



SUMMER 2017

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

This year, Senior Paul Spaude is serving as our student recruiter. He makes about two presentations a week at area grade schools and reaches out to high schools and prep schools. The seminary also hosted a Grade School Chapel Service in December. The service encouraged 300 students and 50 chaperones from 13 Lutheran elementary schools in their walk with Christ and gave them the opportunity to visit with seminarians, explore the campus, and learn more about the path men take to become pastors.

For high school students, we offer Taste of Ministry. This allows area Lutheran high school students the chance to tour campus, observe a class, worship in chapel, hear from Pres. Wendland, and listen to student presentations about dorm life, studies, jobs, mission trips, and their seminary experience.



As part of a recruitment for ministry tour, Michigan Lutheran Seminary students visited the seminary.

For the second year, we are hosting Seminary Scurry. This 5K gives our seminary friends and neighbors the opportunity to spend a morning on campus and see where future pastors are being trained. With a kids' fun run, it gives us the opportunity to encourage them to consider the ministry.

SENIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS

As part of the requirement for graduation, each senior completes a thesis—a capstone paper in an area of their choosing. In March, students presented their research and papers on campus. The diversity of the theses reflects the diversity of the students' interests within the body of Christ. Topics ranged from ministering to recovering alcoholics to preaching the Law to Christians, from a pastor's struggle as both sinner and saint to equipping Christian soldiers before their deployments, from reaching out to former prisoners to ministering to men who had a dysfunctional father figure.

“You spend so much time poring over ancient texts,” said President Paul O. Wendland. “The essay gives you an opportunity to discover something new for yourself, to investigate a problem or issue and write something about it.”

This year Peter Schlict and Nathan Schulte won the Timothy and Titus Awards for their work. These awards recognize the high caliber of work and reflect how the seminary continues to train the next generation of those who will preach the gospel. All the theses are available at essays.wls.wels.net.



PSI UPDATE

Nixon Gregorio Vivar Gomez graduates this May from the Pastoral Studies Institute. Nixon qualifies for the status of “non-traditional” student for the pastoral ministry on multiple levels. Most obviously, as an immigrant from Ecuador, coming to the United States in 1999 as an optimistic 21-year-old with no English skills, Nixon has already earned the title, “non-traditional.” What makes Nixon especially unique is that his journey to become a WELS pastor has taken 15 years.

Much life was squeezed into this 15-year journey. Nixon married Carla. The couple had two sons, Lucas and Samuel. Nixon became a “permanent resident” of the United States and learned English. Nixon and Carla bought a home. A constant in Nixon’s life and also his married life over the years has been their service to God’s people on the south side of Milwaukee. Nixon and Carla have served under the supervision and encouragement of half a dozen WELS pastors in various churches. Nixon completed courses while struggling through issues of employment, citizenship, extended family, and young children. But this May, Nixon will receive the prize for which he has labored. He will graduate from our seminary through the Pastoral Studies Institute. All of his pastors and teachers praise God for helping Nixon accomplish this task. Nixon has received the strongest recommendation from all of his mentors.

Congratulations, Nixon and Carla. May God continue to use you to proclaim his praises.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16, 7 pm: **Vicar Call Service**
May 18, 10 am: **Call Day Service**
May 18, 7 pm: **Graduation Concert**
May 19, 10 am: **Graduation**
June 19-30: **Summer Quarter**



GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

UPCOMING CHANGES TO SUMMER QUARTER

For years, pastors have had a choice of ways to participate in Summer Quarter: on the seminary campus, online or at a satellite location. Although Mequon has been a great location, in the future we hope to become more accessible to pastors in outlying districts. Therefore, beginning in 2019, Grow in Grace will provide a program with the intensity and variety of an on-campus experience, but in the other 11 districts. It will also allow pastors who are pursuing the Master of Sacred Theology Degree to have more opportunities to take a course in their area of study.

Summer Quarter 2017 and 2018 will remain on campus in Mequon and unchanged by this future planning. Beginning in 2019, Summer Quarter will go “on the road” during odd numbered years and take place in Mequon during even numbered years.

CELEBRATIONS OF MINISTRY ADDS FOURTH RETREAT

The success of the Celebration of Ministry Retreats, which began in 2012 with one retreat, has now grown to four retreats. These retreats are held for pastors and their wives who have reached key milestones in their ministry. In previous years, Grow in Grace has invited pastors who are celebrating three, 10, or 25 years since graduation to celebrate in sunny San Antonio. Beginning in 2018, pastors celebrating 35 years since graduation will be invited to join Grow in Grace on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. To the classes of 2015, 2008, 1993, and 1983, watch for your invitations coming in late May!

