

# LifeTogether

THE MAGAZINE OF  
WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Fall 2022



2022 Annual Report



# LifeTogether

The official magazine of Wartburg Theological Seminary for our alumni and friends. Permission is granted for additional use in congregations. Founded in 1854 and located in Dubuque, Iowa since 1889, Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of seven seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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## COVER PHOTO

Lamont Wells, Strategic Advisor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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## FALL EDITION 2022

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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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# From the Boards of Directors & Trustees



Dear Friends of Wartburg Seminary,

We are deeply honored to be writing to you as part of our Seminary's Annual Report. We are proud of the many benchmarks and accomplishments these pages bear witness to over the last year. We are grateful to you, and all our donors, who continue to support the mission of Wartburg with your time, talents, and treasures.

As the new Board of Directors Chair, I (Kathy) want to express my hope and confidence in our shared commitment to keep Wartburg true to its mission. Committed to "Lead Boldly," Wartburg is at the forefront of theological formation and education. Our Seminary community embraces and celebrates the diversity of all of God's people. We are committed to full equity and inclusion in every aspect of the Seminary's work and life. These principles of love, diversity, equity, and inclusion inform how we train and equip the leaders we form and send into the world. We are committed to educating and equipping them with the tools and learning they need to help build and lead authentic and diverse communities of love and caring in a divided world. With our various paths to ordination for word and sacrament ministry, to diaconal service, and in our innovative certificate programs, Wartburg is well-positioned to offer the formation and education needed for all of God's people. We celebrate the way in which our students—with all of their varied gifts and backgrounds—embrace their vocational call to share the gospel with those who have not yet heard or experienced the authentic love, compassion, and mercy of Christ. We honor their commitment to serve God's Church where ever it is found. Wartburg's programs and paths, its innovations, the renovations of Fritschel Hall to make it more accessible, functional, and effective, and—at the heart of it all—our students, their families, our faculty, and our staff—provide great opportunities to lead and great gifts with which to serve God, God's church, and our neighbors.



As the Board of Trustees Chair, I (Andrea) want to express my gratitude and invitation to all of you to continue the generous support for Wartburg Seminary that has been evidenced through the years of our history. This report will show you the wonderful support for our Lead Boldly Campaign, made possible by you, to ensure that the new leaders God is calling to service through our Church are fully taught and prepared to Lead Boldly. Please note the information on the paths to service in the Report where the numbers of individuals who are now on that call journey to rostered leadership reflect how Wartburg continues to be the beacon to students that it was in my era of attending. (MDiv 1977).

We invite you to continue your path of encouraging and supporting Wartburg Seminary. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and your prayers.

Kathy Patrick  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

Rev. Dr. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl '77  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

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# WTS Begins 169<sup>th</sup> Academic Year

## CONVOCATION REFLECTION FROM REV. DR. JAN SCHNELL

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Convocations, a long-standing tradition at Wartburg Seminary, are community conversations about topics that matter. They focus on current, often-challenging topics that deserve face-to-face dialogue. Convocations strive to host discussion in ways that bring us together as community, invite open-ended questions, and welcome everyone's voice. Convocations are neither lectures nor simply presentations. They are face-to-face conversations, inspired by Jesus' teachings that strive for mutual understanding, solidarity, and wholeness in communities today. The following is a spoken word reflection from Rev. Dr. Jan Schnell, Assistant Professor of Liturgics, that she shared with more than 140 students, faculty, and staff at this year's fall Convocation, Wartburg's Identity as Community in Christ:

You've heard it already now hear it apace  
Jesus is the center, who has been, is, and will be the dayspring of grace

For the church, a healthier setting has been wilderness, not empire  
We refuse to dampen with discouragement in this world's partisan mire  
But recognize that living baptized, wet kindles the Spirit's fire

It'll be the strangeness of the gospel of Jesus Christ  
Not the structures of an ivory tower raised to heights

That will characterize the future of WTS  
Where learning leads to mission and mission informs

Yes

Everything. Because God's movement in the world, with the Spirit loosed and Jesus found  
Makes you free as free, and in that freedom love-bound

The future's more colorful in so many ways  
People who are Black, Brown, and Rainbow leading God's praise

Wartburg will lead in telling the truth  
Acknowledge land and labor, Löhe's impact on Ojibwe neighbor

Honesty will not threaten existence  
For it is the way "Open Questions" and "12 Practices" find their persistence

We all know you can't make Beloved Community alone  
So we sit down with those around, even on the days it feels more like groan or postpone, in order for God to hone

Us in the image of Jesus' inbreaking  
Where many-a-table become Eucharistic partaking

Some of us come on our feet and sit in this seat  
Others are just as present online and in asynch time

Whatever your pathway, modality, program, or song  
We call each other to our next better step because each of us belong

YOU help craft the future as the Spirit sees us  
Rise up and proclaim the name of Jesus



# Report on the 5th Conference of the International Loehe Society



Wartburg participants at St. Sebald seminary site.

From July 24 - July 27, Wartburg Seminary hosted the 5th Conference of the International Loehe Society under the theme "Christian Identity in Crisis: The Legacy of Wilhelm Loehe as Inspiration for the Church Today." Over 40 participants gathered on campus and a handful of others joined the presentation sessions by Zoom. Participants came from Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, and the US, including a number of Wartburg Seminary faculty, alumni, and friends.

