



## WLS CASE FOR SUPPORT

### A RICH HISTORY OF EQUIPPING OUR SYNOD

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) was established in 1863. Designed to train pastors for the Wisconsin Synod, the seminary has a rich history of preparing men for a lifetime of ministry. Compelled by Christ's love, we have been committed to forming pastors to proclaim God's praise for nearly a century on our Mequon campus.

Today, that zeal for ministry continues as we look to build on this history and prepare a new generation of pastors. We have no intention of resting on our laurels. With a world in need and students eager to serve, the seminary is poised to educate and equip pastors for ministry.

*"If we can provide **OPPORTUNITIES** for the gospel of Jesus to capture the hearts of future pastors, imagine the **IMPACT** on our congregations for generations to come."*

### A VISION FOR PREPARING PASTORS TO PROCLAIM GOD'S PRAISE

Looking towards the future, it is evident that our synod needs pastors to shepherd its congregations worldwide. The current 12% pastoral vacancy rate reminds us of the words from Matthew 9:37, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Jesus calls us to reach lost souls. Our world needs God-fearing servant leaders dedicated to declaring the gospel message.

### BUILDING CHRIST-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS

A foundational component of a well-rounded educational experience for our students is the relationships they develop, both with professors and fellow seminarians. These connections have proven to be impactful, on campus and beyond.

While we value the significance of these relationships, they are challenged by our current space. The buildings at WLS have served the seminary well, but there is opportunity to significantly enhance the experiences of the student body. The classrooms are undersized and lack natural light. Most faculty members do not have access to office space on campus. Small group educational spaces and a large gathering area for students and their families do not exist. Simply put, our facilities are not equipped to serve today's students—especially when it comes to the collaborative parts of learning.

*"These new spaces will increase faculty collaboration, making us **BETTER PROFESSORS** and helping us **FORM BETTER PASTORS.**"*

*~Professor Steven Pagels*

Through their courses, students develop close connections with the faculty, composed of pastors who have shepherded their own congregations and are now committed to teaching the synod's future leaders. Looking through this lens of experience gives students insight into both the blessings and challenges of pastoral ministry. As they leave the seminary, they are able to draw upon this knowledge as they encounter similar situations in their congregations.

These key relationships begin in the classroom but are further developed outside the classroom, where students can approach their teachers for more informal instruction. Currently, without dedicated office space on campus for most faculty, it's difficult to facilitate these additional discussions. Students do not have a place where they can find immediate faculty support.

While academics are paramount, the peer-to-peer relationships that develop are vital to student success. These students are far more than classmates—they are future brothers in ministry. The relationships they and their families form on campus provide camaraderie and strengthen the church as a whole. With an intimate understanding of each other's experience, they can offer comfort and encouragement that could not otherwise be found.

Relationships are at the core of this critical ecosystem—an ecosystem with benefits reaching far beyond the classroom. These connections are essential for student success, providing a lifelong resource as they begin their ministry.

In order to give God our best and to be faithful stewards of the campus, it is evident that significant updates are needed. We are proposing three primary capital projects:

- 1.) **Newly constructed classrooms** designed to support collaboration and encourage interactions that strengthen the learning experience at the seminary;
- 2.) **On-site faculty offices** that offer students immediate access to personalized instruction and thoughtful mentorship from their professors;
- 3.) **A gathering space** for students and their families to meet and develop connections that go beyond the confines of the classroom.

*"An incredible **BROTHERHOOD** develops as we spend time together, both in class and outside of it. The result isn't just 'buddies for life,' but **MEN WE CAN COUNT ON** being there for us in the difficulties of life and challenges of ministry."  
~Seminary Senior Clayton Fury*

A project of this caliber is a large undertaking that will require significant generosity, and that is not something seminary leadership takes lightly. Still, investing in the critical infrastructure of the campus will offer significant benefits and prove instrumental in preparing future generations of pastors who will proclaim Christ.

## INVESTING IN A RIPPLE EFFECT

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As God grants his blessing, we envision a day where these new spaces will enhance relationships and positively impact the learning of every pastor in our synod. The ripple effect it will have on our synod will be seen for years to come. Congregations will welcome new pastors trained in this dynamic environment, equipped to utilize the knowledge and skills first introduced to them on this campus. It is exciting to imagine!

These are not simply spaces; these are places where the gospel will be proclaimed. These are areas where the Holy Spirit will be at work, preparing hearts to serve the Lord. Consider the impact these facilities will have as students take the truths they learn and the relationships they form out into the world.

## COST AND OPPORTUNITIES

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We are excited about moving forward with this vision for the future, as the Lord grants his blessing. We are exploring a series of projects that would add 20,000+ square feet for an approximate cost of \$19M.

This includes:

**New Education Center** (\$15,000,000)

New student classrooms

New faculty office space

Library connection and renovations

**New Gathering Hall** (\$4,000,000)

## LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

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Looking towards the future, contemplate with us how we might best glorify God and serve his people. Consider how you might partner with us so our synod's seminary continues to be an effective, impactful learning environment for students as they prepare for a lifetime of ministry.

The construction and renovation of our facilities is an investment that will yield a stronger model of transformational, relational education. Updating classrooms and expanding this space is about far more than a cosmetic transformation; it's about presenting God with our best. It's about preparing the next generation of pastors to serve their Savior.

*"We want to prepare pastors who know the*  
**CHANGELESS TRUTH** *and know how to*  
*communicate it in a* **CHANGING WORLD.***"*

*~President Earle Treptow*

## HOW WE CAN PARTNER TOGETHER

You have the opportunity to strengthen this ministry. Your generosity has propelled the seminary in the past, and we are seeking your continued partnership through a financial investment in the next generation of pastors who will preach the gospel and faithfully serve Christ and his Church. The chart below represents gifts that are needed to fund this \$19M campus project:

NUMBER OF GIFTS	\$ GIFT AMOUNT	\$ AMOUNT FROM LEVEL	\$ CUMULATIVE AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
1	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	26%
1	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$7,000,000	37%
3	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$10,000,000	53%
4	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$12,000,000	63%
6	\$250,000	\$1,500,000	\$13,500,000	71%
12	\$100,000	\$1,200,000	\$14,700,000	78%
12	\$75,000	\$900,000	\$15,600,000	82%
16	\$50,000	\$800,000	\$16,400,000	86%
32	\$25,000	\$800,000	\$17,200,000	91%
60	\$10,000	\$600,000	\$17,800,000	94%
many	<\$10,000	\$1,200,000	\$19,000,000	100%

Prayerfully consider how you can advance this ministry. Help train our synod's future shepherds. You can give the gift that will make an impact—both in this life and for eternity.