry, and Gendreau admits, “We’re not always sure what we’re doing.” But that’s all right, she says, because Soul Cafe is “about what God is doing.”

Gendreau has found companions for this journey into the unknown in the Doctor of Ministry program. She enjoys the bimonthly gatherings of her cohort and the opportunity to continue the conversation online. “I’ve grown so much through the give and take of the cohort model,” she says. “The program helps us see the necessity of asking ‘What is church? Why are we here and what are we doing?’”

STORY Third Quarter 2004

STORY: Who’s the Typical D.Min. Student? Answer: There Isn’t One.

Question: Who’s the Typical D.Min. Student? Answer: There Isn’t One.
Meet Two Distributive Learning Students

Heather Hansen

Heather Hansen, director of youth and family ministry at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas, was one of the first students to participate in Luther’s distance learning program. Hansen says that “balancing school and work” has been a challenge, but it is better than moving, which was a large component in her decision to pursue a degree from Luther. “It’s been a blessing to stay in my setting,” in particular, Hansen cites the on-campus courses as productive. “They’re all-day classes with a lot of material. You do the reading beforehand, and the homework afterwards, but they’re really intense because there is a lot of thinking.”

Hansen graduated with a B.S. in bio-medical engineering from Texas A&M. Her work in the church began when she realized “I enjoyed working with people in relational jobs—that’s where my strengths are.” She began working in youth ministry part-time, and found her calling. “A child I was working with asked how long I was going to be at the church, and that was an eye-opening question.” Hansen has worked half-time at her parish for three years. Her decision to attend Luther Seminary arose from her realization that she “needed a stronger background to do what I wanted to do. I grew up Lutheran, but I wasn’t very familiar with the Bible. I felt good as an activities director, but I didn’t feel as good at ministry.”

Hansen feels her experiences at Luther have already helped her in her ministry in San Antonio. “The benefits have definitely been worth it. Every class I’ve taken has felt very practical. It’s been a long process, but I’ve already grown and changed.” In particular, Hansen notes her increasing skills at writing curriculum and having conversations about faith with the church’s youth. “My philosophy has changed, I want to reach the whole family, to teach faith at home and not just create another group for kids to participate in.”

After graduating this December ’04, Hansen plans to remain with her current parish and continue her work. “Long-term goals have come from my studies. I want to be better about outreach and have the church grow out towards the neighborhood.” In addition, Hansen plans to become more involved in her synod, including attending the tri-synodal convention. “This education has been a life-changing experience. It’s been challenging, and how I’m growing professionally and in my own faith.”

Jason Miller

Jason Miller just finished his first year in the distributive learning program. Prior to his studies at Luther, Miller felt “at a loss to find a program that would enable me to study but stay in my ministry at home.” Miller is currently the director of youth and family ministries at his parish at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church in Sarasota, Fla. His experience in the program has been a positive one. “The fact that some of the classes are online forces you to contribute, forces you to learn.”

It is more rewarding.” Miller has participated in on-campus classes both at St. Louis and Concordia—both during the January term, and during a one-week intensive course in June. “The intensives allow you to match the faces with the names you’re learning about. You also get to work face to face with the instructors.”

Coming to the campus “allows me to identify as a Luther student.” Attending classes on campus helps build a “sense of community as both a Luther student and a Luther graduate,” he said.

Miller’s reasons for coming to Luther are twofold. First, the theology degree takes care of the requirements needed to go on to the roster as an associate in ministry in the ELCA. The second is to aid his job of nurturing young people in their relationship with God. “I came back to the church rather late in life, and I felt I needed a strong background in Lutheran theology.” His aspirations during his time at Luther include learning “about God and how God’s word fits together with my life, and how I’m growing professionally and in my own faith.”

Denny Everson Retires

By Shelley Cunningham, ’98

Denny Everson, B.D. ’66, M.Th. ’72, was serving as a parish pastor in Erskine, Minn., when he got a call from former Luther Seminary and Northwestern Seminary director of contextual education, Dick Vangerud, asking him to consider interviewing for a new faculty position in contextual education. “I told him no,” Everson said. “I’ve only been at my congregation for three years, and it didn’t feel right to leave that soon.” Vangerud was disappointed, but he said he understood. Shortly afterwards, Everson shared about the phone call with his bishop. “He told me, ‘You have no choice. You must go. ’ I asked him why. He said, ‘If the seminary can’t get who they want, where will the church be then?’”

For 26 years, Everson put the church’s need for strong teachers and leaders in their seminaries ahead of his love for parish ministry. “I served the January term, and during a one-week internship was such a watershed experience for so many of them,” he said. “I gained great satisfaction of working with students, of trying to be their pastor while they were away on internship. It was a privilege to travel to their congregations and visit them.”

Everson’s heart for bringing the gospel to God’s people has led him across the globe. Fresh out of seminary, he spent nine years as a missionary in Ethiopia for the American Lutheran Church, where he served as a pastor, taught at Mekane Yesus Seminary, and managed the mass-media program for the American Lutheran Church’s Division for World Mission. He has also been a visiting professor in Tanzania and Papua New Guinea, and a visiting pastor in Poland and Switzerland.

His connection with students on internship underscores his belief that the church needs to intentionally train leaders in how to share Christ’s story. Earlier this year, he taught practical missiology at the seven-year-old seminary of the Ingrain Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Russia. “Under the former Soviet system, there was no church. The faith was passed along by women who would gather in cemeteries to honor their dead, and secretly baptize babies and pray and share scripture. It wasn’t until 1990 that they were able to start worshiping openly. But God has been at work there, and now they need to train leaders. It was a privilege and great experience for me to do some of that training,” he said. “There are very powerful stories of faith there.”

Everson’s own story of faith includes an incredible love for the parish, something he tried to offer his students during his tenure at Luther Seminary.

