# 2015 - A Symposium on the Pastor as Teacher



"The Lord's servant must be able to teach." According to Paul and the Spirit, this is one of the qualifications for a Christian and Lutheran pastor. Hearing and knowing these words, the pastor teaches in many venues and among many people, but the challenges facing today's pastoral teacher are many and varied. Identifying the challenges and overcoming them are critical in a society which values education on the one hand and is biblically illiterate on the other. Add to this that busy pastors often struggle to gain insights into teaching methods that are practical in today's world.

The 2015 Symposium on the Pastor as Teacher promises to identify the challenges honestly and candidly and help pastors in their continuing efforts to be able to teach. Three presentations will look to educational goals and methods from the past and then also point to the future and suggest tools which may have great value for pastors who teach in the ministry today.

### Jesus taught the way of life—and so do we

Aaron Mueller (04), Tucson, AZ

Prof. Joel Otto, reactor

Evangelize, baptize, teach: this is the process Jesus calls his people to carry out in their worldwide ministry. This essay focuses on the purpose and value of Christian education as a process that follows conversion. The author will describe Jesus, the master teacher, his qualifications and attitudes toward learners, and his methods of instruction. The essayist will move beyond Jesus to other biblical teachers and offer examples that help to establish the place, purpose, and patterns of Christian education in God's plan of salvation and in the modern parish.

#### St. Augustine taught the catechumens—and so do we

Daniel Habben (99), St. Albert, Alberta, Canada

Prof. Thomas Kock, reactor

To watch Augustine and his contemporaries in action and to read their treatises on the education of the unlearned and unconverted will gain participants excellent insights into principles of teaching adults which are underscored by modern emphases of andragogy and are often different from concepts of pedagogy. The essayist will lead participants to grapple with issues currently in play (active learning, dialogic learning, constructivism, etc.) and seek to increase the tools available to the pastor while at the same time highlighting the strengths and appropriate settings for techniques already well-known and used.

#### Luther taught the children—and so do we

Paul Prange (88), Milwaukee, WI

Prof. Stephen Geiger, reactor

As much as anyone in modern history, Luther championed the cause of the education of children, not only their religious instruction by means of his catechisms, but also their secular education in strong schools. Luther has much to teach 21<sup>st</sup> century pastors as they survey the educational field for pedagogical methods including the determination to employ what is contemporary and timely, such as the role of the parents in education and the contributions of technology.



# 2014 - A SYMPOSIUM ON PREACHING



On September 22-23, 2014, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will host its 15<sup>th</sup> annual symposium and again provide an opportunity to study a topic of special interest in WELS. Last fall, over 400 pastors, professors and students attended a *Symposium on the Pastor and His Seminary Training* which focused on the exegetical, dogmatic and historical disciplines of the seminary curriculum with special application to the practical disciplines. Last year's symposium coincided with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the seminary and included a special banquet.

The 2014 event is entitled A Symposium on Preaching.

Jesus came fulfilling the prophecy to "preach good news to the poor" (Isaiah 61:1). Jesus told his disciples to "go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mk 16:15), and the book of Acts testifies to their preaching activity. Paul told Timothy to "preach the Word" (2 Tm 4:2), and the history of the church is the fruit of the preaching of the Word throughout the world and across the ages. The gospel imperative to preach the Word still holds for today's pastors. The sermon continues to be where the pastor reaches the largest number of people on the most consistent basis with law and gospel. While the command to preach has remained the same, the style, rhetoric, and content of preaching has fluctuated throughout the centuries and across the wider Christian church. What does this say to Lutheran preachers in the 21st century who are striving to clearly proclaim law and gospel in a rapidly changing, increasingly diverse, and biblically illiterate culture? The three essays of this symposium will seek to address this key question at the heart of the pastor's ministry and provide participants an opportunity for fruitful discussion and reflection on their task of preaching the Word of the Lord.

