Top left: Network administrator David Ottoson wraps himself in computer cords to advertise Luther’s technology recycling event, held on Earth Day, April 22. Top middle: During two days each April, high school students visit Luther during Previews, an event that gives them a taste of seminary life and enhances their feelings of call. Top right: Donor Philip Friest and student Margaret Obaga dine together during Blessings, an annual event that brings together donors and the students they’ve helped. Right: Janet Ramsey, associate professor of congregational care and leadership, left, and Patricia Lull, dean of students, cheer on their team during the faculty/staff vs. students softball game in May. Below: At Blessings, Lorraine Levandowski, second from left, poses with granddaughters Taylor and Elizabeth Connell, middle, and the students who have been helped by her gifts, from left, Festus Alomaja, Andrew Jolivette and Laura Aase.
Luther Seminary’s strategic plan is a response to the challenges that face our church and world. It’s that important! Our focus is on educating evangelical public leaders who are capable of providing a hungry and needy world with a spirit-driven apostolic witness. This high calling entails three important dimensions:

We are called to be servants of evangelical renewal;

We are called to be heralds of hope;

We are called to be catalysts for change and mission.

To help us communicate this important message, we recently hired a consultant to assist in building a stronger public identity. At a presentation on how to effectively communicate our vision, the consultant showed us a picture of a young man with a Harley-Davidson tattoo on his arm. The consultant quipped, “You will know when your message is being embraced when people put your logo as a tattoo on their arms!”

Suddenly, and to everyone’s amazement, one of the committee members around the table, a first-year M.Div. student at Luther Seminary, Michael Vinson, raised his hand. “In fact,” he responded, “I do have a tattoo of Luther Seminary’s logo on my arm!” Michael lifted his shirt sleeve and showed the Luther emblem proudly. There it was! He was marked!

This moment revealed the depth of God’s call on all our lives as Christians. The Book of Revelation states that we have been marked by the cross of Christ. This mark or seal witnesses to ownership. God’s Word of Promise marks us as being owned by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And yes, others may claim ownership of our lives, as Revelation warns. But the Trinity’s mark is permanent; it goes right to the heart of our lives, and it calls us to be bold and faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ.

As you read about the exciting emphasis on stewardship at Luther in these pages, remember that we are all called to be “servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries” (1 Corinthians 4:1). One of those mysteries is God’s call to be light, salt and leaven in the world.

We’ve been marked for mission. Help us steward this call!

Pax,

Richard H. Bliese
President
Luther Seminary

Student Michael Vinson, Master of Divinity junior, proudly displays the Luther Seminary logo tattooed on his arm.
Our Savior’s Lutheran Shares Resources, Gifts With Multiple Congregations


W hat’s the best course of action for a congregation seeking to make the most of its resources: Renewal? Reimagining? Investing in the future?

At Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in East Mesa, Ariz., it’s all of these things. The congregation is committed to raising up leaders who can draw in a new generation of believers. But it has also found ways to revitalize existing ministries by sharing its gifts of leadership and volunteerism.

“This truly is a stewardship issue!” Senior Pastor Mark Halvorson, ’73, said. “It’s a mission issue, of course, but it’s about stewardship in that we are trying to use both our financial and people resources in the best way possible.”

Change of scenery, thinking
When Halvorson came to Our Savior’s from Minnesota four years ago, he was struck by the differences he could see in the area.

The church followed a typical “snowbird” pattern, with a predominantly senior population that grew considerably in the winter months, as seasonal travelers settled in, and got smaller in the summer. Yet Halvorson soon found that “there was a real openness to try new things within the congregation. So many had come from traditional churches in the Midwest. But there’s something about living in Arizona where you don’t have that sense of ‘this is the way it’s always been.’”

One seed planted by a previous pastor was to start a new church. A number of families at Our Savior’s made an 18-mile drive to East Mesa from the neighboring community of Gold Canyon each Sunday. These families expressed an interest in attending church closer to home. But instead of following the usual model of beginning a completely independent congregation in that area, the Our Savior’s leadership team decided to launch a second campus that would remain affiliated with the congregation.

“We started out worshipping in Gold Canyon in January 2003, and our total outlay was just about $10,000,” Halvorson said. “You can’t start a church with much less than that.”

Still growing
Attending the ELCA-sponsored Churches Starting Churches, an annual conference for congregations with multiple campuses, gave Halvorson additional ideas, resources and support for the venture. Over the last three years, the congregation has outgrown its Best Western hotel worship site and moved to a new temporary site. They recently bought land in Gold Canyon and hope to move into a permanent home within the next three years.

“One thing that helps us is we have a vision for ministry that is clear, and full of hope and excitement,” he said. “People can sense that, and they just come on board.”

Adding a campus is enough to generate energy and growth for a congregation, but in the midst of the expansion another opportunity presented itself. Epiphany Lutheran Church in Apache Junction, about halfway between East Mesa and Gold Canyon, was failing. “They were worshipping about 35 people in the summer. The former bishop was getting ready to close the doors,”
Our Savior's Lutheran Church (continued)

Halvorson said, “We saw a tremendous opportunity to revitalize an existing community. One of our pastors, John Braaten, began interim ministry there. This coming January after the final vote, Epiphany will become a third campus.”

Full circle

Halvorson feels the ties of history with this move, because Epiphany originally gave birth to Our Savior’s 24 years ago.

Bringing vitality to three campuses might seem a daunting task, but Halvorson said the congregation is meeting the challenge.

“It’s the Spirit at work. They can sense a newness, an excitement with all that is happening. People coming down for the winter are saying, ‘We haven’t sensed this kind of thing in our other congregations for years.’”

Lay people are intricately involved in all aspects of ministry at the three sites, he said. Particularly at the Gold Canyon campus, volunteers are doing almost everything: finding a place to worship, coordinating logistics, organizing public relations in the community, knocking on doors, inviting neighbors and friends.

“The big thing we have to do is make sure we have enough pastors to go out and preach.”

Looking forward

That goal fits nicely with the other part of Our Savior’s commitment to faithful stewardship: raising up leaders who can guide the church into the future. This past year, Our Savior’s hosted its first intern from Luther Seminary. Another is starting this month. Ideally, in several years, Halvorson sees the three campuses supporting two interns.

“If we want the church to grow with young people, then we have to get younger pastors and leaders,” Halvorson said. “It’s very easy to grow the church down here with older people, especially seasonally. And our older members are very generous and do some fabulous ministry. But we see that having younger pastors is a key thing for our future. Our bishop, Steve Talmage, has an incredible vision for our synod that includes this initiative.”

