



# ACADEMIC CATALOG

2023–2026



Free Lutheran  
SEMINARY

The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: 434.525.9539; e-mail: [info@tracs.org](mailto:info@tracs.org)] having been awarded Accredited Status as a Category III institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on October 30, 2018; this status is effective for a period of up to five years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

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# Free Lutheran Seminary



An Orthodox School of Theology  
in the Tradition of Lutheran Pietism

## ACADEMIC CATALOG 2023-2026

Free Lutheran Seminary  
3120 East Medicine Lake Blvd  
Plymouth, MN 55441-3008  
Phone: (763) 412-2026 Fax: (763) 412-2047  
Email: [seminary@flbc.edu](mailto:seminary@flbc.edu)

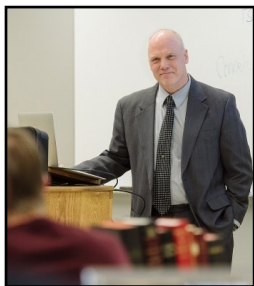
7/2023

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*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction. For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things,*

*endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

*2 Timothy 4:1-5*

Our Free Lutheran Seminary is a four-year program designed to prepare men to serve Free Lutheran congregations. The seminary serves the congregation; therefore, our preparation is uniquely designed to teach men to “shepherd the flock” (1 Peter 5:2). Every class is designed toward that end. Every class is practical. Systematic theology, for instance, is not taught as a theoretical exercise, but rather as a practical foundation of the faith, preparing men who will face various heresies within and without the congregation. Exegetical and language studies provide the men with the tools to preach and teach the congregation God’s Word. Church history provides a context for the men to understand where we have come from, mistakes from which we can learn, and a glimpse of the work of God in the congregation throughout history. The objective always is to prepare men to serve Free Lutheran Congregations.

Students are sent to serve congregations in the United States, Canada, and the World.

God has blessed our seminary with a beautiful 25-acre campus off of Medicine Lake in the western suburbs of Minneapolis where many students are able to live on campus with their families and enjoy the fellowship of other seminary students.

If God is calling you to ministry, we have designed this catalog as an introduction to our program, along with the mission and vision to guide us. May God direct you as you consider His call for you.

In Christ’s love,

Dr. James Molstre  
Dean of the Free Lutheran Seminary

## Free Lutheran Seminary Calendar 2023-2024

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Greek Intensive	August 21-25, 28
All student orientation	August 29
Fall semester classes begins	August 30
Labor Day (no classes)	September 4
Pastor's Conference (No school 10/4)	October 3-5
Spotlight Conference	October 10-11
Fall Break	October 12-13
FLBC Up-Close	October 19-20
Thanksgiving Break (no classes)	November 22-24
Christmas at FLBCS	December 1-3
Final Exams	December 11-13
Christmas Break	December 14-January 7

<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Spring semester classes begin	January 8, 2023
FLS Symposium	January 17-January 19
Spotlight Conference	TBD
President's Day (no classes)	February 19
Spring Break	March 25-April 1
FLS Finals	April 22-24
FLS Internship Workshop	April 25
Spring Concert	April 26
Graduation	April 27

Please refer to <https://flbc.edu/academic-calendar/>  
for the most current calendar listings

# Communicating with Free Lutheran Seminary

<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Free Lutheran Seminary 3120 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Plymouth, MN 55441-3008
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	(763) 412-2026
<b>Fax Number:</b>	(763) 412-2047
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:seminary@flbc.edu">seminary@flbc.edu</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.flbc.edu">www.flbc.edu</a>
<b>General Policy Matters:</b>	Dr. James Molstre, FLS Dean (763) 412-2049
<b>Admissions/Scholarships:</b>	Mrs. Breanna Chvojicek, Registrar Admissions Office (763) 412-2026
<b>Housing Inquiries:</b>	<a href="mailto:katie.high@flbc.edu">katie.high@flbc.edu</a>
<b>Library:</b>	<a href="mailto:library@flbc.edu">library@flbc.edu</a>
<b>Transcripts:</b>	<a href="http://flbc.edu/alumni/transcript-request/">flbc.edu/alumni/transcript-request/</a>





# Our Mission

## FLS Mission Statement

The mission of the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary is to establish students in the eternal and inerrant Word of God for a life of faith in Jesus Christ and faithful service in His Kingdom.

## Core Values

### **Equipping for Future Vocation:**

We will design programs and operations of FLBCS with the end in mind: equipping Christians to serve as they rest in Christ, both as individuals and as part of the local congregation. We strive to apply truth to individuals in order to impact a future of ministry, whether lay or ordained, preferring context to abstraction. Regular graduate and alumni surveys will hold the Schools accountable to this goal.

### **Integrity:**

We will do what we say, and repent when we fail to do so. Excellence will be pursued in every facet of each department. We will evaluate the past and cast vision for the future through frequent and regular review of our people, procedures, and programs. We will foster innovation in each staff member, avoiding vague direction. Students, staff, supporters, and visitors will perceive joy, efficiency, stewardship, and beauty while on campus.

### **Stewardship:**

We are not our own, but Christ's; all that we have and are belong to Christ; our institution belongs to God Himself. The leadership of the FLBCS serves as stewards of the mission and resources of our institution. The Schools Corporation, Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, and Staff are committed to making the best use of every dollar and hour given to our institution. Guests on campus will see cleanliness, beauty, and efficiency. Internal surveys and external entities (like TRACS and ECFA) will hold us accountable to this promise.

### **Whole Life Discipleship: (spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health):**

We will recognize each student as a precious, eternal, human soul who is deserving of love and care. This care will be provided by regular access to the Word of God, nurture from others in our discipleship learning community, a balanced schedule for study/work/ministry/rest, and a wide variety of healthy activities and meals. Staff observations and student surveys will confirm pursuit of this value.

### **Life Together:**

Christians are called to live lives in Christ and together with each other, a lesson learned best in residential life. For this reason, FLBCS strives to foster a

healthy community of students who bear with one another and seek each other's welfare as they live together. This is modeled by camaraderie among staff, and fostered by a balanced student schedule of required activities. Students will learn to live in peace with one another, handling conflict in a Biblical manner when it arises. Future congregations and families will benefit from students so trained. We will measure cultivation of this value not through the absence of conflict, but the manner in which students manage conflict when it inevitably arises.