“There is nothing like tending a flock, having the privilege to walk with them, bringing the word to bear in their lives, having that sacramental touch,” he said. “It is a combination that is overwhelming for anyone who has some sense of what the Lord is calling them to.”

It was most apparent, he said, when he would make site visits. “Sometimes students would be feeling so far away from the seminary—not in Idaho, or South Dakota, or northwestern Minnesota, and I would just show up in those little places where they were serving. And the simple act of my coming to them showed that the seminary cared. I tried to be their pastor then, to listen carefully, to respond to their concerns, to offer encouragement, to share my own experience.”

Though he is enjoying time in Park Rapids, Minn.—where he has moved with his wife Joanne—Everson also relishes the opportunities that will present themselves over the next few years. He already has invitations to return to the seminaries in Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, and Russia. “I’m enjoying the freedom right now,” he said. “But there is always this sense that as a pastor, another opportunity to share the gospel is just around the corner.”

"I grew up Lutheran, but I wasn’t very familiar with the Bible. I felt good as an activities director, but I didn’t feel as good at ministry.”
Kelly Fryer, assistant professor of congregational leadership, is contributing editor of A Story Worth Sharing. Engaging Evangelism, a book for congregational leaders that also contains chapters by Richard Elise, academic dean, and Patrick Kesfert, professor of systematic theology. This Fall Augsburg Fortress is releasing a video edition of her book, Reclaiming the L Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core for use by congregational adult education programs.

Gracia Grindal, ’80, professor of rhetoric, led a group from Mt. Carmel Methodist Church in Denmark as part of a study on the life and legacy of Hans Nielsen Hauge. She led a workshop on paraphrasing the Psalms for the HymnSociety’s summer gathering. Two poems she wrote about former professor Jim Kettelson will be published in an upcoming issue of Theology Today.

Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament, gave a keynote presentation at the St. Olaf College conference on worship theology and the arts in July. She led the Bible-studies at the East Central Wisconsin Synod Assembly, and spoke at a leadership conference for women church leaders in the Twin Cities in June. This summer she has been researching—with a medieval art historian from the University of St. Thomas—the development of the Christian community in Aquila (Italy) in the early 4th century.

Mary Hess, assistant professor of educational leadership, wrote a chapter on “The Bible and Popular Culture: Engaging Sacred Text in a World of Others” for the book New Paradigms for Bible Study: The Bible in the Third Millennium (Bowler, Blumhofer and Segovia, eds., T & T Clark, 2004). Arland Hultgren,asher O and Carrie Nisly Professor of New Testament, is many as a “driller,” “can’t put it down,” and “it gave me a strange warming of the feet.” It is one of the few theological tomes “properly illustrated” by cartoons.

Paul Sponsheim, ’57, professor emeritus of systematic theology, gave the concluding plenary lecture at the Summer Theological Conference at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., in July. The conference focused on “God and Science.”


Coming to a Town Near You

Kelly Fryer, assistant professor of congregational leadership, will give the keynote presentation at the Thrivent conference in Springfield, Ill., Sept. 23, and at the Partners in Faith Tri-Synod Event for the Delaware/Maryland/Metropolitan Washington D.C. synods in October. She will also give the keynote address at the Oregon Synod’s Congregational Resources Event Oct. 8-9 and the Western North Dakota GIFTS gathering Nov. 5-6.

Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament, will teach a five-part class on the book of Romans at Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, Minn., in October and November.

Distributive Learning (continued)

your course has no set place or time—unless you yourself set them.

“We send a box of Luther Seminar to new students, including a sweatshirt and a mug. The joke is, when it’s study time you wear your sweatshirt and tell your family and congregation that you are now a student,” Weldan said, adding that students who are successful do create that kind of culture in their lives. For example, Debbie Amato and Becky Ungland of St. Louis, Mo., visit different churches but have found studying together extremely effective for learning. In addition, they meet with their pastors on a weekly basis in order to collaborate with the parishes on their studies.

Weldan sees herself as an advocate for the distributive learners in terms of what curriculum Lutheran offers and develops for general online study and for the concentration.

“l think the classroom-based online learning experience is a new science and folks are just learning now what technology can provide.”

Changes and Challenges

Weldan has witnessed the changes advanced theological education has brought to the distributive learners’ ministries.

“The great thing is, when students learn something new, they use it in their Wednesday Bible study. They are teaching differently because of greater understanding of the Gospel,” he said.

He told the story of one student who took the online Foundations of Pastoral Care course developed by Weldan and Roland Martinson, Carrie Olson Baakon Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry. “We have a requirement for students to make a contract with their pastors to supervise their pastoral care. One student was making hospital visits. At the end of her course and visits, her congregation came to view her in a completely different way. She provided significant theological care. She wasn’t just ‘hanging out with the kids’ anymore, but a part of the staff. This is one way theological education transforms how the person is viewed as a resource in his or her congregation.”

The distributive learning program celebrated a milestone this past May when Amy Daniels, director of family ministries at Christ Lutheran Church, Charlotte, N.C., became the first full program graduate. She was nominated by her classmates to be one of the readers at commencement.

There are now 26 active students in the distributive learning program, with eight more on the waiting list. Weldan would like to see the number grow.

“We need to discover what our limits are: I think after ATS [accreditation] the challenge is to strategize how to serve 100 students.”

In addition, Weldan expresses hope that the program will be an impetus for more distributive education that will serve the whole church. “My Lutheran hope is to bump up theological thinking and care for folks in ministry in general.”

Five Reasons Your Congregation’s Youth and Family Minister (Maybe that’s You) Should Receive a Theological Education

Hal Weldan explains why advanced theological training is so important for those ministering to adolescents and their families.