The idea for such a society resulted from conversations between professors Craig Nesson and Thomas Schattauer about bringing together people with interest to explore the work of the Franco-German Lutheran pastor Wilhelm Loehe as a living legacy for the church today. The organizing conference was held at Wartburg Seminary July 2005, with subsequent meetings every three years alternating between Germany and the US.

The days of the conference were full with presentations (twelve in all!), worship, and good fellowship over breaks and meal times. In the words of Prof. Nesson, "we experienced the spirit of life together in Christian community. The conference theme helped us retrieve and claim the witness of our founder, Wilhelm Loehe, for the challenges of mission in our time." There was also a trolley tour of historic Dubuque and an excursion to Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, and St. Sebald Lutheran Church, which like the seminary trace their history to Loehe's Sendlinge (sent ones). At St. Sebald, the group visited the site in the countryside where the seminary was located from 1857-1874.

The conference featured significant contributions from Wartburg Seminary faculty to a constructive and critical reflection on Loehe and his legacy: professors Nesson on the future church, Yip on a borderless Christianity, Schattauer

on liturgical imagination, and Schnell on the encounter with Native Americans. In addition, volunteer seminary archivist Jean Peterson reported on the collection of data on Loehe's Sendlinge. "All the presentations were excellent and showed a great range of scholarship and perspectives connected to Pastor Loehe," commented Prof. Martin Lohmann, who himself preached at the opening worship. President Kristin Lergen expressed gratitude for the work of the International Loehe Society, "critically exploring the legacy of Wilhelm Loehe: challenging assumptions, bringing new insights and helping us learn more about who we have been, in service of who we are becoming."

For more information regarding the International Loehe Society, visit the website at [iloes.net](http://iloes.net).

# Jerry and Annette Johns Establish Scholarship for Diversity in Ministry

**"WE BELIEVE WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN."**

Education holds a special place in the lives of Jerry and Annette Johns. Annette spent her career at the elementary level before teaching philosophy at a community college. Jerry spent five years as an elementary and reading teacher before moving on to Northern Illinois University, where he spent 30 years as a professor and director of a literacy clinic.

As educators, they each worked with students of varying backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. While they say those experiences don't necessarily make up the bulk of their careers, it factored into the decision of how to best share their financial resources.

"As we've matured, we've become more sensitive to the diversity we have in our country and thought it would be good for us to devote some of our energies there," stated Jerry. Annette added, "I think, especially lately, people of color experience too much prejudice and difficulty in their careers and personal lives. We recognize our own privilege and want to do what we can to make it simpler, easier, and more equitable for others."

During the COVID lockdown in 2020, Jerry connected with Wartburg's Lead Development Officer, Dan Potaznick. In talking with Dan, the Johns learned more about what was being done to support historically underrepresented groups, like the launch of a new



program, Centro Teológico Luterano Multicultural (CTLM). They also discussed what was anticipated, including Caminemos Juntos/Journey Together. To further plan for a more inclusive future, the Johns Scholarship for Diversity in Ministry was established. "I think seeing more non-white people in positions of power in the church is a good thing. And if our gifts help in that regard, that's great. We believe we are all God's children; there are no exceptions," stated Annette.

Jerry went on to explain, "I think when people can contribute, they ought to. We know that our gift might not make a giant difference, but even a small impact can be meaningful, especially over time." He continued, "It's like planting a tree that starts small but grows into one that sustains all kinds of life and provides welcome shade. We hope that starting this scholarship is the seed that gives people from marginalized groups a better chance to become church leaders through Wartburg."



# J-Term Experience Inspires Gift

## **FLEXIBLE THINKING AND OPEN MINDEDNESS IMPORTANT FOR DIVERSITY**

A J-Term experience to Pine Ridge, South Dakota had a profound impact on the way Linda Wiles Davis, (M.A. '03), thought about ministry. Shortly after their marriage, Linda and her husband Lawrence joined a Presbyterian church in New York City. It was a small congregation, so they formed a joint parish with the Norwegian Free Lutheran Church across the street. In 1975, when they moved to Manhattan, Kansas, they joined Peace Lutheran Church. Later they transferred to First Lutheran Church in Manhattan.

A busy woman, tasked with raising three children and balancing a career in biology, Linda recalls having an urge to do more with the Church but not really knowing where to start. An avid reader with a great interest in theology, Linda had always wanted to learn Greek. So, when Winston Persaud, Professor of Systematic Theology and The Kent S. Knutson & UELC Professor in Theology & Mission at Wartburg visited the Central State Synod and visited her church, it seemed only natural to ask him for a reading list. And while the reading list was provided, it was the gentle prompting from Persaud for Davis to check out Wartburg Theological Seminary that turned out to be life changing.

After some thought, Davis enrolled in Wartburg's Summer Greek class. A brief interruption due to a health issue didn't deter Davis, and it was a short couple of years later that she returned to Wartburg to enroll as a diaconal candidate in the MA Program, "So I got to do my Greek after all," stated Davis. "I really appreciated the faculty all around, especially May Persaud, and Winston Persaud of course, and some-



Linda Wiles Davis and Lawrence Davis

one who really influenced me was Nate Frambach, who taught Congregational Leadership. Nate made sure I was always completely included even though I wasn't intending to become a pastor."

