



LTS TODAY

Lutheran Theological Seminary, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, nurtures and challenges all people for Christ-centred leadership and witness for God's mission in the world.

ACTING PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen



The beautiful fall colours—in the leaves as well as in the vivid northern lights on display—are wonderful reminders of the rich diversity in God's good creation. This diversity is also woven into the common thread that gives us our identity as the people of God—the gospel. This gospel breathes life into

the church and into our world. It is not something that is static or carved in stone. Instead, it is something that is experienced anew for each person. This diversity is echoed in the multitude of ministries and interests in which our students are engaged, and of which we get a taste of in this edition of the LTS Newsletter.

Over our lifetimes, the people of God will experience the gospel in different ways. Continuing education provides a way to recenter our ever-changing contexts on the gospel that gives life. In this edition of our newsletter, we get a glimpse of how continuing education can foster and nurture the ways our leaders understand and carry out their ministry. The stories told by Carrie Irwin, Erik Parker, and Joey Cheung remind us of how continuing education experiences are a gift to the church and to the world.

The Reverend Canon Carrie Irwin's program focusses on storytelling—thus echoing Jesus, who taught in parables or stories. Hearing stories allows us to situate ourselves in the story and experience the gospel in new ways. Likewise, Pastor Erik Parker recounts how his experience in Wittenberg has helped him reframe the call into a ministry of Word and Sacrament, so that people can hear, taste, and see the life-giving gospel. Joey Cheung also reveals the importance of continuing education, as she works toward her Certificate in Lutheran Leadership, to prepare for a ministry with the increasing number of immigrants from Hong Kong, even as she makes this transition herself.

Continuing education is possible because of people, and in this newsletter we introduce three new appointments to the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU), of which LTS is a part. The Rev. Daranne Harris has taken on the position of Director of the Doctor of Ministry program. Kristi Baxter has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer, while Colleen Walker assumes the role of Registrar. The Rev. David Hunter takes over as the chair of the LTS Board, as he reflects on the gift of theological education provided by LTS. At the same time, we say goodbye to Colleen Rickard, LTS's registrar for 15 years, and Shawn Sanford Beck, St. Andrew's Recruitment Ambassador.

Continuing Education is possible because of the time, energy, and funds that people are willing to commit to the endeavour. Kathryn Smith explores planned giving in our STU pot feature. The launch of Lifelong Learning Pathway at St. Andrew's College gives us another glimpse of yet another way that continuing education is made possible—not only for St. Andrew's College students, but for anyone who is interested. The "Leading in Faith Today" (LIFT) program also offers continuing education courses on preaching. For a more advanced continuing education option, Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero is offering an Advanced Lutheran Worship and Preaching course in the new year. The opportunities for continuing education programs give us wonderful learning opportunities.

Finally, LTS would be remiss to not recognize the gift of leadership provided by the outgoing and incoming bishops in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, and the Synod of Saskatchewan. Bishops Larry Kochendorfer and Sid Haugen have modelled leadership and have consistently encouraged continuing education for everyone. We also welcome the newly elected bishops in these two synods, Trish Schmermund and Ali Tote, as they provide new models of leadership for the church. Thank you for your service!

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY IN THE STU: STUDENT FEATURES

‘SWIMMING IN A DEEP POOL OF WISDOM’: THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWERS OF EDUCATION

When asked to contribute to this edition of the LTS Newsletter, which is focused on Continuing Education, I was delighted to share a bit of my story. The focus of my doctoral studies is on storytelling—how our story and the larger Christian story intertwine, and how in telling our story of how we see ourselves in connection to that larger narrative, we are witnessing to the Good News of the Gospel!

In my day-to-day work as Rector to a collection of Anglican Churches in Ontario, I couldn't help noticing that we are not really telling our story, and we are hesitant to tell the larger Christian story of God's redemptive and grace-filled work in the world. The focus of my study is narrowing and while it still centers around storytelling and how a greater ability to story-tell might nurture the development of leadership capacity at a community level for the unfolding church, my work is shaping up to look at a very practical sort of problem: "Why aren't folks sharing their faith story?" Is it 'because they don't know it' or instead is it, 'they know the story of their faith, but don't know how to share it'?

What has become apparent is that what I am looking at is twofold in nature. One, is understanding, because people

need to understand their lives in relation to the Christian story; and the other is the issue of communication. My challenge is linking these two together.