1. The vocation of youth and family ministry has come into adulthood. Congregations need both skilled and theologically trained people. For many of our M.A. grads, they and the church’s pastors are the only ones with formal theological training.

2. In our North American culture, entering adulthood has become increasingly more difficult. For one thing, adolescence lasts longer—some say 11 to 24. We need new thinking, and skilled practitioners to care for and nurture the spiritual needs of these young people, especially those in the later adolescent years.

3. The family structure has changed drastically. Moms and dads need spiritual shepherding, too. We need trained ministers who can be there for whole families.

4. For those called to serve youth and families in congregations, teaching one’s own stuff gets old after a few years. Theological education changes how you look at everything, bringing new insights. Youth and family ministers are so hungry to learn. They are looking for deep theological reflection.

5. This program is a great way for congregations to invest not just in their youth and family director, but in their entire youth and family ministry program. The longer a director stays, the greater the chances of having a more established and stronger ministry.
Youth and Family Distributive Learning Program Lets Students Throughout U.S. Stay in Ministry While Attending Seminary

By Sheri Boomis Holm, director of publications, student profiles by Margaret Best

Youth and family ministry has grown up.

In his nearly three decades of work in youth and family ministry, Hal Weldin, ‘94, has seen it mature and evolve, with a significant number of youth ministers having seven or more years’ experience serving congregations.

“Even 15 years ago we didn’t have folks with that kind of tenure. Now we do,” he said. But, most have no theological training, he added, and that concerns him.

While Luther has offered its M.A in Youth and Family Ministry for 27 years, the program usually meant that students who lived outside the Twin Cities had to relocate in order to attend seminary. “I look out at the Lutheran Church and see people with all this experience who want a master’s level education but aren’t able or willing to leave their ministry,” Weldin said.

How to provide graduate theological education to these ministers and allow them to stay in the ministry to which they are called has been a priority for Luther Seminary, and a personal vision for Weldin.

The result of these planning is the three-year-old Master of Arts in Youth and Family Distributive Learning Program.

Weldin is an adjunct faculty member and coordinator of the program.

“Before I was hired, we had a vision for distributive learning to create a program and lay it against ATS (Association of Theological Schools) standards and start the approval process,” he said. He is pleased that it is meeting the rigorous standards of ATS accreditation and has been provisionally approved until further examination next spring.

What is Distributive Learning?

“The traditional seminary model is primarily preparatory. You learn theology, then you go out to your first ministry experience. It doesn’t apply to those with several years of ministerial experience,” Weldin said.

The distributive learning program is a “both/and model,” he continued. “We will always need a residential program. But we need to explore how to teach preparatory education when the primary place of education is the parish rather than the seminary.” Students take half their 18 required courses online. The remaining nine are on-campus in short-term “intensives”:

- a one-week course in the summer, and
- a two-week January Term course.

The program is currently working on a week-long fall course, as well.

The intensives are a time for distributive learners to meet their classmates and instructors face to face, and to experience campus life.

“When they get here for intensives, there’s great camaraderie,” Weldin said. “Intensives are part of honing relationships. They get to know the student body, just with less incidental contact.”

There’s a reason these courses are called “intensive.” Students meet eight hours a day for five days. Additionally, there are reading assignments before the course and projects due afterwards.

The program also partners with the para-church organization Youth Leadership to assist in some of the training. Courses have included Communicating Gospel to Teens, Pastoral Care of Youth and Families, Home and Congregation, and Outreach to the Unchurched.

Students are not required to be on-campus more than four weeks out of the year, and are able to graduate in three-and-a-half years, Weldin said. They continue working, and develop a formal or informal contract with their parish so that they are able to attend the intensives each year. Some involve their congregations greatly and receive financial support for their studies.

Online students know it’s not always easy carving out study time when

Meet Kelly Fryer Assistant Professor of Congregational Leadership

When Kelly Fryer looks around, she sees a changing world.

“The mission field isn’t ‘out there’ anymore,” she says. “It’s here in our own communities. Yet we tend to do church in a way that’s out of sync with the mission field that surrounds us.”

Fryer’s title, a new one at Luther, signals a new understanding of congregational leadership. “We must reimagine and rethink what it means to be church, and that means we must reimagine and rethink what it means to be a leader,” she says.

Fifty years ago, church was what happened when people gathered inside the building. “But in a mission field, the church is not a gathering place, but a place from which people are sent,” Fryer says. “Our job is to equip people to work in the world—in banks, beauty parlors, or offices. This view of church changes the meaning of leadership.”

Congregational leaders need to understand the context, speak the language, and understand the needs and perspectives of the congregation.

STORY Third Quarter 2004

Luedke Appointed Associate Dean

Alvin Luedke, associate professor of rural ministry, has been appointed Associate Dean—Missional Pastors, effective July 1, 2004. Luedke joined the Luther Seminary faculty in July 2001. He follows Sarah Henrich, associate professor of New Testament, who has served as an associate dean since 2001.

Faculty & Staff Notes (continued)

Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, will give the American Scientific Affiliation/Templeton Lectures at McMaster University Divinity College in Ontario, Canada, Sept. 21 and 22. His main lecture is entitled “The Role of God in Modern Science: Where Naturalism and Intelligent Design Go Wrong.” He will also speak on “Does God Know All the Future?”at the Openness of God Debate,” and “The Myth of a Purely Historical Jesus.”

Stewart Named Director of Library Services

David Stewart has been named director of library services at Luther Seminary. He began his call July 1, 2004. Previously he was associate librarian in research services at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J. Stewart comes to Luther with both a theological and library background. He received the Master of Divinity degree from Regent College, Vancouver, B.C. in 1984. He served as a parish pastor from 1986 to 1993. In 1994, he received the Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. At Princeton, Stewart supervised library staff, upgraded and initiated new technology, and coordinated and designed the library’s networked and Web-based resources.
The ‘00s

ALUM NEWS CORRECTION: Anne Andert, ’00, and David Andert, ’74, have been serving together full time at Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Benno, Minn., instead of St. John’s Lutheran Church.

