

# *Wartburg Theological Seminary*

## **HOLY COMMUNION OPENING OF THE 172<sup>ND</sup> ACADEMIC YEAR AND THE FEAST OF CREATION**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 | 5:00 PM



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### COMMEMORATION

#### *Feast of Creation*

*Throughout history, many human activities have contributed to the destruction of Creation. Yet today, more than ever, some human activities take the form of a war against Creation. Some hold greater responsibility for this crisis—elite consumption, exploitative business models, and economic theories prioritizing profit over sustainability. Pollution, health crises, deforestation, and mining in conflict zones worsen the situation.*

*Yet there is hope for a peaceful Earth. Isaiah 32:14-18 envisions a peaceful Creation where God's people live only when justice is achieved. The Lord's justice will dwell in the desert, God's righteousness lives in the fertile field (Isaiah 32:16). In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Hope is being able to see that there is light - despite all the darkness."*

*Today begins the ecumenical Season of Creation, a season of prayer and action for our common home that takes place every year from September 1 to October 4 (ending on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi). During this year of the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, Christians across the globe unite in working for peace with creation as an expression of this old and strong ecumenical communion.*

## GATHERING SONG

*The Wartburg Seminary community of 2025-2026 gathers with drumming, singing, and prayer at the outdoor baptismal font. Each person gathers near the animal designated for their part of the community:*

*Butterfly – new students in all programs*

*Dragonfly – continuing students (not graduating) in all programs*

*Parrot – students on internship*

*Octopus – final year students in all programs*

*Manta ray – staff*

*Eagle – guests, partners, spouses, and family members*

*Owl – faculty (north sidewalk)*

Come, O Holy Spirit, Come TFF 106

The musical score is written for a soprano and bass voice part. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the soprano part, and the bass part provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of the song. The second system contains the next two lines. The lyrics are: 'Come, O Ho-ly Spir-it, come, Wa wa wa E-mi-mi-mo, Come, al-might-y Spir-it, Wa wa wa A-lag-ba - Ho-ly Spir-it, come. E-mi-o-lo-ye. come, ra, Come, Wa-o, come, wa-o, come, wa-o. al-might-y Spir-it, come. A-lag-ba-ra-me-ta. O Spir-it, come. E-mi-mi-mo.'

Come, O Ho-ly Spir-it, come,  
Wa wa wa E-mi-mi-mo, Come, al-might-y Spir-it,  
Wa wa wa A-lag-ba -

Leader

Ho-ly Spir-it, come.  
E-mi-o-lo-ye.

come,  
ra, Come, Wa-o, come, wa-o, come, wa-o.

al-might-y Spir-it, come.  
A-lag-ba-ra-me-ta. O Spir-it, come.  
E-mi-mi-mo.

Text and music: WA EMIMIMO, The Church of the Lord (Aladura); transc. and para. I-to Loh, b. 1936

Text and music © The Church of the Lord (Aladura)

Transcription and English paraphrase © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian School of Music, Liturgy and the Arts

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at Wartburg Theological Seminary acknowledge our campus occupies ancestral lands stolen by the U.S. Government and white colonizers from the Sauk, Meskwaki, Miami, Ho-Chunk, Potawatomi, Ochéthi Šakówin (Oh-chey-tee shah-koh-ween), and Kickapoo peoples. The Wartburg Seminary diaspora community continues to occupy these and other stolen lands first given to Native nations by the Creator.

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism*

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
† one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.  
**Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF THE 2025-2026 WARTBURG SEMINARY COMMUNITY

Introduction of New Students

Welcome to Continuing-Year Students, Interns, and Final-Year Students

Welcome to Faculty and Staff

Welcome to Guests and Family

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, for all of life and for our common calling as your servants, for the work of your church and for the ministries of word, sacrament, and service. We give you thanks for all whom you call to be leaders in your church and for teachers who form them for service. Through the witness and mission of this and all our seminaries may the church join courageously in your work of compassion, mercy, justice, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*Water may be poured into the font.*

We gather at this font, O God,  
creator of oceans and rivers, rain and snow.

We praise you for the Mississippi River, Catfish Creek, and the other bodies of

water we name aloud now:

We praise you for the water you provide us each day.

We praise your Spirit, hovering over this font.

We bless you for this cleansing water of rebirth,

this flood of endless mercy,

and for all the baptized around this blue planet.

All the waters are yours, O God,

even the ferocious waves of the sea, the overflowing rivers,

the rainstorms that drown crops and herds.

We beg you to heed the cries

of everyone suffering from flooding in the places we name now:

As you saved Noah and the animals from the deluge,

so now save those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened.

Dry up the wild waters, that the people may live.

All the waters are yours, O God,

even stagnant rivers, and wells nearly dry,

and lakes that are merely puddles.