Throughout her studies, Davis clearly recalls learning how ministries operate and the many kinds of leadership required to be successful in various kinds of congregations with different types of populations; "I learned that ministry is not like pie, where you cut the pie and there are only 6 or 8 pieces and when you run out, that's it – instead ministry is like bamboo or crab grass... you cut it down and it multiplies. So, once you engage in one kind of ministry, more and more ministries pop up. There are always more opportunities."

*Continued on page 30*

# WTS Alternative Internship Sites

## NOKOMIS HEIGHTS, MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD

"I am delighted and exceedingly grateful that the generosity of those who direct gifts to Wartburg for the nurturing of the internship program enabled this internship placement"  
— Rev. Stacey Nalean-Carlson

Wartburg is committed to identifying and nurturing internship sites ready to receive students from diverse communities. Through conversation with Wartburg alumnus Pastor Kris Capel, Rev. Stacey Nalean-Carlson, Wartburg's Director for Contextual Education, learned that Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, in response to its changing south Minneapolis neighborhood, had launched a Bilingual Learning Center and had recently begun introducing Spanish into its weekly worship services. "In that conversation with Pastor Kris, the Holy Spirit was stirring. I immediately thought of a student, Yesenia Morales Bahena, whose internship site we were still seeking," stated Nalean-Carlson. Yesenia immigrated to the United States from Mexico; her native language is Spanish, and her hope was that her internship would give her experience leading and learning in a bilingual, mul-

ticultural church. Once Pastor Kris and Yesenia met for some initial conversation, it was clear that this connection was indeed the work of the Holy Spirit. "I am delighted and exceedingly grateful that the generosity of those who direct gifts to Wartburg for the nurturing of the internship program enabled this internship placement to move forward in partnership with the Nokomis Heights congregation and the Minneapolis Area Synod," stated Nalean-Carlson. Of the experience, Bahena stated, "I'm grateful that I have been welcomed as I am, even though that means that there might be moments where people need to sit with their uncomfortableness when we're getting to know each other, I'm grateful that everyone has an open heart to welcome me as I am and to just learn together not for us, but for the Church."







Michael Schulte (seated, right) pictured with volunteers at The Dwelling

## THE DWELLING: WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

"It is incredible to witness God at work through dreamers and donors"  
— Rev. Stacey Nalean-Carlson

Wartburg is deeply committed to forming evangelical leaders capable of developing and revitalizing congregations and organizations serving the gospel in the world. To this end, Wartburg has set a goal to identify and nurture contextual education sites that are deeply connected to innovation, mission development, and church revitalization. Much to the surprise and great joy of Director for Contextual Education, Rev. Stacey Nalean-Carlson, an email arrived in early February from Pastor Danielle DeNise, Director for Evangelical Mission in the North Carolina Synod. Pastor DeNise shared her synod's dream to consider The Dwelling a training site for pastors to learn best practices and essentials for creating faith community centered in economic equity. The Dwelling, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is for those experiencing homelessness and is served by Pastor Emily Norris, a Wartburg alumnus. That initial email led to some exciting conversation to imagine how Wartburg might partner with The Dwelling and the North Carolina Synod to raise up leaders equipped for the

essential work of mission development. "Once again, the Holy Spirit was on the move!" stated Nalean-Carlson. Out of this conversation emerged an internship placement for Michael Schulte, a Wartburg affiliated student, who had already been exploring a call to mission development with a focus on pursuing equity in education, housing, and employment. Of the assignment, Schulte says, "I'm really grateful to be able to see how the possibility of what a non-traditional church can look like within our denomination that we can be a church that moves outside of our normal four walls and serves people in the margins very intentionally." Nalean-Carlson added, "I am so eager to see how Michael's sense of call is shaped by his internship experience with The Dwelling. It is incredible to witness God at work through dreamers and donors. Again, the generosity of those who direct gifts to Wartburg for the nurturing of the internship program enabled this internship placement to move forward in partnership with The Dwelling and the North Carolina Synod. Thanks be to God!"

# Partnering In Wartburg's Mission

## MEET THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Development Team's ministry is focused on helping people of faith experience the great joy that comes from partnering with the mission of Wartburg Seminary.

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In 2 Corinthians 8, the Apostle Paul goes into detail about his visit to Macedonia. Describing their generosity and their concern for others, Paul writes that the Macedonians "voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the favor of partnering in this ministry to the saints." This description also identifies the focus and mission of Wartburg's Department of Development. The Development Team's ministry is focused on helping people of faith experience the great joy that comes from partnering with the mission of Wartburg Seminary.

Paul Erbes, who is in his sixth year of guiding this vital ministry, recently highlighted some of the unique aspects of Wartburg development. "Wartburg is blessed by some of the highest supporter loyalty in the country. In fact, Wartburg consistently ranks in the top 10 for alumni support out of all 280 seminaries in North America."

Another factor that has contributed to the significant growth in financial support from donors over the past several years is trust. Paul elaborates, "Donors tell us frequently that they give because they trust Wartburg and they see the impact they are making

on the church. People tell me often, 'Wartburg does what they say they are going to do.'" He adds, "I had one supporter tell me recently, 'if you want to make an impact on the future of the church, then Wartburg is the best investment you can make!'"

Erbes spent 25 years as a parish pastor before beginning a career in supporting congregations and Lutheran agencies and building their financial foundations. He will readily point to the one key factor in Wartburg's ability to garner dedicated support. "We've got the best team in the business!" Erbes is proud of this team of professionals who represent the highest standards of faithful philanthropy. "First and foremost, they are people of faith, servants of Christ. Second, they have the knowledge, skills, and integrity to effectively serve people in their charitable activity. Third, they work for the donor."

