



# PASTORAL Education

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## It happened again!

Well, it happened again this year at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. When asked which person had a strong influence on first-year seminarians enrolling, 91 percent of the entering students indicated that “a pastor” had a strong influence. While the percentages vary slightly from year to year at our seminaries, a pastor’s strong influence upon a man taking the step to begin seminary preparation is undeniable. It may be the entering student’s current pastor, a former pastor who confirmed him, or a pastor at a campus ministry site during the student’s college years—but nearly every incoming seminary student credits a pastor as being a strong influence on his seminary enrollment.

To be sure, God was at work as the water and Word of baptism were applied to these seminarians. To be sure, He provided them with continued nurture through Word and Sacrament. To be sure, He provided them with gifts and the desire to serve (the *inner call*, as Lutherans refer to it) in the noble task of pastoral ministry (1 Tim. 3:1).

Yet, God also provides encouragement toward service in the pastoral ministry through the means of others in the body of Christ—especially

pastors. Two pastors were extremely influential in providing that encouragement in my life, especially during my teen years.

There has been recent speculation concerning whether we have the right number of pastors. This issue of *Pastoral Education* cites the advanced age of our Synod’s pastors, and there are many other left-hand kingdom variables to be considered.

There are also compelling right-hand kingdom factors to be considered. First and foremost is our Lord’s desire that none should perish. As Paul asks concerning those who are perishing, “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? (Rom. 10:14-15, ESV).

I especially encourage pastors to:

- **Identify** appropriate candidates who have been expressing interest in serving as a pastor;
- **Inform** these candidates about what God’s Word teaches concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry and those who would serve in it; about what is involved in serving as a pastor; perhaps even allowing them to accompany you

on hospital calls, home visits and other pastoral ministry activities; about the formation process that precedes serving as a pastor

(or connect them with those at our seminaries who can inform them);

- **Encourage** these candidates to consider with prayer, study of God’s Word and consultation with others in the body of Christ the possibility of seminary enrollment.

Above all, pray, both individually and corporately, that the Lord of the Harvest would continue to raise up workers — the next generation of workers — for His harvest (Matt. 9:38). I look forward to joining you in thanking God for His faithfulness in answering the prayers of His people as we observe the next class of incoming seminarians and conclude, “It happened again!”

■ Dr. Glen Thomas



Thomas

prospective candidates.

The Rev. Michael Redeker, senior vice president for Enrollment Management at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, says the special traits in young men that pastors and congregations can use to identify these individuals “sound obvious, but they may not be as common as they were in the past. Certainly a love for the Lord Jesus Christ, is central. Another trait that would seem obvious is a servant’s heart. Other characteristics would include kindness, a willingness to help, giving attention to others, a love for God’s Word and biblical truth in this world. A love for the lost is something else to look for.”

“A desire to be in service to their fellow man” also ranks high on Zimmerman’s list of traits, as does a “heart for ministry, compassion for the lost and a love for the Lord and His people.”

### Informing

Once identified, the next step is to inform appropriate candidates about the formation process that prepares them for pastoral ministry. Both seminaries have a staff of admission personnel who are able to provide detailed information concerning the seminary formation process. Admission officers from both seminaries travel extensively throughout the country, visiting congregations, Lutheran elementary and high schools, campus ministries, and Concordia University System schools in order to meet with prospective seminary students. In addition, both seminaries offer multiple structured campus visitation opportunities throughout the year (see story on next page), and also invite prospective students and their guests to visit campus on an individual basis.

### Encouraging

“Prayer is at the top of the list when it comes to how pastors and congregations can encourage an individual,” said Redeker. “People and congregations praying for another person are powerful and encouraging in themselves. The pastor could encourage the person to take a more active role in the life of the congregation. This could include leading a Bible study, helping out with shut-in calls or nursing home visits, or working with the youth of the congregation.”

“Pastors, teachers, youth workers and congregations have been consistently important in the encouragement of future pastors,” added Zimmerman. “Pastors who influence their men

(Continued on Page 3)

## Need for next generation of pastors is crucial

“Serving the church is the most magnificent adventure and joy you can possibly imagine. You’ll have a great life—challenging—but a great life telling people about Christ and His love, and there’s nothing better than that,” states

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison in a video on the *What A Way* website encouraging people to consider church work vocations, particularly as pastors.