Tom Glasoe, ’01, married Rachel Downey on July 31 in Ely. Penn. Glasoe accepted a call to serve at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Cyprus, Calif. The two began their ministry there on Aug. 15.


Dennis Sanders, ’01, was ordained a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Sept. 8, 2002 at First Christian Church in Minneapolis. He was installed as parish associate at Lake Harriet Christian Church in Minneapolis on May 23.

Andrew Wilson, ’02, received a master of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in May.


Scott Johnson, ’03 and Kristin Mooneyham, ’03, were married on May 29th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minn.

Matthew Philya, ’04, and his wife Jennifer announce the birth of son, Thomas Andrew, on June 24.

Thomas was 7 pounds 6 ounces and 20 inches long at birth. Both mom and baby are doing well.

The ‘90s

Beverly Stratton, ’91, was promoted to full professor at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Hired as an assistant professor of mathematics in 1986, she transitioned to assistant professor of religion, was promoted to associate professor 10 years later, and tenured in 1998. She has chaired the religion department and served the college on a wide range of committees and has been instrumental in grant administration. She has published a book, Out of Eden: Reading, Rhetoric and Ideology in Genesis 2:3.

Anna Carlson, ’93, was called to serve as the senior pastor at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa, in July. He and his wife, Beth, have two children, Greta and Benjamin.

Nancy (Amburn) Fisher, ’94, accepted a call in May 2003 to serve the Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana Synod as assistant to the bishop for congregational life and mission. Her main focus, among many, is growing disciples in the communities of the synod. Her husband, Thad Fisher, ’95, has a new and challenging call as a stay-at-home dad with their three children. Thad also serves as a part-time intern pastor at Living Waters Lutheran Community in Mansfield, Texas. The Fishers live in Arlington, Texas.

Jonathan Case, ’95, has been reasigned by Global Partners/Wesleyan World Missions. After serving for seven years as lecturer in theological studies at Kingsley College in Melbourne, Australia, Case and his family relocated to Auckland, New Zealand, where he will serve as regional theological educator for the South Pacific.

Barb Spaulding, ’97, accepted a call as discipleship pastor to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa.


Matthew Lee, ’99 and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of their second daughter, Elizabeth Hannah. She was born on December 9, 2003. Her older sister, Catherine, will be three in January. Matthew serves as pastor at First Lutheran Church in Prentice, Wis., and Zion Lutheran Church in Brantwood, Wis.

Schooled in music, Alitz never imagined herself in children’s ministry. “I came to Luther through the strange quirk of God,” she explains. “For many years I was relatively unchurched, but I came back in shortly before having children. I realized when I took on a youth position [teaching confirmation] how vitally important parents’ involvement in faith formation was. I had no idea how to do that with my own family. So I thought I’d take a few classes, then I took some more, and now I’ll be back at Luther again this fall doing a Ph.D. in Pastoral Care in Youth and Family Ministry.”

Numerous voices at Luther Seminary have contributed to her evolving ministry, “…first and foremost Roland Martinson [Carme Olson Baadson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry], because I came from a different angle and he encouraged that,” she said. “I was able to be creative, more true to my call working with families.” [Professor Emeritus] Bill Smith’s classes also were foundational to Alitz. “He introduced me to spiritual formation. It’s taught me so much about sitting and listening to people’s stories and seeing where God is in the midst of all of that. He also introduced me to spiritual direction. It’s not head work so much, but the heart work that we need to do.” To Martinson and Smith’s influences, Alitz added that “[Professor of New Testament] Craig Koester’s raw energy about the gospel changed the way I saw it working in the world.”

Alitz also warmly credited Mary Jess, assistant professor of educational leadership, with presenting an entirely new ministry opportunity to her. “She has a way of opening up Christian education to being new, different and exciting.

I never would have looked at a director of children’s ministry position without what she showed me of its vital importance.”

One year later, Alitz summarizes her work in the parish. “It’s about putting Jesus in front of people, and it’s a humble and wonderful privilege to minister to families in this way.”

The M.A. programs at Luther Seminary include eight concentrations, with eleven specialties within these concentrations:

Scripture
   Old Testament
   New Testament

History and Theology
   History of Christianity
   Systematic Theology
   Islamic Studies

Mission and World Christianity
   (beginning in 2004-2005)

Cross Cultural Ministries
   Congregational and Community Care
   Aging
   Faith and Health Ministries
   Youth and Family (offered both residentially and through a distributive learning program)

Congregational Ministries and Leadership
   Educational Leadership
   Rural Ministries
   Urban Ministries
   Congregational Mission and Leadership Ministry in Daily Life

In addition are the M.S.M. and the M.A. or M.Div. and Master of Social Work dual degree, in association with four nearby educational institutions: the colleges of St. Olaf, Augsburg, St. Catherine’s and the University of St. Thomas.
Strategic Plan Update (continued)

with various international institutions of higher learning.

- The new specialization in Congregational Mission and Leadership matches another strategic initiative: “With the addition of a second full time position (see Kelly Fryer article on page 21) and the influx of students in the new M.Div. in this area (see page 11), this concentration will help us meet the growing need not only for leaders in congregational mission, but also for scholars trained to contribute to the burgeoning field of congregational studies,” Jacobson noted.

- Luther Seminary is working towards integrating its CenteredLife initiative into the curriculum through its Ministry in Daily Life concentration. “This specialization has the potential of educating congregational leadership for lay ministry and fostering intimate connections with various congregations and organizations committed to the ministry of the laity,” Jacobson said.

