



# 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.

## HERE FOR YOU

*Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President*



LTS has a different slogan, **“Here For You.”**

This is not a new concept for us. LTS has always sought to respond to your needs and priorities. Rather, **“Here For You”** is a reflection on a moment in the church’s life when our concern for the life of the ELCIC is focused directly on the future of congregations, parishes, and synods. We are deeply aware of the challenges and changes that you are experiencing. In the midst of the complexities, LTS is here for you.

I have been having a wonderful time visiting with people – predominantly lay people – on **my book tour** (think of it as a workshop), based on my book *“Leadership in a Shrinking Church: Finding New Vision in Unlikely Places.”* We spend a couple of hours together, thinking about the challenges of being church as we grow smaller and working on some skills. I’m learning from participants as they learn from me. I’ve been to Saskatoon, Regina, and Winnipeg, and I’m coming to a place near you. Stay posted!

**The Rev. David Hunter**, Chair of the LTS Board, discusses the **Wise Stewards** process in which we are engaged with our Saskatoon Theological Union partners. This is a year-long series of opportunities to strengthen our shared STU systems and our LTS capacities, too.

We meet four students in the STU: **Lindsay Aicken, Luke Haisa, Roseanne Mbaya, and Judy Herbert.** They’re doing exciting things in our MDiv and DMin programs, and they reflect some of the diversity that we see on our screens and in our hallways.

**Hugh Williams** reflects on his expanded role with the STU; he now shares his skills to support all of us! Hugh also invites us to consider receiving the newsletter electronically, if possible.

Preparing people for leadership is the heart of our vocation. Following the **“Here For You”** theme, **The Rev. Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero** (aka: Dr. KSG) shares some thinking based on **“Interconnected Leading with/for an Ever-Changing Church,”** which he presented last month at the Fall Lutheran Anglican Gathering (Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC and Anglican Diocese of Qu’Appelle clergy study conference). Dr. KSG discusses ways that leadership can be relational, authentic, and accountable, emphasizing that leadership is with and for the life of the community, the Body of Christ.

LTS is also engaged in a process of self-reflection, in which some of you have joined with responses to our online questionnaire. We have refined our declaration of our mission and identity and have developed new expressions of the values that move us forward. This newsletter introduces a portion of our reflections, especially emphasizing our values: **faithfulness, participation, reconciliation, transformation, and proclamation.**

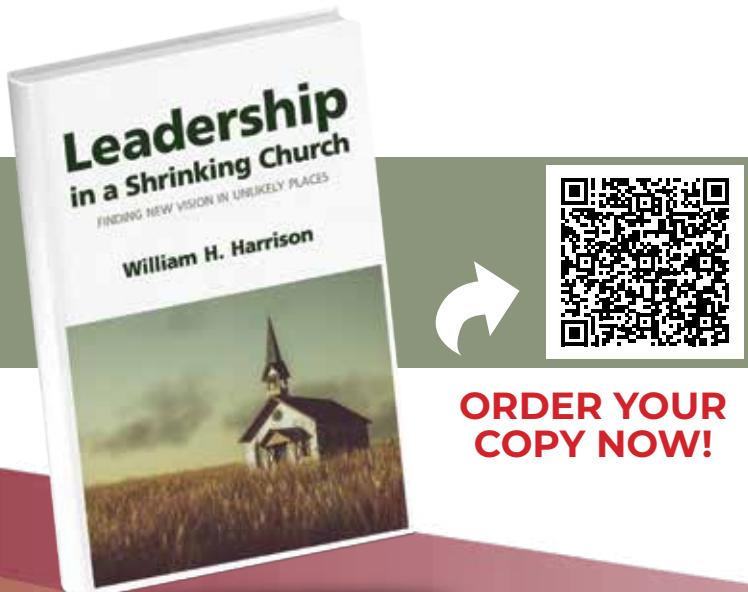
These values are rooted in our **identity**, as in our new expression: LTS is rooted in the theological vision of Martin Luther, proclaiming that God’s love—revealed through Scripture and embodied in Jesus Christ—is abundant and fulfilling for all. Embracing this liberating gospel, we are called and sent to share this gift with the world. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we prepare courageous, compassionate leaders who serve our church, respond to the world’s deep needs, engage in ecumenical collaboration, and draw from the richness of diverse wisdom and traditions. This is who we are and it’s why we are here for you!



