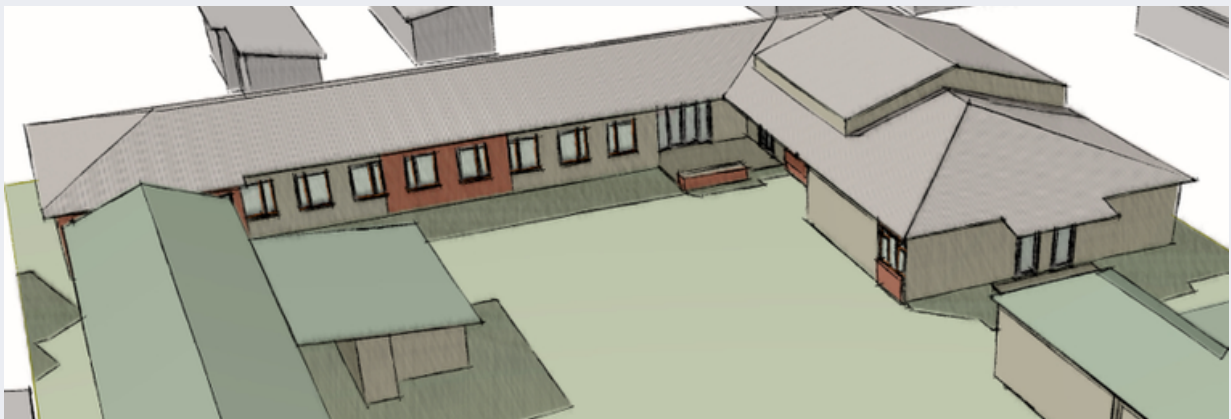




LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN TSHWANE

◆ **Time to have time?** An update on LTS happenings



In 2020, we submitted our first application for accreditation during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. It took over a year before we received any feedback from the Council of Higher Education (CHE). Since then, numerous documents have been submitted, probably over 1000 pages. The council did a virtual site visit to our premises last year.

We have spent many hours preparing documents for accreditation, yet many more hours waiting for feedback. The CHE has a new chair this year, and waiting times seem to have increased. We thought we would have full accreditation by now but have received no feedback from CHE this year. So the waiting continues.

↓ **In this newsletter you will find:**

Trip reports, information on new students, preschool news, and much more...

Similarly, our planned building project (sketch of the proposed new building on the cover page) has been plagued by waiting to get the necessary permissions from the city council. We have been planning the new building for more than two years, expecting applications not to take more than six months. Again, we are still waiting for the city council's final approval.

For both accreditation and the building project there is hope that the processes will be completed soon, sometime this year. In the meantime, we wait...

The Bible has, of course, lots to say about waiting. If you enter the word wait* in an ESV search engine, it shows 130 results.

Many of these references about waiting are found in the book of Psalms. Ps 27:14: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! Ps 31:24: Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord! Ps 33:20: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Admittedly, waiting is not my strong suit. I am a child of our time, someone who likes to get things done. I read books on how to get more productive and make better use of my time.



But then again, as we wait, we learn - as the writers of the Psalms before us - that waiting is something that teaches us to leave all things in God's hands. That waiting can be good for us as we realize our human limitations and frailties, and our need for God's help.

Waiting forces us to spend more time in prayer, entrusting our needs and the things that frustrate us to the Lord.

Waiting can make us spend more time reading the word of the living God, and hearing his voice which gives us the courage and confidence to sing:

*1. I leave all things to God's direction;
He loves me both in joy and woe.*

*His will is good, sure His affection;
His tender love is true, I know.*

My fortress and my rock is He:

What pleases God, that pleases me.

4. My God has all things in His keeping;

He is the ever faithful friend.

He gives me laughter after weeping,

And all His ways in blessings end.

His love endures eternally:

What pleases God, that pleases me.

LSB 719,1+4

In the end, the waiting caused by delays in the accreditation progress and the building project at LTS is not all bad. It has given us time to implement the extensive administrative processes required for accreditation.

And it has given us time to reflect on our building needs and how to best utilize the space we have on campus.

Jas 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer **waits** for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

Rector Heinz Hiestermann

Mission: "The LTS is a mission agency seeking to graduate multipliers for the Lutheran Church in Africa."

Vision: "To provide quality confessional Lutheran formation."

Trip Report - Prof. John Pless

I was pleased to teach a two-week long intensive course at LTS from February 26-March 7, 2024 on "The Psalms as Pastoral Theology." The primary text for the course was Dennis Ngien's *Fruit for the Soul: Luther on the Lament Psalms*. The generosity of donors in the USA made it possible for me to bring copies of this book for each student enrolled in the class as well as visiting pastors who audited the course. The same donors provided funds to purchase a number of new books for the library.

