



SUMMER 2016

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

Currently over 300 groups from around the world are asking for support from the seminary as well as WELS home and world missions. The type and scope of service being requested was beyond the ability of current mission fields to follow up on and beyond the seminary's current configuration to respond to.

In March, the Joint Mission Council called Jon Bare to serve as the seminary's International Recruitment Director, and he will begin his work this summer. His role is not as a professor in the classroom. Instead he will focus on coordinating efforts and providing his help so that we better respond to fellow Christians worldwide in their desire for confessionally Lutheran pastoral training.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 20-July 1: **Summer Quarter**

Aug 24, 7 pm: **Opening service**

Aug 25: **Classes begin**

Sept 19, 11 am: **WLS Alumni Meeting**

Sept 19-20: **Symposium**

Sept 30-Oct 3: **Midterm break**

Oct 1: **Friends of the Seminary Day**

Oct 21, 9:20 am: **Prof. Korthals and**

Prof. Tiefel 40th Anniversary Service

SENIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

As part of the requirement for graduation, each senior completes a thesis—a capstone paper in an area of their choosing. During the first two seminary years and during the vicar year, students look for an area of theology or ministry that interests them. They are encouraged to work with WELS congregations or ministries on research that will benefit the church body. Throughout their senior year, under supervision of an advisor, they research and write the thesis.

In April, the students presented their research and papers to the students on campus. The diversity of the theses reflects the diversity of the students' interests within the body of Christ.

Each year, the faculty also hand out the Timothy and Titus Awards for two of the papers. Both Timothy and Titus were “sons in the faith” to the Apostle Paul, and the awards reflect how the seminary continues to train the next generation of those who will preach the gospel. This year, the winners were Kurtis Wetzels and Matthew Rothe.

All the senior theses can be found at essays.wls.wels.net.



A SYMPOSIUM ON HERMENEUTICS

The practice of hermeneutics, or biblical interpretation, has always been a vital skill for Christian pastors. How much more so in our current society where words and their meanings are constantly being bent, ignored, or challenged. The 2016 symposium will focus on this vital issue in the work of a pastor. This year's symposium will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 19 and 20, in the auditorium.

Pastor Steven Lange of Louisville, KY, will focus on hermeneutics in its more theoretical aspects. Pastor Benjamin Tomczak of Sioux Falls, SD, will discuss the relationship of the confessions to the Holy Scriptures. Pastor Daniel Waldschmidt of Burlington, WI, will share what is meant by the New Perspective, a movement that has brought a new interpretation to several key elements of Paul's theology.

The fee for WELS and ELS pastors is \$60 (\$30 for retired pastors). Online registration will begin after July 1, 2016.



VICAR IN MISSIONS UPDATE: CRAIG BIRSCHING

As part of the Vicar in Missions program, Craig Birsching is spending a year at Cross of Life, Mississauga, Ontario.

One highlight for him was from Cross of Life's March Break Camp, the time when all schools have off for one week. Because most parents still work, the congregation holds a camp. "Monday through Friday we load kids onto buses and take them to various fun places and take care of them for the day. It's kind of like taking five field trips in a row. Of course a devotion is always central to every day's activities," he says. This year, they set a record with over 130 kids enrolled in camp.

"In a place like Mississauga where most people have no time for God or religion, it is a wonderful way to build relationships with these kids and their parents and to share the gospel with them," he shares. "It also gets our name out into the community in a positive way since the service we provide is very helpful for families who need somewhere for their kids to go during March Break."

GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

PASTOR PARTNERS MENTORING

Just as with any other part of the body of Christ, pastors are blessed by the support, encouragement, and prayers of other members. As we seek to better understand their needs and how to help, Grow in Grace has increased support for pastors who are just beginning their public ministry. This additional support, headed by the Pastor Partners initiative, was adopted by our synod at its 2015 convention.

Pastor Partners pairs an experienced pastoral mentor with a recent seminary graduate. These mentors provide regular support for a new pastor. Mentors do not replace the role of circuit pastors or fellow brothers in the ministry, but instead provide a complimentary outlet for a new pastor. Through this program, mentors can often strengthen and build relationships between young pastors and other brothers in their area.

One future goal of this initiative is to study the wisdom of offering trained pastoral coaches to experienced pastors who would like structured and intentional support as they continue growth in all their callings.