## **Institutional Objectives**

Our objectives are that graduates of the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary will:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Scripture, subscribing to its inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy without reservation, confessing its authority and demonstrating the ability to accurately interpret it.
- Grow in spiritual maturity informed by the Law and motivated and empowered by the Gospel.
- Understand the function of the local congregation and the place of the individual believer in its fellowship and ministry as guided by the AFLC Fundamental Principles.
- Participate in making disciples of all nations, especially through involvement in the local congregation.

## **Free Lutheran Seminary Program Outcomes**

Graduates of the Free Lutheran Seminary, an orthodox school of theology in the tradition of Lutheran pietism for the training of servant pastors, will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Scripture and its doctrines, subscribing to its inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy without reservation, confessing its authority and demonstrating, especially through exegetical and systematics studies, the ability to accurately interpret it.
2. Explain the biblical, Lutheran perspective of the Means of Grace (Word, Baptism, and Lord's Supper) as the instruments through which God saves and sanctifies by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
3. Demonstrate growth in spiritual maturity that is informed by the Law and motivated and empowered by the Gospel.
4. Demonstrate the ability to properly distinguish between the Law and the Gospel in teaching, preaching, and practice.
5. Understand and embrace the role of the servant pastor and the New Testament model of the congregation and its commitment to scriptural evangelism, discipleship, worship, education, and stewardship, as guided by the AFLC Fundamental Principles.

6. Describe, evaluate, and communicate God’s work in the past through His Church, and exhibit a willingness to participate in making disciples today, especially through involvement in the local congregation.

## Our Philosophy of Education

The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary, in fellowship with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, are committed to lifting up the standard of God’s infallible and inerrant Word, the Scriptures. The Bible College and Seminary are without reservation:

**Conservative.** In teaching the Word of God, the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary employs the historical- grammatical method of interpretation with the presupposition of faith in the internal testimony of Scripture regarding its complete veracity. The Bible College and Seminary believes in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments.

**Confessional.** They subscribe without reservation to the ancient ecumenical creeds (Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian) and the sixteenth-century documents of the Lutheran Reformation (Luther’s Small Catechism and the Unaltered Augsburg Confession). The Bible College and Seminary regards these creeds and confessions as faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture and seeks to foster in students a fuller understanding and appreciation of the distinctives of orthodox Lutheranism.

**Congregational.** In consonance with the Word of God, the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary affirms the local church as “the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth,” and aims to equip students for effective service in and through local congregations through classroom instruction and practical training. It is in dependence on the Holy Spirit’s work through the Means of Grace – Word and Sacraments – that the teaching and equipping of students at the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary is carried forward.

The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary equips and teaches students in dependence on the Holy Spirit’s work through the Means of Grace. The classes concentrate on the exposition and application of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through which God saves and sanctifies by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. One important application of the Gospel is love for one another, with the result that graduates display an obvious love for the congregation.

The Bible College and Seminary seek to achieve academic excellence in their students. This is an important purpose in the Bible College and Seminary program outcomes. However, the goals in training at the Bible College and Seminary are not complete with mere intellectual understanding of the doctrines

and practices of God's Word, the Lutheran Confessions and AFLC distinctives. The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary are intent on seeing that the personal life of each graduate is conformed more and more to the image of Christ; informed, motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit through faithful application of the Law and the Gospel. Homes, congregations, and the world need godly spiritual leaders. This passion drives the Word-centered emphasis of both the Bible College and Seminary. Both formal and informal instruction encourages students to deepen their personal devotional life and express their faith through active participation in local congregations, which provide opportunities for spiritual nourishment, worship and service.

## Biblical Foundation Statement

### Our Doctrinal Position

**The Bible:** *We bear witness that the Bible is the only authentic and infallible source of God's revelation to mankind [Revelation 22:18,19], and that it is the only inerrant and completely adequate source and norm of Christian doctrine and life [2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 3:16,17]. We hold that the Bible is inerrant in its original manuscripts, and as a whole and in all its parts, the Word of God under all circumstances regardless of one's attitude toward it. (AFLC "Declaration of Faith")* Isaiah 40:8; John 5:39; John 10:35; John 14:26; John 15:26,27; Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 1:1,2.

**The Triune God:** *We bear witness that God is one divine essence [Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17], and that there are three persons in this one divine essence, equal in power and alike eternal [Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:4]: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. All three are one divine essence, eternal, without division, without end, of infinite power, holiness, wisdom, and goodness. (Augsburg Confession, Art. I)* Isaiah 44:6; Matthew 3:16-17; John 10:30; John 5:32 & 14:16-17.

**The Creation:** *We bear witness that God is the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth [Genesis 1:1-31; Revelation 4:11]. We bear witness that the Genesis account of human origins is a faithful historical record in which God created the universe including Adam and Eve in six literal days [Exodus 31:17-18]. (Free Lutheran Seminary Corporation, June 13, 2007)* Psalm 33:6, 9; Colossians 1:16.

**The Lord Jesus Christ:** *We bear witness that God the Son became man [John 1:1,14], born of the Virgin Mary [Matthew 25:31-33; Luke 1:35], and that the two natures, divine and human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ, true God and true man, who was truly born, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried in order to be a sacrifice not only*

*for original sin but also for all other sins and to propitiate God's wrath [Romans 5:9; Philippians 2:5-11]. The same Christ also descended into hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day [1 Peter 3:18-20; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4], ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God that he may eternally rule and have dominion over all creatures [Ephesians 4:10]. The same Lord Jesus Christ will return openly to judge the living and the dead [1 Thessalonians 4:15-18]. (Augsburg Confession, Art. III) Romans 3:24,25; 20; 2 Corinthians 5:21.*

**The Holy Spirit:** *We bear witness that the Holy Spirit is true God together with the God the Father and the God the Son [John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4]. Through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit uses the Law to awaken in our hearts a deep sense of sin and He uses the Gospel in Word and Sacrament to cause us to receive the grace of God in Christ [Matthew 16:19; Acts 2:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14]. Through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, one's knowledge of the Gospel becomes a true and living faith as a repentant sinner lays hold of Christ as his only Savior from sin, death, and the power of Satan. We bear witness that the Holy Spirit graciously sanctifies a believer in which He day by day renews him more and more after the image of God [2 Corinthians 3:5,6]. Through the Word of God and the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit graciously preserves the believer through all temptations in the true and living faith until the end. (Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 199, 202, 203, 210, 212, 229, 233) Ephesians 6:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.*

