Faithfully Preparing
pastors, deaconesses and leaders for
service in the church and the world.

2018-2019 SEMINARY ENROLLMENT

AVERAGE AGE OF INCOMING STUDENT
30 / 26

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN 2018-2019 CLASS
41 / 44

Ongoing Pastoral Education

Preach the Word —
modes available at lcms.org/preachtheword

PALS — helps pastors in their first three years after seminary

How You Support Our Seminaries through the Synod

Fiscal year 2018 shows funds disbursed from the Synod to seminaries totaling $3,776,389. These funds include:

- Synod subsidies from worship offerings – $593,727
- Joint Seminary Fund – $2,167,576
- Seminary-specific donations – $151,921
- Global Seminary Initiative – $298,518
- Forward in Remembrance earnings – $135,718
- Gifts for seminary scholarships/student aid – $260,867
- Faculty services – $64,424
- Special and donor-funded grants – $103,638

Comprehensive Church Worker Recruitment Initiative

- Identifying, catechizing, encouraging and supporting young people for church worker vocations
- Instilling church worker vocations as sacred and joyful: a calling from God, grounded in Christ and baptismal salvation
- Developing the whole person throughout the formation process: spiritually, in character, confessionally, physically, emotionally, synodically and intellectually
PREACH THE WORD PROJECT

DISTRICT VISITATION PACKET

“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (2 TIM. 4:1–2).

Preaching is challenging business. Everyone can use some encouragement and fresh ideas. Preach the Word (PTW) will help pastors work together to improve their preaching through video modules with accompanying resources and interactions with seminary professors and fellow preachers.

Pastors can gather with brother pastors to watch and discuss the modules. The triad — a group of three peers — is the recommended group size, although each module is adaptable for a circuit setting. Even as a circuit, the group may consider triad groups for collegial discussion and learning. The larger group is for sharing with others what was learned.

Each module consists of a video presentation along with discussion guides and guidelines for the triad meetings. A tip sheet is also provided to assist triad leaders in organizing and facilitating each phase of Preach the Word. All materials are free to download.

Modules currently available:
The Use of Story in Preaching — Rev. Dr. David Schmitt
The Use of Biblical Text in Sermon — Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
Delivering the Gospel Live and in Person — Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher
Applying God’s Word Into People’s Lives — Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen
The Use of Technology in Preaching — Rev. Matt Peeples
Sacramental Preaching — Rev. Dr. David Petersen
Preaching the Baptized Life — Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing
Law and Gospel That Isn’t—and Is—the Same Old Thing — Rev. Dr. Steven Mueller
Preaching in a Post-Christian World — Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Module topics and authors in the works:
Sermon Structure — Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher
Missions — Rev. Dr. Douglas Rutt
Catechetical Preaching — Rev. Peter Bender

Hear what pastors say about using the Preach the Word program: lcms.org/preach-the-word/testimonials

The power of the Lutheran Reformation was the Word of God; that same Word is our power today. The LCMS Office of the President is providing Preach the Word for the pastors of the LCMS to renew and reinvigorate their proclamation of God’s Word.

lcms.org/preach-the-word
HELPING PASTORS AND THEIR WIVES IN THE TRANSITION FROM SEMINARY LIFE TO PARISH MINISTRY

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE PALS?
Our Synod is blessed with excellent seminaries where the foundation for pastoral ministry is properly laid. It is there that our pastors become theologians. In the tradition of Luther, however, our Synod also recognizes that learning for a pastor is a lifelong endeavor and that the early years of ministry are a critical time in that learning process.

The PALS initiative was designed to support this learning by facilitating the transition of new pastors and wives from seminary life to parish ministry. PALS offers opportunities to new pastors to apply the learning of their seminary education and to further hone ministry skills.

“And perhaps most important, PALS provides a healthy and safe place for pastors and their spouses to seek support and assistance in navigating the sometimes choppy waters of parish life.” —Rev. Terry Beltz, 2015 facilitating pastor

Taking advantage of these opportunities benefits families, parishes, districts, the Synod and, above all, the effective proclamation of the Gospel.

WHAT HAPPENS AT PALS MEETINGS?
PALS group meetings have four foci, directed toward the personal, spiritual and vocational development and encouragement of new pastors:

► The group gathers around the Word in worship, prayer and study, recognizing that pastors, no less than others, need to be nourished by the same Word that they use to nourish others in their faith.

► Time is allotted at every meeting for each pastor to reflect upon his ministry in his parish and to bring forward cases of casuistry. This is an opportunity to support, encourage and learn from one another. In these discussions, the facilitator also is able to offer direction and suggestions regarding resources and support.

► Time is given to the study of a pertinent topic that offers opportunity for growth in ministry. The PALS office develops the materials for these formal ministry-based studies.

► There is time for personal sharing, not only about parish activities, but also about frustrations, hopes, triumphs and trials.

The wives join their husbands for portions of the meetings, but they also meet separately following much the same format as the pastors.

All discussions that take place in PALS group meetings remain confidential.

IS THERE ANY RECOGNITION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM?
A certificate of up to six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) is awarded at the end of each year for faithful participation in PALS meetings. As with other CEUs, these are reported to the district president and the pastor records it on his SET form.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?
Costs are shared by all who benefit from the program. The Synod pays for the development of all the materials used in the program, as well as training for facilitators. Districts support PALS expenses through a pre-established dollar amount per registered participant.

Congregations reimburse the cost of travel and lodging for pastors and wives. Pastors pay a $25 registration fee each year.

Rev. Dr. James Baneck, executive director, LCMS Pastoral Education
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See Pastoral Education insert from March 2020 *Reporter* in separate file offered under the Section 8 heading.