

# A Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of the Gospel

the opening service of the school year for  
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY  
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, August 20, 2006, 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**      Isaiah 6:1-8

**THE SERMON HYMN**      "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"  
CW 176

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord! May all your graces be outpoured  
On each believer's mind and heart; Your fervent love to them impart.  
Lord, by the brightness of your light In holy faith your church unite  
From ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue; This to your praise, O Lord our God,  
be sung: Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The assembly stands*

Come, holy Fire, Comfort true; Grant us the will your work to do  
And in your service to abide; Let trials turn us not aside.  
Lord, by your pow'r prepare each heart, And to our weakness strength  
impart That bravely here we may contend,  
Through life and death to you, our Lord, ascend. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**THE SERMON**      1 Timothy 3:1

Here is a trustworthy saying:  
If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

"Setting Sights on the Noble Task"

*The assembly remains seated after the sermon*

**THE ANTHEM FOR THE OCCASION**

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"  
Neumark

*The MLS Concert Choir*

*The Church recognizes those about to serve and those serving in the ministry of the gospel*

**THE RITES OF INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION**

THE INSTALLATION OF  
NAOMI S. GETKA, DANIEL T. SCHMIDT, TERRI E. SCHROEDER,  
PETER J. SNYDER, AND KATHERINE E. VALLESKEY

THE ORDINATION OF  
DANIEL T. SCHMIDT

**THE RECOGNITION OF SERVICE**

TEN YEARS AT MLS  
JAMES K. WOOSTER

FIFTEEN YEARS AT MLS  
PAUL T. PRANGE

TWENTY YEARS AT MLS  
MARCUS R. BODE

**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**

**President Prange:** It is good for us to remember our calling in life and 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.*

**President Prange:** 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.*

**President Prange:** 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.*

**President Prange:** 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.*

**President Prange:** 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.*

**President Prange:** 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.

**President Prange:** 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.

**suggestion from 2006:** *add sentence talking about safe travel for all those beginning school*

**THE BENEDICTION**

*All respond by singing: Amen.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Worshippers 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 Stephen Valleskey  
*pastor at Abiding Word, Houston, TX, and father of Tutor Valleskey*
- The Lector . . . . . Pastor Thomas Schmidt  
*pastor at Grace, Kenai, AK, and father of Tutor Schmidt*
- The Installing Pastor. . . . . Pastor George Ferch  
*chairman of the MLS Governing Board and pastor at Bethlehem, Carmel, IN*
- The Organist . . . . . Professor Rebecca Berg, *MLS*
- The Choir Director. . . . . Professor Leonard A. Proeber, *MLS*
- The Choir . . . . . The Seminary Concert Choir