

EMBRACING THE WORD • REACHING THE WORLD

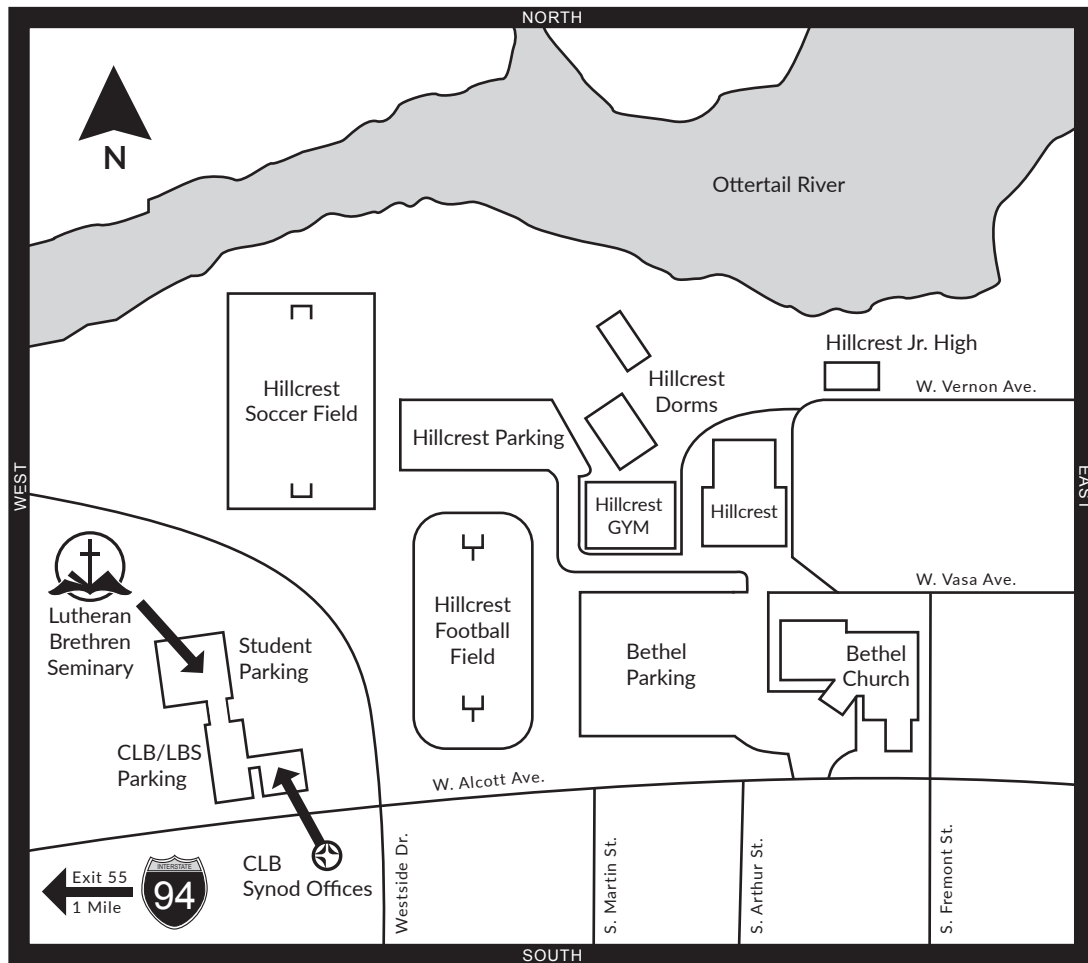


2025-2026
LUTHERAN BRETHREN
SEMINARY

Academic Catalog



Lutheran Brethren Seminary



The Campus of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren

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2025-2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall 2025

July 1	Application deadline for Fall 2025
August 11-15	PT 520 Worship Intensive
August 25	Opening Service
August 25-27	PT400 Intro to Seminary Education
Fall Semester	
September 2	Semester begins
September 12	Last day to add a course
October 3	Last day to drop a course
October 9-10	Fall Conference
October 13-17	Mid-term break
November 15	Application deadline for Spring 2026
November 24-28	Thanksgiving break
December 1	Registration opens for Spring 2026
December 12	Semester ends
December 15	Christmas break begins

Spring 2026

January 12-14	PT400 Intro to Seminary Education
Spring Semester	
January 19	Semester begins
January 30	Last day to add a course
February 20	Last day to drop a course
February 23-27	Mid-term break
April 1-7	Easter break
April 20	Registration opens for Fall 2026
May 1	Semester ends
May 1	Graduation
July 1	Application deadline for Fall 2026

July 2025						
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TENTATIVE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall 2026

July 1	Application deadline for Fall 2026
August 31	Opening Service
August 31-September 2	PT400 Intro to Seminary Education
Fall Semester	
September 8	Semester begins
September 18	Last day to add a course
October 9	Last day to drop a course
October 8-9	Fall Conference
October 12-16	Mid-term break
November 15	Application deadline for Spring 2027
November 23-27	Thanksgiving break
December 1	Registration opens for Spring 2027
December 18	Semester ends
December 21	Christmas break begins

Spring 2027

January 11-13	PT400 Intro to Seminary Education
Spring Semester	
January 18	Semester begins
January 29	Last day to add a course
February 19	Last day to drop a course
February 22-26	Mid-term break
March 24-30	Easter break
April 19	Registration opens for Fall 2027
April 30	Semester ends
April 30	Graduation
July 1	Application deadline for Fall 2027

July 2026						
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September 2026						
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November 2026						
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January 2027						
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February 2027						
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March 2027						
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April 2027						
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May 2027						
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June 2027						
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are given the story of Jesus Christ calling his first disciples. Matthew writes, "While walking by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers... casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him" (Matt. 4:18-20, ESV).

It sounds so simple. At the word of Christ, these men immediately abandoned their profession, their livelihood. Perhaps they were disgruntled and looking for change. Yet we know that was not the case, for these men returned to their nets time and time again throughout the Gospels. Maybe they were young and single, accountable to no one. Again, it cannot be true: the Scriptures tell us that Peter had a wife, and James and John left their father Zebedee in a boat with his hired servants.

Each of Christ's disciples had a story before they met him—dreams, hobbies, and family. Following him was not simple. It was complicated. So why did they do it? The answer can only be, because he called.

Is the Lord calling you into ministry? Is your church affirming your gifts to lead, shepherd, teach, and serve?

At Lutheran Brethren Seminary, we prepare those who answer the call for a life of ministry in God's mission. Through our Master of Divinity and Diploma in Christian Ministry programs, we equip students with the knowledge and skill to serve as pastor and missionary. Our Master of Theological Studies degree offers a solid theological foundation for serving as a parish nurse, youth pastor, or in Christian education. And our one-year Certificate of Theological Studies prepares adult learners for lay ministry.

Lutheran Brethren Seminary is chartered by the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. It is accredited through the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and holds membership in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). Our campus is in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and for those who cannot be on campus, all our programs are available through distance education.

If you are sensing a call to ministry, we want to hear your story... and equip you to share his.

In Christ,

Rev. Troy Tysdal, D.Min.
President



BOARD OF LUTHERAN BRETHREN SEMINARY

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 Rev. Paul Larson, President, Church of the Lutheran Brethren
 Mr. Dan Venberg, Director, Lutheran Brethren International Mission
 Mr. Grant Kavlie
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 Rev. Matt Rieniets, Secretary
 Rev. Harold Rust, President, Church of the Lutheran Brethren Canada
 Dr. Troy Tysdal, President, Lutheran Brethren Seminary

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 Battle Lake, MN
 Seattle, WA
 Red Deer, AB
 Fergus Falls, MN

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Administrative Assistant to the Dean
 Kathleen Doering, kdoering@lbs.edu

ADMINISTRATION



Dr. TROY TYSDAL
CEO/President
 DMin, Liberty University,
 Lynchburg, VA



Dr. BRAD PRIBBENOW
CAO/Dean
 PhD, Concordia Seminary,
 St. Louis, MO



LaWAYNE ROGNESS
CFO/Director of Finance

FULL-TIME FACULTY



DANIEL J. BERGE

2017-present, Professor of New Testament, Registrar, Director of Admissions

Education: BA, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; PhD, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

Ministry: 2000-2001, Youth Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Calgary AB, CA; 2014-2017, Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eugene, OR; 2020-present, Pastor, Living Faith Church, Fergus Falls, MN.

Publication: Jesus, the New Temple: Mark 11:20-25 in Its Narrative Context (dissertation).



JOEL R. CHRISTENSON

2022-present, Professor of Mission and Evangelism

Education: AA, Fergus Falls Community College, Fergus Falls, MN; BA, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; MA, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI; PhD, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI; Additional Studies: Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois.

Ministry: 1984-1985, 1988, Resident Counselor, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota; 1986-1987, Missionary Intern, Church of the Lutheran Brethren, Yangmei, Taiwan; 1989-1994, English Pastor, Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee, WI; 1993-1997, Manager, Friendship International Student House, Milwaukee, WI; 1998-2022, Missionary, Church of the Lutheran Brethren, East Asia; 2008-2018, Executive Director, Friends of China Foundation, East Asia.

Publication: "Surprised by Culture: C. S. Lewis and the Redeeming of Popular Culture," Mission Round Table 16.3 (2021): 4-10. Wild Horses Could Not Drag It Out of Me, one-act play performed at Lotus Hotel Theatre, Chiang Mai, Thailand, on July 4th, 2015. "Koinonia: The DNA of Gospel Partnership," Mission Round Table 10.1 (2015): 12-15. Faith Journeys, Editor, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2013. What Do Ya Give to Someone Who Already has Everything? one-act play performed at Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee, Brown Deer, WI, on June 25th, 1995. Born on the Wrong Side of the Tracks, one-act play performed at Trinity Community Church, Brown Deer, WI, on February 9th, 1991.





CLINT R. KNUTSON

2022-present, Professor of Systematic Theology

Education: BA, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; PhD (dissertation phase), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

Ministry: 2015-2022, Pastor, Christ Alone LB Church and Saron Lutheran Church, Birch Hills and Hagen SK, CA.

PART-TIME FACULTY



NATE M. LARSEN

2021-Present, Professor of Practical Theology

Education: Courses from Lutheran Bible College, Fergus Falls, MN; AA, M-State, Fergus Falls, MN; BA, Moorhead State University, Moorhead MN; MS, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND; PhD, Capella University, Minneapolis, MN.

Employment: Family Therapist, Center For Parents and Children, Moorhead, MN, 1982-1986; Minnesota Licensed Psychologist, 1985-present, Lakeland Mental Health Center, Fergus Falls, MN, 1986-present; Adjunct psychology instructor, M-State Fergus Falls, MN, 1997-present; NDSCS, Wahpeton, ND 2006-2008; University of Mary, Fargo, ND, 2014.

Publication: Family Interactive Rating Scale, A Therapy Tool For Working With Families; Trafford Publishing Couple's Interactive Rating Scale in Couples Therapy; Annuals of Psychotherapy and Integrative Health. The Relationship Decision-Making Box: A Questionnaire for Exploring the Decision-Making Process; The Family Journal, Counseling and Therapy for Couples and Families (co-authored with Malcom Gray PhD and Daniel Eckstein PhD).

Memberships: Past member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and past Fellow of the American Psychotherapy Association.



BRAD A. PRIBBENOW

2011-present, Professor of Old Testament; 2018-present, Dean

Education: BME, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; PhD, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

Ministry: 2007-2008, Teacher, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, Fergus Falls, MN; 2008- 2010, Pastor, Bethel Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN.

Publication: Prayerbook of Christ: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Christological Interpretation of the Psalms, Fortress Academic.



TROY T. TYSDAL

2023-present, Professor of Practical Theology, President

Education: AAS, Alexandria Technical College, Alexandria, MN; BAR, Faith International University, Tacoma, WA; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; DMin, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA.