But isn't that the delight and wonder of education! A process of taking us from a place of unknowing to a place of greater knowing, never complete, but always growing.

One of my favorite quotes from Maya Angelou, an American memoirist, poet and civil rights activist, offers this wisdom to my life: "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

To know is to grow in understanding, and to grow in understanding allows us to offer a deeper, richer, more compassionate contribution to the community and world around us. Growing in understanding of our story, and how it intertwines with the larger Christian story, helps us to better offer a truer, more reflective image of who God calls us to be.

When we share in the activity of telling, listening and interpreting stories, something new is created; and this new thing, with the breath of the Holy Spirit, can

be transforming. Through the work and research of my project, my hope is that this transformation can take place



Sunday celebrations and cake



in our shared roles of responsibility as members of the church, and in leadership within the church. Storytelling has something to do with who we are, with how we are understood, and with how we understand the world around us. How better to deepen that understanding than to immerse ourselves in education, by swimming in a deep pool of wisdom shared by scholars, teachers, and one another to gain new insights and to be transformed.

~The Reverend Canon Carrie Irwin

Easter fun

'THE OFFICE OF MINISTRY': WHAT DO PASTORS ACTUALLY DO?



Pastor Erik in his home office

One of the questions that has always interested me was: 'What exactly is the definition of a pastor?' When I attended seminary (the first time), I often would look around at my classmates and think about the fact that we all had varying ideas of what serving as a pastor should be. Certainly, clergy often have a wide-ranging set of responsibilities, including preaching, leading worship, counselling, and teaching, but also things like furnace maintenance, HR policy writing, tech support, refugee advocacy and many other duties as assigned. Throughout my Masters of Divinity program and in the 15 years of ordained ministry following, I have informally explored this question.

In the past few years, when I began to discern a call to further study and education, the Doctor of Ministry program became a way to explore my question about what is the role of a pastor more concretely and formally. My thesis project question centres on what the job of a pastor is. In my research, I hope to compare and contrast the variety of definitions and expectations of clergy. My research will include surveying and interviewing lay folk and clergy, to hear their answers to the questions: What does a pastor do? What do you think pastors spend their time on? What do you think pastors should spend their time on? What are the most important tasks that pastors ought to focus on?



Pr. Erik, deep in conversation, in Wittenberg

The starting place of my research is looking at what the Lutheran Confessions say about the Office of Ministry (the formal term for the job of clergy) and, in particular, how Martin Luther constructed the definition of the Office of Ministry that we still hold to as contemporary Lutherans today. To do that work, I was fortunate to take a class with Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen in May of this year on some of Martin Luther's significant Reformation writings. Part of the class included a two-week study tour of Germany, focusing on Wittenberg.

The treatises of Luther, some of which were new to me, began my deep dive into the Office of Ministry, and into Luther's thinking. However, there was a new kind of insight and understanding gained from being able to walk around Wittenberg where Luther was a professor and pastor. Seeing St. Mary's Town Church where he served, the home where he lived, and getting to know the community that he lived in revealed in concrete and tangible ways the reasoning and inspiration behind so much of his theological writings. Being in that 16th century space—combined with the stories, insights and knowledge that Dr. Jensen was able to share with us—brought alive our Lutheran history and helped me to imagine how we began as Lutheran clergy, and provided new insights into how we structure and organize ourselves now.

The coursework phase of my program is nearly complete and I will be transitioning into the research and project thesis writing phases. I am grateful for the opportunity to come back to the seminary for the Doctor of Ministry program. It is one where I get to bring all my previous learning in my Bachelor's and Master's degrees along with fifteen years of parish ministry and use it all to go deeper at the doctoral level. In the end, it is my hope to become a resource for the Church who can help others go deeper as well.

~Rev. Erik Parker



‘A MACEDONIAN CALL’:

INTERVIEW WITH LTS STUDENT JOEY CHEUNG

What is your current program at LTS?

I am taking the Certificate in Lutheran Leadership – Pastor Track, as I already had a Master of Divinity, which I secured when I was in Hong Kong, but now require this level of certification to formally be a member of staff at my current congregation here in Calgary.

Please share your story with us.

I was born and raised in Hong Kong, and received my Bachelor of Theology degree from Hong Kong’s Bethel Bible Seminary. Fortunately, somewhere in the late 1990s, Bethel Bible Seminary became affiliated with Acadia University and started offering (among a few degrees) a Master of Divinity—which I was able to complete fully whilst living in Hong Kong.