- Several of the concentrations and specializations help Luther form fruitful partnerships with a variety of other institutions in the Twin Cities and elsewhere. In both the M.S.M. and the dual M.A/M.S.W. degrees, the seminary partners with other educational institutions (St. Olaf for the M.S.M. program, Augsburg, St. Catherine’s and St. Thomas for the M.S.W program).

- Many of the Cross Cultural Studies courses are offered in partnership with other national and international ministries. The rural courses are often offered at Shalom Hill Farm in Windom, Minn. The urban courses are offered as part of a collaboration within the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools as well as through the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE) in Chicago.

- The group of adjuncts who help to teach courses in Educational Leadership are located in congregations throughout the Twin Cities.

- In the area of Congregational and Community Care, students and faculty make use of Luther’s connections with hospitals, colleges and congregations, and are developing a relationship with the nursing school at the University of Minnesota. “These partnerships and others both help our students receive a broad and varied education, and help Luther Seminary to stay connected to local, national and international congregations and communities,” Jacobson said.

Youth and Family M.A. student IngeLaure Lisher (right) with two church youth.

Making a Match with M.A./M.S.M. Alums and Christian Communities
What does an M.A./M.S.M. graduate do? The choices are many. In the case of those with the M.S.M. degree or Youth and Family specialization, congregations are clamoring for them. A number of M.A./M.S.M. students from the ELCA are also candidates for rostered ministry. These students are working toward being one of the public leaders in the ELCA, rostered as either an Associate in Ministry, a Diocesan Minister, or a Deaconess. The Contextual Leadership Initiative Office is available to work with candidates for Diocesan Ministry in securing a field experience, and the Office of Candidacy and Placement oversees the entire candidacy process for candidates. Currently, 24 M.A. students are at some stage in preparation for rostered ministry in the ELCA.

The Office of Candidacy and Placement also helps students with traditional career development issues (such as job hunting, resumes and cover letters, interviewing and compensation negotiation). In addition, the office works with students to better identify and articulate their own vocation goals. “The goal of the office is less about placement of students in jobs and more about helping each student reach their vocational goals through strength-based counseling and networking ideas,” said Krista Lind, ELCA candidacy and placement coordinator at Luther Seminary.

The ELCA recently launched a new nationwide, Web-based mobility system entitled “People and Places” specifically for lay rostered leaders to help them find calls that suit their goals.

“At Luther, we have been eager to encourage the church to think outside the box in creatively using the talents of those whose call is to something other than the ministry of the ordained,” Lind said. “We have begun this conversation by hosting a ‘Stirring the Imagination’ conference, which sought to hear the stories of lay rostered leaders, and think strategically about how seminaries, synods and candidates can work together to lift up the gifts of all theologically trained leaders.”

Alum News (continued)

Emily Rova-Hegener, ’99, (see Nester Joel Rova-Hegener, 01)

The ’80s
Mark Brown, ’82, began his new responsibilities as the regional representative for the Lutheran World Federation field programs in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the surrounding region. He completed service on April 14 as the assistant director for international affairs and human rights at the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs.

Sarah Dille’s, ’84, book Missing Metaphors: God as Mother and Father in Doctrinal Issues will be released this fall by T&T Clark International. Dille is associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, Ontario. She resides in Waterloo with her husband of one year, Daniel Stauffer.

David Skilbred, ’86, was recently named director of government relations for the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota (ICBM). Previously he was the executive director of the Minnesota State Council on Disability. He has held several staff positions in the Minnesota State Senate, including serving as assistant to Senate Majority Leader Roger More. He has worked on a variety of public policy issue areas including banking, health care, insurance, workforce development and housing.

The ’80s
Ronald Marshall, ’75, published “Somb’Lutheran” in Lutheran Forum (Spring 2004). This article is a proposed corrective to the demise of confessional Lutheranism in the ELCA.

Gary Wollensheim, ’77, was elected to a second six-year term as bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the June synod assembly at Augustana College, Rock Island, III. Wollensheim was first elected bishop in 1998. Following his ordination he led and developed congregations in Illinois.

The ’60s
Joseph Everson, ’65, was appointed to serve as interim provost at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif. He joined the CLU Religious Studies faculty in 1980. He has served as chair of the religion department and chair of the faculty. Most recently he chaired the task force that drafted the University’s Lindsay identity statement and co-chaired the school’s Now is the Time campaign.

Lanny Knutson, ’69, began serving as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn. In January 1979, he served as the speaker at the 23rd annual installation of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The ’50s
Thor Ryken, ’51, retired from over 25 years of ministry at Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo, N.D. He and his wife, Cathryn live in West Fargo.

In Memory
Owen Gangstead, ’43, died on June 17, 2004. Following his ordination in 1943, he served congregations in Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa. He also served as director of church relations at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, until his retirement in January 1979. He is survived by four children, Lois, Rebecca, Stephen and Daniel.

Once again Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary are offering Advent devotion booklets to congregations. The 2004 theme is “8e Not Afraid.” Cost is $12.50 per 25, plus exact shipping costs. TO GUARANTEE DELIVERY, ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY OCT. 18.

Order copies for your congregation online at www.luthersem.edu/advent, or contact the Luther Seminary bookstore at 651-641-3440, or toll-free at 1-800-541-4187.

Order Advent Devotionals for Your Congregation

STORY Third Quarter 2004

STORY Third Quarter 2004

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Alum Survey Asks, “What Can Luther Seminary Do for You? What Can You Do for Luther?”

By Jeanne Markquart, ’81, Alumnae Council member

In January of 2004, more than 1,500 alumnae of Luther Seminary and its predecessor bodies responded enthusiastically to a survey initiated by the Luther Seminary Alumnae/a Council. The council hoped to span the information gap between Luther and alumns, and “to listen better to the actual needs of our constituency,” said Joel Quie, ’86, president of the Alumnae Council.

