

2015

Luther Seminary, May 2015

Luther Seminary

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The One Hundred and Forty-Sixth Commencement

Sunday, May 17, 2015 | 3 p.m.

Participants in the Service

Officiants

Robin Steinke
Seminary President

Laura Thelar,der
Seminary Pastor

Faculty Speaker

Matthew Skinner
Associate Professor of New Testament

Lectors

F. Philip Nushann
Master of Arts Candidate

Ashley Dellagiacom
Master of Divinity Candidate

Elizabeth Wartick
Master of Divinity Candidate

Call to Mission Reader

Kathryn Schifferdecker
Associate Professor of Old Testament

Student Speaker

Scott Richards
Master of Divinity Candidate

Student Marshals

Irene Amon
Master of Arts Student

Jonathan Ask
Master of Divinity Student

Joshua Kestner
Master of Divinity Student

Eliza Mayhew
Master of Divinity Student

Faculty Marshal

Eric Barreto
Associate Professor of New Testament

Organist

Mark Sedio
Cantor, Central Lutheran Church

Crucifer

Carrie Smisek
Student Council Vice President

Luther Seminary Banner Bearer

Paul Daniels
Archivist/Curator

A Word of Thanks

The Luther Seminary community would like to thank the staff of Central Lutheran Church for their hospitality and assistance during this year's Commencement celebration.

A Word of Welcome

Luther Seminary is pleased to welcome you to its 146th commencement ceremonies. Receiving their degrees today are your next pastors, congregational and community leaders and theologians of the church.

The student speaker during today's service was elected by the senior class. Student marshals were chosen by the Office of the Registrar.

Some of the graduates will also receive awards for academic excellence. These are listed on page 15.

Graduates, family and friends are invited to an informal reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

The Commencement Speaker

Matthew Skinner joined Luther Seminary's faculty in 2002. He holds a Ph.D. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he previously earned his M.Div. He attended Brown University, from which he received the Artium Baccalaureatus degree. He conducted advanced research at the Center of Theological Inquiry as a member-in-residence and a writing fellow.

Skinner's research focuses on the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the cultural realities displayed in these writings and the books' ongoing theological relevance. His most recent book, "Intrusive God, Disruptive Gospel: Encountering the Divine in the Book of Acts," will be released in August. Written for anyone with a curiosity about the Bible, it explores how Acts informs contemporary reflections on the character of God, the challenges of faith and the life of the church. He also wrote "The Trial Narratives: Conflict, Power, and Identity in the New Testament" and co-edited "The Unrelenting God: God's Action in Scripture."

He has contributed to various resources for scholars, church leaders and others interested in the Bible's connections to faith and life, including "The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Theology," "Theological Bible Commentary," EnterTheBible.org and Covenant Bible Study.

He writes for websites including Huffington Post, Working Preacher and ON Scripture—The Bible. He co-hosts Sermon Brainwave, a popular weekly podcast.

Ordained as a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Skinner frequently speaks at conferences, on college and seminary campuses, and in congregations.

Prelude

The congregation shall stand

The Processional Hymn

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

See music on page 6

1 and 2—Sing in unison

3 and 4—Sing in harmony

5—Sing in unison

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?
- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Litany

- P: Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
C: there is no limit to God's wisdom.
 P: We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks,
**C: calling upon your name
and declaring all your wonderful deeds.**
 P: We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the
Lord,
C: and the wonderful works God has done.
 P: Those who know your name, O Lord,
will put their trust in you.
C: O Lord, watch over us.
 P: You never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.
C: O Lord, watch over us.
 P: Sing praises to the Lord;
proclaim to the peoples the things God has done.
C: O Lord, watch over us.

Prayer

- P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
 P: Let us pray ... through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

The congregation shall be seated.

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 40:1-8
Acts 1:3-17, 21-26

(following the reading...)

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Order of Service

Faculty Speaker

Matthew L. Skinner

The congregation shall stand.

The Hymn of the Day

"God of Grace and God of Glory"
See music on page 7

1—*Sing in unison*

2 and 3—*Sing in harmony*

4—*Sing in unison*

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,
- 3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Greeting

Out of respect for the graduates, please remain seated during the service, refrain from using flash photography and hold your applause until all names have been read.

