



# PASTORAL Education

January 2016 • A newsletter for those interested in the Pastoral Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## The New Look of Pastoral Continuing Education



**Do LCMS pastors need continuing education? What and how much? How does a lifetime of learning benefit the pastor — and his congregation?**

To bring some structure, organization and encouragement to continuing education for our pastors, the Synod in convention passed Resolution 5-08B “To Establish a Standard for Continuing Education of Pastors.” This ultimately resulted in a task force made up of seminary faculty and members of the Council of Presidents who would, among other things, “work collaboratively ... to develop a list of qualified continuing education resources and activities.”

Starting in 2016, every pastor in the LCMS will have an opportunity to begin work on his continuing education portfolio toward participating in qualified continuing education experiences that will enhance his service to the church. While the online portfolio will be updated by each pastor, district presidents will also have secure access to these portfolios, so that calling congregations can view the candidate’s continuing education experiences alongside his “SET” and “PIF.” The Synod’s Office of Pastoral Education will manage these portfolios. A committee will be established to determine whether particular continuing education experiences that take place outside of typical CEU courses can be included in the portfolio.

Each pastor decides in which qualified continuing education experiences he’d like to participate, and LCMS congregations are encouraged to support their pastors’ continuing education with time and financial support. The first three years of continuing education for a newly ordained pastor are expected to be met through the Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) program. Meanwhile, pastors are encouraged to:

- **participate** in at least one continuing education experience annually.
- **value** education offered by our seminaries most highly, followed by other institutions.
- **vary** their educational experiences by taking classes in the following categories: Historical, Exegetical, Systematics, Preaching, Teaching, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Administration, Worship and Leadership.

“We believe that pastors need to keep fresh, because they are constantly giving and giving,” said the Rev. Terry Forke, president of the LCMS Montana District and chair of the continuing education task force. “When it comes to pastoral continuing education, there is both an academic

and spiritual component. We want our pastors to be as fresh and renewed in the Spirit of the Word of God as they can possibly be, and that requires someone else producing something for them.

They need to receive in order to give. The pastoral office is unique, created by God for the Church, so the goal of continuing education here is not the accumulation of knowledge, nor the pinning of degrees to a wall. The goal is to be better-equipped for proclaiming the Gospel.”

### Continuing Ed by the NUMBERS

**480+**

attendees per year  
at seminary summer education  
opportunities

**22**

summer sites around  
the country

**70**

Doctor of Ministry  
students each year

**200+**

PALS participants per year

## How Do We Stack Up?

**Continuing Education (CE)  
Requirements for Secular  
Professions\***



\*Requirements for the State of California, every two years.

	RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONER <b>15 hours of CE</b>
	DENTAL HYGIENIST <b>25 hours of CE</b>
	PHYSICAL THERAPIST <b>30 hours of CE</b>
	PSYCHOLOGIST <b>36 hours of CE</b>
	PHYSICIAN/SURGEON <b>50 hours of CE</b>

# Education -by- Season

## JANUARY

- 15 Pre-Lenten Workshop (CSL)
- 16 Winter Lay Bible Institute (CSL)
- 18 Lenten Preaching Workshop (CTSFW)
- 19–22 Symposia Series 2016 (CTSFW)
- 26–27 Multiethnic Symposium (CSL)
- 30 Making Abortion Unthinkable (CSL)

## MARCH

- TBD Christ Academy: Confirmation Retreat (CTSFW)

## APRIL

- 11–15 Intentional Interim Ministry Workshop (CSL)

## MAY

- 23–27 Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop (CSL)
- VARIOUS DATES Summer Workshops (CTSFW)

## JUNE

- 19–July 2 Christ Academy High School (CTSFW)
- 19–July 2 Phoebe Academy High School (CTSFW)
- TBD Church Musician Workshop (CTSFW)
- VARIOUS DATES Summer Workshops (CTSFW and CSL)

## JULY

- VARIOUS DATES Summer Workshops (CTSFW and CSL)

## AUGUST

- 6 Summer Lay Bible Institute (CSL)
- VARIOUS DATES Summer Workshops (CTSFW and CSL)

## SEPTEMBER

- 20–21 Theological Symposium (CSL)
- 29–30 Lutheranism & The Classics IV: Listening to the Poets (CTSFW)

## OCTOBER

- 1–3 Faith Walk (CSL)
- 5, 12, 19, 26 Fall Lay Bible Institute (CSL)
- TBD Christ Academy: Confirmation Retreat (CTSFW)
- 24–28 Intentional Interim Ministry Workshop (CSL)
- TBD Luther Hostel (CTSFW)

## NOVEMBER

- TBD Good Shepherd Institute Conference (CTSFW)
- TBD Advent Preaching Workshop (CTSFW)

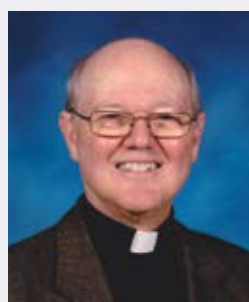
**SYNOD-SPONSORED EVENTS:**  
[calendar.lcms.org/events](http://calendar.lcms.org/events)

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

# The Case for Continuing Ed



refresh preaching & teaching



how can I speak to the changing culture?