Is it possible for a congregation to undertake so many different initiatives at once? Halvorson feels the more time that passes, the more people are embracing the possibilities that lie ahead. And that, in turn, has led to a resurgence of energy and a deeper sense of what God is doing with their gifts—exactly what good stewardship is all about.

“It’s really an exciting time down here,” he said. “We’re discovering what all good stewards are experiencing: Being a missional church in the 21st century can be quite a lot of fun!”
showcasing the strong support of Luther Seminary donors, the Sustaining Fund and Scholarship Fund again passed fundraising goals for the year. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year 6,474 donors gave generously to support the mission of educating leaders for Christian communities. Strong support through two challenge matches was instrumental in accomplishing these goals.

The Sander Seminarian Scholarship Match met its goal of $250,000 quickly. Yet because they believe so strongly in scholarship support for church leaders, Duane and Phyllis Sander eagerly offered to go above and beyond their $250,000 gift for a total match of $311,000. Their generous gift and strong belief in scholarship support was critical in helping the seminary reach this goal. Through the combined support, the seminary was able to go above the $1 million scholarship goal, reaching a total of $1,170,851.

Luther Seminary will continue to place a strong emphasis on reducing student debt and supporting students through scholarship support during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The need for scholarship gifts is so great that the goal has been doubled to $2 million. It is a significant increase, but Luther Seminary hopes and prays for our donors to again respond generously.

The Sustaining Fund also successfully reached the $4.5 million goal, largely due to the Fox Challenge Match. The match was meant to encourage Sustaining Fund donors to renew their gifts. More than 2,500 donors responded generously to the Fox Challenge Match. Of these, 707 doubled their gift from the prior year to have it matched entirely—quadrupling the gift impact. An additional 1,817 donors rejoined in partnership and received a two-to-one match on their gift for a triple impact. Luther is grateful for all of these donors and for the generous support through these remarkable matching gift opportunities.

As Christians, what is our most important stewardship responsibility?

- Sharing God’s love and creation with all of God’s creatures.
  Chris Zuraff, Master of Divinity junior

- Being intentional about picking up after others and yourself.
  Craig Wexler, Master of Divinity intern

- Being good stewards of hope—that unique Christian hope that often gets lost amidst secular conceptions of hope.
  Chase Foreman, Master of Divinity junior

- Taking care of the Earth.
  Tricia Christman, Master of Divinity middler

- That ourselves, our time and our possessions are in harmony with God’s will.
  Marv Abrahamson, Doctor of Ministry student in Biblical Preaching

- Proclamation.
  Justin Dietrich, Master of Divinity senior
Gifts from the Heart Program Honors Loved Ones

By Laura Kaslow, Communication Specialist

If finding the perfect gift in honor of a special occasion feels like a daunting task, consider a Gift from the Heart. Luther Seminary’s Gifts from the Heart is a tax-deductible gift program that will honor and/or remember a loved one while supporting the seminary’s mission to prepare strong and effective church leaders.

Whether in celebration of a special occasion or anniversary, or to mark the passing of a beloved friend, Gifts from the Heart are a way to honor loved ones through the continuation of God’s work.

Gifts from the Heart acknowledges important life events. In honor of this, at Luther Seminary’s annual fall celebration, persons recognized through the Gifts from the Heart program will be acknowledged in a special print publication.

Sending a Gift from the Heart is simple. Contact the Office of Seminary Relations to order your free gift packet. Each packet contains a set of celebration and memorial greeting cards. Also included in the packet is a return card and envelope with which to mail your gift. Along with the option of a print or electronic greeting card, gifts may be made online at www.luthersem.edu/giftsfromtheheart.

Give Green Program Promotes Good Stewardship of the Earth

By Laura Kaslow, Communication Specialist

As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of the natural resources that God has given us. In Genesis 2:15 it is written, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Luther Seminary works equally to be good stewards of the Earth’s resources and of the resources that donors entrust to the seminary. To help fulfill this commitment, Luther created Give Green, a giving option that helps reduce the use of resources such as postage, paper and fossil fuels used in transporting direct mail.

Give Green is an opt-in program for donors who prefer to receive information electronically, it reduces the amount of paper mailings they receive. Donors make gifts via our secure Web site. By opting into the Give Green program, donors will begin to receive most information and communication electronically.

“Green living is catching on in a big way. I’m thrilled by this!” said CloEve Demmer, director of the Sustaining Fund. “God has commanded us to take care of the world in which we live. Give Green is a way donors can choose to reduce paper resources while helping Luther better steward the resources our donors faithfully entrust to our care.”

Are you ready to enroll in Give Green? Go to www.luthersem.edu/givegreen and sign up today.
Pampered Chef Founder Relates Mission of Business, Philanthropy

By Kelsey Holm, Communication Specialist

Doris Christopher is many things: mother, daughter, entrepreneur, steward. Here, she discusses how all these roles have woven together to form a remarkable life of service. On June 26, Christopher was the featured speaker at Luther Seminary’s Women in Philanthropy Tea.

Was there a certain person in your life who inspired your own journey as a steward and philanthropist? I think I have to say my parents certainly were key in all of that. My dad had his own business—a small business. For all of my life he owned his own gas station, and he was an auto repair mechanic, so that was certainly something I saw firsthand in my life. My mom, too, was an incredible role model. She worked full time for most of my life—and that was unusual in those days—and yet she still did it all. She made sure my sisters and I were very well taken care of. In all of this, my parents were not wealthy people, but they modeled for us the importance of giving back, mostly to the church. We grew up with a strong model of that in our lives.

How does faith guide your giving and your business life? I think faith is at the core of how I live my life and again goes back to the way I was brought up. My husband grew up with a similar set of values and strong faith from his parents. Both of us are very unified in our belief that we are stewards of whatever it is we have here. It’s our responsibility to give back in any way we can and also to model faith-based stewardship. We instilled our values in the business as we started the company.

What inspired you to start The Pampered Chef? I would say my family, for a couple of reasons. I really went back to work because I felt it was an important thing for me to do. I had a wonderful education that my parents made possible, and I felt I needed to use those talents that I had developed at their urging. I also had the example of my mom working that enabled me to see how to be a working mother. For the benefit of my family, I wanted to use my talents and skills in a meaningful way, and I wanted to be there as a mom and a wife. I wanted the joy of supporting my family. That’s what prompted me to find a different way to work, to allow me to prioritize my family time-wise, and that became the origin of The Pampered Chef concept.