The Conferring of Degrees

All candidates listed on pages 9-15

Presentation of the Class Craig Koester
Academic Dean

Conferring of Degrees Robin Steinke

Jim Lindus
Chair, Board of Directors

Diane Doncits
Registrar

Gary Simpson
Secretary of the Faculty

Paul Lokken
Associate Dean for Graduate Theological Education

Announcement of Student Awards and Honors Robin Steinke

Winners of the The David Preus Servant Leadership Award; the Children, Youth and Family Prize; the John Milton Prize in Old Testament and the G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament receive modest cash awards.

The Graduate Preaching Fellowship is given to an outstanding Master of Divinity degree graduate from the senior class.

Descriptions are on page 15.

Student Speaker

Scott Richards

The Call to Mission

The graduates shall stand.

L: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; there are varieties of service but the same Lord; there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; between slave and free; between male and female; the same Lord is Lord

of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him.

C: We are the Church, all kinds and conditions of people; but we are one body of Christ and individually members of one another.

L: Graduating students, in the presence of God, we have met here to honor you for your perseverance, faithfulness and diligence in study, and to present to the Church all of you who aspire to serve the Church of God in a variety of ministries. When he said, I have come not to be served, but to serve, Jesus defined the meaning of ministry. Luther Seminary sends you forth into this service with its love and blessing, and prays that you may be adequate to your task.

Graduates:

With faith in the Triune God, we commit ourselves to this ministry of service and mission. We pray that all our works, through God's gracious help, may be begun, continued and ended in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The congregation shall stand.

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Recessional Hymn

"O God Beyond All Praising"

See music on page 8

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot
repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies
without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your
word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty
Lord.
- 2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must
surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most
high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is
sown—
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's
garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has
set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.
- 3 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we
bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as
our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good
or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to
bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996

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Postlude

Order of Service

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 and 2—Sing in unison

3 and 4—Sing in harmony

5—Sing in unison

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scept - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scept - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

God of Grace and God of Glory

1—Sing in unison
2 and 3—Sing in harmony
4—Sing in unison.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

Order of Service

O God Beyond All Praising

Sing in unison



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996

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Certificate

The certificate programs are designed to equip lay leaders across denominational lines. This program provides a basic grounding in Christian theology and tradition, in addition to focusing on various aspects of ministry.

Kristen Noel Sigdestad Saathoff*

Jessica Beckmann Schenk

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waverly, Iowa
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Canon City, Colorado*

Ingrid Christene Swanson

Grace Lutheran Church, Kingman, Arizona

Douglas James Weiss

Maple Hill Lutheran Church, Pine River, Minnesota

Jody Sue Wendt

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Leigh, Nebraska

Master of Arts

The Master of Arts degree serves to enrich a person's understanding of the Christian faith and its tradition, to prepare a person to serve in Christian communities and their mission in the world and to provide the basic theological degree for further graduate study.

Amanda Beth Aakre

*Journey Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin
Faith Lutheran Church, Waconia, Minnesota*

Sam Bardwell*

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Kelsey Lauren Battleson

*First Lutheran Church, Brookings, South Dakota
King of Kings Lutheran Church, Woodbury, Minnesota*

Clarence Bernard

Ebenezer Community Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Bonio Maine Bokun

*Lutheran Church College, Banz—
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Papua New Guinea
Ministerial Training Department, Lae—
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Papua New Guinea
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, Illinois*

Erik Walfred Carlson

*Moose Lake Evangelical Covenant Church,
Moose Lake, Minnesota
First Covenant Church of Saint Paul, St. Paul, Minnesota*

Rachel Anari Coen-Tuff

United Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Mary Alette Davis

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Susan Victoria Davis*

*Primm Tabernacle AME Church, Pomona, California
St. James AME Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Dianne Hill Derrick

*American Lutheran Church, Kellogg, Idaho
Hazel Run Lutheran Church, Hazel Run, Minnesota
Primrose Lutheran Church, New Glarus, Wisconsin*

Mary Kay Bunde DuChene

Easter Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minnesota

Jaddie R. Edwards

*Sanctuary Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Tashina Janice Good

*First Lutheran Church of Harris, Harris, Minnesota
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, Minnesota*

Wendy Diane Harman

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Arizona

Jesse G.S. King

Lutheran Church in Liberia

Michael David Knudson

*Messiah Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia
St. John's Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota*

Angela Marie Larson

Faith Lutheran Church, Clive, Iowa

Kristin Danielle Larson*

*Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota
Wooddale Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

Names of churches are the candidate's home and/or supporting congregations.