The survey addressed:

- Alumnae/a’s experience with Luther Seminary as an equipping institution.
- Their ongoing needs as leaders in Christian communities and how Luther Seminary might be a resource; and
- Their willingness to encourage others to pursue a call to ministry at Luther Seminary.

The data was divided into three demographic categories: All respondents, Class of 1980 and beyond, and Class of 1980 and beyond. These distinctions allow us to look at more specific needs and trends for groups at different stages in their ministry.

What Did We Learn from our Survey Respondents?

- After reviewing Luther Seminary’s mission statement, 84.7 percent believe that Luther Seminary is fulfilling its mission or fulfilling it very well.
- Approximately 92 percent have encouraged individuals with gifts to pursue a call to ministry. About 80 percent have encouraged individuals to attend Luther Seminary.

- Our alumnae are committed to encouraging the next generation of leaders for the church. Overall, 89.6 percent of respondents would encourage individuals with gifts for ministry to pursue their call by attending Luther Seminary. Among recent graduates (Class of 1980 and beyond), 93.3 percent of respondents would encourage others to attend Luther Seminary.

- Among the resources for ministry that Luther Seminary offers, respondents expressed that it is more important for Luther Seminary to provide continuing education opportunities, resources and information via the Web Site than provide opportunities for networking with colleagues in their geographic area.

- Of respondents from the Class of 1980 and beyond, 70.4 percent believe it is very important for their ministry that Luther Seminary provides continuing education opportunities.

- 43.1 percent of respondents who have attended Mid-Winter Convocation at any time since 2000 have found it very helpful to their ministry. An additional 51 percent have found it somewhat helpful.

Additional questions were asked about specific continuing education opportunities and other ministry resources. These results have been shared with those working directly in these areas.

What Will We Do with the Data?

The Alumnae/a Council’s role is to facilitate the relationship between the alumnae/a of Luther Seminary and its predecessor bodies, and the seminary community and its resources. The information gathered shows some of what Luther Seminary is able to provide that has ongoing value to those leaders already witnessing to salvation in Jesus Christ and serving in God’s world.

The council would like to focus on the types of resources that build value for real life ministry. These results will shape our discussion as, according to Joel Quie, we ask the question, “How can Luther Seminary be an advocate, a blessing so that those who are prospering, surviving, or thriving have on-going support?”

“The flip side of that question is, how can alumnae/a benefit and bless a great institution like Luther Seminary?” As Luther Seminary pursues its mission, our alumnae/a, with their experience and passion for the gospel, are an important resource for shaping how the next generation of leaders will be educated.

Survey Distribution & Demographics

About 3,400 surveys were sent via email to all alumnae/a for whom Luther had an e-mail address. Another 2,800 surveys were sent via standard mail. A total of 1,562 surveys were completed for an exceptional overall response rate of 25 percent.

Of those who responded:

- 86 percent graduated in 1980 and after
- 27 percent graduated in 1990 and after
- 19.8 percent of respondents were female, 80.2 percent were male
- 69 percent are between the ages of 40 and 69

Luther Seminary Alumnae/a Council thanks all who participated in this survey.

Strategic Plan Update:
M.A./M.S.M. Degree Programs:
Affirming Callings, Strengthening Christian Witness

“Outstanding programs and excellent teaching are the hallmark of Luther Seminary’s commitment to the worldwide church. We are proud to offer programs that provide seminary-level education in a broad range of areas, including biblical studies, historical theology, systemic theology, missiology, church history, and practical theology. Our goal is to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to make a meaningful contribution to the life and work of the church.”

Our various concentrations both fulfill our core value of continuing our excellent offerings in the classical disciplines as well as match Luther Seminary’s strategic initiatives,” said Diane Jacobson, associate dean, M.A./M.S.M. degrees, and professor of Old Testament. “They are designed to meet leadership needs in congregations and within diverse ecclesiastical, ethnic and economic populations.”

Some noteworthy concentrations include:

- Since 2003, the Youth and Family concentration has been offered both residentially and as a distributed learning program. The course work is the same for both programs, but the latter enables students to continue their youth work in congregations across the country while they study (see article on page 8).

- The M.A. in Islamic Studies continues to thrive. “This program has been well positioned to respond to the increased desire on the part of Christians since 9/11 to understand Islam and to work with Muslims both nationally and internationally,” Jacobson said. “We have strengthened our ties to the Muslim community in the Twin Cities. We have military chaplains and even several Muslims enrolled in our program. Alongside this concentration, we have added a new concentration in Mission and World Christianity. This program should help strengthen our ties...”

Christian witness in their everyday life and work.

In its five-year strategic plan, Serving the Promise of Our Mission, Luther Seminary shared its vision to prepare leaders to enter into and serve a variety of callings within the church and community.

The plan lays out specific goals to be achieved by 2005. These include:

- to meet the needs of the church in North America and throughout the world for a wide variety of diversified ministries by at least doubling the number of M.A., M.S.M., and certificate program students; and

- to have in place specialized M.A. and certificate programs for strategically providing leadership within diverse ecclesiastical, ethnic and economic populations, and strategically serving congregations needing leadership in ministry.

So far the results have been promising. The M.A. degree programs are the fastest-growing programs at Luther Seminary, and have already exceeded the seminary’s goal to double the number of students in these programs, from approximately 80 students in 1994 to 214 in 2003.

This growth is due in part to the refinement and addition of concentrations that offer an amazing breadth of specialization (see sidebar on page 7). Take advantage of faculty strengths and expertise, and match many of Luther’s strategic initiatives.
Honor Your Children

Emma died last spring at age 106. Like Moses at his death, she was still bright of eye and sound of mind. She was also deep of faith and greatly loved. She occupied a special place in her entourage of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She had sung generations to sleep, all with the same hymn, Come, Thou Fountain of My Blessing.