# 2025–26 BOOK TOUR

Join Rev. Dr. William Harrison for a session full of insight, dialogue, and challenge—rooted in the bold, hopeful vision of his new book.

- Live events across Western Canada
- Afternoon and evening sessions—accessible, thought-provoking, inspiring
- For lay leaders, clergy, and anyone seeking faithful transformation
- Explore practical tools for courageous ministry in uncertain times
- Engage the big questions: identity, mission, and the future of the Church



See the Winter 2026  
edition of *LTS Today*  
for Spring 26 dates  
and locations.



# WISE STEWARDS AND LTS

by Rev. David Hunter, Chair, LTS Board of Governors, September 2025

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“Welcome to cohort eight of the Wise Stewards Initiative.” That was the greeting we received on August 19, at our first of eight online sessions with leaders from twelve theological education institutions. The Wise Stewards Initiative is a project of the In Trust Center for Theological Schools. (<https://www.intrust.org/>) With over 35 years’ experience supporting Theological Schools in North America, we are benefiting from the accumulated wisdom and experience that In Trust brings.

In addition to discussions within our cohort, the LTS board will meet with a consultant for feedback on our specific situation. Consultants will work with the Lutheran Theological Seminary board of governors and our Saskatoon Theological Union partners to help us face some challenging questions together. The timing could not be better.

It is clear that LTS is not able to go back to what we once were. Along with the ELCIC and many other religious and other non-profit organizations, we do not have the critical mass to function in the same ways that we have in the past. We cannot carry on a full seminary program by ourselves, even with two excellent full-time faculty and strong leadership from a president who also has a lot to offer in the classroom. While the quality of education LTS provides is excellent, a full degree program requires more breadth than we can muster.

Thankfully we have been cultivating a cooperative working relationship with St. Andrews College and the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad for decades. As a Saskatoon Theological Union, sharing faculty and staff, we are able to offer vital educational degree programs and to continue providing theological expertise to the ELCIC.

Our future depends on our continued ability to adapt to new realities and to embrace change in a way that allows us to hold onto the resources most important to our

mission, while letting go of some things we cherished in the past but can no longer sustain. The exact outcome of the challenges we face is difficult to predict, but we know that fulfilling our mission to “equip people for Christ-centered leadership and witness to participate in God’s mission in the world” (LTS Mission Statement, 2025) will require working with like-minded partners.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of this Wise Stewards Initiative at this juncture in the life of LTS. This consultation is “a governance initiative for theological school boards designed to create space for innovation and maximizing board potential, reimagine governance as an agent for change, enhance president board partnership and clarify roles and responsibilities” (*In Trust* magazine, Volume 36 Number 3, Spring 2025).

We begin a new academic year filled with hope. There may be more questions than answers but as we wade into uncertainty the path becomes clearer. Please pray that LTS may continue to develop in ways that strengthen our ability to fulfill our vision of “a dynamic community of lifelong learners whose exploration of faith sparks transformation—first within themselves, then flowing outward to empower their communities to embody the hands and face of Christ in the world” (LTS Vision Statement, 2025).

For this is how we strive to be, “Here for You,” in this season of change.





# saskatoon theological union



## AN AFFIRMING MINISTRY

*By Lindsay Aicken,  
MDiv Student, LTS*

My name is Lindsay and I am a fourth year Master of Divinity student at LTS. As is the case with some other students at LTS, this is not my first career path; I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre and have taught, acted, directed, and spent some time as a professional clown. When my husband and I started growing our family (we have three kiddos), I was blessed to stay at home with them.

