



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

GROW IN GRACE

Through Grow in Grace, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary partners with pastors for lifelong growth in all their callings. To accomplish that, Grow in Grace offers:

- **Courses & Seminars:** The seminary offers Christ-centered, accessible, and ministry-impacting courses and seminars on campus, online, and at satellite locations.
- **Mentoring & Retreats:** Through Pastor Partners, our seminary graduates are connected with seasoned pastors who mentor them during the first three years of ministry. For established pastors, retreats are held for those celebrating ministry milestones—their three, ten, and twenty-five year anniversaries.
- **Strengthening Ministry:** Each year, essay and resource packets are available for pastors to study individually or with others to honestly evaluate all their callings. These resources assist pastors in areas of life and ministry.
- **Growth Resources:** The Grow in Grace website provides ministry-impacting informal resources. From book reviews to featured pastoral circuits, these support individual pastors or groups of pastors to carry out spiritual and professional growth.

Each fall, these mentors gather for encouragement and training. Through Pastor Partners, experienced men provide regular and focused ongoing support to young pastors.



TRADITIONAL PROGRAM

Our four-year program includes three years of on-campus study and a one-year internship, known as vicar year. For classroom study, faculty members lead students through a thorough study of Scripture.

- **Biblical Theology:** Before our students graduate, they've studied all the books of the Bible.
- **Practical Theology:** Students learn how to shepherd and equip God's people through preaching, leading worship, teaching Bible classes, visiting the sick, and making evangelism calls.
- **Historical Theology:** These courses include the history of the Christian Church from Jesus' time until today. They also learn about the Lutheran Confessions.
- **Systematic Theology:** Students study all the doctrines of the Bible in an orderly way.

Time spent in classrooms is balanced with practical experience in congregations. By working with local congregations or in cross-cultural and international experiences, students' passion to reach the lost increases.

Each year, juniors and middlers are assigned to nearby congregations to both observe and participate in ministry. The vicar year is spent with a supervising pastor, learning the challenges and joys of being a pastor. Some students participate in summer assistant opportunities or serve as part-time assistants their senior year.



Greg Sitzman learns about the worldwide work of WELS at Mission & Ministry. This three-day event helps students discover what resources and ministries are available to support them when they serve as pastors.

A GLOBAL CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL LEARNING

MISSION ZEAL | DEDICATION TO THE PURE GOSPEL | ACADEMIC RIGOR

PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

Through the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI), God is giving us many opportunities to prepare spiritual leaders to serve as WELS pastors and missionaries.

This innovative path of study offers pre-seminary and seminary classes for non-traditional students—including men from different cultures, second-career students, and others whose training path may require flexibility. Classes are offered through one of our satellite training programs, pre-seminary courses taught by local pastors, visiting professors, and course study at WLS.

This year, 17 are taking classes through PSI. In addition, a dozen Anglo pastors are working with PSI pastors and students. Since the program began in 2003, more than 30 men have received diplomas and are now serving in Alaska, Thailand, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas, and Arizona.



Pastor Pheng Moua, from Immanuel Hmong Lutheran in North St. Paul, Minn., reminded Asian Conference attendees about the importance of “The Message of the Missionary.”

WORLD MISSION SEMINARY PROGRAM

The seminary has a variety of relationships with overseas ministerial education programs. In some places, seminary professors teach in programs overseen by our missions or sister churches. In other places, WLS sends teaching professors and grants a degree in a program administered jointly with a national church. In still others, national students who live overseas take WLS courses online.

In 2015-2016, seven different members of the WLS faculty taught and consulted on curriculum and instruction for theological training programs of our fellowship around the world. Included were pastor training programs in East Asia, Ethiopia, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, and Zambia. Ten different courses were administered to over 100 pastoral candidates, as well as 100 pastors and lay people.

Since the program began in 2006, our professors have served as guest instructors in Zambia, Malawi, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Ukraine, Sweden, Mexico, Germany, Bulgaria, Colombia, India, Nepal, and Nigeria.



A translation course was held at Asia Lutheran Seminary in January 2016. Translators improved their skills and built deeper relationships with other translators who serve throughout Asia.

Since 1863, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary has prepared over 3,500 pastors. The seminary is supported by the mission offerings of WELS congregations, the students' tuition, and gifts of love from friends and donors. To support your seminary, contact wls@wls.wels.net.