



ACADEMIC CATALOG

2025–2028

BETHANY  **LUTHERAN**
THEOLOGICAL **SEMINARY**
MANKATO 1946 MINNESOTA



CATALOG 2025-2028



*A four-year theological seminary
owned and operated by
the Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

**6 Browns Court
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
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www.blts.edu**



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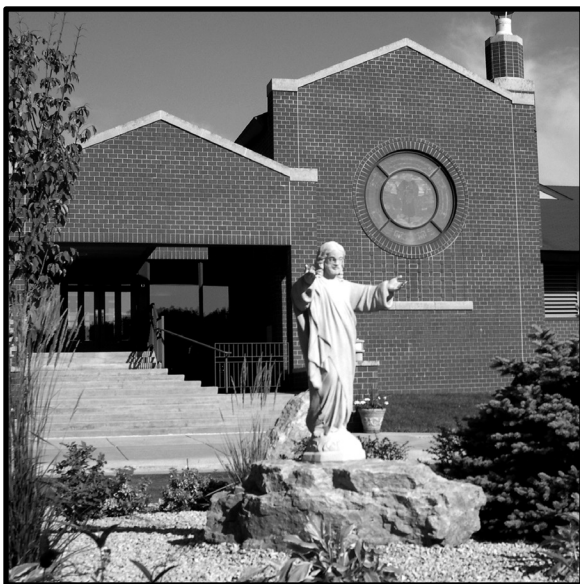
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SEMINARY INFORMATION



PURPOSE AND AIM

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” ... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:13–15, 17

PURPOSE

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) operates Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in order to train men for the public ministry in the ELS as well as to serve the synod’s theological needs.

Both the synod and the seminary are committed to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. The Bible is the sole authority for faith and life. The Lutheran Confessions are the correct understanding and exposition of the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. All teaching and training in the seminary, as well as approval and recommendation of graduates for the office of the public ministry, is therefore based on God’s Word, with the doctrine of justification as the heart and center of the seminary’s existence and work.

AIM

In order to accomplish its primary purpose, that of training pastors for service in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the seminary aims to:

1. impart a thorough knowledge of the discipline of biblical theology, especially as it involves the proper interpretation of the Holy Scriptures on the basis of study of the text in the languages in which both testaments were originally written;

2. impart a thorough working knowledge of the discipline of systematic theology, in which the doctrines of the Bible are studied in an orderly fashion and in the light of the Lutheran Confessions;
3. acquaint the student with the discipline of historical theology through study of the development of the church under God's guidance during the various periods of the church;
4. impart through the discipline of practical theology a proficiency in the application of these various disciplines to the tasks of preaching, teaching, and shepherding the flock of God;
5. instill in the candidate both the zeal and the skill for:
 - a. serving God's people as a shepherd of the flock;
 - b. preparing God's people for service in the work of His church;
 - c. keeping the great commission central in congregational life; and
 - d. leading a congregation to cooperate with sister congregations in the work of the church at large;
6. impart the principles of evangelical pastoral theology and counseling, as well as of preaching and teaching;
7. encourage high standards of personal devotional study and of moral character; and
8. engender a proper understanding of the responsibilities of a pastor toward the congregation, his brothers in the ministry, and the synod.

In order to accomplish its purpose of otherwise serving the synod's theological needs, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary also aims to:

1. provide leadership and resources for our pastors in the field and to make these resources available to other churches in our fellowship;
2. prepare our members to give an answer for the hope that they have (1 Peter 3:15) by offering theological courses to interested laity; and

3. communicate orthodox Lutheranism to those outside our fellowship by being of assistance to the president of the synod, to the Doctrine Committee, and to the Colloquy Committee.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

Isaiah 54:2

HISTORY

In 1825 a large-scale immigration began that brought some 900,000 people from Norway to America. As they settled in the wilderness of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and other states they had no churches, no pastors, no schools, and no spiritual leadership. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod traces its roots to this Norwegian immigrant movement.

In 1853 the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, of which the ELS is spiritual heir, was founded. That synod soon made arrangements with the Missouri Synod for the training of its future pastors at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. In 1876, the "Norwegian Synod" established its own theological seminary at Madison, Wisconsin. Subsequently the seminary was moved to Robbinsdale, Minnesota, in 1888, and then to Hamline, a suburb of St. Paul, in 1899.

In 1918 a small group of pastors and congregations of the Norwegian Synod found it necessary to reorganize because their former body had departed from the paths of pure doctrine. Thus the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was formed. The ELS looked to the seminaries of the church bodies which formed the Synodical Conference for the training of its future pastors. In 1946, however, the ELS established its own theological seminary.

LOCATION

Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is located on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. These

institutions are situated on McMahon Hill, near the geographic center of the city, overlooking the Minnesota River Valley. Located approximately 80 miles southwest of Minneapolis—St. Paul, the Mankato metropolitan area has become a regional center for southern Minnesota and has a population of about 104,000.

FACILITIES

In 1996 the construction of the seminary building at 6 Browns Court was completed. The facility contains classrooms, faculty offices, a chapel, student lounge, and the seminary library. The ELS headquarters are also located in the seminary building.

The seminary library holdings include about 14,000 volumes and 100 periodicals. Its rare book collection consists of almost one thousand volumes, including a first edition of the Book of Concord published in 1580 and the Apology to the Book of Concord published in 1584.

The seminary library card catalog is accessible on the internet through the seminary website. It is the hope of the seminary that the library may function as a media center for our students and for pastors. It is intended to be a center of scholarly research.

SEAL



Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary's official seal is very similar to the seal of Bethany Lutheran College because the two institutions have been intimately connected throughout the seminary's history by sharing adjunct faculty members, physical resources, and, before 1978, even presidents.

The Greek text in the center reads "ΕΝΟΣ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΧΡΕΙΑ" (pronounced "HEH-nos ES-tin KRAY-uh"), which are the words Jesus spoke to Martha at the original Bethany, "One Thing is Needful" (Luke 10:42). The Greek text sits upon a cross which is that one thing that is necessary for salvation. The light which shines forth from the cross is represented by the twelve-pointed star pattern that also represents the teaching of the twelve apostles and, thus, intimately connects the teaching of the seminary with the teaching of the original church.

LOGO

The official logo for the seminary places the seal, and thus the cross, at the center of the seminary's identity. The name of the institution surrounds the seal in two lines. Under the seal appears "1946," commemorating the year of the seminary's founding.



ADMINISTRATION

Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is owned and operated by the ELS. The ELS numbers approximately 15,000 souls representing some 120 congregations in 17 states as well as carrying on international work in Peru, Chile, India, Korea, Australia, Czech Republic, Latvia, and Ukraine.

At its annual conventions, the synod elects men to serve on the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and Bethany Lutheran College. The regents are responsible for the oversight and administration of the seminary, as well as that of the college. On behalf of the synod they call men to serve as president and full-time professors of the institution.