There, I was the pastor at a secondary school—where I served for 7 years. I was minister to everyone there: the students, their families, the teachers, and the social workers. I also taught courses in Bible Studies.

What brought you to Canada?

God! The story of my journey here probably began in late 2019, during what came to be known as the 2019-2020 Hong Kong Protests. It was a time of great turbulence there—to say nothing of the Covid Pandemic occurring at the same time!—and so in that chaotic environment,

I began to reflect on my theological ideals and my mission as a pastor. I wondered whether I could turn a blind eye to the corruption and darkness in society before me, or if I would choose to remain content with the status quo, which would be contrary to my calling.

So I simply asked God, “What should I do?” And I received my answer: “Go and take care of the children of immigrants in Canada (where I received my MDiv), so that their parents have the space and time for some peace, and

time to themselves, and the opportunity to adapt to their new environment.”

Just after that, the Canadian government would introduce a new scheme called the ‘Hong Kong Pathway’—a temporary policy intended for Hong Kong residents, providing an opportunity to become a permanent resident of Canada.

I can’t imagine it was an easy decision—despite the opportunity.

No, not at all. And I certainly encountered many voices of opposition, particularly because, there, it is seen as a big thing for a woman to leave her family and friends, and all on her own.

I certainly had doubts, but God was with me and spoke to me again. God said: “Will you choose to follow my call, or will you ignore me?” It was my own experience of a ‘Macedonian call’.

I chose Calgary as my Canadian city, and after visiting several churches in Calgary I was fortunate to connect with Rev. Peter Chau at Calgary Lutheran Mission Church. I identified immediately with its mission: it’s a church that responds well to the big changes we are all encountering; plus, there are many young immigrant families there, which—helping them—is part of my sense of call.

How would you assess your life here, thus far?

I arrived here in September of 2022, so two years have passed. I started out mainly serving the Sunday School at my church, taking care of immigrant families, and held two other part-time jobs at the same time. The congregation has grown from 10-20 people to 50 or more in the last year.

With my desire to serve in a more formal capacity there, I began my Certificate in Lutheran Leadership – Pastor Track last year, and hope to be fully on staff there upon the completion of this program.

I experienced that Lutheranism cares more (than other branches of Protestantism) about people’s inner hearts. It is not just a focus on how to run a church systematically. It is concerned with people’s histories, experiences and what is truly within the heart. Also in Hong Kong, Lutheran ministry does a lot of important work—connecting well and deeply with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities there. So, in many ways, I feel right at home!





SASKATOON THEOLOGICAL UNION APPOINTS FIRST CFO AND REGISTRAR

It is with joy and anticipation that the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) welcomes Kristi Baxter into her new role as STU Chief Financial Officer, and Colleen Walker into her new role as STU Registrar. In their own words, Kristi and Colleen share this celebration as they offer their gifts to the wider ecumenical community of the STU.



From our CFO

"I am enjoying my work as the CFO for the three schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union. I joined St. Andrew's College in May 2022 as their Chief Administrative Officer. In April 2023, I added the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon Finance Manager portfolio to my work here and in January 2024 I began supporting the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad. With my expanding support of the three colleges, it made sense to centralize the financial work of the STU into one position.

It has been enjoyable to work with—and to get to know—my colleagues across the three colleges. There is a real sense of cooperation and collaboration here, which is both encouraging and exciting. While my role is certainly a busy one, it is also manageable due to the support from the schools, and due to the fact that we have been working toward shared systems of administration for a while now.

As the STU integrates more closely in the months and years to come, I look forward to playing my part in shaping this effective and faithful community of theological education."



From our Registrar

"I am excited to enter this new role of STU Registrar as it holds possibilities for more collaborative work across the three colleges of the STU. I look forward to continued development of common administrative practices and processes to guide the work in the Registrar's office. I am pleased that I will have the opportunity to work closely with the faculty and staff of each college, increasing my knowledge base of the denominations, their traditions and ways of being.

The highlight for me this past year has been working alongside the college Registrars, Colleen Rickard and Lisa McInnis. I am thankful and grateful for their contributions to the development of this new role. Their commitment and care to the life of the STU and to their respective colleges is to be commended.

I believe this new phase in my work with the STU will bring excitement, challenges and rewards. I am glad to be on this journey together."



