

THE GETTYSBURG SEMINARY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our context

Soon to become the Lutheran church's most influential figure in the 19th century, Samuel Simon Schmucker founded Gettysburg Seminary in 1826, making it the oldest Lutheran institution of higher education in the Americas. Eager to develop a school which suited the needs of American-trained clergy, Schmucker was active in causes of social justice, social reform, Bible promotion and mission outreach.

The location of the Seminary involved it as a nineteenth-century participant in the Underground Rail-

road and a staging ground for the Civil War's most well known battle. Its borders expanded in 1967 when the Seminary joined seven other Washington, D.C. area seminaries and became part of the Washington Theological Consortium. Today this theological diversity is enhanced by our work through the Luther Institute in Washington, D.C. and a corresponding locally based Town and Country Church Institute for students preparing for small town and rural ministries. In the last decade Gettysburg Seminary has joined The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina to form the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to provide more educational opportunities through joint programs.

Today the Seminary carries on a rich and varied tradition of theological education. Its students prepare to serve as pastors, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, associates in ministry and informed lay people in service to the church's mission. This education occurs within a community rich in theological conversation, encouragement and fellowship opportunities.

Located in the rolling hills of historic Gettysburg, a short ride from the nation's capital, the Seminary offers an expansive 52-acre campus for students and their families. The historic campus adjoins the National Military Park and is conveniently located in the commuting corridors to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Harrisburg and Frederick. Its buildings range from the oldest American Lutheran facility for theological education (1832) to the recently renovated Valentine Hall, containing state of the art classrooms, community spaces and administrative offices. Directly across from the student apartment quadrangle is a YWCA offering students, faculty and staff the use of an Olympic-sized pool, gym, racquetball courts, new exercise equipment, sauna, playground, picnic area and more.

All facilities necessary for a robust theological education are available: bookstore, a technologically superior library, committed faculty and staff, opportunities for community involvement, resource sharing with the adjacent Gettysburg College, and the Seminary's location within the community of Gettysburg. Community is also strengthened by the use of information technology as an integral part of the Seminary's mission and continues to play a key role in the future of theological education. Voice, data and video applications support the operations of the entire campus including the library, classrooms, offices and residence areas.



Through the expertise and dedication of faculty and staff we equip students to be healthy leaders, who are adept at interpreting texts, situations and relationships, nurtured in habits of spiritual, intellectual, social and vocational formation, keenly aware of diverse cultural contexts and able to lead in ways faithful to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Formation

The foundation for spiritual formation at Gettysburg occurs in corporate worship.

When the seminary gathers for worship, students and their families, faculty, and staff bring everything they have – their stories and hopes, intentions and fears, triumphs and limitations, their minds, hearts, and hands – to be addressed by God. And at worship, God transforms God’s people by the Word and Spirit and sends them out for the life of the world. That transformation and mission is what seminary is about, and the ultimate aim of curriculum and community. Transformation takes place in many ways in many places – in classroom study, prayers and devotions, field education, community life. All spring from and aim toward worship that is faithful to the Gospel, true to our situation, and compelling in sending us into mission.

Serving the Seminary’s worship life is a spacious, bright, flexible chapel, featuring a 36 rank tracker organ and a high quality projection, sound and computer system. Instruments – ranging from a grand piano and harpsichord to dulcimers and drums – support lively singing and a superlative music program, including choirs for adults and children. The Seminary’s corporate worship uses a wide range of settings, forms, and styles, and many church-wide and international guests connect the global scope of the faith to the Seminary’s spiritual life.

Spiritual formation also occurs through small groups that meet for prayer, reflection, praise and conversation. It is common to find students meeting for Bible study, “lectio divina” reflection or a time of prayer and praise.

Intellectual Formation

The Seminary’s educational programs are enhanced through several important institutional relationships and through institutes which highlight aspects of the Seminary’s mission.

