One of the great challenges facing the North American Lutheran Church from the beginning has been the education and training of pastors. We have asked:

+ Where will future pastors come from and how will they be trained?

+ How will they be prepared to preach and teach with confidence the truth of God’s Word?

+ How will they be equipped to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

+ Where will they find orthodox teaching regarding the authority and interpretation of the Scripture?

+ Where will they learn the value of our rich Confessional heritage and integrate both Biblical truth and Confessional understanding into their preaching, teaching, and administering of the sacraments?

+ Where will they develop a devotional life rooted in the Scriptures and prayer, a clear understanding of faith that will continue to equip and sustain them, drawing them ever closer to Christ and relying not on themselves but the power and work of the Holy Spirit?

+ Who will mentor them as disciples of Jesus, nurturing them in the faith until they are fully equipped to disciple others?

In response to these questions, the 2013 NALC Convocation approved the formation of the North American Lutheran Seminary.

The Convocation also approved a goal of raising $1 million for our Theological Education Fund to establish the North American Lutheran Seminary as quickly as possible.

Our congregation is joining with other NALC congregations and Mission Districts to begin raising these funds for our new seminary.

Members are being asked to make special offerings to the NALC Theological Education Fund. Each week this month, a different bulletin insert will highlight the NALS plan. Please watch for these inserts and prayerfully consider joining with your brothers and sisters in the NALC as we build our Theological Education Fund, preparing to establish the North American Lutheran Seminary!

You may designate a gift for the NALC Theological Education Fund through your congregation’s offering or you may send a gift directly to:

NALC Theological Education Fund  
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220  
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

Gifts may be given online at www.thenalc.org.
NALC Seminary

The Plan

The new North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) will be an integrative, flexible plan for theological education that will serve the NALC well into the 21st century! Here’s the plan:

+ The NALS will consist of a Seminary Center and Houses of Studies. Many have pictured it as a hub-and-spokes design—a wheel of sorts. The Houses of Studies will be located at existing seminaries and theological schools providing ready infrastructure and theological libraries.

+ The new Seminary Center will be located at Trinity Anglican School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Our first House of Studies has been created on site at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. New Houses of Studies will be located as needed throughout North America—in the west, for example, as well as in Canada.

+ NALC seminarians may take classes at the Seminary Center or one of the Houses of Studies, either in residence or as a commuter. Seminarians will also have the opportunity to take classes through distance or online learning, with a required residency on-campus at one of the locations two to four weeks a year. This will allow all NALS seminarians to engage with NALS faculty and other seminarians to develop a truly NALC pastoral identity.

+ The NALS will be comprised of the Seminary Center and all Houses of Studies, with one faculty involving all professors at all NALS locations.

+ Although NALC seminarians will be able to attend non-NALS schools, our seminarians also will be able to take classes at one of the several NALS sites, providing great flexibility for seminarians who may need to continue current employment during studies, or need to remain in one location due to family circumstances.

+ Development of the NALS is currently in process! We have more than 40 seminarians in the NALC—promising that God has a great future for our church body. Now is the time for us to build the Theological Education Fund to support this effort. Please prayerfully consider financially supporting our new North American Lutheran Seminary!

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NALC Seminary Month
This is the second of four inserts highlighting the North American Lutheran Seminary.
NALC Seminary

Our Progress

What’s happening now in the development of the new North American Lutheran Seminary?

+ Currently, more than 40 NALC seminarians are studying for ordained Word and Sacrament Ministry!

+ Several NALC students are already on-campus at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

+ Eight NALC students are studying at our House of Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina.

+ The NALC Executive Council has contracted with Bishop Emeritus Paul Spring to be our part-time consultant. He will meet regularly with leadership of Trinity School for Ministry to lay the groundwork for our Seminary Center.

+ A search team is at work interviewing candidates for our Seminary Director position, with the hope that the Executive Council will extend a call to the director before the end of the year.

+ After the Seminary Director has been called, the director will work together with the Theological Education Task Force, Trinity School for Ministry, and the NALC Executive Council to hire an administrative assistant/registrar for the NALS.

+ The NALS will, God willing, begin functioning in January 2014!

What can you do?

Now is the time for all pastors, congregations, and individuals to financially support our new seminary! Please prayerfully consider making a special one-time or every Sunday offering to the NALC Theological Education Fund. If you are able, would you become one of our major donors? Contact your pastor or Mission District Dean if you would like to discuss making a gift of $20,000, $50,000 or more. To discuss making a bequest or including the NALS in your will, please feel free to contact the NALC treasurer, Ryan Schwarz, at treasurer@thenalc.org.

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NALC Seminary Month

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NALC Seminary

A Message from the Bishop

When we ask where our pastors will come from for the future, we must turn that question back on ourselves, and confess that it is our responsibility to raise up leaders from our congregations who are open to Christ’s call to serve.

We must provide them with the educational experience that insures their competence and confidence to faithfully lead our congregations in Word and Sacrament ministry.

The unique thing about our NALC seminary plan is that rather than investing in bricks and mortar, we can make an investment in people.

We will be making an investment in faithful, distinguished faculty.

We’ll be making an investment in our students, who will receive faithful teaching and the chance to grow and mature and fully develop their leadership capacity.

And we’ll be making an investment in proclaiming the confessional Lutheran witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to future generations.

By supporting the Theological Education Fund, congregations are also making an investment in their own future by being assured that their future pastors will not only excel in all the duties of the pastoral office but also love Christ, believe what the Scriptures proclaim, and appreciate the value of our confessional heritage.

It is my prayer that you will join me in supporting this most important endeavor.

In Christ’s service,

Bishop John Bradosky

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