When they began their own education journeys, I needed to decide what to do with my time. I had some influence from my home congregation and my pastor urging me to consider seminary. I ultimately decided that I wanted to enter theological studies because the world needs more affirming ministry. My children have been fortunate enough to grow up in an affirming congregation that celebrates the diversity of each one of God's children. Our family displays a portion of the beautiful spectrum of God's diversity; and to see how accepted, affirmed and loved my children are in our church family really emphasized for me the importance of every child, every human, to be accepted, affirmed and loved—especially in a ministry setting.

In my call to ministry and theological education, I want to "be here" for all of God's beloved Creation, because God is here for all of God's beloved Creation. LTS is here for me to learn and grow in an affirming ministry that seeks justice and uplifts diversity. Alas, at times, it can feel as though to truly love and serve one's neighbour is a counter-cultural act. In my context of rural Alberta, I see many signs of social tension and division. Voices of fear and exclusion have become louder, and too often compassion and understanding are in short supply.

As I continue the last leg of my education journey at LTS and look towards entering the ministry, I go forth knowing that LTS has "Been Here" to provide me with a strong foundation of learning and growth to spread and live the gospel in God's beautifully diverse Creation.



## FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL: FROM KENYA TO SASKATCHEWAN

*By Roseanne Mbaya, MDiv  
Student, St. Andrew's College*

My name is Roseanne Mbaya, a Master of Divinity student from Kenya studying at St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon. In addition, I serve as the Student Representative on the St. Andrew's College Board of Regents and on staff at Grace United Church, Lloydminster.

My journey has been one of faith, learning, and the unmistakable guidance of God. In 2016, I moved from bustling Nairobi to Naivasha, a smaller rural-urban town, to be closer to the communities I served. Two years later, I began a small Tuesday evening Bible Study with just three members. Within months, attendance grew to over thirty. When I shared this with my superintendent minister at Lavington United Church in Nairobi, it led to the commissioning of Lavington United Church, Naivasha. Today, this vibrant community of faith has a full-time minister, evangelist, and music director and recently celebrated breaking ground for a new Church building.

In 2023, I began exploring theological education opportunities. Around that time, a visiting Canadian invited me to Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, believing I might find a university there. While searching for a Methodist congregation, I connected with Rev. Andrew Kinoti Laiренge, Chalmers-Wesley United Church, Quebec City who introduced me to Grace United Church, Lloydminster and later to Rev. Carolyn Woodall. Through her, I met Rev. Laura Fohse, Vocation Minister, Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils who guided me to the United Church of Canada's Candidacy Pathway and Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck, Recruitment Ambassador at St. Andrew's College, where I now study.

I often say, you know you're where God wants you to be when everything begins to align. Now in my second year of the MDiv program, I feel deeply affirmed in this calling. The academic work is demanding, but the learning, mentorship, and community have been profoundly enriching. In May 2025, the Prairie Candidacy Board approved me as a candidate for Ordained Ministry, and I offered my first pulpit supply at Grace United Church on August 24, 2025.

My background in Business Administration and non-profit leadership continues to strengthen my ministry. From preaching my first sermon at age 16 in Meru, Kenya, to preparing for ordination today, I remain committed to serving God and God's people trusting that the journey ahead is guided by divine purpose.



## A TRANSFORMATIVE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

*By Luke Haisa, DMin Student,  
St. Andrew's College*

In January 2023, my family and I moved from Zimbabwe to Canada to answer a call to ministry with The United Church of Canada. To meet the requirements for ministry in this new context, I enrolled at St. Andrew's College in the fall of 2023, initially planning only to complete the necessary admission courses.

From the start, I was enveloped by an environment of intellectual curiosity and deep compassion from the staff. The supportive atmosphere, access to world-class libraries, and stimulating discussions ignited a passion for deeper theological exploration, and I realized I was being called to grow. With faculty encouragement, I switched to the full Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program.