The first essay will examine the biblical mandates to proclaim the Word and offer some examples of sermons in Scripture, as well as the transformation that took place during the Reformation after more than 1,000 years of mostly poor preaching. The essay will survey some of Luther's sermons to highlight his rhetoric, style and the theological emphases which drove his desire to restore preaching to prominence. The second essay will look at the popularity and homiletical influence of Evangelical preachers. It will trace the history of some of the famous American Evangelical preachers and investigate psychological, stylistic, and theological emphases that may—or may not—be valuable for Lutheran preachers today. The third essay will endeavor to offer a practical pattern for today's Lutheran pastors on the basis of biblical and Lutheran principles. In doing so, this essay will offer insights about gospel preaching in a syncretistic society, as well as explore the need for law preaching in a post-modern world and instructional preaching in a pagan society.

Three WELS pastors will present these essays at the symposium.

## **Biblical and Reformation Roots of Preaching**

Pastor Michael T. Jensen (WLS 1992), St. Mark Lutheran Church, Watertown, WI

#### An Evaluation of Modern Evangelical Preaching

Pastor Andrew P. Bauer (WLS 1989), New Life Lutheran Church, Lake Zurich, IL

### A Paradigm for 21st Century Lutheran Preachers

Pastor Phillip D. Sievert (WLS 1993), Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Thornton, CO

# 2013 - A CELEBRATION SYMPOSIUM: THE PASTOR AND HIS SEMINARY TRAINING



In June of 1863, a Wisconsin Synod convention resolved to establish a seminary to train pastors for the young church body. 150 years later, graduates and students of that seminary will gather to remember the seminary's mission and to rejoice in its future at the school's annual Fall Symposium.

There are two components to this year's event. The regular sessions will take place on campus on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, September 16 & 17. On Monday evening participants will gather at the nearby *Watermark at Shully's* for dinner, entertainment, and fellowship. A new video promoting the seminary's mission will be shown for the first time at the banquet.

The Pastor and His Seminary Training is the theme of this year's symposium. Three speakers will focus on the three theoretical disciplines that have formed the school's curriculum since its founding. They will recall how the seminary imparted those disciplines and how the disciplines have become practical in their own ministries. Professors from Martin Luther College and the seminary will react to each essay and share how these disciplines guide the curricula of their schools today.

The Pastor as Exegete - Harland Goetzinger (01), St. Paul, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Reactors: Thomas Nass and Daniel Leyrer

The Pastor as Dogmatician – Michael Seifert (03), Living Hope, Midlothian, Virginia

Reactors: Lyle Lange and John Brug

The Pastor as Church Historian — Bart Brauer (99), Spirit of Life, Byron Center, Michigan

Reactors: Keith Wessel and James Korthals

# 2012 - A Symposium on Brotherly Admonition



Every fall since 2000, the seminary has sponsored a campus symposium dealing with topics of current and special interest in WELS. In September, 2011, the seminary presented a Symposium on Lutheran Schools in an effort to re-evaluate the Lutheran school in our ministry, to assess its value and contribution to the spiritual life of our members, and to seek and suggest new opportunities to promote and share its blessings.

The 2012 event, scheduled for September 17-18, is entitled A Symposium on Brotherly Admonition.

What is our response when a fellow Christian falls into the trap of sin? Although the principles are clearly enunciated in Scripture, the Church often struggles to apply them, sometimes confronting sin too rigorously and sometimes applying discipline too casually. In both cases, people suffer, either because they are made to carry unwarranted guilt or because they are enabled to remain in their sin.

And what if the fellow Christian is a brother in the ministry? How does the Church deal with servants of the gospel who fall into the trap of false teaching or unfaithfulness? How do believers determine these errors, and who among the believers deals with discipline? The issue is critical, since the sins and sinful weaknesses of a public minister can confuse and harm the entire body of believers.

