

**TOGETHER**

June 18, 2019

## New President at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

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**A**t the end of this month, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., will experience a change in leadership. Seminary President Rev. Paul Wendland will be stepping down as president and will move back into the role of full-time classroom professor. Seminary Vice President Rev. Earle Treptow has accepted the call to serve as the seminary president and will officially begin his duties on July 1, 2019.

The role of the seminary president is an important one. It's been said that "as the seminary goes, so goes the synod." The seminary is the place where nearly all WELS pastors are trained, so it goes without saying that for the synod to remain faithful to God's Word, the seminary will need to remain faithful to the doctrines of Scripture. It is the responsibility of the seminary president to ensure that the seminary carries out that responsibility.

The seminary president is also the spokesman for the seminary. Our synod looks to the seminary faculty to provide guidance and input on doctrinal matters. The Conference of Presidents often consults with the seminary faculty when discussing doctrinal issues. It is the role of the seminary president to speak for the faculty when discussions on doctrinal matters take place.

President Wendland first joined the seminary faculty in 2001 after serving in both world and home mission settings, in an established congregation, and as a professor at Northwestern College and Martin Luther College. He has served as seminary president since 2004. We are thankful for the years in which President Wendland has faithfully carried out these important responsibilities and pray for God's continued blessings on his new role in the classroom.

Prior to coming to the seminary in 2016, President-elect Treptow served as a pastoral recruiter at Martin Luther College, as a pastor in British Columbia and Denver, Colorado, and as the president of the Nebraska District. As Treptow begins his role as seminary president, we can be thankful that God has blessed our seminary in the past and that those blessings will continue under the leadership of President Treptow.

Serving in Christ,  
President Mark Schroeder 

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## 10 for 10 encourages thoughtful Christian giving

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A new congregational stewardship program called *10 for 10* is now available from WELS Congregational Services.

*10 for 10* is based on three weeks of preaching and teaching on the topic of giving. Then congregation members are asked to contemplate if they are able to give one-tenth of their income to the Lord for ten straight weeks—hence the name *10 for 10*. This is based on the Old Testament practice of tithing.

Rev. Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Discipleship, explains that the goal of *10 for 10* is much greater than amassing gifts. “*10 for 10* is not a church fundraising program,” he says. “It is a gospel-centered stewardship emphasis that asks people to consider how to respond to all of the many graces that God has shown to them.”

Some WELS congregations have already implemented initiatives similar to *10 for 10*. Members of these churches have expressed an appreciation for the scriptural roots of these stewardship programs. Notably, *10 for 10* opens the conversation on the often difficult topic of money in a Christlike manner.

“Jesus talked often about money because he knew the vicelike grip it can have on our hearts as it seeks

to replace him as our greatest treasure,” Dobberstein says. “When it came to money, Jesus was blunt. He was bold. *10 for 10* strives to mirror Jesus’ biblical boldness.”

While it is not the focus, congregational stewardship programs like that of *10 for 10* have successfully increased weekly offerings significantly during their periods of enhanced giving, explains Dobberstein. Afterward, numbers will often decrease again slightly, but rarely do they fall as low as previous levels.

While *10 for 10* can be held at any time, WELS Congregational Services encourages congregations to begin planning this summer and to implement the program this fall.

Materials to help congregations with their planning, including a step-by-step timeline, are available on **welscongregationalservices.net/10-for-10**. Other introductory and promotional tools plus worship materials, midweek devotions, Sunday sermons, PowerPoint slides, videos, letters, and more can be downloaded for free to help congregations promote *10 for 10* before and after the period of advanced giving.

Visit **welscongregationalservices.net/10-for-10** to begin your congregation’s planning today. ☪

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