



SUMMER 2022

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

CALL WEEK AT THE SEMINARY

On May 27, 2022, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary held its graduation service. President Earle Treptow based his sermon on the class passage, Hebrews 10:23, “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

This year, 26 seniors received their diplomas. In addition, three pastors received their Master of Sacred Theology degrees: Kyle Bitter, Joel Russow, and Andrew Schroer.

The synod’s Assignment Committee met to assign graduates to congregations, schools, and mission settings. At the assignment service on Thursday, May 26, 2022, Professor Ken Cherney’s sermon, based on 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, reminded them that—as they start their ministries—God is sending them to be faithful managers of his gifts and has equipped them and will continue to be with them.

After hearing encouragement from God’s Word, the candidates, along with their families and friends learned where the Lord had sent them to serve. In all, 32 men were assigned. Of those, 25 were seniors receiving their first call, one was from the class of 2020, and six were from the class of 2021.

At a separate evening service on Wednesday, May 25, 28 middlers were assigned to congregations throughout the U.S. and Canada, and one to Colombia, to serve as vicars for a year.



PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

a partnership of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and WELS Joint Missions

The last two weeks of June brought with them a return of Summer Quarter—an opportunity for WELS pastors to return to WLS and take courses for continuing education. In conjunction with this effort, the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) was blessed to bring five PSI students to campus for a week of classes as well. The week—essentially PSI’s own version of Summer Quarter—was a blessing to all involved and one that we hope to duplicate in future years.

The PSI program exists to walk with kingdom-committed spiritual leaders worldwide. This work can take many different forms, both domestically and abroad. Here in North America, the PSI team oversees a training program that allows the individual to receive pastoral training while continuing to work within his individual ministry and cultural context. While most of PSI’s training is done one on one, opportunities like this allow our students—with a wide array of backgrounds and experiences—to interact with each other, share ideas, and see WLS as their seminary. This year, the five PSI students who participated originally come from China, India, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, but now currently live in various parts of North America and are involved in different forms of ministry.

While the five PSI students represent a small percentage of the many PSI students enrolled in the program, the time together in one location provided a brief, but welcome, glimpse of the diverse ministry efforts actively underway in WELS. Perhaps more importantly, it provided a wonderful reminder of the Apostle John’s heavenly vision in which a multitude “from every nation, tribe, people and language” stand before the throne of God (Revelation 7:9). We pray that the Lord of the Church continue to bless these men and the ongoing work of PSI.

From April 25 to 29, Grow in Grace, the institute for pastoral growth at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, hosted over 400 people for the annual Celebration of Ministry retreats in San Antonio, Texas. This was truly a massive celebration. Having to postpone retreats for the last two years, Grow in Grace welcomed pastors and their wives who were celebrating 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 25, 26, 27, 35, 36, and 37 years since graduating from the seminary. These retreats build relationships with ministry peers and offer encouragement through worship, Bible studies, workshops, and presentations.

Though these workshops and Bible studies are a key part of the retreats, fellowship with classmates, worship services, and a beautiful location also play a part in the experience. Next year's plans are already underway. Seminary graduates from the classes of 1988, 1998, 2013, and 2020 are invited to join us on the Riverwalk in San Antonio.

HELP US REACH THIS GENEROUS OFFER!

Every year since 2020, generous donors have offered matching grants for Grow in Grace supporters. In 2022, Grow in Grace received a \$10,000 matching grant offer for this year's activity and a matching grant of \$25,000 for the Grow in Grace Endowment Fund. (Note: The endowment fund is spent at a rate of 4% of the balance each year.) The gifts need to be offered by October 31, 2022. By God's grace, there has been almost \$6,000 given toward these matching grants.

If you are inclined to take advantage of this special opportunity, please visit <https://community.wisluthsem.org/> and select Grow in Grace or Grow in Grace Endowment Fund from the dropdown box.

SUMMER QUARTER BACK IN MEQUON

During even-numbered years, Grow in Grace hosts pastors on campus to take courses during Summer Quarter. These course offerings allow pastors to participate in continuing education and use the seminary library. Pastors regularly express appreciation for the privilege of participating in summer quarter on campus. They find it refreshing to have the opportunity for focused study, to learn alongside brothers in ministry, to gather for worship in the seminary chapel, and to discuss ministry joys and challenges outside of class.

This year, Summer Quarter in Mequon had 45 pastors in ten on-campus courses. While some pastors are pursuing courses to apply to a specific degree (the Master of Sacred Theology [STM]), other pastors enroll in courses to simply pursue a specific area of personal or professional growth. Any for-credit course taken can be applied to the STM degree if a pastor wishes to pursue a full degree.

Grow in Grace is putting final touches on the plan for satellite courses next year in nine synodical districts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24	Opening Service
August 25	Classes Begin
September 19	WLS Alumni Annual Meeting
September 19–20	Symposium
October 1	Friends of the Seminary Day
October 7–10	Mid-term Break
November 19–27	Thanksgiving Break
December 11	Christmas Concert



Pastors studying in the library during Summer Quarter

SUMMER HAPPENINGS ON CAMPUS

July in Mequon brings the peak of summer weather. The seminary campus becomes quiet with no classes in session and many students moved out or taking vacations. This makes it the perfect time for maintenance crews to get work done. Keeping the seminary running each day is like running a small village. The buildings require year-round work, and our beautiful park-like 80 acres of roads, grass, trees, and landscaping takes diligent stewardship.

Each summer, dorm rooms get cleaned, floors get waxed, and carpets get cleaned. Classrooms get paint touchups. This summer is no different. In addition to the annual maintenance, the dorm commons area is getting a new floor. The worn and outdated linoleum floor is being replaced with an epoxy floor. In addition, the chapel is being repainted.

Maintenance projects like these are made possible thanks to thoughtful and generous donors giving to the Seminary Fund. Gifts to the WLS Seminary Fund support the day-to-day operational costs of the seminary and supplement the offerings of love made through WELS congregations. Gifts may be made online at www.wisluthsem.org/give. Designate "WLS Seminary Fund" from the dropdown menu.