Ecumenical Scope

Striving to be faithful to Paul’s letter to the Ephesians (4: 11, 12) the Seminary pays close attention to the fact that God’s gifts include the prospect that “some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the



work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

At the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, the inscription on the cornerstone of our chapel includes this passage from Ephesians. It is a daily reminder to our community that our learning community depends on a variety of gifts and serves to equip many different people for the work of God’s church. At the heart of our effort to form leaders for the church and the world is the work we do to shape community life, both here on campus and for an extended network of commuting students and interested friends of the seminary. Today this inscription informs a diverse community of learners from a spectrum of Christian traditions, and from different cultural backgrounds, who live, worship and study at the seminary. Our campus community strives for an ecumenical education for all students, and expects that in classroom, chapel, refectory, coffee shop, residential life, and recreational activities, the rich experiences that all persons bring to this seminary will be considered as gifts in the spirit of the writer of Ephesians. Life in community is challenging, and makes demands on everyone to go beyond saying the right things to actually doing the right things. We strive to learn how to respect and learn from difference. Students can expect that their own ways of seeing the world, of praying and speaking, or worshiping, of socializing and interacting with friends and neighbors will sometimes be misunderstood, or

even challenged. When false assumptions undermine a true appreciation for God's varied ways of equipping the saints, our educational task is to provide opportunities for gaining a deeper ecumenical understanding. A rich community life flourishes as we recognize and respect the importance for each student to learn how to love and know his or her own tradition as a gift, a worthy portion that builds up the body of Christ.

The Washington Theological Consortium

As an expression of its ecumenical commitment, this Seminary, together with other schools of theology, formed the Washington Theological Consortium in 1967. The dozen institutions of the consortium has more than 1700 students and an estimated 250 faculty members and offers approximately 600 courses and seminars in each academic year. There are also six associate/affiliate member schools including the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences. Cross registration permits degree students from each participating school to take courses for credit within the consortium. Through this cooperative arrangement students have full access to all libraries of consortium members and the Library of Congress. See more about the Seminary's Washington, D.C. based programs on page 11, or visit the website www.washtheocon.org.

The Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries

This Lutheran cluster includes the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Columbia, SC.

Formed in 1994, this partnership makes the resources of all three seminaries more accessible to the students at each seminary. A student enrolled in one of the three schools is automatically eligible to take courses from the other two. There are opportunities both for exchange semesters at any of the three schools, as well as faculty exchanges and the sharing of resources made possible through distance education technology.

Tuition and room and board costs for students who study at another Cluster seminary will be paid at the rate of the seminary at which they do their academic work for the period of exchange. Students who desire to study at another seminary in the Eastern Cluster are encouraged to plan ahead for such study by contacting the Dean and/or Financial Aid Officer of the home seminary.

Yale Divinity School

Up to two students per semester may participate in an Eastern Cluster exchange program with the Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut. Visiting students at Yale will have access to courses and programs offered at Yale University. Gettysburg students pay tuition through Gettysburg Seminary for

the duration of the exchange. Application is made through the Dean's office. Candidates must receive the endorsement of the faculty to participate.

Other Academic Relationships

Gettysburg College

Our students may take courses without paying the college tuition fees; the two institutions also make other resources available to each other's students, including: library resources and programs in the arts.

The Collegium Oecumenicum in Munich, Germany

Two Gettysburg students may reside and study, free of charge, in Munich each year. A similar arrangement exists for students from the Collegium Oecumenicum to study on the Gettysburg campus.

Evangelical "Prediger" Seminaries

Exchange visits between Gettysburg Seminary students and students from the "Prediger" Seminaries of Herborn (near Frankfurt, Germany) and Pretz (northern Germany) have taken place for the past twenty years. These three-week visits allow students to experience theological education and church life and mission in each other's countries.

The Evangelical Divinity Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava

A partnership has developed between the Evangelical Divinity Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia and Gettysburg Seminary, which makes provision for students of these two seminaries to study at each other's school.