How did you decide to build philanthropy into The Pampered Chef? From the time that our business was really profitable, we started programs that allowed us and our consultants to give back, almost from the beginning of the business. We allowed people to have local fundraisers and use the business as a launch pad. When we hit $1 million, we realized that this company was blessed beyond what we expected. We also realized that this was not because of us, but because so many people had contributed their time and talent, and they were inspired by the concept of what we were doing. During the late ‘80s, we started to get our heads above water. We were a growing business and wanted to do something in an organized, focused way. At that time we chose the first of three charitable programs. The first one we launched in 1990. It is a longstanding partnership with America’s Second Harvest—The Nation’s Food Bank Network.
We started small and grew over the years. So far we’ve raised more than $13 million for America’s Second Harvest, and it’s growing at a fast rate. The second program is a partnership with the American Cancer Society, where we sponsored education for early detection and education for breast cancer. That started in 2000 and we’ve raised more than $6.5 million to date for ACS. (The consultants) were very involved in selling the product and doing fundraiser shows contributing directly to those charities. The third one is a little bit different. I’m a graduate of the University of Illinois, and they had started a wonderful family resiliency program. We adopted them as a charity [in 2000], to support research, fellowships and a lecture series. It’s focused on building strong families in the face of today’s challenging world.

Why is it important to you to share your experiences with women in philanthropy groups like the one at Luther?
I think it’s important as a woman in business to mentor in a lot of different ways, and one of them is to talk about stewardship. I believe one of the things we do when we give is set an example for others.

Describe the most satisfying philanthropic gift you ever made. What about it made it so satisfying?
So many of the things we do are with faith-based organizations. It’s a really strong principle in my life and in the giving we do. The other I think of as sort of a legacy kind of gift is in working with University of Illinois in the family resiliency program. I believe that has the potential to strengthen the family unit. It was important in my own life, and probably one of the most important responsibilities in my adult life is to nurture my own family. To be part of the research and teaching, and to support those learning and becoming future leaders in the area of family development—that’s a legacy and I think that will be something that will help our children and grandchildren and generations to come.

What advice would you give to a young woman starting out as an entrepreneur today?
I think the most important thing for anybody—young or old—is to really be clear about what it is that you think is your purpose in life. At the very most basic point of choosing your career, be as clear with yourself as you can about what drives you and really gives you joy. If you’re able to land in a business or career you find joyful, then you’re setting yourself up for the rest of your life to have fun, not work. That’s the equation for success.

What advice would you give to a young woman seeking to begin or improve her charitable giving?
I think again you have to go with what tugs at your heart. Of all the opportunities you hear about—and we know there are many—what are the things that keep coming back into your mind in which you feel you can make a difference? What do you feel really is in line with your life’s purpose and mission? Other advice is to give as soon as you can and give as you are able. It doesn’t have to be a huge gift, but there is such joy in giving.

Who are your role models, and why?
The first and best role models in my life were my parents, and then I would go on and say my husband’s parents. In the important values of life they were very similar, but
Internship can play a significant role in the life and call of an M.Div. student. Academics and classroom learning are consistently paired with contextual learning throughout the degree program, but internship is a unique opportunity for students to leave campus for a congregational setting that asks them to consider ministry in new ways. Questions and discernment concerning the professional and personal are explored more fully and students return for senior year transformed.

Several congregations around the country have long-standing intern programs, bringing a student into their church and community year after year. These programs thrive because parishioners embrace the opportunity to teach and be taught while getting to know each individual intern over the course of a year. Students seek out these programs because they provide an important relationship with an experienced supervisor.

Mark Johnson, ’72, recently retired pastor and intern supervisor at First Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon, Wash., is remembered as a mentor and strong example of a parish pastor and theologian by many former interns. Three of these former interns were able to share their memories of internship and how it helped shape their vocations.

Rolf Jacobson is an associate professor of Old Testament and Karoline Lewis is an associate professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary. Kristen Jacobson is associate pastor at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

What is your fondest memory of internship with Mark?

Kristen Jacobson: He’s authentic. He kept up with everything else he had going on while teaching me. If I was struggling, he always had time for me.

Rolf Jacobson: He tailored the learning experiences to both the strengths and weaknesses of the intern. I was having trouble with the confirmation class at the beginning of the year and he arranged an opportunity for me...
to meet with and learn from local junior high teachers. He helped me focus on that so it could become an area of excellence.

Karoline Lewis: For the first month of internship, we spent most afternoons visiting parishioners in their homes. We spent time with those who were sick and shut in, but he also took me to see [healthy] members he wanted me to know, integrating me immediately and making me part of the community. This helped me connect names and faces more quickly on Sunday mornings. Pastoral care was an insecurity of mine and he addressed this immediately by teaching me that pastoral care is part of everything I’ve learned and will do as a pastor.

Did the long-standing intern program at First Lutheran intimidate you? Was it hard to make mistakes?

KL: I never felt competition with Mark’s former interns because he knew my strengths and weaknesses and gave me opportunities to discover my own pastoral identity. He created moments to throw you into your weaknesses, working with you to fashion a well-rounded pastor.

What did you admire about Mark’s leadership while you were an intern?

RJ: Mark was the model for parish pastor as theologian, working with the Greek text all week, reading and always learning.

KJ: He rode through the hot issues alongside you and was a genius when it came to diplomacy. I didn’t recognize how great he was at teaching me then, but later I would look back and think, “Oh yeah. Mark taught me that.”

RJ: Yes. I didn’t realize that vocational formation was happening until I came back for senior year.

KJ: I learned a lot about my internship once I came back to seminary and was surrounded by my classmates again. He let me preach half the time. When I came back for senior year, I found that this was rare and that most supervisors don’t do that. He trusted me enough to let me try and taught me by telling the truth.

KL: Seminary was teaching me to preach and lead Bible studies, but internship took these different parts of ministry and showed me that everything is integrated.

How did internship shape and form you for your call to ministry?

KL: Theology is not only in your head, but it is incarnational. It is the embodiment of Christ.

RJ: Internship was an important year for me. It was the most important year of my education.

KL: Without internship, I don’t know if I would have gone into the parish. I knew I wanted to go to graduate school and I wanted to teach, but internship changed my scope, giving me a new understanding of pastoral care and my identity. I remember thinking, “Yeah, I do want to do this. I do have a calling to this.” It was affirming.

What makes a good internship? How are students best teaching and taught in relationship with their supervisor and congregation?

RJ: The congregation knew that they were teaching the intern. They didn’t use me as cheap labor but held me up and supported me. They were my advocates.