The Symposium on Brotherly Admonition intends to address this challenging but vital aspect of the ministry of the gospel, especially as it applies to those serving in the pastoral office. The three essays will review the biblical principles of Christian discipline, evaluate the procedures for discipline that are presently in place in our churches and synod, and encourage a consistent and evangelical practice, so important in our age of electronic communication. The symposium will focus not only on efforts to identify and deal with error, but also on ways and means to overcome weaknesses and grow in commitment and knowledge.

Three WELS pastors will present essays at the symposium:

#### **Brotherly Admonition in the Congregation**

Pastor John M. Koelpin (WLS 1993) Calvary Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX

### **Brotherly Admonition in the Ministerium**

Pastor Earle D. Treptow (WLS 1993) Zion Lutheran Church, Denver, CO President of the Nebraska District

#### **Brotherly Admonition that Encourages Accountability**

Pastor James R. Huebner (WLS 1980) Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI First vice-president of WELS

# 2011 - A Symposium on Lutheran Schools



Every fall since 2000, the Seminary has sponsored a campus symposium dealing with topics of current and special interest in WELS. In September, 2010, over 400 pastors, professors, and students attended a *Symposium on Worship and Outreach*.

The 2011 event, scheduled for September 19-20, is entitled *A Symposium on Lutheran Schools*. The Lutheran school, both on the elementary and secondary level, has brought uncounted blessings to our church body for over 150 years. For many of those years there was general unanimity of opinion concerning the value of our schools. Over the past generation, however, our Lutheran schools have begun to face serious challenges from within and without WELS congregations. Many wonder how our schools will withstand the challenges over the next generation and how this will affect both our congregations and our ministerial education system.

The 2011 *Symposium on Lutheran Schools* seeks to re-evaluate the Lutheran school in our ministry, to assess its value and contribution to the spiritual life of our members, and to seek and suggest new opportunities to promote and share its blessings.

Three WELS pastors will present essays at the symposium. Dr. Mark Braun (WLS 1978) of Wisconsin Lutheran College will look to the Scriptures, to Luther, and to the fathers of the Lutheran Church to find lessons and insights concerning the training of children. His essay is entitled "What Our Fathers Taught Us about Lutheran Schools." Prof. Mark Zarling (WLS 1980), president of Martin Luther College, will present an essay entitled "What the Mission of the Church Teaches Us about Lutheran Schools" and will focus especially on how the Lutheran school operates within the comprehensive ministry of the congregation and as a bridge to the community. Pastor Don Patterson (WLS 1992) of Holy Word Congregation, Austin, TX, will present "What Practical Experience Teaches Us about Lutheran Schools" and will demonstrate how principles turn into practical ministry on the parish level.

The seminary cordially invites all active and retired WELS and ELS pastors to attend the symposium. Because of the subject of the symposium, a special invitation is being issued to the principals of elementary and secondary schools.

# 2010 - A Symposium on Worship and Outreach



Many Christian churches and denominations are involved these days in debates over worship and outreach, and the issues are producing lively discussions in our own congregations as well. We Lutherans are committed to reaching out to the lost in our cities and neighbors, although we often struggle to find the best ways to share the gospel in ways that are consistent with Lutheran teaching. The struggle to balance gospel outreach with confessional Lutheranism may be most difficult when it comes to public worship: How do we plan public worship in a way that attracts the seeker to hear the Spirit's message and at the same time is a faithful proclamation of the Spirit's message?

There are loud voices on today's Christian and Lutheran scene that suggest a commitment to reach the lost and a desire to retain the historic emphases of Lutheran liturgical worship are incompatible. The Symposium on Worship and Outreach will explore these issues and offer a perspective that worship and outreach need not be mutually exclusive, pitted against each other, or outside the parameters of Lutheran history and practice. With the Spirit's guidance, the symposium will offer an encouragement to participants to strive for excellence in both gospel-centered worship and gospel-proclaiming outreach.