** Requirements to be met by August 31, 2015*

*** With distinction*

◇ Graduate Preaching Fellowship

◆ Children, Youth and Family Prize

● David Preus Servant Leadership Award

✕ The John Milton Prize in Old Testament

* The G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament

Prize/fellowship descriptions, see page 15

Candidates for Degrees

Michael Raymond Lyda*

Edison Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois

Do Khan Mang

*Methodist Church, Upper Burma,
Mandalay, Myanmar (Burma)
St. Anthony Park United Methodist Church,
St. Paul, Minnesota*

Charlotte Miller*

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

F. Philip L. Nushann, Jr.

Lutheran Church in Liberia

Dávid Schader

*Bardejov Lutheran Church of Augsburg Confession,
Slovak Republic (ECAV Bardejov)
Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville, Minnesota
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota*

David Arney Cornils Scherer

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Matthew Allan Schur

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

Taylor Eleanore Skoglund

Trinity Lutheran Church, Montevideo, Minnesota

Jessica Erin Thielke

Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Moorhead, Minnesota

Henderika Julia Wattimena*

First Presbyterian Church, Honolulu, Hawaii

Kaye Marie Wothe

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Edina, Minnesota
Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, Minnesota*

Yu Yi^o

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity degree provides a professional theological education for mission and ministry. This degree program prepares persons for ordained ministry in Christian communities.

Perry Benjamin Aalgaard

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Kiester, Minnesota
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Buffalo Center, Iowa
First Lutheran Church, West Okoboji, Iowa*

Christine Ann Hallenbeck Ask

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Paul Christopher Backstrom*

*All Saints Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Minnesota
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Minnesota*

Janna Noelle Bader*

*Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota
Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota
South Dakota Synod-ELCA*

Bryant Jeremy Bakkum

Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church, Westby, Wisconsin

Tyler Mark Beane

*University Lutheran Church of Hope,
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Joel Howard Becker

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Menomonie, Wisconsin
Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hampton, Iowa
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waverly, Iowa*

Emily Elise Beckering

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, East Bethel, Minnesota

Hannah Joy Bergstrom de Leon

*St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minnesota
Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington, Iowa
Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hampton, Iowa*

Sarah Marie Bigwood

*Valley Community Presbyterian Church,
Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Kayla Ranae Billings⁺

*First Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Hope Lutheran Church, Bozeman, Montana*

Charles Jeffery Boettcher

First English Lutheran Church, Appleton, Wisconsin

Jeffrey Scott Brown*

*St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cut Bank, Montana
Hope Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota
St. John Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota*

Natalie Jo Carlson

*Elim Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota
Living Waters Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota*

Greer Fallon Cherney-Johnson

*Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Christ Lutheran Church, Visalia, California*

Jason Niels Clifton

Svea Lutheran Church, Hager City, Wisconsin

Candidates for Degrees

Ashley Elisabeth Bathe Dellagiacom*
Zion Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, La Grange, Texas

LisaMarie Pater Doerrmann
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, Minnesota

Kristen Jane Wilcox Eisele*
Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Sarah L. Evenson*
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Minnesota
East & West Moe Lutheran Church (Moe Parish),
Brandon, Minnesota
Faith Lutheran Church, Evansville, Minnesota

Stefanie Kay Fauth*
Augustana Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

Kathee Lynn Forrest
Zion Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas
MacArthur Park Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas

Rebecca Marie Mehl Gamble
New Hope Lutheran Church, Keller, Texas

Michael Patrick Gaulke

Grace Gravelle
Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville, Minnesota
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

Katherine Renee Grooms
North Community Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio
First English Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio
Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, St. Paul, Minnesota

John Everett Guthridge
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Spokane, Washington

Heather Lynn Hansen
MacArthur Park Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas

Colleen Alta Harris
Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Marietta, Georgia

Jane Elizabeth Harris*
Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Mason City, Iowa

Erin Maureen Heidelberger
St. John Lutheran Church, Madison, South Dakota
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spearfish, South Dakota
Valley Springs Parish, Valley Springs, South Dakota