We beg you to heed the cries

of everyone suffering from drought in the places we name now:

As you saved Hagar and Ishmael in the desert,

so now save all those creatures dying of thirst.

Pour down rain and fill up the wells, that the people may live.

We ask you, almighty Provider,

to give us the water we need,

and we praise you for the sustenance you grant at this font.

By the water of our baptism empower us

to pour out ourselves for others

and to safeguard the waters of your earth.

To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Sea of holiness, Spring of salvation, Cloud of mystery,

be all praise and thanksgiving,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Led by the cross, the faculty lead our procession into the chapel with drumming. All pass by the font and may make the sign of the cross. The sprinkling of water is a reminder of baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.*

# PROCESSIONAL SONG    O God Beyond All Praising

ELW 880

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-  
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,

we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.



## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, source of all goodness: we give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless our seminaries, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic and community life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 32:16b-20

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 29

*The cantor sings the verses; the assembly sings the refrain:*



- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor. **R**

- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.
- <sup>7</sup> The voice | of the Lord  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. **R**
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.
- <sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace. **R**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 4:1-11

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

Luke 8:22-25

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

President Kristin Johnston Largen

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*The assembly may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*At His Feet: Where Learning Leads to Mission\**



(All) 1. At His feet sat twelve dis - ci - ples, Called to start their  
(High Voices) 2. Count-less peo - ple shared the mes - sage, Faith - ful teach - ers  
(All) 3. We are ga - thered, God's own chil - dren In this day, this  
life a - new. Filled with won - der, filled with ques - tions,  
spread the word. (Low Voices) In their wit - ness with each tell - ing,  
time, this place. We must speak and we must lis - ten,  
Blind to what they yet might do. Je - sus' teach - ing,  
God's re - sound - ing voice was heard: (All) "Hear, my peo - ple,  
O - pen to re - ceive God's grace. Learn - ing leads us  
rich in sto - ry, Gave them wis - dom, gave them sight. This would be a  
I have called you, Chos - en you to be my own." From the womb God  
on to mis - sion! Know - ing Je - sus sets us free! Now we make our  
new foun - da - tion, This a source of truth and light.  
knew and formed us; Through the cross God led us home.  
bold com - mit - ment: An - swer - ing "Here I am, send me!"

*\*See note at the end of the service.*

## **NICENE CREED**

With generations of the faithful and the people of God around the planet, we join together in confessing our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The assisting minister leads the prayers of intercession. Each petition concludes:*

God, in your mercy,  
receive our prayer.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers and the assembly responds:*

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

We share Christ's peace with one another.

*The assembly may share signs of Christ's peace with one another.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

*A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Today's offering is designated toward ELCA Good Gifts water projects (filters, irrigation, and safe water). Please feel free to learn more and/or support ELCA Good Gifts water projects by using the QR code below.*



## SETTING THE TABLE

*The assembly may stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Receive, gracious God,  
these fruits of the earth and of our hands:  
bring to completion in them the work of your creation,  
so that, transformed by the Holy Spirit,

they may be for us the food and drink of eternal life.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### *DIALOGUE*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### *PREFACE*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### *SANCTUS*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God triune, how majestic ...

...we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:



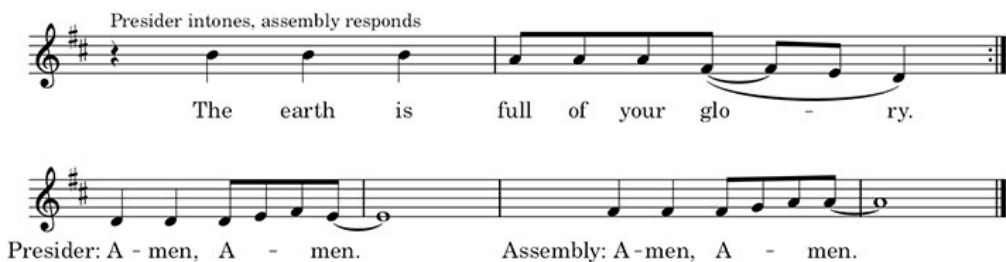
...we mortals sing our song:



...we your children unite in this song:



...to praise you again:



## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts ...

**Our Father...**

*The assembly is seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We have three stations for serving Communion: two in the front of the chapel and one in the refectory. Please take a cup from the usher, come forward to receive the bread, which is vegan and gluten-free, made in a mixed kitchen. The silver chalice has wine, and the pottery chalice has grape juice. Once you have communed, please place your cup in the baskets on the side of the room before returning to your seats.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION SONG

## *We Come Now to Your Table*

ACS 970



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv-ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Liv-ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop

Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013

Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches





*Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la*  
 God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -

*vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -*  
 a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we

*so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -*  
 gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the

*sí - es la co - mu - nión; pues a - sí - es la co - mu - nión.*  
 feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
 Music: NUESTRO PADRE, Miria T. Kolling  
 Spanish and English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © Miria T. Kolling.

*The assembly may stand.*

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the sacrament of unity which we have received, generous God,  
 increase communion with you and with our siblings,  
 so that, as we await the new heavens and the new earth,  
 we may learn to live in harmony with all creatures.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, sustain, inspire and strengthen you for your baptismal vocation of Christian discipleship.

Amen.

### SENDING SONG

*He Comes to Us As One Unknown*

ELW 737



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -  
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -  
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and  
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and  
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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### DISMISSAL

We begin this 172<sup>nd</sup> academic year in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace. Live in peace with creation.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*The assembly is invited to the President’s reception, outside in the quad area.*

**Worship Note:**

\*In 1993, Wartburg Theological Seminary commissioned The Rev. Dr. Ralph F. Smith, Professor of Liturgics and Dean of the Chapel at that time, to write a hymn based on the WTS Mission Statement. Dr. Smith wrote *At His Feet: Where Learning Leads to Mission* and put his lyrics to the music of a well-known hymn tune, HOLY MANNA. The hymn was often included in worship during Prolog Weeks, Baccalaureate services, and Commencements. In 2021, Wartburg commissioned Michael Joncas to write new music for the hymn. The hymn, with its new music, was sung in worship for the first time at the Inauguration of President Kristin Johnston Largen. We give God thanks for this hymn and for the new music that accompanies it.

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

PRESIDING MINISTER	THE REV. DR. KRISTIN JOHNSTON LARGEN	PRESIDENT
ASSISTING MINISTER	MATTHEW WALSH	RL FINAL YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT, WAS CO-PRESIDENT
CRUCIFER	SHAWN JUERS	RL FINAL YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT
TORCH BEARERS	KIRBY PACE KIRSTIN JOHNSON	CL FIRST YEAR M. DIV. STUDENT DL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT
BOOK BEARER	MICHELLE DETMER	DL FIRST YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT
LECTOR	ELIANA KATCHKEY	DL FIRST YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	CLAUDINE ELZUGHBI DOROTHEE CASPARI JAMIL ZOUGHBI SERGIO GOMEZ ALANIS WAYNE OLSEN ALLISON KLEIN THE REV. DR. CLAYTON FAULKNER	RL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT RL FINAL YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT RL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT RL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT RL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT DL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT DEAN OF THE CHAPEL
FLAGON BEARER	WENDY SCHULZ	DL SECOND YEAR MADM STUDENT

## USHERS

THE REV. DR. JOHN LARGEN  
KIRBY SNITKER  
THE REV. JEANETTE PERRAULT

PRESIDENT'S SPOUSE  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

## MUSICIANS

DR. DAVID PITT  
CAITLIN TAURO  
RON AMUNDSON

SEMINARY CANTOR  
CL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT  
DL CONTINUING YEAR M.DIV. STUDENT

## PRESENTERS

THE REV. JEANETTE PERRAULT  
THE REV. LESLIE O'CALLAGHAN

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE AND  
CANDIDACY

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### ELW HOLY COMMUNION SETTING SIX

©1993, 1999, 2006: TILLIS BUTLER, GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY; JAMES CAPERS, LAMB OF GOD; JAMES HARRIS, GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.

### O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

TEXT: MICHAEL PERRY, 1942-1996

MUSIC: GUSTAV HOLST, 1874-1934

TEXT: ©1982, 1987 JUBILATE HYMNS, ADMIN. HOPE PUBLISHING COMPANY

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### PSALM REFRAIN: PSALM 29

REPRODUCED FROM PSALTER FOR WORSHIP YEAR B ©2008 AUGSBURG FORTRESS.

### AT HIS FEET (*WHERE LEARNING LEADS TO MISSION*)\*

TEXT AND MUSIC COMMISSIONED BY WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TEXT: R.F. SMITH

MUSIC: MICHAEL JONCAS

TEXT: ©1993 R.F. SMITH

MUSIC: ©2021 MICHAEL JONCAS

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### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SOURCE: ORATIO OECUMENICA; ZSUZSA KOLTAI, ECUMENICAL WORKING GROUP FOR SEASON OF CREATION, HUNGARY. TRANSLATION: SEASON OF CREATION.

### OFFERING PRAYER AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, DICASTERY FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE DISCIPLE OF THE SACRAMENTS, *MISSA PRO CUSTODIA CREATIONIS*.

## **WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Founded in the year of our Lord 1854

Wartburg Theological Seminary serves Christ's church through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by being a worship-centered community of critical theological reflection where learning leads to mission and mission informs learning.

The community embodies God's mission by stewarding resources for engaging, equipping, and sending collaborative leaders who interpret, proclaim, and live the gospel of Jesus Christ for a world created for communion with God and in need of personal and social healing.

[wartburgseminary.edu](http://wartburgseminary.edu) @WartburgSem