The course looked at the Psalter from the perspective of the pastor's own spiritual life and the function of the Psalms in preaching, liturgy, and pastoral care. The Book of Psalms is used more than any other book of the Bible for pastoral work. Martin Luther rightly observed that whatever your condition, there is a psalm that corresponds to it.

After providing an overview of the Psalter, we examined Luther's use of Psalm 119 in the articulation of his oratio, meditatio, and tentatio as "the way theologians are made." We worked with various genres of psalms focusing on their pastoral usage in the Pastoral Care Companion: Psalm 1 (Guidance/Orientation) Psalm 46 and 118 (Crisis), Psalm 37 and 94 (Why Evil Seems to Prosper?), Psalm 23 (Trust), Psalm 51 (Repentance), Psalm 77 and 130 (Lament), Psalm 90 (Death), and Psalm 103-104 (Thanksgiving).



In addition to teaching, I preached for Matins at the seminary chapel twice. On the weekend of March 1-3, Dr. Corzine and I were guests of Pastor Helmut Paul and his family in Durban. We enjoyed a braai with local FELSISA pastors at the parsonage on Saturday. On Sunday, I preached at St. Peter Lutheran Church.

On Wednesday, March 6, we enjoyed a braai with LTS students and staff. As always, I appreciate the hospitality extended to me by Dr. Hiestermann, the seminary staff, and the students. I look forward to my return trip to LTS on August 17-30, to teach a course on "Hermeneutics to Homiletics: From Text to Proclamation."

-John T. Pless, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN USA

HOW TO SUPPORT THE LTS:

IF YOU LIVE IN EUROPE: Send it via Lutherische Kirchenmission (Bleckmarer Mission) e.V.: IBAN: DE09 2579 1635 0100 4239 00, BIC: GENODEF1HMN; (Spendenzweck „LTS“)

IF YOU LIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA: The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane is a registered Public Benefits Organization. [Donations to LTS can be deducted according to Section 18\(a\) in the South African tax laws.](#) Please see our website for details (www.lts.ac.za).

Account Holder: "Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane NPC"

Bank: ABSA, current account no. 860510030 Branch Code: 632005 Swift Code: ABSA ZA JJ

Bank Address: ABSA Enterprise Business, Campus Building, 1102 Burnett Street, Hatfield, 0083 South Africa

Trip Report - Dr Jacob Corzine

I taught a course on the Apology to the Augsburg Confession this year from February 26 until March 6. That was only eight days of class sessions, since a firm commitment required me back in St. Louis on March 7, but through some arranging with my co-lecturer John Pless, I was still able to have the full number of contact hours with the students. There is a reason these are called “intensive” courses. I’m sure the students were weary by the end of the time!



Prof. John Pless and Dr. Jacob Corzine at the closing braai

The course on the Apology to the Augsburg Confession deals most especially with the doctrine of Justification by Faith, but also very intentionally with many other teachings that surround, undergird, support, and align with it – teachings that are taught in the scriptures along with it. So we had lectures on Original Sin, Good Works and the Christian Life, and the Sacraments; other things as well. Understanding what it means for Melancthon (the Apology’s author) to insist on the integrity of the doctrine of Justification is directly applicable for how decisions are made regulating congregational life, so this was not a purely theoretical doctrine course but included many valuable conversations about life in the church.

Continued on next page

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IF YOU LIVE IN NORTH AMERICA: Send your donation via St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society - SPLMS.

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c/o Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Redeemer Lutheran Church

123 E. St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst, IL 60126

• PayPal via www.splms.org

• Thrivent Choice: SPLMS can be supported through Thrivent Choice dollars. You can direct Thrivent Choice dollars through www.thrivent.com or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT.

• LCMS’s Mission Central

Gifts can be made online through the link <https://missioncentral.us/donation-form/?project=LTS%20Seminary%20Pretoria&reference=ZA0001-60604&id=IM0020ECXXXH000>

If writing a check, please make the gift to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In the memo line, write: ZA0001-60604: LTS Seminary South Africa. And send the gift to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis MO, 63166-6861.

Or, to make a gift by phone, please call: 1-888-930-4438 and designate the gift to “ZA0001-60604: LTS Seminary South Africa”.

The students were a pleasure to teach. They provided for lively conversation and no small amount of humor in the classroom. Of course the conversation sometimes ran far afield, but the amount of content we had to cover meant that that usually had to be reigned in quickly. In any case, the course readings sparked a lot of productive interaction. A few of the students did extraordinarily well, making me wonder if I had assigned enough reading or written tests adequate to the task of challenging them. The majority of the students, in any case, were successful learners. My hope for them is that they return to this confessional text again and again in the future, and find themselves equipped to understand it and benefit from the faithful biblical theology it contains.

I served in Campus Ministry in Pretoria from 2014 to 2017, and even once taught the Apology at the LTS in that time. So it had been nearly seven years since I had been in South Africa. It was a real joy for me to be there again, to see old places and observe significant changes that had occurred.



