An Intern’s Story

God is doing something new for me. It is a matter of formation.

There have been a lot of changes in my life as I have transitioned from studies into internship. On March 28 I resigned from Edgewood Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre where I worked for four years. It was work that I enjoyed but now realize I was doing ministry for a corporation. And now, I want to experience ministry in the ELCIC. As part of my discernment, I was excited to consider serving in chaplaincy in either a hospital or a military setting. But God shifted my focus to parish ministry.

First, my wife (we were married on May 6th) and I packed up our car and started traveling cross country from Nanaimo to Ontario and our adventure into parish ministry began at Christ the King Lutheran Church at Sauble Beach, Ontario. It is a unique vacation community on the shores of Lake Huron. I planned liturgy and preached each week, along with pastoral visits. I challenged the congregation to get out into the community and to try some ecumenical partnerships.

As the days and weeks went on I began to make connections with all of the other summer church programs in the area. I met Presbyterians, Community Church members, Pentecostals, Anglicans and Catholics. I wasn’t sure if the congregants would want to participate in a community based ecumenical project. But thankfully I was asked to be a judge at the local talent show being put on by a number of different local churches. I took a risk and asked the congregation to host a pizza party for volunteers and to help out at the event. It was a success. The members of the congregation were happy to be a part of such a well-attended, ecumenical event. When it came time for me to leave, they expressed how grateful they were that they had a chance to be out in the community in a new and exciting environment while representing their church.

From Ontario, we moved back west to Edmonton, where I am now the Intern Pastor at Glory Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Sitting on 46 acres of agricultural land, the church is surrounded by nature: herons, ducks, geese, deer, coyotes, beaver and muskrats – another unique ministry setting. It is a pleasure to be here and to see how God will continue doing something new for me.
A word from President Harrison: “Now is a time to share our stories of ways that we have experienced God’s grace at LTS or as a result of the work of LTS. Have you encountered God’s free gift of transforming love through LTS or through someone who studied here? If so, would you be willing to share that story with us and with others?

If you have a story of how God’s love has found you through LTS, either through attending here or knowing someone who did so, and you’d be willing to let us possibly share it in print, please write your story (brief is fine!) and send it to Rev. Fran Schmidt, Director of Development and Communications, at development.office@usask.ca or mail it to her at the Seminary address.

Thanks to all of you who share your stories!
NEW CATERING SERVICE AT LTS!

Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) is pleased to announce a new partnership: Fresh Dish Catering, of Saskatoon, has signed a lease agreement to operate out of our cafeteria starting in February of 2018.

President Harrison says, “We are excited by the possibilities inherent in this partnership: not only will an upgraded kitchen provide us with immediate opportunities for alternative revenue—with cafeteria services for LTS students, faculty, and staff, as well as non-LTS students—but, thinking longer-term, a partnership such as this will strengthen our ability to fill the student residences here at LTS.”

Fresh Dish Catering is owned and operated by Evelyn Reisner. All dishes are handmade, and include vegan, vegetarian, organic, locally grown, and no gluten added options. Additionally, Fresh Dish Catering creates cuisine from all over the world: French, Italian, East Indian, Thai, Japanese, West Coast, and others.

Evelyn (pictured with President Harrison below) says, “My passion for food started as a child—both because my mother is a fantastic cook and because I have had the fortune of living in a number of different countries and enjoying a wide variety of cuisines. I have been working in the food industry for many years and have run my own catering business for the past seven years; I know what it takes to keep customers coming back for more.” She also added, “We are thrilled to be operating out of LTS: it opens up new opportunities for us; it’s a beautiful new space; and it will be so nice to interact with the wonderful community at LTS.”

Fresh Dish Catering is set to move in to our cafeteria in February 2018. Normal meal services will commence officially for LTS residents and employees in September 2018.
CONGREGATIONAL THANK YOUs

A quick note of thanks is due, already, to the many congregations that have responded so positively to our Congregational Appeal letter sent in early October.

Not only have we received several positive notes from congregations, affirming that they support this idea and that they will be including LTS in their upcoming budgetary discussions, but some have even seen fit to make an immediate donation.

This initiative has already raised close to $12,000 from approximately 25 congregations! We are grateful and humbled by this response.

We are also moved by the spirit of the written responses we have received. Here are but a few examples:

“Thank you for your letter regarding the fundraising campaign for LTS. At our recent council meeting we discussed your letter and we recognize the importance of training pastors for our Church.”

“The Ladies group, I am sure, will give at least $200 and likely $300 as we generally have a Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale. Praying that you have luck in achieving 100% participation in this fundraising endeavor.”

“Our council met last night. The letter from the Development Office at LTS was read and discussed at our meeting. A motion was made that we add a budget line, $300, for LTS. The motion passed unanimously.”

With our sincere thanks, then, for your continued support of LTS!

Please feel free to be in touch—whether to pose questions or simply to connect with us.

Save the Date:
LTS Annual Study Conference
May 1–3, 2017
Singing our Theology:
How our hymns form us for mission

Contact Us
For more information about theological studies or to contribute to LTS and the ongoing nurture and challenge of all people for Christ-centered leadership and witness:

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The Promise of Advent
Glory to God in the Highest is a beautiful piece by the artist, He Qi. In the season of Advent, we are reminded to wait and watch, lanterns lit, hopeful for the return of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in glory.

May this Advent be a season of hopeful promise for you and your loved ones.

~From the faculty, staff and students of LTS.

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