The creak of Emma’s rocker and her soft hum comforted tiny hearts before they knew any words. “Bye oh, bye oh, bye oh, bye oh.” When they learned the verses, her faith continued to resound in their souls as she killed the next generation of little ones.

A cold April rain kept her two aging children away from the burial. The pastor was brief, and the undertaker eager to move the grandchildren and their families toward the cars. But they were not finished. Circling the casket like a cradle, they held hands and rocked. The elders hummed the tune, “Bye oh, bye oh, bye oh, bye oh,” and the great grandchildren sang the verses of Emma’s lullaby.

Come, Thou Fountain of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee,
May I still thy goodness prove.

The fourth commandment to “honor your father and your mother” is accompanied by the promise, “so that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12). In his Large Catechism, Martin Luther also saw that this commandment requires adults to “devote serious attention to the young.” Moses, Martin, and Emma had this straight. Listen to Martin:

“If we want capable and qualified people for both the civil and the spiritual realms, we must really spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and the world. We must not think only of amassing money and property for them. God can provide for them and make them rich without our help, as indeed he does daily. But he has given us children and entrusted them to us precisely so that we may raise and govern them according to his will; otherwise, God would have no need of fathers and mothers.”

The honor due to fathers and mothers belongs to their callings, or, as Luther said God’s “need of fathers and mothers.” Luther’s challenge to “spare no effort, time and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and the world” also prompts us to hear what God needs from Luther Seminary and from our graduates who are pastors, teachers, and youth leaders. The fourth commandment leads us to honor our children and their callings. It is a sacred trust, with God leading us beyond duty to joy.

Our children are entrusted to us from God, the “Fountain of every blessing,” because God’s “streams of mercy” flow through us and to them to the world God loves. From the time we rock our babies until we are laid to rest, may our lives give voice to Emma’s song. “Teach me ever to adore thee, May I still thy goodness prove.”

Emma had this accompaniment: “Tune my heart to sing thy grace.”

“Streams of mercy, never ceasing,”
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Although PCYC has involved more than 500 Luther Seminary students and alumni/or over the years, it was started by just a handful of the seminary’s students. Founders included Ham Muus, ’56, who served as founding director and now lives in Arizona and Grand Marais, Minn.; Curt Johnson, ’56, who served as director from 1967-1975, and now lives in Bayfield, Wis.; and Bob Evans, deceased.

In the early years, the Plymouth Youth Center, as it was called until the 1960s, included primarily the “Kinsmen” mentoring program and the Wilderness Canoe Base program. In addition to benefiting those served, the experience of founding and working at PCYC proved to be a formative one for the seminarians. “It broadens you and gives you an outlook that you don’t get otherwise,” said Johnson. He also explained that it was part of an effort that moved the church ahead in understanding a variety of cultures.

In addition to serving as mentors to the young people at Plymouth Youth Center, the young seminarians were themselves mentored by their Luther Seminary professors, of whom Muus spoke very highly. “In the midst of our learning, others sometimes looked to us for their learning. It’s a wonderful cycle, isn’t it?”

Today, PCYC alumnae continue the mentoring cycle. Alumnae Nick Krier, for example, now works as an instructor. “It’s challenging, but the rewards are when you see kids becoming successful—getting a diploma, going on to college or getting a job. These kids have a lot of ways to be successful.”

Luther Seminary continues its connections with PCYC. Muffy Tiede, wife of Luther President David Tiede, serves on the board, as does Janet Anderson, chair of the Luther Seminary Foundation Board of Trustees.

To celebrate their anniversary in May 2004, PCYC dedicated a new $5 million building at 2210 Oliver Avenue North. It houses the 30-student junior high school, youth and family development programs, and the center’s staff of 50. Across the street, the 1920s-era Capri Theater houses classrooms and a performance space for the after school and summer creative arts and performing arts programs that PCYC offers.
Olson Campus Center

Controversy—who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in their communities and denominations—will discuss the roles of lay and ordained ministry. Various leaders will address the challenges of working with those who face discrimination and abuse. It is hoped that attendees will be inspired to work harder in the fight against injustice and discrimination.

Gudina Tumsa (continued)

him so lonesome that, when he studied, he had to hide it from view. Already that first year there were suggestions that he become the secretary of the church when he returned. But at that point he was not pleased with the idea. He wanted to return to his home, to be a pastor, and to work among the people he’d come to know as an evangelist.

Gudina had shown promise in Ethiopia, and the same was true here. Working in a language in which he was not yet completely fluent, lacking the college education that American students had, he did well in his courses, especially (during that first year) biblical studies. At 6 feet 6 inches tall, he was not only intelligent and intensely thoughtful but also exhibited a quick wit and a wonderful sense of humor. His deep piety was combined with a good deal of wisdom about human beings.

After three years at Luther, Gudina returned to Ethiopia, where he served from 1986-79 as the General Secretary of the [Lutheran] Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. His accomplishments were remarkable.

For example, as the emperor was replaced by a highly nationalistic Marxist-Leninist government and the country went from feudality to socialism…his leadership helped the church adjust to its new political situation. As part of this adjustment, he recognized the need for it to move away from its heavy dependence on overseas assistance. The divided territories of the different missions were also reflected in the church, so he worked to unite it.

His leadership also helped to form an ecumenical alliance—the Council for Cooperation of Churches in Ethiopia—and he was elected its first chairman. The Council grew out of his recognition that the churches, when faced with a government suspicious of religion and of anything other than its own influence, needed a united voice. He also led his own church to join the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation.

