



WINTER 2021

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

ONGOING ADAPTATIONS

Because they could not make the trek to the annual basketball tournament in Fort Wayne, students organized a masked-up 3-on-3 in-house basketball tournament called Seminar3 (the 3 substitutes for the “y” in seminary for the 3 on 3 tournament).

On Sunday, Dec. 13, the Seminary Chorus presented *Christmas at the Seminary*—the first concert with Professor Aaron Christie, who started directing the Seminary Chorus this school year. Seating for each of the two concerts was limited to 225 people. Almost 1900 computers were logged on for the 3 p.m. concert, which was available via [livestream.com/wls-live/](https://www.wisluthsem.org/wls-live/).

Mission and Ministry, an annual highlight, was modified to include only students. This allowed our students to learn about ways in which they might serve in ministry and what we do together as a synod, while continuing to honor state coronavirus recommendations.



SECOND SEMESTER UPDATES

With Winterim cancelled, second semester began on Jan. 11. Our current enrollment is 33 juniors, 41 middlers, 28 seniors, and 28 vicars serving throughout North America. In May, we anticipate assigning 41 vicars and 28 graduates. That group of vicars will be one of the larger classes we have had in a while, an increase of thirteen over this year’s vicar class.

DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL TO SHARE

As you’re still navigating both in person or online offerings, feel free to share our chapel posts with others. They are available at <https://www.wisluthsem.org/wls-chapel/>.



ACCREDITATION ON TRACK

We are on track to submit a report to the Association of Theological Schools by the beginning of March that will demonstrate our readiness to carry out a self-study that could lead to accreditation. That self-study, while time intensive, will give us the opportunity to consider how we might improve in carrying out the work the synod entrusts to us. The governing board will be overseeing the process to ensure that accreditation will not compromise the seminary’s mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2–4: Mission and Ministry (students only)
March 1–5: Mid-Term Break
March 29–April 11: Easter Break
May 14: No classes
May 20: Call Day
May 21: Graduation

PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

a partnership of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and WELS Joint Missions

COVID-19'S IMPACT ON PSI TEAM TRAVEL

International lockdowns have curtailed our ability to encourage—in person—our partners in pastoral training. The major feature of our ministry is being personally present to teach, to encourage, to mentor, and to assess the men preparing for ministry and to assist with ministry training programs. None of the members of the PSI Team have traveled outside of the country since March 2020.

So what have we been up to? Opportunities, both overseas and with immigrants in North America who want to become WELS pastors through the PSI program, continue to outstrip the current PSI Team's ability to meet them. Our team and also the WELS world missions administration have been working to expand the cohort of instructors and to improve the curriculum that would support this cohort. We are eager to offer quality instructional support materials.

Though international travel has been curtailed, we have been blessed with opportunities to support and to visit PSI students in the U.S. Through Zoom and distance learning tactics, we have continued to support a dozen men in the United States. In the first semester, Professor Sorum visited Detroit, Seattle, St. Paul, Omaha, Milwaukee, and North Mankato to deliver in-person instruction to seventeen PSI pastors and pastoral students. Through instructors who are assisting the PSI Team in the United States and Canada, twenty-five men received in-person training. In most cases, these PSI adjunct instructors are also the Anglo pastor/partner of the immigrant student in training.

We continue to plan and are eager to resume a travel and teaching schedule that includes our students overseas.

COVID-19 has hampered the travels of the PSI Team. This has been an inconvenience. What troubles us so much more is the great hardship this blight has had on our students and friends and fellow Christians overseas. Most countries do not have the social support that unemployed and infected people in America enjoy. So many of our fellow Christians overseas are not able to work or to plant their normal crops or to scratch their normal existence out of the dirt. These people are not just our students, they are our friends. Our friends are suffering under this visitation of sickness and lockdowns and shortages. Our only comfort is in the Scripture's many promises that assure us that God will never desert his children and that he uses trials to raise a harvest of righteousness. We trust in these promises and encourage our friends to do the same. We pray for our friends and fellow Christians in these straits. And we encourage you to do the same.



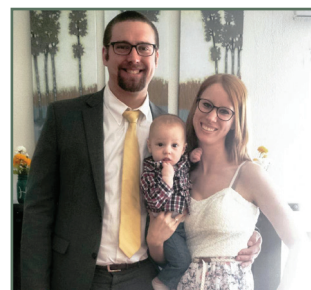
Prof. Sorum preached at a confirmation service at Palabra de Vida in Detroit.

NEWEST SHEPHERD'S STUDY EDITORS

**GROW^{IN}
GRACE**
PARTNERING
WITH PASTORS

Shepherd's Study is a bi-monthly book review written by pastors for pastors. And it's organized and edited by pastors too. We thank God for the work of Brett Ehlke and Souksamay Phetsanghane, who have co-edited

Shepherd's Study for the past two years. Well done! We now welcome Pastors Luther Zuberbier and Aaron Jensen as our new editors. If you are interested in becoming part of the team of readers/writers, please contact one of them.



Rev. Luther Zuberbier
Class of 2017



Rev. Aaron Jensen
Class of 2015

View the newest and all archived versions of Shepherd's Study at <https://www.wisluthsem.org/grow-in-grace/shepherds-study>.