He recalls who led him to the

ministry—a vicar who came to his home congregation and “loved the work of the ministry for which he was training. I became intrigued. Because of him, I ended up going to seminary.”

Being influenced to enter the seminary by someone in the ministry is not unusual.

“In our research,” says the Rev. Thomas Zimmerman, dean of students and director of Enrollment Management at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, “we have found that the students have been most influenced by their pastors. A positive influence by the pastor is behind the decision of most men who are committed to preparing for the pastoral office.”

### Identifying

The recruitment of men into the pastoral ministry begins with identifying



The Rev. Tom Zimmerman, left, dean of students and director of Enrollment Management at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, shares a light-hearted moment with seminarians, from left, Daniel Grimmer, Jared DeBlieck and Peter Ahlersmeyer.

# Among the many 'hats' he wears, one is a hard hat

As director of Library and Information Services, dean of assessment, associate professor of pastoral ministry and missions, executive assistant to the president for strategic planning and accreditation liaison officer for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, the Rev. Robert Roethemeyer wears many "hats," but the one that he has worn the most during the last two years is a hard hat.

In his role as the "Owner's Representative" during the expansion of the campus' Walther Library, he has served as the primary point of contact between the owner (the seminary), the architectural firm and the contractor during the construction phase of the project.

The expansion just marked the fifth anniversary of a planning process that has included library space programming, architectural concept selection, schematic design, design development, construction documents and bid-letting.

"While we have the new building planted, the campus put back together and we give thanks to our gracious Lord for this milestone, we are not done," Ro-

ethemeyer said. "Thus, I won't be taking off this hat soon."

The expansion includes space for the library's existing collections to come together and to grow in the future, a wireless environment that delivers electronic resources to laptops and other portable devices, naturally lighted, lakeside study areas "for the contemplative mind to work," and enclosed study rooms "for collaborative learning to occur."

One might think that with his expertise and knowledge on the subject of libraries and information services, that he always planned to be in the field of library science. But he entered the University of Nebraska in Lincoln as a pre-medical student.

During his freshman year, he became active in the ministries at University Lutheran Chapel, singing in the chapel choir and visiting international students. In his sophomore year, Roethemeyer's home congregation pastor, the Rev. Harlan Harnapp, arranged for him to attend an Institute on the Ministry at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

"He challenged me, asking, 'Why become a doctor of the body when you

can be a doctor of the soul? Why do work that only has earthly consequences when you can do work that has eternal consequences?'"

The weekend at the seminary was a "juncture in my journey," he says. "By the end of my sophomore year, the door had closed on med school and I declared an English major. I knew that the seminary curriculum would demand a tremendous amount of reading and writing and this 'math and science guy' had to strengthen those skills.

"Little did I know how the Lord would put those math and science skills to use as I was encouraged to study Library and Information Science and was called to a life of service to the church as a theological librarian, first at the seminary in St. Louis (where he served as a graduate reference assistant) and for the past 15 years in Fort Wayne."

Roethemeyer also teaches an intensive course titled "Bibliography and Technology for Students of Theology" that includes all incoming Master of Arts and Master of Divinity students during the first four weeks of the fall quarter.

"My primary goal is for each student to be at home in both the physical library and the virtual library and for them to appreciate that libraries are the laboratories of the humanities. Eventually, a pastor's library, in both its physical and electronic forms, will be his workshop. There, words about the Word will be crafted weekly. There, his mind and soul will be nourished continuously throughout his life of service."

In his free time, Roethemeyer (which is German for a freckled-faced, red-haired dairy farmer), enjoys returning to the land. "My roots are in the soil," he



Prof. Roethemeyer shares a 1521 edition of *Luther's Freedom of a Christian* with his Wednesday evening "Bibliography and Technology for Students of Theology" class meeting in a new library classroom.

said. "I live on a half-acre that includes a native hickory and oak woodland. I enjoy all seasons of life, whether it's mulching leaves in the fall, shoveling snow in the winter, edging the flower beds in the spring, or watering the plants in the summer."