Of course, the students at the seminary were all new, and since we were visiting Bishop Helmut Paul on the weekend, I was unable to visit the English congregation on Sunday. But I did have the opportunity to preach at St. Paul's on Thursday evening, and to visit, over the course of the trip, with three children I had baptized during my time in South Africa. To see these eight and nine-year-olds being raised in the faith into which they were baptized was a great joy for me.

Last June/July, I moved from my position teaching at Concordia University Chicago to a new position at Concordia Publishing House. I am eager to find opportunities to make CPH's resources available to the students at the LTS, and am grateful to Heinz Hiestermann for his invitation to come teach and thus, to some degree, to get up to speed on the work going on at the LTS and the needs that exist there. May God continue to provide pastors for his church through the work at the LTS!

Jacob Corzine

Left: Dr Corzine with LTS librarian Margarette van Zyl with books donated by CPH.



LTS PRESCHOOL

With grateful hearts and joyful song, we celebrated our 10-year anniversary in April. We give all Glory to God who has faithfully sustained us on this journey. Through His mercy, care and guidance, He has allowed our little Preschool, with its dedicated and caring teachers, to touch the lives of so many children and their parents in our community. We pray for the continued growth of this outreach!

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF GRACE GROWTH & GRATITUDE

To celebrate, we welcomed back our young alumni. Their excited squeals and sweet reactions as they recognized their former classmates and teachers, were delightful. Also, the memories shared and the sweet tributes from their parents; so many of whom remarked how grateful they are for their child's Faith Formation in their Preschool years and how well their child is now doing in school. We praise God for all He has worked through us these past 10 years. And we continue to pray for His guidance and that the light of our Savior Jesus may shine through us and into our community to give comfort and hope.



We are truly grateful for the continued support of the LTS Seminary and especially to Dr Wilhelm Weber for his vision of starting a Preschool to serve the seminarians with young children in 2014 and to include the Deaconesses in our Teacher Training Program.

Teacher Training and Outreach has become

the thrust of our Mission and, with the help of God, we have been able to train 10 teachers and through them establish further schools; one in Lusaka, Zambia and one in Ventersdorp, North-West. We are currently guiding one of our teachers in establishing a school outside Rustenburg.

We also thank former Rector, Walter Winterle for his warm reception of our children during Matins on Wednesdays and Rector Heinz Hiestemann for continuing this tradition and for joining our celebration with his colleague Fernando Huf. They were treated to a few songs, including the doxology, and reminded the children about the everlasting love of Jesus.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

2014 - 2024

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6



Show and tell

Good morning teachers and classmates today I am going to show and tell you about the special gift I received from my pre-school teacher which is "I will follow Jesus bible story book."

The best gift a teacher can give a child is education.

My pre-school teacher told us that books give us knowledge.

It has lovely stories and pictures, which makes it enjoyable to read.

Every story teaches me something good about life.

It has a photo of my teacher and classmates.

It teaches me memory verse and prayer.

It improves my reading skills.

Thank you to the LTS pre-school family. I will always carry the good memories with me. You did a good job teachers Karen, Imke, Corina, Ishiki, Salome, Lungu and Queen.

We are so grateful to our dedicated and caring team of teachers who lay the foundation of our children's Faith and prepare them for a journey of lifelong learning. On the left, you can read a "Show & Tell" speech written by one of our former Preschoolers, who is now 7. Her testimony speaks for itself! And to add an anecdote, she asked her father to laminate each page of her Bible to keep it new forever. We have much to learn from young children and much to gain by developing the minds, bodies and spirits of our most valuable treasure!

With our watchword foremost on our minds, we look forward to the next 10 years of Grace, guidance and growth for our Preschool and our community!

Peace in Christ+

The LTS Preschool Team



2014-2024

2024 NEW STUDENTS

Instead of including short written biographies of our students in this newsletter, we will be posting short videos on our website and Facebook page during the next few weeks in which the students will introduce themselves.

We're also planning to include some videos introducing our lecturers, as well as on the work of the seminary in general.

So keep regularly visiting our website: <https://www.lts.ac.za/> as well as our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162632853899513>



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COMING UP

Coming Up @ LTS

- May 28 - June 7: Dr Detlev Schulz (Anthropology and Sin) and Rev. Samuel Wirgau (Dogmatics)
- June 4: BoD Meeting
- June 18-29: End of Semester Exams
- June 29: Winter recess
- July 22: Start of Second Semester

ILC Seminars Conference and USA visit

From June 10-14, Rector Hiestermann will be attending his first ILC seminaries conference, which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Thereafter, he will travel to the US, where he will present the work of the LTS to some congregations.

The last stop on his travels will be Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, where he will attend a unit of the Lutheran Leadership Development Programme. There he will be updated on contemporary issues in Lutheran Theology, so that he can guide the seminary in these matters. He will also be further trained in leadership skills.

Please pray for a blessed trip!