

Wartburg Theological Seminary



CLASS OF 2021 BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT

The One Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Year

May 16, 2021

1:00 p.m. CT & 3:00 p.m. CT

Details & Schedule of the Day

Class Verse | A Note from the Graduates | Schedule | Contents

CLASS VERSE

John 20:21

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

A NOTE FROM THE GRADUATES

Our class picked John 20:21 as our class verse as a reminder of the year that we graduated and of God's peace being among us, even as we are sent into a strange new future. Thanks to Red Door Press in Des Moines, IA for printing this verse and unity item (pictured on the cover) for our class.

SCHEDULE

Baccalaureate begins at 1 p.m. CT and Commencement begins at 3 p.m. CT Both services will be livestreamed, which is accessible on our website (wartburgseminary.edu/event/commencement-2021) or on our Facebook page (facebook.com/wartburgseminary/live).

CONTENTS

All that you will need to participate and enjoy both Baccalaureate and Commencement will be visible throughout the service on the livestream. Follow along using this booklet beginning on page 4 for Baccalaureate and page 22 for Commencement, followed by acknowledgments and thanks on page 33. Thank you for joining us!

Baccalaureate

Service of the Word | Seventh Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Fiesta
Emma Lou Diemer

GATHERING ACCLAMATION

Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -
va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

Text: *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*, Renewing Worship 3
Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water—
for the oceans that surround the earth,
for the rivers that nurture the land,
for the waters you provide for our community—we bless you,
O God, for the waters of earth:

We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water—
for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees,
for the floods that restore the fields,
for the dew that freshens dry places—
we honor you, O God, for the waters you send:

We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism—
for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus,
for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost,
for the water that illumines us with your Word,
for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit,
for the water that bathes the church universal—
we glorify you, God, for the waters of baptism:

We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.

We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, almighty, merciful,
and gracious.

Well of forgiveness, you revive us,
cup of cold water, you refresh us,
pool of rebirth, you renew us.

To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever:

To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever.

Amen.

The service continues with the gathering song.

GATHERING SONG

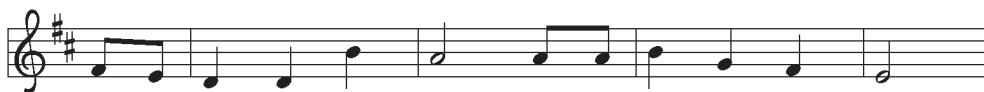
Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A reading from Acts.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

1 John 5:9-13

A reading from 1st John.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that God has testified to God's Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made God a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning God's Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in God's Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly welcomes the gospel, singing Alleluia.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

John 17:6-19

The holy gospel according to John, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus prayed:] "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are

one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Troy M. Troftgruben
Associate Professor of New Testament

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Members of the graduating class lead the prayers of intercession.

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God, who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Holy God, in Christ Jesus, the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse for air, water, and land that sustains life. Open our hearts and minds to the gifts that these sources of life provide. Your abundant creation is ever evident around us. Show us new ways to protect and share these resources that all creation may flourish in them. Bless those who are good stewards of all that you created. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are the maker, bringer, and keeper of peace for all peoples. In chaos, order, fear, and joy, deliver your peace to our hearts, homes, communities, and world. Save us from ourselves, that we may come to know, as one body, your righteousness, truth, and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, bless our siblings around the world who are suffering due to oppression, injustice, illness, and loneliness. Our complicity in systems that benefit some people and harm others is ever before us. Open our eyes and hearts to the plight of your children everywhere so that we are

moved to act on their behalf. Through us, lavish comfort and provision for those nearby and far away, so that your love is known. Draw near to those who are grieving and lonely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, we pray for peace in our minds, bodies, and spirits, as we seek to serve you amidst our own struggles. Calm our anxieties, mend our bodies and spirits in your time. Thank you for people whose gifts include healing of thoughts, souls, bones, muscles, organs, and diseases. For our siblings around the world who lack access to treatment and medicine due to distance, money, discrimination or war that they are filled, held, and cared for. Strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may glorify you and advocate for our siblings. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

On this special day at Wartburg, gratitude abounds for students who have completed their education and for those who supported the process from discernment to call. Guide the students who embark on a new path today, as well as their loved ones and the entire Wartburg community. Each person brings unique concerns, bless each with wisdom when doors are closed or unforeseen situations create roadblocks. Remind us of the plans you have for us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gather close those among us who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We give thanks for the saints who have departed before us that their witness be a reminder of your abundant love for the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING

We respond to God's word with prayer and song.

