



# the Word at Work

An occasional newsletter  
Of the Institute of Lutheran Theology

Issue 9 ~June 2009

## Striding Ahead

Pastor Tom Walker,  
ILT Dean of Administration

### Mission:

The mission of the Institute of Lutheran Theology is to educate and prepare ordained and lay Lutheran leaders, followers of Jesus Christ, for evangelical vocations SO THAT: they may walk in the WAY of Jesus Christ, know the TRUTH which is Christ, and witness their resurrected LIFE in Christ for all to see.



Institute of Lutheran Theology

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The Institute of Lutheran Theology has made great strides toward becoming a valuable source of theological education and pastoral training for Lutheran congregations. During the last twelve months the ILT has added full-time staff, developed a design for operation, planned its programs, offered courses, recruited students, and expanded the number of Designated Teaching Centers. Here are some specific accomplishments worth noting:

### Programs

Fall 2009 marks the beginning of two Pastoral Training programs. The "Rapid Pastoral Certification" program give candidates excellent choices and flexibility to fit theological preparation to their needs and to the needs of congregations. Both programs feature top quality faculty, high academic standards, and a deep commitment to preparing pastors who truly serve the congregations that call them.

### Courses

During spring term 2009 the ILT has offered six "Christian Life Series" courses designed to equip our laity with important understanding of such subjects as Luther's three great treatises, the theology of St. Paul, CS Lewis, Christian understanding of the Paranormal, and Christian Ethics. They were well attended by more than 200 participants. Also this spring, six students have been studying New Testament Greek which is a prerequisite to entering the pastoral training programs.

A joint operation agreement with Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta has set up a reliable source of high quality graduate level education for our MDiv students. Working agreements with faculty from South Dakota State University and from Concordia University, Irvine, California will help to round out the need for graduate coursework.

Continued on next page

Institute of Lutheran Theology  
"Moving Theological Education Closer to Home"

# Institute of Lutheran Theology

“Moving Theological Education Closer to Home”

(Continued from first page)

The Institute of Lutheran theology is also negotiating with a group of talented faculty to provide the coursework for the Rapid Pastoral Certification program which starts next fall as well. Six courses in this program will be offered this academic year by the ILT faculty including Dennis Bielfeldt, William Russell, Scott Grorud, Randy Freund, Mark Tranvik, Fred Baltz, and Jim Nestingen.

## **Students for Pastoral Training Programs**

Throughout last fall and continuing this spring, a growing number of inquiries from potential students clearly indicates that a good student body will be registering for courses in our first academic year. ILT staff estimate that they will easily reach the goal of five to ten students for the beginning of its pastoral training programs next fall. This is a large incoming class for an emerging school in its first year of operation. In fact there are some indications that actual number of students may well exceed these goals.

## **Designated Teaching Centers**

Twelve congregations and organizations have officially covenanted with the ILT to be Designated Teaching Centers. Over sixty more congregations have requested Designated Teaching Center startup packets to begin the process of becoming centers. This rapidly growing network is preparing to respond the need for equipping our congregations to carry out the mission facing the church in our time.

You may be wondering why congregations and pastors all over the United States and Canada are becoming so excited about the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Consider the following explanation of the ILT network summarized nicely by Board Member, Kip Tyler: *“The ILT will never have a campus anywhere but will always have a campus everywhere.”* Our purpose is to enable individual congregations to develop theological schools in their own setting that specifically meets their local needs and participates in a broad network

of like minded congregations “to educate and prepare ordained and lay Lutheran leaders, followers of Jesus Christ, for evangelical vocations....” We are finding that pastors committed to faithful theological education and serving vibrant congregations want to consider becoming a “Designated Teaching Center” with the ILT. By using courses delivered through our interactive video technology, they are able to bring an entire spectrum of training from lay courses to MDiv level education right inside their own congregations. In this way the ILT’s commitment to “never have a campus anywhere” becomes an opportunity to have a campus everywhere that congregations take up the challenge to share our work in equipping the saints for ministry.



Institute of Lutheran Theology

## ILT News Briefs

### ILT BOARD MEETING IN MINNEAPOLIS

The Board of Directors of the Institute of Lutheran Theology met Friday May 22 in Minneapolis. This third meeting of the Board was noteworthy for all of the items with which we are dealing. Up for formal action was our Master's of Divinity curriculum, our agreement with Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, our upcoming ILT Investors Meeting, and many other items. Watch for a future update on this meeting.

### LIBRARY NEWS

The Institute of Lutheran Theology is happy to report that all three major Lutheran publishing houses (Augsburg Fortress, Concordia House Publishing, and Northwestern Publishing House) have donated books and resources to our library. Gifts from these houses total close to \$20,000. Through generous gifts from ELCA, LCMC and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors, we are accumulating a high-quality theological library. LCMS Pastor Doug Morton from Marengo, Iowa, is serving as Director of Acquisitions. Despite our early success in acquisitions, we continue to need *your help*. Please send us libraries or portions of libraries. Know that since we are developing a number of Houses of Study, we are going to need duplicate copies of major Lutheran texts.

### WORDALONE BOARD RESPONDS TO ILT NEED

At their own request, members of the WordAlone Board have been solicited for direct financial support to the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Their response has been generous and very helpful in our continuing need for on-going support. This is precisely the kind of leadership that is so helpful for an emerging school like the ILT. The WordAlone Network, which gave life to the ILT in 2006, is a fundamental part of our future. As we face the troubling effects of our present economic down turn and the growing need for our mission to produce faithful clergy for the future of the church, we are hoping that many other WordAlone supporters will follow in the steps of their leadership to financially support us into our first academic year this fall.