KL: A well-rounded internship experience addresses the strengths and weaknesses of the intern, helping to show how each area of study and experience work together. Being given the opportunity to do all kinds of things creates a pastoral identity and Mark gave us room for that exploration. A supervisor and congregation can help the intern take time for reflection on the larger whole, not just for personal critique. It’s not all about us. Internship puts us into a relationship and experience that is bigger than ourselves.
When pastors Jerry and David Hoffman talk about their upbringings, they each say, “If you don’t have time to worship, you are busier than God ever intended you to be.” This motto of their mother’s profoundly shaped them into the Christian leaders they have become.

Born and raised on a small farm near Storm Lake, Iowa, the Hoffmans say, “Our parents attended church every Sunday. At our table, the Bible was always there. Devotional books were read and prayers were said at that table every day. And around that same table we talked about current events and what was happening all around us. We learned from the beginning the mutual responsibility we have for one another.”

Like most small farms, there was no shortage of work to be done. Both boys were entrusted with a lot of responsibility at an early age, learning to drive a tractor at age 7 and writing checks on the farm account as teenagers. Lessons on the farm became the fertile ground that God used to prepare each of the Hoffmans for pastoral ministry.

**Jerry Hoffman**

It was on the farm that Jerry began “preaching to the weeds.” Even as a confirmation student, he already sensed the Holy Spirit leading him toward pastoral ministry. After graduating from Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, Ill., Jerry served parishes in Louisville, Ky., and Michigan City, Ind., before becoming an assistant to the bishop for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. He took a call as senior pastor at Nativity Lutheran Church in St. Anthony Village, Minn., and served there for more than 20 years, retiring in 1999.

In 2007, Jerry became the director of Luther Seminary’s Center for Stewardship Leaders. Its mission is to equip stewardship leaders for Christian communities. The Center encourages the integration of stewardship education throughout the seminary curriculum while providing focused financial stewardship courses. Extra-curricular opportunities assist students in their expression of faithful stewardship through personal financial management, including the volunteer services of personal financial stewardship coaches. The Center promotes continuing stewardship education for church leaders. Resources are posted online and a weekly newsletter is sent to more than 2,600 subscribers via e-mail.

**David Hoffman**

It wasn’t until David was a student at the University of Iowa that his mentor, Dr. George Forell, perceived the gifts David had for church leadership and encouraged him to “give seminary a try.” David enrolled at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and after graduation served parishes in upstate New York before becoming senior pastor of St. Philip the Deacon in Plymouth, Minn. Under his leadership, St. Philip the Deacon has grown to a congregation of more than 4,600 members, with an annual budget of $3,200,000. Of that, $650,000 is set aside to support mission work around the world.

**Vein of stewardship**

Both brothers share a passion for the ministry of stewardship. “Stewardship is a way to say thank you to God for all God has given to us,” David says. “One of the challenges in human nature is to say, ‘It’s all mine.’ The ministry of the pastor is to (help your people) expand their vision for sharing all God has given to them.”

Jerry agrees. “Most of the time when money is talked about within the life of the church, it’s for survival. However, we need to integrate the topic of money with all aspects of people’s lives. It’s not even just about giving 10 percent. God has given us 100 percent of what we have. Faithful stewardship is about the way we live our whole lives.”

When discussing the topic of money, the concern in Jerry’s voice is clear.
Jerry and David Hoffman (continued)

“Money enslaves so many,” he says. “Many in our congregations are just two paychecks away from losing it all because they live right up to the financial edge. But Christian stewardship can set us free from all of that.”

Leading by example

“One of the things my staff learns is you cannot ask others for a gift if you are not giving yourself,” David says.

Pastors also need to learn how to ask others to give. At David’s first parish, he went to visit a dying woman. He didn’t know her well; he had been in the church less than a year, when she asked, “Pastor, what is the mortgage on the building?” When he told her it was $600,000, she said, “I would have gladly given that but they never asked.” She died the next day. David decided he never again wanted a gift to the church to go unrealized.

In describing the significant growth of St. Philip the Deacon, David credits church leaders for reminding members of how their gifts make a difference. The congregants have generously supported seven capital appeals during David’s tenure. While a portion of each campaign has been used for “bricks, mortar and mortgage” at the Plymouth location, there has been a significant mission component in every one. Recent projects include building a church in Madagascar, a hospital and school in Tanzania, and a dormitory in India.

Stewarding the church

Bishop Craig Johnson of the Minneapolis Area Synod, where the brothers are rostered, says, “Pastors Jerry and David Hoffman have led their respective congregations in an exemplary way. They have been innovative, strategic and have encouraged leadership in their colleagues and staff. They are great examples that good leaders make a difference.”

David has been faithful in stewarding the calls of those who serve around him, with three of his executive pastors going on to serve as senior pastors in large congregations.

Chris Nelson, senior pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, served with David in two congregations for a total of 14 years.

“There is no one else like David in the church,” remarks Nelson. “He is one of the most personally secure pastors I know. He taught me that when another staff person shines, we all shine.”

Pastor John Hogenson, ’87, recently moved from an executive pastor role at St. Philip the Deacon to a lead pastor position at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, Minn.

“I wouldn’t be here today without David’s influence in my life,” Hogenson says. “I learned from him what it meant to be a generous leader. It was also David who taught me how to make good and right decisions for the whole.”

Though sad to see staff members like Hogenson and Nelson leave, the congregation at St. Philip the Deacon views it as a way to offer critical support to the church at large, where senior pastor vacancies are increasing.

“Stewardship and evangelism go hand-in-hand,” David says. “Faithful stewardship is contagious. We are here to take hold of all the things God has given to us and rejoice in every one of them.”

Learn more about Luther Seminary’s Center for Stewardship Leaders!

The mission of the Center for Stewardship Leaders is to develop the capacities of Luther Seminary to equip stewardship leaders for Christian communities. The center offers:

- Financial stewardship courses.
- Ways for students to express faithful stewardship through personal financial management.
- Continuing stewardship education for church leaders.

The center promotes and teaches stewardship through its Web site, www.luthersem.edu/stewardship. The site provides:

- Free subscriptions to Stewardship for the 21st Century, a weekly e-mail newsletter.
- Valuable resources including articles, videos, Bible studies, book reviews and sermons.
- Support and encouragement for parish pastors and congregations.

Jerry Hoffman serves as the director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders.

www.luthersem.edu/stewardship
**Fund Teaches Stewardship, Fiscal Education**

*by Allison K. Schmitt, ’07 M.A.*

Minus 16. It may sound like the temperature on a brisk Minnesota morning, but it’s actually a much more chilling statistic: Negative 16 percent is the current savings rate of young adults ages 25 to 34, according to Share Save Spend, an organization dedicated to helping youth and adults develop and maintain healthy money habits.

