

SUMMER 2023

## WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

### GRADUATION WEEK AT THE SEMINARY

On Friday, May 26, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary held its graduation service. President Earle Treptow based his sermon on 2 Corinthians 4:7–12, the section of Scripture the class had chosen as its class “verse.” He encouraged them, as clay jars, to let the powerful gospel have center stage in their ministry and to trust the Lord to empower their service.



At the conclusion of the service, Pastor Jonathan Scharf, chairman of the seminary governing board, spoke a word of thanks to Professor Paul Wendland. Professor Wendland is retiring after twenty-two years of service on the seminary campus, fifteen of which (2004–2019) he served as president.

This year, thirty-seven seniors received their diplomas. In addition, five pastors received their Master of Sacred Theology degrees, and two Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) graduates received their Bachelor of Theology degrees.

The synod’s Assignment Committee met on the seminary campus on Tuesday, May 23, to assign candidates for the holy ministry to the synod’s congregations, schools, and mission fields. At the assignment service on Thursday, May 25, Professor Paul Wendland preached on Isaiah 42:1–6, encouraging the men being assigned that the mighty God of heaven is sending them out as his servants, empowered by the meek Messiah, to accomplish a universal mission.

After hearing encouragement from God’s Word, the candidates, their families, and friends learned where they were headed to serve. In all, forty-three men were assigned. Of those, thirty-seven were receiving their first call, including a graduate from the class of 2022. One PSI graduate received his first call. In addition, five men from the class of 2021 returned to the Assignment Committee and received permanent assignments. Two men were reassigned to their present field of ministry.

On Wednesday, May 24, during a separate evening service, twenty-nine middlers were assigned to congregations throughout the U.S., Canada, and the world to serve for their vicar—or internship—year.

### PASTOR NOAH HEADRICK ACCEPTS CALL

Pastor Noah Headrick has accepted the call to serve as a professor of Old Testament. He will also be asked to teach homiletics (preaching) courses. This will cover the vacancy on the faculty created by Professor Paul Wendland’s retirement at the end of the 2022–23 school year and addresses anticipated needs in the Old Testament department. A 2009 graduate of the seminary, Pastor Headrick served for eight years as associate pastor at Grace, St. Joseph, Mich., followed by four years at the dual parish of Christ, Eagle River, Wis., and St. John, Phelps, Wis. Most recently he has served as associate at St. John, Burlington, Wis. He will move to campus in July and will plan to audit courses in his first year on campus as he prepares for full-time teaching.

### SYMPOSIUM

This year’s symposium, scheduled for September 18–19, will focus on the two kingdoms. Three essays will be presented: “The Kingdom(s) and the Power and Glory,” “Church and State throughout the Centuries,” and “Life in the Two Kingdoms Post-Christendom.”

### UPCOMING EVENTS

August 23	Opening Service
August 24	Classes Begin
September 18	WLS Alumni Annual Meeting
September 18–19	Symposium
September 29–Oct 2	Midterm Break
October 7	Friends of the Seminary Day



## ATLASERIALS PLUS NOW AVAILABLE TO WLS ALUMNI

Grow in Grace is excited to announce that alumni of WLS are now able to receive a set of benefits through a Grow in Grace account. The benefits include access to the full text of over 670 theological journals through the AtlaSerials PLUS library database; the ability to search back issues of Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly and access the full text of individual articles in AtlaSerials PLUS; the ability to check out digital copies of books from the WLS library through controlled digital lending; free Microsoft 365 web apps, email account, and OneDrive storage; discounts on Microsoft 365 subscriptions; and access to unofficial WLS transcripts through the student information system.

The annual fee for a Grow in Grace account is \$15. The account is required to register for Grow in Grace courses. Participation in a Grow in Grace course is not necessary to sign up for the account. Each year in April, account holders will be billed through the student information system. The account will renew each year until cancelled. Registration for the account can be done here: <https://www.wisluthsem.org/grow-in-grace/events-courses/gig-technology-request/>.

## CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY RETREATS

This past April, Grow in Grace hosted another successful year of Celebration of Ministry retreats with over 200 pastors and spouses in attendance for the tenth annual retreat. Held at the Drury Plaza Hotel on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas, four retreats ran simultaneously for pastors and their wives who were celebrating three, ten, twenty-five, and thirty-five years since graduating from the seminary.



These retreats build relationships with ministry peers and offer encouragement through worship, Bible studies, workshops, and presentations. When Grow in Grace initially began the Celebration of Ministry retreats, only pastors and wives celebrating ten years of ministry were in attendance. In more recent years, the event has included pastors and wives celebrating three years, twenty-five years, and thirty-five years since graduation. This year was the first year where Grow in Grace hosted “repeat attendees.” The class of 2013 had participated in a retreat after their third year of ministry and were back after their tenth year.

With continued success, Grow in Grace is excited to invite pastors and wives who are celebrating one of these key ministry milestones next year. The 2024 retreat plans are already underway and are set to take place in San Antonio from April 3 through April 5.

## PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

a partnership of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and WELS Joint Missions

What impact can one Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) student have on gospel ministry? When we think in terms of a student studying for the ministry, our answer to this question might be, “Not much; he’s still learning after all.” The students enrolled in the seminary’s PSI program come from nine different people groups, residing in seventeen different locations across North America, representing a generous array of God-given gifts and abilities, life backgrounds and experiences, educational training, and zeal for Jesus’ gospel ministry.

Daniel is a nineteen-year-old student attending college in Maine. He has recently entered the program and is working on two courses via Zoom under the guidance of his pastor, who resides in Minnesota. He is in the US alone, with his parents still residing in Wuhan, China. Daniel is studying

computer science, which he calls his hobby and a way to support himself in the future if necessary. Daniel is not shy about saying, “I find real meaning and fulfillment in spreading the gospel to others.” Daniel regularly shares the gospel with his fellow students. His greatest desire is to be a WELS pastor, sharing the gospel of Jesus full-time.

Jacob is the father of six who works a second-shift job to support his family. Every Saturday he is in PSI class for two hours with his pastor studying for the pastoral ministry. He regularly posts his devotions to his South Sudanese, Nuer language YouTube channel. Once a month he prepares a sermon (reviewed by his pastor) and worship service for his fellow Nuer speakers held at his church in Ottawa, Ontario. Those who attend are very thankful to be able to hear the gospel in their own language.

There is a story of enthusiasm and sacrifice, joy and blessing, behind every one of the men enrolled in the PSI program. These are the students we are privileged to support through our prayers and assistance.

