



Dear Partners in the Northeastern Iowa Synod,

Greetings from your siblings in Christ at Wartburg Theological Seminary, in Dubuque, Iowa. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with you some of the ways the Holy Spirit is at work in and through your seminary.

First, we are delighted to announce the successful completion of Lead Boldly!, our comprehensive capital campaign. We exceeded our goal of \$28 million, which included enthusiastic support for student scholarships, one of our highest priorities. As a part of this ambitious campaign, we also are very pleased to announce the completion of an extensive remodel of our primary educational and office building, Fritschel Hall. This project came in under budget and on time, thanks to the excellent work of our staff and our local construction partners. We would love to show you the renovated educational space; please know that you are invited to visit anytime!

Second, I want to share with you a new emphasis that Wartburg is placing on TEEM and Certificate Programs, exemplified by the new director of these programs, Pastor Carrie Greenquist-Petersen. I invited Pastor Carrie to share some thoughts with you about this program:

Over the past nine months it has been my privilege and pleasure to help Wartburg welcome and serve TEEM candidates for rostered ministry, lay leaders, synods and partners. I have gotten to know the students through admissions, candidacy processes, contextual education, classes/modules and endeavored to nurture an identity of quality and worth in Wartburg's TEEM and Certificate students. Clear and timely communication can make the difference between feeling forgotten and feeling immensely valued. This is why being available to all partners to hear and address any question or concern is my top priority. It is a true joy to accompany each student along their path of discernment for leadership in Christ's church.

Third, Wartburg Seminary is announcing the launch of a Congregational Accompaniment Project to equip congregations for intercultural competence and to open doors to new mission opportunities with Latine people. This project aims to foster deeper understanding of diversity and to cultivate the development of meaningful relationships that reflect the love of Christ. Upon application, Wartburg staff from the Centro Teológico Luterano Multicultural and the Journey Together program will accompany congregations and their leaders in this process.

Finally, we have a new tagline at Wartburg, which speaks directly to our sense of mission in the current moment in the life of the church: **Listen. Wonder. Lead.** “At Wartburg Theological Seminary the voices of God and our neighbors call us to **listen** deeply. In these limestone halls and your local communities, Jesus’ love invites us to **wonder** that transformative power of the Holy Spirit, who inspires our life together. Our graduates **lead** a changing church with holy curiosity, creativity and joy. In hope, we proclaim God’s grace that carries us through death to resurrection life. **Listen, wonder, and lead at Wartburg.**”

We know the church needs leaders, and we are working with you to form them. Please continue to pray for, identify and raise up candidates for public ministry. At Wartburg, they will be equipped to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a world in need of healing and hope.

We give thanks to God for you and for our partnership, through which we participate in God's mission in the world. To learn more about Wartburg Seminary and our strategic, innovative programs, please visit www.wartburgseminary.edu.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Johnston Lergen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Kristin Johnston Lergen, Ph.D.
President