The Susquehanna Valley Satellite of Bethany Seminary

This is a Church of the Brethren educational program with both graduate degree and certificate components for the training of pastors and lay ministers. The Staff office is based at Elizabethtown College, with classes held at various locations throughout Central Pennsylvania. Through its partnership relationship with Gettysburg Seminary, satellite students are welcomed to the resources and theological community in Gettysburg. Gettysburg Seminary students are also welcomed to the courses offered by Bethany Theological Seminary at the Susquehanna Valley Satellite locations.

The ELCA Center for Diaconal Ministry Preparation

The ELCA Center for Diaconal Ministry Preparation is located at and administered from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on behalf of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries.

Institutes and Related Programs

The Institute for Luther Studies, established in 1970, promotes critical reassessment of Martin Luther and the 16th Century Reformation movement with inclusive, ecumenical, and global perspectives. Responding to issues facing the church today, the Institute provides opportunities for students, faculty, and the wider church and academic community to share and deepen their understanding of Luther and Protestant heritage in the larger context of the interdisciplinary Reformation scholarship and ecumenical partnerships. The institute arranges lectures, classes, publications, scholarly exchange and forums for discussion, and also maintains a research library.

The Luther Institute, Washington, DC.

Since 2006, the Washington, D.C. based Luther Institute, a pan Lutheran, faith-based organization devoted to exploring issues of faith and ethics in the public sphere, has been an affiliate of Gettysburg Seminary furthering the Seminary's long term presence in the nation's capital.

For more than a quarter century, the Luther Institute has provided a connection between the public arena and Christian theological resources. Initiated in 1983, the Luther Institute was created to address critical issues within the framework of Lutheran Christian theology and ethics. The Institute has focused mainly on offerings for the Washington Lutheran constituencies as an international learning center, featuring public affairs seminars, travel seminars, academic fellowships for Lutheran educators, and other educational programs. The Institute's distinguished Wittenberg Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions and leadership of Lutheran servants in public life, recognizing outstanding leaders such as the late senator from Illinois, Paul Simon, artist and animator Art Clokey, theologian Krister Stendahl, Supreme Court Chief Justice William Renquist, and actress and activist Liv Ullmann, and many more.

Gettysburg Seminary offers all of its students the rich environment of the nation's capital for immersion and reflection upon public theology, social ethics and social ministry, public policy, advocacy, institutional analysis in context and much more. Students are expected to take courses in the institutions in the Washington Theological Consortium and they may concentrate on a special curriculum highlighting theology and public life.

Gettysburg Seminary views its Washington, D.C. program as a key resource for ongoing Seminary connections, providing a unique context for ministry. Supporting this program with residency opportunities, a curricular concentration in "theology and public life," and joint ventures with partners in public theol-



ogy, many seminarians come to Gettysburg because of its connection to this global city.

The Resident Scholar Program,

Study in Washington, D.C. is available to all full time degree seeking students of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg who desire to live in the Washington, D.C. area for one or two semesters and take the majority of their courses at schools in the Washington Theological Consortium.

The Town and Country Church Institute (TCCI), established 1981, arose from the seminary's distinctive location in a small town and predominantly rural setting, and its historic service to Appalachian and rural areas. Its focus is contextual mission in the many rural and small membership congregations in the ELCA and the ecumenical church.

The Arthur L. Larson Stewardship Council (established 1988): promotes stewardship studies and education within and through this seminary. It supports seminars and workshops for rostered and lay leaders of the church.

The Stewardship of Life Institute, separately incorporated, is designed to serve the whole church. Its offices are located on the Seminary campus and it enjoys a close relationship to the seminary. The Institute promotes all of life stewardship, providing a forum to foster stewardship among laity, seminarians, rostered

leaders and other church workers. Established in 1994, it provides funding for stewardship education and related projects at ELCA seminaries and other units of the church.

Social and Vocational Formation

Formation also takes place in the informal social occasions that create and strengthen community life. The Seminary provides structures through which students, families, faculty and staff find encouragement in social and vocational development.

