



New Faculty Join the ILT Community

“Moving Theological Education Closer to Home”

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Institute of Lutheran Theology

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A second year of formal pastoral preparation operations at ILT means more courses and more courses means more faculty. For the coming fall, ILT has hired five more faculty of the Christ School of Theology and two more for the ILT Academy.

Our Christ School of Theology faculty come from diverse backgrounds and a range of experience. Dr. Mark Hillmer, a former professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, brings a wealth of experience and scholarship to apply to his two courses this fall, Lutheran Biblical Interpretation and Wisdom & the Prophets. Dr. Paul Hinlicky will be teaching Creation & the Triune God, having prior experience teaching at Roanoke College in Virginia, where he continues undergraduate instruction. Dr. Hinlicky is a prolific author, including *Paths Not Taken*, and *The Substance of Faith*, co-authored with Mickey Mattox and ILT's president, Dennis Bielfeldt.

Also new at the Christ School of Theology is George Tsakiridis. Dr. Tsakiridis is a recent graduate of Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, and brings to ILT expertise both in early church history and in theology and science. His dissertation, *Evagrius of Pontus and Cognitive Science*, is already in print, and he brings prior teaching

experience from Saint Xavier University in Chicago. Rev. Julie Smith will be teaching the course Working with Youth. Rev. Smith wears many hats at ILT, including Dean of Students, and has already in that role established a good rapport with the student community. Rev. Erma Wolf will be teaching our Homiletics course as well as Proclaiming God's Word in the ILT Academy. She brings a wealth of preaching experience to her role as instructor as well as maintaining the blog, *Satis Est*.

Rounding out our new hires are two faces familiar to the ILT community: Rev. Fred Baltz and Rev. Doug Morton. Both have previously taught lay courses with ILT, and are now teaching in our undergraduate level certificate programs. In addition to scholarly acumen, they both bring deep practical knowledge of ministry to the classroom. Many will also recognize Rev. Morton as a crucial member of ILT's library staff.

Growth brings change, and while change can sometimes be painful, these new faces at ILT can only bring joy and rich returns to students and community. Each new face is a new opportunity to spread the Word, and our new faculty demonstrate not only their commitment to the mission of ILT, but ILT's commitment to the Lutheran community worldwide.



Gearing up for Fall

The summer has flown by and the time for thinking about the fall semester is already upon us. We finished the spring term with 20 students enrolled in our degree and certificate programs. We expect to begin the fall with 30-35 students enrolled. This rate of growth each semester is precisely what we hope to see in these first years of the pastoral preparation programs.

This fall, in addition to our Pastoral Ministry Certificate, Associate in Ministry Certificate, and Master of Divinity, we are pleased to be rolling out our new Master of Theological Studies (MTS) and Master of Theology (MTh) programs.

These two new programs provide more options for students who are interested in theological study but do not anticipate serving as parish pastors (MTS) or who already hold a MDiv and would like to focus their continuing education (MTh). Students at ILT come from a wide variety of backgrounds and geographic locations. We have students who are nearing retirement and sense a call to serve in their home congregation or a nearby congregation in need of a preacher. We have students early in their work life whose call to parish ministry has followed a more traditional path. Our students come from all over the United States and Canada,

with the technological developments of video-conferencing providing educational opportunities to people who once had few choices. There is no one story that defines the lives of all of the students at ILT. Your story could be the next addition to the vibrant and varied community that is ILT. By the time of publication of this newsletter we will be quite close to the fall application deadline, but if you or someone you know is interested in applying to be a student at ILT, please don't hesitate to be in touch with the admissions office (320-362-0347).

Institute staff

Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President
Dr. Doug Dillner, Executive Assistant, Instructional Technology
Dr. Charles Manske, Presidential Consultant
Dr. Gregory Peterson, Academic Dean
Julie Smith, Dean of Students, Director of Admissions/Registration
and Director of Church Relations and Institutional Growth
Dan Bielfeldt, Accounting and Bookkeeping
Dan Tvedt, Director of Development and Institutional Growth
David Patterson, Library Director
Doug Morton, Director of Library Acquisitions
Jon Jensen, Developmental Consultant
Nikki Berreth, Director of Marketing and Institutional Growth
Marsha Schmit, Communications Assistant

“Moving Theological Education Closer to Home”

From the ILT Tech Team

The Institute of Lutheran Theology is committed to bringing you the very best in our educational products. This not only requires quality work on the part of all our theologians who work for ILT but just as important, continuous and vigilant work by the group of technicians working behind the scenes to deliver this material in such a way as to make your experiences enjoyable and fulfilling as God intends His Word to be.

Our delivery service, the Adobe Connect Professional video conferencing platform, is known as the “Cadillac of the industry” when it comes to video conferencing, which is why ILT has employed its use. This service does, however, experience its ups and downs.

Recently, Adobe Connect upgraded their systems from what they describe as “version 7.0” to “version 7.5” and like

all computer upgrades, there have been some glitches.