OFFERING

The Class of 2021 has chosen to designate today's offering to The Dubuque Dream Center in memory of the beloved Rev. Dr. Gwen Saylor. This was one of the ministries that was dear to Gwen's heart and she spent time serving there.

Give online at wartburgseminary.edu/giving-opportunities and choose "Class of 2021 Offering" as the designation.

OFFERING HYMN

God Be with You Till We Meet Again



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

Refrain



Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. | Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O



God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O



Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and

Refrain



sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va - tion be - longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and



bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All



praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating an earth of splendor and for making us into a people of your own.

With all the saints who have received your Word we worship you, holy God.

We worship you, holy God.

We praise you for your eternal Word,
for conquering the force of death,
and for raising us up through the resurrection of our Lord.

For your Word alive among us,
we praise you, living God.

We praise you, living God.

Breathe the Spirit of the risen Christ on us,
that led by your Word
we may honor your earth and its many peoples
and serve all who are in need.
For your Word animating our Easter life,
we bless you, loving God.
We bless you, loving God.

All worship, praise, and blessing be to you,
Source of life, Ruler of life, and Power of life,
today and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

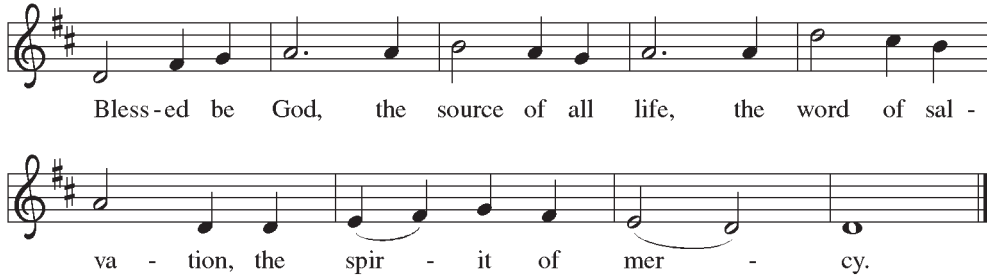
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING ACCLAMATION



Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -
va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

Text: *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*, Renewing Worship 3
Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

The presiding minister addresses those affirming Christian vocation.

Class of 2021, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

The presiding minister continues.

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.


The God of life,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.


SENDING HYMN

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Refrain— sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Text: South African; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
Music: HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA, South African

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

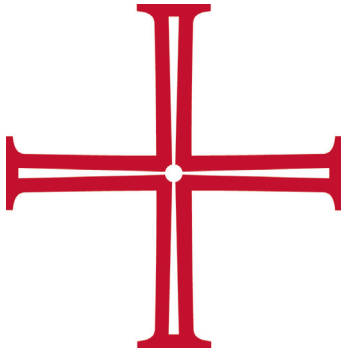
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Tocatta in F

J.S. Bach



Commencement

Wartburg Theological Seminary's One Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Year

PRELUDE

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern
Dietrich Buxtehude

HYMN

O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength
fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -
ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you



in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is
ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some
true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.
to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