His leadership kept the church focused on the gospel, on human dignity and on social justice. His was a Christ-centered theology concerned about the whole person. It reflected the best of the African mission tradition, with education, medical care, micro-development, a strong sense of community, and Christian piety all rolled into one. Belonging to no political ideology…he also said that in Africa “politics decides who should live and who should die.”

Early on, he was one of the few willing to criticize the stratified society of the Emperor and, later, one of the few willing to say “no” to the revolutionary government.

His leadership did not falter. In 1978 he was arrested and held without charge for a month, and arrested again and held for three weeks in 1979. Responding to the request of church leaders, the government of Tanzania encouraged his release and agreed to let him live there in safety. He knew that a third arrest would be his last, but when told of the arrangement worked out with Tanzania, Gudina, with a totally uncharacteristic burst of anger, refused. He quoted [from what had become a key passage for him in prison] II Cor. 5:15: “Christ died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

For a long time after Gudina’s abduction from a street on July 28, 1979, no one knew what had happened to him. Only years later, after the regime fell, did a guard reveal that he had been killed that same night. The guard also told where the bodies of Gudina and 39 other victims had been buried. His remains were located, and a funeral was held on June 27, 1992, almost thirteen years after his execution.

In 1979, days before his death, Gudina had written these words: “As someone [Bonhoeffer] has said, when a person is called to follow Christ, that person is called to die. It may be a redirection of the purpose of life, that is death to one’s own wishes and personal desires and finding the greatest satisfaction in living for and serving the one who died for us and was raised from death (II Corinthians 5:13, 14).” He continued, “A responsible Christian does not exaggerate any situation and thereby court martyrdom…to be a Christian is not to be a hero to make history for oneself. A Christian goes as a lamb to be slaughtered only when he/she knows that this is in complete accord with the will of God who has called him to his service.”

“Quoted from Gudina Tumsa, Witness and Discipleship. Leadership of the Church in Multi-Faith Ethiopia,” in Toward Reconciliation (Published by the Gudina Tumsa Foundation, P.O. Box 4005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), pp. 11-12.
Reverend Gudina Tumsa received the master of theology degree, two students received the doctor of ministry degree, and 10 students received the master of divinity degree required for ordination, 37 students received the master of arts degree, 8 students received the master of music degree, 1 student received the master of arts degree in ministry, and 2 students received the master of divinity degree in ministry.

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

2004 commencement ceremonies at Luther Seminary.

Awards for Academic Excellence Each year several awards for excellence are given to graduating students. The awards given this year are:

The Graduate Preaching Fellowship: Amanda Olson
The A.E. Hanson Prize in Homiletics: Judith Bangsund, Deborah Hutterer, Paul Koch, Michael Schmidt.

Excerpt from the Response by Darrell Jodock to the Christus Lux Mundi Award given to the Reverend Gudina Tumsa

My deepest thanks to those who decided to honor Gudina Tumsa in this way. The tribute is more than fitting because the center of his faith, the center of his witness, and the center of his theology was Christ as the light of the world. His life illustrates both the profound influence a witness to that faith can have and how much that faith may cost. Gudina Tumsa, then general secretary of the EECMY, to adapt the church’s policies and structures to the Marxist government that came to power in Ethiopia in 1974. Walls has been called the greatest living historian of the missionary dimension of Christian history. His work specializes in the history of Christianity in Africa. Walls has taught mission studies at the University of Edinburgh, Princeton University, the University at Aberdeen and the University of Nigeria at Nsukka. He has authored a number of books and articles and founded the Bulletin of the Society for African Church History and the Journal of Religion in Africa.

In addition to the two lectures, this year’s event will include presentation of the Christus Lux Mundi Award to Lena Gandina, in honor of her father, Gudina Tumsa. The chapel and communion service will begin at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 17 in the Chapel of the Incarnation.

Read more about Gudina Tumsa, pages 2-3.

Exhibit

Get Ready for Mid-Winter Convocation 2005!

Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace, Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 5-7, 2005

Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace, Mid-Winter Convocation 2005 will focus on faith at work. This three-day conference includes presentations that will offer a deeper understanding of what it means to live out one’s calling at work. The Convocation is the second in a four-part series that focuses on the Christian’s calling at home (January 2004), work place (January 2005), church (January 2006) and in the community (January 2007).

The guest speakers are: David Miller, Executive Director, Center for Faith and Culture, Yale Divinity School; Richard Bliese, Academic Dean, Luther Seminary, and Pam Moret, Executive Vice President, Marketing and Products, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Registration will open and materials will be mailed in October 2004. For more information about this event, visit www.luthersem.edu/convo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Word & World Lectures

Lecture II, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2004, 10 a.m.: The Cost of Discipleship: The Witness of the African Church

This year’s Word & World lecture series will focus on world Christianity through the life and witness of the late Gudina Tumsa. Tumsa was an Ethiopian pastor and evangelist who served as the executive secretary of the Mekeane Yeus Church. He was abducted and murdered by the Ethiopian government in 1979. His public witness has been compared to that of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

This year’s guest speakers are the Rev. Tasgara Hirpo, pastor to Oromo-speaking Christians in Hermannsburg, Germany, and Dr. Andrew Walls, emeritus professor of the history of world Christianity at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Hirpo is a former president of the Western Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekeane Yeus (EECMY) (1971-1982) and professor at the Mekeane Yeus Seminary (1978-82). He worked closely with

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Concurrent with the Word & World lectures, KAIROS continuing education program at Luther Seminary will offer a week-long class “The Cost of Discipleship: Faith on the Line.” The course will explore how churches can bear faithful witness in difficult times and contexts. For more information, visit www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/kairos.

Get Ready for Mid-Winter Convocation 2005!

Living Out Our Callings in the Workplace, Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 5-7, 2005

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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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