

2016

## Luther Seminary, May 2016

Luther Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/commencement>

---

### Recommended Citation

Seminary, Luther, "Luther Seminary, May 2016" (2016). *Commencement Programs*. Paper 64.  
<http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/commencement/64>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives & Special Collections at Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. It has been accepted for inclusion in Commencement Programs by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. For more information, please contact [akeck001@luthersem.edu](mailto:akeck001@luthersem.edu).



# The One Hundred and Forty-Seventh Commencement

Sunday, May 22, 2016 | 3 p.m.

 **LUTHER SEMINARY**  
*Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis*

## Participants in the Service

### Officiants

Robin Steinke  
*Seminary President*  
Laura Thelander  
*Seminary Pastor*

### Speaker

Lois Malcolm  
*Professor of Systematic Theology*

### Lectors

Daniel Hanson  
*Master of Divinity Candidate*  
Nkiruka Catherine Okafor  
*Doctor of Philosophy Candidate*

### Call to Mission Reader

Terri Elton  
*Associate Professor of Leadership*

### Student Speaker

Benjamin Eisele  
*Master of Divinity Candidate*

### Student Marshals

Jesse King  
*Master of Theology Student*  
Julie Luna  
*Master of Divinity Student*  
Eliza Mayhew  
*Master of Divinity Student*  
Anders Nelson  
*Master of Divinity Student*

### Faculty Marshal

Eric Barreto  
*Associate Professor of New Testament*

### Organist

Jane Lien  
*Associate Cantor, Central Lutheran Church*

### Crucifer

Annie Langseth  
*Student Council President*

### Luther Seminary Banner Bearer

Bruce Eldevik  
*Reference and Special Collections Librarian*

## 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 147th 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 14.

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

## The Commencement Speaker

**Lois Malcolm, Professor of Systematic Theology**

Lois Malcolm holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She has taught at Luther Seminary since 1994. Malcolm grew up in the Philippines as the daughter of missionaries. Before becoming a theologian, she received a Master of Arts in applied linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She taught linguistics and English as a second language courses in the U. S. and overseas.

Her books include "Holy Spirit: Creative Power in Our Lives" (Fortress, 2009); "God;" an edited volume for "The Westminster Collection of Sources of Christian Theology" (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012); and three forthcoming books: "A Theological Commentary on Second Corinthians" for the "Belief" series (Westminster John Knox); "Sophia Cries Out in the Street: Wisdom in Christian Theology" (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press); and "Christian Understandings of God: The Historical Trajectory," "The Fortress Historical Trajectories Series" (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press).

**To see pictures of commencement, go to [www.flickr.com/photos/lutherseminary](http://www.flickr.com/photos/lutherseminary). Select Albums, and then choose 2016 Commencement.**

## Prelude

Two Movements  
from "Suite Gothique" Leon Boellmann  
*Introduction: Choral—Menuet gothique*

*The assembly shall stand.*

## The Processional Hymn

"Rise, Shine, You People!"

*See page 5.*

## Litany

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;

**there is no limit to God's wisdom.**

We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks,

**calling upon your name  
and declaring all your wonderful deeds.**

We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,

**and the wonderful works God has done.**

Those who know your name, O Lord,  
will put their trust in you.

**O Lord, watch over us.**

You never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.

**O Lord, watch over us.**

Sing praises to the Lord;  
Proclaim to the peoples the things God has done.

**O Lord, watch over us.**

## Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.

**Amen.**

*The assembly shall be seated.*

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4  
2 Corinthians 5:14-21

*(following each reading)*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Address

*The assembly shall stand.*

## The Hymn of the Day

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

*See page 6.*

## 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 are listed on pages 8-15.

**Presentation of the Class** Craig Koester  
*Academic Dean*

**Conferring of Degrees** Robin Steinke  
  
Paul Jacobson  
*Board of Directors*

Diane Doncits  
*Registrar*

Gary Simpson  
*Secretary of the Faculty*

Dirk Lange  
*Associate Dean for Graduate Theological Education*

Paul Westermeyer  
*Professor Emeritus of Church Music*

**Announcement of  
Student Awards and Honors** Robin Steinke

Winners of the The Children, Youth and Family Prize;  
the John Milton Prize in Old Testament; the G.M.  
and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament and the  
Frederick Buechner Prize for Excellence in Preaching  
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 14.

# Order of Service

## Student Address

### The Call to Mission

*The graduates shall stand.*

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.

