



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Wartburg Theological Seminary and Bryant Elementary School Celebrate and Give Thanks for Several Decades of Partnership**

DUBUQUE, IA – December 1, 2011- On December 15, 2011, representatives of Wartburg Theological Seminary and Bryant Elementary will come together to celebrate their long-standing partnership with a program at Bryant Elementary. This academic year, 21 children of Wartburg Seminary students are enrolled at Bryant Elementary. Overall, 30 children of Wartburg Seminary students are enrolled in the Dubuque Community School District (DCSD). “We value the many gifts and strengths that the Wartburg community so generously shares with Bryant. Their presence brings richness and diversity to our institutional identity and benefits all of us. And the limited amount of time that Wartburg students are in the community helps us to remember to live in the moment and be grateful for today,” reflects Mrs. Vicki Sullivan, Bryant Elementary School Principal.

The Wartburg Seminary children and families, along with President Stanley N. Olson and Dean for Vocation Amy Current, will gather with Principal Vicki Sullivan and the Bryant Elementary School staff to celebrate and give thanks for this partnership on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> with a breakfast and brief program in the Bryant Elementary gymnasium.

Wartburg Seminary students move to Dubuque to receive theological education for lay or ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other churches. Most live in student housing on the seminary’s campus which provides single, married, and family accommodations. “The community-centeredness at Wartburg is evident almost immediately when prospective students visit

our campus. Visitors see not only graduate students but also families, and community residents gathering for worship, study, service, and fellowship,” says Wartburg’s President Stanley N. Olson.

For prospective students arriving on campus with children, Rev. Amy Current, Wartburg’s Dean for Vocation says, “It is with pleasure that I share with them the fantastic reputation held by the Dubuque Community School District and especially our neighborhood schools: Bryant Elementary, Washington Middle School, and Dubuque Senior High School. Student families and several members of our faculty and staff have experienced the welcome, dedication, education, and nurture by these school communities for several decades and it is with confidence that we encourage student families to enroll not only at Wartburg Seminary but in the DCSD as well.”

Wartburg Seminary students typically live in Dubuque for two years, move away for a one year internship, and then return to Dubuque for a fourth year. Rev. Current adds, “As a Bryant Elementary and Washington Middle School parent and Dubuque resident, I am amazed at the dedication and welcome shown to Wartburg Seminary student families by Bryant Elementary staff each year. What a gift to each child, and each family. Bryant staff eases some of the potential stress for Wartburg families by being a steady and welcome presence each day.”

President Olson says, “We Wartburg people are proud members of the Dubuque community and grateful for the many constructive partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, and individuals.”

Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of eight theological schools of 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 in its 158<sup>th</sup> academic year.

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