Laurie Jean Helms
St. John's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Illinois

David Carl Hettlinger

William Luke Hollander
Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City, Iowa

Matthew Robert Johnson
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Carl Drew Joyner

Janet Karvonen-Montgomery ◊
Incarnation Lutheran Church, Shoreview, Minnesota

Jennifer Piland Kindsvatter
St. Paul Lutheran Church, La Grange, Texas
Celebration Lutheran Community, Cypress, Texas
Lutherhill Ministries, La Grange, Texas

Bonnie B. Klos
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, West Salem, Wisconsin
Desert Hills Lutheran Church, Green Valley, Arizona

Rachel Ann Knoke
Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma, Washington
Christ Lutheran Church, Nauvoo, Illinois

Rufus Kiabedeh Kudee
Trinity Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minnesota
Northwestern Minnesota Synod, Moorhead, Minnesota
River of Life Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Warren Lee Lahammer
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota
Luther Memorial Church, South St. Paul, Minnesota

Corey Jay Lange*
Grace Lutheran Church, Andover, Minnesota

Bonnie Esther Lanyi
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, Florida
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Sebastian, Florida

Christopher Lawrence Leach
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota

Susan Elaine Leibnitz*
Living Joy, Prior Lake, Minnesota

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◊ Graduate Preaching Fellowship

✦ Children, Youth and Family Prize

● David Preus Servant Leadership Award

✕ The John Milton Prize in Old Testament

* The G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament

Prize/fellowship descriptions, see page 15

Candidates for Degrees

Thomas David Liddle

*Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth, Minnesota
First Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Indiana
Cherokee Park United Church, St. Paul, Minnesota*

Joshua David Linman

*Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Orlando, Florida
Lutheran Church of Hope, Ankeny, Iowa*

Todd Ryan Lotridge

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Bend, Indiana
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, South Bend, Indiana
First English Lutheran Church, Mishawaka, Indiana*

Nathan Van Alfred Luong

*St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
North St. Paul, Minnesota
Living Waters Lutheran Church, Lino Lakes, Minnesota
Prairie Star Ministries, Windom, Minnesota*

John Benjamin Mandrick

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,
Fernandina Beach, Florida*

Keith Allan Marshall

*Christ Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Washington
Creator Lutheran Church, Bonney Lake, Washington*

Benjamin Music Mason

Faith Community Lutheran Church, Longmont, Colorado

Christopher James Meester

*First Reformed Church of Meservey, Meservey, Iowa
Peace Reformed Church, Eagan, Minnesota*

Timothy Karl Meyer

*Reformation Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Haysville, Kansas
Christ Lutheran Church, Eureka, Kansas*

Raymond John Mulkern

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Arthur George Murray*

*Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minnesota
Grace University Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Grace Lutheran Church, Bayonne, New Jersey*

Joseph Bradley Natwick

First Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota

Jeremy Thomas Nausin

*Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, Tucson, Arizona
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, California
First Lutheran Church, Red Wing, Minnesota*

Asher Herman O'Callaghan

*House For All Sinners and Saints, Denver, Colorado
University Lutheran Church, East Lansing, Michigan
Salem English Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Lynne Marie Ogren

Oak Harbor Lutheran, Oak Harbor, Washington

Ryan Prondzinski

*Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Crown Point, Indiana
First Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana*

Brian Richard Rajcok

*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Thomaston, Connecticut
Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, New Hope, Minnesota*

Patricia Marie Reedstrom

Christopher T. Richards*

*First Lutheran Church, Morris, Minnesota
Faith Lutheran Church, Morris, Minnesota*

Scott Douglas Richards

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin, Minnesota
Living Waters Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota*

Meghan Rae Richter

*Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Hickory, North Carolina
Advent Lutheran Church, Charlotte, North Carolina*

Daniel Jackson Rinehart

*St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, Minnesota
Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Shiloh Lutheran Church, Elmore, Minnesota*

Dahmon Wallace Romness

*Vasa ELCA, Welch, Minnesota
First UMC, Red Wing, Minnesota
Lake City UMC, Lake City, Minnesota*

Cheryl M. Rondeau-Bassett

*Wilmot Lutheran Church, Wilmot, South Dakota
Tri-Parish Congregations of: First Lutheran Church,
Claire City, South Dakota; Faith Lutheran Church, New
Effington, South Dakota; and Our Savior's Lutheran
Church, Veblen, South Dakota*