He enjoyed serving as groom for his daughter's show horses when she competed regionally and nationally as an equestrian athlete while in high school. "That chapter of life spent as family and as a time to be close to one of God's most majestic creatures, the horse, is a great memory."

Roethemeyer also enjoys serving on the faculty of the seminary. Referring to a portion of the seminary's mission statement, he said he is part "of a team of unbelievably gifted individuals whom the Lord has brought together in this place for the work of 'forming servants in Jesus Christ, who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.' Despite a constant onslaught by Satan, we have a sense that each day we are making a difference in the world for Christ."



The Rev. Robert Roethemeyer wears another hat, an Indian Creek Horse Farm cap, as he poses with a freshly groomed Minion Mardi Gras (Presto), his daughter's first Morgan show horse. His daughter competed as an equestrian athlete while in high school and he served as groomer.

## Seminaries offer visitation opportunities

Both LCMS seminaries offer structured on-campus visitation opportunities for prospective students of all ages and their guests. The following visitation opportunities are offered during the next six months:

### Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

#### January 17-20: Symposia

An opportunity for prospective students to meet with pastors and laymen from around the world as they discuss exegetical and confessional theology.

#### March 22-24: Prayerfully Consider

For men and women who want to learn more about the possibility of serving as a pastor or deaconess. There is time to worship with the seminary community, experience classes and meet with faculty and students.

#### June 17-30: Christ Academy—High School

This two-week, residential activity for high-school-age men offers an in-depth

and hands-on seminary experience as they worship in Kramer Chapel, study with seminary professors and other remarkable teachers and pastors, as well as enjoy time for recreation and fellowship.

For more information, see [www.ctsfw.edu](http://www.ctsfw.edu), email [Admission@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Admission@ctsfw.edu) or call 1-800-481-2155.

### Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

#### January 5: Shepherds of God's Flock

Designed for those in college or older; the retreat will focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process. Wives, fiancées, and girlfriends are also encouraged to attend. Participants are invited to stay for the Jan. 6 "Green & Gold Days" event.

#### January 6: Green & Gold Days

For college students considering pastoral or deaconess service. Experience the campus and community, attend classes, worship in chapel and speak with

faculty. Pastors and pre-seminary advisers are encouraged to attend with their students.

#### January 14-16: Taste of the Sem

An opportunity for high school men to spend a weekend at the seminary to study theology, pray, worship, meet, and talk with seminary students and professors. Attending Sunday morning worship, Monday morning classes, and chapel with a seminary student helps provide a sense of seminary life for those who think God might be directing them toward the pastoral ministry.

#### March 8-10: Contemplate

A structured event to learn about pastoral and deaconess formation. Open to men and women who are college age and older; it offers time to meet faculty, worship with the seminary community and attend information sessions on ministry, spirituality, student services and relocation.

#### March 16: Green & Gold Days (see above)

#### June 23-28: Vocatio

For students (male and female) who will be in high school this coming school year: focuses on Christian vocation, including full-time service in the church as ordained or commissioned servants. Bible studies focus on vocation from the exegetical, systematic, historical and practical aspects. Participants learn about study opportunities at LCMS colleges and seminaries.

#### July 6-7: Next Steps

Designed for adult prospective students and their families, this event is designed to address practical questions of relocation to the St. Louis community including housing, moving companies, employment, healthcare, childcare, schools and more.

For more information, see [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu), e-mail [admissions@csl.edu](mailto:admissions@csl.edu) or call 1-800-822-9545.



# Sem students receive encouragement from pastors and friends

Second-year seminarian **David Buchs** says the example set by his pastor “of what a faithful pastor looks like” was both “valuable and very influential” as an encouragement to attend seminary, but the biggest influence for him was that of his friends.

“I had been encouraged to consider the ministry from a variety of sources, but when it came down to deciding whether I would go to seminary or pursue another career, I had trouble making the decision on my own,” said the 24-year-old Buchs, who attends Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. “I had concerns about finances, raising a family at seminary, my aptitude for the ministry, and my fear of missing out on other occupations that I might enjoy.”