**All:**

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

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 assembly shall stand.*

### The Prayers

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

*(following each petition)*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

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

**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

### The Recessional Hymn

"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

*See page 7*

### Postlude

Praeludium in G Major

J. S. Bach

## Rise, Shine, You People!



- 1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
- 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003  
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Order of Service

### We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

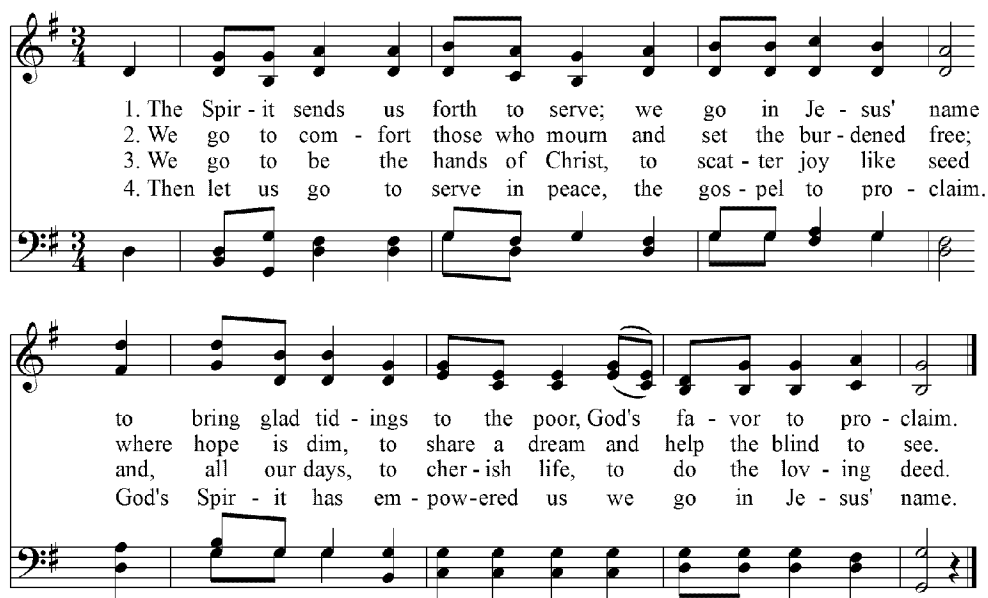
Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God,  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
 Text © John B. Geyer.

## The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1. The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name  
 2. We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the bur - dened free;  
 3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter joy like seed  
 4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel to pro - claim.

to bring glad tid - ings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 and, all our days, to cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 God's Spir - it has em - pow - ered us we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872



## Candidates for Degrees

### 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.

**Richard J. Little**

*Peace Lutheran Church, Cyril, Oklahoma  
Zion Lutheran Church, Freeland, Michigan*

### 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.

**Irene Adei Amon**

*Good News Theological College and Seminary, Accra, Ghana*

**Dilame Gebre Atebo**

**Rachel Kathleen Biedermann**

*Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Albert Botchway**

*Bethany Baptist Church, Roseville, Minnesota*

**Horacio Darynel Castillo Echeverría**

*Augustana Lutheran Church, West St. Paul, Minnesota  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Madison, Alabama  
Silverdale Lutheran Church, Silverdale, Washington*

**Emily Marie Clamser**

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wilmington,  
North Carolina*

**Matthew John Fischer**

**Jeanne Mary Fish**

*The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,  
Roseville, Minnesota*

**Michael Austin Gold**

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin*

**Christian Amadeo Gonzalez\***

**Lance Green**

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco, Texas  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Vancouver, British Columbia  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Everett, Washington*

**Lydia Olivia Griffin**

*Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Minnesota  
Grace Lutheran Church, Ada, Minnesota*

**Jennifer Kristen Herron**

*Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minnesota*

**Karleen Ann Jung \***

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Pasadena, California*

**Ann M. Kopitzke**

*Como Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Grace University Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Slewion P. Lewis**

*Episcopal Church of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia  
Church of the Epiphany, Plymouth, Minnesota*

**Diana May Linden-Johnson**

*St. Paul Lutheran and Roman Catholic Community of Faith,  
Denver, Colorado  
Zion Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colorado*

**Evan Taylor Marsolek**

**Briaan Ritandua Mbazuvara**

*Inner City Lutheran Congregation, Windhoek, Namibia,  
ELCRN, Windhoek, Namibia*