Ministry: 2008-2012, Associate Pastor, Stavanger Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN; 2010-2014, Church Resource Coordinator, Church of the Lutheran Brethren, Fergus Falls, MN; 2014-2023, Editor in Chief of Faith & Fellowship Magazine, Church of the Lutheran Brethren, Fergus Falls, MN; 2015-2023, Director of Communications and Prayer, Church of the Lutheran Brethren, Fergus Falls, MN; 2017- 2018, President, Messiah Lutheran Church, Underwood, MN; 2018-2022, Pastor, Chippewa Lutheran Church, Brandon, MN.

Publication: Footsteps in the Promise, Faith & Fellowship Publishing.

EMERITUS FACULTY AND STAFF

EUGENE L. BOE

Emeritus Dean and Research Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology; (1983-2024)

Education: BS, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; STM, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN; PhD in Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO; Additional studies: University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway; Goethe Institute, Prien, Germany; Jerusalem University College, Jerusalem, Israel.

JOHN C. KILDE

Emeritus Professor of New Testament (1973-80; 1987-2008).

Education: BA, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ.

GAYLAN K. MATHIESEN

Emeritus Professor of Mission and Evangelism (2005-2022).

Education: BA, Northwestern College, St. Paul, MN; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; Diploma, Japan Missionary Language Institute, Tokyo, Japan; PhD, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

DAVID L. VEUM

Emeritus President and Professor of Practical Theology (2005-2023)

Education: BA, Western Washington State College; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary; DMin, Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN.



STAFF

**MARGARETH ALEXANDERSEN**

2011-present, Director of Institutional Effectiveness

Education: BS, Elementary Education, Trenton State College, Ewing, NJ; MAR, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN; MS, Education, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN; EdD, Pensacola Christian College, Pensacola, FL.

Experience: Teacher, Timothy Christian School, Piscataway, NJ; Teacher, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, Fergus Falls, MN; Pre-School Superintendent and Elementary School Principal, Community Baptist Academy, Somerset, NJ; Basic Skills Teacher, Pleasant Tech Academy Charter School, Pleasantville, NJ; Supervisor of Curriculum & Basic Skills, Pleasant Tech Academy Charter School, Pleasantville, NJ; Supervisor of Curriculum, Technology Coordinator, Tabernacle Township School District, Tabernacle, NJ.

**BRENT ANDREWS**

2014-present, Librarian/Instructional Technology Specialist

Education: BA, Music, Luther College, Decorah, IA; MA, Library Science, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary.

Experience: 1995-1996 Head of Information & Reference Services, Viterbo University - Todd Wehr Memorial Library, La Crosse, WI; 1996-1998 High School Library Media Specialist/Gifted & Talented Coordinator, Valders Area School District, Valders, WI; 1998-2000 High School Library Media Specialist, School District of Jefferson, Jefferson, WI; 2000-2002 Middle School Teacher/Elementary Music Teacher, Faith Community Christian School, Fort Atkinson, WI; 2002-2009 District Media Specialist/Elementary & Middle School Technology Teacher, Hilbert School District, Hilbert, WI; 2009-2014 Appraisal Data Specialist, Forensic Appraisal Group, Neenah, WI.

**ALLAN BJERKAAS**

2013-present, Director of Distance Education

Education: BS, Physics and Math, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND; MS, Physics, University of Illinois-Urbana, Champaign, IL; PhD, Physics University of Illinois-Urbana, Champaign, IL.

Experience: 1973-2005, Technical Staff, John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Baltimore, MD; 2001-2010, Associate Dean for Engineering for Professionals programs, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

**KATHLEEN DOERING**

2019-present, Administrative Assistant to the Dean

Education: BS in English Education with a minor in music, Winona State University, Winona, MN.

Experience: 1991-1994, Teacher, Junior High English, Fillmore Central, Preston, MN; 1994-2018, Teacher and Junior High Administrator, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, Fergus Falls, MN; 2018-2019, Librarian, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, Fergus Falls, MN.



CHRISTINE LAWSON

2025-present, Administrative Assistant to the President

Education: BS, Visual Art Education, Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN.

Experience: 2001-2002, English Missionary Teacher, Akita, Japan, and 2006-2007, Sendai, Japan; 2008-2009, Children's Ministry Director, Bethel Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN; 2013-present, Owner/Operator of Pottery business, Fergus Falls, MN; 2018-2019, Art Teacher, Fergus Falls Public School Area Learning Center, Fergus Falls, MN; 2019-2021, Young Life Administrative Assistant, Fergus Falls, MN.



MICHAEL NATALE

2024-present, Director of Student Life and Associate for Recruitment

Education: BMA in vocal performance and pedagogical studies, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA; MDiv, Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN

Ministry: 2012-2014 Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church Underwood, MN; 2014-2024, Pastor, Faith Chapel: A Church of the Lutheran Brethren Cranston, RI; 2024-Present Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church Underwood, MN.



LAWAYNE ROGNESS

2013-present, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance

Education: North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton, ND; Fergus Falls Community College, Fergus Falls, MN.

Experience: Sales, Management, Commercial and Church Bookkeeping, Financial Management, Owner/Operator of commercial and real estate properties.



GENERAL INFORMATION

History

The roots of Lutheran Brethren Seminary are found in the great spiritual revivals of the 1890s, in the Northwestern Free Church Mission School, and in the founding of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren in 1900. In these spiritual revivals large numbers of young adults came to a knowledge of salvation, and desired to study the Scriptures.

In less than a year after the founding of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren in 1900, the need for a seminary for training Lutheran Brethren pastors and missionaries was felt. In response, the 1903 Synodical Convention authorized the founding of the Lutheran Bible School in Wahpeton, ND. The pastor's course offered theological training for persons entering ministry. The Bible course prepared young adults for more effective work in congregations as laypersons.

In 1916, a four-year high school was added. In 1918, the school was moved to Grand Forks, ND. In 1935, the school relocated to the campus of the former Park Region Luther College in Fergus Falls, MN. In 1948, it was renamed "Lutheran Brethren Schools," giving the high school the name "Hillcrest Lutheran Academy," and retaining the name of "Lutheran Bible School and Seminary" for the Bible and Seminary departments.

The Bible school became the Lutheran Brethren Junior Bible College and, in 1992, the program was redesigned and became the Lutheran Center for Christian Learning (LCCL). The LCCL was discontinued in 2004.

Lutheran Brethren Seminary was fully accredited by TRACS in 2012. In 2013, the school's distance program was approved and accredited. In 2015, the school moved across campus to a newly constructed facility with expanded library space, a student lounge, and integrated distance-learning technology.

Lutheran Brethren Seminary serves those preparing for ministry and leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ and in particular the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. The Seminary offers Master of Divinity (three years); Diploma in Christian Ministry (three years); Master of Theological Studies (two years); and a one-year Certificate of Theological Studies with emphasis in Lay Ministry, in Bible & Theology, or in Mission.

MISSION

Mission Statement

Lutheran Brethren Seminary serves the Church and the world by preparing servants of Christ for a life of ministry in God's mission and for equipping His people to serve in His mission.

Institutional Calling

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Called by the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, the Seminary serves the Church and world by living in and preparing others to live in the gospel of Jesus Christ and His call to participate in His mission of grace to bless all nations.

LBS prepares people to enter the diverse cultural contexts of the world through particular ministries as Christ's servants shaped by His words and wounds, speaking His gospel in word and deed. The Seminary approaches its ministry in dependence on the Triune God who speaks truth through His inspired Scriptures.

Institutional Objectives

Graduates of Lutheran Brethren Seminary will:

1. Embrace a Christ-centered understanding of Scripture.
2. Exhibit skills for leading God's people in serving His local and global mission.
3. Demonstrate gospel-shaped skills that correspond to the doing of ministry.
4. Model Christ-like character in life and in ministry.

Our prayer is that students will be shaped by the words and wounds of Christ to live as servants of Christ in God's church and world.

The Seminary fulfills its mission in partnership with and by the support of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. This Church's mission is "In response to God's person and grace, we worship Him with everything we are in Christ, serve one another in Christian love and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people." This Church lives out its passions in the following core values:¹

- The Bible is central in our congregations and in our households.
- The Gospel is our treasure and our joy.
- We revere God's Law.
- The Word and the Sacraments are God's precious means of grace.
- We cherish the love and fellowship of God's people.
- We long for people to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, to come to know Him in a personal way.
- We seek to be people of prayer.

¹ See <http://clba.org/corevalues> for a commentary on these core values.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Doctrinal Statement of Faith of the Lutheran Brethren Seminary

- A. The Bible, including both Old and New Testaments as originally given, is the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God and is free from error in the whole and in the part, and is therefore the final authoritative guide for faith and conduct.
- B. There is one God eternally existent in three distinct persons in one divine essence, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C. God the Father has revealed Himself as the Creator and preserver of the universe, to Whom the entire creation and all creatures are subject.
- D. God created Adam and Eve in His image to live in fellowship with Him. They fell into sin through the temptation of Satan and thereby lost fellowship with God. Through their disobedience the entire human race became totally depraved, that is, self-centered sinners who oppose God, and who by nature are unable to trust, fear or love Him. They are subject to the devil, and are condemned to death under the eternal wrath of God.
- E. Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son, is the image of the invisible God. To accomplish our redemption, He became fully human, being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus Christ, who is true God and true man, by His perfect obedience and substitutionary death on the cross, has purchased our redemption. He arose from the dead for our justification in the body in which He was crucified. He ascended into heaven, where He is now seated at the right hand of God, the Father, as our interceding High Priest. He will come a second time personally, bodily, and visibly to gather the believers unto Himself and to establish His millennial kingdom. He will judge the living and the dead and make an eternal separation between believers and unbelievers. His kingdom shall have no end.
- F. The Holy Spirit is a divine person eternally one with the Father and with the Son. Through the Word of God, He convicts people of sin, persuades them to confess their sinfulness to God and calls them to faith through the Gospel. He regenerates, sanctifies, and preserves believers in the one true faith. He comforts, guides, equips, directs, and empowers the church to fulfill the great commission.
- G. The knowledge and benefit of Christ's redemption from sin is brought to the human race through the means of grace, namely the Word and the sacraments.
 - 1. Through the Word of the Law, God brings sinners to know their lost condition and to repent. Through the Word of the Gospel, He brings sinners to believe in Jesus Christ, to be justified, to enter the process of sanctification, and to have eternal life. This occurs as the Holy Spirit awakens them to see their sin, convicts them of their guilt of sin, and calls them to repent and believe, inviting and enabling them to accept God's grace in Christ. Each one who thus believes is instantly forgiven and credited with Christ's righteousness. The Word then teaches and guides the believer to lead a godly life.
 - 2. In the Sacrament of Baptism, God offers the benefits of Christ's redemption to all people and graciously bestows the washing of regeneration and newness of life to all who believe. God calls the baptized person to live in daily repentance, that is, in sorrow for sin, in turning from sin, and in personal faith in the forgiveness of sin obtained by Christ. By grace we are daily given the power to overcome sinful desires and live a new life in Christ. Those who do not continue to live in God's grace need to be brought again to repentance and faith through the Law and Gospel. Because the sinfulness of human nature passes on from generation to generation and the promise of God's grace includes little children, we baptize infants, who become members of Christ's believing church through baptism. These children need to come to know that they are sinners with a sinful nature that opposes God. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, they need to confess their sinfulness and yield to God; and possess for themselves forgiveness of their sin through Jesus Christ, as they are led from the faith received in infant baptism into a clear conscious personal faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior and being assured of salvation, rely solely on the finished work of Christ, and the power of the Gospel to live as children of God.

3. In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ gives to the communicants His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. He declares the forgiveness of sin to all believers and strengthens their faith.

H. Eternal salvation is available to every living human being on earth by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. This salvation consists of an instantaneous aspect and an ongoing, continual aspect.