**The Human Race:** *We bear witness that although Adam and Eve were created in the image of God [Genesis 1:27], because of the temptation of Satan and their fall into sin, every person propagated according to nature is born in sin [Romans 3:10-18; 5:12]. We bear witness that this hereditary sin is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God all those who are not born again through Baptism and the Holy Spirit [John 3:3,5; Ephesians 2:1-3]. (Augsburg Confession, Art. II); Psalm 39:4-5.*

**The Way of Salvation:** *We bear witness that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that in justification, we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith [Romans 3:21-24; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8,9], when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. We bear witness that God regards and reckons this faith as righteousness. (Augsburg Confession, Art. IV) 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:16.*

**The Christian Life:** *We bear witness that sanctification is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit whereby He day by day renews the believer more and more after the image of God [2 Corinthians 4:16]. Empowered and motivated by the*

*Holy Spirit and the Gospel of grace, the believer denies himself, strives against the devil, the world, and his own flesh and grows in love toward God and man and seeks to do the will of God in all things. (Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 229, 231) Matthew 16:24; Galatians 5:22-25; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 3:9.*

***The Means of Grace:*** *We bear witness that the Means of Grace, Gospel-Word and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), are the instruments through which the saving and sanctifying benefits of Christ's death on the cross are conveyed to a repentant and believing sinner [Matthew 26:27; Galatians 3:27; Romans 10:17]. Through these means, God gives the Holy Spirit who creates faith in those who hear the Gospel. We bear witness that the Sacraments are holy ordinances made by God Himself, in which He gives and confirms His invisible grace through outward and visible means [Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 Peter 3:21]. We bear witness that since Baptism is offered to all and since all are born in a state of sin, infants too should be baptized, receiving therein the regeneration conveyed through water and the Spirit [Matthew 16:3-6; Acts 2:38-39; 2 Timothy 3:14-15]. We bear witness that the Lord's Supper is for true Christians wherein the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given through believing reception of the true Body and true Blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. (Augsburg Confession, Art. IX, X, XIII; Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 333-357) Matthew 16:19; John 20:22-23; 1 Peter 1:23.*

***The Christian Church:*** *We bear witness that the one holy Christian Church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel [Matthew 16:17-18; Ephesians 4:4-6]. We bear witness that the holy Christian Church is found in the congregation which is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth. We bear witness that the congregation consists of believers who, by using the Means of Grace and the spiritual gifts as directed by the Word of God, seek salvation and eternal blessedness for themselves and for their fellow men [Acts 13:1-3; 2 Corinthians 3:17]. We bear witness that the congregation is subject to the Word and Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself. (Augsburg Confession, Art. VII; AFLC Fundamental Principles, Nos. 1, 2, and 5); Psalm 32:1,2; Galatians 3:26; 1 Peter 2:9.*

***The Pastoral Office:*** *We bear witness that although every believer is a member of the "priesthood of all believers," the office of pastoral ministry has been instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ for the preaching and teaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments [2 Timothy 4:1-4; 1 Peter 5:1-4]. A pastor is first of all, a servant of Christ and His Word, and also a servant of the congregation as he administers these Means of Grace [1*

Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:12-14]. *We bear witness further that the order of Creation and the testimony of Scripture, together with the example of Christ and His apostles, teach that women should not hold the pastoral office.* (Augsburg Confession, Art. V) Matthew 16:19; Ephesians 4:11-12.

**The Return of Christ:** *We bear witness that the Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise up all the dead, to give eternal life and everlasting joy to those who believe and are elect but to condemn the ungodly and the devil to hell and eternal punishment* [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 5:28,29]. *We bear witness that eternal life is the blessed state in which believers are free from all evil and live forever in fellowship with their God and Savior, praising God in the company of the holy angels, in everlasting peace and joy* [Revelation 20:11-15]. *We bear witness that eternal punishment is the dreadful state of separation from God, and everlasting anguish and suffering in hell.* (Augsburg Confession, Art. XVII; Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 259, 260); Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:23-24.

**The Lutheran Confessions:** *We bear witness that the Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism are faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture.*

**The Fundamental Principles:** *We bear witness that the "Fundamental Principles" of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations are a faithful exposition of the truths of Scripture regarding the nature and mission of the Christian congregation.*

## AFLC Fundamental Principles

According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth.

The congregation consists of believers who, by using the means of grace and the spiritual gifts as directed by the Word of God, seek salvation and eternal blessedness for themselves and for their fellow men.

According to the New Testament, the congregation needs an external organization with membership roll, election of officers, stated times and places for its gatherings, and other similar provisions.

Members of the organized congregation are not, in every instance, believers, and such members often derive false hope from their external connection with the congregation. It is therefore the sacred obligation of the congregation to purify itself by the quickening preaching of the Word of God, by earnest admonition and exhortation, and by expelling the openly sinful and perverse.

The congregation directs its own affairs, subject to the authority of the Word and the Spirit of God and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or

government above itself.

A free congregation esteems and cherishes all the spiritual gifts which the Lord gives for its edification and seeks to stimulate and encourage their use.

A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Such assistance consists partly in the mutual sharing of spiritual gifts among the congregations through conferences, exchange visits, lay activities, etc., whereby congregations are mutually edified, and partly in the voluntary and Spirit-prompted cooperation of congregations for the accomplishing of such tasks as exceed the ability of the individual congregation.

Among such tasks may be mentioned specifically the training of pastors, distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature, home missions, foreign missions, Jewish missions, deaconess homes, children's homes and other work of mercy.

Free congregations have no right to demand that other congregations shall submit to their opinion, will, judgment, or decision; therefore, domination by a majority of congregations over a minority is to be rejected.

Agencies found desirable for conducting the joint activities of congregations, such as conferences, committees, officers, etc., cannot in a Lutheran Free Church, impose any obligations or restrictions, exert any compulsions, or lay any burden upon the individual congregation, but have the right only to make recommendations to, and requests of, congregations and individuals.

Every free congregation, as well as every individual believer, is constrained by the Spirit of God and by the privileges of Christian love to do good and to work for the salvation of souls and the quickening of spiritual life, as far as its abilities and power permit. Such free spiritual activity is limited neither by parish nor by synodical bounds.