BOARD OF REGENTS

Rev. Mark Bartels	Madison, WI
Mr. Steven DePrey.....	Sun Prairie, WI
The Rev. Erwin Ekhoff.....	Minneapolis, MN
Mr. Aaron Faugstad	St. Paul, MN
Rev. Aaron Ferkenstad.....	Golden Valley, MN
Dr. Joshua Mears	Lakeville, MN
Mr. Mark Madson	Mankato, MN
Rev. Glenn Obenberger	Mankato, MN
Rev. Alex Ring.....	Port St. Lucie, FL
Mr. Timothy Roemhildt.....	North Mankato, MN
Mr. John Scott.....	Vero Beach, FL
Mr. David Sparley	Tigard, OR
The Rev. David Thompson	Mankato, MN

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Prof. Timothy A. Hartwig President
Dr. Timothy R. Schmeling Registrar
Dr. Nicholas D. Proksch Dean of Students

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Elsa Ferkenstad..... Executive Assistant

BUSINESS OFFICE

Mr. Daniel Mundahl ..Vice President of Finance and Administration
Mrs. Stacey Dawley Controller

STANDING FACULTY COMMITTEES

Admissions Committee: Pres. Timothy A. Hartwig, Dr. Nicholas D. Proksch, Dr. Timothy R. Schmeling
The *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*: Prof. Timothy A. Hartwig, Editor-in-Chief





Good Shepherd Chapel

ADMISSIONS

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Word of God in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, the fundamental requirements for admission to the seminary are an unimpeachable Christian character and a heartfelt desire to grow in the knowledge of salvation. Other requirements specific to each program are outlined in the curriculum section.

Prospective students who meet the entrance requirements are asked to complete the appropriate application forms. Individuals who do not meet the academic qualifications are asked to contact the seminary president before applying. Often arrangements can be made with Bethany Lutheran College whereby the student can take the appropriate classes to make up deficiencies. College students who intend to train for the ministry are encouraged to consult with the seminary president in order to coordinate their studies with the seminary requirements.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The Bible teaches that “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34) and that “there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 3:11). Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, therefore, admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made

available to students at the seminary. Furthermore, Bethany does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

The primary purpose of the seminary is to train pastors for the preaching ministry of the ELS (M.Div.). Since it is the religious conviction and doctrinal position of the ELS that the Holy Scriptures do not allow women to function in this office, the seminary does not enroll women in the M.Div. program (1 Corinthians 14:34, 1 Timothy 2:12). The Master of Arts degree offers an alternative course of study for men and women who are not preparing for the preaching ministry.

The racially non-discriminatory policy does not supersede or restrict the established policy that gives preference to an applicant who is either:

1. a member or the son of a member of an ELS congregation, or
2. a member or the son of a member of a congregation in fellowship with the ELS.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

An individual desiring admission should submit a preliminary application to the admissions committee (see back of catalog). After review of this application, the committee may then send the applicant a more extensive application. As part of the full application process to the M.Div. program, the applicant will be assessed by an agency working with the seminary to help him deepen his understanding of how the Lord has equipped him for service and to aid the seminary admissions committee in determining suitability for admission. These assessments simply provide information concerning the applicant's personality and spiritual characteristics. The information sought through the assessments is in keeping with the qualifications for a pastor laid out by St. Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Following the administration of the assessments, the applicant will be interviewed by the president of the seminary and the dean of students (or another faculty member). Upon review of the full application, the assessment

results, background check, and the personal interview, the admissions committee will inform the applicant of its decision.

The following dates in the process of application and admission shall be adhered to under normal circumstances:

December 15 (of the year prior to desired admission) – Preliminary application due

January 1 – Full application due

February 1 – Assessments of applicants scheduled for mid-February (with subsequent personal interviews)

March 1–31 – Interviews of applicants by President and Dean of Students/Faculty

April 15 – Faculty renders decisions on admission of applicants

POLICY REGARDING CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE

Under normal circumstances, no prior credit for previous educational training or experience is granted. A student may appeal for exception for transfer credits from a seminary of our fellowship with the same course and the same number of credit hours.

REGISTRATION

Registration takes place on the first day of classes each semester.

HOUSING

Unmarried students may, if they desire, make arrangements with Bethany Lutheran College for room and board. Students who board in a college dormitory may be required to pay the appropriate special fees as well.

The seminary does not provide housing facilities for married students. The seminary staff, however, will do what it can to assist married students in finding adequate housing.

TUITION AND FEES

Due to generous donors, M.Div students are not charged tuition. Students in the M.A. program will have tuition of \$500 per credit (with no additional fees).

Students are responsible for purchasing their own books. If done through the Bethany Lutheran College Spirit Store, advance notice required. The student should notify the store of the books needed well before class begins.

REFUND OF TUITION

Because M.Div. students currently are not assessed any tuition from the seminary, tuition and fees are non-refundable.

M.A. students will be refunded for tuition on a prorated basis. The exact prorating will be determined on the basis of the number of days of instruction completed by the student.

FINANCIAL AID

The seminary is grateful to the many donors who have given scholarships to pay for the costs of educating our M.Div. students. These funds currently cover the tuition of M.Div. students, so that we are able to provide that program without charging them any tuition. The named scholarships are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rev. Theodore and Melvina Aaberg | Allen and Susan Daniels |
| Merle Aasen | Davis-Nelson |
| Otto and Dorothy Abrams | Robert and Betty Diesing |
| Herman and Evelyn Anderson | Rev. Martin J. Doepel |
| Joey and Trisha Anderson | Roger and Lois Dohrmann |
| Julian G. Anderson | Stuart Dorr |
| Keith G. Anderson | John Dukleth Memorial |
| John, Ethel and Rodney Arends | Isabelle Ebmeier |
| Robert, Flora and Charlotte F. Becker | Keith and Claudia Eisberg |
| Howard and Marion Benzing | George and Dorothy Feil |
| Edmund Bolstad | Ole Martin Fjar |
| Kenneth and Audrey Bolstad | Friends of Seminary |
| Gregory C. and Susan D. Bovid | Good Shepherd |
| Bruss Family | Grace, Weston, Ohio |
| Nora Buffington | Howard and Jeanette (Hovland) |
| Larry and Jane Carlovsky | Gulbrandson |
| Arthur O. Carlsen | Donald and Opal Hackbarth |
| Glenn and Dorothy Collins | Albert S. Hammer |
| Mabel Dahlgren | Paul and Cordia Hasz |
| | Hoiland Family |
| | Lyle and Debby Hoverson |

Lenwick and Glenna Hoyord
Roger and JoAnn Keske
Brian Koch
Ewald and Verda Kohlmeyer
Jens, Jerome and Laverne Kvam
Ernest W. Larsen
Albin Levorson
George O. Lillegard
Harold and Ellen Loe
Lorentz Book
Glenn and Rebecca Lussky
Gwenn and Sigfred Lysne
Juil B. Madson Memorial
Fund for Excellence in New
Testament Greek
Norman A. Madson Sr.
Lyle and Rosella Manthe
Rev. William and Jean McMurdie
Clarence E. and June Labb Miller
Rev. John A. Moldstad, Jr.
Moldstad/Fick Family
Joe and Peggy Moll
Julius F. Mundschenk
Rev. Richard and Hazel
Newgard
George Nygaard
Arleta M. Olson
Ordal
George and Ruth Orvick
Rev. Milton H. Otto
Our Savior's Amherst Junction
Kenneth and Violet Peter
Lenora Peters
Pres. Wilhelm and Naomi
Petersen

Emil and Martha Peterson
Timothy and Gail Peterson
Richard and Florence Rado
Chauncey and Enanda
Reinertson
Roland and Lois Reinholtz
Richland Lutheran Church
Merrill and Dorothy Rope
Ronald and Gay Rose
Herbert, Linette, and Grace
Sahnow
Edna May Scherzer-Getz
Eugene and Bertha Schiller
Gaylin and Rebecca Schmeling
Barbara Schneider Memorial
John and DeLores Seime
LeRoy and Patricia Simonson
Robert and Madelyn Soule
St. Mark's Lutheran Memorial
Rev. Alhert and Clara Strand
Thomas Stueck
Calhoun and Jean Sumrall
Timothy and Nancy Thiele
Gerald and Gwen Tjernagel
Rev. Milton E. and Delphine
Sonstegard Tweit Student
Support
Jim and Juanita Walberg
Walker-Schneider
William and Eunice Wehrenberg
Gerhard and Lois Weseloh
Patty Jo Weseloh
Whipple
Wayne and Esther Wiechmann
James and Carol Williams

In addition, the seminary has a special student support fund for the purpose of assisting students with personal financial needs that arise. The seminary president makes all decisions regarding these special funds, so a student in need should speak with him.