The majority of Luther Seminary’s recent Master of Divinity graduates fall within this negative savings demographic. Couple that with substantial student loan debt and the need for financial education among pastors-to-be is clear.

**Financial education**
That’s why Luther Seminary created the Fund for Financial Leadership.

Made up of gifts totaling $1.25 million, which were matched by an anonymous couple and added to existing stewardship dollars, the $3 million fund makes possible a variety of financial education activities at the seminary. These activities are overseen by the Center for Stewardship Leaders, directed by Jerry Hoffman.

**Student focus**
While Center resources are available to a wide demographic, students are the main focus. The financial stewardship coaching program pairs students with coaches who encourage them to practice faithful financial stewardship. In the last academic year, 50 partnerships were made. Hoffman said the program has evolved from focusing on transactions such as budgets and credit cards to considering values and stories.

Plans are underway to include a four-hour “Faith and Money at Luther” workshop for new students at orientation. The Center also seeks to integrate stewardship lessons into the seminary curriculum. Learning opportunities for interns include a short financial stewardship workshop and an annual stewardship sermon contest. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans also made a gift that will allow students to have the experience of managing endowments and making spending decisions.

**Continuing education**
The KAIROS course “Talk–Walk–Lead: Equipping Stewardship Leaders for the 21st Century Church” presents a biblical view of stewardship, and the Center’s Web page offers a number of inspirational resources, including “Living in Abundance,” lessons on generous living from Luther Seminary faculty members. The Center offers a weekly e-mail newsletter on stewardship topics and a searchable database that can be accessed on the Web site, www.luthersem.edu/stewardship.

Hoffman’s work also includes interacting with the Stewardship for Life Institute in Gettysburg, Pa., the Ecumenical Stewardship Center in Indianapolis, Ind., and focus groups in local ELCA synods.

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**Do you know someone who feels called to ministry?**

Ventures in Vocation is an opportunity for college-age students and post-college professionals to consider God’s call to ministry and the role seminary study plays in that calling. During the two-day conference, participants will:

- Get a glimpse into Luther’s community life.
- Experience the quality of seminary teaching and learning.
- Meet faculty and students.
- Receive information about admissions, financial aid, housing and candidacy.
- Explore their personal calls to ministry.


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STORY Summer 2008

Recent Graduate Puts Cross-Cultural Program to the Test

By Meta Herrick, ’08, M.Div.

Students are often drawn to Luther Seminary because they hear about a program that connects with their deepest callings as servants of Christ. When Linda Webster, ’08, compared seminaries, she noted the abundant potential for cross-cultural education flourishing at Luther.

Webster ended up taking full advantage of that potential after deciding to attend Luther. In May 2008, she received a certificate of achievement “in recognition of the completion of the most cross-cultural learning opportunities of any student in the history of Luther Seminary’s cross-cultural program.”

“All I can say is that when God puts something into your heart, into your being, you need to follow it, though you may not understand anything about it at the time,” she said.

The right place

Webster was eager to meet Rod Maeker, recently-retired director of the cross-cultural program, when she arrived on campus for her junior year. He confirmed her impressions about Luther Seminary, a school that has encouraged her to connect her biblical and theological learning to contextual and multicultural experiences. This initial conversation introduced Webster to several opportunities, including Luther’s affiliation with Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

The pastor at her teaching parish was extremely supportive of the call Webster was discerning. One of her first courses at Luther was an introductory cross-cultural seminar.

“We tackled hard issues in that class, like racism,” Webster said. “This class helped prepare me and inspire me to seek out so many cross-cultural opportunities at Luther.”

Webster spent time at Pine Ridge twice during seminary, and learned about border and immigration issues in El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico. She traveled to South Africa to encounter people stricken by HIV/AIDS, still recovering after the formal end of apartheid. Webster has been inspired by the saints of El Salvador and Guatemala, standing where they stood firmly for the poor and oppressed. She cried for Israel as walls were being built instead of torn down.

A log church in Rocky Boy, Mont.

A new perspective

“I think I have been a champion of the underdog most of my life, but Luther called me to see things with new eyes and to look at the world with a sense of justice. I continue to be challenged to ask the age-old Lutheran question, ‘What does this mean?’ in new contexts.”

Webster has been called to serve Our Savior’s Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana.

“I have come full circle since my first experience at Pine Ridge. It was there I started to learn what it means to walk with and accompany people instead of trying to fix a problem. It was there I started to learn what it means to listen to other people’s stories instead of having to talk myself.”

At Our Savior’s she will develop a deeper sense of call, borne out of the opportunities for study and experience she found at Luther Seminary.

“Each of my experiences has enriched me in some way and filled me with faith, hope and love. This growth is not just for me, but for the sake of the church.”

Linda Webster, left, with a group of cross-cultural learners in Juarez, Mexico.
Incarnation Lutheran Committed to Nurturing Culture of Stewardship

By Shelley Cunningham, '97, M.Div.

Where does a generous spirit come from?

In some people, it’s a natural part of who they are. But for many, it is cultivated—through example, encouragement and time. Rev. Glenn Taibl, ‘72, of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview, Minn., sees the congregation as a primary means by which those spirits can be nurtured. His call as pastor for stewardship ministries reflects his—and his church’s—commitment to that work.

Focus on stewardship

Incarnation’s senior pastor, Gary Medin, ’78, created a staff position dedicated to issues of giving and stewardship about a year ago.

The call was crafted so that in addition to preaching and pastoral care, more than 50 percent of Taibl’s time is spent on stewardship issues. “I see this as an emerging position, that more and more congregations will be [staffing like] this,” Taibl said.

The call is a perfect fit for Taibl’s gifts and passions in ministry. He spent 26 years as a parish pastor before joining the staff of Luther Seminary’s Office of Seminary Relations as a philanthropic adviser. There, it was his goal to develop relationships with donors and encourage them to financially support the seminary. But after eight years at the seminary, he felt God calling him back into the parish.

“In the course of my career [at Luther] I met some incredibly beautiful, generous people,” Taibl said. “When

I’d ask them, ‘Where did you learn generosity?’ most would point to something that had happened in their home—from watching their parents or grandparents and absorbing the attitude with which they gave.

Creating imagination

“Sometimes I’d visit someone who had a big capacity to give—lots of money, plenty of interest, but they didn’t have that DNA of generosity. They couldn’t imagine letting go of what they had. I’d walk away wondering, who is going to lead them into that imagination?”

