

The Ministry of the Word in the Twenty-First Century: *Foundations, Forms, and Flashpoints*

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

September 22–23, 2025

Schedule of Events

MONDAY

- 1:10 p.m. **Welcome and Introduction**
Prof. Earle D. Treptow
President, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
- 1:15 p.m. **Essay #1 – Gospel Ministry—Gift, Giver, and Getter**

Rev. Matthew W. Scharf (WLS 2013)
Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI
- 2:30 p.m. **Formal Reaction and Opportunity for Questions**
Prof. Steven J. Pagels delivers a reaction to the essay. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification of points raised by the essayist and reactor.
- 3:15 p.m. **Recess**
Refreshments and snacks are served in the auditorium.
- 3:45 p.m. **Essay #2 – The Public Ministry of the Word: Instituted by Christ and Implemented by the Church**

Prof. Thomas P. Nass (WLS 1982)
Professor Emeritus, Martin Luther College
New Ulm, MN
- 5:00 p.m. **Formal Reaction and Opportunity for Questions**
Prof. Kenneth A. Cherney, Jr. delivers a reaction to the essay. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification of points raised by the essayist and reactor.
- 5:45 p.m. **Symposium Afterglow**
Generous appetizers are served in the cafeteria. Guest attendees are invited to partake first, before seminary participants. Beverages are served in the campus inner circle, weather permitting. All are invited to mingle and visit into the evening.

TUESDAY

7:45 a.m. **Essay #3 – “So, You’re a Pastor.” Revisiting Expectations of Pastoral Ministry**

Rev. Philip C. Hirsch (WLS 1986)
*Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church; President, Nebraska District
Manhattan, KS*

9:00 a.m. **Formal Reaction and Opportunity for Questions**

Prof. Joel A. Russow delivers a reaction to the essay. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification of points raised by the essayist and reactor.

9:45 a.m. **Recess**

Coffee and pastries are served in the auditorium.

10:15 a.m. **Panel Discussion; Closing Thoughts and Prayer**

The three essayists offer final remarks on the symposium subject matter as well as receive additional questions from participants. Following the panel discussion, President Treptow offers closing thoughts and a prayer.

11:00 a.m. **Worship**

Preacher, Rev. Jonathan R. Hein (WLS 1997)
*Coordinator of WELS Congregational Services
Waukesha, WI*

12:30 p.m. **The Symposium Adjourns**