The college's support is holistic, including financial aid through bursaries, which demonstrates a tangible investment in my journey. The celebrated diversity within the Saskatoon Theological Union is also an essential and enriching part of my learning.

The transformative academic experience directly nourished my ministry, providing the confidence and knowledge to be an equipped spiritual leader for a Canadian congregation.

Beyond my studies, I serve on the Board of St. Andrew's College, which is teaching me stewardship and governance. I also participate in the College Worship Team, which is pushing me creatively and spiritually.

My MTS journey was a launchpad; the more I learned, the more I realized how much more there is to explore. This profound growth and the questions from my ministry led me to a new path: I have now begun my studies for a Doctor of Ministry program.



## Q&A WITH JUDY HERBERT

*Judy is an MDiv student with the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad*

### What paths brought you to this point as an STU student?

The path has been long and scattered with stumbling blocks! In September 2019 I realized that God was calling me to try seminary again. I knew I needed more information in order to do the work of being a licensed lay reader in the way I wish to do it, so I began with one course in January, 2020. The pandemic accelerated my journey through the courses as I had more free time to do the reading and the assignments. I am in the MDiv program, planning to graduate in May of 2026.

### What are you currently working on?

I am in the midst of my student internship at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Humboldt, SK. The incumbent priest retired at Easter, 2025, so I have taken on the leadership role. I am also working on my thesis and my last few courses.

### What are you most enjoying about your work here?

I enjoy the variety. In a parish, every day holds something new. In my courses, there is the set routine of reading, lectures, and assignments; however the content is varied. There are connections throughout the different subjects as well as new ideas and areas to explore.

### What are your hopes and plans once you have your degree?

To my own amazement, my discernment has led me to seek ordination, and this has been affirmed by others along the way. What happens with that is ultimately up to my bishop. My hope is to serve the church in whatever way God sees fit. I work part-time as a paralegal, and plan to continue to do so—even after graduation. This means that my work in the church will not be tied down to a need for full-time pay, which opens up a lot of scope for imagination. I am happy to hear suggestions!



# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

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Dear friends of LTS,

This January I began a new chapter here, stepping into the role of Director of Advancement for all three schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU). It has been a joy to get to know the wider community of supporters across our partner schools, while continuing to serve the alumni and friends of Lutheran Theological Seminary.

One change you may have noticed is that my responses and thank-yous have not always been quite as immediate as in past years, when LTS alone was my sole focus. I am still very much committed to donor care and connection — it simply takes a little more balancing now that I walk with three schools instead of one. I am grateful for your understanding as I find the right rhythm in this expanded role.

This fall, I am especially glad to highlight LTS's refreshed theme: "Here For You." You will see this on our website and in our communications, and it reflects our vocation as a seminary — preparing leaders, accompanying congregations, and walking with you in faith. For me personally, it is also a touchstone: a reminder that our Advancement work is not just about fundraising, but about being present and responsive to those who make this mission possible.

Thank you for the many ways you sustain and inspire the work of LTS. As we move forward together, know that we remain — as always — here for you.

With gratitude,

Hugh

## MOVING LTS TODAY TOWARDS A DIGITAL FUTURE

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At LTS, we are always mindful of how we steward our resources. Every dollar saved on printing and postage is a dollar that can directly support students and programs. For that reason, we are moving gradually towards making *LTS Today* an exclusively digital publication.

If you are reading this in printed form, you already know that Canada Post has been experiencing strikes this fall. As a result, your copy of *LTS Today* has likely reached you only after delivery service resumed. These types of disruptions remind us that electronic delivery isn't just economical; it's also reliable, timely, and environmentally responsible.

If you do not already receive *LTS Today* by email, we warmly invite you to consider making the switch. Simply contact the Advancement office:

[advancement@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:advancement@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

We are not going fully digital just yet. Those who prefer to receive a printed copy will still have that option for the time being. But we do encourage you to join us in this transition as we seek to use our shared resources wisely, and continue to keep our community connected in every season.