## Our History and Aims

The founding of the Free Lutheran Seminary (FLS), a graduate school of theology, grew out of the need for biblically trained pastors and Christian workers in the tradition of orthodox Lutheran Pietism. After prayerful consideration, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations proceeded to establish a theological seminary committed to historic Lutheran theology. The seminary opened its doors to the first class in September 1964. In 1965, the AFLC elected its first full-time seminary dean, Dr. Iver B. Olson. In 1971, Rev. Amos O. Dyrud became dean of the seminary and served until his retirement in 1981. That year Dr. Francis W. Monseth was elected as dean and served until his



death in 2013. Rev. Wade Mobley was elected in 2014 and served as dean of the seminary and president of Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary until June 2017. At that time, Dr. James Molstre was called to serve as seminary dean. Dr. Mobley currently serves as President of the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary.

The seminary is located on a 25-acre campus on the east shores of Medicine Lake in Plymouth, a northwestern suburb of Minneapolis. The spacious facilities include a large chapel and adjoining classrooms and office space. The main library and reference room are located in the upper level of Heritage Hall. Twelve spacious and beautiful apartments located on the campus are available for seminary students and their families at a reduced rate. The vast majority of the Free Lutheran Seminary graduates serve in pastoral ministry. However, former students are represented in many fields of full-time Christian service in various parts of the world.

The Free Lutheran Seminary is an institution of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and as such conforms to its principles and aims. The seminary is supported by congregations of the AFLC as well as other interested friends. The AFLC looks to the seminary to train pastors needed in its growing fellowship of churches and expanding mission work.

**As an institution of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, the Seminary believes and teaches that:**

The Bible is the divinely inspired, revealed, inerrant and authoritative Word of God and as such is trustworthy in all its parts and the supreme and only rule of the faith and practice.

The Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism are faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture;

The local congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth. It acknowledges no authority above itself except the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

A child-like trust in the inspired Scriptures is fundamental in the entire life of the seminary. The seminary believes that "all Scripture," Old and New Testaments, is inspired by God. It believes in the plenary (full) inspiration of Scripture.

Not only in matters pertaining to salvation but in all things, whether history, geography or science, the Bible is true. This inspiration has reference not merely to the thoughts or ideas of Scripture but to the very words. The original autographs of both Testaments were given by God to the last "jot" and "tittle." The seminary believes in verbal inspiration. Thus, it confesses the inerrancy of the Bible. Since it is God the Holy Spirit who inspired all Scripture, there

can be no errors or contradictions. The seminary does not apologize for its pre-supposition of faith that the Bible in entirety is the inerrant Word of God. Rather, it rejoices in the trustworthiness of the Bible in all its parts and desires to take its stand solidly on it and proclaim it in truth and purity.

**Because of the seminary's high view of the Bible as the very Word of God, it is recognized as the final authority in all matters of faith and life. The Law is to be received and applied in all its sternness and force, and the Gospel is to be received and applied in all its sweetness and comfort. Only through the Spirit-empowered application of Law and Gospel can one experience repentance of sin and be brought to a living faith in Christ.**

The Free Lutheran Seminary, as an institution of the AFLC, is in full agreement with the creeds and confessions of historic Christianity. The Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds are confessed as faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture. Furthermore, the Seminary is in hearty and enthusiastic agreement with the Unaltered Augsburg Confession (1530) and the Small Catechism (1529) of the Lutheran Reformation as well as all confessions of the Book of Concord. There is full subscription to these documents because they are faithful and correct statements of Bible truths. The seminary rejoices in its precious Lutheran heritage and prayerfully seeks to transmit it to the present generation. It desires to stand with all those who seek spiritual revival in the Lutheran Church and beyond, in dependence upon the Word and Spirit.

Faithful to the fundamental convictions of the AFLC, the seminary believes that the local congregation is "the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth," acknowledging no authority above itself except the Word and Spirit of God. This means that the only entity the Word of God sets forth through which the will of God is to be carried out in this world is the local congregation. Other organizations or institutions find their biblical right to exist only as servants or arms of the local congregation. Following the "Fundamental Principles" of the AFLC, (pp. 8-9) the Seminary seeks to lead its students into an understanding and appreciation of their meaning and application in building "free and living" congregations.

The Free Lutheran Seminary, in fellowship with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, desires to lift up the standard of God's infallible and inerrant Word, the Scriptures. Joyfully bowing to the authority of Scripture, the Seminary takes seriously the "great commission" of our Lord and desires to be involved in making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). There is an earnest missionary purpose at the heart of the seminary curriculum and program. It is in application of the Means of Grace—Word and Sacraments—that God saves and sanctifies by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The aim of the seminary is to give sound Christian teaching and training in uncompromising loyal-

ty to the divine Word in order to prepare witnesses and workers, irrespective of race and color, for effective Christian ministry.

The aims of the Free Lutheran Seminary are not complete with mere intellectual understanding of the doctrines and practices of God's Word, the Lutheran Confessions, and AFLC distinctives. It is of utmost concern that the personal life of every graduate be conformed to the image of Christ. The need for godly spiritual leaders is reflected in the Seminary's statement of policy: "The Association is in need of pastors who reflect the faith and practice of the congregations. These pastors are to be servants of congregations—conservative, pietistic and evangelical. ...A pastor is to be, above all, a man of God. He is to maintain a good devotional life. Only people living close to the Lord can reveal Him." Free Lutheran Seminary stands for full-hearted surrender and consecration to Christ. It is in complete agreement with a statement made by the faculty of a Lutheran seminary of the 19th century:

*We are not satisfied with a mere intellectual and scholarly orthodoxy. We believe that every doctrine pertaining to salvation must become an experience ...Our Seminary does not want to send out a single minister who is not in personal and experiential relationship with Christ Jesus. We need and want an orthodox Pietism...a ministry aflame with the love of Christ and of souls. (From The Life of Dr. W. Passavant)*

## Seminary Policy

1. The Free Lutheran Seminary is an institution of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and subject to the Association's desires. The seminary is supported by gifts from the congregations and members of the Association. The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary Board of Trustees is elected by the Seminary Corporation which is an agent of the Association. The AFLC looks to the seminary to train pastors needed in the parishes and missions.
2. The AFLC is in need of pastors who reflect the faith and practice of free and living congregations. These pastors are to be servants of the Lord and of the congregations – evangelical, conservative and pietistic. They are to have a childlike confidence in the Bible as being the inspired and inerrant Word of God to which all human philosophies, ideas and opinions must bow.
3. A pastor is to be, above all, a man of God. He is to maintain a regular devotional life of Word and prayer. Only people living close to the Lord can reveal Him.
4. A seminary student is in the seminary to learn. He is to "study to show

himself approved unto God.” (2 Tim. 2:15) Other interests and desires must take second place to his need to study. He ought to develop good study habits in the seminary which will continue throughout his ministry.