### Meet the Development Team:

**Paul Erbes:** Paul wears three hats as VP for Development: He serves on the President's Leadership Cabinet to guide the mission of the seminary; he leads the operation and strategy of the Development Department; and he serves as a Development Officer pro-

## Meet the Development Department



Paul Erbes  
VP for Development



Rev. Jason Davis  
Development Officer



Miranda Hoey  
Alumni Development  
Officer



Lance Gilmore  
Development Manager



Dr. Richard Persky  
Development Data  
Manager

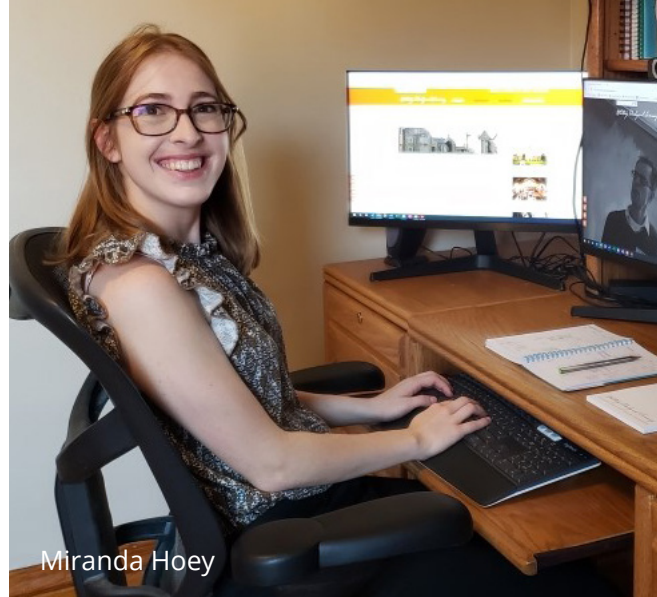


Dan Potaznick  
Lead Donor Officer





Lance Gilmore and Rev. Jason Davis



Miranda Hoey

viding direct involvement with Wartburg supporters. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College, Luther Seminary and holds the credential of Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) along with a Certificate in Fund Raising Management (CFRM) from the Lilly School of Philanthropy at Indiana University.

**Rev. Jason R. Davis:** Jason is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament and most recently served as Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Huntsville, AL. As a 2020 WTS graduate and former student body president, Jason brings great enthusiasm and knowledge of Wartburg to his role as Development Officer. He looks forward to helping supporters discern their charitable impact on the Church through this special place. Jason's spouse, Deacon Kellie Lisi, also works at Wartburg where she has been called to serve as the Director of Community Life and Candidacy. Together they have two young children and are happy to call Dubuque home.

**Miranda Hoey:** Miranda serves as Alumni Development Officer and in that role, she focuses her time on many alumni supporters, alumni class challenges as well as a Development Officer for many Iowa and Minnesota donors. Miranda's impact on the mission of WTS is shaped by experience with Ewalu Bible Camp and Wartburg College. She knows Wartburg well through her experience living on campus after she married Tyler Hoey while he was a student here. They now live in Tripoli, IA where Tyler serves as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church.

**Lance Gilmore:** Lance is Wartburg's new Development Manager and joins Richard Persky to serve as the Development Operations Team. Lance grew up in Seattle and has lived in seven states. Before moving to Dubuque in August of 2022, Lance worked as a Faculty Assistant in the Department of Sociology at Prince-

ton University. As Wartburg's Development Manager, Lance's top priority is guiding the processing of gifts with excellence and efficiency. He will partner with the nationwide Development team to provide direct support to them, ensuring efficient operation of the Development office, events, and appeals. Lance originally went to college for theatre and still believes that live theater can be a transformative art form.

**Dr. Richard Persky:** Richard serves the mission of WTS as the Development Data Manager. In that role he oversees a state-of-the-art database system that assures all gifts are processed and acknowledged with efficiency and integrity. He also supports the whole team with reporting and research. Beginning his 6th year with WTS, he is frequently quoted by the team for his wisdom, such as "the challenge we have is that we have too much data and not enough information." Richard is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Michigan. He holds a PhD in Classical Studies and is a constant support to his wife, Rev. Cassie Borges (WTS '21) who serves as a pastor in Maddock, North Dakota. Richard works remotely from there and is supported in zoom meetings by their dog Ajax.

**Dan Potaznick:** Dan is in his 5th year of service to Wartburg and serves as Lead Development Officer. Dan holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a MDiv from United Lutheran Seminary. He recently earned his credential of Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) reflecting his high-level knowledge, skill, and integrity of working with donors. Dan shapes strategy for the Donor Engagement Team (Miranda, Jason, Paul, and President Lergen) as well as being a road warrior making frequent visits to WTS donors. Dan lives in Phoenix, AZ along with his wife Randi, who works as a clinical psychologist.