WHAT DOES PLANNED GIVING LOOK LIKE?

Laurie and Ken, a couple in their forties with three children, recently decided to update their wills. During our conversations, they spoke about how they felt it was complicated to divide their estate three ways, with each child receiving a 33.3333% portion. Instead, they decided to divide their estate into four parts. The fourth portion would be donated to charities they cared about, including their Synod and the theological school that trains their church leadership.

Cynthia has been blessed with financial security and has not had to 'touch' her RRSP. But now, as she approaches the age when she will need to start taking income, she is looking for a way to reduce the income taxes payable. She decides to make her church's seminary a beneficiary of the RRIF, takes the minimum required withdrawals, and donates them to her local congregation, for which she will receive a charitable tax slip.

Philip and his partner are very involved in a food security outreach program at their local church. The funding for this program is mainly through the church's endowment fund. They wish that they could make a significant donation to this program. When they met with their financial advisor, she suggested that they each purchase a life insurance policy and make the church the beneficiary. By making affordable premium payments now, they know that in the future the church will receive a much larger donation than they would otherwise be able to make.

What do Laurie, Ken, Cynthia, and Philip have in common? They have each made a gift to an expression of the church – each in their own unique way. It is their legacy.

Why would they do this? Because the church and its mission are important to them. They want to ensure that the church community has the financial stability to help others, is there for future generations, and will be able to

continue sharing the love of God with all people. They have chosen to leave a planned gift.

What is a planned gift? When someone leaves a gift to the church in their will, that's a planned gift. There are half a dozen other common ways to make planned gifts. What they have in common is that the amounts tend to be larger than the regular gift we make on a Sunday morning and there may be future consequences that need to be carefully thought through. That's the planning in planned gifts. Good planning creates the maximum benefit to both the giver and the recipient.

Donors decide which expression of the church will receive their gift. Many will think of their congregation first. Others will name their synod, their national church body or mission organization, one of the church's seminaries, or another church-related agency. There is the option of choosing more than one beneficiary. The important thing is to follow your heart – what ministry(ies) are you most passionate about?

Along with your lawyer, accountant, or financial advisor, a planned giving advisor can assist by talking through various options that are available to you. What is the legacy that you will leave?

Submitted by Kathryn Smith, Giving Advisor

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Charitus is an innovative leader at the intersection of faith, finances and philanthropy, serving individuals, congregations and organizations with the ELCIC and their evolving communities.





LIFELONG LEARNING AT ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE

The past academic year saw the launch of an innovative approach to continuing education and lifelong learning at St. Andrew's College. Over a dozen learners have become involved in this new program, and more are signing on this trimester.

The St. Andrew's Lifelong Learning Pathway opens the great joy and privilege of theological and spiritual reflection to a much wider community of learners, beyond our traditional degree programs. For those who are exploring Christian discipleship through leadership in church or in the wider society, and for those who are seeking paths of wisdom in other spiritual traditions, our certificate programs create new possibilities of study.

The Pathway prioritizes the student's own learning goals, and pairs the learner with their own educational guide.

By identifying educational resources and opportunities, developing a personalized learning plan, and building a portfolio of reflective work, the student progresses at their own pace toward the competencies described in their chosen certificate ("Leadership in the Faith Community", "Leadership in the World", or "Spiritual Exploration").

This unique program is a perfect fit for seasoned pastors seeking continuing education, lay leaders who desire to engage in theological work to enhance their ministries and vocations, and spiritually curious wisdom-seekers who will benefit from a flexible and supportive framework of reflection. Regardless of one's previous formal education, St. Andrew's Lifelong Learning Pathway opens a treasure-trove of theological and spiritual exploration to all who desire it.

FAREWELL TO REV. SHAWN SANFORD BECK



Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck

This October, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck, whose presence has been invaluable. In 2020, Rev. Sanford Beck joined us with a significant appreciation and care for the Saskatoon Theological Union partners: The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, and St. Andrew's College. As the first Recruitment Ambassador of St. Andrew's, he has played a pivotal role during the challenging times of the pandemic and was instrumental in the development of our Lifelong Learning Pathway. His unwavering dedication to ecumenism, education, and community building has left an indelible mark on our institution.