1. Justification is God's gracious act by which He, for Christ's sake, instantaneously acquits repentant and believing sinners and credits them with Christ's righteousness. At that moment, God gives each one who believes a new and godly nature, and the Holy Spirit begins the process of sanctification. There is no place for human effort in justification.

2. Sanctification is God's gracious, continual work of spiritual renewal and growth in the life of every justified person. Through the means of grace, the Holy Spirit works to reproduce the character of Christ within the lives of all believers, instructing and urging them to live out their new nature. The Holy Spirit enables believers more and more to resist the devil, to overcome the world, and to count themselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in and bestows spiritual gifts upon all believers. He calls, empowers and equips them to serve God in the home, in the community, and as part of the Church Universal. The process of sanctification will be complete only when the believer reaches glory.

- I. The Church Universal consists of all those who truly believe on Jesus Christ as Savior. The local congregation is an assembly of believers in a certain locality among whom the Gospel is purely taught, and the sacraments are rightly administered. The confessing membership of the local congregation shall include only those who have been baptized into "the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," confess personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, maintain a good reputation in the community and accept the constitution of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. It cannot, however, be avoided that hypocrites might be mixed in the congregation; that is, those whose unbelief is not evident to the congregation.
- J. The Church of the Lutheran Brethren practices the congregational form of church government and the autonomy of the local congregations. The office of pastor and elder is to be filled by men only. The synodical administration has an advisory function as it relates to the congregation and an administrative function as it relates to the cooperative efforts of the congregations.
- K. The Lutheran confessions are a summary of Bible doctrines. We adhere to the following confessional writings: The Apostles' Creed, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, unaltered Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism.²

² The Doctrinal Statement of Lutheran Brethren Seminary corresponds to the Doctrinal Statement of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. Source: Constitution and Bylaws of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, Article 2. 2025 Yearbook, CLB.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Academic Philosophy

The Seminary is committed to the concept that we are spiritual, mental, emotional, social, and physical beings. Therefore, the educational process must include the development of each of these dimensions. The educational process is not limited to the classroom, but includes the entire range of interactions within the students' environment.

The Bible holds a primary and central place in the curriculum. It is recognized that the Bible is God's special revelation and that it is the source and norm for the institution's Statement of Faith. The Seminary also reserves the right to pursue its search for truth through diligent study of humanity and other elements of God's creation that constitute general revelation.

The pursuit of truth, in the context suggested above, should be approached with vigor and reverence. The basis of our teaching and learning should be that the source of our truth about God and His relationship with humanity is located in the Scriptures.

Academic Freedom

The Seminary encourages both faculty members and students in the search for truth. The right to examine all relevant data will be protected. Academic freedom and neutrality are not considered as identical. It should be recognized that the intent to advance a particular point of view, so long as all the facts are accessible and the argument is distinguished from the inquiry, is not antithetical to academic freedom.

Ethical Values and Standards

Lutheran Brethren Seminary is a community of Christian men and women who seek to live out their lives under the authority of God's Word (2 Tim 3:16; Rom 12:9). We believe and teach that God's people are fitted for Christian service not by academic achievement and spiritual gifting alone, but by spiritual maturity and moral character that demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit as well. Ministry qualifications include biblical values and standards such as a burden for lost souls, personal integrity, compassion for the poor and needy, a desire that God's will be obeyed on earth, sensitivity to the needs of the communities to which we belong, and mutual accountability. Faculty, staff, and students at LBS are expected to exhibit these moral characteristics.

The ethical standards of LBS are shaped by a commitment to the supreme authority of the Bible regarding all matters of Christian faith and living. The Seminary community also desires to honor and respect the moral tradition of the churches who entrust students to us for education. Enrollment in or employment by LBS includes a commitment by each individual to adhere to all of the Seminary's published policies and ethical standards, as found in the faculty, staff, and student handbooks, and to abide by local, state, and federal laws, in so far as they apply to the Seminary. The

Seminary encourages individuals to follow, where feasible, the steps of verbal confrontation and dialogue described in the Scriptures, such as Matt 18:15-22. When any member of a Christian community is living in violation of what the Bible teaches about Christian conduct (Gal 6:1-2), the Seminary urges the practice of loving, verbal confrontation.

The Seminary encourages any of its community who are in special need to seek out education and counsel, and it stands ready to assist with available resources. The LBS community is committed to extending biblical love to all persons, including those involved in strife, marital conflict, or the struggle for sexual purity. The LBS community is committed to demonstrating the personal forgiveness available through Christ for all human failure.

(<https://www.clba.org/documents>)

For infractions of laws, regulations, policies and standards, persons may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the institution. Such disciplinary action may be imposed for violations that occur off campus when the violation may have an adverse effect on the educational mission of the Seminary. While the Seminary reserves the right to require disciplinary action when necessary, the use of Seminary disciplinary procedures should always be viewed as a last resort. In no way do they exempt the Seminary from making every possible effort to guide the honest pursuit of truth, to encourage a biblical approach to sexuality, to support stable family life, and to model community relationships that convey Christ-like love to our neighbors and respect for people and property.

Accreditation

Lutheran Brethren Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e-mail: info@tracs.org], having been awarded Reaffirmation I of its Accredited Status as a Category III institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 25, 2017. This status is effective for a period of ten years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

I-20 Authorization

Lutheran Brethren Seminary is authorized under Federal law to issue I-20 forms through the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and to enroll nonimmigrant international students.

Veterans Administration

Lutheran Brethren Seminary is not authorized to offer military benefits, including the GI Bill.³

³ GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

FERPA

The Seminary supports the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a federal law that pertains to the release of and access to educational records. This statement of policy incorporates the rights accorded and the privacy guaranteed the student by this act.

FERPA grants students certain rights in regards to their educational records. They are as follows:

- The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the Seminary receives a request for access. Students shall submit written requests to the Registrar that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the Seminary to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Seminary official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record that they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. A school official is a person employed by LBS in an administrative, supervisory, academic or support staff position; a person or company with whom LBS has contracted; a person serving on the Board of LBS; a student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his/her professional responsibilities. If the Seminary decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the Registrar will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his/her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests.
- The right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Seminary to comply with the requirements of FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

ADMISSIONS

Prerequisites

Admission to a Seminary program of study is given to men and women of approved Christian character who possess such aptitudes as would seem to qualify them for ministry in the Church. While the degree, diploma and certificate programs are all taught at the graduate level, the Certificate of Theological Studies program is specifically designed for personal enrichment and growth in lay ministry.

The basic academic requirement for admission to one of the master's programs is a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. For the Diploma in Christian Ministry (DCM) and the Certificate (CTS) programs, the student must meet the required prerequisites or their equivalents. See DCM and CTS program descriptions.

Computer Literacy

All LBS programs require the use of a computer to complete course requirements. It is expected that all students have access to a computer, the internet, and an email account. The following fundamental skills are assumed for all students:

1. Computer Basics - An understanding of the information processing cycle, hardware, common components, and an understanding of software, including operating systems and commonly used application software for word processing
2. Internet Basics - An understanding of the appropriate use of current network technology and online resources
3. Microsoft Word Basics - Microsoft Word is standard for word processing and is required for the production of reports and papers. For a free set of video tutorials on these and other computer basics, see: <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computerbasics>

Application Process

Seminary applicants will have prayerfully considered God's leading in their life, seeking His direction through a study of the Bible, through counsel with respected leaders in the church and affirmation received from family and friends. They have explored LBS by looking at the catalog, the website, and perhaps visited the campus, and are ready to apply. Timeliness of the application is important and is dependent upon prompt responses from the references and schools from which transcripts were requested. New applicants will want to plan far enough in advance so that all of the necessary documents required for processing the application will be in by the deadline for applications. The application process is as follows:

- Applicants begin the application process by accessing the application on the LBS website, www.lbs.edu and clicking on the "Request Application" button.
- Applicants are emailed a link to the online application. Upon submission of the application, forms are emailed to the references.



- It is the applicant's responsibility to request official transcripts be sent directly to LBS from all colleges, universities and other learning institutions attended previously.
- Once the student's file is complete, the Admissions Committee reviews the application. A decision is communicated to the applicant normally within two weeks.
- Background checks will be processed during PT400 (Introduction to Seminary Education).

The whole process from start to finish usually takes about one month.

Deadlines for Applications:

Fall	July 1
Spring	November 15

Advising

Students are assigned to individual faculty members for academic advisement. Students will continue with that faculty advisor through their graduation. Faculty advisors assume the following academic objectives for each student in their advising:

- Assist in orienting students to seminary life and LBS community
- Assist students in developing educational goals
- Assist students in determining the way to reach educational goals through program planning
- Provide accurate information regarding academic programs, procedures and policies
- Provide students with or direct the student to career information
- Be an example to students of a godly professional educator

Selecting a Program

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity Degree (MDiv) is a graduate degree in theology which prepares one to serve within the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, in other church bodies, and in mission organizations. For further information, see the section on Academic Programs.

Diploma in Christian Ministry

The Diploma in Christian Ministry (DCM) is designed to prepare mature students who sense a call later in life to serve within the Church of the Lutheran Brethren or in other church bodies or mission organizations but do not have the bachelor's degree which is prerequisite for the Master of Divinity Degree. For further information, see the section on Academic Programs.

Master of Theological Studies

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is designed for personal enrichment for lay ministry and for various church staff positions. This degree may also serve those who desire to continue their studies toward a doctoral degree. For further information, see the section on Academic Programs.

Certificate in Theological Studies

The Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS) is designed for men and women sensing a call to pursue theological education in order to serve more effectively as laypersons. The CTS is a non-degree program that offers the student an opportunity to experience the equivalent of one year in seminary in order to develop a deeper understanding of his/her faith and to be equipped to serve God's leading in his/her life for future ministry.

Non-Degree Applicant

A person who does not have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent may apply to the MDiv program as a Non-Degree applicant. The number of students in this category is limited to 10 percent of the total MDiv student body. The Non-Degree applicant must be at least 35 years of age; provide a written explanation indicating that completing a bachelor's degree or its equivalent is unrealistic; and have completed at least 60 hours of credits (90 quarter hours) at an accredited college or university, with the following minimum number of semester credits in the specific areas.

Communications	6 credits
<i>English Composition required</i>	
Humanities	6 credits
<i>Western Civilization required</i>	
Social Sciences	6 credits
Natural Science/Math	3 credits
Electives	39 credits

Total General Education Prerequisites 60 credits

Must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)

Non-Degree applicants are not officially admitted into the MDiv program until after they have demonstrated the ability to do graduate level work by completing 30 semester credits with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale).

Distance Education

Distance education at LBS provides an opportunity for individuals who are unable to attend classes on campus to receive the same educational offerings and ministry preparation as those who attend classes on campus. Through the use of robust and user-friendly video and instructional management software, LBS offers students the opportunity for regular and substantive interaction with both faculty and fellow students. Distance education students can participate in classes synchronously (i.e., live as the class takes place on campus) or asynchronously (i.e., by watching recorded class sessions) as the student's schedule allows. Distance students at LBS enroll in courses in the same sequence as on campus students and will have the same professors as on campus students attending the same courses.

To meet the demands of distance education, LBS utilizes a distributed learning format which allows instruction and learning to occur independent of time and place. This means that the professor, students, and content can all be located in different, noncentralized locations.

Although the student may pursue any educational programs (e.g., CTS, DCM, MTS, or MDiv) through distance education, it is recommended that the distance education student consider opportunities to come on campus periodically (e.g., once or twice a year). Distance education students will need to purchase certain books for their LBS education journey. Additionally, it will be essential that the distance education student gain access to a high-quality theological library. This could be a combination of the Seminary's own electronic library resources, one's personal resources, a church's library, and/or a local public, private, university, or seminary library. Prior to the start of the first semester of study, distance education students are required to join all new students on campus to participate in the two-and-a-half day intensive course called PT400 Introduction to Seminary Education.