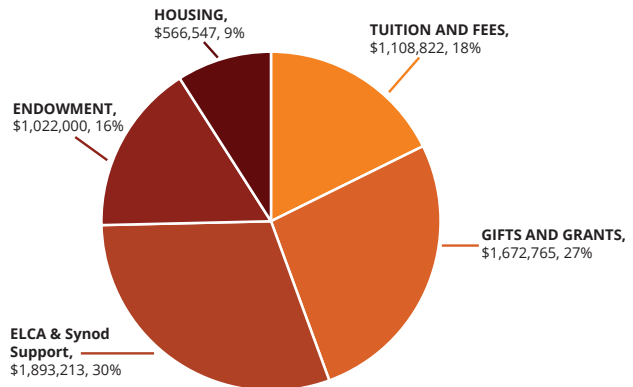
# Annual IMPA

## Fiscal Year 2021-22 by the Numbers



### INCOME

\$6,263,347\*

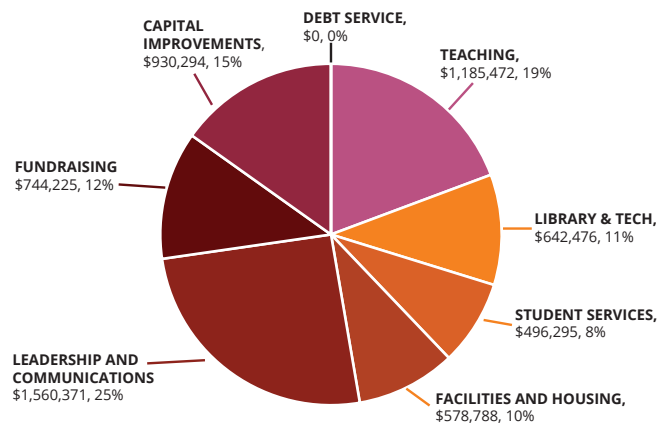


\*Does not include \$1,675,677 in estate gifts



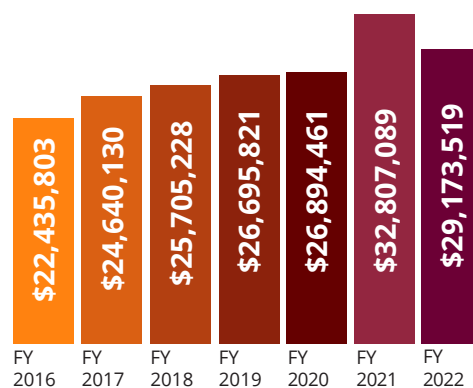
### EXPENSES

\$6,137,921



### ENDOWMENT

\$29,173,519





# ACT Report

## A Note from the President

*As [Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch] were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea" Acts 8:36-40.*

These past few years, many potential ordained leaders have been prevented from attending seminary for a variety of reasons: health concerns, family needs, costs, and travel restrictions.

God, however, creates opportunities where others see only obstacles, opening new doors and forging new roads for us to travel as we continue to seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Here at Wartburg Theological Seminary, we rejoice that God has continued to be at work in and through you, such that we are able to overcome barriers and fulfill our mission to raise up new leaders for the church, for the sake of the gospel and the world. What is to prevent us? With your help and support, nothing!

### **What is to prevent me? Thanks to your generosity, not costs.**

There are many financial realities that hinder qualified and talented candidates for public ministry from attending seminary. Your gifts are helping us actively remove barriers of cost, providing more scholarships, and more support, paving the way for more candidates to graduate from Wartburg and serve waiting congregations and Christian communities.

### **What is to prevent me? Thanks to your generosity, not educational debt.**

There are many exciting Christian ministries that desperately need a pastor or deacon to lead them into the future to which God is calling them, but sometimes it is all they can do to meet minimum salary guidelines for an ordained leader. Your gifts are actively decreasing student debt, such that when seminarians graduate, they are able to go anywhere God is calling them, without having to worry about a high monthly student loan payment.

### **What is to prevent me? Thanks to your generosity, not travel or language.**

Wartburg is continuing to develop creative paths to ordination, including new competency-based TEEM programs and multiple degree pathways, that provide students opportunities for study in both English and Spanish, that require minimal to no travel.

### **What is to prevent me? Thanks to your generosity, not institutional fragility.**

Thanks to your ongoing, dedicated support, Wartburg Seminary boasts a strong, healthy community of faculty and staff, a fiscally-responsible campus, and a balanced budget. We are facing the future clear-eyed, enthusiastic, and open to all the ways God's Spirit is moving through the church.

What is to prevent us? With your help and support, nothing!



The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largent, Ph.D  
President, Wartburg Theological Seminary

# Wartburg Seminary Donor Support

## LOEHE LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETY

The Loehe Lifetime Giving Society, named for Wartburg Seminary's founder Wilhelm Loehe, honors supporters for the significant contributions they have made to Wartburg during their lifetimes. The top categories, over \$500,000, also include planned gifts. We express our sincere gratitude for the lasting impact these individuals have made on our mission. A cross (†) is used to indicate the person has died within the year. An asterisk (\*) is used to indicate new members.

### **\$2,000,000 or more**

Rev. Ronald G & Ms. Mary Ellen Koplitz

### **\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999**

Mr. Steven Benz & Ms. Lynne D  
Sherburne-Benz  
Ms. Charlotte Streng  
Rev. Dr. Richard W Rouse & Ms Beth Lewis  
Mrs. Dorothy Bowen  
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*Home states*

81%

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**BRITANY THORPE, MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT**

I've always dreamed of living in a castle--who would've thought I'd get to do that in Iowa?! Well, no offense to Hogwarts, but Wartburg is my favorite castle. Welcoming doesn't quite cover it; the homeyness here suffuses every aspect of life. Even amid the hustle and energy of Prolog Week, every person here cares.