**Grecious Moyo**

*ELCA, Chicago, Illinois  
ELCZ, Zimbabwe  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairport, New York*

**Peter John Nordquist**

*Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina, Minnesota  
First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, Minnesota*

**Michael Fredrick Oballa \***

**Emelda Uchenna Okafor \***

*St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, Awka,  
Anambra State, Nigeria  
The Church of St. Cecilia, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Regina Caeli Hospital, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria*

**Julia Rose Olson**

*Zion Lutheran Church, International Falls, Minnesota*

**Yong Park**

*Korean Presbyterian Church of Minnesota,  
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota*

**Kelly Ann Peterson**

*Stockholm Lutheran Church, Cokato, Minnesota*

**Kelly Marie Rodger**

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin  
St. James Lutheran Church, Verona, Wisconsin*

## Candidates for Degrees

**Breanne Marie Royer \***

**Randolph Scott Ruckdashel**

*Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Chanhassen, Minnesota*

**Briana Jo Rynerson**

**Molly Katherine Schroeder\***

*Saron Lutheran Church, Big Lake, Minnesota*

**Kelly J. Sherman-Conroy**

*Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Anthony, Minnesota  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rapid City, South Dakota*

**Lisa J. Solwold**

*Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, St. Paul, Minnesota*

**Marie Louise Ström\***

*Prospect Park United Methodist Church,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Stefan Ernest Swanson**

**Joshua Ryan Szypulski**

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota*

**Jonathan B.R.B. Warren**

*Grace Community Church, London, Kentucky  
Grace Fellowship, Pikeville, Kentucky  
Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, Minnesota*

**Matthew Richard Worsfold**

### Master of Sacred Music

The Master of Sacred Music degree is designed to educate church musicians theologically for service in the church as professional pastoral musicians.

**Bernhard Frederick Asher**

*Edina Community Lutheran Church, Edina, Minnesota  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, Illinois*

### 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.

**Scott Patrick Adkins**

*St. John's Lutheran Church, Stacy, Minnesota*

**Zechariah Zane Anderson**

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, Minnesota  
Desert Hills Lutheran Church, Green Valley, Arizona*

**John August Ansell**

*Faith Lutheran Church, Waconia, Minnesota*

**Jonathan Alan Hallenbeck Ask**

*Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dunnell, Minnesota  
St. John American Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls,  
South Dakota*

**Karl Phillip Bawel \***

*Lutheran Church of the Palms, Palm Harbor, Florida*

**John G. Bermel**

*Hosanna! Lutheran Church, Lakeville, Minnesota*

**David Lang Bjorklund**

*Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Sheryl LuAnn Rosenbaum Bousu \***

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, New Brighton, Minnesota  
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minnesota  
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, South Minneapolis,  
Minnesota*

**Joyce Annette Burt \***

*St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Lane Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church,  
Jackson, Tennessee*

**Matthew Patrick Byrd \***

*Calvary Lutheran Church, Federal Way, Washington*

**Christopher David Carr**

*Lake Harriet United Methodist Church,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Young Hee Chung**

*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aurora, Illinois  
First Lutheran Church, Battle Lake, Minnesota  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena, Minnesota*

**Peter Jesse Clark**

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin  
Humble Walk Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota*

**Caroline Elaine Clifford \***

*Trinity Lutheran Church, State College, Pennsylvania*

**Kevin Howard Coder**

*St. Francis United Methodist Church, St. Francis, Minnesota  
Elk River United Methodist Church, Elk River, Minnesota*

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

*\* Requirements to be met by August 31, 2016*

*\*\* With distinction*

◆ Graduate Preaching Fellowship

✦ Children, Youth and Family Prize

✖ The John Milton Prize in Old Testament

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

▲ The Frederick Buechner Prize for Excellence in Preaching

*For Prize/Fellowship descriptions, see page 14.*

## Candidates for Degrees

### Kristofer Dale Coffman \*\*

*Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale, California  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, Minnesota  
Den Norske Lutherske Mindekirken, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

### Cheryl Kaye Davis

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Appleton, Wisconsin*

### Jeremy Michael Duprey \*

*Big Timber Lutheran Church, Big Timber, Montana  
Melville Lutheran Church, Melville, Montana*

