



Dear ministry partners in the Northern Illinois Synod:

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) is grateful to share highlights from our seminary in this 2024 report to supporting synods. Thank you for your continued support of our innovative and thriving seminary. Highlights from this year include:

- In May 2023, LSTC relocated to its new home on the fourth floor of the Rev. Donald P. Senor Academic Center building at 5416 South Cornell Street in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. Designed as an agile 21st-century seminary offering in person and omnichannel learning opportunities, this strategic move has positioned LSTC to invest in key areas while opening the door for innovation and growth. Leasing space in a building shared with the Catholic Theological Union and McCormick Theological Seminary deepens our commitment to ecumenical collaboration.
- The LSTC Board of Directors appointed a task force to examine and propose a reparations plan for the seminary tied to the sale of our former building at 1100 E. 55th Street. As part of the ongoing communication about this vital initiative, the Reparations Task Force launched a website (lstc.edu/reparations) to keep the community abreast of developments and milestones achieved by the Reparations Task Force. This platform is a comprehensive resource, providing updates and insights gained through research and discussions.
- A new investment area for LSTC is its expansion into asynchronous forms of online learning. This new platform will allow learners to access and complete lectures and readings within their own timeframe utilizing on-demand content such as podcasts and video lectures. In the first phase of this project, the seminary will focus on creating Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) and Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAM) certificates. In its second phase, the seminary will introduce First Call Theological Education (FCTE) courses, professional development courses for rostered leaders, and continuing education courses for those who want to grow in their faith. As we expand, the seminary will continue to offer its existing degree and certificate-based residential and distance learning tracks.
- This spring, we are undergoing our regular cycle of periodic comprehensive reviews by our accreditors, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), our specialty accreditor, and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our regional accreditor. These involve the opportunity to research and write a valuable self-study report that summarizes our school's performance and improvements across the whole span of our operations. The reviews culminate in each case with an on-campus visit by accreditation teams, who will later gather their findings into reports shared with us this summer.
- Honoring the 50th anniversary of Christ Seminary - Seminex, LSTC is hosting a conference April 16-18 online and at its new facility in Hyde Park. This event-packed experience combines LSTC's annual Homecoming celebration and features engaging sessions, insightful discussions, and once-in-a-lifetime reunions. A digital version of the conference will be available after the event. Visit LSTC.edu/Seminex for information about the conference, Homecoming, and other Seminex-related celebrations.
- [Dr. Linda E. Thomas](#), Professor of Theology and Anthropology and Director of the Albert "Pete" Pero, Jr. and Cheryl Stewart Pero Center for Intersectionality Studies, was recently appointed Interim Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs for LSTC. In the fall of 2023, [Dr. Karri Alldredge](#) joined LSTC as an Assistant Professor of New Testament. [Rafael Malpica Padilla](#) was appointed as the inaugural DAMM Chair in Leadership and as the Director of Latin Ministry and Theology. A faculty search for the Braatz Chair in worship is currently underway.

- We look ahead to our 164th commencement at a new location: St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church, at 4945 South Dorchester in Hyde Park. This spacious, flexible, and fully-equipped facility is well-suited to house our commencement exercises in grand style, with plenty of room for a reception and socializing afterward. This year's commencement speaker will be our own Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament and longtime faculty member, who will be retiring at the end of this academic year.

To learn more about LSTC and the historic changes happening now, please visit www.lstc.edu.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. James Nieman, president
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago