

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

2014 Report to the Synods of Region 8

Gettysburg Seminary offers the Church an *unprecedented and increasing access to its educational* resources, creating an *award winning museum with faith-based content for the public*, one



of the most *generous student scholarship assistance* offers, expanding thought-provoking theological resources *access to all members* of the Church.

Gettysburg stewards its mission with particular care for those students the church sends our way, through an extraordinary faculty, in an historic place. We remain thankful for the steadfastness of the Synods of Region 8 in seminary financial support; and that more individuals and congregations are giving generously, joining *leadership giving circles* to undergird theological education and ministerial formation.

For the Nation: Seminary Ridge Museum opened July 1: Educating the nation about a pivotal struggle with the end of slavery and the role faith played in this great struggle, the Seminary Ridge Museum opened with LEED certification and national, regional and international recognitions and awards. Grand opening with thousands present launched this great offer to the nation, and especially to those who are engaging in the growing interest in historical and religious tourism. The Seminary Ridge Museum offers a unique focus on religious convictions that fueled the battle over slavery, the building's role as a field hospital and as strategic military lookout that adds up to the historic sacrifices for the sake of the nation, its unity and equality.

Extraordinary Learning Environment, Finest Teachers, Accessible Resources: As theological education is reimagined, Gettysburg Seminary is working on the front lines of creative solutions, preparing (thanks to a grant from the Lilly Endowment) a competency based curriculum to reduce time to degree and easier access to degree work, with Dean Robin Steinke co-chairing the ELCA's TEAC (Theological Education Advisory Cte), through collaborative sharing across seminary campuses, and public recognition of teaching and scholarship skills. In addition, Gettysburg received a green light from accreditors to expand its online and hybrid course offerings to make courses even more accessible.

GETTYSBURG SEMINARY OFFERS NEW LEVELS OF ACCESS:

First Mini MOOC Gettysburg was the first U.S. Seminary to offer a *Massive Open Online Course* this past year taught by Mark Vitalis Hoffman – one that will be repeated this early fall and its open to you! Watch for Survey of the *Lands of the Bible* this coming September at www.LTSG.EDU.

Academies for Spring and Fall: The faculty created a newly expanded experience around Spring Convocation and Luther Colloquy (fall) that offers a stimulating week long experience for students, seekers, congregation groups, interested lay persons, rostered leaders and prospective students. This fall, October 27-31, we invite you to join us for the Fall Academy: **"Reforming! From Conflict To Communion And Reconciliation."**

Gettysburg's "Seminary Explores" radio show is now available to everyone through podcast!

In its first months, you can tap 20 minute interviews exploring the origins of Christmas, Apocalyptic dynamics in the New Testament and American History, Women's Civil Rights, Conversation with one of America's best Civil War artists, Ecology, Martin Luther King, and the list goes on:

www.LTSG.edu/SeminaryExplores

"Every time we think of you" (which is often), all who have responded generously, all who continue supporting the Seminary's mission with your encouragement of prospective students, your prayers, critical financial support, **we "give thanks to God!"**

The Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, President

Dr. James Lakso, Chairman of the Board