### Benjamin Arne Eisele<sup>+</sup>

*Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

### Joy Marie Erickson

*First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota*

### Megan Marie Filer \*

*Creator Lutheran Church, Bonney Lake, Washington*

### Christina Marie Forsythe \*

*Grace Lutheran Church, Ely, Minnesota*

### Robert William Foster \*

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Red Bank, New Jersey  
St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Rock of the Foothills Lutheran Church, La Verne, California*

### Kelly Wayne France \*

*American Lutheran Church, Gothenburg, Nebraska  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Wilcox, Nebraska  
Faith Lilac Way, Robbinsdale, Minnesota*

### Stephanie Ransom Friesen

*Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka, Minnesota*

### Thomas William Gear \*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri*

### Jordan Hans Gehlhar

*Hope Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Jamestown, North Dakota*

### Nicholas Amadeus Giannatasio \*

*St. Peter Lutheran Church, Southport, North Carolina*

### Daniel Wayne Hanson

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Osage, Iowa*

### Anna Kitt Helgen \*

*Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Christ the King Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake,  
Minnesota  
St. Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota*

### David Anthony Hendrickson

*Christ the King Lutheran, Escanaba, Michigan  
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls, Michigan  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

### Rebecca Jane Hinz

*St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minnesota*

### Aaron Gray Holmgren

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Willmar, Minnesota  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Sidney, Ohio*

### Anne Heather Jackson \*

*Easter Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minnesota  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Stillwater, Minnesota  
Brooklyn United Methodist Church,  
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota*

### Benjamin Daniel Jacobson

*Hope Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota*

### Tammy Jacobson \*

*All Saints Lutheran Church, Minnetonka, Minnesota  
United Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, Arkansas  
Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Richfield, Minnesota*

### Elisabeth Lynn Janke \*

*Messiah Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba*

### Cara Marie Jensen \*

*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne, Nebraska  
Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas*

### Ryan Anthony Jerome

*Zion Lutheran Church, Anoka, Minnesota  
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minnesota  
Grace Lutheran Church, Dawson, Minnesota*

### Eric C. Johnson \*

*Threshold Church, Toledo, Ohio*

### Melissa Dawn Johnson

*Fullness of God Lutheran Church,  
Holden Village, Washington  
Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage, Alaska  
Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River, Alaska*

### Patrick Eugene Joiner

*Northlake Lutheran Church, Kenmore, Washington  
Faith Lutheran Church, Hamilton, Montana*

### Erik R. Karlson

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Santa Barbara, California  
St. James Lutheran Church, Burnsville, Minnesota*

### Julie Ann Kelly \*

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Croton on Hudson, New York  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church,  
West Hills, California*

## Candidates for Degrees

**D. Jerome Klotz**

**Kent Arthur Krumwiede**

*Bethany Lutheran Church, Storden, Minnesota  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Jeffers, Minnesota  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Truman, Minnesota*

**Edward Keith Lankford**

*Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Athens, Georgia*

**Laura Louise Laughlin**

*Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

**Michelle Jean Tjaden Lewis**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Salem United Church, Salem, South Dakota*

**Anne Marie Meredith-Will**

*First Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota  
Peoples Church, Bemidji, Minnesota  
Calvary Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota*

**Lisa Anne Meshke \***

*First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin, Minnesota*

**Sarah Louise Miller**

*Spirit Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Menomonie, Wisconsin  
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Todd Raymond Milner \***

*Olivet Lutheran Church, Sylvania, Ohio*

**John Worjloh Mitchell**

*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, North Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Linda P. Molitor \***

*Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Oakdale, Minnesota*

**Anna Kristin Montgomery**

*St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Franklin, Tennessee  
Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Ocean Springs, Mississippi  
St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Marysville, Washington*

**Lue Benjamin Moua \***

*Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota*

**Dan Arvid Nelson**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, Haltom City, Texas*

**Paul David Nichol \***

*St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, Minnesota*

**Kelly Elisabeth Nieman Anderson \* ◇**

*Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Shalom Lutheran Church, Pinckney, Michigan*

**David Andreas Nissen**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Minnesota  
First Lutheran Church, Litchfield, Minnesota*

**Daniel Irwin Pennington**

*East Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amery, Wisconsin*

**Nissa Anne Peterson**

*St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota  
Chatfield Lutheran Church, Chatfield, Minnesota*

**Elizabeth Ann Pottratz**

*St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
North St. Paul, Minnesota*

**John M. Sauter \***

**Soren Steven Schmidt**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, Escanaba, Michigan  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock, Michigan  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Menominee, Michigan*