MARRIED STUDENTS

The seminary has always accepted married students and has no regulation prohibiting a student from marriage during his seminary years. The financial responsibilities of marriage, however, can be very demanding. The seminary, therefore, expects a married student, when applying for admission, to present a feasible plan for taking care of his financial obligations as husband, father, and student during his seminary training. This is doubly important because the seminary operates on a three-year cycle of courses followed by vicarage. This makes it impossible for a student to drop out for a semester or two for financial reasons and then to resume his studies the following semester.

Wives of married students will move to Mankato with their husbands during the three years of seminary. They will also move with them during the vicarage year.

VETERANS' BENEFITS

The Minnesota State Approving Agency (SAA) for veterans' educational benefits has granted approval to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary to offer the following degree programs: Master of Arts in Lutheran Theological Studies and Master of Divinity. (However, the year of vicarage taken after the completion of the three years of academic work is not approved for veterans' benefits.) The seminary will not impose any late fees or other penalties for veterans who are eligible to receive federal or state educational assistance and who have applied for that assistance but not yet received it. However, such is only applicable to M.A. students, since the seminary does not assess tuition or fees from M.Div. students.

For the purposes of this approval, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is recognized by the State of Minnesota as an institution of higher learning.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NKJV)

ACADEMIC RECORD

The seminary is a place not only to plumb the depths of God's mysteries but to exercise service and faithfulness as well. The faculty, therefore, not only makes students aware of the academic expectations in each class but awards grades as a gauge of ability and faithfulness. The study habits and patterns of accountability are then carried with the students into the public ministry or the life of an educated layman.

The school year is divided into two semesters of approximately 16 weeks each. The student receives semester grades which are recorded on his transcript of academic performance. Transcripts are kept by the seminary and made available to the students.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Each instructor is responsible for keeping attendance records in his classes and for making them available to the dean of students. Erratic attendance is cause for dismissal from the seminary.

GRADES

The grades entered on the students' transcripts are A, B, C, D, F or I. These evaluations are to be understood as follows:

Grade	Rating	Grade Points
A	Excellent – outstanding achievement and application	4 per credit
B	Good – high degree of competency and initiative	3 per credit
C	Satisfactory – acceptable work	2 per credit

D	Passing – work is marginal and of minimal acceptability	1 per credit
F	Failing – unsatisfactory	0
I	Incomplete	0

A student receiving an “Incomplete” on his grade report must complete the required work in 30 days, or the “Incomplete” automatically becomes an “F.” Only in exceptional cases may a professor grant a student time beyond the 30 days to remove an “Incomplete” from his academic record.

DISMISSAL AND REENTRY

A student may be dismissed from the seminary for various causes. These include unsatisfactory work, unchristian conduct, or other valid reasons. For students in the M.Div. program, there may also be reasons which make it impossible for the seminary administration to recommend the individual to the church for the office of the public ministry. In such cases a student desiring to reenter the seminary is required to wait at least one year before reapplying.

RIGHT OF PETITION

Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary operates under the provisions outlined in this catalog. The student does have the right to petition the faculty to waive certain requirements, to substitute courses, and the like. Any deviation from the guidelines of this catalog, however, must be approved by the faculty.

TRANSCRIPTS

Certified official student transcripts of academic records are available only upon written request of the student. Telephone requests cannot be accepted. The first transcript is furnished without charge. Thereafter, requests must be accompanied by a payment of \$5.00 per copy.

Unofficial transcripts are available to currently enrolled students free of charge through the president’s office and must be obtained by the student in person. Copies will not be issued to a second party.

WORK WHILE IN SEMINARY

The program of study at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is designed to be challenging for the best of scholars. Students that need employment for financial reasons should keep their outside work to a minimum (not to exceed 20 hours per week) while the seminary is in session.

DECORUM

Seminary students are expected to exhibit proper demeanor and responsible judgment in the area of personal attire. The personal appearance of seminarians on the campus should reflect the noble purpose of the institution.

ENDOWED CHAIR OF COMMUNICATION

The seminary shares with Bethany Lutheran College the services of the professor occupying the Eleanor Wilson Chair of Speech/English Communication. The terms of the endowment specify that a portion of the chairholder's time, usually from a fourth to a third, be devoted to training seminary students in communication skills. This involves classroom instruction as well as sermon critique. The seminary recognizes the value of good communication skills in today's church work and makes cultivation of this art a priority.



CURRICULUM



PROGRAM OF STUDY

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In St. Paul's letter to the Romans we hear that only through the Gospel message of Jesus Christ can a person be saved: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (10:17). The authors of the Formula of Concord elaborated on the importance of the biblical message:

Through this means (namely, the preaching and the hearing of His Word) God is active, breaks our hearts, and draws man, so that through the preaching of the law man learns to know his sins and the wrath of God and experiences genuine terror, contrition, and sorrow in his heart, and through the preaching of and meditation upon the Holy Gospel of the gracious forgiveness of sins in Christ there is kindled in him a spark of faith which accepts the forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake and comforts itself with the promise of the Gospel. (SD, II:54)

All instruction and training at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is conducted in the light of the Gospel. The Holy Scriptures are regarded as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as a correct exposition of the teachings of the Bible.

MISSION EMPHASIS

Before returning to heaven, Jesus issued His great commission to all believers. He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). In accordance with this great commission, the seminary curriculum emphasizes missions.

MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.Div.)

Specific Entrance Requirements

Academically, the applicant should have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. He should be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod or a congregation in fellowship with the ELS. The applicant will have a good working knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. Under ordinary circumstances the applicant will have taken two years of both languages with a “C” or better grade point average in order to meet the language requirement. The applicant, finally, should be a serious student of the Holy Scriptures. He should be well-versed in both the historical and doctrinal content of the Bible.

Academic Life

The course of study at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary which prepares men for the public ministry requires four years of rigorous training. The student spends the first three years involved in intensive classroom study and then completes the training with a one-year internship or vicarage.

During his three years of classroom work the student takes assigned courses in the four divisions of Christian theology: Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, and Practical Theology. Ordinarily classes are scheduled from 8:00 a.m. until 12:20 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students normally carry a course load of approximately eighteen credits per semester. Since the seminary is a graduate school and students earn a Master of Divinity degree, the faculty requires that the students do original research in the library and write graduate-level papers. The seminary provides each student with a study carrel in the seminary library and computer access.

Seminary classes are conducted in a congenial atmosphere. First-, second-, and third-year students take classes together. The newer students are encouraged to seek assistance from the more advanced. Thus a spirit of cooperation exists among them. Students who attend seminary at the same time often maintain close friendships during their years in the parish ministry.

Credit Requirements

The master of divinity program requires completion of all 110 credits offered at the institution, including the successful defense of a thesis paper.

Field Education

Prior to vicarage and concurrent with their classroom education, M.Div. students participate in a field education program. The purpose of this program is to provide the students with supervised, firsthand experience in various aspects of the parish ministry throughout their seminary training.

Each first-year student is assigned a field education congregation. He is expected to become acquainted with the pastor and congregation and regularly to attend worship services and Bible classes. The student will also observe various meetings and pastoral tasks in the congregation. Second-year seminarians become more directly involved in the preaching and teaching ministry of the congregation. Third-year students learn additional pastoral care skills and continue to take part in the preaching and teaching ministry of the congregation by conducting worship and teaching various classes.

