

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

FACULTY CHANGES

Professor Kenneth Cherney is stepping down as World Mission Seminary Professor to teach full-time. Pastor Bradley Wordell, a 1992 graduate of the seminary, has accepted the call to serve as his successor. Wordell has been a missionary in Japan since 1999. He also served as the coordinator for Asian publications for WELS Multi-Language Publications. He and his wife, Andrea, have five children ages 13-20 and will join us this summer.



Professor Forrest Bivens and Professor John Brug, both from the class of 1971, retired at the end of the school year, having served at the seminary 22 and 32 years respectively.



Professor Bivens served in San Jose, Calif., and Saginaw, Mich., before arriving on campus in 1993. While here, he taught dogmatics and Old Testament, and also served as vice president and financial aid officer. He and his wife, Sue, have 6 children and 17 grandchildren.



Professor Brug served in Pennsylvania and New Ulm, Minn. He accepted a call in 1983 to teach dogmatics and Old Testament at the seminary. He has also served as the managing editor of *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly*. He and his wife, Irene, have one son, Paul, and four grandchildren.

We thank God for these men of God and for their many years of fruitful service in both the parish and in training the next generation of pastors.

GRATSI CELEBRATES FIRST SET OF GRADUATES

Since 2010, “GRATSI”—the Greater Africa Theological Studies Institute—has been jointly administered between the Lutheran Church of Central Africa and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. This program is designed for pastors who qualify to serve in leadership positions. In April 2015, the first ten men successfully completed their studies and received B.Div. degrees from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at a ceremony in Lilongwe, Malawi. Another cohort has begun and have finished two courses.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 15-26: Summer Quarter
- August 24: Opening Service
- August 25: Classes begin
- September 21-22: Symposium
- September 21, 11 am: WLS Alumni Annual Meeting
- September 25-28: Midterm break
- October 3: Friends of the Seminary Day

APACHE STUDENT GRADUATES

At the end of May, Kirk Massey flew from his home in Arizona to graduate from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon. Kirk, grew up near East Fork, Ariz., and attended East Fork Lutheran School for both grade school and high school. **“I had missionary kid friends who went to New Ulm, and pastors and teachers were my role models, but I never thought about being a pastor,”** he said.

Though he began his career in the forestry industry, Kirk always seemed to find his way back to working with young people, whether in a court-ordered dormitory for 6-8th graders in the winter or Apache youth group and family ministry. When he and his wife, Sheree, became dorm parents at East Fork Lutheran High School, Kirk took classes through the Apache Christian Training School (ACTS). **“It was the best thing that happened to me: Getting into his Word with the other people,”** he said. **“The Holy Spirit really worked.”**

In 2011, Pastor Dan Rautenberg began serving at ACTS and encouraged Kirk to be a pastor. **“I was always hesitant. Other people said it, too, but I didn’t believe them,”** said Kirk. **“I prayed about it and decided to jump in.”**

Working with Professor Allen Sorum from the seminary and Pastor Rautenberg they laid out classes in a joint ACTS/PSI program. As he looks forward to his graduation, he is excited to **“write sermons, find more men to develop into congregation leaders, and use my gifts to serve my people in the reservation.”**



SYMPOSIUM TOPIC ANNOUNCED

“The Lord’s servant must be able to teach.” According to Paul and the Spirit, this is one of the qualifications for a Christian and Lutheran pastor. Still, the challenges facing today’s pastoral teacher are many and varied. Identifying the challenges and overcoming them are critical in a society which values education on the one hand and is biblically illiterate on the other. The 2015 Symposium on the **Pastor as Teacher** promises to identify the challenges honestly and candidly and help pastors in their continuing efforts to be able to teach. Please join us for this annual event on Sept. 21-22.

The registration fee for WELS and ELS pastors is \$60 (\$30 for retired pastors). Online registration will begin after July 1. **Consider arriving a few hours early for the annual alumni meeting.**

GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

CELEBRATION SUCCESS IN SAN ANTONIO

This past April, over 150 pastors, wives, and retreat team members gathered together in San Antonio, Texas, for the Celebration of Ministry Retreats. These retreats are designed for pastors to learn from one another and to gather with peers celebrating similar ministry milestones.

For the past four years, Grow in Grace has hosted the *Renewed in Grace* retreat for pastors and wives who are celebrating ten years from their first call. The retreat’s agenda, specifically for this group, provides encouragement for the middle years of ministry. The WLS class of 2005 reunited

with about 70 percent of their graduating class. **“[I learned that] ten years away from everything and we’re still all friends,”** notes Pastor Korey Van Kampen.

While we have hosted the *Renewed in Grace* retreats for the past few years, this is only the second year of hosting the *Finishing Well in Grace* retreat. This retreat celebrates with pastors and their wives who are 25 years from their first call. This year, about 68 pastors and wives attended. Pastor James Seiltz expresses his thoughts on the retreat, **“[I] really enjoyed the retreat, recommend it, highly, to future pastors who are 25 years in the ministry.”**

Having heard many favorable comments and receiving positive feedback, we will again visit San Antonio for Celebration of Ministry retreats in 2016. Those retreats will celebrate the fifth year of the *Renewed in Grace* retreat with the class of 2006; the third annual *Finishing Well in Grace* retreat with the class of 1991; and introducing our first *Begun in Grace* retreat with the class of 2013.