**Angel Lee Scott**

*Living Word Antioch Church, Roseville, Minnesota  
Central Lutheran Church, Eugene, Oregon*

**Carol Lynn Seilhymer**

*Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood, Minnesota  
Prairie Star Ministries, Windom, Minnesota  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake, Minnesota*

**Christy Leigh Shelinbarger \***

*King of Kings Lutheran Church, Pueblo, Colorado*

**Allison Mabel Parks Siburg \***

*St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Washington  
First Lutheran Church, Poulsbo, Washington  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington*

**Carleton Edward Smee**

*Trondhjem Lutheran Church, Lonsdale, Minnesota*

**Carrie Alice Smisek \***

*Trondhjem Lutheran Church, Lonsdale, Minnesota  
Living Joy: A Lutheran Faith Community, Prior Lake,  
Minnesota  
Calvary Lutheran Church, Federal Way, Washington*

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

*\* Requirements to be met by August 31, 2016*

*\*\* With distinction*

◇ Graduate Preaching Fellowship

✦ Children, Youth and Family Prize

✖ The John Milton Prize in Old Testament

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

▲ The Frederick Buechner Prize for Excellence in Preaching

*For Prize/Fellowship descriptions, see page 14.*

## Candidates for Degrees

**Linda Sue Strader \***

*Faith Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Illinois  
First Lutheran Church, Plano, Illinois*

**Cullen Curtis Tanner**

*Northern Light Church, Ramsey, Minnesota  
Coon Rapids United Methodist Church,  
Coon Rapids, Minnesota*

**Eric Daniel Thiele**

*Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Rothschild, Wisconsin*

**Wayne John Van Kauwenbergh**

*Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hampton, Virginia  
Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, St. Paul, Minnesota  
First Lutheran Church, Williston, North Dakota*

**Tony P. VanCura**

*All Saints Lutheran Church, Orlando, Florida*

**Mariel Le Vinge\***

*Grace University Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
House of Hope Lutheran Church, New Hope, Minnesota*

**Derek Gavin Wassell**

*Crossroads Church, Lakeville, Minnesota*

**Bonnie M. Wells**

*Faith Lutheran Church, Little Rock, Arkansas  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, North Little Rock,  
Arkansas*

**Jay Eric Welshonse**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Nebraska*

**Lisa Marie Wiens Heinsohn**

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, St. Paul, Minnesota  
St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Taylor John Wilson**

*Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, Minnesota  
Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minnesota*

**Bethany Grace Wurtz \***

### 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.

**Donald G. Bryant Jr.**

*West Bloomfield, Michigan  
Preparing Transformational Sermons: An  
Attitudinal Model of Sermonic Application*

**David Matthew Carlson**

*Duluth, Minnesota*

*Earth Stewardship and the Missio Dei: Participating  
in the Care and Redemption of All God Has Made*

**Rodney Reed Carlson**

*Eagan, Minnesota*

*Preaching Effectively to the Unchurched*

**Jeffrey A. Eisele**

*Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

*Cultivating the Holy Callings of Ordinary Saints: The  
Church at Work for the Life of the World*

**Jay R. Grave**

*Linn Creek, Missouri*

*The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength: How Your  
Passions Can Serve God's Mission in the World*

**Paul Douglas Johnsen**

*Hartford, Wisconsin*

*Exploring the Effectiveness of Field-Preaching  
Evangelism in the United Methodist Church*

**Daniel John Justin**

*Studio City, California*

*Mystagogical Preaching in the Episcopal Church:  
Connecting Sermon and Liturgy*

**Lynne Kammeraad**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan*

*Preaching More Effectively to Multiple Generations*

**Edward Nicholas Kay**

*Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland*

*Cultivating Biblical Imagination Through Preaching*

**Harold Alfred Kenyon**

*Carman, Manitoba, Canada*

*Lift up Your Hearts: Preaching Grace Effectively as a  
Pastoral Response to Shame*

**Judy K. Kincaid**

*Omaha, Nebraska*

*The Effective Use of Personal Stories in Biblical  
Preaching*

**Paul Nicholas Miller**

*Canyon Lake, Texas*

*Preaching from a Biblical Anthropology: Sources  
and Methods for Correlating the Gospel and the  
Human Condition*

**Philip Todd Pennington**

*Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

*The Liturgical Invitation of Music in Contextual  
Hermeneutics*

**Donna Jeannette Simon**

*Kansas City, Missouri*

*More God: How Practicing Incarnation Can Shape a  
Witnessing Community*

**Kathryn L. Skoglund**

*Granite Falls, Minnesota*

*Telling the Old, Old Stories: Reconnecting With  
Jesus' Parables Through Biblical Storytelling*