Vicarage

The seminary course includes one year of vicarage, which follows completion of the three years of classroom study. The vicarage provides the student practical experience in working with people in a congregation or parish under the supervision of a pastor.

Vicarage assignments are made by the theological faculty in consultation with the synod's Assignment Committee. The pastor supervising each vicar submits regular reports on the vicar's work to the dean of students.

It should be noted that the vicar program is under the direct auspices of the seminary through the dean of students and is considered a part of the seminary training. The seminary faculty in consultation with the supervising pastor evaluates a student according to the following criteria:

1. **Academic Ability.** The student must demonstrate that he has the intellectual and organizational skills and general aptitude for teaching (1 Timothy 3:2), whether conducting the worship service, Bible class, or any educational program within the congregation.

2. **Personal Suitability.** The student must demonstrate that he has the personal qualifications and personality for the ministry (that he is responsible, resourceful, person-centered, service-centered, emotionally stable, sensitive, and the like).
3. **Pastoral Skill.** The student must demonstrate that he has the full range of pastoral skills required for the ministry in such areas as preaching, evangelism, counseling, leadership, administration, and group participation.

Graduation and Assignment of Calls

Students who satisfactorily fulfill the prescribed course of study in the M.Div. program at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary are considered “Candidates of Theology” and are approved for entry into the public ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

In order to graduate and be certified for a call the student must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Successfully complete three years of course work in the seminary and maintain a 2.5 grade point average.

A student’s grade point average is determined by adding all grade points and dividing by the sum of all credits attempted. For example, a student receiving

an A in a four-credit course = 16 grade points

a B in a two-credit course = 6 grade points

a C in a three-credit course = 6 grade points

Total grade points = 28

Total credits = 9

Grade point average = $28 \div 9 = 3.1$

2. Successfully compose and defend a graduate-level major theological paper. This project is usually begun during the student’s middler year when he chooses a topic. Once the topic is approved in writing by the M.Div. supervisor, the student can begin writing the paper under the direction of a faculty advisor.

Upon completion of the paper, the student will orally defend his work before a committee of the faculty (course PT550).

3. Successfully complete one year of vicarage. The requirements for vicarage are outlined in this catalog under “Curriculum: Program of Study: Master of Divinity: Vicarage” (page 26).
4. Earn a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. The M.Div. degree is awarded to a student who has previously earned a baccalaureate degree, completes 110 semester hours of the seminary classroom work and maintains a 2.5 grade point average or better, and who satisfactorily completes the Master of Divinity paper and vicarage requirements.
5. Be recommended by the faculty and approved by the Board of Regents for graduation and for a call into the office of the public ministry.

Students who meet the requirements listed above receive their calls into the public ministry through the synod’s Assignment Committee. This committee is composed of the president of the synod, the president of the seminary, and the chairman of the Board for Home Outreach.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (M.A.)

The purpose of studying for the Master of Arts in Lutheran Theological Studies (M.A.) is to acquire a general competence in Lutheran biblical and doctrinal theology. The M.A. is especially helpful for Christians of our fellowship who seek to further their knowledge of Lutheran theology so that they may give appropriate leadership in their congregations and communities.

Specific Entrance Requirements

Academically, the applicant should have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. He should be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod or a congregation in fellowship with the ELS. The applicant, finally, should be a serious student of the Holy Scriptures. He should be well-versed in both the historical and doctrinal content of the Bible.

Credit Requirements

The master of arts program requires completion of 40 credits of required courses and 6 credits of elective courses. In addition, the successful defense of a thesis paper is required.

Required Courses

BT301 Old Testament Isagogics: Canon and Text, Pentateuch.....	3 cr.
BT303 Old Testament Isagogics: Historic Poetic, Prophetic Books.....	4 cr.
BT305 New Testament Isagogics: Gospels and Epistles	3 cr.
ST301 Hermeneutics: Interpretation of Scripture	2 cr.
ST401 Dogmatics: Theology, Scripture, God and Man	3 cr.
ST403 Dogmatics: Christology and Salvation	4 cr.
ST405 Dogmatics: Means of Grace, Church and Ministry, Eschatology	3 cr.
ST502 Symbolics: Creeds, Augsburg Confession, Catechisms	3 cr.
ST504 Symbolics: Smalcald Articles, Formula of Concord..	3 cr.
HT302 Church History: Reformation	4 cr.
HT303 Church History: Lutheranism in the United States.	3 cr.
HT304 Church History: Contemporary Theology.....	2 cr.
PT550 Senior Research Project.....	3 cr.

Elective Courses

ST505 Symbolics: World Religions and Cults	2 cr.
ST506 Symbolics: Christian Denominations	2 cr.
HT301 Church History: Apostolic to Reformation.....	3 cr.
PT501 Evangelism: Theory and Practice I	3 cr.
PT502 Evangelism: Theory and Practice II.....	2 cr.
PT504 Christian Education	3 cr.
PT506 Lutheran Liturgics.....	2 cr.
PT508 Lutheran Hymnody	2 cr.
PT525 Communication: Mass Media in the Church's Mission	1 cr.
PT526 Communication: Conflict Management.....	1 cr.

Graduation

In order to graduate the student must fulfill the following requirements:

1. The M.A. degree is awarded to a student who has previously earned a baccalaureate degree, completes 46 semester hours of the seminary classroom work, and maintains a 2.5 grade point average or better.

A student's grade point average is determined by adding all grade points and dividing by the sum of all credits attempted. For example, a student receiving

an A in a four-credit course = 16 grade points

a B in a two-credit course = 6 grade points

a C in a three-credit course = 6 grade points

Total grade points = 28

Total credits = 9

Grade point average = $28 \div 9 = 3.1$

2. Successfully compose and defend a graduate-level major theological paper. After selecting a topic, the student can begin writing the paper under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Upon completion of the paper, the student will orally defend his work before a committee of the faculty (course PT550).
3. Be recommended by the faculty and approved by the Board of Regents for graduation.

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025–2026

Fall Semester

Course	Year and Credits		
	Junior	Middler	Senior
BT301 Old Testament Isagogics: Canon and Text, Pentateuch	3	3	3
BT407 New Testament Exegesis: Romans	3	3	3
HT301 Church History: Apostolic to Reformation	3	3	3
PT301 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery	2		
PT303 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery		2	
PT305 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery			2
PT402 Pastoral Theology: Pastoral Office, Care of Souls	3	3	3
PT525 Communication: Mass Media in the Church's Mission	1	1	1
ST301 Hermeneutics: Interpretation of Scripture	2		
ST505 Symbolics: World Religions and Cults	2	2	2
Total Credits	19	17	17

Spring Semester

Course	Year and Credits		
	Junior	Middler	Senior
BT304 New Testament Isagogics: Canon and Text	2	2	2
BT402 Old Testament Exegesis: Genesis	3	3	3
PT302 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery	2		
PT304 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery		2	
PT306 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery			2
PT312 Field Education I	1		
PT314 Field Education II		1	
PT316 Field Education III			1
PT403 Pastoral Theology: Parish Administration, Counseling	3	3	3
PT501 Evangelism: Theory and Practice I	3	3	3
PT526 Communication: Conflict Management	1	1	1
ST401 Dogmatics: Theology, Scripture, God and Man	3	3	3
PT550 Senior Research Project Special Area of Study			3
Total Credits	20	20	23

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–2027

Fall Semester

Course	Year and Credits		
	Junior	Middler	Senior
BT409 New Testament Exegesis: Galatians	3	3	3
HT302 Church History: Reformation	4	4	4
PT301 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery	2		
PT303 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery		2	
PT305 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery			2
PT502 Evangelism: Theory and Practice II	2	2	2
PT521 Communication: A Pastor's Interpersonal Relationships	1	1	1
ST301 Hermeneutics: Interpretation of Scripture	2		
ST502 Symbolics: Creeds, Augsburg Confession, Catechisms	3	3	3
Special Area of Study	2	2	2
Total Credits	19	17	17