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“Prolog Week is a wonderful chance to connect with the entire Wartburg Community. They’re not just faces on a screen, they’re my friends, and it’s restorative to occupy space with everyone, in class, in worship, and in fellowship.”

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## J-TERM EXPERIENCE INSPIRES GIFT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

The opportunity to complete her J-Term at Pine Ridge, South Dakota was one such instance. "Pine Ridge was a very different kind of ministry and setting, and while I was only there two weeks, it enhanced my vision of what ministry could look like." This was important to Davis who states, "In regard to the future of the ELCA, we need to have people who know how to carry on what has always been done, but even more so, we need people who can do something new, too. Because the way we've always done it isn't always going to cut it."

As Davis continued to reflect on her visit to Pine Ridge and the internship program at Wartburg, she began a discussion with Wartburg's Development team. Davis shared her vision with the team, noting, "I really think the future of the church depends on us being more open, and more flexible, and having pastors in particular who are able to go in somewhere and look at the opportunities and know how to work within a great variety of circumstances." After learning about

Wartburg's alternative internship sites, located in Nokomis Heights, Minneapolis and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Davis knew that she wanted to contribute to the efforts. "I really wanted to give to something that would carry into the future and the alternative internship sites seemed like something that needed a boost to get going, so it seemed like the right place for me to support financially."

Davis' hope is to see the alternative internship program grow and flourish; "Anything that requires flexible thinking, open mindfulness and creative thinking, is good for the future of the ELCA," stated Davis. She went on to say, "Pine Ridge was so educational for me; it changed my view of how ministry could be done and opened me up to consider all different kinds of opportunities. There is always new work to be done, and I am very pleased to support the alternative internship sites effort for Wartburg students."





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# 2022-2023 Learning for Life Events

Several upcoming Learning for Life Events (both fall and spring) introduce learners to many ELCA ethnic-specific ministries as well as the Hispanic Summer Program. These events are free for all participants, but registration, found at [wartburgseminary.edu/events](http://wartburgseminary.edu/events), will be required to receive the Zoom link.

## **Community Organizing Workshop**

**Tuesday, October 4, 6:45-8:45 pm**

Kelly Marciela, ELCA Program Coordinator for Community Organizing, will lead a workshop for people interested in the basics of community organizing. This event is for students, staff, faculty, alums, area residents, and all others who are interested. Available both on-campus and via Zoom.

## **ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries**

**Wednesday, October 26, 5:30-7:00 pm**

All are welcome to join Pastor Khader Khalilia, Program Director for ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries, for a presentation about the ELCA's work. Available both on-campus and via Zoom. On-campus participants will enjoy a soup supper before Pastor Khalilia's presentation.

## **ELCA African Descent Ministries**

**Wednesday, November 9, 5:30-7:00 pm**

Pastor Nicolette Peñandana, Program Director for ELCA African Descent Ministries, shares about her work and the work of the ELCA with peoples of African descent. All are welcome to attend either on-campus or via Zoom, with a soup supper for those who attend on-campus.

## **Communion Bread-Baking Workshop**

**Sunday, November 16, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Listen to Professor Martin Lohrmann and Kellie Lisi, Director of Candidacy and Community Life, talk about theology as they lead a hands-on workshop for baking Communion bread. Intended for intergenerational participation, all are welcome either on-campus and via Zoom. An ingredient list will be provided for online participants.

## **ELCA African National Ministries**

**Wednesday, February 15, 5:30-7:00 pm**

In cooperation with the Center for Global Theologies, Wartburg Learning for Life invites you to join Pastor Joseph Bock, Program Director for ELCA African National Ministries, for a presentation about the ELCA's work. This event will be available both on-campus and via Zoom. On-campus participants will enjoy a soup supper before Pastor Bock's presentation. All are welcome.

## **ELCA Global Missions**

**Thursday, March 16, Time TBD**

The Center for Global Theologies hosts Rahel Mwitula-Williams, ELCA Director for Global Mission Funding, for a public forum on global missions. Available both on-campus and via Zoom, the public forum is both for members of the Wartburg community and for all others interested in the ELCA's work.

## **The Challenges of Latinx Theological Education**

**Wednesday, March 29**

In cooperation with CTLM, Wartburg presents Pastor Daisy Machado, director of the Hispanic Summer Program, speaking on "The Challenges of Latinx Theological Education: A View from the South." On-campus participants will enjoy a soup supper preceding Pastor Machado's presentation. Available both on-campus and via Zoom. Watch for Registration information coming soon.

## **2023 Reformation and Reunion**

**April 11-13**

The annual Reformation and Reunion alumni event will be Tuesday, April 11 – Thursday, April 13, 2023. Watch for a save-the-date postcard with more information coming soon.

## **Spanish Language, Culture, Hospitality**

**April 19-22**

Thursday, April 20, 7:00-9:00 pm

Friday, April 21, 5:00-7:00 pm

Saturday, April 22, 9:00-11:00 am

Pastor Violeta Siguenza, director of Centro Teologica Latino and Multicultural (CTLM), leads three sessions on ministry with Latine people.

- Session 1, on Thursday evening, will focus on (a) Spanish language basics and cultural variations and (b) hospitality within Latine cultures.
- Session 2, Friday evening, will focus specifically on liturgical vocabulary.
- Session 3, Saturday morning, will focus on using Spanish music in worship, including introduction to one of the ELCA's Spanish-language liturgies.

