



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Spring 2026 Spotlight

COMPELLED CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

For more than 160 years, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) has prepared pastors to proclaim the changeless gospel in a changing world. As the only training ground for pastors of WELS, the seminary remains committed to equipping men for faithful ministry. Yet many campus facilities—particularly classrooms and fellowship spaces originally designed nearly a century ago—no longer fully support the relational, technology-enabled, and discussion-based learning that characterizes pastoral formation today.

To meet this need, the seminary launched the *Compelled: Honoring the Legacy, Shaping the Future* campaign. This comprehensive project includes constructing a new education center with spacious, light-filled classrooms and integrated instructional technology, building a welcoming gathering hall for fellowship for students and their families, renovating the library to include a student lounge and climate-controlled and accessible rare books room, and turning current classroom space into on-site faculty offices that will foster daily mentoring and pastoral guidance. These spaces will support the seminary’s distinctive “pastors forming pastors” model and provide environments where students, faculty, and families can learn and grow together.

The support for the campaign to date is both encouraging and inspiring. God’s people, moved by the Spirit, have already given more than \$8.1 million toward the \$15 million goal. Their partnership demonstrates a deep commitment to preparing future pastors and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

With continued support, the seminary anticipates breaking ground on May 20, with construction progressing in phases from May 2026 through August 2027. This moment represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the future of pastoral ministry in our church body.

At the same time, the work ahead invites broader engagement across the synod. Expanding the circle of seminary donors

and advocates will be essential. Many faithful supporters have already offered their “best gift” to advance this vision, and cultivating the next generation of partners will help ensure long-term sustainability. The goal is not transactional gifts, but rather discipleship that inspires God’s people to see how their giving advances Christ’s mission beyond their own congregations.

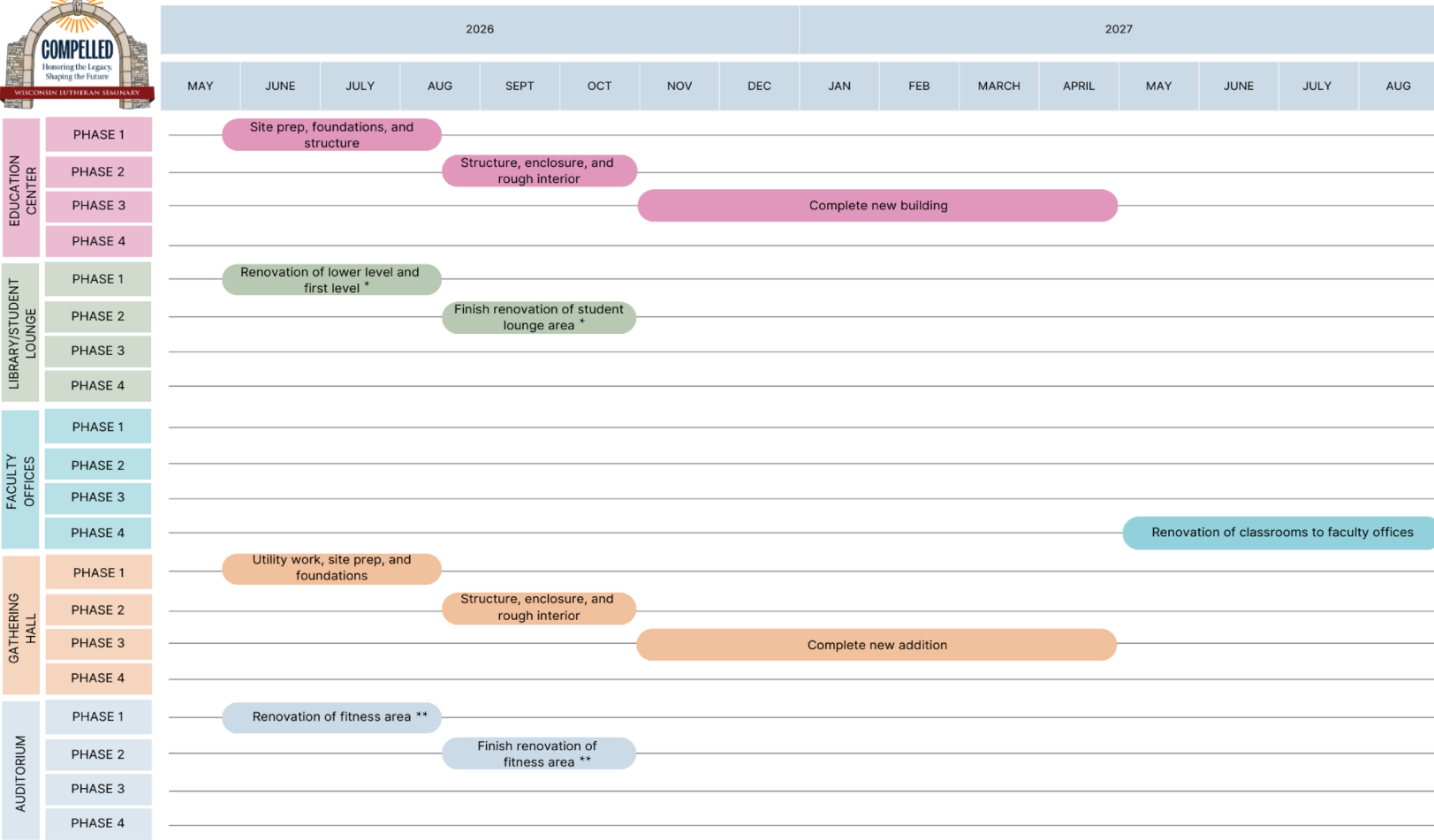
As the campaign moves forward, the seminary remains grateful for those who have already joined this effort and prayerfully invites others to participate. Together, God’s people will help shape a generations of pastors who will carry the gospel to the world.

