



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.

AN INVITATION TO PARTNER: CONVOCATION 2021

By Rev. Dr. William Harrison

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The following article is edited from my Convocation 2021 address. With sadness, I add that one of this year's graduates, Andrea Grozli, passed away mere weeks after Convocation. We give thanks for Andrea's time among us, holding her in our hearts and praying for her family and friends.

At Convocation, we take joy in the accomplishments of new graduates. LTS applauds 2021 graduates, Andrea, Judy, Kevin, Lon, Olav, and honorary degree recipients Faith and Jennifer. We also applaud our 2020 graduates, Erin, Kate, and Sarah. Congratulations and God's blessings on all of you.

Graduation is not departure. Traditionally, degree reception has been an induction. You are not leaving. Instead, we welcome you as senior members of LTS. You are part of the community; you are now colleagues with responsibilities for helping LTS to fulfill its role in the larger world.

Another purpose of Convocation is to name developments from the past year and speak to the future. Convocation is a moment to step out of the daily press of activity and take the grand view of LTS.

This year, COVID-19 has changed every aspect of our lives. The move to an entirely online life has been a big shift. I am pleased to report that we were ready.

In Summer 2020, LTS moved from Seminary Crescent buildings that we occupied for over 50 years, starting in 1968, into a renovated wing of the St. Andrew's College Building. We give thanks for those buildings' many years of service and the rich experiences to which they contributed.

We have entered a new phase of life. Our comfortable and attractive space on College Drive offers a new range of blessings. We have a well-equipped electronic classroom, strengthening our capacity in the electronic world. The move has enabled us to work closely with our STU partners in new ways, including common electronic

worship and a sense of mutual support at the administrative level.

For LTS, this physical change signals a philosophical development. We have always valued partnerships. LTS is, itself, a product of a variety of Lutheran relationships. Moreover, LTS's move to the University of Saskatchewan campus displayed a commitment to working with USask, shown today in conversations with St. Thomas More College. The move began the relationship that became the Saskatoon Theological Union.

Now, partnerships mean more than ever before. We have made the transition from being a medium-sized Canadian seminary, capable of independent operation on our own large and fully equipped campus, to a small seminary, called to work in partnership with others.

Our 2020 strategic plan is called, "A FARR-Sighted Seminary Looks to the Future." FARR names our determination to become stronger in four key areas: Finances, Academics, Recruitment, and Relationships. The move has improved our financial situation. Relationships will be the key to future improvements in all areas. We ask our friends to contribute to the Grace Fund for Faculty, to help us sustain a strong Lutheran voice in an ecumenical context that consists of structured partnerships.

We continue to become an engaged and inclusive seminary, strengthening our learning from and about Indigenous Peoples, while decolonizing our curriculum. We commit to live as a Reconciling in Christ school.

Together with partners, we look forward to a strong future.

So, members of LTS and community supporters, I invite you to continue as part of our life. Through the coming months and years, as our world unfolds and new possibilities appear, we invite you to pray for us, converse with us, and support us financially. Be a part of our future, as we seek to be part of yours and of the church's. Be Challenged – together with us.



OUR GRADUATES - CLASS of 2021

It is with profound sadness and shock that we share the news of Andrea Grozli's sudden passing just as this issue was to go to press. Hugh asked that I share a few words.

I will remember Andrea best for her unconditional love and care of others. She lived it in all she did: church community; friendships; Zeta; nursing career; Seminary studies; and her call to pastoral ministry.

I will miss her, and am deeply grateful for her friendship over many years, her ministry of caring, her zest for life and her contagious laughter and smile.

~ Pastor Fran Schmidt
Messiah Lutheran Church
Prince Albert, SK



Andrea Grozli - Master of Divinity (with Honours)

Some words from Andrea, about herself:

"Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." Eph. 4:1-2

Thank you to all those who supported me with their love, wisdom, prayers and listening ears throughout this seminary journey: LTS faculty, staff, students, and donors; my

internship supervisors and sites in Winnipeg and Carman, MB; my family, friends, and Zeta sisters from around the world and my home congregation of Sherwood Park, Winnipeg. I am forever grateful for the ongoing prayers and support of Bishop Jason Zinko, the MNO Synod, the MNO Candidacy Committee, fellow clergy (especially Rev. Fran Schmidt), and my seminary brother Olav Traa.

I am so thankful to my brother Peter for his support and to my amazing husband John who sacrificed so much for me to follow God's call to ministry – you are a Rockstar! Love you!"



Olav Traa - Master of Divinity

Some words from Olav, about himself:

"For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." 1 John 3:11

All glory and praise be to God. LTS was a source of abundant blessing and discovery.

I offer gratitude to the faculty and staff at LTS for encouragement and support. You are a gift to our church. I am grateful for the many relationships with classmates and the pastors I met along the way. For the Alberta Synod, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, the Candidacy Committee, Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor, the Armena Lutheran Parish and Bethel LC (Camrose) and the ELCIC as a whole, for their support and prayers throughout my formation: thank you. For the Norwegian Seamen's church: You planted the seeds, thank you. Finally, I would like to thank my beloved wife Marie-Paule and my children, Lars, Eli, and Rose, without whom none of this would be possible.