Rev. Sanford Beck's contributions have been numerous and impactful, reflecting his passion for fostering inclusive and expansive theological education. Beyond his administrative gifts, his empathetic and supportive approach has been a blessing for students, staff and faculty. Although his departure (to return to pastoral ministry within The United Church of Canada) fills us with a sense of loss, we are also filled with gratitude for his exemplary service and contributions and know that his new faith community will be well served by the many gifts he will bring to that new relationship.

We wish Shawn all the best in his continued journey, confident that he will bring the same level of commitment and excellence to his future endeavours—as he has demonstrated with us. His presence will be greatly missed, but he has certainly left his mark upon our community.

~Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis



SASKATOON THEOLOGICAL UNION APPOINTS DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DIRECTOR

The Saskatoon Theological Union is delighted to announce the appointment of the Rev. Daranne Harris, PhD (candidate) as the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program. She brings considerable expertise in both the practical and theoretical aspects of Christian ministry.

Rev. Harris is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Having served with the church's humanitarian agency, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, in full-time and interim ministry with congregations in Alberta, and as Chief Mission Officer for a faith-based provider of long-term care, Daranne is passionate about practical theology that informs people's day-to-day experiences of God at work in their lives and the world. The STU community is blessed by her presence in our midst!

In Daranne's own words:

"I am eager to support current and future Doctor of

Ministry students as they pursue research that integrates theology and practice in their ministry contexts. Such research is often not only reinvigorating for students, but also enriches the wider church as we seek to address critical needs and bear the gospel good news of renewal and hope in an ever-changing world.



This is an exciting time to join the Saskatoon Theological Union, which embodies an ecumenical richness that not only celebrates the uniqueness of its three distinct institutions, but also models collaboration that transcends denominational boundaries. The theological and cultural diversity within the STU provides a fertile ground for deep learning, reflection, and innovation.

I look forward to sharing my passion for qualitative research and practical theology to advance these endeavours, supporting students as they engage in transformative projects that impact both their congregations and the wider community."

Welcome, Rev. Harris!

STU DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

Are you looking to reenergize your ministry or address a challenge or opportunity in your ministry setting? The Doctor of Ministry degree is designed to guide theological and practical exploration that addresses a pressing need or emerging possibility in your congregation or community. As a DMin student, you engage with STU faculty, advisors, and peers while you continue to serve in your ministry context to better understand your research area and develop innovative ideas/projects that can be applied in your ministry. Applications for the September 2025 cohort will open in February 2025.

Consider:

- What area of ministry are you most passionate about? How could focused study and research in this area lead to transformation in your context?
- What emerging trends or challenges in your congregation or community call for deeper theological reflection and innovative ministry practices?
- What new ministry opportunities do you see in your context that you currently lack the theological or practical resources to pursue effectively?

Potential applicants can request a notification about when the DMin. application portal opens by emailing dmin.director@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

TRANSITIONS IN LEADERSHIP



FAREWELL TO BISHOP LARRY & BISHOP SID

Bishops Sid Haugen and Larry Kochendorfer, both graduates of LTS, retired from their leadership of two of the ELCIC Synods this summer. As leaders of synods that support the ministry of LTS, they have both provided exemplary leadership for the church as they faced the challenges of a rapidly changing society and the accompanying demands for being the church in new ways. They have led their respective synods—the Saskatchewan Synod and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories—through intense discussions and debates about sexuality and gender, as well as shepherding us through the COVID 19 pandemic, with all the attendant challenges these and other challenges have posed in highlighting the need for the church to re-envision its role and place in the twenty-first century as a proclaimer of the gospel. To both Bishop Sid and Bishop Larry, LTS would like to say thank you for your grace-filled leadership, and your support of, and involvement with, LTS. You have modelled helpful and effective leadership for the church, which we trust was modelled and experienced while you were students at LTS.

At the same time, we are also excited to celebrate the election of Bishop Trish Schermund (Synod of Alberta and the Territories) and Bishop Ali Tote (Saskatchewan Synod), also both LTS grads. We also celebrate the new Bishop of the Eastern Synod, Carla Blakely, who was serving in the Saskatchewan Synod at the time of her election. We want them, and the other bishops who continue as leaders of our church, to know that we at LTS will continue to support and welcome them in their leadership roles of proclaiming the gospel, and as they mentor and oversee the leaders in their synods so that together the gospel is proclaimed in all times and in all places. We trust that what they learned in seminary and have subsequently further honed and developed in their ministries will continue to serve them well as leaders of the church.

~Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen



LTS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Rev. David Hunter, Chair, LTS Board of Governors

Lutheran Theological Seminary has been a very important part of my life since 1984, when I decided that a career in Christian ministry might be my calling. I wasn't so sure at first. I needed to test the waters, deepen my theological understanding, peek behind the mysterious veil of pastoral ministry and dialogue with colleagues, professors and other church leaders. Moving from my home in Winnipeg to Saskatoon to begin classes was the beginning of a remarkable 40-year journey filled with affirmations of God's leading and support in a variety of contexts and situations.

Three years of classroom learning in the LTS community enriched my sense of call and my confidence to serve. My ministry quest took me to five congregations, including summer student ministry in St. John's – Wapella, SK; internship at Grace – Wetaskiwin, AB; and three regular calls to Salem – Pass Lake, ON; Augustana – Saskatoon, SK; and Peace – Vernon, BC. I have enjoyed the rich dynamics of each community I served and learned so much from each one. During twenty-two years of ministry in Saskatoon, I enjoyed the benefit of close proximity to the LTS community on the U of S campus, attending special events, having contact with faculty and getting to know many students who became my colleagues.

Now in 2024, the journey continues. I have enjoyed three years on the Board of Governors, becoming more familiar with the transformative steps LTS has taken to deliver theological education through diverse media and locations. Even as a smaller institution with a tiny footprint, we can have a broad impact on church and society. I am honoured to be the chair of the board this year. Our past Chairperson, Laureen Wray, provided strong support for LTS with an unwavering leadership style. I seek to continue the tradition of forward-looking innovation. It instills great confidence to have strong leadership from our President, Dr. William Harrison, and while he is away on administrative sabbatical leave, from Acting President Dr. Gordon Jensen.

After decades of cooperation with our ecumenical partners on campus, it is gratifying to see the development of a closer integration of resources with our Saskatoon Theological Union partners—St. Andrew's College and

the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad. Administrative efficiencies, strong faculty that complement each other and thoroughly integrated curriculum all allow us to offer the best possible education, even as a smaller institution.

It is a strength of LTS to have the flexibility to meet people where they are. Emphasizing, "Our Classroom is Western Canada" has enabled us to make courses available even to those for whom uprooting and moving to Saskatoon is not feasible. We are overcoming geographical and social barriers by reaching beyond traditional classroom teaching. Many courses are available through online platforms as well as in various locations in the western synods from time to time. As the need in our church for theologically trained leaders grows, LTS is prepared to respond. We have capacity both to train new pastors and to provide continuing or graduate education to rostered leaders.

In addition to training professional ministers, LTS continues to offer a range of educational opportunities for laypeople through the LIFT program. Leading In Faith Today is a series of online courses by LTS faculty available through CHURCHx, offering lay-leadership training. These courses and information about all our programs are available on our website at lutherantheological.ca/index.php/programs.

With a new academic year underway, and a newly elected Board of Governors, it is an exciting time at LTS. I look forward to working with new and continuing board members to support the leadership at LTS—and to work with the STU—to further develop learning opportunities. Providing a well-rounded theological context, we are able to train skilled leaders to serve the ELCIC.

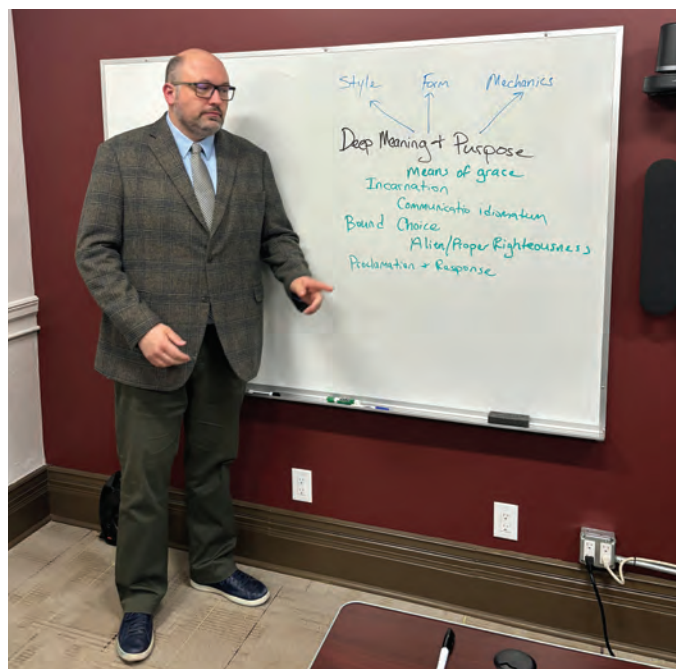
I want to thank those who have completed their terms of service on the Board of Governors and are now stepping away from this role: Lay representatives, Sue Palmer (BC), Laureen Wray (ABT) and Bev Wall (MNO) as well as Rostered representative Stewart Miller (SK) and of course our outgoing bishops Sid Haugen (SK) and Larry Kochendorfer (ABT). Please remember LTS students, faculty, administration and board members in your prayers during this new season of faithful service to the church. Your support is integral to our success.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