But he was aided in his decision by several friends who were already studying theology and who “encouraged me and helped dispel my doubts.” After a visit to the Fort Wayne campus he left convinced of three things:

- “The seminary community and congregations in the area are extremely supportive of students.
- “Being a pastor is not about having a certain charisma or self confidence. Rather, it is about reliance on the Word of God which is active and powerful to do the work to which we are called and for which we ourselves are utterly inadequate and
- “Finally, the reward and satisfaction of caring for souls, though often of a different character, are certainly not inferior to the reward and satisfaction of any other career.”

Buchs, who is married with one son and another child on the way, was active in his home congregation, Zion Lutheran Church in Lewisville, Minn., where the Rev. Brian Thorson serves as pastor (see story on next page). During high school and college, Buchs taught Sunday school, led the Sunday school music program and occasionally directed the church’s choir.

That congregation now supports him and his family financially, often sending the proceeds of a benefit or door offering. “They also give me an opportunity to preach on occasion, which is invaluable. Finally, they support us through prayer and encouragement,” he added.

Buchs said he will encourage other men to enter the ministry following completion of his studies, stating, “It is evident that there is never a time for the church to be slack in training of its ministers. A pastor is in the unique position of

having experienced seminary education and the ministry, which help him to identify those men who would be well-suited for it. Additionally, the pastor can offer very influential encouragement. I pray that I will set a positive and encouraging example just as my pastor did for me.”

**Scott Jonas**, a 40-year-old second-career student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, agrees. “One year ago today, I did not have the faintest idea of going to the seminary,” he said. But he adds that through the influence of his pastor, family, friends and home congregation, “God finds a way to make His will happen.”

A former director of Christian education for 10 years at Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Santa Maria, Calif., Jonas said entering seminary “was the scariest decision of my life. Pastor (Stephen) Eckert was the calm hand that eased me towards God’s goal.”

During his last couple of years as a DCE, Jonas said Eckert encouraged him to expand his service through hospital visits, sermons and other opportunities. “I shared the idea of seminary with him and he encouraged me to make it happen,” he said. “Through Pastor Eckert’s leadership, the congregation gave me time off for a visit to campus, reimbursed me for the expenses of our visit and allowed me to study for the [seminary] pretests at work. For the rest of my life, I will remember the love shown to our family (his wife, Ann, and two daughters, Grace and Faith) during our last Sunday sendoff.”

That support from his congregation continues, as it sends a monthly stipend of donations to the family along with personal letters and emails. “The generosity of Lutheran Church of Our Savior is beyond anything we could imagine,” Jonas said.

After graduating from seminary, Jonas plans to encourage others to enter the ministry. “One of my professors says, ‘The calling to the pastorate is hard. Avoid it as long as you can. When you can hold out no longer, then you will know you are ready.’ From my perspective, this has all happened so fast. From God’s perspective, this is a long time coming. I will share my testimony with others.”



Scott Jonas

## NEED FOR NEXT GENERATION OF PASTORS

(Continued from Page 1)

also encourage their congregations to support the prospective student.”

This support often includes financial assistance for visiting the seminary prior to enrollment and continued financial assistance during the seminary years. Some congregations intentionally include seminary support as a line item in their budgets.

### Crucial Need

Why is it crucial at this time that the LCMS, its pastors and congregations focus on recruitment of the next generation of pastors?

One of the most compelling reasons is the large number of current pastors who will reach retirement age in the next five to 10 years. The two largest groups of active LCMS pastors are those 55-59 and 60-65 years old, totaling 36 percent of all active pastors. While 62 percent of active LCMS pastors are 50 years old or older, only 16 percent are under 40. These facts clearly suggest that the demand for seminary graduates will increase in the near future.

“It is crucial that we hold up the need for faithful, confessional men to prepare to testify to the truth of the changeless Christ to an ever-changing world. We have a need for men to be prepared to help congregational members face the challenges they will have as the End Times approach,” said Zimmerman.

When asked why he felt that the recruitment of pastors is critical now, Redeker turned the question around and asked, “When isn’t it important to



The Rev. Michael Redeker, vice president for Enrollment Management at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, chats in his office with Seminarian Chad Elfe.

focus on recruiting and encouraging the next generation of pastors? As long as there are sinners, sin and evil in the world, Christ needs pastors. As long as there is hopelessness and loneliness in the world, then Christ needs pastors. As long as there are people who die every day apart from faith in Christ Jesus, then Christ needs pastors.”