All three sessions will include opportunities for practicing (or honing) Spanish language skills. Available both on-campus and via Zoom. Watch for Registration and pricing information coming soon.

## **Challenges and Opportunities of Online Worship**

The January 2023 issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission* will focus on the challenges and opportunities of online worship, including the meaning of assembling as online or digital communities, digital communion, and more. Several authors of those articles will reflect on the lenses through which they consider these issues and what they learned from reading one another's articles. Available both on-campus and via Zoom, we hope this will be the first of several webinars on these topics. Watch for the date, specific authors participating, and registration and pricing information coming soon.



# Alumni Notes

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'55

**Rev. Charles D. Probst** died September 4, 2022 in New Braunfels, TX. He served congregations in Sherman TX, Kenner LA, El Paso, TX, Baytown, TX and Liberty TX and later chaplaincy in a retirement community.

'63

**Victor A. Baderschneider** reports that his wife of over sixty years, Marian Eda Baderschneider, died on April 14, 2022.

**Wayne Weissenbuehler** died Sept 2, 2022 in Burlington Iowa. Wayne served congregations in Kansas and Colorado before being elected bishop of the Central District (ALC) in 1981 and first bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod in 1987. Later he served Bethany in Cherry Hills CO. He taught at WTS, in Papua New Guinea and Estonia; was deeply involved with the Lutheran churches in Namibia and El Salvador.

'87

**David Rask Behling** serves as the Campus Ministry Director at Journey House at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, a non-profit ecumenical organization that works with students and others in the UWRF and River Falls communities to help build a more equitable, affirming, and inclusive community. He was ordained as a Deacon in November 2019. He lives in Chippewa Falls with **Karen Rask Behling ('89)**, where she serves as the pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

**Pastors Kerri Schaefer Veit** and **Gary Veit** retired in October 2022 to Oklahoma to live near their children and grandchildren. Kerri had served Prince of Peace Lutheran (LCMC) for the past 11 years and Gary's congregation was Peace Lutheran (NALC), both in Texas.

'93

**Rev. Rick Miller** is serving as chaplain at Suncrest Home Health and Hospice in West Des Moines. His wife Marlene died on June 27 after a two-year battle with cancer.

'94

**Rev. Jeff Ruetten** retired March 1, 2021.

'00

**Rev. Wendy Ruetten** retired on December 1, 2021.

'13

**Kelsey Lane Smith** died in Mercer Island WA July 17, 2022. She served as a chaplain in IL and CA.

'18

**Rev. Nancy M Raabe**, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield PA, has been named President of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM). Her term runs through July 31, 2025.

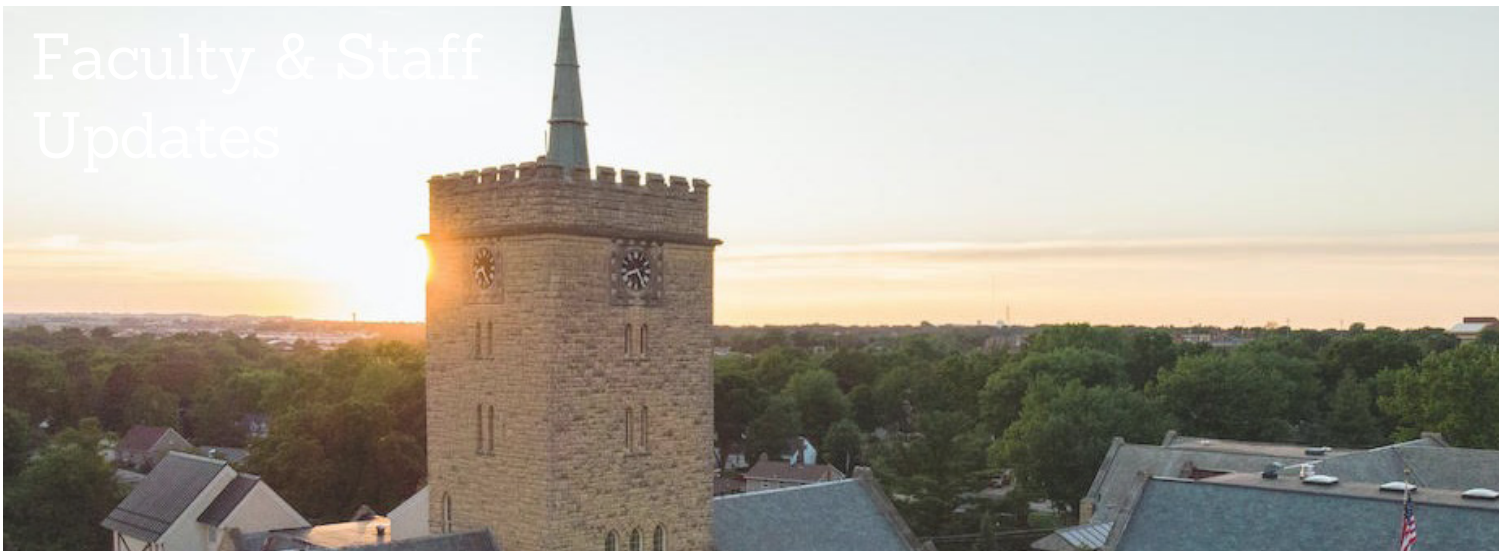
'19

**Rev. Tania Schramm** was ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament on August 14, 2022. Tania has been called to serve at Grace Lutheran Church in Adel, Iowa.