Daniel James Schewe*

Word of Peace, Rogers, Minnesota

Kenneth Arlan Schmidt

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Stanley, Wisconsin
Central Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Curtiss, Wisconsin*

Iva Blanche Schulz*

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, North Dakota
Prairie Rivers Parish, Wyndmere, Hankinson
and Lidgerwood, North Dakota
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota*

Martha Schwehn Bardwell*

*Christ Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Indiana
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Robert Ezekiel Shell

Good Shepherd Covenant Church, Blaine, Minnesota

Laura Sadie Smith

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Chanhassen, Minnesota

Scott Aaron Smith*

Hebron Lutheran Church, Hebron, Kentucky

Jody Lee Spiak

Casey Brent Sugden*

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mukwonago, Wisconsin

Bryan David Taffe

Faith Lutheran Church, Morris, Minnesota

John Bradford Telyea

Mission of the Atonement, Beaverton, Oregon

Karen Elizabeth Telyea

Trinity Lutheran Church, Pottsville, Pennsylvania

Natalia Elizabeth Terfa

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Kathleen Ann Travis*

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Des Moines, Iowa

James Keith Walka*

*St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Tarpon Springs, Florida
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Palm Harbor, Florida
Humble Walk Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota*

Peter Joseph Warren

*Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland, Wisconsin
Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton, Minnesota*

Elizabeth Michelle Wartick

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hays, Kansas

Thomas Grant Westcott

*Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, North St. Paul, Minnesota*

Ruth Ann Williamson

St. John Lutheran Church, Clearfield, Pennsylvania

Carol Phillips Winick

*Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fridley, Minnesota
Bethel Lutheran Church, Santa Maria, California*

Andrew Martin Juleen Yackel

*Amo Lutheran Church, Storden, Minnesota
Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Oro Valley, Arizona*

Donna Lou Zipp

*Christ Lutheran Church of Elm Creek, Seguin, Texas
Emanuel's Lutheran Church, Seguin, Texas
First Lutheran Church, El Campo, Texas*

Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry is the most advanced professional degree for ordained persons in the parish or related ministries. The primary emphasis of this degree is theological learning and research in the context of the practice of ministry.

Steven Parke Bergeson

Fountain Hills, Arizona

"Making Disciples Who Make Disciples through the Utilization of 3DM"

Philip Anthony Bouknight

Moneta, Virginia

"Preaching from the Pew: Communal Discernment as a Homiletical Approach in the Ecumenical Parish"

Erin Kathleen Bouman

Chicago, Illinois

"Reliable Narrators: Narrative Preachers Who Instruct, Delight, and Move"

Stephen Rhoads Caine

Cincinnati, Ohio

"Hospitality from the Pulpit: How the Preacher and the Sermon Set the Tone for Congregational Hospitality"

Steve Edward Cloer

Fort Worth, Texas

"Missional Polity: The Minister-Elder Relationship in Churches of Christ Experiencing Missional Transformation"

Names of churches are the candidate's home and/or supporting congregations.

* Requirements to be met by August 31, 2015

** With distinction

◇ Graduate Preaching Fellowship

✦ Children, Youth and Family Prize

○ David Preus Servant Leadership Award

✕ The John Milton Prize in Old Testament

* The G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament

Prize/fellowship descriptions, see page 15

Candidates for Degrees

Ryan Patrick Eikenbary-Barber *Seattle, Washington*
"The Congregational Vitality Pathway and the Health and Missional Identity of House of Bread Covenant Church"

Jeffery Lee Gaustad *Puyallup, Washington*
"Chronic Stress and the Preacher: Analysis, Affects and Angels"

Steven John Knudson *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*
"Reframing a Congregation's Missional Identity by Exploring the Narratives of Those Who No Longer Participate"

James Nellis Lehman *Port Clinton, Ohio*
"The Sermon Isn't Over When the Preacher Says 'Amen': Taking the Word into the Week"

David Carl Mertz *Westfield, New Jersey*
"Love is the Name of the Game': William Sloane Coffin as Prophetic Pastor and Pastoral Prophet"

Chadwick James Moir *Jansen, Saskatchewan, Canada*
"Biblically Informed Leadership: The Role of Discipleship in the Business of Council-Based Congregational Governance"

