Feed My Sheep
Providing Leadership, Coordination and Advocacy for Pastoral Education and Health in the Church

Resources and Services

PALS: Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support

Joint Seminary Fund and the Global Seminary Initiative

Biannual Theology Professors Conference

Prior-approval process for seminary faculty

Preach the Word

Gatherings for pre-seminary directors, seminary presidents, provosts and academic deans

Visitation, preaching and teaching at universities and seminaries

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Martin Luther wrote, “I foresee that, if God does not give us faithful ministers, the devil will tear our church apart through sectarians and he will never cease until he has accomplished it” (AE 51:378).

We live in a broken world. Our lives are filled with sin, guilt and suffering. We need a pastor who will deliver Christ to us. We need a pastor who will rightly apply God’s eternal Word of Law and Gospel to our lives. We need a pastor who will baptize our children, hear our confession, forgive our sin, preach the Word, catechize our young and old, and feed us the heavenly food of Christ’s body and blood.

Christ ordains the Office of the Holy Ministry, and the Church responds by forming pastors for the life of the world. In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), one of the main objectives in our life together is to “recruit and train pastors … and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (2016 Handbook, Article III).

As men go through the lifelong journey of pastoral formation, they attend one of the Synod’s two world-renown, accredited seminaries. It is during these years of study that the Church examines these men for fitness in the ministry (1 Tim. 3:1–7). After seminary, God calls each man through the congregation to stand in the place and stead of Christ before His people. Upon his first call, the Church ordains each man as one approved, ready and fit for the holy ministry in the fellowship of the Church.

Proverbs 1:5 states, “Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.” Thus, the Lutheran pastor is always striving to grow in knowledge and wisdom throughout his ministry. With the complexities of life, Satan’s attacks and the desire to best apply God’s Word to the lives of His people, the pastor is regularly engaged in continuing education.

There are many avenues for continuing education in the LCMS. It begins with Post-Applied Learning and Support (PALS) during the first three years of a pastor’s ministry. After that, the possibilities are endless and may include: DOXOLOGY programming, courses at the seminaries, extension classes from the seminaries throughout the nation, advanced degrees, involvement in Preach the Word, seminary symposia and so much more!