



LTS Today

FALL 2019

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.

LTS With Everyone

LTS is changing. We are becoming a "Small Footprint, Big Impact"

seminary, serving many people in many places from our centre in Saskatoon.

Today's possibilities answer today's needs. In June 2020, we will be moving, placing ourselves in closer proximity with our partners in Theology

and Religious Studies on the College Drive side of campus. The current plan is, as most of you know, to move into the Lutheran Campus Centre. However, there is other space on that side of campus that is becoming available unanticipated, which means that we may enter into a different arrangement. Stay tuned on this! Either way, we'll be moving into a different kind of space, which will enable us to be the "Small Footprint, Big Impact" seminary that we hope to become.

In our new location, we will have a much smaller footprint. That's a good thing for a whole variety of reasons. We will be much more

environmentally responsible, more **secure**, and better able to **manage our space** there. Rita Harrison, our Director of Operations, describes some the benefits and compares them to our present challenges.

There are much bigger reasons that the move is good for us, however. Our new space will be more community-oriented. Our students will be able to work with others and participate in university life in an easier, more routine way. The **Outreach Ministry** course featuring Jared Siebert is stronger when it's in a neighbourhood.

Our flexible-delivery model, built around intensive onsite courses combined with distance options, needs only limited space to operate. We have moved away from the traditional monastic model of theological education designed to work with a large, fully-equipped and self-sufficient, residential facility. Now, we can run courses in all sorts of spaces, including **Gospel of John and Christian Education in Victoria** in February.

In 2020, Dr. Rev. Gordon Jensen and Rev. Barbara Groote will lead an exciting **tour to Germany**. Participants will read some of Luther's important

writings, while engaging with the places where he wrote them.

As we are transformed into something new, formed by a Christian, Lutheran, Western Canadian heritage, we continue our work of theological education. Sharon Schreiner, this year's Student Union president, **welcomes** students to LTS.



A New Year Begins!

Join us as we say "Hello" to the new and returning students at the STU (Saskatoon Theological Union). It is wonderful to work together with St. Andrew's College and The College of Emmanuel and St. Chad in this collaborative partnership. May this year of change be a source of many fond memories. We pray God's blessing on students, faculty, and staff in this ministry that we share.

Bringing LTS to You!

LTS is expanding beyond the walls, with plans to set courses in various places across Western Canada.

In association with St. Marys' Metchosen, we will be offering portions of advanced courses on Vancouver Island, in February. These courses are for internship level and advanced students, so they will serve as Continuing Education courses for clergy and others who already have theological education.



Gospel of John

Dr. J. Gram

Oct 28-Nov 1, 2019 (part a) onsite Saskatoon (afternoon)

Feb 10-14, 2020 (part b) Victoria (morning)

John's Gospel is woven into the fabric of the lectionary so that over the course of the three-year cycle nearly all of it is read. This course employs critical tools to examine the history and theology of the Fourth Gospel in order to appreciate how its perspectives differ from the Synoptic tradition and thus enrich our experience of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our goal will be to find ways to use the glorious variety of John's Gospel in the proclamation of that Good News.



Christian Education: Faith Formation

Dr. A. Salmon

Oct 28-Nov 2, 2019 (part a) onsite Saskatoon (morning)

Feb 10-14, 2020 (part b) Victoria (afternoon)



This course offers students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and faithful experience of Luther's Small Catechism, putting them on the path to becoming passionate teachers of this most wonderful document. We will use the Small Catechism to form our own faith by exploring the document. We will examine published curriculum and employ various learning strategies, becoming familiar with ways to teach the Small Catechism to learners of all ages.

To learn more about these learning opportunities:

Visit our website at: lutherantheological.ca or email/call the registrar at: 306-966-7850 registrar.lts@usask.ca

An Explosion of Ideas: Luther and his Reformation Writings of 1520

We invite you to explore Luther's writings and where he lived, wrote and introduced the reformation. This tour will be led by Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen and Rev. Barbara Groote to spend 14 Days experiencing some of the most important locations in Luthers History.

The Lutheran Reformation began in 1517, with the posting of 95 Theses, or points, for discussion. The most creative, and truly reformation theology, however, came from Luther's pen in the pivotal year of 1520. Three documents in particular deserve special notice: *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation* (Aug. 1520), *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church* (Oct. 1520), and *The Freedom of a Christian* (Nov. 1520). As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of these important reformation writings, the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon offers you a chance to study these documents in some

detail, while staying in Wittenberg, Germany, where he wrote them. You will be able to see firsthand where Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon lived, taught, and worked to bring about reform in the church, and where some of the most momentous events of the Lutheran Reformation occurred.



For more information contact:
The Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen
gordon.jensen@usask.ca

Reflections of Change

Greetings and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from the staff, faculty, and students of Lutheran Theological Seminary!

It is a time of change and challenges... and reflection. The future leaders of your church are completing their first weeks of a new academic year; new and returning students linger out-of-doors between class breaks, exchanging stories and questions, sitting on the chapel steps or leaning on railings at the front of the building our forebears built for study. Everywhere golden leaves swirl across sidewalks and through the stiffened stubble covering fields full of migrating Canada geese. All of this is the fruit of God's work.