### Worship and Outreach: An Observable Synergy

Pastor Aaron Christie

Faith Lutheran Church, Antioch, IL

#### Worship and Outreach: The Evangelical Strategy

Pastor Adam Mueller

Peace Lutheran Church, Kokomo, IN

#### Worship and Outreach: A Lutheran Paradigm

Pastor Jonathan Schroeder

Faith Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg, GA

# 2009 - A Symposium on Congregational Health



"Where the Lord builds the church, the devil builds a chapel." The reality is that Satan attacks Christians not only as individuals, but also as members of Christian congregations. His attacks are often overt, but more often subtle. Sometimes the wounds are obvious; more often they lurk under the surface as congregations become self-absorbed, self-satisfied, or self-interested. Congregational leaders and pastors struggle both to assess parish maladies and to treat them. When congregations lack overall spiritual health, the mission of the church is compromised or confused, and souls within and outside the church suffer.

This Symposium intends to bring this very real aspect of parish life into focus. Three essays will deal with evaluating wellness and treating illness. One will review biblical patterns and examples. Another will identify contemporary issues and suggest both possible and improbable solutions. The third will consider existing and improved structures for identifying and dealing with potential health problems.

### God's Bible Men Assess Congregation Health

Pastor David P.Kolander
Christ the Lord Lutheran Church
Brookfield, WI

### 21st Century Pastors Address Congregational Health

Pastor Thomas D. Kock
Living Word Lutheran Church
Gray, TN

#### **Brothers in Ministry Arrange for Congregational Health**

Pastor Kenneth J. Fisher
Risen Savior Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

# 2008 - A Symposium on the Church



The seminary's governing board and faculty are pleased to announce the theme and speakers for the 2008 Fall Symposium. This event, the ninth since the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the synod in 2000, will be held on Monday and Tuesday, September 22-23, 2008. Last year over 400 pastors, professors, and students participated.

We believe in one, holy, Christian and apostolic Church. We believe the Church is Christ's own royal priesthood and holy nation, called to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. We believe that the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ through the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. We believe that this one holy Church will remain forever, militant on earth and triumphant in heaven. Three essays will be presented to explore and apply these truths.

#### The Church and Its Members

Pastor Jonathan Hein Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Summerville, SC

### The Church and Its Ministry

Prof. Thomas Nass Martin Luther College

New Ulm, MN

### The Church and Its Ministers

Pastor Charles Degner

St. Peter Lutheran Church

St. Peter, MN

# 2007 - A Symposium on Christian Stewardship



### Raising up a Generation of Godly Givers

The Apostle Paul tells Timothy, "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

This symposium will offer a study of scriptural principles that pertain to godly giving and will apply these principles to individual, congregational, and synodical life. The opening essay, by President Emeritus David Valleskey, will explore the scriptural basis for godly giving. The second presentation, by Pastor Ron Muetzel, will look at the challenges that hinder godly giving. In the final essay, Prof. Forrest Bivens will present practical suggestions on how to raise up a generation of godly givers.

### Laying the Foundation: The Scriptural Basis for Godly Giving

Prof. David Valleskey

President Emeritus

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

San Marcos, California

### Facing the Challenges: Hindrances to Godly Giving

Pastor Ron Muetzel

Wisconsin Lutheran College

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

### Seizing the Opportunities: Ways to Encourage Godly Giving

Prof. Forrest Bivens

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Mequon, Wisconsin

# 2006 , A Symposium on the Christian Vocation



**People in our society** long for some sense of the divine in their world and too often find it in the wrong places. Lutherans, too, can become confused in this search and come to sense a divide between their religious and everyday lives. How can believers recapture the wonder of occupying a world that is "full of God" as Luther once said? How can we rediscover the joy of a life that is a high and a holy calling in service to God and our neighbor? The biblical and Lutheran doctrine of Christian vocation has answers for these questions.

Three presenters will lead participants in a review of this teaching. Pastor Steven Degner will open the Scriptures to demonstrate how God speaks about both the call to faith and the call to live a hope-filled life of service to God and neighbor. Prof. Kenneth Cherney will focus attention on Luther's writings, reviewing the Roman Catholic distinction between the lay estate and the spiritual estate and demonstrating Luther's response. Prof. Mark Paustian will build on the symposium's initial studies, observe the current scene, and make applications for today's world and church.