'22

**Rev. Colin Neuharth** was ordained on July 30, 2022. His grandpa, Rev. Lloyd Miller, graduated from WTS in 1965 and was ordained on June 20, 1965. Colin's ordination was a monumental moment for both of them, as now his family has two generations of Lutheran pastors that graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary.

# Faculty & Staff Updates



**Susan Ebertz**, Director for the Reu Memorial Library & Associate Professor of Bibliography & Academic Research, is serving on two committees of Atla (formerly known as American Theological Library Association), the Governance Committee and the Diversity Policy Task Force. She will

be serving as chair of an Association of Theological Schools initial accreditation visit to a school in the fall.



**Nathan C.P. Frambach**, Professor of Pastoral Theology, currently also serves as the Interim Academic Dean. Nate will serve in this capacity for this academic year, during which time Wartburg will search for a new permanent Dean. This past August Nate joined President Largen in representing

Wartburg Seminary at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, OH. This coming January of 2023 Nate will be leading a group from Wartburg on a winter sojourn during the J-term to Holden Village in Chelan, WA.



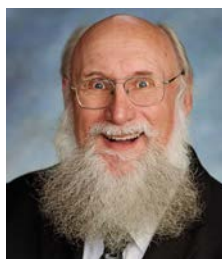
**Samantha Gilmore**, Assistant Professor of Homiletics, moved to Dubuque this summer with her husband Lance, who began serving as Wartburg's Development Manager. In July, she attended a "Wit and Wordplay" workshop in Santa Fe, NM. She is currently analyzing syllabi for the grant, "Assessing Pedagogical Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Academy of Homiletics," funded by Wabash and the Academy of Homiletics. She looks forward to teaching and getting to know her students this fall!



**Kristin Johnston Largen**, President, served as one of the co-editors of *A Companion to Comparative Theology* (Brill, 2022), editing the section on Hinduism and contributing one chapter, "Riches Line the Path, an Introduction to Hindu-Christian Comparative Theology."



**Martin Lohrmann**, Associate Professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage, attended the International Loehe Conference held at Wartburg Seminary. In August, he attended the International Luther Congress in Thousand Oaks, California, where he preached at worship, presented his recent research on the reformer Johannes Bugenhagen, and led a roundtable discussion on teaching Reformation history.



**Craig L. Nesson**, Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics, attended an international conference on global diakonia in June, where he presented a paper on "The Transfer of Diakonia from Germany to North America: The Diaconate and Lutheran Social Services in the United States." In

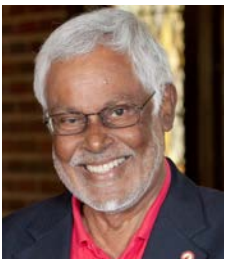
July Dr. Nesson gave the keynote address, "Wilhelm Loehe and the Future Church," at the International Loehe Society Conference held at WTS. He also represented WTS at the ELCA Service and Justice "Becoming" Conference in August to discuss partnerships in theological education with southern Africa, including Namibia.





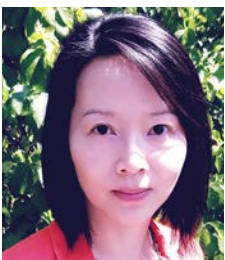
**Jeanette Perrault**, Director of Admissions, has been chosen to participate in “The Threshold- A Book Envisioning Event” through the Riverside Innovation Hub at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, MN.

In November, Jeanette will be one of 50 young adults working together to identify “concerns, hopes, and dreams for God’s church,” and discover key themes to share in the form of a book. From this event, Young Adult authors will be selected to co-author chapters with scholars over the course of a year, eventually publishing a book to culminate the experience.



**Winston D. Persaud**, Professor of Systematic Theology, Holder of the Kent S. Knutson and UELC Chair in Theology and Mission, and Director of the Center for Global Theologies, as a teacher of the church, taught one-day Theological

Intensive, “The Mission of the Church Today: Structures and Practices in Witness to Jesus Christ, to ELCG pastors, deacons, lay leaders, 2 July 2022; played cricket at Salzmänn’s field, WTS, with youths/pastoral leaders, St. Michael LC, Omaha, NE, 27 July 2022; gave charge at Leah Holloway-Nilsen’s ordination, 5 Aug. 2022; attended CSS Cand. Com. Retreat/Meeting, 18-19 Aug. 2022, KC, KS; will present, *The Doctrine of Justification: A Trinitarian Approach. Proclaiming Jesus Christ in Today’s World*, at CSI Synod Faith Formation Winter Retreat, 9-10 Dec. 2022.



**Man-Hei Yip**, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, presented her paper at the Chinese Theologies Conference at Yale University in June 2022. She was one of the panelists for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Bible Study series with the theme, “Embody the Word.” Professor Yip was also invited to speak at the 5th Conference of the International Loehe Society, which was held at Wartburg Theological Seminary in July 2022.







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## Upcoming Events

**November 15, 2022**

Admissions Online Open House

**December 4, 2022**

Advent Lessons & Carols

**February 21, 2023**

Admissions Online Open House

**March 17-19, 2023**

Considering Your Call Weekend

**April 11-13, 2023**

ReFormation and Reunion

**May 23, 2023**

Admissions Online Open House



For more information and to register, visit [wartburgseminary.edu](http://wartburgseminary.edu) or use the QR code above.



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