For more information about upcoming seminary visitation events, see the listing on page 2, or visit the seminaries’ websites: [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu) and [www.ctsfw.edu](http://www.ctsfw.edu). For more information about the *What A Way* initiative, visit [www.whataway.org](http://www.whataway.org).



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Seminarian David Buchs, left, takes a moment out of his studies to chat over coffee with fellow students Andy Wright, center, and Sam Wirgau. All attend Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.



# Congregations create a ‘climate of sending’

## Zion Lutheran Church, Lewisville, Minn.

When the Rev. Brian Thorson, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Lewisville, Minn., looks for traits in young men who may be possible candidates for the pastoral ministry, he recalls his own emerging interest in becoming a pastor that began in college.

“I had no interest or desire to be a pastor in high school,” he recalled. “But when I started to attend University Lutheran Chapel in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota, I absorbed confessional Lutheran theology like a sponge. When I see young men soak up theology in this way, it could mean that God is guiding them to consider the holy ministry,” he said. “Good theologians make good pastors.”

Thorson also looks for young men who are interested in hearing the Word of God, who attend services regularly and participate in church activities. “I also see potential if they are open to speaking the faith or defending that faith,” he added.

In Zion’s 105-year history, 12 men have become pastors or are working toward ordination, including David Buchs (see story on previous page). How does a congregation become so good at creating a climate of sending church workers, particularly pastors, into the harvest?

“It is easy for congregations to look inward,” Thorson said. They receive pastors but sometimes congregations do not see a need to send men to be pastors. But they [pastors] come from somewhere—they come from congregations, so why not encourage some of the young men to become pastors?”

Thorson said one of the stumbling blocks that hinders congregational members from recognizing potential pastoral candidates is that “many falsely believe that only the holiest of men could consider becoming pastors. But

all have inherited the same sin from Adam, and Christ declares Christians to be righteous. When we understand that pastors are forgiven sinners called by God, it becomes easier to look at our young men as potential pastors.”

After identifying possible candidates, he simply suggests to them that they should consider becoming pastors. “I don’t push them, in part because I know I would have pushed back had I been pushed. I may give them a book or two to read, depending on their interest level. I encourage them to become more involved with the activities already going on at church. I pray that God would guide them to make the right choices and commend it to God. Some of our members are very good at encouraging those who demonstrate a solid faith to consider the ministry. This encouragement goes a long way,” he added.

Following their enrollment in the seminary, Thorson keeps in contact with the students by phone and email. He also encourages parishioners to pray for the seminarians by including their names each week in the Sunday bulletin. “Part of our congregational mission budget supports our students. Since I am a

pastor of a dual parish (Trinity Lutheran Church, also in Lewisville), both churches enthusiastically support our students,” he said. “During the summer we have a pork chop dinner in which half the proceeds goes to our seminarians. In December we include a bulletin insert giving the congregation an update on our seminarians. I make sure that I have their current addresses in this insert because I encourage our members to send them Christmas cards and, if they are so moved, a monetary gift.”

In summary, Thorson quotes 1 Tim. 3:1: “‘If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.’ God uses the weak things of this world to accomplish His will. He uses sinners to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments. It is a great and joyful privilege to be a steward of God’s mysteries.”

## Trinity Lutheran Church, Klein, Texas

The Rev. Dr. Richard Noack, senior pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Klein (Spring), Texas, insists that he is “not an expert” in identifying, informing and encouraging men from his congregation to enter the pastoral ministry. Yet, “Trinity Klein has sent five to the seminary in the past few years,” he said, “and I am aware of three other men from Trinity who at this time are seriously considering and praying about going to the seminary. Many from Trinity Klein have been sent to the seminary over the past 137 years.”

He shares credit for creating a “sending climate” with the staff of the church.

“We are blessed with many full-time church workers who model humble, Gospel-centered, people-oriented, joy-filled excellence in ministry. God has also gifted us with many lay leaders who

are deeply committed to the mission of God. I believe this positive climate is very important for sending workers into the Harvest.”