Taibl’s role at Incarnation is to help let loose that imagination. “We probably have 10 to 20 percent of our people who live out of this spirit of generosity. My goal is to intentionally try to open that up for a few more people every year.”

This happens, he says, by building relationships. Though Taibl has only been on staff at Incarnation for a year, he and his wife, Rebecca, have been members for close to a decade. The relationships he established over time have helped him in earning the trust it takes to begin these conversations.

“When I meet with people, I start by telling them I’m not trying to solicit them into giving more money to our

church. I just want to talk with them about what it means to live richly out of God’s abundance. We talk about their faith story and what brought them to this place, what their values are, and what and who shaped those values.”

Broadened horizons

Since not everyone is ready to sit down for a one-on-one conversation, Taibl is developing programs that make stewardship a broader part of the culture at Incarnation. He has developed a personal financial management group, classes for teens and young adults, and a series of “talkback sessions” focused on money and faith. He’s encouraged by an overwhelmingly positive response from the congregation.

“When you start to talk about faith and money, you really do stir up the bottom. But we have to start these conversations for things to bring about change.”

He’s also the first to admit that his time cultivating relationships for Luther Seminary has been an incredible asset, both professionally and personally.

“I have learned a great deal from the generosity of the people who support the school. Their vision and hope for the future is something that inspires me to be generous.”

Taibl subscribes to author Mark Taylor’s definition of stewardship as “the organizing of our lives so that we can give ourselves away.”

“It’s really the management of our lives with Jesus at the center,” he said, “especially how it impacts our relationship to God, others, ourselves and creation. When we become givers, we are opened up to a whole new dimension of the faith journey. That’s what I want to help people discover for themselves.”
Commencement Honors
170 New Graduates

By Kelsey Holm,
Communication Specialist

Luther Seminary bestowed degrees on 170 students at the 139th Commencement on May 24 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Rolf Jacobson, ’91, associate professor of Old Testament, gave the commencement address. He referenced the day’s stormy forecast in his sermon.

“The rain today is fitting,” Jacobson said, “because it fell not only on us, but on the grass and flowers in front of Bockman Hall and on the cross that seems never to change even though the seasons do. Though the rain might dampen our day, it also causes life to sprout and grow. Like the word you will proclaim wherever you go, it does not return empty, it accomplishes that which God purposes. It waters the Earth, gives seed to the sower and bread to the hungry.”

A unique aspect of this year’s commencement was the presence of two student responders where there is usually only one. The first responder, Bruce Lerum, M.Div., explained the unique situation.

“I wasn’t the original choice to speak today. Another was chosen,” he said. “Instead of being here, we thought he might be in a hospital room, continuing to heal from leukemia and a bone marrow transplant three months ago. Instead, he received a hall pass to leave the confines of his hospital room for a short time to be here and share with us. Once again, the power of prayer in Jesus Christ continues to display the authority it holds.”

Lerum referred to Scott Nocton, M.Div., who spoke to his fellow graduates and their loved ones from a wheelchair at the altar. He said the graduates had become like family, and the fact that they were working together to spread the gospel made him proud to be part of the group.

He said, “It’s hard for me to be up here having finished and having gone through what I’ve gone through, but what I realized through this is no matter what the circumstance is, the call still plays itself out. That should be a reminder to all of us, that no matter what your degree is, no matter what your position is in life, there are people out there who need to hear the gospel. And that’s where we all come in.”

The service also recognized three retiring faculty members: James Boyce, Marc Kolden and Rod Maeker. Also honored were graduates receiving awards for excellence. They included:

• The John Milton Prize in Old Testament given to Chelsea DeArmond and Joseph Arnold Hilgenkamp.

• The A.E. Hanson Prize in Homiletics given to Meta Saunders Herrick, Kelsay Olivia Parker and Daniel P. Ruth.

• The G.M. & Minnie Bruce Award in New Testament given to Joseph Arnold Hilgenkamp.

• The Graduate Preaching Fellowship given to Travis Steven Gerjets.

A group of graduates smile for the cameras as they wait to process into the auditorium.
EVENT CALENDAR

Church in Public Life Lecture
Oct. 1
Chapel of the Incarnation
Mark Hanson, presiding bishop, ELCA
“Christians and Citizenship in Election Time”
www.lutherseminary.edu/lectures/church_public_life/

 Ventures in Vocation
Oct. 12-13
Luther Seminary
For post-college professionals and college-age students interested in seminary.
www.lutherseminary.edu/admissions/ventures

Word & World Lecture
Oct. 15
Chapel of the Incarnation
Ellen F. Davis, professor of Bible and practical theology, Duke Divinity School
“A Theology of the Land”
www.lutherseminary.edu/lectures/wordworld

Singing the Faith
Oct. 26
Chapel of the Incarnation
Nordic Choir, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Andrew S. Burgess Lecture
Nov. 5
Chapel of the Incarnation
Jonathan J. Bonk, executive director, Overseas Ministries Study Center
“The Gospel and Ethics Revisited: Pre-Christendom Faith in a Post-Christendom World”
www.lutherseminary.edu/lectures/burgess

Prodigal Son Book Receives Awards
A book honoring a collection of artwork gifted to Luther Seminary has won two 2008 Independent Publisher Book Awards. “And Grace Will Lead Me Home: Images of the Prodigal Son from the Jerry Evenrud Collection” received a bronze medal in the art book category. Selected as one of the outstanding books of the year, it also received a bronze medal in the most original concept category.

“And Grace Will Lead Me Home,” by Robert Brusic, Luther Seminary pastor emeritus, Luther Seminary, featured prodigal son-themed artwork that has been gifted to the seminary by art collector Jerry Evenrud. It was published by Lutheran University Press, an imprint of Kirk House Publishers.

Order a copy of “And Grace Will Lead Me Home” from the Luther Seminary Bookstore, www.lutherseminary.edu/bookstore.

Continue Your Education with Lay School Classes
Informal, non-credit classes taught by seminary professors for lay persons who want to learn more about matters that relate to their Christian faith and life.

Making Faith Sense in Times of Election
Noon-2 p.m. Mondays
Faculty: Mary Hess, associate professor of educational leadership
Gary Simpson, professor of systematic theology

Gospel of Mark
7-9 p.m. Mondays (webcast available)
Faculty: Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament

Desert Spirituality
7-9 p.m. Mondays
Faculty: Lois Farag, assistant professor of early church history

All fall classes are held Sept. 15-Oct. 13. To attend Gospel of Mark via webcast you will need a high-speed Internet connection. For class descriptions or to register, visit www.lutherseminary.edu/layschool. For more information, call 651-641-3416 or e-mail kairos@lutherseminary.edu.