ADVANCED LUTHERAN WORSHIP AND PREACHING COURSE

Ordained leaders and lay leaders (congregational music directors, lay members who regularly preach, and people who are on worship committees) are invited to join Prof. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero in his Advanced Lutheran Worship and Preaching (AIP331) course in February and March. This course delves into the specifics of preparing, implementing, and evaluating Lutheran worship across its diverse forms. It also focuses on crafting and delivering sermons grounded in Lutheran hermeneutical commitments.

Both worship and preaching are explored as in-person, polymodal, and online events. Students will experiment with different approaches and benefit from constructive feedback. The course frames the material through an in-depth exploration of the history and theology behind Lutheran liturgical and homiletical practices, aiming for revitalization in the 21st century.



top: Teaching in the LTS Classroom, Dr. KSG situates the relationship between theology and practice in worship and preaching.

middle: Dr. KSG offers the Children's Sermon at Augustana Lutheran Church, Saskatoon, assisted by ESC student Deacon Alexa Wallace.

below: Dr. KSG presides at Holy Communion at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco, on the morning after his ordination.



The class meets for three weekends:

Feb 7-8: online synchronous on Zoom
Friday: 2:30 to 6:30pm | **Saturday:** 9:30am to 5:30pm

Feb 21-22: in-person in Saskatoon and on Zoom
Friday: 8:30am to 6:30pm | **Saturday:** 8:30am to 3:30pm

Mar 21-22: online synchronous on Zoom
Friday: 2:30 to 6:30pm | **Saturday:** 9:30am to 5:30pm

The cost for the course is only \$75, plus required books to purchase.

Register on the LTS website by clicking on "Apply" and then "Continuing Education."

SPECIAL FEATURE: LIFT PREACHING

Have you ever wondered how to create and deliver a sermon, either for your own interest or perhaps to preach as a layperson in your church? LIFT Preaching will teach you what is necessary to do just that.

LIFT Preaching courses are designed specifically for people who are interested in deepening their relationship with God—whether learning how to better understand the Bible, or in more deeply understanding Lutheran faith traditions, or even learning how to prepare and deliver a sermon. We would love for you to join us!

And the benefits are many:

- Learn at your own pace, in your free time.
- Emerge practically, biblically, and theologically capable of crafting and delivering a sermon.
- Become equipped to preach as a layperson in your church!
- And, if you pursue the Pathway to Preaching for Certification, your work will be reviewed by the Faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary.

To register, and for further information, please follow this link:

churchx.ca/local/shop/catalog.php?id=23

LTS HONORARY DEGREES

LTS regularly confers honorary degrees to celebrate individuals who have significantly contributed to the reputation and/or mission of LTS through exceptional achievements or exceptional service to the church, community, or society. LTS actively encourages the nominations of individuals who have been historically underrepresented in academic or church settings.

Please note: for awards conferred at Convocation in 2026, the deadline for nominations is April 1, 2025.

Nomination forms can be found at:

Lutherantheological.ca/index.php/programs/lts-honorary-degrees

Before beginning the process of nomination, please consult carefully the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon Honorary Degree Principles, Policies, and Procedures.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Even in retirement, professors emeriti Cameron Harder and Gordon Jensen are reaping the fruits of continuing education. Dr. Harder has recently published *Tough Questions, Honest Answers: Faith and Religion for 21st-Century Explorers* (Fortress Press, 2020), and Dr. Jensen recently published *Experiencing Gospel: The History and Creativity of Martin Luther's 1534 Bible Project* (Fortress Press, 2023).