Spring Semester

Course	Year and Credits		
	Junior	Middler	Senior
BT306 New Testament: Life of Christ	4	4	4
BT404 Old Testament Exegesis: Psalms	3	3	3
PT302 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery	2		
PT304 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery		2	
PT306 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery			2
PT312 Field Education I	1		
PT314 Field Education II		1	
PT316 Field Education III			1
PT522 Communication: Seminars in Heuristics	1	1	1
PT550 Senior Research Project			3
ST403 Dogmatics: Christology and Salvation	4	4	4
ST504 Symbolics: Smalcald Articles, Formula of Concord	3	3	3
ST506 Symbolics: Christian Denominations	2	2	2
Total Credits	20	20	23

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2027–2028

Fall Semester

Course	Year and Credits		
	Junior	Middler	Senior
BT303 Old Testament Isagogics: Historic, Poetic, Prophetic Books	4	4	4
BT411 New Testament Exegesis: First and Second Peter	2	2	2
HT303 Church History: Lutheranism in the United States	3	3	3
PT301 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery	2		
PT303 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery		2	
PT305 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery			2
PT503 Pastoral Epistles	2	2	2
PT523 Communication: Contemporary Communication Theory	1	1	1
ST301 Hermeneutics: Interpretation of Scripture	2		
ST405 Dogmatics: Means of Grace, Church & Ministry, Eschatology	3	3	3
Total Credits	19	17	17

Spring Semester

Course	Year and Credits		
	Junior	Middler	Senior
BT305 New Testament Isagogics: Gospels and Epistles	3	3	3
BT406 Old Testament Exegesis: Isaiah	3	3	3
HT304 Church History: Contemporary Theology	2	2	2
PT302 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery	2		
PT304 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery		2	
PT306 Homiletics: Sermon Writing and Delivery			2
PT312 Field Education I	1		
PT314 Field Education II		1	
PT316 Field Education III			1
PT504 Christian Education	3	3	3
PT506 Lutheran Liturgics	2	2	2
PT508 Lutheran Hymnody	2	2	2
PT524 Communication: Parish Leadership	1	1	1
PT550 Senior Research Project			3
Special Area of Study	2	2	2
Total Credits	21	21	24

Schedules are subject to change.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. ... And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

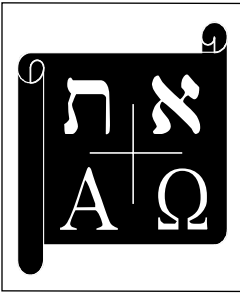
Luke 24:27, 32

INTRODUCTION

Every course offered at the seminary fits within one of the major subdivisions of Christian Theology: Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, and Practical Theology. Individual courses are identified by number and title as follows:

1. Each course is identified by two letters followed by three numbers (for example BT301). The letters identify the course according to the major subdivisions of Christian theology: BT=Biblical Theology, ST=Systematic Theology, HT=Historical Theology, and PT=Practical Theology.
2. Each course number designates one semester of work. BT301, for example, is a one semester course. Two numbers connected by a hyphen (PT301-302) indicate that the courses are taken in two consecutive semesters in the order indicated.
3. Typically, courses identified by odd numbers (BT301) are offered the first semester and the courses identified by even numbers (BT306) are offered the second semester.
4. The number in parentheses following the title of each course indicates the number of credit hours for that course. An example is PT504 Christian Education (3).

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY



Biblical Theology focuses on understanding the Holy Scriptures. The **Isagogics** courses serve as an introduction to the individual books of the Bible: attention is given to each book's authorship, time and circumstance of writing, and preservation of the texts. **Exegesis** is a study of the original Hebrew or Greek texts in order to understand the precise meaning of the words, phrases, and sentences. Key Old and New Testament Books are studied in the original languages.

BT301 Old Testament Isagogics: Canon and Text, Pentateuch (3)

General introduction to issues concerning the canon and text of the Old Testament. Specific introduction to the nature, content, and authorship of the first five Old Testament books. Reading and analysis of these books.

BT303 Old Testament Isagogics: Historic, Poetic, Prophetic Books (4)

Introduction to the nature, content, and authorship of all but the first five books of the Old Testament. Reading and analysis of these books.

BT304 New Testament Isagogics: Canon and Text (2)

Study of the canon and the transmission of the text of the New Testament.

BT305 New Testament Isagogics: Gospels and Epistles (3)

Introduction to the nature, content, and authorship of the Gospels and Epistles. Reading and analysis of these books.

BT306 New Testament Isagogics/Exegesis: Life of Christ (4)

In-depth study of the life of Christ as harmonized in the four Gospels.

BT402 Old Testament Exegesis: Genesis (3)

An exegetical study of selected portions of the first book of the Bible. Special attention to early chapters (creation through Abraham).

BT404 Old Testament Exegesis: Psalms (3)

An exegetical study of selected Psalms. Special attention to Messianic Psalms as well as those which have had a special impact on Christendom.

BT406 Old Testament Exegesis: Isaiah (3)

An exegetical study of selected portions of the Book of Isaiah. Special attention to Messianic passages.

BT407 New Testament Exegesis: Romans (3)

An exegetical study of Romans. Special emphasis on chapters which deal with issues such as natural knowledge, original and actual sin, justification, and church and state.

BT409 New Testament Exegesis: Galatians (3)

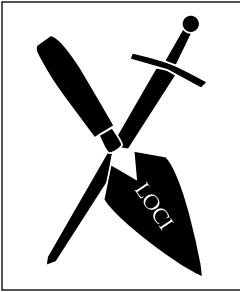
An exegetical study of Galatians. Detailed examination of this letter which contrasts the teachings of the Judaizers (legalists) with the doctrine of Christian liberty resulting from justification by grace through faith.

BT411 New Testament Exegesis: First and Second Peter (2)

An exegetical study of the books written by the Apostle Peter. Emphasis on the Christian life in a pagan world.



SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



The focus of systematic theology is on the doctrines of the Bible as arranged in specific units. **Hermeneutics** is the study of the principles employed in the translation and interpretation of the Scriptures. **Dogmatics** is the systematic, detailed study of the doctrines of the Christian Church which have been drawn from the Bible. These are formulated in clear, concise statements that set forth the true teaching of Scripture at the same time that they expose and reject unscriptural teachings. **Symbolics** courses acquaint the student with the confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church as well as those of other Christian denominations and non-Christian religions. They also provide a study of the historical context of the Lutheran Confessions for a more complete understanding and appreciation of the heritage of the Lutheran Church.

ST301 Hermeneutics: Interpretation of Scripture (2)

Introduction to the history, principles, and techniques of interpreting the Holy Scriptures.

ST401 Dogmatics: Theology, Scripture, God and Man (3)

Introduction to theology. Study of key biblical doctrines: Holy Scripture, God, Creation, Divine Providence, Angels, and Man.

ST403 Dogmatics: Christology and Salvation (4)

Study of the focal doctrines of Christianity: Saving Grace of God, Person and Work of Christ, Conversion, and Justification.

ST405 Dogmatics: Means of Grace, Church and Ministry, Eschatology (3)

Study of key biblical doctrines: Sanctification and Good Works, Means of Grace (Gospel, Baptism, Lord's Supper), Christian Church, Public Ministry, Election, and Eschatology.

ST502 Symbolics: Creeds, Augsburg Confession, Catechisms (3)

Study of the historical background and text of the Ecumenical Creeds, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology (defense) of the Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small and Large Catechisms.

