

LifeTogether

THE MAGAZINE OF
WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Summer 2021



CELEBRATING WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CLASS OF 2021

LifeTogether

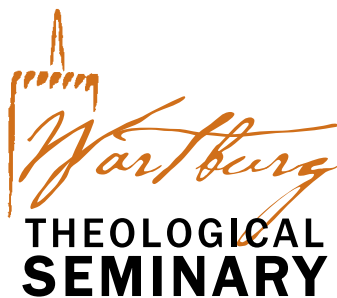
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SUMMER EDITION 2021

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Mission Statement

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.

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Celebrating the Class of 2021

WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY HOSTS DIGITAL BACCALAUREATE AND COMMENCEMENT FOR 167TH GRADUATING CLASS

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'"

—John 20:21, the Class of 2021's chosen verse

The Wartburg Seminary Administrative Cabinet did not make the decision lightly to hold the 2021 Commencement and Baccalaureate as distance celebrations. While the WTS community grieved with graduates, we also knew it would be possible to honor graduates, certificate earners, and our special award recipients and guests through a distance celebration.

The graduation planning team worked to find ways to acknowledge the palpable grief of several milestones coming and going as the pandemic progressed, and at the same time, proclaim the good news of Christ calling leaders forth into the world in a time like this. The idea of a "commencement kit" emerged during last year's planning and continued this year. Each graduate and special guest received a kit, including a printed program, diploma sleeve/certificate, composite photo, a commemorative print, an alumni button, and for graduates, a cap, tassel, and hood.

As the vaccine rollout provided new opportunities to consider gathering in person again, the COVID-19 task force deemed we could safely host two traditional, in-person events leading up to commencement weekend. First was the Campus Clean-up with Texas BBQ, followed by the class composite photo unveiling. Campus Clean-up is a chance for the whole community to come together and give the campus a spring refresh before commencement weekend, when we'd typically be welcoming visitors. It was a gorgeous day, and those present were able to worship together later in the day with a concert hosted by several community members. We were also able to host a lunch and outdoor viewing of the composite photo after its unveiling. Following are President Kristin Johnston Largent's comments to the Class of 2021.

COMPOSITE UNVEILING

Kristin Johnston Largent

I have always loved Russian nesting dolls. I don't know why, exactly; it probably has something to do with my affinity for little boxes, which I also love, but in any case, I have always found Russian nesting dolls beautiful, intriguing, and a little magical.

As I've gotten older, one of the things that I have grown to love about them is the symbolism they suggest—what it means to be connected over time and space in a deep and fundamental way. Each little doll can stand by itself, but they aren't designed that way—they are designed to "nest," to be together. That's at least a little like us, is it not?

You, you yourselves, are not alone; you do not exist alone—you cannot, none of us can! Instead, you are nested in a much, much larger community, shaped by those who came before you, shaping those who come after you.

Each of our lives is distinct, but all are interconnected, bound to those you see and know, but equally bound to those you will never see, and those you will never know. As we gaze out at the future God is calling us into, we're standing on the shoulders of giants; and others will need our shoulders to see this future as well.

The class pictures that hang in the halls at Wartburg Seminary are another beautiful visual reminder of our interconnectedness and the way that we are held together as one body in Jesus Christ. They are a vivid sign that this human connectedness is not simply abstract or theoretical, but it is embodied—it is tangible. These pictures memorialize 167 years of bodies that God has called to Wartburg—students, faculty, and staff who were here last year, and the year before, and long



REV. DR. TROY TROFTGRUBEN



COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENJOYING THE CONCERT FOLLOWING CAMPUS CLEANUP & TEXAS BBQ IN THE LEAD UP TO COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

before you ever even heard the name Wartburg Seminary. And now, you—your pictures, your faces—are joining these halls. You will hang here, nested among the rows and rows of pictures, the bodies of others, all of us together held firmly in the secure arms of our loving God, all of us important members of the body of Christ.

Hear these words from Paul: “As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ ... God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

Graduates, you have been members of the body of Christ since your baptism; and now we rejoice to celebrate this official sign of your permanent, lasting membership in the deep and broad Wartburg Community. You are officially part of our long and faithful tradition, bearing the responsibilities and privileges of our name, forever written into our story.

Welcome to the walls of Fritschel Hall, welcome to the Wartburg “nest”; welcome, welcome, welcome!

BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT

Commencement weekend at WTS is always a beautiful effort shared annually among

students, faculty, and staff. This year was different, even from our first digital celebration in 2020, but no less of a team effort. What a joy to celebrate together as community—all degrees conferred, the Gospel proclaimed, and Zoom held strong! Baccalaureate and Commencement were held as two distinct services, both livestreamed on our website and Facebook Live. Wartburg Seminary bravely (and perhaps, naively!) committed to a real-time celebration in 2020 while most higher education peers chose to pre-record their ceremonies. We chose to do the same in 2021 with two live and real-time ceremonies, both worship-centered and focused on celebrating our graduates.

BACCALAUREATE SERMON EXCERPT

Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben

Graduating people: you will go on to do great things. You will become deacons, pastors, and church leaders. You will have titles like “reverend, deacon, clergy.” You will write things, post things, and create video recordings (more than you may want) that become widely known—and may even go “viral.”

But let us not forget: no matter what you do or who you become, you will always, simply (and beautifully) be a follower of Jesus, a child of God, marked by the Holy Spirit. No matter who you are, who you become, what you do, what others think of you, what your job is, what volunteer work you do—whether you are a graduate, a non-seminarian, a teen, a retiree, an able-bodied or a differently abled person, a lifelong churchperson or a barely churchd person—the core of your identity



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Rev. Dr. Norma Cook Everitt



Prof. Susan Ebertz



Rev. Dr. Nate Frambach



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Rev. Dr. Gwen Saylor, † in memoriam 2019



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Rev. DeWayne Tieg



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Dr. Man-Hai Yip



Sean Avery MDiv



Denise Dennis MDiv



Cassandra Borges MDiv



Erika Breddin MA



Todd Durrichter MDiv



Barbara Cox MA



Perrie Draile MDiv



Michèle Engh TEEM



Clayton Faulkner MDiv



Rudy Flores MDiv



Rebekah Forst MAOM



Daniel Granger MDiv



Andy Graves MDiv



Carrie Greenquist-Petersen MDiv



Kathryn A. Gundet TEEM



Shadow Hanson MDiv



Tyler Hoey MDiv



Mary Hughes MDiv



Tamara Jacobi MDiv



Timothy Jacobson MDiv



Tina Kuechler MDiv



Daniel Kirschbaum MA



Fredrick Kinker MDiv



Michelle Knight MDiv



Thomas Kreis II MDiv



Micah Louwage MDiv



David Maloy MDiv



Tara Koch McAdams MA



David Myers TEEM



Marietta Nelson-Bittle MDiv



William Ostrem MDiv



Dianne Pichard TEEM



Amanda Randall MADM



Jamie Reising MDiv



Cassie Riter MA



Sergio Rodriguez MDiv



Cynthia Ryder MA



Kersten Scooter MA



Sarah Sorensen TEEM



Timothy Stacy TEEM



Amelia Vaghs MDiv



Karl Webb MDiv



Heidi Youngquist MDiv

William Beckstrand, TEEM

Colin Cramer, Lutheran Learning

David Hawkins, TEEM

Raphaela Mueller, Lutheran Learning

Maria A. Rojas Banda, TEEM

Paul Sannerud, TEEM

Not Pictured

(who you are) is anchored in your relationship to God in Jesus Christ.

Who you are in Christ is what ultimately matters. No matter how often we lose sight of that. As adults, we often prefer to identify ourselves—to others and to ourselves—by the choices we've made and the things we've done. But we find here a Jesus who cares remarkably little about what we've done and who we are—his concern, instead, is *whose* we are: that we live as those marked by relationship to him.

SPECIAL AWARDS AND HONORS

The Honorary Doctor of Divinity was presented at commencement to three recipients: Rev. Amy L. Current '97, Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod; Rev. Christopher DeForest '09, Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; and Rev. Amy Odgren '01, Bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. The Living Loehe Award, established by Wartburg Seminary in 1973 as a way of

honoring individuals who have given distinguished service to and through the church and exemplify Christ's call to be disciples in the context of their own daily lives and professional commitments, was given at commencement to Rev. Kelly Chapman, Honorable Madam Justice Sandra E. Kurtzious, and Rev. Renee Splichal Larson.

The Rev. Kelly Chatman has served as an exemplary church leader in many capacities. In 2020, he became the first Director for the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement, a nonprofit organization providing programs, coaching, and training to connect and support congregations, nonprofits, and their neighborhoods. Honorable Madam Justice Sandra E. Kurtzious of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (Redeemer Lutheran Parish) is Judge of the High Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature—Family Division. She is the only judge with that portfolio who serves the whole country. The Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, who also delivered this year's





commencement address, has served as Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy, Congregation, and Rostered Minister Accompaniment in the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 2019.

CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2021 **President Kristin Johnston Largen**

As it is written in the Gospel of John, after the resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples, breathes upon them the Holy Spirit, and commends to them his peace, sending them out to bear this peace into the whole world.

You, graduates, are heirs to this peace, and to this sending; you, too, are commended to bear Christ's peace with you in the ministries to which you will be called—or have been called. And what a gift you will be to this weary world—a world that is in great need of peace: peace among nations, peace among peoples, peace across political, ethnic, gender, and class divides. The world is longing for peace.

But note, please, that this is not just any peace you bear; it is the peace of Jesus Christ—it is the peculiar and particular peace Christ himself incarnated, the peace that marked his ministry, and the peace that ultimately led to the crucifixion. This is no ordinary peace. Christ's peace is not a "leave me in peace"; a peaceful, easy feeling; nor a "peace-out."

No, the peace you are called to bear, dear graduates, is something else entirely: something far more costly, far more precious, and far more powerful and transformative.

Christ's peace is a fierce peace—a keep your seat on the bus kind of peace, a lock arms and walk across the bridge kind of peace, a donkey ride into the city to face the authorities kind of peace. This is a peace that demands justice and accountability as a part of reconciliation and renewal. It is ferocious, it is strong, it is resilient. Christ's peace is a relentlessly loving peace—a love driving out hate kind of peace, a walking the extra mile kind of peace, a keep



on knocking at that door kind of peace. This is a peace that forgives in the midst of pain, a peace with open hearts and open hands, a peace that doesn't give up or give out even in the face of scorn and indifference. This peace is patient, enduring, and persistent.

And Christ's peace is a radically welcoming peace—a peace that makes a friend of the stranger and the enemy, a peace that says "all" and really means it, a peace that goes out to the alleyways and the prisons and says "come." This is a peace that doggedly seeks out the lost and the abandoned, a peace that gazes with grace upon the overlooked and rejected, a peace that prepares an overflowing table for the marginalized and outcast. This peace is daring, inviting, and courageous.

The call you have received to be the bearers of such peace is both an awesome responsibility and a sacred blessing. This calling is not and will not be easy, and there will be times when you want to lay this peace down, and walk

away. But beloved children of God—named, called, gathered, and now sent—you are not alone in this peace-bearing work in the world; you are never alone. Christ goes with you in the power of that Holy Spirit breathed into you at your baptism. What is not possible by ourselves is possible with God. Hold firm in your foundation, and do not lose hope.

When evening had come, the first day of that resurrection week, the disciples stood together in fear behind locked doors. And Jesus came—through the doors, through the fear—and stood among them. They rejoiced in his presence. And Jesus said, "Peace with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And he breathed the Holy Spirit upon them.

Go out now with the Holy Spirit. Go now with Christ's peace; go now with Christ's blessing.

Both Baccalaureate and Commencement are available to watch at facebook.com/wartburgseminary/live.

Journey Together: A Next Bold Step

LEARN ABOUT THE NEW COMPETENCY BASED TEEM PROGRAM AND HEAR FROM LEGACY DONOR, REV. JOHN SCHLEICHER, ABOUT WHY HE SUPPORTS IT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dr. Kristine Stache

In response to the call of the Spirit and the needs of the church for faithful leaders to steward the Gospel of Jesus Christ, particularly in underserved communities that worship in languages other than English, Wartburg Theological Seminary has created a Competency Based Education approach to the ELCA's TEEM pathway to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The program—Journey Together—will free people to pursue the call to ministry placed upon them by the Holy Spirit.

Competency Based Education is similar to an apprenticeship model of education that values learning in context through the rhythm of praxis and reflection. Journey Together values learning in community, a value that is commensurate with the Wartburg way of embodying theological education. Formation takes place in three distinct learning communities: the local parish, a mentor-mentee group, and with a personal assessment team. As language and culture play critical roles in the formation of head, heart, and hands for ministry, the program will be fully available in the candidate's first language. Journey Together will launch with parallel tracks in English and Spanish.

As with all students who are invited to pursue TEEM as an alternate path to ordination in the ELCA, students in this program are attached to a local parish. Situations vary from placement to placement, but the student normally has a pastoral leadership role in the parish under the supervision of a local pastor advisor, who will serve on the student's assessment team. An auxiliary resource will be provided to local congregations to assist them in taking on the role and responsibility of

being a learning community in service of the student and the wider church. Students are accompanied throughout the program by an assessment team including the student, a faculty facilitator, a local advisor, and a mentor.

Together, this team is responsible for tailoring the program in ways that meet the needs of both the student and the context in which they are serving. Critical to the student's success is an open, trustworthy relationship among the people on the team and regular meetings to engage and evaluate the student's progress. The recommendation at the beginning of the program is a bi-weekly check-in with a monthly conversation. At critical junctures, monthly conversations could include the director of Journey Together and/or a representative of the student's candidacy committee.

The third community for the student is the mentor group. Convened by the mentor, these groups, which include students and mentors who share a first language, are venues for building collegiality with care toward the spiritual well-being of the student. The mentor groups will meet bi-weekly and include students at a variety of places in the curriculum.

Accompanied by these three communities, students will work through the curriculum in their context with the aid of a pre-loaded iPad received at the beginning of the program. There are no scheduled courses online or on campus. Students will work through the program's nine modules at their own pace, with touchstones with learning communities and candidacy within and between each of the modules.

DONOR STORY: WHY I'M GIVING TO SUPPORT JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. John Schleicher

I was about ten years old when my grandpa, Max, without any small talk like “How are you?” or “Good morning,” simply asked: “John, have you decided what you’re going to do with your life?”

Looking back now at the context to that, for me, very clueless moment, I think my grandpa probably did wonder about that question very early in his own life. His dad, Caspar (class of 1876), who served St. Paul’s in rural Swan Creek (now Peters), Michigan, encouraged his son to become a pastor too. But Max wasn’t ready. As a teenager, he had a 20-mile mail route, then got a job grinding chemicals at Parke Davis in Detroit, then spent some time as a farmer. But a wet year, an early frost, and a disastrous bean crop failure led him to reconsider his dad’s previously unheeded suggestion.

And this is where the story gets really interesting and, maybe, not unlike the hope of the “Journey Together” Competency Based Education TEEM program. Grandpa had at

most a seventh-grade education. So, as my dad writes the story, Max, without an eighth-grade diploma, bypassing both high school and college, enrolled at Wartburg Seminary, his dad’s alma mater. Here he spent four years, stoking the boiler between classes for room and board and taking extra work privately under Dr. J. Michael Reu. He graduated in 1910.

Grandpa’s first call was to an isolated country parish nine miles from Golden Valley, North Dakota, where he was the first resident pastor for a community of German-Russian homesteaders. After supervising the construction of a modest church and parsonage, he journeyed to Williston, Ohio, to marry Emma, a member of the parish then served by his father. My dad, Edmund, writes: “Unprepared for the lonely silence of prairie life, the young bride found it impossible to make a satisfactory adjustment. Consideration for her health, the prospect of a baby soon to be born, and his own father’s serious illness resulted in a return to Williston for a six-month leave of absence, destined to become permanent.”



DR. KRISTINE STACHE

When his dad, Caspar, died in 1912, Max became the pastor of the Williston-Blackberry parish, where he would serve for the next 23 years. Following my dad's birth that same year, his mom, Emma, spent the remaining nine-plus years of her life in a state mental hospital. Again, my dad writes: "My only memory of my mother is seeing her lying in state in the parsonage." My sense is that her illness and death deeply informed the shape and direction of both my grandpa's and my dad's spiritual journeys.

My dad frequently spoke of providential coincidences. One of these was a letter of desperation from the parents of a little girl with epilepsy, mailed at Napoleon, Ohio, to Pastor August Hoeger in North Dakota. Pastor Hoeger, a friend of Max's from seminary, had established a home for persons with mental and/or physical disabilities. He thought of Max and sent him this message: "Why don't you start a Home of your own in Ohio?" That question, plus the stories Max knew about Bodelschwingh in Germany, plus his frequent visits to visit Emma in the hospital, created in his heart a deep awareness of an unmet need.

So it was that at the 1927 convention of the Ohio District of the Iowa Synod held at the Blackberry church, Max asked the assembly to establish and underwrite a home for "the Lord's afflicted." The assembly pleaded "no funds" but pledged "moral support" should the host pastor decide "to go ahead anyway." On the basis of what my dad described as a reluctant nihil obstat, Grandpa assembled a board of directors whose members signed personal notes so money could be borrowed to purchase an initial 15-acre tract and erect Cottage I of Luther Home of Mercy near the parsonage in Williston. On March 19, 1929, the first resident arrived, the first of scores of "afflicted ones" arriving over the ensuing 92 years—the first of those who would come to live and be cared for in this and other cottages and eventually also several group homes.

Grandpa would continue to serve both as pastor of the two parishes and as superintendent of the Home for six more years. The Home was also ably led by Lillian, whom he married three years after Emma's death. He then resigned as parish pastor in order to "just" serve at the Home until his death in 1962. Spending our family summer vacations at their home, I remember getting to know many of the 100-plus residents, wounded and gifted people of all ages and conditions, all needing lifelong support. I remember Grandpa giving his financial report at an annual LHM festival, thrilled that once again the Home (in a time before any significant governmental support) finished the year in the black, with a balance of \$0.31! That moment has long inspired my own faith journey.

My dad, surrounded by a loving extended family and blessed with remarkable teachers in both elementary and secondary schools, graduated from Capital University in 1934. In another turn of events, another "providential coincidence," although he was planning to go on to ELTS, now Trinity Lutheran Seminary, with a best childhood friend, he decided instead to go to his father's alma mater, graduating in 1937. He knew about Dr. Reu, whom he suspected wondered whether anything good could come out of Columbus. He writes: "Dr. Reu proceeded to find out. He called on me to recite at the beginning of each class every Tuesday and Thursday for six successive weeks as we studied Paul's letter to the Philippians in four languages. I had been forewarned that one could be expected to translate at the very first class session. So I survived." (I think Dad more than survived, graduating with high honors throughout his academic years.)

Dad's first call was to Trinity in Richmond, Michigan, a three-year-old mission parish without mission support. There he met (in another providential coincidence) and married my mom, Wilma. They lived together in the parsonage with a whopping salary of \$85 a month. After seven

years in this call, he accepted a call to St. Martin's in Marine City, Michigan, where I, together with my sister Jean and brother Jim, spent almost all of my childhood. Besides being a respected pastor, community leader, and vocal advocate for public education, Dad's command of the German language also enabled him to provide ESL instruction to post-war immigrants.

In a near repeat of his own father's ministry, my dad would be called to be the Executive Director of the Luther Home of Mercy when in 1962 Max fell ill and soon thereafter died. Dad would for the next 20 years shepherd the Home through significant growth in maximizing the potential of every resident, in new construction, and in adapting to ever-increasing regula-

tory mandates. In recognition of my dad's ministry, in 1978 he was given the Living Loehe Award. Dad retired (sort of) in 1982 and died in 2003.

Phylis and I are deeply thankful to be able to support Journey Together in memory and honor of Caspar, Max, and Edmund Schleicher. This new bilingual, bi-cultural, competency-based TEEM program promises to be, Lord willing, a next bold step, yet one more creative and enduring expression of God's care and love for those not yet reached with this good news.

Roasting Coffee for a Cause: It's Bean a Year

REV. PAUL WATERMAN '16 AND PASTORAL INTERN JACOB KRUEGER BREW COFFEE TO SUPPORT SEMINARIES

REV. PAUL WATERMAN '16

Normally, the people of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale, IL, gather each fall around Reformation to share in a meal and bid on dinners as a part of the "Dinner Auction for Seminary Education." It is among my favorite ministry experiences each year; food, laughter, and fun. In 2019, more than a dozen dinners were auctioned off, and thousands of dollars were sent to two ELCA seminaries. In March, as my family was preparing to purchase groceries and prepare food for the seventeen people who bought a "spot at the table" for our March Madness dinner, we made the difficult, and correct, decision to postpone until the threat of COVID-19 had passed. As of this writing, we are still waiting.

Zoom forward to November of 2020. We committed our annual minimum support of \$1,000 to each of the seminaries we support, but we realized that we hadn't put together any formal fundraising effort. On Sunday, December 13, I made the "executive decision" that we would roast coffee at my house and give it away to those who would donate to seminary support. Although it wasn't the most polite way of doing things, I didn't give Pastoral Intern Jacob Krueger a heads up. So he found out he was a co-director in this program at the same time the assembly heard about it: during announcements after Sunday morning worship. To generate interest, I decided the tagline would be: "This may not be the best coffee you drink, but it will be the freshest."

The next Sunday, after lunch, Jacob and I gathered around my grill in our driveway, where we spent more than three hours roasting coffee. We spent plenty of time in conversation, talking about seminary, about Epiphany, and about the upcoming Christmas holiday. With each batch, we took joy

in knowing that people we know and love would enjoy fresh coffee, and Wartburg Seminary would receive funds that will continue the mission of forming church leaders. With cold feet, and as the sun set, we realized that we had roasted eight pounds of coffee!

There were multiple opportunities for people to pick up the coffee from the church. We enjoyed sharing stories of us roasting coffee, and we found that the coffee-roasting process opens up new topics of conversation. When the last bag of coffee was picked up, we high-fived and realized that more than \$2,000 had come in as a result of the coffee for a cause. More than eleven pounds of roasted coffee was given out, hundreds of cups of coffee were enjoyed, and two ELCA seminary communities received financial support to continue the mission of educating, training, and forming church leaders.

Looking back on the coffee for a cause, I still smile at the way in which the Holy Spirit worked in and through the Epiphany community. As a relatively new home coffee roaster, I knew enough to be confident that we could roast decent coffee, and that together, Intern Jacob and I could spend some time discussing in a more relaxed setting. Although it took a fair amount of time and energy, the memories made during the roasting process were enjoyable.

I've often thought about how we used our knowledge, experience, and equipment to serve the greater good. I had everything but the coffee beans, so there wasn't a significant cost or assembly of tools. I often wonder what else I have access to that could be used for the glory of God.

I don't know what the future of coffee for a cause holds. This may have been a one-time event. This may be an annual event! Whether



it happens again or not, I am grateful for Pastoral Intern Jacob and his work, to the people of Epiphany who generously support seminaries year after year, and for Wartburg Seminary, which was so transformational for me in my pastoral formation.

JACOB KRUEGER, MDIV '22

Pastor Paul brewed this idea one weekend before Sunday worship. He never shared with me that we would roast coffee until he announced it at the Sunday worship service. In this spontaneous idea and decision, Pastor Paul was trying to respond to this congregation's desire to support Wartburg and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago financially to provide students with a quality education and financial assistance.

This project was a brilliant idea in many ways, because many people typically gather around coffee after the church service and join in fellowship. Because of COVID-19, people haven't been able to share a cup of coffee very often, especially since I've been at this internship site at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale, IL. For many people, coffee is part of the human experience, and folks need copious amounts of it these days when they aren't heading to coffee shops to get their caffeine.

My experience on internship during a global pandemic has been far from my expectations when I enrolled in seminary; however, we are making do, considering the circumstances.

I was quite surprised when I was assigned here, because this is a new internship site. My supervisor, Pastor Paul, WTS '16, and my Lay Internship Committee have provided plenty of learning opportunities and experiences that will forever impact my future ministry. The people of Epiphany are generous givers and have been flexible and agile in responding to the needs of Carbondale's community during these challenging times.

Many of the members of this congregation are connected to Southern Illinois University or the local school system and are familiar with internships in their experience of student teaching or working in higher education. It has been excellent receiving feedback or tips from the members at Epiphany.

I've learned a lot about myself, other people, and ministry in general. I'm grateful that I've followed God's call to this particular ministry site. Considering the current circumstances, I couldn't think of a better place to learn and grow as a person and as a pastor.

This project has impacted the community monetarily by inviting them to live generously and respond to God's call in the world. Coffee for a Cause wasn't an extravagant event like I might have experienced if this had not been a COVID-19 year, but we used the resources and gifts at our congregation to respond to a need. I'm reminded how important it can be to create community and share a common purpose during challenging times.

Dorothy & Didrick Bohm Scholarship

NEW ESTATE GIFT TO PROVIDE OVER \$30,000 IN ANNUAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Wartburg Seminary is humbled and excited to announce the formation of the Didrik & Dorothy Bohm Scholarship which will provide over \$30,000 annually in direct support to seminary students. This fund is made possible by the Bohm's estate, which is providing a gift of over \$700,000 to Wartburg Seminary as well as long-term financial stability to their home congregation, Zion Lutheran, Mohall, ND. The Bohm endowed fund becomes part of Wartburg's \$30 million endowment which now generates over \$1 million financial support to the seminary and students every year.

After serving in World War II, Didrik's dream was to attend Wartburg Seminary to become a pastor; but he fell in love with Dorothy. Since married seminary students were strongly discouraged at the time, he became a farmer instead. Didrik passed away in 1999 and Dorothy died in 2020. Throughout their 50 years of marriage, Dorothy and Didrik were both very active in church leadership. Didrik frequently talked about the importance of helping the church form and call more pastors.

Rev. Todd Olson, WTS '05, served as their pastor at Zion in Mohall. He explained the Bohm's had huge respect for WTS came from their experience of being served by many good WTS pastors over the years: "Dorothy frequently talked about the importance of seminaries to the mission of the church; it was clear this was one of her and Didrik's priorities." He added: "They were always future-minded, wanting to invest in the future."

Shirley Olmsted, their niece who is facilitating the details of the Bohm estate, is also served by at Wartburg pastor—Rev. Phil Lerr WTS '96 of First Lutheran, Mandan, North Dakota. Shirley was happy to help bring about this gift to reality because, for many years, "Dorothy was clear about their desire to support Wartburg Seminary."

Born in 1925 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Didrik was inducted into the Army Infantry in October 1945 during World War II. He later transferred to the 747th Army Air Force. He was stationed in Naples, Italy, where he supervised the Italian Civilian Teletype Mechanics. He was discharged in January 1947 and then attended the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton for a time.

Dorothy, born in 1925 in Sherwood, North Dakota, worked at Trutna's Department Store upon graduating high school and she and Didrik married in 1949. They lived and farmed in Mohall, North Dakota but moved to the Seattle area where Didrik was employed by the Boeing Company for 10 years before returning to Mohall to continue farming until their retirement. They also enjoyed traveling, fishing, camping, making new friends, and lots of pinochle games.

Thanks be to God for Didrik and Dorothy. Their generosity provides a lasting impact on future generations of leaders to be formed and sent from Wartburg Seminary!



Alumni Notes

'59

Rev. Walter Hed died on February 9, 2021. He served parishes in Scarsdale, NY, Clinton, MD, Bermuda, and Champlin, MN; as a chaplain at Anoka Treatment Center; and as a chaplain in the National Guard and Reserves.

'60

Rev. Russell Rudolf died on March 25, 2021. He served St. John, Raymond; Bethlehem, Mankato; and St. John, Owatonna, all in Minnesota.

'63

Rev. Ernest Larsen died on February 6, 2021. He served parishes in Westby, MT, St. Maries, ID, Roundup, MT, Osborne, KS and Mankato, KS.

'68

Rev. Col. Sir John Peter Schmeling, Ph.D. died on March 26, 2021. He served 22 years in parish ministry for the ALC and then the ELCA; as Professor of Religion and History, Director of the VU Prison Education Program, Chair of the Social Science Division,

Vice President, and Dean of the Faculty at Vincennes University; was knighted in 2002; and received the Living Loehe Award in 2010.

'74

Rev. Joel Sherer died on May 4, 2021. He served parishes in North Dakota and Illinois, and as a campus minister, community college instructor, and camp director. He received a Living Loehe Award in 2006.

'85

Rev. John Paulson (MA in media ministry and Christian education) created online worship services for the South Dakota Synod's 2021 Spring Theological Conference combining recorded contributions from leaders in nine congregations, Augustana University (Sioux Falls) and St. Olaf College choirs and orchestras, and the National Lutheran Choir.

'12

Rev. Jenna Couch and Mr. Mike Couch adopted Spencer Couch on February 23, 2021.

'21

Rev. Todd Burrichter was ordained on June 13, 2021, at Calmar Lutheran Church, Calmar, IA. He has been called to serve as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Nashua, IA.

Rev. Perrie Dralle

was ordained on May 22, 2021, at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI.

Rev. Michele Engh

was ordained on April 17, 2021, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Viroqua, WI.

Rev. Kathryn Gundell

was ordained on March 14, 2021. She has been called to serve as pastor of the Sunrise Lutheran Parish of Cozad and Eustis, NE.

Rev. Shadoc Hanson

was ordained on May 20, 2021, at Salem Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon, SD. He has been called to serve as pastor of West Prairie Lutheran Church in Lennox, SD and Bethany Lutheran Church in Hurley, SD.



Faculty and Staff Updates



Rev. Dr. Jay Alanís,
Executive Director of the Lutheran Seminary Program in the

Southwest (LSPS) and Associate Professor of Theology, Culture, and Mission, is retiring at the end of June following 20 years of dedicated and faithful service to the mission of LSPS as Associate Professor, Academic Dean, Development Officer and as Executive Director for the past 11 years.



Susan Ebertz,
Director for the Reu Memorial Library & Associate Professor of Bibliography

& Academic Research, spoke at a session entitled "75 Years of Racial Ethnic Diversity in Atla" at the Atla (American Theological Library Association) annual conference and at a panel entitled "Small Theological Libraries as Place." The conference was held June 16 to 18 online. She continues her service on the Atla Board of Directors. Prof. Ebertz served on several Association of Theological

School virtual re-accreditation visits including one to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.



Judy Fortmann,
Housekeeper, retired in May after twenty years of faithful service to the

Wartburg Seminary community.



Rev. Dr. Sam Giere,
Professor of Homiletics & Biblical Interpretation, wrapped

up fifteen years of stewarding the formation of preachers at Wartburg this Spring. After sabbatical during the 2021-2022 academic year, he will return to teaching in the Bible division. During sabbatical, he will be finishing a book, tentatively titled "Faith and the Reconciliation of the Imagination" (Fortress, forthcoming). He recently had the pleasure of spending time with folks in the Southwest Minnesota Synod for a series of three virtual "luncheon chinwags" under the umbrella of "Faith and the Reconciled Imagination: Preaching the Psalms."