**Tanner Lee Smith**

*Hudsonville, Michigan*

*Led to Lead: Vocational Discernment and  
Emerging Pastoral Leadership in the Reformed  
Church in America*

## Candidates for Degrees

David Alan Werner *Forest Lake, Minnesota*  
Wesleyan Missional Small Groups

Thomas G. Whent *Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada*  
Life Story and the Rite of Passage for the  
Cove Home Residents

### Master of Theology

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

Bayesa Jabesa Disasa *Finfinne-Oromia, Ethiopia*  
Wholistic Mission: Serving the Whole Person  
with the Whole Gospel in the Ethiopian  
Evangelical Churches

Christopher Alexander Scott Heren *East Peoria, Illinois*  
  
The Logos and Nature: The Implications  
of the Logos Theology of Thomas Torrance and  
Alexei Nesteruk for Modern Theological Approaches  
to Science

Gray Amos Kawamba *Blantyre, Malawi*  
Toward Beloved Community: Racial Reconciliation  
Through Multiracial Missional Churches

Wondimu Legesse Sonessa *Addis Ababa, Oromia, Ethiopia*  
  
The Defiled Imago Dei and Forgiveness:  
The Tensions Between Ethnicity and Humanity  
in the Image of God in the Context of the  
Ethiopian Churches

George Changlak Timlak *Tiko, South West Region, Cameroon*  
  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King Jr. and  
Oscar Romero's Christological Understandings of  
the Practicing Christian: Implications for Pastoral  
Care in the Church in the Cameroon

Zekarias Ardebrihan Tiruneh  
Missional Transformation in the Ethiopian  
Orthodox Church: Understanding the Role of the  
Ethiopian Orthodox Church's Apocryphal Literature  
and Hermeneutical Methods of Interpretation

Joel Eric Vander Wal *Kalamazoo, Michigan*  
Sanctification in Adolescence: How Karl Barth's  
Two-Fold Critique of the Church Could Influence  
Youth Ministry Practices Today

### 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..

Ibrahim Sobkennenso Bitrus *Yola, Nigeria*  
The Significance of the New Trinitarian  
Hermeneutics of God for Critiquing the Distortion  
and Recasting the African Tradition of Community  
in Nigeria

Alexander Thomas Blondeau *Fergus Falls, Minnesota*  
Dying to Live: The Paradox of Christian  
Salvation, the Terror of Death and Developmental  
Stages Theory

Sashinungla *Dimapur, Nagaland, India*  
The Predicament of Christian Spirituality  
in Nagaland: 1947 to the Present: Historical  
Background, Cultural Context, and Proposal  
for Change

Joel Aaron Jueckstock *Shoreview, Minnesota*  
Relational Pastoral Care and Counseling: A Practical  
Theological Exploration of Relational Spirituality  
and Grief

Eve Karambu Mugambi *Meru, Kenya*  
Domestic Violence: An Ecclesial Response to  
Domestic Violence Within the Kenyan Church

Nkiruka Catherine Okafor *Awka, Anambra State, Southeast, Nigeria*  
Transforming Narratives through LIVE: A Pastoral  
Model of Care for Women in Sex Work

Jacob Joseph Sorenson\*\* *Ettrick, Wisconsin*  
A Theological Playground: Christian Summer Camp  
in Theological Perspective

Steven Paul Thomason *Coon Rapids, Minnesota*  
Deep in the Burbs: A Participatory Action  
Research Project Exploring How the Social Trinity  
Impacts Spiritual Formation in Suburban ELCA  
Congregations

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

*\* Requirements to be met by August 31, 2016*

*\*\* With distinction*

- ◇ Graduate Preaching Fellowship
- ✦ Children, Youth and Family Prize
- ✖ The John Milton Prize in Old Testament
- ✱ The G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament
- ▲ The Frederick Buechner Prize for Excellence in Preaching

*For Prize/Fellowship descriptions, see page 14.*

## Candidates for Degrees

### 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 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.

#### **The Frederick Buechner Prize for Excellence in Preaching**

is given to an outstanding Master of Divinity graduate. It is intended to help bring the words, ideas and works of Frederick Buechner to a new generation of clergy, with a particular emphasis on enhancing preaching and writing.





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.