Lon Towstego - Doctor of Ministry

Some words from Lon, about himself:

"We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20

As my time in the Doctor of Ministry Program draws to a close, I give thanks to God for the many blessings I have received throughout this process. I wish to thank all of the Saskatoon Theological Union, professors, administrative and support staff and the 2018 cohort of students and those who joined the journey as we formed friendships. I thank the Parish of Central Saanich, the Educational Trust Board of the Diocese of Islands, and Inlets (BC), Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee, retired Bishop Logan McMenamie and my patient editors Marian Towstego and Elisabeth Archambault.

I am mindful of all victims of the Residential Schools in Canada. My research is complete, but the work of reconciliation continues.



Judy Bauereiss - Diaconal Certificate

Some words from Judy, about herself:

"One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:6

I came to seminary to become more enabled and empowered in my calling as an itinerant, ecumenical, lay worship leader, through the study of scripture, the Word, our liturgical practices and the history of our faith. This has been accomplished!

I wish to express my deep appreciation to LTS staff, faculty, and students, and everyone I have met. You have enhanced my learning experience. I also wish to thank Dr. Gordon Jensen, my mentor, for his constant guidance, patience, encouragement, and faith in me.

Without the blend of in-class and long-distance learning, I would not be here today, receiving this certificate. I now know what I believe theologically, why I believe it, and I own the means to express it. Blessings and life abundant indeed. "Here I am, Lord". Thanks be to God.



Kevin Prouten - Diaconal Certificate

Some words from Kevin, about himself:

"In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Pet 1:6, 7

It had never been my plan to go to Seminary. Or, even less to become a Diaconal Minister. I am reminded of Jonah who did as God commanded even though he did not want to. I too ran and hid from God's call. God would drag me back kicking and screaming with the promise of blessing. I have come to accept this is how my faith will be tested. God's to create, God's to destroy, Mine to follow. This is my life – now.



Jennifer Henry - Doctor of Christian Letters, honoris causa

Jennifer Henry is the former Executive Director of KAIROS, a Canadian ecumenical organization dedicated to faithful action for ecological justice and human rights. Supporters of KAIROS include ten church denominations and religious organizations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and The United Church of Canada are part of this support group.

Jennifer is a leading proponent for justice in Canada and in recent years she has been thinking and writing about decolonization, the effort to move away from a situation in which historically Western European modes of thought and action are privileged over insights and approaches from other cultures, including those of Indigenous North American peoples.

Beginning in 1993 as Education and Communication Coordinator of the Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice, Jennifer has had an extensive career as an advocate for justice, and a leader with KAIROS.

Since the end of her tenure at KAIROS on December 31, 2020, Jennifer continues to work as a public theologian and justice animator, in addition to serving as a consultant in strategic planning for The United Church of Canada.

We celebrate Jennifer Henry's commitment to engaging churches to come together in the name of God's justice around the world, in accompaniment and solidarity with those who face injustice, by granting her the degree of Doctor of Christian Letters, honoris causa.



Faith Rohrbough - Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa

Rev. Dr. Faith Elizabeth Rohrbough is President Emerita of Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon. She has made substantial contributions to theological education, particularly in areas of women's leadership, cross-cultural education and accreditation of theological schools.

Faith grew up Methodist in an Illinois university town. Her family and ancestral heritage encouraged her to assume that women could accomplish far more than societal roles assigned them. After studying under an all-female faculty at Wellesley College near Boston, Faith took her DPhil in Basel Switzerland (including study under Karl Barth) where she focused on church and state relations.

Faith pioneered three "firsts" in women's leadership. She was the first female dean, first female vice-president, and first female president of a Lutheran School in North America. She deepened that experience with professional development at Bryn Mawr Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration and has used her expertise to provide encouragement and training for women in theological administration across the world.

Faith is committed to diversity in theological education regarding gender, race and culture. She facilitated development of an Urban Theological Institute in Philadelphia, enabling inner-city African Americans to take master's level studies. She served on ecumenical and international initiatives with the Lutheran World Federation, the Lutheran Coalition on South Africa, and Lutheran-Seventh Day Adventist dialogues. For LTS Saskatoon, Faith initiated a cross-cultural immersion program that gives all MDiv students a disorienting, mind-altering experience in a culture different than their own that many students say transformed their view of pastoral ministry. Faith herself has visited over three dozen countries, encouraging international students to study at LTS. For these contributions, Rev. Dr. Rohrbough has been awarded honorary doctorates from Capital University, Columbus Ohio and LTS Philadelphia, the President's Medal from Andrews University, Missouri. LTS Saskatoon awards her the Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Hugh Williams, Director of Communications and Development

Greetings and peace to all.



Spring Appeal

My warmest thanks to everyone who participated in our recent Spring Appeal. With close to \$44,000 from individual donations, and approximately \$46,000 from a generous donor who pledged a major matching gift, our community raised over \$90,000 dollars! This constitutes one of the most successful individual appeals in the seminary's history. Thank you!

Community Survey

My thanks, also, go to the hundreds of people who participated in our Community Survey—which was enclosed with our Easter newsletter. Many sent in responses by mail and an even greater number went to our website to fill in their responses online.

I appreciate, deeply, that many of you prefer to read a printed edition of our newsletter; after all, they are meant to be keepsakes of sorts—particularly our most recent edition, which honoured 114 Seminary Crescent and celebrated Dr. Kristine Ruffatto's retirement after a decade of teaching at LTS.

But I also appreciate that others wish to receive their communications in as paperless a manner as possible. Your wishes have been noted, and therefore you will be receiving this newsletter by email. We hope you enjoy reading it in this format.



ANDREA OTTO GROZLI

February 24, 1968
August 9, 2021



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