



Dear Ministry Partner,

Greetings in the name of the Lord of the church who calls out leaders to guide the church catholic. We thank you for your support of our mission to train leaders who are effective in cross-cultural contexts.

The month of October is always an exciting time for us. This is a time when we are reminded of our Reformation tradition that began in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses at the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This month I will travel to Berlin, Wittenberg and Leipzig to learn from the "peaceful revolution" that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Representatives from various nations will gather to learn from this German movement of building peace and tearing down the walls that have divided our global community. I will deliver a lecture at this conference titled, "Borderland Ethics Sin Fronteras: Borderland Ethics Without Borders, Neighbor-Love in Liminal Spaces."

The reason I can contribute scholarship to this important ministry of building peace across the walls is because of the theological training that I received at LSPS. I have learned much since I was a student preparing for the ministry of Word & Sacrament in 1988. Little did I know then that my formation would allow me the opportunity to represent LSPS at an international forum of scholars, clergy and laity from all over the world at the historic city of Wittenberg where the Reformation movement began. Thanks to the ELCA churchwide invitation and the many faithful supporters of our ministry at LSPS, I will represent YOU at this conference! I am excited to do this as both an alumnus and as a director of LSPS!

Over the years you have allowed us to prepare leaders who know that the reforming movement did not come to an end in 1517 but continues through this day of global complexity. Little did Martin Luther know then that in 2019 a Latino Lutheran would speak from a podium just down the street from where he nailed those 95 theses. Little did he know that the movement he sparked with his theological arguments for reform would one day be global in nature and cross an ocean. The students that we prepare at LSPS reflect this global reality. They prepare for a ministry of service that crosses walls and borders and oceans in the name of life-affirming Gospel of Jesus Christ. YOU make this possible!

Your gift in support of LSPS has a global impact. Thanks to your support we have been able to graduate over 35 TEEM students who are serving in seven states. We now have over 200

alumni who credit LSPS for their theological formation. YOU made it possible! May God continue to bless our partnership in forming pastors to be reforming visionaries in the twenty-first century. ¡Muchas gracias!

In Mission for the Life of the World,

Rev. Javier (Jay) Alanís, PhD, JD  
Executive Director

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*Jay's Notes & Updates:*

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- **On many Sundays**, Jay serves as the Word & Sacrament worship leader of Proyecto Santiago, an immigrant Spanish service at St. James Episcopal Church in Austin.
  - **On June 23**, Jay taught an adult forum class at Triumphant Love LC in Austin on the subject of "Living in Third Spaces: What the Ethiopian eunuch has in common with borderland people."
  - **Jay's article**, "Borderland Ethics Sin Fronteras: Borderland Ethics Without Borders, Neighbor-Love in Liminal Spaces," was published in Currents in Theology in July.
  - **Jay traveled** to the border to visit the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, a ministry of assistance to the families seeking asylum and refuge at the U.S. - Mexico border. While there he learned first-hand of the conditions at the detention centers and the human rights violations of families held in detention.
  - **Jay served** as chaplain for a week at the Chautauqua Institute in upstate New York and led worship on Sunday and at a weekday vespers service. He also led a conversation on the plight of asylum seekers at the south Texas border.
  - **On June 16 and August 4**, Jay served as Word & Sacrament worship leader at bi-lingual services at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Manor, Texas.
  - **In September**, Jay will serve as the traveling theologian with the Arizona Grand Canyon Synod as church leaders travel to Nogales, Mexico to learn of the conditions affecting the human rights of immigrants at the Arizona/Mexico border. He will be offering theological reflections and making presentations during the encuentro.
  - **In October**, Jay will travel to Berlin, Leipzig and Wittenberg, Germany at the invitation of the ELCA to attend and contribute to the conference, "Breaking Down the Dividing Walls: Erasing Hostility." He will present the lecture, "Borderland Ethics Sin Fronteras." He will join representatives from the various nations affected by walls and will learn the methodology of the peaceful revolution that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall.
  - **Jay is working** with the new director of Latinx Studies at the Seminary of the Southwest, Dr. Jennifer Owens-Jofré, as they plan the annual January term which serves as the cross-cultural studies class offered to both Episcopal and ELCA seminary students. They will travel to Laredo and El Cenizo to visit with the pastoral agents involved in border ministry.
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# Heritage Luncheon 2019

## April 25th at LSPS

Earlier this year we honored Rev. Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Stein with the Distinguished Alumna Award. This was a wonderful celebration in honor of our Donor Associate at our annual Heritage Luncheon.



Last Photo: WTS President Louise Johnson assisting with communion at the donor associate worship service.

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# Graduation Day

**May 22nd at St. Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Austin, TX**

A Theological Education for Emerging Ministries Certificate was awarded to Austin Nickel from Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.



# Welcoming Our New TEEM Student

My name is **Johnene Cunningham**, a 44 year old child of God, EMT-B, EMT instructor and CPR instructor. I began my faith journey in the Church of Christ as a young child with my mom and my aunt. I LOVED going to church. My paternal grandmother, Granny, was instrumental in my biblical learning. While all the other children were out playing, I was content to sit and listen to Granny talk about Jesus and the Bible. As a teenager I left the Church of Christ to attend the Assembly of God church with Granny. I was "on fire" for God eager to learn and serve. At the age of 16 at a youth retreat in Kerrville, Texas I got my call to ministry. Having always been an athlete, I injured myself at the retreat playing softball. At service one night, while on crutches, God touched not only my heart, but my knee. I was made whole. Unfortunately, I did not heed that calling.