Paul Andrew Nelson *Eden Prairie, Minnesota*
"Missional Men's Ministry: A Small-Group Approach to Men's Faith"

Niklaus Christian Schillack *White Lake, Michigan*
"Sacrificing Dead Idols on the Altar of the Living God: The Interrelationship of Faith Practices as Spiritual Sacrifices"

Mark William Skinner *Brainerd, Minnesota*
"Reclaiming the Triune Life of a Congregation: Shared Missional Characteristics of Minnesota ELCA Congregations"

Deborah Ann Taylor *Ottawa, Canada*
"Operative Hermeneutics in the Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada"

Erik Robert Wilson Weiberg *Seattle, Washington*
"Using 'Outside Voices': Listening to 'Outsiders' in Preparing the Sermon"

Master of Theology

The Master of Theology is a research degree that provides continuing theological study through the discipline of academic excellence.

Ryan David Birkman *Minneapolis, Minnesota*
"Thou Shalt not Steal: A Lutheran Theology of Economics in a World of Political Economic Extremism"

Kari Jo Bostrom *Menomonie, Wisconsin*
"The Life and Ministry of Johan Arnd Aasgaard"

Matthew Wright McCormick** *Charleston, South Carolina*
"The Absolving Word: Luther's Reformational Turn"

Serkalem Getachew Siyum *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*
"Holistic Theological Education for Holistic Ministry: A Case Study of Three Ethiopian Theological Schools on Theological Education and Poverty"

Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy is an advanced research degree designed to develop scholarly leadership for Christian churches and for work in the community of theological scholarship throughout the world.

Dinku Lamessa Bato* *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*
"Engaging the Immigrant Church in God's Mission: An Exploration into the Life and Ministry of Selected African Immigrant Congregations in the Midwest"

Eric Lute Bodenstab** *Hillside, Illinois*
"The Actors Are Come Hither: God's Promise of Vocation Given in Public Christian Worship"

David Christian Hahn *Roseville, Minnesota*
"The Promise of Listening: The Provocative Leadership of the Spirit with Promise Under the Listening Interactions of a Local Church's Conversational Encounters"

Hrang Hlei *Chin State, Myanmar (Burma)*
"The Formation of Chin Immigrant Congregations in the United States: Discovering Their Ecclesiological Identities"

Jacob M'Mujuri Kanake *Maua, Kenya*
"Pastoral Care and Counselling in the Meru, African
Family: The Dowry Controversy"

Mark Love *Rochester Hills, Michigan*
"Being Saved: Soteriological Practice in Missional
Communities"

Scott Russell Nelson *Downers Grove, Illinois*
"Time, Belief, and Mission: Examining the
Relationships between Future Time Perspectives,
Eschatological Beliefs, and Missional Practices in
Various Christian Populations in North America"

Dana Kay Scopatz *Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota*
"Atonement and Restorative Justice"

Awards for Academic Excellence

Each year, several awards for excellence are given to students.

The awards given this year are:

The Graduate Preaching Fellowship

is given to an outstanding Master of Divinity degree graduate from the senior class. The fellowship provides the recipient with financing to study preaching overseas to enhance his or her career in preaching and parish ministry.

The Children, Youth and Family Prize

is given annually to one or more students who demonstrate excellence in reflecting theologically, culturally and pragmatically on the practice of children, youth, young adult or family ministries.

The David Preus Servant Leadership Award

is awarded to a student in a first theological degree program who has exhibited outstanding leadership. The award funds a servant leadership project.

The John Milton Prize in Old Testament

is awarded to one or more students based on papers written by graduating Master of Divinity or Master of Arts students in the area of Old Testament.

The G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament

is awarded to one or more students based on papers written by graduating Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree students in the area of New Testament.

Names of churches are the candidate's home and/or supporting congregations.

** Requirements to be met by August 31, 2015*

*** With distinction*

◇ Graduate Preaching Fellowship

✦ Children, Youth and Family Prize

○ David Preus Servant Leadership Award

✕ The John Milton Prize in Old Testament

✱ The G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament

Prize/fellowship descriptions, see page 15

Luther Seminary educates
leaders for Christian
communities called and sent
by the Holy Spirit to witness to
salvation through Jesus Christ
and to serve in God's world.

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