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August
18-20 Discover Your Call—Dependable Strengths for Congregations

September
18-19 Discernment for the Practice of Intentional Interim Ministry
22-24 Process Preaching: A System for Delivering Extemporaneous Sermons
29-Oct. 3 Building Caring Congregations

October
6-10 Annual Lectionary Study: The Gospel of Mark
13-14 The Evangelical Prophet: Preaching Isaiah From Advent to Epiphany with instructor Ellen F. Davis
15-17 Christian Ministry and the Phenomenon of Islam
20-21 Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry: An Introduction
22-24 PR for Churches
27-31 Intentional Interim Ministry Training – Phase 1
Karoline Lewis, ’94, assistant professor of Biblical Preaching, contributed "‘Shepherd My Sheep:’ Preaching for the Sake of Greater Works Than These” to the summer 2008 issue of Word & World. On May 21, she was a worship service presider for Festival of Homiletics, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis. She served as a leader at a women’s retreat at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, from April 4-6. On March 9 and 16, she conducted an adult forum on “The Passion According the John” at Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park, Minn.

Lois Farag, assistant professor of early church history, presented “The Church of Alexandria and Roman Law” at the May 17 conference Coptic Culture: Past, Present and Future, held at the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre in England.


Mark Granquist, visiting professor of church history, presented “What We Have Learned About Augustana: Notes From the Writers of the New History of the Synod” at the biennial meeting of the Augustana Heritage Association, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kan., June 19-22.

Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament, taught intertestamental literature at the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Synod School in Buena Vista, Iowa, in July. She spoke at the New Jersey Synod Assembly, held from June 5-7. She taught an intensive course on Paul for doctoral students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in June.

Richard Bliese, president, presented at a forum at Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison, S.D., June 25.

Mary Hess, associate professor of educational leadership, recently had “Belief in Media,” a book she co-edited, translated into Spanish and released by Universidade IberoAmerica press. She presented two workshops on technology and teaching at the ATS Biennial Meeting in Atlanta, June 22-24. She presented “Appreciative Inquiry in Reflection on Teaching” at the Lexington Seminar in Northeast Harbor, Maine, June 12-17.

Mary Jane Haemig, associate professor of church history, gave the plenary address “Talking Back to God: Luther and Prayer in Genesis” at the North American Forum for Luther Research, St. Louis, Mo., April 18.

Gary Simpson, professor of systematic theology, published “Being Neighbor in the Coming Pandemic Crisis: Thinking with Luther in the 21st Century” in the summer issue of Caring Connections: An Inter-Lutheran Journal for Practitioners and Teachers of Pastoral Care and Counseling. Simpson spoke on “After Ten Years: What Does This Mean?—That the Church is on Fire?” at a congregational adult forum at Messiah Lutheran Church, Mt. Iron, Minn., July 12-13, on the 10th anniversary of a fire that destroyed the church building.

Craig Koester, ’80, professor of New Testament, was the keynote speaker at the Western Iowa Synod Assembly, Storm Lake, Iowa, June 6-7. He served as co-editor of “The Resurrection of Jesus in the Gospel of John,” published in May. Included was an essay authored by Koester and titled “Jesus’ Resurrection, the Signs and the Dynamics of Faith in the Gospel of John.”

Terry Fretheim, ’60, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament, served as St. John’s Visiting Professor at Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia during the spring semester. Fretheim gave two presentations at the Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Olympia, Wash., May 30-31.

Mark Throntveit, ’75, professor of Old Testament, served as a keynote speaker at Blessing = Prosperity: What Does the Bible Say?, a workshop and seminar held at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minn., on April 12. He served as a Christian representative at Augsburg College’s inter-faith dialogue on “Creation: The Common Story,” March 6-7.

Lois Malcolm, ’89, associate professor of systematic theology, is currently serving on the editorial board of the Westminster John Knox Sources of Christian Classics series and was
Faculty & Staff Notes (continued)
recently appointed book review editor for the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* and consulting editor for the *Scottish Journal of Theology*. She presented a paper on “Forgiveness as Moral Creativity” at a Christology and ethics conference, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill., March 3-5.

Coming to a Town Near You

Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, will present “The Difference Creation Makes to God’s Eternity: Relative Timelessness Reconsidered” at Humboldt University of Berlin’s conference on God, Eternity and Time, Sept. 28-30.

Richard Bliese, president, and his wife, Nina, will be part of an ELCA team visiting Zhejiang and Sichuan seminaries in China during the first week of August. While there, they will converse with ELCA Global Mission partner churches and social service organizations in Hangzhou, Chengdu and Luzhou, China.


Terry Fretheim, ’60, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament, will present at the Southern Ohio Synod rostered leaders event, Mt. Sterling, Ohio, Sept. 29-30.

Lois Malcolm, ’89, associate professor of systematic theology, will participate in a biblical symposium on justification in Rome, Oct. 3-4.

Karoline Lewis, ’94, assistant professor of Biblical Preaching, will take part in adult forums at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on Nov. 9 and 16. She will be a presenter at the First Call Theological Conference for the six synods of Wisconsin and upper Michigan on Nov. 10. ●

Former Recipient of the Christus Lux Mundi Award Dies

By Kelsey Holm, Communication Specialist

Marjorie Bly, a faithful friend of the seminary and recipient of the 2000 Christus Lux Mundi Award, died April 8, at the age of 88, in Makung, Penghu, Taiwan.

Born into a missionary family on May 30, 1919, in Xinyang City, Henan Province, China, Bly followed in her parents’ footsteps, becoming an ELCA missionary herself in 1946. She used her nursing skills to care for those suffering from leprosy, first in China, then in Taiwan. After retiring as an ELCA missionary in 1989 at the age of 70, Bly continued to minister to the people of Makung.

In his nomination of Bly for the Christus Lux Mundi Award, M. Douglas Swenseid wrote, “The people of the islands know that Marjorie Bly is motivated by Christian faith. In addition to the love and care she has shown by her life and work, she passes out Chinese Christian literature and prays with patients. More than 40 of her patients have become Christians during the years she has served on the Penghu Islands.”

A memorial service was held on May 3 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Northfield, Minn. A memorial service was held in Makung, Penghu, on the same date. Memorials may be sent to a fund in Bly’s name at China Service Ventures, 1407 Cleveland Ave. N., St. Paul, MN, 55108. ●
The ‘00s

Julie Anderson, ’07, was ordained May 20 at Bethany-Elim Lutheran Church, Ivanhoe, Minn.

Jay Wilson, ’05, accepted a position with The Welcome Ministry in San Francisco on April 1.