The Student Association

The student association is made up of all students enrolled at Gettysburg Seminary. The Student Association Council (SAC) consists of four executive officers elected from the student body and five representatives elected from each of the on campus classes (Junior, Middler, and Senior). Class representatives (President, Secretary/Treasurer, three Trustees) are also responsible for class activities. Five Divisions are part of SAC. They are responsible for certain aspects of student life including Athletics, Fellowship, Lectures, Publications, and Social Action. Each division is chaired by a council member and is open to the entire community. They plan events such as the annual Luther Bowl flag football tournament, community celebrations, awareness campaigns and the "Chapel Door" publication. Division and Class budgets come from Student Association fees. The Student Association strives to serve the community by providing opportunities for students and their families to be active in campus life.

Spouse Fellowship

Spouse Fellowship provides an opportunity for spouses of students to come together for support and fellowship. Regularly meeting twice a month, this group provides a forum for spouses to share their experiences of seminary life, and to reflect upon their future roles as spouses of rostered church leaders. Spouse fellowship also sponsors activities that involve the entire Seminary community such as potluck dinners, panel discussions and local sightseeing trips.

Global Collaborations and International Students

The Seminary community regularly welcomes students from Africa, Asia, Europe and South America who study with us for one or two years. Their presence enriches the life of the Seminary and serves as a reminder of the global dimension of the church of Jesus Christ. The international student process is coordinated in the Office of the Dean and works in partnership with the Global Mission Unit-International Scholarships Committee, ELCA.



Community Programs and Partnerships

Special lectures are scheduled at intervals throughout the academic year. Regularly scheduled are the lectures of the "Luther Colloquy," (last Wednesday in October), the Martin Luther King, Jr. lecture in February, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) sponsored "Hein Fry" lecture (usually in March) and the Zimmerman, Holman and Swope lectures at the Spring Convocation. In addition, the Seminary sponsors "Seminary on Saturday" lectures for area laity on three autumn Saturdays, "Seminary on Wheels", with faculty lectures in outlying synod territories and a series of "Conversations at the Crossroads" lecture/panels for students and community based around issues and personalities who visit our campus as special guests. The Theodore F. Schneider Lectureship in Homiletics gives special attention to the task of preaching. (For particular dates and times of all special events and lectures, consult the seminary website

at www.Ltsg.edu for lifelong learning or news and calendar events.)

Green Initiatives

As a way of fulfilling its role as steward of resources, Gettysburg Seminary recently began an effort to “Gett Greener” across the seminary community, making environmental stewardship a priority. From planning, to paper handling to worship, the Seminary community devotes energy to raise awareness and reduce its carbon footprint. In 2009, campus recycling was expanded across campus, with more environmentally friendly practices planned for future developments. The initiative includes faculty, staff, students and their families.

Pastor-in-Residence

The annual Pastor-in-Residence Program provides opportunity for students, faculty and staff to engage in conversation with pastors, diaconal ministers and others who are recognized for their competence and effectiveness. Activities during the week include formal presentations, informal conversation, and participation in class sessions with students and faculty, worship leadership and general involvement with campus activities.

Bishop-in-Residence

The Bishop-in-Residence Program recognizes the teaching role shared by bishops and seminary. The program supports an annual weeklong residency for an ELCA bishop on campus for interaction and dialogue with students and faculty.

The Seminary shares its mission through a variety of communications. Its website at www.Ltsg.edu publishes worldwide an exciting site of images and words describing the many aspects of the Seminary’s community and mission. The site features up to date news, a regular presidential report, events, campus tour and other detailed information.

Publications and Special Projects

Seminary Ridge Review

A semi-annual journal, the *Seminary Ridge Review*, is a theological roundtable for faculty, alumni, rostered church leaders and other scholars. It explores the unique history and theology of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, eastern Lutheranism and the issues that emerge in the crosscurrents of theological and cultural debates, including lectures, essays, sermons, reviews, hymns, poetry and more.

