



SUMMER 2018

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

GRADUATION

This May, 31 students graduated, 27 with a Master of Divinity degree and four awarded a Master of Sacred Theology degree. The assignment committee placed 26 seniors who were receiving their first calls. Other assignments included four from the class of 2016. In addition, four were reassigned to one-year calls. At the same service, 26 middlers were assigned to congregations throughout North America to serve for their vicar year. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into his harvest field!



ACCREDITATION

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary hosted a preliminary visit from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). It is step one on our path of exploring accreditation. The visit was helpful and allayed many concerns about the process. While the seminary is still some distance away from accreditation itself, it looks very much as if—as a preliminary move—the seminary will receive an Associate Membership with ATS this summer.

We can see the value of accreditation both for our United States programs of continuing education and to offer support for our sister seminaries overseas. For them, affiliation with an accredited US seminary increases their credibility and the ease with which they can receive official recognition in their home country.

There are three steps to membership. Schools initially join as Associate Members upon a vote by the membership. Within five years, Associate Members are expected to pursue Candidate for Accredited Membership. Then, once a school has completed the requirements of the Commission on Accrediting, it is recognized with Accredited Membership. If at any stage it becomes apparent that our theology or mission would be compromised, the process would be halted from our side.

FACULTY NEWS

The governing board is putting a hold on issuing another call for a professor to teach New Testament and homiletics. President Paul Wendland has announced that at the end of the 2018-19 school year he will step down from the office of president and move into a fulltime teaching position in the New Testament department at the seminary. He has served as president since 2004. A call for nominations to fill the seminary president position has been sent out. When that position is filled, seminary administration and the governing board will determine what teaching areas need to be filled and ask for nominations to fill that need.



SEMINARY CHORUS

The Seminary Chorus went west on their tour this spring. They stopped at congregations in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Alberta.

PSI UPDATE - A VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

Last month, Professor Brad Wordell taught the doctrine of conversion in South Asia. “Whenever I visit one of our mission fields, goal #1 is ‘Do no harm and encourage the saints,’” shares Wordell. His “students” are Lutheran pastors who gather together four times a year in order to support their continuing education.

By the end of this brief Pastors Institute, these pastors were able to:

- Discuss key issues regarding the doctrine of conversion, including differing views.
- Define conversion and put it into the context of all the gracious activities of the Holy Spirit.
- Read the various conversion stories in the Bible with an eye towards God’s grace.
- Explain and defend the Bible’s teaching about conversion with key Bible passages.
- Articulate how the doctrine of conversion informs the doctrine and practice of their ministries.

One of the pastors in South Asia shares, “Because of sola scriptura and sola gratia, our study of conversion has made me proud to be a Lutheran pastor.”



WLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18-29: Summer Quarter

August 27, 7 pm: Opening Service

August 28: Classes begin

September 17, 10:30 am: WLS Alumni annual meeting

September 17-18: Symposium

October 6: Friends of the Seminary Day

October 12-15: Midterm break

November 21-23: Thanksgiving Break

December 9: The Seminary Chorus Christmas concert

December 22-January 6: Christmas break

January 7-18: Winterim

GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

ADDITIONAL RETREAT IN 2018 ADDS TO CELEBRATION

From April 18–20, 2018, Grow in Grace hosted four Celebration of Ministry retreats. In addition to three retreats previously run, Begun in Grace (3 years since graduation), Renewed in Grace (10 years since graduation), and Excel in Grace (25 years since graduation), we welcomed Finish in Grace (35 years since graduation) to the celebration.



These pastors and their wives are invited to celebrate key ministry milestones together in a beautiful setting, San

Antonio, Texas. Each retreat holds a Bible study specific to their ministry milestone. In addition to the Bible study, each group participates in breakout workshops. The workshops are designed for attendees to dig deeper into topics of their choosing. Some popular topics include, time management, future financial planning, approaching retirement, and wearing multiple hats as pastors and wives.

Although the Bible study and workshops are highlights of the retreats, many pastors and wives look forward to seeing classmates and renewing old friendships. Pastor Jon Bare shares his thoughts, “[This retreat] comes at a good point in your ministry. You’ve learned a lot of things through ministry, you’ve experienced a lot of things and so have all your brothers and their wives in their ministry. You can come together and share in those experiences, share the joys, share the disappointments and your own failures, be open and honest with each other and grow together as fellow pastors and wives in ministry. This retreat gives you that opportunity, it rekindles friendships that you had with your brothers and their wives from years past and allows you to grow together to better serve God’s people.”