Pollyanna Tews, ’04, married Lewis Robbins on May 24 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Nashville, Tenn.

Jon Gallatin, ’03, and Tabitha Gallatin, ’04, accepted calls to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Neenah, Wis., on March 3.

Clint Schnekloth, ’02, welcomed his second child, Miriam Amanda, on March 14.

Laurie Arroyo, ’00, will be installed as assistant to the bishop for lay mission leadership of the Southwest California Synod on Sept. 6 at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Granada Hills, Calif.

The ‘90s

Laurie Jungling, ’96 and ’01, accepted a position as professor of theological ethics at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Jenny Kunka, ’96, was named director of Northern Rockies Institute of Theology in Great Falls, Mont.

Katy McCallum Sachse, ’99, was installed as associate pastor at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Wash., on April 6.

Tessa Moon Leiseth, ’98, accepted a call to join the campus ministry staff at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. She will begin Aug. 1.

Blake Rohrer, ’97, accepted a call this summer as assistant to the bishop of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Eric Rothgery, ’97, received a Ph.D. in religion and cultures in Asia from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, in May. He is currently teaching in the religious studies department at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he lives with his wife, Cynthia Keyser, ’99, and their two sons.

Jonathan Todd Bruning, ’97, and Jamie Segaran Bruning, ’97, welcomed a baby boy, Nikhil Arun, on Feb. 11. In May, Jonathan accepted a call as senior pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Plano, Texas.

Kevin Massey, ’93, was named director of Lutheran Disaster Response and ELCA Domestic Disaster Response in May.

William Rindy, ’92, was elected to a six-year term as bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod on April 6. His formal installation will be held Aug. 16 at Hope Lutheran Church, Fargo, N.D.

The ‘80s

Mark Holmerud, ’84, was elected bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod in April.

James Arends, ’81, was elected bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod in June.

Kay Jurgenson, ’86, published “Hold On! Life is Precious!”, a collection of short stories from around the world, in May.

The ‘70s

John Pederson, ’75, will study in the archives of Flannery O’Connor and spend six weeks at University of Aberdeen, Scotland, studying Eberhard Jungel and Karl Barth, while on sabbatical this year.


David A. Furuness, ’72, retired from active ministry on June 15.

The ‘50s

James Hofrenning, ’53, had a presidential scholarship given in his honor at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.
Five years ago, Letha Wilson-Barnard would never have guessed that she might one day introduce herself as Niam Plig Hli Nra Her. Now, as the associate vicar at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles in St. Paul, Letha has not only acquired a new name, but is practicing faith and doing ministry in a whole new culture.

A 2007 graduate of Luther, Letha began serving alongside the Rev. William Bulson at the first Hmong-majority Anglican congregation in the United States. The following February she had learned enough “liturgical Hmong” to read and chant the leader’s part at the Hmong-language worship service. Her dedication to serving and communicating with her parishioners will be further formalized this fall when she begins Hmong language classes at the University of Minnesota.

“What part of your seminary education most prepared you for ministry?”

“I’ve always had a passion for cross-cultural ministry,” Rev. Wilson-Barnard says. Coming from a background in non-profit work, her life and field experience involve a diversity of cultures. When she happened to hear about the exciting faith community taking shape at Church of the Holy Apostles, she knew she was a good fit for their mission development needs.

“What was it like being an ecumenical student at Luther?”

I got a great education here, without exception. Luther has a great faculty, and I always felt that everyone was hospitable and respectful.

“What advice do you have for current students?”

You may have no idea what your future will look like, but don’t lose heart. God does not give us the whole itinerary—it’s more like freeway exit to freeway exit. You can only see the place where the lamp is shining. Just know that there is ministry to be done and God will use you.

A n endowment fund supporting evangelical theology has been created by Lutheran Quarterly in memory of Gerhard O. Forde, a professor emeritus of Luther Seminary. The editors and officers of Lutheran Quarterly, to which Forde was a frequent contributor, put up personal donations as initial gifts.

“We have committed ourselves to furthering the Forde legacy of proclaiming the gospel through evangelical theology and careful historical scholarship,” Paul Rorem, editor of Lutheran Quarterly and Lutheran Quarterly Books, said in a press release.

The Forde Fund will be applied to publication projects that promote radical Lutheranism, including Forde’s own essays found in “The Preached God: Proclamation in Word and Sacrament.”

For more information, visit the Lutheran Quarterly Web site at www.lutheranquarterly.com.

Gerhard O. Forde
Bentleys’ giving results in joy

For Elder and Esther Bentley, the decision to give to Luther Seminary is a matter of simple math: the amount they give equals the amount of joy they’ll feel in return. Based on that equation, the Bentleys will be joyful the rest of their lives and beyond.

The couple has set up two charitable gift annuities, which are deferred gifts that will pay out a fixed income to the Bentleys throughout their lifetimes. Any remaining principle goes to the seminary.

“It’s a win-win situation,” Elder says. “This powers you to give a gift and gives you a tremendous tax break.”

Experience the joy of giving. Ask us about the benefits of charitable gift annuities.

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www.luthersem.edu/gift

Esther and Elder Bentley in their church, Christ Lutheran on Capitol Hill in St. Paul.
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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Table of Contents
Our Savior's Lutheran Shares Resources, Gifts with Multiple Congregations ..........4-5
Donors Help Luther Seminary Surpass Fundraising Goals ........................................ 6
Student Poll .................................................................................................................. 6
Gifts from the Heart Program Honors Loved Ones .................................................. 7
Give Green Program Promotes Good Stewardship of the Earth ..........................7
Pampered Chef Founder Relates Mission of Business, Philanthropy ...................... 8-9
Internship Supervisor Mark Johnson Retires: Former Interns Reflect with Gratitude .................. 10-11
Brothers Jerry and David Hoffman Share Stewarding Gene ................................12-13
Fund Teaches Stewardship, Fiscal Education ..........................................................14
Recent Graduate Puts Cross-Cultural Program to the Test ........................................ 15
Incarnation Lutheran Committed to Nurturing Culture of Stewardship .............. 16
Commencement Honors 170 New Graduates ..........................................................17
Event Calendar ......................................................................................................... 18
Lay School and KAIROS Schedules ........................................................................ 18
Faculty & Staff Notes ...............................................................................................19-20
Former Recipient of the Christus Lux Mundi Award Dies....................................20
Alum News ..............................................................................................................21
Alum Spotlight: Letha Wilson-Barnard ................................................................22
Lutheran Quarterly Creates Endowment Fund in Memory of Emeritus Professor . 22