ST504 Symbolics: Smalcald Articles, Formula of Concord (3)

Study of the historical background and text of the Smalcald Articles and the Formula of Concord.

ST505 Symbolics: World Religions and Cults (2)

Study of the origin and spread of non-Christian world religions and cults. Comparison of their doctrine and practice with that of Christianity.

ST506 Symbolics: Christian Denominations (2)

Study of the origin, spread and teachings of non-Lutheran Christian denominations. Comparison of their doctrine and practice to that of confessional Lutheranism.

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

Historical theology traces the story of the Christian Church from its beginnings up to the present. A major purpose of historical theology is to reveal the gracious, always-present hand of the Triune God ruling over His church. The student is to realize that the exalted Lord Jesus Christ is in control of His church and is fulfilling His promise that "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).



HT301 Church History: Apostolic to Reformation (3)

History of the growth and struggles of the church from apostolic days to the eve of the Reformation.

HT302 Church History: Reformation (4)

History of the Lutheran Reformation in Germany and other countries, the Reformed Reformation, the Counter-Reformation, and the Post-Reformation Period.

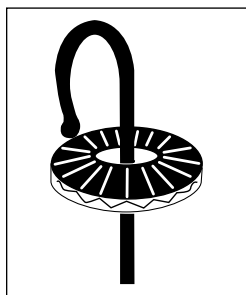
HT303 Church History: Lutheranism in the United States (3)

History of Lutheranism in the United States, with emphasis on the “old” Norwegian Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America.

HT304 Church History: Contemporary Theology (2)

History and critique of modern theology as traced through the writings of such authors as Barth, Bultmann, Tillich, and Schleiermacher.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY



The courses under this division of theology deal with the art of applying scriptural doctrine to real-life situations. Practical theology, or pastoral theology, concerns establishing and maintaining the faith of Christians through pastoral care. Since the care of souls has many aspects, the courses under practical theology are quite diverse. For example, **Homiletics** deals with the preparation and delivery of Bible-based sermons, while **Pastoral Theology** focuses on the proper relationship and interaction between the pastor and the people entrusted to his care.

PT301–302 Homiletics I (2,2)

Study of the basic principles of writing and delivering sermons. For first-year (junior) seminary students.

PT303–304 Homiletics II (2,2)

Preparing outlines and writing and delivering sermons. For second-year (middler) seminary students.

PT305–306 Homiletics III (2,2)

Writing and delivering sermons. For third-year (senior) seminary students.

PT312 Field Education I (1)

Supervised, first-hand experience in various aspects of the parish ministry. For first-year (junior) seminary students. Course

requirements typically are completed through both semesters of the academic year. A grade is issued at the close of the second semester.

PT314 Field Education II (1)

Supervised, first-hand experience in various aspects of the parish ministry. For second-year (middler) seminary students. Course requirements typically are completed through both semesters of the academic year. A grade is issued at the close of the second semester.

PT316 Field Education III (1)

Supervised, first-hand experience in various aspects of the parish ministry. For third-year (senior) seminary students. Course requirements typically are completed through both semesters of the academic year. A grade is issued at the close of the second semester.

PT402 Pastoral Theology: Pastoral Office, Care of Souls (3)

Examination of the pastor's relationship to God and to the members entrusted to his care. Considers basic questions of practice which may arise in the parish ministry.

PT403 Pastoral Theology: Parish Administration, Counseling (3)

Introduction to the principles of administration and their application in the work of the parish. The principles and methods of pastoral counseling.

PT501 Evangelism: Theory and Practice I (3)

How to organize the congregation and yourself holistically toward evangelism with intentional approaches, events, publicity, and follow-up.

PT502 Evangelism: Theory and Practice II (2)

How to present the congregation and yourself to the different audiences of today with an emphasis on conversations, cultures, internet presence, social media, and current trends.

PT503 Pastoral Epistles (2)

Study of the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the pastoral office. Employment of the original Greek for gleaning applications.

PT504 Christian Education (3)

Principles and methods of Christian education as applied to Confirmation and Bible Classes, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Christian Day School, and the like.

PT506 Lutheran Liturgics (2)

Study of the divine liturgy of the church. Examines the historical development of basic liturgical structures and how the liturgy is used in today's worship settings.

PT508 Lutheran Hymnody (2)

Study of the hymnody and psalmody of the church. Examines the history and musical development of Christian hymns and how they are used in today's worship settings.

**PT521 Communication: A Pastor's
Interpersonal Relationships (1)**

Study of the basic principles of interpersonal communication and application of these principles to pastoral relationships.

PT522 Communication: Seminars in Heuristics (1)

A study on outside cues employed by people to make determinations about an individual or an environment.

**PT523 Communication: Contemporary
Communication Theory (1)**

A quantitative look at theories used in communication research today and their potential for implementation in the parish.

PT524 Communication: Parish Leadership (1)

Survey of the various types and styles of leadership.

PT525 Communication: Mass Media in the Church's Mission (1)

Study of the mass media in the church's mission, especially television, radio, and computer, and an evaluation of their effectiveness.

PT526 Communication: Conflict Management (1)

A study of conflict management in a Lutheran congregation.

PT550 Senior Research Project (3)

A graduate-level theological paper, written under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Upon completion of the paper, the student will orally defend his work before a committee of the faculty.



PEOPLE



FACULTY

SEMINARY FACULTY

HARTWIG, TIMOTHY A.

507-344-7855 / Timothy.Hartwig@blc.edu

Education:

- M.Div. Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mankato, Minnesota, 2001
- B.E. University of Queensland, Australia, 1994

Ministry:

- President Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2022–
- Pastor Peace Lutheran Church, North Mankato, Minnesota, 2011–2022
- Pastor Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, 2001–2011
- Vicar Our Saviour and Family of God Lutheran Churches, Lake Havasu City and Fort Mohave, Arizona, 2000–2001



KLEBIG, BRIAN J.

507-344-7334 / Brian.Klebig@blc.edu

Education:

- Ph.D. *Communication*, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 2022
- M.A. *Mass Communication*, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, 2014
- M.Div. Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mankato, Minnesota, 2008
- B.A. Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota, 2004



Ministry:

- Professor Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary, 2018–
Pastor New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida, 2008–2012
- Vicar Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, 2007–2008

PROKSCH, NICHOLAS D.

507-344-7339 / Nicholas.Proksch@blc.edu

Education:

- Ph.D. *History of Exegesis*,
Concordia Seminary,
St. Louis, Missouri, 2025
- M.Div. Bethany Lutheran Theological
Seminary, Mankato,
Minnesota, 2010
- B.A. Valparaiso University,
Valparaiso, Indiana, 2006



Ministry:

- Professor Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2018–
Professor Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato,
Minnesota, 2017–2018
- Pastor River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand
Forks, Minnesota, 2014–2017
- Pastor Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Holland,
Michigan, 2010–2014
- Vicar St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, North Mankato,
Minnesota, 2009–2010

Published Books:

- Contributing Translator. *Luther’s Works: American Edition*,
series expansion. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing
House, 2009–present.
- Contributing translator. *Traveling With Martin Luther* by
Dr. Cornelia Dömer. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing
House, 2009.

SCHMELING, TIMOTHY R.