5. A seminarian cannot be a good student unless he limits the hours of work outside of the seminary studies. Thirty hours of work per week, outside of the seminary, should not be exceeded.
6. A part of the seminary work may be pastoral service in a congregation. Such service opportunities may not be available to all students. These ministry opportunities are to be arranged by the Dean of the Seminary and no student is to accept such work without discussion with the Dean of the Seminary. Generally, students whose service opportunities take them out of the Twin Cities are to return on Sunday evening. Permission may be secured in advance from the Dean for absences because of parish involvement. Students in poor academic standing may be denied service opportunities during the school year so they can concentrate more fully on their studies.
7. A “regular” student (one who is preparing for ministry in the AFLC), is required to spend one year in internship. Assignments are made by the Dean of the Seminary in consultation with the President of the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary and the President of the AFLC. Such internship must be completed before graduation and consideration for ordination. Collateral reading is required during the internship period. A report of such reading shall be turned in to the seminary faculty. Weekend preaching or summer parish work is not considered toward fulfillment of internship requirements. Before the students are assigned internships the administration must be satisfied that the students have the doctrinal and practical qualifications to perform such service.
8. If a missionary applicant wishes internship on an AFLC world mission field, he should make this known to the Dean of the Seminary and also to the AFLC World Mission Committee for its consideration. Internship of this kind must be the financial obligation of the student unless other arrangements are made. All alternative requests for internship must be presented by the Dean of the Seminary to the school board well in advance. These requests must be made in writing by the student. Applications for an alternative period of internship will be for the second half of the internship only. The first half of the internship will be in a parish in the United States.
9. A seminarian is not to accept a call from a parish until March 1 of internship at which time the following procedure will have taken place:
  - a. Recommendation by the seminary faculty;
  - b. Personal interview and recommendation by the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary Board of Trustees;

- c. Personal interview and recommendation by the Coordinating Committee of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations;
  - d. Personal interview and recommendation by the Colloquy Committee of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.
10. Grants may be awarded each semester by application from “regular” students (who plan to become AFLC pastors or missionaries or to serve with ministries approved by the Board of Trustees). If a “special” student (one who is not a member of an AFLC congregation) decides that he wants to serve in the AFLC, he may apply for a change in student status after one year of study.
11. Students receiving grants who decide to serve in other denominations or ministries agree to the conversion of the grants to loans, to be repaid without interest. Information on tuition and fees for seminary students is found in the current catalog.



# General Information

## Accreditation

The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e-mail: [info@tracs.org](mailto:info@tracs.org)], having been awarded Accredited Status as a Category III institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on October 30, 2018. This status is effective for a period of up to five years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary is also a member of the Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE) [5850 T G Lee Blvd, Suite 130, Orlando, FL 32822; Telephone: (407) 207-0808; e-mail: [info@abhe.org](mailto:info@abhe.org)].

## Location

The Free Lutheran Seminary is located in Plymouth, a suburb of Minneapolis, one of the Twin Cities of the Upper Midwest. With a population of more than three million people, the beautiful cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul and the greater metropolitan area provide a unique and stimulating setting for seminary education.

Several excellent theological libraries are available for study and research in addition to the seminary's growing library. As a center for Lutheranism in the United States, the Twin Cities also enable the student to become acquainted with a good cross-section of the Lutheran Church. The 25-acre campus overlooking Medicine Lake includes a large chapel with classrooms and offices, and there are twelve apartments available for seminary students and families at a reduced rental rate. Also located adjoining the campus is the headquarters for the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The close proximity of the various departmental offices of the AFLC helps the student become more familiar with the aims and program of the church fellowship as a whole.

Also sharing the seminary campus is the Free Lutheran Bible College, a two-year, co-educational institution of the AFLC. The main library and reference room are located in the upper level of Heritage Hall, shared by both seminary and Bible college students. Common chapel services with the Bible college student body provides an opportunity for worship as a larger "family."

## The Code of Conduct

The Word of God is the final authority for all student life matters. The seminary's biblically based curriculum and student life is designed to encour-

age character. Character displeasing to the Lord is corrected through exhortation, counsel, and implementation of biblical principles (1 Thessalonians 4:1). The faculty and the administration of the seminary seek to consistently commend students in their daily walk for attitudes and actions that please the Lord, as they grow in spiritual maturity that is informed by the Law and motivated and empowered by the Gospel.

The Free Lutheran Seminary aims to encourage students to develop spirituality with an awareness of ethical and moral issues, and to be resolute regarding their own responsibility for upholding and strengthening Christian standards of behavior. Students are expected to live a life that reflects faith in Jesus Christ and the authority of the Word of God, resulting in spiritual maturity in Christ manifested by the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22- 23).

Students are expected to obey applicable local, state, and federal laws as well as the policies of the seminary. As they desire rights and responsibilities for themselves, they are also expected to respect the rights and responsibilities of others. For infractions of laws, regulations, policies, and standards, students may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the institution. Such disciplinary action may be imposed for violations that occur off campus when the violation may have an adverse effect on the educational mission of the seminary.

## Spiritual Life

The Free Lutheran Seminary is not only a grouping of Christian professors and students, but also a worshipping community. The nurturing of the Christian life of the entire seminary family is an important concern of the administration and faculty.

The regular chapel services are planned to encourage corporate worship, prayer, spiritual fellowship and Christian maturation for all in the campus family. Attendance at these services is expected for faculty and students. A student-led period of devotions is conducted each morning before classes begin. As students and faculty kneel before the Lord, they pray for congregations and mission work of the AFLC as well as other matters of united concern.

Each new student meets regularly throughout his first year with a faculty member for mutual fellowship centered in the Word and prayer. Middlers and Seniors also meet regularly on a similar basis.

## Student Handbook

The *FLS Student Life Handbook* provides further details regarding the Free Lutheran Seminary community lifestyle expectations and policies. It provides specific guidelines on lifestyle expectations, dress code, residential life policies and procedures, disciplinary situations and process, along with disciplinary grievance procedures that are outlined in detail in the *FLS Student Life Hand-*

*book.* All students who have been accepted by the seminary will receive a *FLS Student Life Handbook*, which will serve as a guideline for student conduct and campus life.