### **Understanding Our Calling**

## The Doctrine of Christian Vocation in the Holy Scriptures

Pastor Steven Degner (WLS 1973)

Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Santa Maria, California

### **Uncovering Our Calling**

#### Luther's Reformation Re-emphasis of Christian Vocation

Professor Kenneth Cherney (WLS 1988)

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Mequon, Wisconsin

### **Unleashing Our Calling**

### Today's Christians Find Fulfillment in Their Vocations

Professor Mark Paustian (WLS 1988)

Martin Luther College

New Ulm, Minnesota

# 2005 - A Symposium on the Lutheran Confessions



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is pleased to host a symposium on the Lutheran Confessions. 2005 marks the 475th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession and the 425th anniversary of the publication of the Book of Concord. Since our pastors subscribe to the Lutherans Confessions "because" they exhibit and exposit the teachings of Scripture and since the Confessions are in the spotlight in several critical ways today, the Seminary's annual symposium will focus on the Lutheran Confessions.

Graduate pastors of the Seminary will present three essays. Prof. em. Arnold Koelpin will relate the unique nature of each of the confessional writings included in the 1580 publication and review the history, its formation, publication, and subscription. The second essay, by Pastor Paul Naumann, will set forth the Lutheran understanding of the *norma normans* and *norma normata* roles of the Scriptures and the Confessions and point to what seem to be deviations from this traditional point of view in so-called conservative circles. Pastor Joel Otto will focus on the Augsburg Confession and present a detailed study of the confession's understanding of the Church's public worship.

### The Book of Concord: Sources and Story

Prof. em. Arnold J. Koelpin (WLS 1958)

New Ulm, Minnesota

#### The Lutheran Confessions and Their Role in Establishing the Teachings of the Church

Pastor Paul S. Naumann (WLS 1979)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Benton Harbor, Michigan

### The Augustana and Lutheran Worship

Pastor Joel D. Otto (WLS 1995)

Reformation Lutheran Church

San Diego, California

# 2004 - A Symposium on Pastoral Education



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is pleased to host a symposium on Pastoral Education, held on the days following the observance of the 75th anniversary of the Seminary's Mequon campus. Fittingly, the symposium focuses on pastoral education as it has been carried on at the Seminary since 1929.

Three speakers, all graduates of the Seminary, will address the symposium topic. After presenting a thorough review of New Testament passages that deal with qualifications for an overseer, Pastor Paul Kelm will compare educational priorities in 2004 with those of 1929, noting similarities and differences. Prof. John Brenner will summarize the story of the synod's early desire for and commitment to pastoral education, analyzing both the historical record and contemporary attitudes. A third essay will review and assess the contributions of two professors who taught future pastors for a combined total of 82 years and served as presidents of the Seminary for almost half of its Mequon and Thiensville history. Pastor Joel Gerlach, a student of both John Meyer and Carl Lawrenz, and a colleague of the latter on the faculty, will present the essay.

Priorities in Pastoral Education: 1929 and 2004

Pastor Paul E. Kelm (WLS 1970)

Consultant, WELS Parish Assistance

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Commitment to Pastoral Education

Prof. John M. Brenner (WLS 1977)

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Mequon, Wisconsin

Two Pastoral Educators: John Meyer and Carl Lawrenz

Pastor Joel C. Gerlach (WLS 1953)

Pastor and professor emeritus

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# 2003 - A SYMPOSIUM ON HOLY COMMUNION



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is pleased to host a symposium on Holy Communion. The Sacrament of the Altar is truly one of the most wonderful of the Savior's gifts to his Church! In his true body and blood, given under bread and wine, the Lord Jesus forgives our sins, extends his strength to faith, and comforts weary hearts.