**Rev. Jeffrey Pulse**, director of Continuing Education, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

“Every pastor needs the opportunity to recharge his ‘theological batteries,’ and continuing education provides those opportunities. Not only does the pastor have the chance to engage in theological topics with professors and fellow pastors, he also is rejuvenated spiritually, as he interacts with other workers in the harvest fields. In addition, the congregation is well served by a pastor who continues to study and learn, and the pastor who is excited by increased knowledge brings this excitement to his preaching and teaching.”

spiritual nourishment



SO MUCH to learn!



time to talk theology w/other pastors

**Rev. Dr. Paul Sieveking**, director of Continuing Education, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

“Pastors today face the challenges of faithfully speaking the unchanging Word of God to a rapidly changing culture. Our congregations recognize that the need for continuing education among our clergy is critical. Time and funding for continuing education is provided for in our call documents. Most of our pastors recognize the need and take advantage of the many opportunities to continue studying theology, but there are some who need encouragement. Our seminaries are eager to serve our congregations, our professional workers and our laity with the resources they need to speak and to live the Gospel in a post-modern world.”

branch with our elders

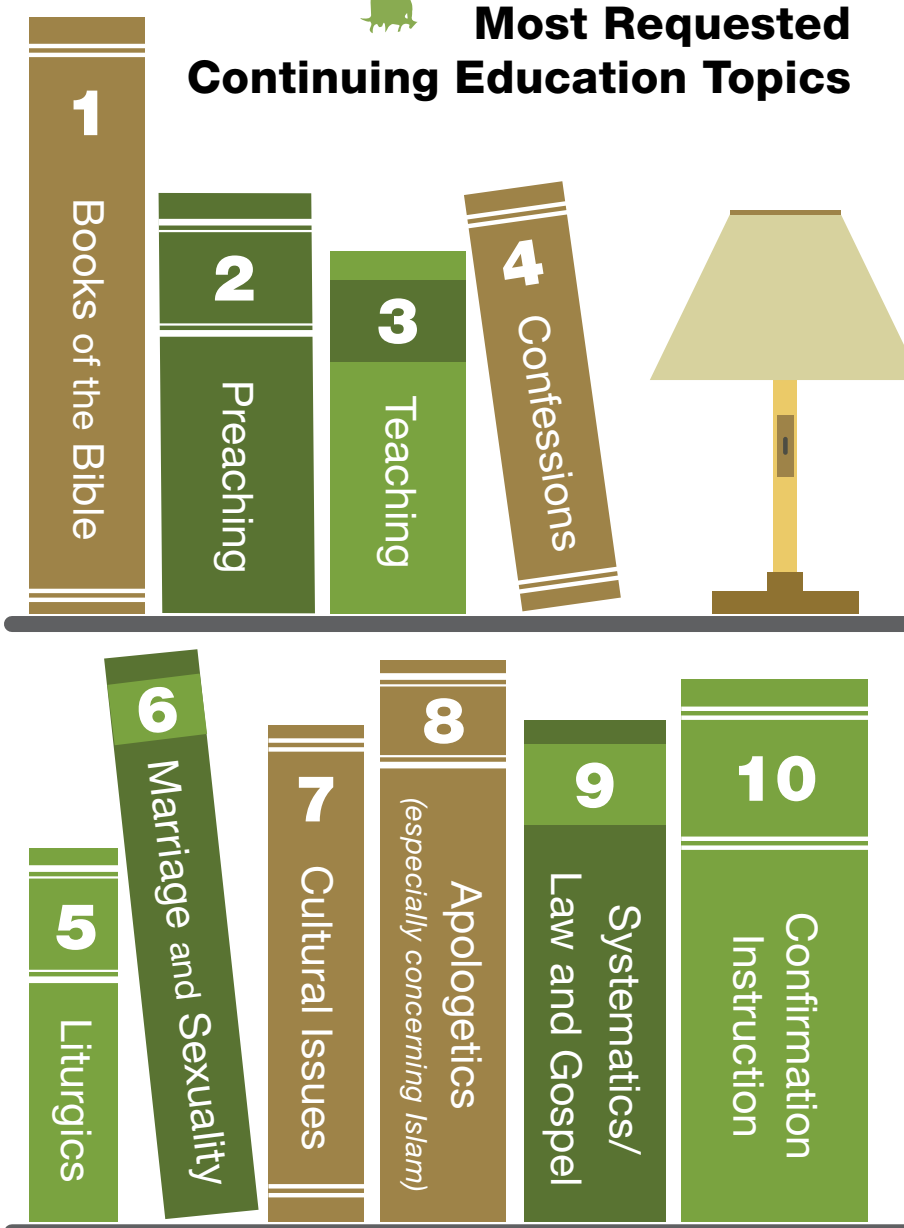
**Rev. Andy Gimbel**, pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, O’Fallon, Mo.