Transfer of Credit

A student desiring to transfer credits from another institution and be admitted to a certificate, diploma or degree program at LBS must be a student in good standing at that institution and must submit official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate course work. (See Academic Probation and Good Standing.) Undergraduate work is normally not transferrable. Credits for course work taken at other accredited graduate-level institutions with a grade of C or above are normally granted complete or near-complete transfer credit upon approval by the Registrar when such work parallels courses listed in the Seminary catalog. Although the credits will apply toward graduation, grades and grade point averages earned at another institution do not transfer. Quarter-hour credits will normally be converted to semester hour credit. At least 25% of credits required for the MDiv, DCM, MTS, or CTS must be taken at LBS.

Certificate and Degree Transfer

Students having graduated from Lutheran Brethren Seminary with a Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS) may transfer credits as applicable into the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) or Master of Divinity (MDiv) programs. Students having graduated with an MTS may transfer credit hours as applicable into the MDiv program.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Lutheran Brethren Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, or handicaps in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and financial aid programs, and other Seminary-administered programs. LBS is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.

In accordance with the CLB Statement of Faith, Lutheran Brethren Seminary adheres to the doctrinal belief that the "office of pastor and elder is to be filled by men only" (CLB Statement of Faith, article J). The Master of Divinity (MDiv) Degree is a graduate degree in theology which prepares men to serve in an ordained role. The Diploma in Christian Ministry (DCM) is designed for men seeking ordained ministry who have not earned a bachelor's degree. The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is a graduate degree which prepares both men and women for advanced studies and a life of ministry in God's mission. The Certificate in Theological Studies (CTS) is a non-degree program designed for men and women who desire to serve more effectively as laypersons.

Enrollment

No student can enroll in an LBS course until they have completed the admissions process and have been admitted into a program of study. A new student must be accepted prior to the beginning of the required PT400 orientation course noted in the Student Orientation section.

Student Orientation

SO101 Student Orientation takes place in individually scheduled sessions prior to the on campus course PT400 Introduction to Seminary Education. All incoming students who intend to take courses for credit are required to take PT400, which is a two and a half day intensive course offered prior to the beginning of their seminary studies.

Review of 1st Year Student Progress/Provisional Status

A student's acceptance to LBS is considered provisional for the first year. At the end of the first year of study (or, for part-time students, upon the completion of equivalent credits), the faculty will review his/her academic progress and potential for ministry. At this time, the faculty will recommend whether the student should continue in the program.



ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Load

The degree programs as outlined in this catalog (see *Academic Programs*) are designed to be completed within a specific time-frame. In order to complete the program as outlined, a credit load of 14-18 credits per semester would be recommended. However, some students find it wise to reduce their academic loads to accommodate their family life, employment, or pace of learning. For example, a student who takes four years to work through the three-year MDiv/DCM curriculum would be met with the faculty's understanding and support.

It is policy that a student in any degree program is not allowed to take more than 18 credits per semester unless given special permission by the Dean.

It is recommended that a student taking 14 or more credits per semester be employed for no more than 20 hours per week.

Class Schedule

Normally, classes begin each day at 8:30 a.m. with 60-minute class periods. Classes are usually completed each day by 3:00 p.m. Students are expected to be available for classes Monday through Friday.

Credit Hour

It is generally agreed that one credit equals approximately 39 hours of work. Usually, this involves 13 hours of face-to-face class time and 26 hours outside of class work.

Adding or Dropping a Course

It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor and the registrar that a course is being dropped. For all course changes, the student must complete a Drop/Add form, which is available in the Registrar's office and on Populi. This form requires a signature by both the student and the student's advisor.

A student may not add a course or transfer from one course to another after the close of the second week of the semester.

If a student wishes to drop out of a course after the last day to drop a course, they may request a withdrawal from the class and a grade of W will be placed on their transcript for that course. Such a withdrawal must be requested before the last day of class.

Incomplete Course Work

Unless an extension is granted, a course not completed by the last day of the semester will be finalized at the discretion of the instructor, which could result in a failing grade for the course.

Course Extension Request

If a student has experienced special circumstances that prevent the completion of a course by the designated time set by the instructor, he/she may request an extension. This policy also applies to courses taken by intensive and directed study.

- 1 The student must file a "Course Extension Form" (available in the Registrar's office) for each class in which an extension is desired to be completed at the designated time set by the instructor.
- 2 Upon completion of the extension form, the student must secure the written approval of the course instructor. The instructor will determine the validity of the request and may choose to refuse an extension. Upon the signed approval, the form will be placed in the student's file by the instructor.
- 3 The maximum course extension deadline is six weeks from the last day of the semester.
- 4 During the extension period the course will be listed as "I" (Incomplete).
- 5 If the extension date is not met, the course will be graded on the basis of work submitted before the completion deadline.
- 6 If the incomplete course is required for the student's degree and receives the final grade "F", the course must be retaken with full payment of tuition.
- 7 No student will be allowed to graduate with an incomplete or failed required course.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students will complete their studies in a responsible and honest manner. Cheating, submitting the same work for more than one course, and not giving proper acknowledgment for the ideas and data of others is irresponsible and dishonest and therefore subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance contributes significantly to academic success. Students who attend classes regularly tend to earn higher grades and have higher passing rates in courses. At LBS, students are expected to attend classes live, either on campus or through technology (which we call "synchronous" attendance). Common courtesy dictates that if this is not possible the students are to inform the instructor in advance. When students are unable to attend class live, students are required to watch class recordings (which we call "asynchronous" attendance) and fulfill the requirements of the instructor to gain credit for class attendance. If you are absent from class for any reason you are responsible for all missed work.

Handicap Accessibility

The LBS building is handicap accessible from the parking lot where there are marked handicap parking places. There is also an accessible route from the parking lot into and through the building. This is the same route that would be used in an emergency situation. All emergency plans specifically state that faculty and students are to be available to give assistance to those who might need it. If one believes that special assistance or accommodations are needed in order to participate in the benefit of a service, program, or activity or more information is desired, you may contact the Dean's Office.

Any complaints addressing the physical accessibility of the LBS building may be made in writing or in person to the Office of the Lutheran Brethren Seminary President.

Student Complaint/Grievance Policy

As disciples of Jesus Christ, Lutheran Brethren Seminary community cherishes the practice of Christian love as of prime importance. We seek to follow the exhortation of the Apostle Paul: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph 4:3). Disagreements and differences sometimes strengthen the church, but sometimes they divide. Members of the LBS community will endeavor to settle differences with others in a Christian manner in accord with the Word of God (Gal 6:1; Matt 18:15-17) and with school policy, and to avoid resorting to a court of law (1 Cor 6:5-7). The objective of this grievance policy is to resolve disputes/concerns as quickly and effectively as possible. The office of the Dean is responsible for maintaining all information and records on student complaints. (For more details see the Student Handbook.)

Filing a Complaint to the Seminary Accrediting Agency

Any student has the right to notify the Seminary's accrediting agency regarding the status of any grievance using the following contact information: Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), 15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551. Call 804-525-9539.

Courses Taken as Audits

Any student who wishes to take a course without credit or grade may do so by registering for the course as an audit. A seminarian accepted into a program of study may audit any class free of charge. Students not in a program or former students will audit courses at the standard fee of \$100 per credit and \$150 per credit for language courses. No financial aid or scholarships are available to Open Studies and auditing students. Auditors are expected to attend class or watch class recordings with the same regularity as those registered for credit. Class attendance of at least 75% is required for the course to be recorded as an official audit on the student's transcript. If attendance expectations have not been met, the course will not appear on the student's record. Under no circumstances are auditors given academic credit.

Reading and writing assignments are not required and examinations are not given to auditors. Exceptions with regard to prerequisite requirements may be made with the permission of the instructor and in consultation with the Registrar when appropriate. Auditors may participate in class discussion only upon prior consent of the instructor. Spouses of Seminary students who have been accepted into a program are encouraged to audit courses and may audit any course free of charge without applying for admission. LBS faculty and staff and their spouses also may audit free of charge without applying for admission.

Regularly enrolled students who wish to change their status in a course from credit to audit must inform the instructor and the Office of the Registrar by the fifth week of a semester.

Courses Taken by Directed Study

Directed study courses are 1-credit courses that are specially designed by a student and an LBS faculty member to meet the research or ministry interests of the student. They typically require 35-40 hours of work, culminating in a project or paper by the student. An exact focus is left to the student to determine, with the help of the faculty member.

Because of added expense created by production, administration, and faculty involvement, directed study courses have an additional \$50 per credit hour charge added to the normal tuition fee. Apart from special approval by the Dean and President of LBS, adjunct faculty will not be used to teach directed study courses.

Directed study courses must be completed within the semester or summer in which they are started. The same policies for incomplete work and extensions apply to courses taken by directed study. For a list of possible Directed Studies topics, see Course Descriptions at the end of the catalog.

Supervised Ministry Education

The LBS Supervised Ministry Education (SME) prepares LBS students for a life of ministry in God's mission via a supervised experience-based approach to their education. Each student seeking the MDiv degree or DCM will complete 150 hours of ministry practice, curriculum, and supervision in practical theology courses PT912 - PT915, and PT965.

Using an adult-learner model, students' ministry experiences will be assessed with a developmental focus on their spiritual maturity, emotional maturity, leadership, communication, and conflict management. Institutional Objectives (2), (3), and (4) and MDiv/DCM Program Outcomes (D) and (F) will be addressed through the following in the program:

Educational Modules: Educational modules will be didactic in nature with value placed on giving and receiving feedback for personal and professional awareness, care, and development.



Processing Groups: Students will participate in various supervised group settings in which they will demonstrate personal, group, and ministry related leadership and management skills.

Personal Development Plan: The personal development plan identifies a student's specific learning goals as well as strategies for accomplishing them with a focus on pastoral formation, pastoral competence, and pastoral reflection.

Psychological Education: Students and student spouses will complete two series of psychological inventories, have corresponding sessions with a psychologist, and participate in two half-day educational workshops pertaining to the inventory series.

Ministry Site Experience: Students will identify a ministry to serve for a minimum of 100 hours over the course of the program and will reflect on their experience with the director of SME, faculty, and their ministry site mentor.

Ministry Site Mentor: Students will identify a mentor familiar with their ministry setting that meets the SME guidelines and initiate regular meetings throughout the program with this mentor to address their learning and development.

Time Limits

Requirements for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree/ Diploma of Christian Ministry (DCM), normally completed in three years, must be met within eight years of initially enrolling. Requirements for the Master of Theological Studies (MTS), normally completed in two years, must be completed within five years. Requirements for the Certificate in Theological Studies (CTS), normally completed in one year, must be met within three years. Students are encouraged to take into consideration commitments of family, ministry and work when planning their course schedules. A petition for extension of these time limits must be made to the Dean of the Seminary and is subject to approval by the entire faculty.

Leave of Absence

A student may request a leave of absence of up to one academic year (two consecutive semesters). A student intending to take a leave of absence from LBS must consult with his or her academic advisor and the Dean of the Seminary, and must complete the Leave of Absence/ Withdrawal Form and submit it to the office of the Registrar. Ceasing to submit assignments and/or failure to attend classes does not constitute a leave of absence, nor does it relieve students of their financial obligations to the Seminary. A completed Leave of Absence/Withdrawal Form must be submitted to the office of the Registrar before any refunds can be given (see refund section). If granted a leave of absence, the student may be readmitted and resume studies at any time during the leave period without reapplication.

Withdrawal/Dismissal

A leave of absence for more than two semesters is categorized as a withdrawal. The procedure for requesting a withdrawal is the same as that for requesting a leave of absence with the additional requirement that a student must apply for readmission to the Seminary before resuming studies. Dismissals are handled according to the guidelines under the Ethical Values and Standards or Academic Probation.