Three speakers, all graduates of the Seminary, will review and contemplate these blessings. One speaker will explain and explore the original texts of the biblical narrative of the institution of the meal as well as the Pauline passages that speak to the meal's nature and blessings. He will also bring to light pertinent testimony from the orthodox fathers and the Lutheran confessions. A second speaker will offer an assessment of Luther's thought on the Sacrament and critique his liturgical innovations and their impact on Lutheran worship since the 16th century. A third will consider various ways to enliven a greater sacramental piety in WELS congregations and suggest how pastors might encourage members to value the Sacrament more highly and receive it more often.

The Lord Jesus Institutes Holy Communion Prof. Joel Fredrich (WLS 1982)

Martin Luther College

New Ulm, Minnesota

Dr. Luther Celebrates Holy Communion Pastor Stephen Valleskey (WLS 1966)

Abiding Word Lutheran Church

Houston, Texas

The Church Offers Holy Communion Pastor Jonathan Micheel (WLS 1998)

St. Peter Lutheran Church

Modesto, California

# 2002 - A Symposium on Holy Baptism



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is pleased to host a symposium on Holy Baptism. Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism believers are born again as children of God, and by the same means they drown the sinful nature so that a new man can arise and live before God in righteousness and purity forever. As the means of grace that accompanies the great commission, pastors are vitally interested in the role Holy Baptism plays in the task of making disciples of all nations.

The first of the symposium's essays will look to the Scriptures to identify the institution and purpose of Holy Baptism and then to Luther and the Confessions as they expounded the teachings of the Scriptures. The second essay will trace the practice of Holy Baptism from the era of the New Testament Church until today and will demonstrate how the Church enabled Holy Baptism to be used according to Christ's command, especially noting the rites and practices of Holy Baptism. The third essay will identify attacks Satan has mounted against Holy Baptism through the centuries and note how these historic attacks are still evident in Christian churches today. The one hour essays, all delivered by graduates of the Seminary, together with three 45 minute breakout discussion sessions, will allow participants an opportunity to review and grow in their knowledge and appreciation of the blessing of Holy Baptism.

### The Scriptures Establish the Purpose of Holy Baptism

**Dr. Mark J. Lenz** (1969)

Martin Luther College

New Ulm, Minnesota

#### The Church Enables the Practice of Holy Baptism

Prof. Charles L. Cortright (1981)

Wisconsin Lutheran College

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

#### The Church Encounters Attacks against Holy Baptism

Pastor John A. Vieths (1991)

Calvary Lutheran Church

Dallas, Texas

# 2001 - A SYMPOSIUM ON CHRISTIAN FREEDOM



The theme of this gathering is *A Symposium on Christian Freedom*.

The one hour essays, all delivered by graduates of the Seminary, together with three 45 minute breakout discussion sessions, will allow participants an opportunity to review and grow in their knowledge and appreciation of the blessing of Christian Freedom.

Paper One: Scriptural Foundation for a discussion of Christian Freedom

Michael Schultz

Paper Two: Lessons from the History of the Church

Curtis Jahn

Paper Three: The Struggle to Remain Free

John A. Braun

# 2000 - A REFORMATION SYMPOSIUM



#### Forward in Christ at the Dawn of a New Millennium

The objective of the symposium is both to renew the understanding of pastors and seminary students of God's continuing role in the history of the Church and the spread of the gospel and to strengthen their resolve as they participate in the world-wide proclamation of the message of Christ carried out by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The Spirit helping us, this strengthening will occur as essayists and reactors review the cultural setting, the obstacles, the confessional position, the zeal, and the strategy of proclaimers at the turn of the three millennial eras since Christ and identify opportunities in which the present church may emulate the historic example.

#### Forward in Christ...at the Dawn of the First Millennium

Pastor Joel Prange

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Redding, California

#### Forward in Christ...at the Dawn of the Second Millennium

Pastor Keith Wessel

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Marietta, Georgia

#### Forward in Christ...at the Dawn of the Third Millennium

Prof. Paul Wendland

Martin Luther College

New Ulm, Minnesota

Participants will include active and retired WELS pastors, WLS faculty, board, and students.