Noack says that through the years the congregation with 3,300-plus baptized members has developed a how-to plan for encouraging and supporting all church-work students, which includes hosting a “Church Worker Scholarship Sunday” in late summer.

“We give all churchwork students an opportunity to introduce themselves and talk briefly about their experiences at LCMS seminaries and universities. We also print a brochure that includes brief bios of all our church-work students. And we give them checks! We financially support our church-worker students from Trinity’s budget,” he added.

In addition, the Trinity Men’s Club raises support for the Herman Schaefer Scholarship Fund, which over the past 20 years has provided more than \$480,000 to support church-work students. During one recent academic year, Trinity had 22 students enrolled in church-work programs at LCMS institutions.

Although this year the church has just seven enrolled in church-work programs, Noack says, “We are a large congregation and we should be sending many into the harvest!”

## Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Va.

The Rev. Christopher Esget, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Va., believes that the congregation is vital in developing a climate of sending church workers into the harvest.

“The congregation must first show that it values the pastoral ministry by encouraging the pastor to spend time on the things pertaining to his office—prayer, preparation for preaching, visitation, catechesis, evangelism—and taking care of those things that aren’t intrinsic to the office,” Esget noted. “‘It is not good for us to wait on tables,’ the apostles said, appointing people in the congregation to take care of the matters troubling the early church; ‘but we will devote ourselves to the ministry of the Word, and to prayer.’”

“Where there is a culture of valuing the pastoral office, that will do more than any recruiting campaign in opening the possibility to other men in the congregation. Sending money to the seminary and bringing in professors to teach or preach helps cultivate an awareness of the important work of preparing future pastors. These are excellent ways of passively recruiting men for the ministry, while also serving the church in general,” he added.

There are specific traits Esget looks for in young men who may be possible candidates for the pastoral ministry, such



The Rev. Richard Noack

as someone who takes “his personal piety seriously and demonstrates an interest in growing spiritually” by asking theological questions, looking for books to read and seeking to grow in their prayer and devotional life.

“The person also needs to be developing a habit of service in the congregation,” he said. “A fellow who is happy to help give someone a ride to church, mop up a mess, usher, help the pastor haul a Christmas tree to church or just be nice to a homeless person waiting to see the pastor is a person who is showing he is happy to serve in whatever way he is needed. Last, and perhaps most importantly, the potential pastor should have a kind and humble heart.”

Even after seeing these traits in an individual, Esget says he has never singled a man out and told him he ought to be a pastor; “except for a teenager and a four-year-old, both of whom I have hopes for one day!” He says he usually tries to discourage men from entering the seminary, “but only because I’ll end up losing a great member of my congregation,” he said jokingly.

“If they’re still interested, then I give them every encouragement I possibly can, but particularly try to give them a variety of experiences in our congregation that I think will help prepare them for ministry, both administrative but also as worship assistants,” he continued. “I’m reading a theological work with one of our potential seminarians now, and discussing it with him, for example. I also offer a New Testament Greek class for potential seminarians which other members of the congregation also take advantage of.

Members of Immanuel pray for the seminarians by name every Sunday and support each financially, and Esget tries to visit them at the seminary when possible. Apparently, the congregation’s climate of sending is working, as two men from the congregation have finished seminary and are serving as pastors, two members are currently attending seminary and two are actively preparing to attend in the next few years.

“Our seminaries do a terrific job preparing men for the ministry,” said Esget. “They are a great treasure of our church and I am deeply grateful for the faithful men preparing our future pastors.”



The Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, kneeling, was ordained last summer as a son of the congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Va. Southeastern District President Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, top right, conducted the rite of ordination. Also pictured are Immanuel’s assistant pastor, the Rev. Charles McClean, left, and the Rev. Christopher Esget, pastor. Kieselowsky currently serves as assistant pastor and headmaster of the church’s school.



Shown at his ordination in 2010 is the Rev. Michael Holmen, left, a son of the congregation, Zion Lutheran Church, Lewisville, Minn. He joined Zion and the Missouri Synod while a student in Mankato, Minn., and then went on to seminary. Also pictured are the Rev. John Pless, center, professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and the Rev. Brian Thorson, right, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein, Iowa, and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Independence, Iowa.