Video lags and audio break-ups were showing here and there in the system. Just recently Adobe communicated that they have “ironed-out” the audio bugs and now are addressing the video glitch that has been causing a stuttering video image.

We praise the Lord for all of your continued support and are committed to serving you with excellence. Please do continue to provide us with feedback, either by email (ddillner@ilt.org) or our ILT HOTLINE (605-651-0503). Through this very important feedback loop, we become aware of problems as they arise.

May God continue to bless our efforts. Amen.

Word at Work

Fall Courses:

“**The Rise of Christianity**”
by Dr. Mark Granquist

“**Developing a New Start-up Congregation**”
by Rev. Dr. Paul Spaulding

“**Growing a Vibrant Youth & Family Ministry**”
by Martin Rathjen

“**Equipping Parents to be Spiritual Leaders in the Home**”
by Rev. Douglas Schoelles

“**Create in Me a Clean Heart - A Bible Study for Youth (and Parents)**”
by Rev. Julie Smith

Tuition: Individuals \$55 - Group \$250
Designated Teaching Center *Free*

**Contact admin@ilt.org
to register**

**Visit our website for more info:
www.ilt.org**



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**If you would like to subscribe to this occasional newsletter, please contact the ILT office at: 605-692-9337
or send an email to: mschmit@ilt.org**

ILT Board Members

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Fred Schickedanz, Real Estate Developer, Alberta, Canada

Uwe Siemon-Netto, Executive Director of the League of Faithful Masks

Kip Tyler, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Master, Omaha, NE



Institute of Lutheran Theology

Available for Congregational Visits

The Institute of Lutheran Theology exists to serve congregations by providing sound theological education for preachers, teachers, and lay people. In order to best serve your congregation we'd like to get to know you better. The staff and faculty of ILT welcome the opportunity to visit your church on a Sunday morning. We are available to preach, lead worship, lead an adult forum, lead a Sunday school class, or provide a temple talk. If you would like a representative of ILT to visit your church, please contact Julie Smith at jsmith@ilt.org or call 320-362-0347.

**"God's grace, so sure
and certain
that a man could stake
his life on it a
thousand times."**

--Rev. Dr. Martin Luther

Two New Degrees

The Board of Directors of ILT met in June at our Mt. Carmel Theological Conference in Alexandria, Minnesota. Among the meeting highlights was the decision to move forward with offering two new degrees: The Master of Theological Studies and the Master of Theology. The MTS is designed for students wishing to study theology, but who do not intend to pursue the path of ordained clergy. The degree consists of 48 credit hours (instead of the 90 for the M. Div.) and allows concentration in either Biblical Studies, Theology and Church History, or Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion. The Master of Theology (M. Th.) is designed for students holding an M. Div degree or equivalent who wish advanced study in theology either as preparatory for doctoral work or as a means of professional development. This degree (equivalent to what some institutions call "the STM") is in Lutheran theology and consists of 18 hours of higher-level graduate work plus a thesis. Please check our website at www.ilt.org for more details.

The Board also discussed the rapid growth of LCMC and the birth of NALC, and talked about the calling of ILT to serve both of these constituencies. Please contact ILT at admin@ilt.org if you want someone from ILT to come to talk about how ILT might best serve your congregation. We can preach, lead forums, or meet with appropriate committees.

Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President



New Library Director at ILT



The Institute is happy to introduce our new Library Director, David Patterson. David comes to ILT from Crook County, Oregon where he was the Public Library Director.

Prior to that he spent five years as the Library Director at Mountain Home AFB in Idaho where he provided library services to military personnel and their families at the base and to those deployed around the world. Here he also served as the primary academic librarian for four university programs and provided mission related research support. Before going to Idaho, David worked as the Assistant Librarian at LBI (Lutheran Bible Institute) in Seattle, Washington for four years.

David earned his B.A. In Biblical Studies from LBI (now called Trinity Lutheran College). He also received a Certificate of Professional Studies from Trinity and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Washington. He and his wife, Penny, will be married twenty years this October and although they don't have any children, their eight-year-old dog, Toby, is treated as one.

So what brought David to ILT? According to him, "I came to do my part in what I see as a pivotal moment in Confessional Lutheranism, and to continue my theological studies under some of the greatest theological scholars of our day." His excitement for the Institute is very evident. He enjoys being a part of ILT's effort "to make seminary education logistically and financially accessible to those who feel called to pastoral ministry, but have been unable to pursue their call through traditional means."

As the Library Director, David hopes to guide students preparing for ministry by building a quality library collection and by designing library services that will put ILT's resources in the hands of students and faculty when and where they need them.

We look forward to working with David as he uses his God-given skills and talents for ILT.

You can reach David at:

email: dpatterson@ilt.org

phone: (605) 884-9450

chat: <http://www.ilt.org/library.html>

skype (audio & video): [dpatterson.ilt.org](https://www.skype.com/people/dpatterson.ilt.org)