507-344-7751 / Timothy.Schmeling@blc.edu

Education:

- Ph.D. *Historical Theology*,
Concordia Seminary,
St. Louis, Missouri, 2014
- M.Th. *Sacred Scripture*, St. John's
University, Collegeville,
Minnesota, 2021
- M.Div. Bethany Lutheran Theological
Seminary, Mankato,
Minnesota, 2004
- B.A. Martin Luther College,
New Ulm, Minnesota, 1999
- A.A. Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota,
1997



Other academic work:

Lutherisches Theologisches Seminar, Leipzig, Germany

Ministry:

- Professor Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2017–
Professor Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato,
Minnesota, 2013–2017
- Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastian, Florida,
2008–2013
- Vicar Apostles Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California,
2003–2004

Published Books:

- Contributor. *Five Centuries of Lutheranism*. ed. Aaron
Moldenhauer. Fort Wayne: Luther Academy, 2020.
- Lives and Writings of the Great Fathers of the Lutheran Church*.
ed. Timothy R. Schmeling. St. Louis: Concordia
Publishing House, 2016.

FACULTY EMERITI

HARSTAD, ADOLPH L.

Education:

- M.A. *Hebrew and Semitic Studies*,
University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin, 1972
- M.Div.* Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary,
Mequon, Wisconsin, 1971
- B.A. Northwestern College,
Watertown, Wisconsin,
1967



Other academic work:

- Westminster Seminary, Escondido,
California
- Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel

Ministry:

- Professor Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1991–
2017
- Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church, Escondido,
California, 1986–1991
- Missionary Lusaka, Zambia, Africa, 1980–1986
- Pastor Grace Lutheran Church, Alma, Michigan,
1972–1980
- Vicar Garden Homes Lutheran Church,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1969–1970

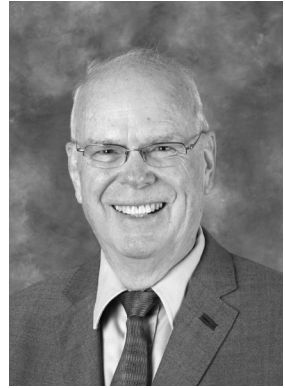
Published Books:

- Deuteronomy*. Concordia Commentary. St. Louis, MO:
Concordia Publishing House, 2022.
- Translator. *Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version*.
Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 2019.
- Contributing editor. *Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis, MO:
Concordia Publishing House, 2009.
- Joshua*. Concordia Commentary. St. Louis, MO: Concordia
Publishing House, 2004.
- Joshua*. The People's Bible. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern
Publishing House, 1991.

KUSTER, THOMAS A.

Education:

- Ph.D. *Speech*, University of
Wisconsin – Madison,
Wisconsin, 1969
- M.Div.* Bethany Lutheran Theological
Seminary, Mankato,
Minnesota, 1966
- M.A. *Speech*, Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana,
1962
- B.A. Northwestern College,
Watertown, Wisconsin,
1961



Ministry:

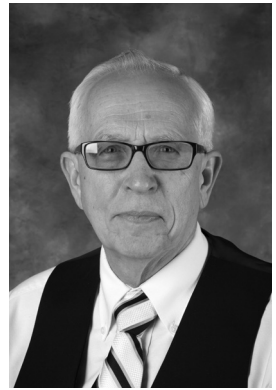
- Professor Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary,
Mankato, Minnesota, 1991–2011
- Professor Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm,
Minnesota, 1971–1991
- Pastor Faith Lutheran Church, Muskegon, Michigan,
1969–1971
- Pastor Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Madison,
Wisconsin, 1966–1969

SCHMELING, GAYLIN R.

507-344-7855 / Gaylin.Schmeling@blc.edu

Education:

- S.T.M. *History of Dogma*,
Nashotah House Seminary,
Nashotah, Wisconsin, 1993
- M.Div. Bethany Lutheran Theological
Seminary, Mankato,
Minnesota, 1978
- B.S. Dr. Martin Luther College,
New Ulm, Minnesota, 1973



Other Academic Work:

- Southwest State University, Marshall, Minnesota
Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota
Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin

Ministry:

- President Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1997-
2022
- Pastor Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Okauchee,
Wisconsin, 1986-1997
- Pastor English Lutheran Church, Cottonwood,
Minnesota and Zion Lutheran Church,
Tracy, Minnesota, 1978-1986
- Vicar Northwood, Iowa, 1977-1978

Published Books:

- Sent by the Shepherd: Seventy-Five Years at Bethany Lutheran
Theological Seminary.* Mankato, MN: Bethany Lutheran
Theological Seminary, 2021.
- From Wilderness to Promised Land.* Mankato, MN: Bethany
Lutheran Theological Seminary Press, 2012.
- Bread of Life From Heaven: The Theology of the Means of Grace,
the Public Ministry, and Church Fellowship.* Mankato, MN:
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary Press, 2009.
- God's Gift to You: A Devotional Book on the Lord's Supper.*
Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 2001.
- Baptism: My Adoption into God's Family.* Milwaukee, WI:
Northwestern Publishing House, 1999.

* The degree awarded was a B.D. or Candidate of Theology degree. Today this degree is called an M.Div.

GRADUATES OF BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1947

Robert D. Preus

1948

LeVine K. Hagen
Iver C. Johnson

1949

Neil N. Hilton
Leigh D. Jordahl
Reuben Stock

1950

Theodore A. Aaberg
John Moldstad, Sr.

1951

Neil Jordahl
Ruben Ude

1952

Hugo J. Handberg
Stanley Holt
Paul G. Madson
Paul G. Petersen
Lyle Rasch

1953

Gerhardt Becker
Elmer Boniek
Otto Drevlow
Julius Larsen
George M. Orvick
Wilhelm W. Petersen
Glenn E. Reichwald
Arthur Schultz

1954

James Hanson
Richard Hawley
Richard A. Newgard

1955

Desmond Jose
Keith Olmanson

1956

Richard Kuehne
Herbert Larson
Robert A. Moldstad
Victor I. Theiste

1957

Norman A. Madson, Jr.

1958

Robert Thorson
Gerhard Weseloh

1959

Gunnar Staalsett

1960

David Lillegard

1961

No graduates

1962

Peter Chang
George H. Gullixson
Theodore F. Kuster

1963

James Olsen

1964

No graduates

1965

No graduates

1966

Wayne L. M. Halvorson
Thomas A. Kuster
Erling T. Teigen

1967

Rodger M. Dale
James Lillo
Steven P. Quist

1968

No graduates

1969

Roger Falk
Paul Jecklin

1970

M. Dale Christopherson
Paul J. Haugen
Ronald L. Mathison
David J. Nelson
John K. Schmidt
Frederick W. Theiste

1971

Warren A. Granke
Tosten D. Skaaland
John E. Smith

1972

Martin Teigen

1973

Mark Marozick
Thomas Mickelson
Christian G. Morales
Paul Schneider
John Shep

1974

Mark O. Harstad

1975

Howard F. Aufderheide
Wayne Dobratz

1976

Erwin J. Ekhoff
Theodore G. Gullixson
Dennis Schlicht
E. C. F. Stubenvoll, Jr.

1977

Charles J. Keeler
 Nile B. Merseth
 Steven P. Petersen
 Kenneth V. Schmidt

1978

Theodore E. Aaberg
 Timothy E. Erickson
 William B. Kessel
 Michael C. Krentz
 Juan Rubio
 Gaylin R. Schmeling
 Otto Trebelhorn

1979

Bruce R. Bestervelt
 Jerrold R. Dalke
 Philip M. Vangen

1980

Joseph P. Burkhardt
 Craig A. Ferkenstad
 Matthew E. Luttman
 Daniel P. Metzger
 John A. Moldstad, Jr.

