

Luther Seminary's 2016 report to the Montana Synod

Becoming a catalyst for transforming theological education

"We have this treasure in clay jars so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."
—2 Corinthians 4:7

This verse is an important reminder as Luther Seminary wrestles with and contemplates the changing face of ministry. We're in a time where the path is not necessarily clear. As God's world changes around us, so do the needs of the church. As a seminary responsible for educating leaders for this church, we know we need to be more than just responsive. We need to light the way, carve a path, make disciples. We need to become a catalyst for transforming theological education. We aren't there yet, but we're working to see the way forward. This passage in 2 Corinthians reminds us that we can't do this hard and worthy work by our own power. This is God's church, God's mission and God's seminary.

- **God's world is changing. And so are we.** Our mission is to educate leaders for Christian communities. This mission is more relevant than ever, and the future is calling us to new things. And people need to hear the gospel. Yet we can't just do everything the way we've always done it.
- **We are excited about the future.** Nearly 600 students are taking classes this spring. This includes both on-campus and online learners, who are being educated to serve in churches, nonprofits, schools and other important ministries. We will also welcome more than 4,500 church leaders this year to our lifelong learning classes and conferences. Both pastors and lay leaders rely on Luther Seminary's continuing education offerings to stay refreshed and enthused in their ministry.
- **Learning in context continues to play an essential role in preparing students to serve in God's world.** Given the ever-changing dynamics of ministry, our contextual learning group continues to find unique opportunities for students to apply their learning—both in the Twin Cities and around the world. They're practicing ministry while receiving guidance from important mentors, which is critical to the formation of these students.

As we strive to become a catalyst for transforming theological education, we hope you'll continue to pray with and for us. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to educate your future church leaders.

Robin Steinke, President

Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

In your synod

Students

Thank you for sending and supporting the education of Luther Seminary students.

- There are seven students from your synod enrolled at Luther Seminary.
- There are two interns serving in your synod.

Rostered Faculty

Kathryn Schifferdecker

Board of Directors

Ann Christ

Jessica Crist

Alumni

There are 108 Luther Seminary alumni living in the Montana Synod.

Seminary Finances

Financial Support in FY 2014-15

- Synodical and churchwide support accounted for 8 percent of Luther Seminary's budget.
- The Montana Synod provided direct financial support of \$17,316.
- Of Luther's operating income, 57 percent came from private gifts and grants.
- Of Luther's operating expenses, 55 percent went toward student instruction and institutional support.