INVOCATION

Dr. Man-Hei Yip

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology

WELCOME

Dr. Stephen J. Cornils

Chair, Board of Directors

SPECIAL AWARDS & HONORS

Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen

President

The Honorary Doctor of Divinity



The Rev. Amy L. Current currently serves as Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prior to this call, Bishop Current served as Vice President of Admissions and Student Services at Wartburg Theological Seminary since 2011. She also has worked as Director for Financial Aid and Stewardship Formation, Director for Public Communications, and Interim Director of the Center for Youth Ministries at Wartburg Theological Seminary from 2006 to 2010. Prior to her service at Wartburg, Bishop Current served as Pastor of Maple Sheyenne Lutheran Church in Harwood, North Dakota, from 2003 to 2006, and as Pastor of Golden Ridge Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota, and Congregational Lutheran United Church, Gardner, North Dakota, from 1997 to 2001. Bishop Current serves on the boards of Grand View University, Lutheran Services in Iowa, and Unity Point Health - Des Moines. She was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, in 1993 and a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1997.



The Rev. Christopher deForest currently serves as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prior to this call, Bishop deForest served as Pastor at Trinity, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, since 2018. Ordained in 2011, he also served as Pastor at St. John, Mahoning (Lehighton), Pennsylvania from 2011 to 2018. Before entering the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Bishop deForest was Admissions Advisor for Wartburg Theological Seminary from 2010 to 2011, Interim Executive Director for the Haitian Timoun Foundation, Littleton, Colorado, from 2007 to 2008, Director of

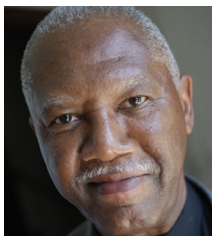
Communications for PartyLite Gifts, Inc., from 1993 to 2003, and a Video Creative Specialist for Tupperware from 1987 to 1992. He also served as Volunteer Chaplain for the Kutztown Police Department and Vice President of the Board for the “Hope Rising for India” Foundation. Bishop deForest was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1987 and a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2009.



The Rev. Amy Odgren currently serves as Bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prior to this call, Bishop Odgren served as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northeastern Minnesota Synod since 2016. Her primary responsibilities included guiding congregations to strengthen their missional framework and missional plan-

ning. Bishop Odgren served as pastor of Spirit Lutheran Church from 2015 to 2016, and as pastor and redeveloper of First Lutheran Church from 2013 to 2015, both in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She also served as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin from 2007 to 2013; Associate Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin from 2003 to 2007, and Mission Developer Pastor of Bridge of Life Lutheran Church in Holmen, Wisconsin from 2001 to 2003. Bishop Odgren entered ordained ministry after a 17-year career accompanying individuals with developmental disabilities. She also served faithfully on the Board of Directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary. Bishop Odgren was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, in 1980 and received a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2001.

The Living Loehe Award



The Rev. Kelly Chatman has served as an exemplary church leader in many capacities. In 2020, he became the first Director for the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement, a nonprofit organization providing programs, coaching, and training to connect and support congregations, nonprofits, and their neighborhoods. Pastor Chatman served as Senior Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church and

Director for the Redeemer Center for Life in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from 2001 to 2020. Redeemer Center for Life offers affordable housing, after-school programs, youth outreach, and economic and community development. Since October 2004, Redeemer was the location for AGAPE (led by David Scherer). Pastor Chatman also has served as advisor to the Bishop for the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 2010.

Pastor Chatman was Director for Youth Ministries for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from 1995 to 2000, and an educator at Oregon Episcopal School, including serving as Dean of Residence from 1987 to 1989. Pastor Chatman has also served on boards for Camp Amnicon, Aeon Housing Development, Gustavus College, Cookie Cart, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Lutheran Volunteer Corp, Harrison Neighborhood Association, and Wheat Ridge Foundation. Pastor Chatman has been recognized as a Fund for Theological Education Benjamin E. Mays Fellow, recipient of the Luther Seminary "Race, Church and Culture Award" (2006), Tom Hunstad Award for Youth and Family Ministry (2003), Portland Public School's Volunteer of the Year (1992), and Mayor's Citizen of the Year for Portland, Oregon. Pastor Chatman was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a Master of Divinity degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1967.