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## Connect with the Institute Online

As developers continue building the social web, the Institute is providing more ways to keep you connected. You can now read essays and find other theological resources on the blog (<http://iltpub.com/blog>). You can connect with people and get updates on events and activities through the Institute's Facebook page ([http://www.facebook.com/Institute-of-Lutheran\\_Theology#/pages/Institute-of-Lutheran-Theology/31245774653?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/Institute-of-Lutheran_Theology#/pages/Institute-of-Lutheran-Theology/31245774653?ref=ts)), or follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/InLuTheo>) to get daily Luther quotes and publication announcements. The net and the web are all about connecting people, and we are all about connecting Lutherans in the mission to make known the Word of God!

## From the Desk of the Board Of Regents Chair

In the course of my work here at the Institute of Lutheran Theology, people often tell me how much they love and appreciate the work we are doing for God's Kingdom. I'm always delighted to hear that, because it suggests that we are succeeding in our mission to make our educational efforts (Biblically sound and Confessionally grounded) part of lay and clergy's religious lives and works. Yet I think a lot of the credit should go to you, our supporters in the Kingdom.

Recently I was blessed with being able to contribute to the ILT's Telethon. It was truly inspiring to talk to many of you and hear how God is blessing your lives and ministry. It is humbling to reflect on how, in the midst of your busy lives, you want to give support to ILT. Thank you to all who contributed.

With our management team, a dedicated Board of Regents, and lots of volunteers, we've accomplished much in the past three year of ILT's existence. First, we formed ourselves as an independent non-profit. Then we addressed the creation of our graduate school and the Academy.

Next was the establishment of a vibrant Christian Life Series of programming. In the fall, we are facing the start of our M-Div and Rapid Pastoral Certification programs – we live in exciting times, indeed.

But there is so much more we still need to do and your continued donation will enable us to give this seminary the care it deserves. There is instructional staff to pay. There are technicians working hard in the background to support our Adobe Connect instructional platform as well as our cadre of over-worked and underpaid, devoted staff of administrators.

The costs of protecting and preserving what we have all worked so hard at to be here today needs your continued support.

Thank you all so much for being part of our team and may God bless you and our little Seminary.

A Christian Soldier,  
Doug Dillner, Ph.D.  
Chair, Board of Regents



Institute of Lutheran Theology

### Our Board of Regents

Hon. G. Barry Anderson  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt ~ CEO  
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(Dr. George Forell ~ Advisor)  
(Gov. Al Quie ~ Advisor)



MOUNT CARMEL  
MINISTRIES

**Reminder!**  
**Our annual**  
**ILT Banquet and**  
**Theological Conference**  
**is**  
**June 7 - 10 @**  
**Mount Carmel**  
**Alexandria MN**

**For more information or to register, visit our website at:**

**[www.instituteoflutherantheology.org](http://www.instituteoflutherantheology.org)**

**Or call Mount Carmel at:**

**1.800.793.4311**



## Archived Courses

### **Dennis Bielfeldt, “*Luther: An Opinionated Introduction*”**

Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt teases from Luther some of his best thinking about the nature of church, of the sacraments, of ordination, and of human suffering. This four part series will also include an overview of Luther's life and times.

### **Mark Mattes, “*Philippians*”**

This course examines the Apostle Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi. We will discover the source of his joy as faith in Christ in spite of his imprisonment.

### **James Nestingen, “*Teaching the Catechism*”**

Dr. Nestingen directs this course especially to parents of young children to encourage them to again use this teaching tool to provide youth with the foundation of basic Christian teachings.

### **James Nestingen, “*Lutheran Confessional Writings*”**

This course is an eleven week introduction to the history and theology behind The Book of Concord, the founding documents of the Lutheran tradition.

### **Gregory Peterson, “*Science & Theology*”**

This course introduces students to the problems bequeathed to theology by the rise of the natural and social sciences. It examines, from a Lutheran standpoint, the plausibility of God in our scientific age.

### **Stephen Turnbull, “*Galatians*”**

In this course we will explore the radical good news of the crucified Jesus and the revolutionary letter that Paul wrote to defend it. The book of Galatians has a history of shaking up the church. Could it be that God wants to use it to shake you up?

### **Dennis Bielfeldt, “*Is God Real? How Modern Theology Undermines the Christian Faith*”**

Many Lutheran and other Christian theologians today believe that God exists only as a human concept. Find out how much is at stake in what may sound like an obvious question - “Is God real?”

### **Harold Schlachtenhaufen, “*Politics, Religion, and Ethics*”**

This course is based on current affairs and actual case studies in government, law, churches, society, and personal life and addresses current issues in light of theological and ethical disputes within Lutheranism and Christianity.

### **Gary Gilthvedt, “*The Earliest Apostle - Topics and Texts According to Paul*”**

This course concentrates on key texts and major themes from the writings of the Apostle Paul.

### **James Nestingen, “*Luther: The Three Great Treatises*”**

This course examines these writings in their historical context with an eye to the significance they also have for life in the Church today.

### **Mark Chavez, “*Key Topics from CORE*”**

Representatives from the Lutheran Coalition for Reform present on key topics that are foundational to the mission of CORE. These topics are: 1) The Authority of Word, 2) The Great Commission, 3) The Naming of God, 4) Marriage and Family, and 5) Working for change in the ELCA.

### **Fred Baltz, “*The Pursuit of the Paranormal*”**

This course discusses the pursuit of the paranormal in the West, one of a number of signs our society is becoming neo-pagan.

### **Paul Spaulding, “*The Screwtape Letters of C.S. Lewis*”**

Few books have captured human nature and the nature of evil as well as C. S. Lewis', *Screwtape Letters*.