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Wartburg Theological Seminary to Honor Alumni with Honorary Degrees at Opening Worship Service

DUBUQUE, IA – September 2, 2009 – Wartburg Theological Seminary will begin its 156th academic year with an opening worship service on Monday, September 7 at 5:30p.m. The service will be held in the Loehe Chapel on the seminary campus and all are welcome to attend.

During the service, honorary degrees will be awarded to two Wartburg Theological Seminary alumni, Bishop Mark Narum and Rev. Larry Trachte. Both have served distinguished roles in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Wartburg Theological Seminary is privileged to honor them at opening worship.

Bishop Mark Narum received his Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1999. After his ordination he served as pastor of Prairie Lutheran Parish which consists of four North Dakota congregations: Faith Lutheran Church, Palermo; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ross; American Lutheran Church, Stanley; and Knife River Lutheran Church, Stanley. In 2008 Narum was elected to serve as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Western North Dakota Synod. Narum and his wife Janice have three children and reside in Stanley, North Dakota.

The Rev. Larry Trachte is a 1970 graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary. He went on to begin his ordained ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly, Iowa. Four years later, he accepted a call to serve as college pastor and assistant professor of religion at Wartburg College. He earned a master's degree in religion and health at the University of Iowa in 1982. In 1994, Trachte was awarded the

Herbert and Cora Moehlmann (MOLE MAN) Chaplaincy Chair and named dean of the chapel at Wartburg College. Upon his recent retirement from Wartburg College in May 2009, he was named professor emeritus of religion. He continues to teach "Living with Death" classes at Wartburg College in his retirement.

Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of eight theological schools operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Wartburg is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and educates women and men to serve the church's mission as ordained and lay leaders. Established in Dubuque, Iowa in 1854, Wartburg Seminary is beginning its 156th academic year.

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