Seminary Views

A quarterly newsletter, *Seminary Views*, helps to keep the Seminary’s alumni and friends aware of events and developments in the institution’s life.

Dialog

The Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen serves as editor for

the international journal, *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*, published by Blackwells. Responsibility for preparing this important scholarly and pastoral journal has come to Gettysburg under Dr. Largen’s leadership after a long tenure with Dr. Ted Peters at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California.

Chapel Door

A student publication, *Chapel Door*, gives occasional expression to campus news and opinion.

Daily Redactor

The *Daily Redactor* keeps the Seminary community informed of daily and weekly events and activities through paper and electronic formats.

The Seminary Explores

“The Seminary Explores” is a half-hour radio forum, which began in 1970, that deals with current issues in church and society. This radio program is heard weekdays on WGET (AM).

The Alumni Association

The Alumni Association, organized in 1844, elects representatives to the Alumni Council which serves as the liaison between the Seminary and its graduates, providing critique and suggestions for the seminary’s direction and support for its programs.

FrOGS

The Friends of the Seminary Program strives to build the partnership between congregations, individuals, and the Seminary through lay leadership, financial support, and education regarding the critical importance of theological education for the future of the church. Watch for its relaunching in 2009 under a new acronym, “FrOGS,” which stands for “Friends of Gettysburg Seminarians.”

Music, Gettysburg!

Music, Gettysburg! is a concert series dedicated to bringing the best musical performances, free of charge, to south-central Pennsylvania. Jointly sponsored by the Seminary and the wider community, it presents 15-20 concerts a year in the Seminary’s chapel, featuring both local performers and internationally recognized artists. While the musical range is wide – from trombone choirs to military choruses – choral, orchestral and organ works form the center of the program, taking advantage of the chapel’s instruments and acoustics. Students are welcome not only to attend concerts, but also to perform, particularly in such choral performances as J. S. Bach’s St. John Passion, Nancy Galbraith’s contemporary Missa Mysteriorum, or Brahms’ German Requiem.

Seminary Fine Arts Council

The Fine Arts Council, comprised of faculty, staff and area artists, promotes the utilization of the arts on campus as an important vehicle for the expression of the Christian faith.



Gettysburg Area Business Council

Gettysburg Area Business Council. Leaders from the Gettysburg/ Adams County business community have joined with the Seminary to form a business council for the purpose of building relationships between the business community and the Seminary and to generate support for the work of the Seminary. The council meets regularly to consider ways in which the Seminary's resources can be beneficial to the community, to explore specific areas for partnership, and to discover potential areas of community support for the Seminary.

The President's Cabinet

The President's Cabinet for Counsel and Advancement is comprised of persons with experience, expertise and influence who provide counsel, generate support and advocate for the ministry of this Seminary.

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

Closely associated with the Seminary is the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, founded in 1843 and reorganized in 1989. Today it is a membership organization dedicated to fostering interest and scholarship in the history of Lutheran congregations in the Mid-Atlantic area, and in the regional and continent-wide history of Lutheranism in America.

SRHPF

The Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation is a non-profit foundation created in 1999 by the Seminary to preserve and protect the historical legacies, properties and architecture related to Seminary Ridge – as well as provide related education and communication about the ridge for the benefit of the general public. Programs and projects of the Foundation include preservation and restoration of the three pre-civil war structures, the display of artifacts, a historic walking tour of the ridge, and an annual symposium. The symposium bring scholars and interested persons together to explore topics ranging from the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, to slavery and abolition, pilgrimage, peace and other moral, cultural and historic topics to be interpreted by the foundation.

Service in Faith

The Seminary and surrounding community offer many opportunities for involvement on behalf of others: Habitat for Humanity, the annual CROP walk, Survivors, Inc. (a shelter for those suffering from domestic violence), the Red Cross, YWCA, El Centro, the Gettysburg cooperative community farm group, the Adams County Literacy Council and volunteer emergency service personnel for the town of Gettysburg.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Educational Features

Course requirements for each program are met through specified courses, area distribution electives (“required electives”), and free electives. Additional offerings are available through the Seminary’s participation in the Washington Theological Consortium (www.washtheocon.org).