The rustle of leaves punctuates the laughter of students joking with each other, while returning interns from the four supporting synods, now experienced hands, give tips to the newcomers. Meanwhile, distance students, spread across the entire country, enter the dialogue through the magic of the internet and online learning.

Here, now, as we begin our work anew with fresh and refreshed students, gathering and returning to classes, we remember the mystery of God's hidden riches, working through time. We remember the liveliness of God, even when the world seems stripped, cold, and insufficient in our daily lives. We ponder our students, the wind-swept leaves, and the comforting ambience of chapel, and we feel grateful for you, our supporters, who have stored up the fruits of your labors for this ministry of teaching and formation.

We look at the trees, the students, and the beauty of the Canadian autumn, and we give thanks to God who is lively in all times and in all places. As we move forward we can't help but be reminded of the past of this place: those formative years and the learning that has taken place, along with the fond memories of our alumni as they reminisce about their experiences in the dorms, the friendships they developed and those first nervous moments standing in the chapel to deliver their first sermon. Yes, we have history here. We respect that history and your memories that are attached to this building.

Yet, God calls us to be faithful in our generation. In order to serve God's mission we are asked to be small so that we can serve in large ways, to be a "Small Footprint, Big Impact" seminary. As we move from this place, we continue to value and care for the books in the library, the art and artifacts in this building, and, most of all, the people who serve with us. Preparing for the move brings significant costs; moving the library is, all by itself, an expensive task requiring particular skills (there's actually a Canadian company with a division that specializes in moving libraries!).

In this time of change, we need your help and cannot fulfill God's mission alone. Your donations, today, are essential to sustain our work. These costs are necessary for change so that we can continue to serve God. Please consider sending in the envelope we have provided with this newsletter.

Thank you for your prayers and offerings. With your assistance, we can help the ELCIC and all God's people to face the challenges of today and tomorrow, to move forward in faith.

Peace and grace to all.

LTS in the Neighbourhood

Outreach Ministry, April 20-24, 2020

God works in places and God works among people. These two mysterious intersections will be the focus of a course offered in spring 2020. I personally invite you to join me and your fellow students as we ask: What does the Christian life look like here?

What does the good news about Jesus sound like here? How do local churches engage in local mission? As our seminary moves from an isolated corner of campus and connects to a neighbourhood, I invite you to explore with us what is possible right outside our front door!



Jared Siebert is founder of the New Leaf Network, National Director for Church Development for the Free Methodist Church in Canada, and author of Gutsy: (Mis)Adventures in Canadian Church Planting.

The New Space Fits

By Rita Harrison, Director of Operations

Some people have asked about the challenges that we face with our current buildings. The reality is that we don't have the staff or resources to maintain and renovate them properly.

Heating, cooling, and caring for our current space is both costly and insensitive to the world's needs. Our lights are an example. The current bulbs (each uses about 350kWh of electricity yearly) should be replaced with LED lighting (about 84kWh per bulb per year). The replacement cost for the over 1,000 bulbs in the building (there are 190 in the upper floor administrative and faculty offices alone) is prohibitive. All of our operating needs are on this scale. A smaller footprint, in a place tailored to our needs, will be much more energy efficient.

We will be better able to secure the facility; our current buildings are too extensive and complex for us to see

who is coming and going. We have had experiences of people who sleep rough hiding inside our building and using it as home base for several days before we noticed anything amiss! There are too many places where nobody goes. A new location will be much easier to secure.

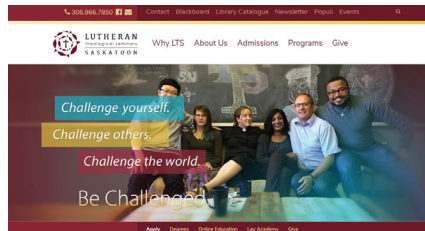
These are only examples. Our buildings are poorly insulated and not air conditioned. Our electrical system means that we flip breakers if we are not careful about what we plug in (microwave oven or coffee maker, not both). The list goes on. We are ready for a new space!



Students on the Move

I am excited to invite you on our journey as we start a new school year. LTS is providing the opportunity for so many of us to follow our hearts and become great leaders for the future!

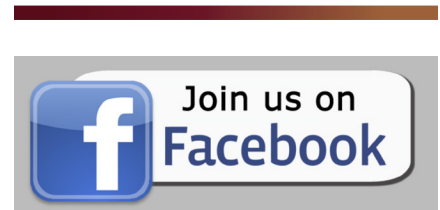
Sharon Schreiner - Student President



Our NEW Website

Come visit us at the best new resource about the Lutheran Theological Seminary and everything that is happening, at our new website:

**www.lutherantheological.ca
Or follow us on Facebook!**



Follow on Facebook

Our Facebook page celebrates the entire Western Canadian Lutheran Community and is the most up to date resource at this time.

Learn more about the seminary, alumni, the synods and events or notices from congregations. This is your community. Follow us now!

<https://www.facebook.com/LTSSaskatoon/>



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