Admitted but Does Not Register

If a student has been accepted for enrollment in an LBS program, but does not register for courses within one academic year (two or more consecutive semesters), that student must apply for readmission before pursuing his or her studies at LBS.

Guidelines for Readmission

If a student withdraws or is dismissed from LBS and subsequently desires to reenroll, the student must submit a letter requesting readmission and reapply. The letter must indicate what the student has done since leaving seminary, what their current goals are, and how finishing a seminary program contributes to accomplishing those goals. If readmitted to a program, the student is subject to the graduation requirements and fees set forth in the catalog at the time of readmission and registration.

1. Filing an application for readmission and/or any other reapplication materials does not guarantee readmission to LBS.
2. The student must demonstrate that he or she still meets the admission standards for the given program of study.
3. Applications for readmission must include transcripts of any courses completed at another institution since the student was last admitted to LBS.

The Admissions Committee requires the following of a student applying for readmission:

1. Absent for more than two but less than five semesters: Submit the Application for Admission and one pastoral reference.
2. Absent for five or more semesters: Submit all application materials required of any new applicant according to the current catalog. While any application for readmission will be processed in a manner consistent with the above guidelines, the Seminary authorizes the Admissions Committee to make the final determination as to what will be required in all cases. The Admissions Committee will review all previous records of and may request a personal interview with the applicant before deciding to readmit the student or to deny his or her application. The decision of the Admissions Committee is final.

Declaration for Graduation

Students must declare in December, at the time of registration, their intent to graduate. Approval must be received by the Dean after the students' records are reviewed by the office of the Registrar. The Seminary faculty conducts interviews with graduating students. All work for graduating students must be completed prior to graduation.

Ministry Placement

Ministry placement of Seminary graduates happens in accordance with the customary calling process that is initiated by the congregation, denomination, or other ministry extending a call to the candidate of their choosing. Those considering ministry placement within the CLB should inquire with the CLB Office of the President. Those interested in international ministry with the CLB should inquire with Lutheran Brethren International Missions (LBIM). We also encourage students to access the following resources available for free download on the CLB website: The Pastoral Calling Process and Ministers of the Gospel Handbook. (<https://www.clba.org/documents>)

Academic Probation and Good Standing

LBS recognizes a student as being in good standing when the student is not on academic probation, has no incomplete work and is current with his or her financial accounts. At any time after the first year a student may be placed on academic probation if his/her grade point average falls below 2.00 or if there is incomplete work. Failure to correct the situation can result in dismissal. The student will have two semesters to bring his/her GPA up to 2.00. A student who has been asked to withdraw for academic or other reasons may reapply at some future time.

Transcripts

Requests for transcripts should be made to the Seminary Registrar. Official transcripts are issued only upon written authorization by the student. Official transcripts will be sent only to the institution or agency requiring them. Unofficial transcripts will be issued to the students for personal evaluation of academic progress. Three transcripts are issued without charge. The charge for each subsequent transcript is \$5 pre-paid. If the transcript is to be issued by a given date, the Registrar's office must be informed in writing at least one week beforehand.

No transfer of credits or issuance of diplomas or degrees will be given unless all school bills are paid in full or satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Business/Finance Office. A transcript will not be sent out with an incomplete course listed on it or with an outstanding balance on that person's LBS account.

Grading and Transcript Notations

The following criteria should be taken into consideration in understanding an assigned letter grade for course work:

- "A" Outstanding and excellent
- "B" Good and commendable
- "C" Acceptable
- "D" Minimal performance
- "F" Unacceptable

Grading Scale

A	4.00(93-100%)
A-	3.67(90-92%)
B+	3.33(87-89%)
B	3.00(83-86%)
B-	2.67(80-82%)
C+	2.33(77-79%)
C	2.00(73-76%)
C-	1.67(70-72%)
D+	1.33(67-69%)
D	1.00(63-66%)
D-	0.67(60-62%)
F	0.00(0-59%)

Other Notations

W	Withdrawal
INC	Incomplete
AUD	Audit
R	Course was repeated at a later time
P/F.....	Pass/Fail
IP	In Process

To graduate from any seminary program, a student must have a grade point average of not less than 2.0. To graduate with honors, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.50.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition and Fees

1. The cost for the 2025-2026 academic year is \$375 per credit.
2. The standard fee for auditing a course on campus is \$100 per credit and \$150 per credit for language courses. This fee is not refundable. Spouses of Seminary students accepted into a program of study and retired CLB pastors may audit courses free of charge.
3. Students accepted into a program of study may audit courses and attend A.A. Pedersen Lectureship and Fall Conference free of charge.
4. Directed study courses carry an additional \$50 per credit fee for production, administration, and faculty involvement.
5. A course retaken to change a previous grade will be charged regular tuition and fees.
6. Other fees include:
 - Registration fee of \$10/credit with a maximum of \$120/semester.
 - Student activity fee of \$20/semester.
 - Technology fee of \$30/semester.
 - Graduation fee of \$100/final semester.
 - Testing fee of \$250 per course when registering for PT512 and PT515.
7. A course retaken to change a previous grade will be charged full tuition per credit and fees. No financial aid is available for courses retaken.

Refunds

In the case of students who drop a course or withdraw from the Seminary before the end of a semester, refunds on tuition will be made at the following rates: (Fees are nonrefundable.)

1. Within the first week, full tuition refund with proper approval of the Administration
2. Second and third weeks, 75%
3. Fourth and fifth weeks, 50%
4. No refunds after the fifth week

Financial Aid

The churches of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren support the Seminary by providing two-thirds of the school's operating costs. In this way the amount of financial responsibility to the student is significantly reduced. The remaining one-third of the Seminary cost is covered through student tuition for which the student is responsible. Financial aid is available to assist some students with these tuition costs. No financial aid or scholarships are available to Open Studies and auditing students. LBS does not participate in federal student aid programs.

Health Insurance and Housing

Students are responsible for their own health insurance and housing.

Student Accounts

10% of tuition and fees is due by the first day of each semester. The remaining balance is to be paid before the student can register for the following semester. For those unable to pay their bill in accordance with this policy, a payment plan may be arranged with the Seminary President and Chief Financial Officer. A maximum balance of \$2,500 will be allowed to be carried over from one semester to the next. Fall semester balances begin accumulating monthly interest at a rate of 6% on January 1. Spring semester balances begin accumulating monthly interest at a rate of 6% on July 1. The balance of any single semester must be resolved within twelve months.

A student's account must be paid in full (or the student must be current on an approved payment plan) to receive a diploma, certificate, etc. or to obtain the release of official transcripts.

Veterans

Lutheran Brethren Seminary is not authorized to offer military benefits, including GIBill®. (GIBill® is the registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.)

STUDENT LIFE

Community

Seminary is a great deal more than simply going to classes and doing one's assignments conscientiously. It is more than just learning theology as an academic discipline. It is growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Pet 3:18).

Every class should be seen as an opportunity to learn to know God better. To mature in one's appreciation of the greatness of God and of His grace in Jesus Christ is an outcome of one's seminary studies to be prized and pursued.

Seminary is also an ideal place to learn to know oneself better. The study of Holy Scripture and its formulation into Lutheran theology leads a person into the reality of one's sinfulness and need of God's daily forgiveness and renewing grace. Pastors, of all people, need to know themselves as repentant and forgiven sinners. We minister most effectively out of this brokenness.

Each believer in Jesus Christ has been given by the Holy Spirit one or more spiritual gifts (Rom 12:3-7; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4:11-13). It is to be hoped that through practical ministry opportunities, the affirmation of one's peers, and the study of the Scriptures, each student might come to a clear understanding of his/her gifts and place in the ministry of the body of Christ.

Jesus said to His followers on the night before He was crucified, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). Lutheran Brethren Seminary

is a community of professors, students, and school families. God calls us to love and care for one another, to speak well of one another, and to encourage one another. Many of the friendship bonds formed in Seminary continue throughout one's life in the church.

Spiritual community includes caring for our brothers and sisters. Therefore we will keep watch not only of our doctrine, but also our lives so that we put no obstacle in the way of other believers. As St. Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, "... set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Tim 4:12).

A.A. Pedersen Lectureship in Preaching and Fall Conference

Beginning in October, 1991, the Lutheran Brethren Seminary has sponsored an annual fall lectureship in preaching named in honor of a former LBS president and faculty member who was esteemed for his gifts as a Bible teacher and preacher. Each year this lectureship brings to our campus one of America's ablest preachers. Participation by LBS students is expected and is also open to current and retired pastors and missionaries.

In conjunction with the Pedersen Lectureship, LBS also hosts a Fall Conference event which features presenters on a topic of relevant interest to the church. Participation in the Pedersen Lectureship and Fall Conference by LBS students is expected and is also open to lay leaders, current and retired pastors, and missionaries.

Past Pedersen Lectureship Presenters include:

Dr. Walter Kaiser
Dr. Paul Maier
Dr. Carl Fickenscher
Dr. Reed Lessing
Dr. John Nunes
Dr. Bryan Chapell
Dr. Tom Schreiner
Dr. Adam Koontz

Past Fall Conference Topics include:

Ministry and Mental Health
Gender Identity and Christian Faith
Engaging the People of Your World
Transformational Church
The Reformation and its Application for Today
Pastoral Health

Chapel

Students and faculty assemble for chapel on Tuesdays and Thursdays to glorify God through singing, prayer, and the proclamation of God's Word. The intent of these spiritual gatherings is to bring the Seminary community away from the demands and pressures of everyday life for worship and to receive spiritual care and nurture as a community in Christ. Weekly chapel is a vital part of our spiritual formation as individuals and as a Christian community, and an essential complement to our academic pursuits. Attendance is expected.

Church Life

Students are expected to be part of a church family while attending Seminary. There are several Lutheran Brethren and affiliate churches in the area where the students often find their church home.

Prayer Emphasis

Each semester, time is set apart for meditation and prayer. Students, faculty, and staff gather Wednesday mornings for a time of sharing and prayer.

Ministry Opportunities

Seminary students, especially after their first year, have opportunities to do pulpit supply preaching in various churches. Churches customarily give an honorarium for these services.

A number of churches in the area provide seminary students with part-time student pastor or youth pastor employment. These ministry opportunities provide an excellent combination of practical ministry experience, seminary study, and useful income. These positions may involve some or all of the following: pulpit preaching, confirmation instruction, visitation, and youth ministry. Arrangements and supervision for this type of part-time ministry employment are made through the Office of the Dean.

Student Association

The Seminary Student Association is comprised of all students, both on-campus and online. It is overseen by the Director of Student Life in conjunction with LBS faculty. The Student Association meets periodically throughout the semester to pray with each other and discuss matters pertinent to seminary life. The Student Association manages a Seminary Deacon Fund to help students with unexpected financial hardships. The Student Association is also responsible to plan and lead a spring banquet each year at which graduating students are honored.

