

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of the Gospel

the opening service of the school year for

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, August 22, 2004, 2 P.M.

*A lot of activity and travel brings us to this place
for the beginning of a new school year.*

*As the processional begins, our concerns are drawn from our own lives
to the new life that Jesus Christ has won for us.*

*The empty cross in motion at the head of the procession
focuses our attention on Christ's life, death and resurrection,
our reason for being here.*

THE PROCESSIONAL "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage" – Concert Choir

THE INVOCATION AND SCRIPTURE READING Romans 10:12-15

THE SERMON HYMN "Christians, While On Earth Abiding"
CW 408

Christians, while on earth abiding, Let us never cease to pray,
Firmly in the Lord confiding As our parents in their day.
Be the children's voices raised To the God their parents praised.
May his blessing, failing never, Rest upon his people ever.

The assembly stands

Bless us, Father, and protect us From all harm in all our ways;
Patiently, O Lord, direct us Safely through these fleeting days.
Let your face upon us shine; Fill us with your peace divine.
Praise the Father, Son, and Spirit! Praise him, all who life inherit!

THE SERMON "The Lord Our God Be With Us" 1 Kings 8:57

May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he
never leave us or forsake us.

The assembly remains seated after the sermon

THE ANTHEM FOR THE OCCASION

"The Lord Be Near Us"
Timothy Dudley-Smith

The MLS Concert Choir

THE RITES OF INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION

THE INSTALLATION OF
LUKE J. BOEHRINGER, JOHN H. BOGGS, MELISSA S. EHLKE, JESSICA M. FALCK,
AARON T. MUELLER, SARAH R. MUELLER

THE ORDINATION OF
LUKE J. BOEHRINGER, AARON T. MUELLER

THE HYMN OF REDEDICATION

"Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying"
CW 573

Hark! The voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I—send me, send me?"

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying, And the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly; Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calleth, "Here am I—send me, send me!"

THE RITE OF REDEDICATION

Pastor: It is good for us to remember our calling in life & the work God has set before us.

Will the members of the Seminary faculty please rise.

Faculty, you are the teachers through whom the Lord is training the next generation of gospel heralds. I ask you, Will you faithfully instruct the youth entrusted to your care? Will you set your life as an example before your students? With firm confidence in God's Word and with reliance on prayer, will you joyfully fulfill the high calling of your individual ministries?

Faculty: *We will for Jesus' sake, with the heavenly Father's help and by the Holy Spirit's power.*

Pastor: Will the seniors join the faculty in standing.

Seniors, you are beginning your last year at this school. You are the leaders of the student body. You will be the pastors, teachers, missionaries, and lay leaders of tomorrow's church. I ask you, Will you be faithful in your studies? Will you lead the younger students with Christ-like service? Will you give prayerful thought to the church's need for full-time servants who will preach and teach God's truth to a dying world?

Seniors: *We will for Jesus' sake, with the heavenly Father's help and by the Holy Spirit's power.*

Pastor: Will the juniors join the faculty and seniors in standing.

Juniors, you have successfully passed the midpoint of your high school years. As upperclassmen you are taking up new privileges and responsibilities. You are soon to make decisions regarding your life's

work. I ask you, Will you be examples of hard work and the wise fulfillment of responsibility? Will you look to the Holy Spirit to provide guidance in choosing your life's calling?

Juniors: *We will for Jesus' sake, with the heavenly Father's help and by the Holy Spirit's power.*

Pastor: Will the sophomores join the faculty and upperclassmen in standing.

Sophomores, as you return for another year at Seminary, you know that the Lord has given you the ability to complete the course laid down by our church for the future leaders of our church. Yet there is much for you to learn. I ask you, Will you make the most of your abilities and opportunities, inside and outside of the classroom? Will you seek God's will in discovering your life's work?

Sophomores: *We will for Jesus' sake, with the heavenly Father's help and by the Holy Spirit's power.*

Pastor: Will the freshmen join the rest of the Seminary family in standing.

Freshmen, Seminary is new for you. You are concerned about making friends, about being away from home, about your grades, and about making hard choices in the way you live. Without God's help you would surely fail. I ask you, Will you trust that the Lord who brought you to our school will be with you this year and always? In giving thanks for his many blessings, will you consider how best you might use your life in service to your Savior?

Freshmen: *We will for Jesus' sake, with the heavenly Father's help and by the Holy Spirit's power.*

Pastor: Will all the remaining worshipers please stand. Mothers and fathers, relatives and friends, it is for you and your children's children that this school exists. Let us pray.

Pastor: Father in heaven, bless our school and bless all who are a part of the Seminary family. Forgive our failures and shortcomings for Jesus' sake. Send us the Holy Spirit so that your will is done in our day. Renew the strength of the faculty members who continue to preach and teach among us. Bring joy to the ministries of those new faculty members who have been installed this afternoon. Endow the leaders of our student body with sound judgment and a high degree of responsibility. Inspire every student faithfully to use the gifts you have given. Grant our new students a sense of belonging and instill in them the confidence that you are always with them. Recruit workers for the public ministry from among the young people here present. Bestow special blessings upon those who support our school with their prayers and offerings. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

All respond by singing: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worshipers are invited to a reception in honor of those newly installed at this afternoon's service. The reception, hosted by the MLS Guild, will be held in the Commons immediately following the service.

- The Preacher Pastor Steven W. Ehlke
professor at Luther Preparatory School and father of Tutor Ehlke
- The Installing Pastor. Pastor George A. Ferch
chairman of the Seminary Governing Board and pastor of Bethlehem, Carmel, IN
- The Ordaining Pastor. Pastor Wayne D. Mueller
vice-president of the Wisconsin Synod and father of Tutor Mueller
- The Lector. Pastor Mark H. Falck
pastor of St. Luke, Grand Rapids, MN, and father of Tutor Falck
- The Leader of the Rite of Rededication Pastor John F. Boehringer
pastor of St. John, Watertown, WI, and father of Tutor Boehringer
- The Leader of the Closing Prayer Pastor Steven O. Staude
pastor of Christ, West Salem, WI, and father of Instructor Mueller
- The Organist Mrs. Patricia L. Johnson, MLS

The Choir DirectorProfessor Leonard A. Proeber, *MLS*
The ChoirThe Seminary Concert Choir