# LEADING WITH AND FOR...

## RELATIONAL, AUTHENTIC, AND ACCOUNTABLE

Rev. Dr. Kyle K. Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Grace Professor of Leadership

Today's rapidly changing world means rethinking how we understand leadership in ministry. Too often, "leader" and "leadership" operate as static titles, reinforcing hierarchy and exclusivity. Instead, by focusing on the verbs "lead" and "leading," we reframe this work as a dynamic, relational vocation—an ongoing journey of learning, reflection, and responsive action. This journey is rooted in the conviction that we participate in what God is already doing, led by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Leading is fundamentally relational, attentive to the gifts and voices of all, and responsive as the community transforms. This relational leading is by humility and openness, not with the aim of personal glory but rather the flourishing of the Body of Christ. To lead with and for the Body of Christ is to recognize that community is a living, interconnected ecosystem where each member's gifts and needs are honoured. Echoing Paul's vision in I Corinthians 12, the Body's health depends on each part's well-being and active participation. Hence, the church flourishes when relationships are nurtured in mutual care, respect, and accountability.

This relational approach means being a theologian of the cross, "calling a thing what it actually is" (Luther's *Heidelberg Disputation*), such that those who lead do so from a place of authenticity and care. Those who lead are called to listen with vulnerability to allow for authentic engagement rather than mere transactional interaction. This kind of listening is inherently relational and rooted in deep attentiveness, as it invites leaders to connect with the lived experiences, longings, and losses of those they serve, fostering genuine empathy and trust. It includes acknowledging and affirming those who have been entrusted to the care of the entire community.

Active listening leads to authenticity by acknowledging uncertainty, admitting mistakes, and resisting the urge to impose quick fixes. Leaders may fear that revealing challenges will be seen as failure, risking disengagement or losing partners, but avoiding honest engagement often leads to the very outcomes leaders fear: inability to adapt, erosion of trust, and loss of healthy relationships. Those leading cannot present themselves as having all the

answers, but instead as part of a community journeying together, attentive to the Spirit's movement. Active listening means resisting the urge to fill the silences with answers. Instead, it involves holding space for grief, trauma, and doubt while inviting new stories of hope and possibility. Listening and learning go hand-in-hand as part of the work of discernment. Discernment is not about decision-making but rather about being open to and trusting where God is leading and how the community participates in God's mission.

Trust is not assumed by virtue of a leadership role; leaders must cultivate a culture of trustworthiness through mutual accountability. This is achieved by nurturing transparent dialogue, inviting feedback, and sharing responsibility. Accountability is thus not about drawing attention to the leader, but about decentering and reorienting focus toward the mission. Thus, accountability shifts from being enforced through authority to being cultivated through open dialogue and collective commitment to the flourishing of the whole community.

Leading in a relational, authentic, and accountable way is therefore not about decision-making or control, but about empowering others, nurturing agency, and facilitating the re-authoring of shared stories. By emphasizing "leading" as collective action, the work of ministry results from shared commitment, courage, and care. Congregational life shifts from "who is in charge" to "how we are always, together, leading and collaborating—called by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit." This way of leading is not reserved for a select few, but is the common calling of all Christians, who are invited to participate in God's ongoing work in the world.



Please consider giving to the Grace Fund for Faculty, to ensure that our Lutheran professors are empowered to continue their important work in shaping the future of our community.

# LTS VALUES

These values shape the community that  
LTS creates and supports:



FAITHFULNESS



PROCLAMATION

## MISSION STATEMENT

Lutheran Theological Seminary, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, equips people for Christ-centered leadership and witness to participate in God's mission in the world.



PARTICIPATION



TRANSFORMATION



RECONCILIATION

To see LTS's updated identity document in full, please go to: <https://lutherantheological.ca/about-us/mission-values>

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