Sports

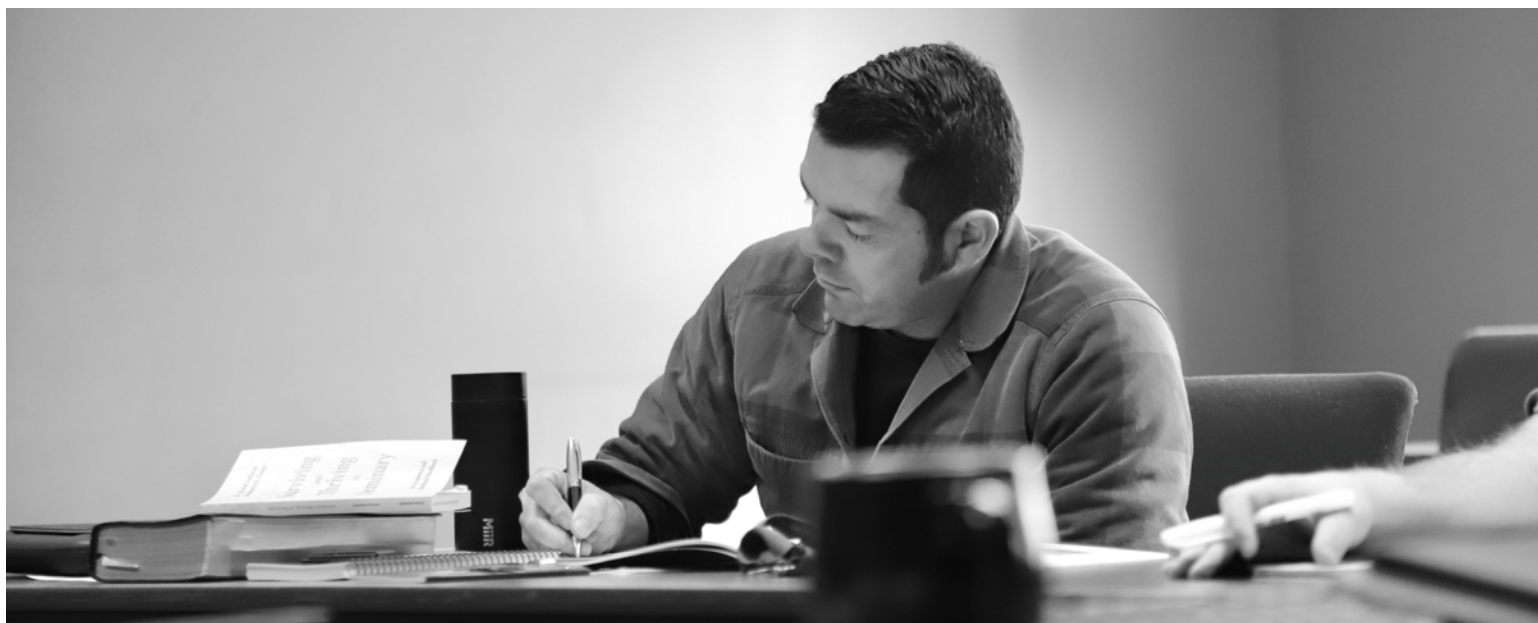
Although organized athletics are not a part of the Seminary program, students often find ways to enjoy sports.

Each spring Hillcrest Academy sponsors an Invitational Basketball Tournament comprised of church teams from across the country. Seminary students often participate in this tournament by joining other organized teams or creating a team from the student body and faculty.

Seminary Women

Seminary Women is an organization that provides female students and the wives of seminarians opportunities for fellowship and support in Seminary life. The gatherings range from social activities to a weekly Bible study. One on one friendship and prayer support by a local prayer partner is also offered.





ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Lutheran Brethren Seminary offers the following programs of study:

Master of Divinity (p. 28)

Diploma in Christian Ministry (p. 30)

Master of Theological Studies (p. 32)

Certificate of Theological Studies with emphases in: (p. 34)

- Bible and Theology
- Biblical Languages
- Lay Ministry
- Missions
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Systematic Theology



MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

The Master of Divinity Degree⁴ (MDiv) is a graduate degree in theology which prepares men to serve in an ordained role within the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, or in other church bodies and mission organizations. This degree assumes a Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree. The Master of Divinity Degree is granted to seminary students upon the completion of the following academic requirements and upon the approval of the Dean of the Seminary and the Office of the Registrar.

1. The baccalaureate degree earned prior to registration in Seminary.
2. 90 credits in Seminary with a grade point average of not less than 2.0 (2.0 = C grade), meeting all the departmental course requirements.

Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret the Bible in its parts and in its whole through use of its original languages and appropriate exegetical and hermeneutical methods.
- B. Articulate and apply the doctrinal teachings as set forth in the Scriptures and confessed in the CLB Statement of Faith.
- C. Proclaim God's saving work in Jesus Christ through the public and private ministries of the Word and Sacrament.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge and skills for leading congregations.
- E. Demonstrate capacity for faithful involvement in God's mission through His Church.
- F. Demonstrate personal integrity and love for God, His Church, and the world.



⁴ This overview assumes a student who is able to study full-time (14-18 credits per semester). Some students find it wise to reduce their academic load per semester to accommodate their family, employment, or pace of learning.

Three-year plan for students starting during the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Seminary Year 1

PT 400*	Introduction to Seminary Education	1			
	Total Credit	1			
Fall			Spring		
EB 435*	New Testament Introduction I	2	EB 436*	New Testament Introduction II	2
HT 515	Church History	3	EB 611	Torah & Covenant History	3
OT 401*	Beginning Biblical Hebrew	4	HT 522	Survey of American Christianity	3
PT 512	Supervised Ministry Education	1	OT 602	Intro to Hebrew Exegesis	3
WM 457*	World Religions		PT 501	Homiletics	3
	& New Religious Movements	3	PT 513	Supervised Ministry Education	1
	Total Credits	13		Total Credits	15

Seminary Year 2

Fall			Spring		
EB 612	Old Testament Prophets	3	EB 613	OT Poetry & Wisdom	3
NT 401*	New Testament Greek I	3	NT 402*	New Testament Greek II	3
PT 503	Preaching Lab	1	PT 515	Supervised Ministry Education	1
PT 514	Supervised Ministry Education	1	ST 522	Systematic Theology II	3
PT 608	Pastoral Theology	3	WM 555	Cross Cultural Communication	3
ST 521	Systematic Theology I	3	ELEC	Directed Study	1
	Total Credits	14		Total Credits	14

Seminary Year 3

Fall			Spring		
NT 605	Exegesis of a Gospel	3	NT 636	Exegesis of Galatians	3
PT 505	Preaching Lab	1	PT 632	Theology & Practice of Evangelism and Church Planting	3
PT 607	Spiritual Care	3	PT 665	Personal Wellness in Ministry	3
ST 523	Systematic Theology III	3	ST 624	Systematic Theology Capstone	1
WM 651	The Church in Mission	3	ST 636	Ethics	3
ELEC	Directed Study	1			
	Total Credits	14		Total Credits	13

Biennial Courses

Offered every other year

PT 520	Worship	2
PT 509	Leadership in Ministry	2
PT 511	Teaching ministry of the Congregation	2
	Total Credits	6

Offered:

Fall	2025
Spring	2026
Spring	2027

Total Bachelor's Level Credits	18
Total Master's Level Credits	72
Total Required Credits	90

*Designates bachelor's level courses.



DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The Diploma in Christian Ministry (DCM) is a non-degree program of study in theology which prepares men to serve in an ordained role within the Church of the Lutheran Brethren or in other church bodies and mission organizations. It is designed for students who have completed at least 30 general education credits but do not have a bachelor's degree. The student will follow the same course of study as prescribed for the Master of Divinity degree. The DCM is granted to seminary students upon the completion of the following academic requirements and upon the approval of the Dean of the Seminary and the Office of the Registrar.

Should a graduate of the LBS Diploma in Christian Ministry ever subsequently complete an accredited college bachelor's degree, the Diploma may be exchanged for either an MTS or MDiv degree, upon the recommendation of the Dean of the Seminary and the Office of the Registrar, provided that: 1.) Diploma credits have not been used in another degree program; and 2.) All of the academic requirements stipulated in the current LBS catalog for those degrees are satisfied.

Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret the Bible in its parts and in its whole through use of its original languages and appropriate exegetical and hermeneutical methods.
- B. Articulate and apply the doctrinal teachings as set forth in the Scriptures and confessed in the CLB Statement of Faith.
- C. Proclaim God's saving work in Jesus Christ through the public and private ministries of the Word and Sacrament.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge and skills for leading congregations.
- E. Demonstrate capacity for faithful involvement in God's mission through His Church.
- F. Demonstrate personal integrity and love for God, His Church, and the world.

General Education Prerequisites for the Diploma in Christian Ministry (30 credits)

At a minimum, the student must meet the following general education prerequisites prior to admission into the program:

Communications	6 credits
English Composition	(3 credits)
Humanities	6 credits
Social Sciences	6 credits
Natural Science/Math	3 credits
Electives	9 credits
Total General Education Prerequisites	30 credits

In addition, 90 Seminary credits are required. The Diploma in Christian Ministry will be granted to students who have completed the 32 credits of prescribed general education prerequisites plus the 90 required credits outlined in the Seminary Diploma in Christian Ministry program of study.

Three-year plan for students starting during the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Seminary Year 1

PT 400*	Introduction to Seminary Education	1			
	Total Credit	1			
Fall			Spring		
EB 435*	New Testament Introduction I	2	EB 436*	New Testament Introduction II	2
HT 515	Church History	3	EB 611	Torah & Covenant History	3
OT 401*	Beginning Biblical Hebrew	4	HT 522	Survey of American Christianity	3
PT 512	Supervised Ministry Education	1	OT 602	Intro to Hebrew Exegesis	3
WM 457*	World Religions		PT 501	Homiletics	3
	& New Religious Movements	3	PT 513	Supervised Ministry Experience	1
	Total Credits	13		Total Credits	15

Seminary Year 2

Fall			Spring		
EB 612	Old Testament Prophets	3	EB 613	OT Poetry & Wisdom	3
NT 401*	New Testament Greek I	3	NT 402*	New Testament Greek II	3
PT 503	Preaching Lab	1	PT 515	Supervised Ministry Education	1
PT 514	Supervised Ministry Education	1	ST 522	Systematic Theology II	3
PT 608	Pastoral Theology	3	WM 555	Cross Cultural Communication	3
ST 521	Systematic Theology I	3	ELEC	Directed Study	1
	Total Credits	14		Total Credits	14

Seminary Year 3

Fall			Spring		
NT 605	Exegesis of a Gospel	3	NT 636	Exegesis of Galatians	3
PT 505	Preaching Lab	1	PT 632	Theology & Practice of Evangelism and Church Planting	3
PT 607	Spiritual Care	3	PT 665	Personal Wellness in Ministry	3
ST 523	Systematic Theology III	3	ST 624	Systematic Theology Capstone	1
WM 651	The Church in Mission	3	ST 636	Ethics	3
ELEC	Directed Study	1			
	Total Credits	14		Total Credits	13

Biennial Courses

Offered every other year

PT 520	Worship	2
PT 509	Leadership in Ministry	2
PT 511	Teaching ministry of the Congregation	2
	Total Credits	6

Offered:

Fall	2025
Spring	2026
Spring	2027

Total Bachelor's Level Credits	18
Total Master's Level Credits	72
Total Required Credits	90

*Designates bachelor's level courses.



MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES DEGREE

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is a graduate degree designed for men and women pursuing a vibrant and effective lay ministry in the church. Candidates could include those who teach and lead in ministries of spiritual care, worship, youth, or adults. This degree may also serve those who desire to continue toward more education. A bachelor's degree is required for entrance into the MTS program. The Master of Theological Studies Degree is granted to seminary students upon the completion of the following academic requirements and upon the approval of the Dean of the Seminary and the Office of the Registrar.

Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret the Bible in its parts and in its whole through use of appropriate exegetical and hermeneutical methods.
- B. Articulate and apply the doctrinal teachings as set forth in the Scriptures and confessed in the CLB Statement of Faith.
- C. Proclaim God's saving work in Jesus Christ through the public and private ministries of the Word.
- D. Demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills for leadership.
- E. Demonstrate capacity for faithful involvement in God's mission through His Church.
- F. Demonstrate personal integrity and love for God, His Church, and the world.