Honorable Madam Justice Sandra E. Kurtzious of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (Redeemer Lutheran Parish) is Judge of the High Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature–Family Division. She is the only judge with that portfolio who serves the whole country. Justice Kurtzious served as Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) from 2009 to 2017, having become a member of the Executive Council as Secretary in 2000. Among her many parish involvements, she has served as Chairperson of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Advisor to the Luther League, and member of various auxiliaries in the church.

She is a member of Advocates (for Christ), a group of Attorneys-at-Law offering service pro bono, Lions Club International (Guyana), Guyana Association of Women Lawyers, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (Florida Chapter), the International Association of Women Judges, the Caribbean Association of Women Judges, the Guyana Association of Women Judges, and

the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers. Over the years, Justice Kurtzious has played a key role in welcoming and hosting Wartburg Theological Seminary students during the January term. She is a role model to women and youth of the church and in the wider society. Through her baptismal vocation, Justice Kurtzious demonstrates what it means to live in the public world as a disciple of Jesus Christ. She has participated in meetings sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation and gatherings of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a companion synod with the ELCG. Justice Kurtzious is a parochial, ecclesial, national, and global witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.



The Rev. Renee Splichal Larson has served as Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy, Congregation and Rostered Minister Accompaniment in the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 2019. Prior to this call she served as pastor of Heart River Lutheran Church in Mandan, North Dakota from 2010 to 2019. While at Heart River, Pastor Splichal Larson served as a mission developer, creating a re-entry ministry and support network for youth at the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center called Heart River Bridges of Hope. She grew up in Garrison, North Dakota, and was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

After graduation, she volunteered fulltime for two years: one year with Urban Servant Corps in Denver, Colorado, and one year with Border Servant Corps in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Pastor Splichal Larson received a Master of Divinity Degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2010. She is the author of the book, *A Witness: The Haiti Earthquake, a Song, Death, and Resurrection*, which testifies to the experience of the people of Haiti before and after the tragic earthquake in 2010 that also killed her husband, Benjamin. Rev. Splichal Larson has served the ELCA as a trained “global musician,” and as preacher at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, Florida. She is married to Pastor Jonathan Splichal Larson. They have two sons, Gabriel and Elias.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Listen, God Is Calling

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

David Maloy
Class of 2021

The Conferring of Academic Degrees & Citations

Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen, President | Dr. Stephen Cornils, Board of Directors | Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean

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Barbara Louise Cox
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Rebekah Louise Forst (Y)
Amanda Ann Randall

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Denise Marie Berns	Tina Theresa Kieckhafer
Cassandra Jean Borges	Fredrick Phillip Klinker
Todd Adam Burrichter	Michelle Nicole Knight
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Clayton Shae Faulkner (M)	Micah Taylor Louwagie
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Andy James Graves (M)	William T. Ostrem
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Shadoe Brett Carl Hanson	Sergio Edson Rodriguez (HM)
Tyler Anthony Hoey	Amalia Joann Vagts
Mary Kathryn Hughes	Kari Marie Webb
Tamera Kay Jacobi	Heidi Lynne Youngquist (M)

Key: (Y) completed Youth, Culture, and Mission Concentration
(M) completed Mission Development/Redevelopment Concentration
(HM) completed Hispanic Ministry Concentration

CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen
President

RESPONSE

Cassandra Borges
Perrie Dralle
Final Year Class Presidents

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SPECIAL GREETING

Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen
President

SENDING HYMN

To Be In Your Presence



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, o.s.b., b. 1939
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

POSTLUDE

Churchyard Chatter
Uzee Brown Jr.

Special Thanks

PARTICIPANTS IN BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT

Cantor

David Pitt

Sacristans

*Hannah Purkey
Nathaniel Adkins*

Digital Sacristans

*Emily Erisman
Elise Hynek*

Musicians

*Heidi Youngquist
Sean Avery*

Readers

*Heidi Youngquist
David Myers
Denise Berns
Tyler Hoey
Barbara Cox
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