## Student Pulpit Supply

At the end of the first year of seminary studies, there may be opportunities for occasional or regular pulpit ministry in nearby congregations. Normally, senior students may not preach in a particular parish on a long-term basis. All preaching invitations must be cleared with the administration of the seminary.

## Seminary Housing

Seminary Student Housing is available by application to all regular and special Seminarian students on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Full-time seminary students (minimum 9 credits) with family have priority in the selection of applicants for seminary housing. Seminary student housing may be available to the following if there are vacancies and current seminarians have not applied for housing and are not intending to apply within the following four months (In these situations, there will be a surcharge over and above the rates paid by Seminary students.)

- FLS Staff and/or Faculty
- FLBC Staff and/or Faculty
- FLBC Student families
- AFLC Campus Staff
- AFLC Missionaries on furlough

Seminary Housing applications are approved by the Vice President of Operations and Facilities Director in consultation with the Seminary Dean as needed. Seminary housing occupied by non-seminary students cannot be assured for more than four months at a time.

## Seminary Wives

The Seminary Wives Fellowship is composed of wives or fiancés of the seminary students, as well as women who are members or wives of the administration, faculty, and staff. It provides opportunities for spiritual development, mutual fellowship, encouragement of Christian family living, deeper appreciation of the teachings and emphasis of the AFLC, greater acquaintance with the Women's Missionary Federation and Parish Education work of the AFLC, a clearer understanding of the role of a pastor's wife in parish life, and a closer friendship and fellowship among the seminary families. A "prayer chain" also is a way the women help and encourage each other as they share prayer requests together by email or phone.

## Work Opportunities

The Twin Cities area offers many job opportunities for students and/or their wives. Most of the skills, trades, and services in the average American city



can be pursued in this area of the Upper Midwest. Seminary personnel are ready to assist students in finding suitable employment while they are studying at Free Lutheran Seminary. The studies at the seminary are regarded as a full-time vocation. Normally, part-time employment should not exceed thirty hours per week. Work opportunities are to be cleared with the administration of the seminary.

## Mail Service

Student mailboxes are located in the chapel building adjacent to the dining area. An outgoing mail bin can be found in the FLBC office. Mail delivery and pick-up are Monday through Friday.

## Student Records/Transcripts

The Registrar is responsible for keeping on file the permanent record of all credits earned by each student. Records are confidentially stored with a secure backup. No diploma or final transcripts will be issued until all accounts, fees, and fines have been paid in full. Transcript requests can be submitted electronically at [flbc.edu/alumni/transcript-request](http://flbc.edu/alumni/transcript-request). The cost for official transcripts is \$5.00 and are typically processed within 7 to 10 business days.

## Graduation Rates/Retention

Graduation rates and retention statistics can be found at [flbc.edu/student-achievement](http://flbc.edu/student-achievement).

## Student Privacy

Although the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary does not accept state or federal financial aid or funding, the institution voluntarily abides by the general guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) as they apply to the release of educational records. This privacy policy is extended to all enrolled students. Visit <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html> for additional details regarding FERPA.

## Library

The Free Lutheran Seminary shares library facilities with the Free Lutheran Bible College located on campus, thereby making available adequate resources for research and study. The Francis W. Monseth Library is located on the second floor of Heritage Hall and is equipped with several study tables, computers, and wireless internet access. There is also a study area in the lower level of the Hauge Chapel, which contains a small “pastor’s library.”

All library materials must be checked out following the proper procedure. Books are loaned for two weeks and may be renewed. A fine is charged for overdue books at the time the book is checked in. A student assumes responsibility for materials checked out in his/her name and should not loan library

books to anyone. Library hours are posted in the window of the library. Further library details can be found in the *Library Handbook*.

Agreements with Central Baptist Theological Seminary and Crown College provide student access to additional libraries and resources.

## Admissions Process

### Pre-Seminary Studies

The Free Lutheran Seminary is a graduate theological institution, committed to the singular mission of training and sending forth Christian leaders with a deep devotion to Christ and His Church, firm convictions based on the inspired Word of God, and a passionate desire to faithfully proclaim the saving Gospel of Christ to a lost and dying world.

It is the prayerful purpose of this seminary to develop the intellectual, moral, and spiritual capacities of its students; to awaken in them an appreciation of their biblical and confessional heritage; to enable them to interpret the present world situation in the light of the past; to evaluate theological and ethical ideas, making discerning judgments about them from a biblical perspective; and to train them to express themselves for an effective communication of the Gospel of Christ in dependence upon the Spirit of God.

To achieve these worthy goals it is most advantageous when prospective ministerial and missionary candidates can lay basic academic foundations in their undergraduate studies. While these recommended studies are not necessary for admission to the Free Lutheran Seminary, they do greatly assist students to appropriate and apply their theological education to those situations within which they will be ministering.

In order to pursue the study of theology to the best advantage, it is recommended that a student secure his degree with majors and minors in the fields of English, history, philosophy or one of the social sciences. Regardless of majors and minors, it is recommended that a student's undergraduate work should include at least two years of English, two years of history, one year of philosophy and speech, and two years of a foreign language. Latin, German, Finnish, or one of the Scandinavian languages is highly recommended. The student will find it helpful also to take courses in education and computer science. The student should take at least one year of New Testament Greek and, if possible, one year of Hebrew.

The degree which the student will receive from the seminary is partly dependent upon his preparatory education. The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has no college of its own. It advises those who plan to enter the ministry to obtain their preparatory undergraduate studies in an accredited college or

university, and to attend an evangelical Lutheran congregation while pursuing college work. The seminary is willing to give guidance in such matters at all times.

## Admissions Policy

The Free Lutheran Seminary welcomes all applicants who are personally committed to faith in Jesus Christ and who subscribe to our Statement of Faith regardless of race, color, and national or ethnic origin. When accepted, individuals are awarded all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the college. The Free Lutheran Seminary does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, programs, or activities.

Because Free Lutheran Seminary believes Scripture teaches that the pastoral office shall only be held by men, ordination is available only to men in the AFLC. Women may take courses at FLS for audit or credit, but not with the expectation of ordination.

## Admission Requirements

Since Free Lutheran Seminary is a graduate school, the standard academic requirement for admission is a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. However, an undergraduate degree in and of itself is not sufficient to justify admission. Certain spiritual, moral, and personal qualities essential for Christian leaders must also be in evidence in applicants who are admitted. The Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty will consider these matters as well as academic attainment in granting admission to applicants. Of utmost importance is the Christian testimony of the applicant.