“There is so much to learn in our world — not only theology, but in all areas of our life. I think of myself as a lifelong learner, and I am always eager to learn and grow. My continuing education has been beneficial to me as a pastor for a couple of reasons — it has helped keep me ‘in the loop’ on the current theological emphases and issues, and it has also been spiritually nourishing for me. Each time I have returned from a continuing education event, it has been refreshing and rejuvenating. It is always hard to schedule in continuing education, but I always find myself thankful that I set aside time for education when it is all said and done.”

★ I need to make time for this! ★

# Top 10

Most Requested Continuing Education Topics



# How to Develop a ‘Habitus Practicus’

By Gary Zieroth

## What is a “habitus practicus?”

J.T. Mueller defined it as: “The theological habitude (*habitus practicus*), then, is the ability, divinely bestowed, to teach the pure and unadulterated Word of God, to declare the whole counsel of God unto salvation, to oppose and refute false doctrine, and to suffer for Christ’s sake all the consequences which the proclamation of the Word of God entails.” (J.T. Mueller, *Christian Dogmatics*, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1934, p. 37).

*Habitus practicus* is, above all things, the ability, desire, capacity and commitment to embrace the capacity to suffer for the sake of Christ and His Word. Considered “foolishness” to the world, the Word of God incites the hearts of people.

Perhaps the core of the problem is that, without an understanding of *habitus practicus*, pastors become lost, disoriented and troubled when various expectations — such as persistence, patience, Christian character, holding to a vision, etc. — don’t materialize. The ensuing sense of ineptitude and disappointment may all too easily translate into a burdensome sense of spiritual failure.

Certainly, we cannot stop failures, disappointments, rejection, mistakes, persecution and other painful events from happening. The *habitus practicus*

is the most direct, scriptural means to emphasize the healing, comfort and joy of the Gospel in all circumstances. It is the prerequisite attitude for spiritual battle before, during and after putting on the “full armor of God” (Eph. 6:10). Without it, we may be most vulnerable to Satan’s attacks regardless of the external armor we wear and the spiritual weaponry we deploy.

By joining with other pastors early on in one’s ministry, the pastor is helped through the study of the Word as it is applied to his particular circumstance from his brothers in the ministry and a trained facilitator. This sense of failure, ineptitude and disappointment comes to all of us in the ministry. By joining our brothers in similar circumstance, Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) program participants strive to develop a lifetime “habitus practicus” for the long-haul — a lifetime habit of worship, study and prayer, where one can be restored through the mutual conversation and consolation of the brothers, and especially, through the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Gary Zieroth is the Synod’s interim director of Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support.



“By joining with other pastors early on in one’s ministry, the pastor is helped through the study of the Word as it is applied to his particular circumstance from his brothers in the ministry and a trained facilitator.”





**REV. DR. JEFF KLOHA**, Provost, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Concordia Seminary’s graduate school trains future professors who will teach at seminaries and colleges both in the U.S. and around the world. But the graduate school also provides opportunities for pastors to develop specialized skills and knowledge that will help them serve their congregation and the wider church. The Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree helps pastors to not only gain deeper knowledge and insight, but also requires a detailed major research project that applies

directly to their congregational or ministry setting.

The Master of Sacred Theology and doctorate degree curricula offer rigorous academic programs in each of the theological disciplines. We hope that many pastors, vicarage supervisors and leaders of LCMS circuits and districts continue enriching their theological foundation through these programs, so they can effectively and faithfully teach and lead other pastors.

**REV. DR. GIFFORD GROBIEN**, Director of the D. Min. program, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Graduate school is continuing education, but is it more than you need to keep your knowledge and skills up to date? Proportionately greater rewards are the fruit of the additional time and effort. The Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program, particularly, serves not only to increase knowledge, but especially to improve the practice of ministry.

First, it includes strengthening the pastor’s ability to perceive challenges and to understand the reasons and dynamics behind them. Do some families avoid regular church attendance, yet insist on being involved in other activities while remaining members? Theologically, we know this is resis-

tance to the Word of God, but skills learned in the D.Min. program may give insight into institutional, relational or familial factors that accompany the sin in this particular situation. Further, the D.Min. program gives a pastor tools for engaging his people, so that he comes to understand them better and to communicate with and serve them better.

So, how does graduate school fit into the continuing education process? Not only by continuing to develop the pastor’s knowledge, but also by equipping the pastor with advanced pastoral tools for discernment and ministerial understanding — tools that he’ll use for a lifetime.

# Graduate School = Continuing Education

Seminary faculty explain why their graduate programs are a good choice for pastors seeking continuing education.

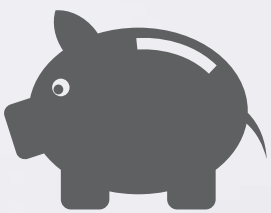


## Continuing Ed Costs

Typical weeklong, 3 CEU workshop/class is between \$150 and \$250, plus room and board



Most congregations have a personal growth or continuing education fund (typically \$500–\$1,000/year)



Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program is approximately \$1,000 per course (tuition only) at each seminary

The D. Min. programs are designed to be completed in 3–4 years



Total tuition cost for the D. Min. program is approximately \$12,000–\$15,000



## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PASTORAL CONTINUING ED

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