1981

Daniel N. Faugstad

1982

Roger R. Fehr
 Russell R. Halverson
 Gregory J. Haugen
 Bradley J. Homan
 Richard C. Long
 David C. Thompson
 John R. Wilde

1983

Martin J. Doepel
 John S. Dukleth
 James A. Krikava
 Glenn R. Obenberger
 Thomas E. Petersen
 Allen J. Quist

1984

Darryl L. Bakke
 Thomas H. Fox
 Daniel J. Larson
 Daniel F. McMiller
 Kenneth E. Mellon
 Steven R. Sparley

1985

Timothy J. Bartels
 Mark DeGarmeaux
 Frank Fiedler III
 Donald L. Moldstad
 John J. Petersen
 Thomas L. Rank

1986

Harvey Abrahamson
 Richard Gudgeon
 David J. Hoyord
 Robert A. Lawson
 Jonathan Madson

1987

Mark F. Bartels
 Michael K. Smith

1988

Micah W. Ernst
 Daniel K. Schroeder

1989

Daniel A. Basel
 Gregory R. Bork
 Michael A. Madson
 Richard P. Tragasz

1990

James M. Braun
 Kurt A. Smith
 Mark A. Wold

1991

Richard Fyffe
 Victor Settje

1992

David L. Meyer
 Alexander K. Ring

1993

Kent T. Dethlefsen
 Mark W. Tuffin

1994

Jon S. Bruss
 Roger C. Holtz
 James R. Krueger

1995

Joseph C. Abrahamson
 Gundars Bakulis
 Ernest B. Geistfeld
 Michael J. Langlais
 Gene R. Lilienthal
 Ronald E. Pederson

1996

Erik C. Gernander
 Jerome T. Gernander
 Konstantin H.
 Mamberger
 Anthony B. Pittenger
 Stephen M. Schmidt
 Terry L. Schultz
 Bruce E. Schwark

1997

No graduates

1998

Aaron J. Hamilton
 Jesse M. Jacobsen
 Paul J. Sullivan
 Timothy W. Zenda

1999

Steven R. Brockdorff
 Arlen E. Dethlefsen
 Paul C. Fries
 Cory D. Hahnke
 Phillip K. Lepak
 Bernt P. Tweit

2000

Matthew A. Brooks
 Matthew W. Crick
 Charles J. Howley
 Bradley J. Kerkow
 Shawn D. Stafford

2001

William K. Grimm
 Timothy A. Hartwig
 Karl R. Hermanson
 Lawrence D. Wentzclaff

2002

Michael A. Dale
 Kurt D. Kluge
 Robert A. Lawson, Jr.
 Egons Mudulis
 Gregory H. Schmidt
 Tor Jakob Welde

2003

Andrew M. Palmquist
 Glenn A. Smith

2004

Christopher M. Dale
 Erich J. Hoeft
 John E. Merseth, Sr.
 Timothy R. Schmeling

2005

Daniel J. Finn
 Samuel M. Schmeling
 S. Piet Van Kampen

2006

Andrew R. Burmeister

2007

Dale A. Jaech
 Michael D. Muehlenhardt
 Daniel L. Oberer
 Andrew M. Schmidt

2008

Brian J. Klebig
 H. Boyd Longshore III
 Robert W. Oberg

2009

Christian Eisenbeis
 Peter J. Faugstad
 Kyle J. Madson
 Luke C. Ulrich

2010

Mark A. Faugstad
 Kalyan Gollapalli
 Samuel J. Gullixson
 Daniel J. Hartwig
 Pradeep Lingala
 Jeffery S. Merseth
 Daniel L. Mundahl
 (M.A.)
 Nicholas D. Proksch
 Trent J. Saari
 Joshua Skogen

2011

Sung Gyu Choi (M.A.)
 James R. Kassera
 David H. Locklair
 Matthew J. Moldstad
 Michael J. Moldstad

2012

Nathanael H.
 Abrahamson
 Timothy D. Grundmeier
 Peter T. Heyn
 Luke J. Willitz

2013

Jesse DeDeyne
 Paul Webber
 Benjamin Wiechmann
 Michael Willitz

2014

Paul Lange

2015

Michael Lilienthal

2016

Matthew R. Behmer
 Sung Gyu Choi
 Jeffrey D. Hendrix
 Joshua M. Mayer
 Daniel Ruiz
 Andrew P. Soule
 Elisabeth J. Urtel (M.A.)

2017

Aaron C. Ferkenstad
 Kurtis M. Freimuth

2018

Noah R. Thompson
 Christian J. Walz

2019

Patrick Ernst

2020

Jacob N. Kempfert
 Ethan T. Urtel
 Karim Yaghleji

2021

Adam S. Brasich
 Cui Jinfeng (David Choi)
 Roger H. Emmons, Jr.
 Samuel A. Johnson
 Sean A. Scheele

2022

Colin T. Anderson
 Peter S. Bockoven
 Abraham P. Faugstad
 Nicholas J. Lilienthal

2023

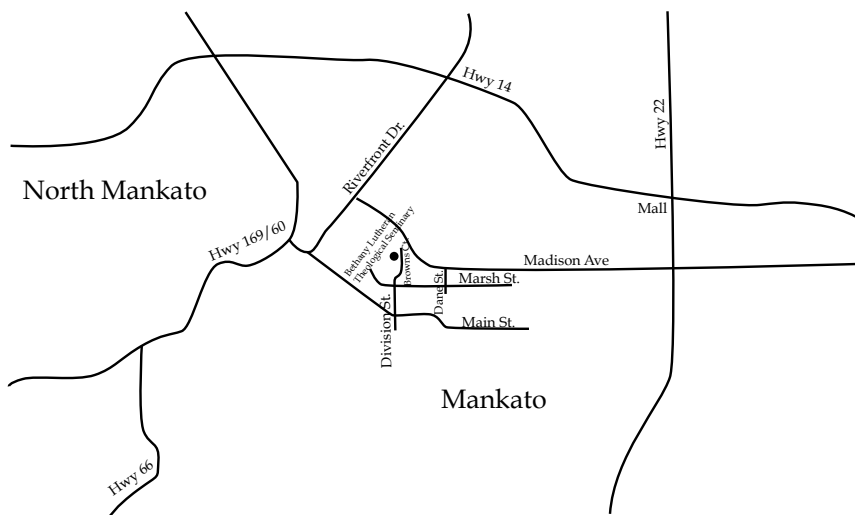
Max J.P. Kerr
 Caleb A. Helmen
 Cody J. Anderson

2024

Joel D. Hansen
 Matthew T. Lehne

2025

Skyler C. Hepler
 Caleb J. Strutz
 Caleb A. VonDeylen



**DIRECTIONS TO BETHANY LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
6 Browns Court
Mankato, Minnesota**

From the north or south on Hwy 169/from the west on Hwy 60: Take the Mankato/North Mankato exit. Go east into Mankato over the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge. Merge to the far right lane. Take the Main Street exit. Turn left on Main Street, go up the hill to Division Street and turn left. Turn right on Browns Court.

From the west on Hwy 14: Take the Hwy 169 South exit. Turn right and go south on 169. Follow the directions above for those coming from the north on Hwy 169.

From the east on Hwy 14/Hwy 60: Take the Hwy 22 South (River Hills Mall) exit. Turn left and go to Madison Avenue. Turn right on Madison Avenue. Turn left on Dane Street. Turn right on Marsh Street, then right on Division Street. Turn right on Browns Court.



**PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO
BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

By completing and submitting this form, it is the intent of the applicant to pursue admission to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary for the _____ academic year. The applicant understands that the faculty of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary has the right to deny the applicant's further progress in the admission process.

Applicant Information (please print)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address (if different):

E-mail address: _____

Desired degree: M.Div. M.A.

Home Congregation: _____

College/University from which a Bachelor's degree will be or has been granted:

Signature

Send this completed form to:
**Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary
ATTN: Admissions
6 Browns Court
Mankato MN 56001**

**(507) 344-7354
www.blts.edu**



**6 Browns Court
Mankato MN 56001
507-344-7354
www.blts.edu**