As a general rule, mature older persons without a bachelor's degree but capable of carrying graduate studies may apply for admittance to the seminary as either a degree or non-degree seeking student. Arrangements for such applicants will be made through, and under the advisement of, the Dean of the Seminary and the Board of Trustees.

## Terms of Admission

Students desiring admission to Free Lutheran Seminary should apply at least three months prior to the academic year they expect to enter seminary. The following materials must be in the office of the dean/registrar before an interview with the Board of Trustees and faculty can be confirmed. A routine background check is conducted for all students as part of the application process.

- A completed application form. A non-refundable application fee of \$50 is to accompany every application for admission.

- A recent photo of the applicant.
- Official transcripts. Certified transcripts are required of the student's academic record at all colleges and other institutions of higher education attended. The applicant must request each school attended to send his official transcript to the registrar of the Free Lutheran Seminary.
- Two letters of recommendation from pastors, one being his own pastor if possible, and other references as requested. These "recommendation forms" are sent by the applicant to the applicant's acquaintances for their personal reply directly to the dean's office.
- The applicant's personal statement. Each prospective student must write a 400-word essay about himself, in which the following points are developed: a) spiritual autobiography (including one's sense of calling to serve in the ministry), b) church background in terms of denominational affiliations and previous opportunities for Christian service, and c) the applicant's expectations in pursuing seminary education at Free Lutheran Seminary.
- Proof of having completed one year of college level Greek. If the prerequisite Greek requirement has not been met, contact the seminary office. FLS offers an online course through Zondervan that will satisfy the Greek requirement.

## Transfer of Credit

A student desiring to transfer credits into the Free Lutheran Seminary from another institution must submit official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate course work. Undergraduate work is normally not transferrable, although credit might possibly be given for course work in biblical languages. Credits for similar course work taken at other accredited institutions with a grade of "C" or above are normally granted complete or near complete transfer credit upon approval by the office of the registrar when such work parallels courses listed in the Free Lutheran Seminary catalog. Credits from non-accredited institutions that are not recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) are not automatically transferred, but are examined on a case-by-case basis. Although the credits will apply toward graduation, grades and grade point averages earned at another institution do not transfer. Quarter-hour credits will normally be converted to semester hour credit. Up to two-thirds of the required credits can be transferred into the Free Lutheran Seminary program.

The Free Lutheran Seminary Dean is available to provide counsel to students regarding advanced graduate studies following their seminary studies.

# Student Classifications

## Regular and Special Students

Regular Students are those intending to serve in the AFLC as pastors/workers/missionaries, eligible for scholarships and grants (e.g. funds from seminary housing rental), eligible for seminary housing, and eligible for tuition payment for a spouse attending the Free Lutheran Bible College. Special Students may be eligible for some scholarships. Status of students may change during time of enrollment, and that status is only conferred or changed in writing by the Board of Trustees.

## Subcategories of Regular and Special Students:

### Full-time Students

Full-time students are normally enrolled for a minimum of 9-12 hours per semester. Full-time students are given first opportunity to live in seminary housing.

### Transfer Students

Those students transferring from other seminaries may be accepted with advanced standing, providing they apply for admission in the usual way, and present a completed transcript together with a catalog describing the courses of their previous seminary studies.

### Part-time Students

Students who enroll for less than nine semester hours of classes are classified as part-time students. Tuition is charged on the basis of \$550 per credit hour. Those who enroll for less than nine credits must follow the regular application process unless otherwise indicated by the Dean of the Seminary. The regular application fee applies for all enrollees.

### Non-Degree Seeking Students

The Non-Degree Seeking Student is designed for persons who desire to enroll for selected courses but do not intend to complete the MDiv or the CertMDiv degree program. Admission as a Non-Degree Seeking Student does not allow eligibility to complete a certificate or degree program, obtain credit, or be a recipient of financial aid. Non-Degree Seeking Students are not required to have a Bachelor's Degree, but must follow the FLS Terms of Admission (with the exception of the Greek pre-requisite) in order to be considered. Non-degree seeking students will be classified as auditors with no grades issued and be reviewed for continued acceptance on a semester by semester basis. Non degree seeking students are expected to do the required work and participate in class.

## International Students

Free Lutheran Seminary is authorized under Federal law to enroll international students under the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVIS). In addition to the regular application materials that must be submitted and steps listed under “Admission Process” that must be completed by May 1, the following requirements also apply:

- Completion of the “International Application Form” accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of \$100.
- Returning a signed copy of the “International Student Covenant”.
- Completion of a TOEFL exam (score of 61 for internet based test or 500 or more for paper delivered test) for applicants from countries where English is not one of the official languages.
- Submission of evidence of financial support. This may be either a financial guarantor in the United States or sufficient evidence from a responsible individual or organization that the necessary travel expenses and means of support while in attendance at the Free Lutheran Seminary can be met.

When all of the above materials have been received, the Free Lutheran Seminary will consider the application for acceptance. **If** accepted, the applicant will receive a packet that contains (i) a letter of acceptance, (ii) the I-20 form, (iii) the financial documents provided, and (iv) copies of helpful information from two websites.

When the I-20 is received, the applicant must go to <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html#> to pay the I-901 fee. Note that information from the I-20 is needed to complete the form I-901. A valid credit card must be utilized to pay the \$350 fee. Print the receipt of payment as a copy must be presented to the United States Embassy.

All of these documents, (i) I-20(signed and dated), (ii) Letter of Acceptance, (iii) I-901 receipt, (iv) financial documentation and (v) valid passport should be taken to a United States Embassy in the applicant’s home country. Only the embassy can grant F-1 student status allowing you to travel to the United States as a student. Students can apply for an F-1 visa 120 days before their school start date. Government regulations do not allow a student on an F-1 visa to come to the US until thirty (30) days before their school start date.

International students must carry at least twelve (12) credits per semester to maintain their eligibility to remain in the United States.

There are limited part-time on-campus employment opportunities for international students. Due to U.S. Immigration and Customs regulations, an international student’s employment possibilities are restricted to on-campus work.

# Financial Information

## Student Accounts and Business Offices

The seminary office, located in the east upstairs office of the chapel building, is where student accounts and other business matters are handled.

## Health Insurance

Each seminarian is responsible for finding their own health insurance.

## Tuition and Fees

The Free Lutheran Seminary attempts to provide the best theological education at the most reasonable cost. Charges to students are kept as low as possible.