A full year of academic study consists of a fall semester, January term, and spring semester, with a normal course load being 13.5 to 15 credits each semester and 1.5 credits during January term. Parts of all programs may be taken part-time.

Detailed information regarding academic policies and procedures is contained in the *Student Handbook*. Examples include waiver of specified courses, changing degree programs, auditing classes, and leave of absence requests.

January Term

Gettysburg Seminary seeks to provide an inclusive and holistic learning context for the formation of church leaders. The January Term furthers this holistic intention by seeking to broaden the experience of both students and faculty through teaching subjects not otherwise covered in the curriculum and teaching them in creative ways. Students normally fulfill the Multicultural Studies Program requirement and Human Relations workshop requirement during a January Term.

The Multicultural Studies Program

The Multicultural Studies Program offers students a wide variety of opportunities to immerse themselves in the life and culture of an ethnic/cultural group other than their own. The key curricular components designed to meet this goal are the multicultural immersion experiences and seminary lectureships. There are a number of opportunities for self-directed studies, designed for specialized, elective, and/or thematic interests of students.

Independent Study Courses

Particularly in the final year of study, students who have demonstrated their academic competency are encouraged to negotiate independent study projects in the various disciplines of the curriculum. Proposals are prepared in consultation with the instructor concerned and are subject to approval by the Dean. Independent studies may not be used for required courses.

Academic Policies

Residence

The minimum residency requirement for graduation with any degree is one year of full-time academic study or its equivalent on the Gettysburg campus. Students who have been admitted to the Master of Arts in Religion program with advanced standing may choose to spend their second semester taking course work through the Washington Theological Consortium.

Grading

The Seminary offers a choice in grading system. The first and default system of grading for course work is P (Pass)/F (Fail). Descriptive reports will accompany course grades. Students have the option of choosing a letter grade for the evaluation of their performance in a course, although no grade point averages will be calculated by the Registrar. Students must declare this preference when they register for a particular course. The Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree program requires letter grades. First degree students taking STM courses are subject to the same grade, course expectations, and grade submission dates as STM students. Senior students are responsible for making sure that their work is submitted in time for graduation requirements. In the semester of graduation, any student who has completed consistently excellent coursework in a given theological field, including completion of additional credits beyond the required ones for that field, may be eligible for faculty nomination for honors in that field. Information about probation and dismissal is found in the *Student Handbook*.



Responsible Community Discourse

It is expected that all Gettysburg Seminary graduates will enter ministry with an awareness of the personal, cultural, moral, and theological issues involved in the global effort to move toward inclusiveness in church life and use of language. It is, therefore, expected that all Gettysburg Seminary students will intentionally develop the linguistic and pastoral skills that will prepare them to lead their communities into a tradition of inclusivity and respect that exhibits integrity and avoids awkwardness.

Inclusiveness in church life and use of language opposes a variety of demeaning or idolatrous attitudes, such as sexism, racism, or classism. It struggles to free us from such historically besetting sins as triumphalism, anti-semitism, or cultural imperialism. It reflects our affirmation that a person's worth is not based on age, sexual orientation, family situation, or

physical, mental, or emotional well being.

Accordingly, faculty, staff, and students will maintain a high standard of inclusiveness in corporate worship, convocations, and class discussions, as well as in all written assignments (tests as well as papers), seminary publications, and scholarly works. It is standard procedure, for example, to return to students for revision any assignment submitted which does not aim at the inclusive use of language. It is appropriate for all members of the Seminary community – students, staff, and faculty alike – to remind each other of our commitment to respect the rich diversity of language reflected in the Biblical witness.

The ELCA Publishing Standards Manual is a helpful resource for recognizing exclusive or demeaning language, and for rephrasing it without awkwardness; appropriate chapters are included in the faculty, staff, and *Student Handbook*.