Many years passed while I ran from God. Within the last few years I have been "hungry" for God's word, for communion with fellow believers, and I struggled to find a church. One day while sharing my burdens with a close friend, she asked me to come visit her church. While very apprehensive I did attend that Sunday, and every Sunday since then. That church is Christ the Victor Lutheran Church of Victoria. Not only have I found a church, but I found a home. I feel blessed to have found that same fire I felt at the innocent age of 16 still exists in me today. God has blessed me with the opportunity to learn more about the Lutheran faith as the secretary of CVLC. I attended the Parish Ministry Training Program prior to entering candidacy. At this time I am preparing for my first call and continuing my education with LSPS.

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## Upcoming Study in 2020

**The Spanish Language and Hispanic Ministry (Intensive I)** at the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (LSPS) will be offered again in 2020. Professors Gina, Jay, musicians Family Chavez, and others will participate. The Intensive is a resource for Lutherans and those of other denominations who recognize the growing need for competency in the Spanish language and an understanding of Latinx culture in light of the increasing Hispanic population in this country and in the church. The course focuses on the study of the Spanish language and on different aspects of Latinx culture and theology.

Not sure what to expect? Photos below are from last year's intensive!



*Photos: Participants, professors and musician during the 2019 Intensive and having a great time during the Fiesta at the Intensive week.*

### **Summer Term - M.Div. Concentration – For ELCA seminarians**

This class explored biblical principles and theological tools for ministry, research results and key resources to equip ELCA and ecumenical leaders to facilitate development of new and existing communities of faith. We thank God for the kindness of these Hispanic families in Austin, Round Rock and Alvarado who hosted our seminarians from WTS and other ELCA seminaries.

Not sure what to expect? Photos below are from last year's Summer Term to get a better idea!



*Photos: Our seminarians at our planning table in LSPS and serving at San Gabriel Congregation in Alvarado.*

**Building Congregational Capacity for Hispanic Ministry: Misión en Comunidad/Mission in Community (Intensive II).** This Intensive is designed for congregational leaders who are starting Hispanic Ministry in their community. The focus of this Intensive is to increase capacity for doing Hispanic ministry, learn from several models for engaging Latinx culture and to build a cohort of colleagues.

Not sure what to expect? Photos below are from last year's intensive!



Photos: [Happy Birthday](#) to Dr. Jay with participants at Intensive II and participants, instructors, musicians at Intensive II.

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## Summer 2020 Courses:

### **Summer Term MDiv**

Prof. Jay Alanís, PhD

Several Instructors

May 24-June 11

### **Spanish Language and Hispanic Ministry Intensive I**

Prof. Jay Alanís, PhD

Regina Musselman-Perez, PhD

Several Instructors

May 24-29

### **Building Congregations Intensive II**

Ruben Durán, M.Div.

June 7-11

**Cost:** \$1,500 (plus additional fees) for TEEM students; \$220 per course for all certificate students

**To Register:** Log in to [MyWTS](#). Further instructions to register are on the “Student” or “TEEM Applicant” tab, depending on your student status.

If you do not have a [MyWTS](#) account yet, you can request an account using the [MyWTS Login Request form](#). You must provide all of the requested information in order for WTS to set up your account. The verification process is only needed once to create an account.

Keep your [MyWTS](#) account information handy so you can use it to register for courses in the future. Email the [Learning for Life](#) office if you have questions about registration.



*Photos from TEEM, intensive, and J-Term Courses.*

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## Alumnae News:

**Austin Nickel, '19** will be called to serve as pastor of First Lutheran in Waco, TX. His ordination is tentatively planned for Saturday, Nov. 2.

**Rev. Dennis P. Shaw, '17** is serving as Interim Pastor at St Paul Lutheran Church Rehburg in Burton, Texas. Dennis plans to travel to Jordan and Israel.

**Rev. Sue Irvin, '15** is now serving as pastor at Our Saviour's L.C. in Seaside, OR.

**Rev. Pamela Brouker, '05** is working as Intermittent Chaplain at VA Togus in Augusta, Maine and Maine Medical Center in Portland with supply ministry all over New England for Lutheran and



Episcopal churches.

**Rev. Brad Otto, '05** began a nonprofit charity organization, Acts of Wisdom, working with schools in rural Africa. In five years over 6,000 students have been helped. He leads educational trips to Ethiopia twice a year. To learn more or sign up visit [www.actsofwisdom.com](http://www.actsofwisdom.com) or email [team@actsofwisdom.com](mailto:team@actsofwisdom.com).

**Rev. Danielle Moore Casey, '04** was called to serve at Triumphant Love L.C. in Austin as Senior Pastor in October, 2018.

**Rev. Jim Abbott, '03** has retired and moved to Golden Beach, OR.

**Rev. Beverly Blackman, '00** has moved to Bosque County, Tx. She is starting a writing career in her retirement years – subjects include juvenile science fiction, adult murder mysteries beginning with a true-life experience, and research on holistic faith.

**Rev. Beverly William-Hawkins, '98** is happily retired and living in Port Townsend, WA.

**Rev. Kathryn Haueisen, '85** has written a historical fiction that will be published in 2020. In 1620 English refugees risked everything to sail on the Mayflower, seeking freedom from oppression. They arrived in New England where thousands of Natives had died in epidemics. Two cultures, both facing overwhelming challenges, negotiated a treaty. This historical fiction is the story of very real events and people who collaborated in order to survive. Books will be available for order in 2020 at <http://greenwriterspress.com>.



This Table Talk issue is dedicated to the loving memory of Mary Ann L. Pfennig (pictured left) and in honor of Julia Mellenbruch celebrating her 103rd birthday on September 4, 2019.



LSPS

LUTHERAN SEMINARY PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHWEST

P.O. Box 4790, Austin, TX 78765 | (512) 477-2666 | Fax: (512) 477-6693 | [www.lps.edu](http://www.lps.edu) | [lps@lps.edu](mailto:lps@lps.edu)