Two-year plan for students starting during the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Seminary Year 1

PT 400*	Intro to Seminary Education	1			
	Total Credit	1			
Fall			Spring		
EB 435*	New Testament Introduction I	2	EB 436*	New Testament Introduction II	2
HT 515	Church History	3	EB 611	Torah and Covenant History	3
ST 521	Systematic Theology I	3	HT 522	Survey of American Christianity	3
WM 457*	World Religions		ST 522	Systematic Theology II	3
	& New Religious Movements	3	PT Course	Choose from Biennial Courses	2
ELEC***	Elective Course	3			
	Total Credits	14		Total Credits	13

Seminary Year 2

Fall			Spring		
EB 612	OT Prophets	3	EB 613	OT Poetry & Wisdom	3
ST 523	Systematic Theology III	3	PT 632	Theology & Practice of Evangelism and Church Planting	3
WM 651	The Church in Mission	3	ST 636	Ethics	3
ELEC***	Elective Course	3	WM 555	Cross Cultural Communication in Mission	3
	Total Credits	12		Total Credits	12

Biennial Courses** (Choose 1)

Offered every other year

PT 520	Worship	2
PT 509	Leadership in Ministry	2
PT 511	Teaching ministry of the Congregation	2

Offered:

Fall	2025
Spring	2026
Spring	2027

Total Bachelor's Level Credits	8
Total Master's Level Credits	44
Total Program Credits	52

* Designates bachelor's level courses.

** Biennial Courses - offered every other year.

*** Elective Courses - may be chosen from any master's level course for which the student has met the prerequisite(s).
The student may choose to substitute elective credits with directed study credits.



CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS) is designed for men and women sensing a call to pursue theological education in order to serve more effectively as laypersons. The CTS is a non-degree program that offers the student an opportunity to experience the equivalent of one year in seminary in order to develop a deeper understanding of his/her faith and to be equipped to serve God's leading in his/her life for future ministry.

Candidates might include those preparing for specific local or overseas cross-cultural mission assignments; those involved with children's, youth, or adult ministries; those serving (or preparing to serve) as a licensed lay pastor; or young adults who wish to attain theological and biblical grounding for future study or vocation. In addition to the required core courses, the CTS offers many choices in biblical and theological electives with emphases in Bible and Theology, Mission, and Lay Ministry. Courses may be taken on-campus or from a distance. If full-time study is possible, a student may complete a CTS program in one year.

As with all other programs at LBS, CTS courses are taught at the graduate level. If a student should later be admitted to an LBS degree or diploma program, all of the credits earned in the CTS may be applied.

Program Outcomes

- A. Interpret the Bible with a Christ-centered focus.
- B. Apply the doctrinal teachings of Scripture for the church and the world.
- C. Demonstrate skills for the doing of ministry in a chosen emphasis.
- D. Exhibit attitudes characteristic of servant leaders in local and global mission.

General Education Prerequisites for the Certificate in Theological Studies (30 credits)

At a minimum, the student must meet the following general education prerequisites or their equivalents prior to admission into the program:

Communications	6 credits
English Composition	(3 credits)
Humanities	6 credits
Social Sciences	6 credits
Natural Science/Math	3 credits
Electives	9 credits
Total General Education Prerequisites	30 credits

The Certificate in Theological Studies is granted to students who have completed the 30 credits of general education prerequisites prescribed above, plus an additional 30 credits (11 core required credits, 19 credits in electives) as outlined in the CTS program of study.

One-year plan for students starting during the 2025-2026 Academic Year

CTS Program of Study

The following courses are required of all students in the CTS program.

PT 400	Introduction to Seminary Education	1
EB 435	New Testament Introduction I	2
EB 436	New Testament Introduction II	2
EB 611	Torah & Covenant History	3
Total Required Core Credits		8
Total Required Emphasis Credits		9
Other Elective Credits		6
Total Required CTS Credits (Minimum)		23

The exact list of courses for a specific emphasis is dependent on the student's ministry goals. The student will work with his/her faculty advisor to design a course plan.

CTS Emphases Descriptions

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Bible & Theology

This emphasis is designed to equip students with a strong biblical and theological foundation. Courses in New Testament and Old Testament will introduce the student to a Christ-centered way of reading and interpreting the scriptures for personal and ministry use. Courses in church history will provide a framework for understanding how God has guided the church throughout its existence to accomplish the Great Commission. Systematic theology courses will help the student understand and apply the main doctrines of the Bible.

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Biblical Languages

This emphasis is exclusively focused on the biblical languages of Hebrew and Koine Greek. The student will take beginning courses in both of these languages and then learn to employ these languages by translating and interpreting portions of the Old Testament (Jonah) and New Testament (a Gospel, the epistle of Galatians).

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Lay Ministry

Students preparing for or engaged in ministry as a lay pastor, lay leader, youth worker, worship leader, or elder will receive strong biblical and theological training in their emphasis. The student's advisor will work with the student to help choose courses that will serve to strengthen their area of study and ministry focus.

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Missions

This emphasis is designed to prepare students for local and global mission work. Biblical courses will pair with historical courses to give the student a well-rounded perspective of God's activity among and through his church. Mission-oriented courses will help the student shape the gospel message to people of various worldviews and cultures.

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Old Testament

This emphasis caters to the student who desires to grow in a thorough understanding of the context, content, and message of the Old Testament. It includes a course in Biblical Hebrew and provides opportunity to use this language in reading and interpreting the books of the Pentateuch, Covenant History, Prophets, and Poetry and Wisdom.

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in New Testament

This emphasis serves the student who desires to grow in a thorough understanding of the context, content, and message of the New Testament. It includes a course in New Testament Koine Greek and provides opportunity to use this language specifically in reading and interpreting the Gospels and Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Certificate in Theological Studies with an Emphasis in Systematic Theology

This emphasis will equip the student to articulate and apply the doctrinal teachings as set forth in the scriptures and as confessed in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren Statement of Faith. It will consider the ways the church has interpreted doctrines of scripture throughout its history and help the student to analyze ethical issues and to assist the church respond to these issues in biblical ways.



COURSE OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2025

August Intensive		Credit	Instructor
PT 400	Introduction to Seminary Education	1	Pribbenow/Bjerkaas
Fall Semester			
EB 435	New Testament Introduction I	2	Berge
EB 612	Old Testament Prophets	3	Pribbenow
HT 515	Church History	3	Christenson
NT 401	New Testament Greek I	3	Berge
NT 605	Exegesis of a Gospel	3	Berge
OT 401	Beginning Biblical Hebrew	4	Pribbenow
PT 503	Preaching Lab	1	Tysdal
PT 505	Preaching Lab	1	Knutson
PT 512	Supervised Ministry Education	1	Larsen
PT 514	Supervised Ministry Education	1	Larsen
PT 520	Worship	2	Pribbenow
PT 607	Spiritual Care	3	Larsen
PT 608	Pastoral Theology	3	Knutson
ST 521	Systematic Theology I	3	Knutson
ST 523	Systematic Theology III	3	Knutson
WM 457	World Religions & New Religious Movements	3	Christenson
WM 651	The Church in Mission	3	Christenson

TENTATIVE COURSE OFFERINGS FOR SPRING 2026

January Intensive		Credit	Instructor
PT 400	Introduction to Seminary Education	1	Pribbenow/Bjerkaas
Spring Semester			
EB 436	New Testament Introduction II	2	Berge
EB 611	Torah & Covenant History	3	Pribbenow
EB 613	Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom	3	Pribbenow
HT 522	Survey of American Christianity	3	Christenson
NT 402	New Testament Greek II	3	Berge
NT 636	Exegesis of Galatians	3	Berge
OT 602	Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis	3	Pribbenow
PT 501	Homiletics	3	Berge
PT 509	Leadership in Ministry	2	Tysdal
PT 513	Supervised Ministry Education	1	Larsen
PT 515	Supervised Ministry Education	1	Larsen
PT 632	The Theology and Practice of Evangelism and Church Planting	3	Christenson
PT 665	Personal Wellness in Ministry	3	Larsen
ST 522	Systematic Theology II	3	Knutson
ST 624	Systematic Theology Capstone	1	Knutson
ST 636	Ethics	3	Knutson
WM 555	Cross Cultural Communication in Mission	3	Christenson

SEMINARY COURSES

NOTE: Courses designated with an asterisk (*) are not currently in the course schedule for LBS but could be offered if requested.

Seminary Orientation

SO 101 Student Orientation 0 credit

This is an individually scheduled orientation for new students into the world of learning technology at Lutheran Brethren Seminary (LBS). While the primary emphasis is on the use of technology to enhance the learning process, the participants will also become familiar with how to access all the support infrastructure that will help them have a successful learning experience. The program consists of one or more individually scheduled online sessions before classes begin each term, as well as some reading and personal equipment setup activities prior to the sessions.

English Bible

EB 435 New Testament Introduction I 2 credits

This course is a broad-based study of the Gospels and Acts: their place in history; development as canon; theology and interpretation; challenges and criticism; and use in Christian ministry.

EB 436 New Testament Introduction II 2 credits

Continuing in the study of EB435, this course is a broad-based study of the Epistles and Revelation: their place in history; development as canon; theology and interpretation; challenges and criticism; and use in Christian ministry.

EB 611 Torah and Covenant History 3 credits

This course lays the foundation for the study of the Old Testament. It is an introductory study of the canonicity, content, form, historical reliability, and theology of books of Genesis through 2 Chronicles. Each book will be studied in light of its historical origin and background with an emphasis upon how its message contributes to the Messianic hope of humanity fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The use of each book in ministry will be explored.

EB 612 Old Testament Prophets 3 credits

This course is an introductory study of the canonicity, content, form, historical reliability, and theology of the Major Prophets, Daniel, and the twelve Minor Prophets. Each book will be studied in light of its historical origin and background with an emphasis upon how its message contributes to the Messianic hope of humanity fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The relevancy of the prophetic message of Law-Gospel to contemporary preaching will be explored.

Prerequisite: EB611 or instructor approval

EB 613 Old Testament Poetry & Wisdom 3 credits

This course is an introductory study of the canonicity, content, form, historical reliability, and Law-Gospel theology of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. Each book will be studied in light of its historical origin and background with an emphasis upon how its message contributes to the Messianic hope of humanity fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The use of each book in ministry will be explored.

Prerequisite: EB611 or instructor approval

EB 697, 698, 699 Directed Readings* 1-3 credits

Directed readings are pursued under the guidance of the professor in the department of instruction. Any book of the Old or New Testament could be a topic for course work. One credit per semester may be earned in this way, with a maximum of three credits. The student will complete approximately 40 hours of work for each 1-credit course.

Historical Theology

HT 515 Church History 3 credits

This course is a study of the history of the Christian Church and its contexts from the Apostolic Era through the Reformation and the Age of Enlightenment, tracing its development with particular emphasis on the individuals, groups, institutions, patterns of thought, events, and ideas that have shaped the Church. Attention is also given to the various structures and forms utilized by the Church as it participates in God's mission in the world.

HT 522 A Survey of American Christianity, Lutheranism and the Lutheran Brethren 3 credits

This course picks up the discussion from HT515 (a prerequisite for this course), with emphasis on the American Church movement from its roots to the present. Early American Lutheranism, revivalism, European influences, the fundamentalist/modernist controversy, Liberation Theology and other important interactions between individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas are also covered. The semester concludes with a focus on the roots and development of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

Prerequisite: HT515.

HT 641, 642, 643 Directed Readings* 1-3 credits

Directed readings are pursued under the guidance of the professor in the department of instruction. One credit in a semester may be earned in this way, with a maximum of three credits. The student will complete approximately 40 hours of work for each 1-credit course.



New Testament Studies

NT 401 New Testament Greek I **3 credits**
This course is an introduction to New Testament Greek, including basic vocabulary, morphology, and syntax.

NT 402 New Testament Greek II **3 credits**
This course picks up the study of NT401 with further study of New Testament Greek, including vocabulary, morphology, and syntax. Students will translate texts from the Johannine literature.
Prerequisite: NT401.

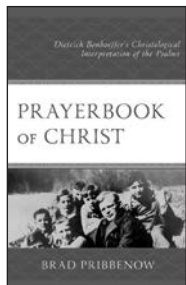
NT 605 Exegesis of a Gospel **3 credits**
Exegesis of select texts from one of the canonical Gospels with a focus on linguistic analysis of the Greek text and translation, as well as theological themes and preparation for preaching are the emphases of this course.
Prerequisites: NT402 and EB435.

NT 636 Galatians **3 credits**
This is an in-depth study of the entire letter of Paul to the Galatians. Emphasis is given to exegesis and translation of Greek text with a view to preparing a series of expository sermons and/or a biblical study of Galatians.
Prerequisite: NT605.

Old Testament Studies

OT 401 Beginning Hebrew **4 credits**
This course is an introductory study of the basic morphology, syntax and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew. The goal of this course is to prepare the student to exegete and translate Biblical Hebrew.

OT 602 Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis **3 credits**
This course builds on the student's knowledge of Biblical Hebrew to aid the student to engage in a thorough, analytical study of a biblical text. The aim is to develop a method of exegesis which will assist in the preparation of a soundly biblical and practical sermon or teaching presentation. Emphasis in this course will be given to working with middle-level Hebrew grammar and syntax based on a grammatical-historical method and applying fundamental skills in Hebrew to basic interpretation of biblical texts.
Prerequisite: OT401 or equivalent.



Prayerbook of Christ
by
Dr. Brad Pribbenow

OT 606, 607 Biblical Hebrew Reading* **1-2 credit(s)**
Guided readings in selected portions of Biblical Hebrew are designed to provide a continuous review of philology, grammar, vocabulary, and syntax. This course aims specifically at Hebrew reading and translation. Forty-five hours of work in the above areas are equal to one credit.
Prerequisites: OT401 and 602 required.

Practical Theology

PT 400 Introduction to Seminary Education. **1 credit**
PT400 is an overview of the skills and aptitudes necessary for effectiveness in seminary. Topics to be covered include seminary program outcomes; managing time effectively; reading, researching and writing at a master's level; and thinking critically and theologically. The course will also be an orientation to the use of technology to enhance the learning process. This orientation will demonstrate how to access the administrative and educational support infrastructure at LBS. The course is offered in a two-and-a-half day intensive format the week before the start of each semester. Pre-course readings will be assigned and other assignments will be completed during the semester. During PT400, background checks will be processed. Student status is dependent on these results.

PT 501 Homiletics **3 credits**
This course introduces the major aspects of developing sermons from biblical texts. Outcomes include the following: exegesis for preaching; determining the homiletical focus; writing a unified sermon with careful attention to sermon parts; using illustrations; and developing delivery skills. Sermons are preached in congregational/ministry settings and video-recorded. This course is available to MDiv/DCM students only, unless prior permission is granted by the Dean.

PT 503 Preaching Lab **1 credit**
Students prepare and deliver sermons. Sermons are preached in congregational/ministry settings and video-recorded. This course is available to MDiv/DCM students only, unless prior permission is granted by the Dean.
Prerequisite: PT501.

PT 505 Preaching Lab **1 credit**
This capstone course for preaching provides the opportunity to demonstrate competency in the full spectrum of sermon preparation and delivery, including the integration of other disciplines of the curriculum, through the preparation and preaching of sermons. This course is available to MDiv/DCM students only, unless prior permission is granted by the Dean.
Prerequisite: PT503.

PT 509 Leadership in Ministry **2 credits**
This course will explore the opportunities and challenges that come with leadership as a pastor or ministry leader. The student will interact with biblical examples and principles of leadership while considering his/her own style and gifts for leadership. The course will introduce strategies for assessing

a congregation's identity, setting direction for a church's future, leading change in a congregation, and managing the many personal and congregational aspects of pastoral ministry. This course is available to MDiv/DCM students only, unless prior permission is granted by the Dean.

PT 511 The Teaching Ministry of the Congregation **2 credits**

This course is a survey of the teaching ministry of the congregation, including the lay and pastoral roles, in giving oversight to all the teaching ministries of the church. Special attention is given to the following areas: confirmation instruction, choosing Sunday School materials, training Sunday School teachers, teaching the Scriptures to the adult learner, crafting a biblical message, and training Bible Study leaders.

PT 512 Supervised Ministry Education **1 credit**

This supervised ministry course is designed to help students prepare for a life of ministry in God's mission by understanding and developing spiritual and emotional maturity, leadership, communication, and conflict management through ministry practice and personal reflection. In this course students will take the first series of psychological inventories and create their personal development plan. (Inventory fees apply.)

PT 513, 514 Supervised Ministry Education **1-1 credit**

This supervised ministry course is designed to help students prepare for a life of ministry in God's mission by understanding and developing spiritual and emotional maturity, leadership, communication, and conflict management through ministry practice and personal reflection.

PT 515 Supervised Ministry Education **1 credit**

This supervised ministry course is designed to help students prepare for a life of ministry in God's mission by understanding and developing spiritual and emotional maturity, leadership, communication, and conflict management through ministry practice and personal reflection. In this course students will take the second series of psychological inventories and evaluate their personal development plan growth and goals. (Inventory fees apply.)

PT 520 Worship **2 credits**

This course is an introduction to the history, theology, and practice of worship including guidelines for Christian worship in the Lutheran tradition and in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

PT 607 Spiritual Care **3 credits**

This course will introduce spiritual care built on a biblical foundation. Students will investigate various approaches to spiritual care, begin to master basic spiritual care skills, discern Gospel-centered spiritual care approaches, and demonstrate situational competence in spiritual care.

PT 608 Pastoral Theology **3 credits**

This course prepares students for the work of pastoring by further developing in them the character qualities of a pastor, by increasing their skill in conducting the services in the Ministerial Acts, and by practicing their care for the sick

and the elderly. Students examine themselves in light of the Pastoral Epistles, are mentored by an experienced pastor, and reflect on their pastoring experiences and attitudes with each other. This course is available to MDiv/DCM students only, unless prior permission is granted by the Dean.

PT 632 The Theology and Practice of Evangelism and Church Planting **3 credits**

This course explores the biblical theology and practice of evangelism with emphases on personal witness, disciple-making, and the role and function of the local church in missional engagement with a world of diverse cultures and religions. The goal of this course is to further prepare church leaders for equipping and leading the Church in its God-given calling to go into the world and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

PT 641, 642, 643 Directed Readings* **1-3 credits**

Directed readings are pursued under the direction of the professor in the department of instruction. One credit per semester may be earned in this way, with a maximum of three credits. The student will complete approximately 40 hours of work for each 1-credit course.

PT 652, 653 Clinical Pastoral Education* **3-3 credits**

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is theological and professional education for ministry that encourages the development of pastoral identity, competence, and reflection by helping students come to know themselves and the people they serve in deeper ways. Scripture, faith, reason, experiences, relationships, and theological and psychological resources will be drawn on to foster the student's reflection with a peer group and certified ACPE pastoral educator. The accredited CPE course will involve 100 hours supervised practice in group and individual sessions and 300 hours of ministry.

PT 665 Personal Wellness in Ministry **3 credits**

An action-reflection model will be the basis for addressing each student's pastoral formation, competence, and reflection in ministry. The development of each student's pastoral identity, demonstration of skills necessary for ministry, and reflection on the meaning and purpose of one's ministry experience will be explored. The course will draw on an adult-learner approach requiring students to take responsibility for their own learning and development opportunities via supervised ministry experience, individual supervision, classroom group process, and various developmentally focused course assignments.



Systematic Theology

ST 521 Systematic Theology I **3 credits**
This is a study of the doctrines of Scripture, God, the Trinity, creation, and providence.

ST 522 Systematic Theology II **3 credits**
This is a study of the doctrines of the human person, the fall and sin, and the person and redemptive work of Jesus Christ.



Dona Gratia Donata
includes an essay
by Dr. Eugene Boe

ST 523 Systematic Theology III **3 credits**
This is a study of the work of the Holy Spirit, dealing with grace, repentance, faith, justification, sanctification, the means of grace (Sacraments), the Church, and eschatology.

ST 624 Systematic Theology Capstone **1 credit**
This capstone course serves as a culmination of the three systematic theology courses. It is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to articulate the various doctrines of systematic theology as drawn from Scripture, integrate them into a theological framework, and apply them for the Church and world.
Prerequisite: ST521, 522, and 523 or professor approval.

ST 636 Ethics **3 credits**
This course includes the teaching of the Word of God and of Lutheran theology with reference to the will of God for the forgiven sinner as they live out life in the context of the world.
Prerequisite: ST521, 522, and 523 or professor approval.

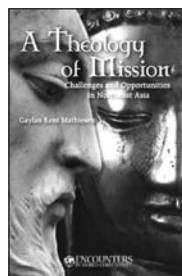
ST 641, 642, 643 Directed Readings* **1-3 credits**
Directed readings are pursued under the guidance of the professor in the department of instruction. One credit in a semester may be earned in this way, with a maximum of three credits. The student will complete approximately 40 hours of work for each 1-credit course.

World Mission

WM 457 World Religions and New Religious Movements **3 Credits**
This course introduces students to the histories, teachings and practices of major world religions and contemporary religious movements with a view to understanding these groups on their own terms and dialoguing with them from a biblical perspective. Included in the study are Basic Religions (Animism), Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions, Shinto, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and varieties of secular and New Age movements.

WM 555 Cross Cultural Communication in Mission **3 credits**
This course seeks to increase the students' understanding of individual and group characteristics, identity/worldview (e.g., ethnicity, race, gender, class) and their knowledge of traditions of various groups in North America and around the world. This course requires a cross-cultural educational trip outside of class. Past trips have focused on learning about Minnesota's Native American history and culture. Students will also conduct one or more ethnographic interviews with a person or persons of a culture other than their own and consider how we might improve as ambassadors of Christ and His Church in a culturally diverse world.

WM 651 The Church in Mission **3 Credits**
This course serves as a biblical and missiological introduction to God's mission and how the nature of the Church informs its role in mission today. Students will examine these concepts from a theological and missiological perspective, and apply them to the context of the Church's varied ministries.



A Theology of Mission
by
Dr. Gaylan Mathiesen

WM 661, 662, 663 Directed Readings* **1-3 credits**
Directed readings are pursued under the guidance of the professor in the department of instruction. One credit a semester may be earned in this way, with a maximum of three credits. The student will complete approximately 40 hours of work for each 1-credit course.

Directed Reading Topic Possibilities:

1. Asterisked courses from current catalog
2. The Apocrypha
3. Apologetics
4. Approaching the Deconstruction Movement
5. Biblical Theology
6. Christian Connection and Discipleship in a Digital Age
7. Christian Doctrine
8. Christian Faith
9. Christian Hospitality
10. Church Planting
11. Church Revitalization
12. Contemporary Interpretation of Scripture
13. Cultural Anthropology
14. Ecclesiology
15. Ephesians
16. Hebrew Readings (Gen 1-2)
17. History of Christian Mission
18. Introduction to Lutheran Thought
19. Islam in America and Around the World
20. Lutheran Brethren World Mission in Perspective
21. Missionary Development and Orientation
22. Native Religions in the Pacific Rim
23. Practical Experience in Cross Cultural Ministry
24. Studies in the Life and Theology of Luther
25. Studies in the Lutheran Confessions
26. A Study of N.T. Wright
27. The Use of the OT in the NT
28. Using the Psalms in Pastoral Care
29. Young Adult Ministry
30. Suggest a topic...





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NOTES:



www.LBS.edu



EMBRACING THE WORD

At LBS you will hear the Bible taught as the inspired and authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). Whether you come for a one year CTS experience or enter the MDiv track, you can be sure that you will receive solid, biblical, theological training that will open your eyes to the truth of Scripture.

REACHING THE WORLD

LBS provides a biblical training that exists for the sole purpose of equipping and sending men and women into a life of reaching those outside of Christ with the saving message of the gospel.

We are training people to reach the world in overseas mission, church ministry, lay ministry, music and worship, youth ministry, and much more. At LBS, we believe that God is calling his people to learn, to go, and to make disciples.

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