You are invited to check out the *Compelled* website by scanning the QR code below and to follow along throughout this project.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Seminary Scurry	April 25
<i>Compelled</i> Groundbreaking	May 20
Vicar Assignment Service	May 20
Call Day	May 21
Graduation Concert	May 21
Graduation	May 22
Summer Quarter	June 15–26



* Throughout construction in the library, books and resources will be available.
 ** Construction activity on the auditorium building will not impact use of the auditorium.

A MENTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

“Almost 28 years ago, my wife Krista and I arrived in Louisville, Kentucky, with our six-week-old daughter. There was no mentor program back then, just what we called ‘Total Recall,’ which took place at the seminary after your first year in the parish. It’s not that I had no one to go to with questions, no one to encourage me. But I didn’t have a dedicated brother with whom I could meet regularly and who provided me with a safe place to vent my frustrations and receive encouragement. I remember one of the speakers at ‘Total Recall’ saying to us, ‘If you’re not having fun, get out.’ I said to myself, ‘I’m definitely not having fun. Does that mean I should get out?’

“Thankfully, God kept me from getting out. And now, all these years later, I have had the privilege of welcoming two new brothers to Kentucky. In 2023, Zach Kluball arrived in Lexington, Kentucky, with his wife and young son. Then in 2024, Jacob Schmidt arrived in Radcliff, Kentucky, with his wife and young son. It reminded me of the situation I was in when I arrived in Kentucky. But this time, I was there to be a mentor for both Zach and Jacob.

“Every month since their arrival, I have had the privilege of meeting with my young brothers in the ministry. I’ve listened to them as they’ve recounted their joys. I’ve also listened as they vomited out their frustrations. Each brother has faced challenging situations in their young ministries, situations they don’t cover in our practical theology classes at the seminary. Both brothers have questioned whether they really are the right man to serve their congregation. They’ve questioned their abilities. They’ve struggled to balance church time and family time. They’ve done all the things I remember doing 28 years ago.

“It has been an honor to be the one who provides them with a safe place to talk about all these things. It brings me such great joy to remind them of God’s promises and assure them that God called them to their congregations for a reason and that he is equipping them for their service. It blesses me to discuss the challenges that they’re facing. In encouraging them, I am encouraged.”

Pastor Steven Lange serves at Hope Lutheran Church in Louisville, Kentucky.