Rev. Dr. Lydia Hernández-Marcial,
Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, has accepted

a new call and will be leaving our Wartburg Seminary community at the end of June 2021. She will be returning to Puerto Rico where she has accepted a position to teach Hebrew Bible at the Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico and to be closer to her parents.



Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann,
Associate Professor of Lutheran Confessions

& Heritage, led an ELCA Wittenberg Center webinar on the 500th anniversary of Luther's appearance at the Diet of Worms. He also led an online Christian education session about his recent book *Stories from Global Lutheranism* with a congregation in Arkansas. His article "Martin Luther's School of the Cross" appeared in the journal *Humanities* of the International Christian University, Mitaka, Japan.



Rev. Dr. Craig L. Nesson,
Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics, The

William D. Streng Professor for the Education and Renewal of the Church, and Academic Dean, published "A Lutheran Theology for Diakonia in North American Contexts" and "Liberation Theology and Diaconia: Methods of Learning" in *International Handbook on Ecumenical Diakonia*, editors: Godwin Ampony, Martin Büscher, Beate Hofmann, Félicité Ngnintedem, Dennis Solon, and Dietrich Werner (Oxford: Regnum Books, 2021). He also published "Gift and Death: Facing Cancer." *Currents in Theology and Mission* 48 (April 2021) and "Rationale for a Social Statement on Child Abuse and Child Protection." *Currents in Theology and Mission* 48 (April 2021). This was the work of WTS ethics students in Fall 2020 and is now being circulated with a Model Resolution for ELCA Synods asking the ELCA to develop a Social Statement on Child Abuse and Child Protection.



Matthew O'Rear,
Interim Dean of the Chapel and Projects Manager, will be

concluding his service to Wartburg Seminary at the end of June 2021 after five years of faithful service. Prior to his work as Interim Dean of the Chapel, Matt served the seminary in various roles, including Associate Dean for Vocation (Admissions & Student Services) and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives.



Lindsey Queener,
Director for Marketing, has accepted a new

position as Communications Manager for the ELCA's World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Programs. Prior to her work in Marketing, Lindsey served the seminary as Director for Admissions and as a Development Officer. She and her husband, Dr. Tim Snyder, will continue to reside in Washington, D.C. where he is on the faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary.



Char Rachuy Cox, Director of Contextual Education, taught the Christian Worship

Class for the Spring 2021 term of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin Diakonia program. This six-week course surveyed the major aspects of the Western Christian Liturgical tradition and explored the rich diversity of contextual worship practices across the ELCA.



Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben,
Associate Professor of New Testament, taught a

final-year course on Romans this past spring, gave a presentation on John's Gospel to Interim Pastors of the Minneapolis Synod, and published an article on collaborative wikis in classrooms in *The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching* (May 2021). This summer he is working on an article for *Word & World* journal, several book reviews, and some further research ideas. Troy served as

Bible Division chair this past year and continues in assisting with the development of our competency-based TEEM curriculum Journey Together.



Rev. M. DeWayne Teig,
Instructor in the Pastoral Arts & Advisor

for TEEM, returned to his instructor and advising duties late in 2020 after being on medical leave during the fall. This spring he facilitated a small group for Spiritual Practices and is again teaching the Educational Ministry course for TEEM students this summer – The Church as Learning Community. DeWayne is currently pursuing independent study in the areas of trauma, resiliency, and ambiguous loss through the University of Minnesota. He also recently participated with other Wartburg faculty in a consultation – Expanding the Latinx Vision of Borderlands in Theological Education.



Dr. Man-Hei Yip, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, participated in the ELCA

Theological Roundtable (TRT), held virtually using Zoom (March 2021), was invited as a webinar guest speaker on "Choosing a Career Path: A Roundtable with Alums," hosted by Asian Theological Summer Institute (ATSI) and Pacific, Asian, and North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry (PANAAWTM) (March 2021), and wrote a column titled, "The Pain of the World: Deepening Our Sense of Baptismal Vocation" for the June/July 2021 issue of *Living Lutheran*.



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Upcoming Events:

September 18-20, 2020

Considering Your Call Weekend (Online Event)

November 17, 2020

Online Open House

January 12, 2021

Online Open House

March 19-21, 2021

Considering Your Call Weekend

April 20, 2021

Online Open House



For more information and to register, visit www.wartburgseminary.edu or use the QR code above.



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