For our current faculty members, Grace Professor of Leadership Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero has edited *Church After the Corona Pandemic: Consequences for Worship and Theology* (Springer, 2023), which includes a contribution from Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, William Hordern Professor of Systematic Theology. Dr. William Harrison is also currently working on a book while on his current administrative study leave.

book icon by vecteezy.com

GERMANY STUDY TOUR 2024

Photos by Rev. Sean Bell



top left: in the town church of Wittenberg, discussing the changes in the liturgy and communion practices instituted by Luther

top right: teaching about the Lucas Cranach the Younger's painting, *At Work in the Vineyard of the Lord*, an epitaph for Paul Eber, found in the Wittenberg Town Church (Stadtkirche)

middle: Castle Church doors in Wittenberg where the 95 Theses were posted

bottom left: teaching moment outside the town church of Wittenberg



bottom right: at a side altar in the Erfurt Cathedral



RECENT CONSENSUS ISSUE CELEBRATED EMERITUS PROFESSOR JENSEN

SCHIEFELBEIN-GUERRERO APPOINTED CO-EDITOR

The most recent issue of *Consensus: A Canadian Public Journal of Theology* (vol. 45, no. 2) served as the *Festschrift* for the Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen, William Hordern Emeritus Professor of Theology who retired from full-time teaching at LTS in 2022. Honouring a faculty member's retirement with the publication of a *Festschrift* – German for “celebration writing” – is a common practice in the academe, in which colleagues, former students, and friends contribute essays directly or indirectly influenced by the honoree's scholarship.

Dr. Jensen's 21 years of teaching ministry at LTS are certainly shown in the various contributions to this journal's issue. Archivist Karen Kuhnert builds on Jensen's recent book *Experiencing the Gospel* to highlight the importance of primary source research to construct profiles, especially those of women, who have made important contributions to the Reformation and Canadian Lutheranism. Four prominent Reformation scholars and theologians – Timothy Wengert, Martin Lohrmann, Robert Kolb, and Allen Jorgenson – each engage with Jensen's

work to focus on a particular aspect of the Reformation, all with an eye toward providing insights for theological discourse in the 21st-century.

Current LTS Dean Kayko Driedger Hesslein offers her insights on the challenge of decolonizing power relations as it relates to church order today. Personal reflections from colleague Stephen Larson, former student Matt Lyseng, Chaplain Lynn Granke, and ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson demonstrate Jensen's contribution to Canadian Lutheran life in general. Two sermons round out the *Festschrift*, the first by Jensen's former bishop Larry Kochendorfer and the second by LTS President Bill Harrison.

The breadth of these contributions is a testament to Jensen's influence as a pastor-theologian, whose impact continues to reverberate throughout LTS.

~Editor's note: Our thanks to Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero for this contribution.

Starting this year, the Rev. Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Professor of Leadership and Director of Contextual Formation, will serve as the journal co-editor representing LTS, replacing President Harrison. He comes to this position with five years of experience as co-editor of the *Teaching Theology & Religion* journal. The July 2025 issue is devoted to exploring how Lutherans engage the Nicene Creed in connection to the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (the full Call for Papers is on

the journal website), and plans are in the works for the July 2026 issue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in Canadian Lutheranism. Those interested in contributing should contact Dr. Schiefelbein-Guerrero.

Published since 1985, *Consensus* is a joint endeavour by LTS and Martin Luther University College and is available online for free at: <https://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/>





FAREWELL TO COLLEEN RICKARD, LTS REGISTRAR

At the end of July, LTS said goodbye and thank you to Colleen Rickard, LTS's registrar for 15 years. Colleen carried many duties as registrar, but most importantly, she was a friendly face and voice for the many students who passed through the seminary. Colleen always cared for each student—not just in their academic pursuits, but also doing whatever she could to help them feel cared for as individuals. Colleen was particularly helpful for LTS's international students, connecting them with people in Saskatoon so that their geographical transition was smoother.

Colleen's caring and thoughtful presence contributed to making LTS a warm and friendly place to be—not just for students, but for other staff and faculty, as well as people

from the community. She embodied grace, implicitly and explicitly, and has been an integral part of LTS.

LTS wishes Colleen all the best in her retirement and prays, "Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant, Colleen, who has enriched this community and brought gladness. Now bless and preserve her at this time of transition. Day by day, guide her and give her what is needed, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling her. By your Holy Spirit, be present in her pilgrimage, that she may travel with the one who is our way, our truth, and our life, Jesus Christ our Lord" (ELW Pastoral Care, 327).

~Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein



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