### 2023-2024 school year:

Application fee (one-time fee)	\$50
Tuition, per semester (full-time)	\$11,000
Per credit hour (part-time)	\$550
Auditor's fee (per semester hour)	\$185
Library and IT fee (per semester)	\$500
Internship fee (per semester)	\$2000
Graduation fee	\$50
Student ID replacement	\$5

Spouses of regularly-enrolled full-time students may enroll for an unlimited number of classes at Free Lutheran Bible College with tuition being paid by seminary scholarships.

The seminary has a limited number of apartments available to married students and their families. These units (2 and 3 bedrooms) are made available at a monthly rate which is almost half the cost of renting comparable apartment space in the Twin Cities area. The seminary administration offers counsel regarding other housing arrangements of which it may be aware. The seminary urges students to visit the campus well in advance of the opening of the school year in order to survey the housing situation and, where applicable, job opportunities.

In addition to the above-named expenses and the usual personal expenditures, the student's budget should include at least \$800 per year to cover the cost of textbooks and other academic supplies.

## Payment of Accounts

The payment of tuition and fees should be made at the beginning of each semester. However, those students who desire to pay their tuition in installments may do so if satisfactory arrangements are made with the business office. All accounts must be paid in full before graduation. A student may

not be permitted to continue his studies if there is a past-due account from a previous semester.

### Refunds of Tuition and Fees

Students withdrawing from the Free Lutheran Seminary before the end of a semester (whether by their own volition or upon requirement from the Seminary, i.e. dismissal) must sign a withdrawal statement in the Dean’s office and request a refund at that time. The effective date of withdrawal is the last day of class attendance as determined by the Registrar’s office.

**Tuition Refunds are computed as follows:**

First week	95%
Second week	75%
Third week	50%
Fourth week	25%
After fourth week	No Refund

### 1098-T Tuition Statement

1098-T Tuition Statements are issued to every student who paid qualified tuition and related expenses during the prior year. The statement provides information such as scholarships received and payments made, which may be needed for either education credits or a tuition deduction on your tax return. The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary issues the 1098-T Tuition Statement by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Students can also view their 1098-T by accessing their financial information on Populi.

### Veteran Benefits

In the event that a Veteran’s beneficiary enrolls at the Free Lutheran Seminary and their benefits are delayed at no fault of their own, the Free Lutheran Seminary will not impose any penalty whatsoever (i.e. fines or program withdrawals) on the Veteran Affairs (VA) beneficiary student. The student will not have to borrow additional funds because of their inability to meet financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement of funding from VA.

The Veteran’s beneficiary will be responsible to pay the difference between the amount of the student’s financial obligation and the amount of the VA educational benefit disbursement.

If the beneficiary enrolls and discontinues training before completion of the course, the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary shall retain ten dollars (\$10) as a bonafide registration cost. All other advance payment of tuition, fees, and other charges will be refunded on a pro-rata basis computed from the date of the discontinuance as a student.

### Student Financial Aid

The seminary, through its Financial Aid Committee, does its best to secure



scholarship aid for each student who needs this assistance. Those who need financial aid while attending Free Lutheran Seminary apply for tuition scholarship at the beginning of each semester. A student's academic standing and his financial resources and needs will be taken into consideration in assessing all applications. Students classified as "regular" students are eligible for a "Grant-in-Aid" from the seminary each semester if needed.

Several scholarship funds have been established by the Free Lutheran Seminary to aid its students financially.

## Scholarship Application

Due to the generosity of our donors, the Free Lutheran Seminary is able to offer scholarships (up to full-tuition) for those who demonstrate need. In order to qualify, students must demonstrate need and apply each year by the deadline written in the Free Lutheran Seminary catalog. Applicants must be regular students working toward a Masters of Divinity degree, or Certificate of Masters of Divinity Studies. Awards will be made to qualified students as determined by the Free Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Committee. Students must complete the Free Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Application Form by mid-September (date determined by Scholarship Committee upon start of semester).

### Award Levels

The Free Lutheran Seminary uses the information provided from the applicant's Scholarship Application in determining the student's level of need. Those applicants deemed to have a high need level may be awarded a full-tuition scholarship. Applicants with a medium to high need level may be awarded a 3/4-tuition scholarship. Those with a medium need will be awarded a 1/2-tuition scholarship. Those with a relatively low need level may be awarded a 1/4-tuition scholarship. An applicant deemed not to have demonstrated need, may be awarded a single token scholarship. The Free Lutheran Seminary will also consider seminary housing as a partial scholarship and adjust tuition scholarships accordingly. A scholarship will be awarded for academic excellence. Students who demonstrate excellent scholarship will receive consideration for scholarship money in addition to any need based scholarship awarded. If a student receives a scholarship they are expected to write a thank-you note to the donors.

### Maintaining Eligibility

In order for the scholarship recipient to maintain eligibility to receive these funds, he must meet the following criteria:

- Remain enrolled as a full or part-time student for the award semester(s)
- Remain in good academic standing as defined in the Academic Catalog
- Attend Thursday chapel services

Failure to adhere to the above may result in the revocation of the awarded funds and the student may be required to repay these funds.

## Consequences for Change of Course Status

If a full-time student drops a course during the specified add/drop period, and, as a result, is now classified as a part-time student due to credit load, the tuition scholarship may be prorated or canceled at the discretion of the Free Lutheran Seminary scholarship committee.

## Regular and Special Students

Those students who apply for financial aid as Regular students must serve in the AFLC as pastors/workers/missionaries. Those who do not fulfill this requirement will be considered Special students and asked to reimburse the seminary for some or all of the financial aid received.

# Scholarships

**The Women's Missionary Federation** of the AFLC grants scholarships to seminary students who are committed to world missionary service. To be eligible for consideration, a student must be an American citizen and a member of an AFLC congregation for a minimum of nine months. He must complete at least one year of study; be recommended by the seminary dean; complete an application for AFLC world missionary service; and receive a recommendation from the AFLC World Missions Committee. Prospective applicants should contact the president of the WMF for a scholarship application form and compete eligibility requirements at least four months before the next semester begins. Scholarships are granted on the basis of need and availability of funds.

**The Rev. Trygve and Anna Dahle Scholarship** has been established by Green Lake Lutheran Church of Spicer, Minn. Members of Green Lake enrolled at the Seminary are eligible for this scholarship. If no member of Green Lake is attending at the time of annual distribution, any FLS student is eligible according to financial need.

**The E. Oscar Peterson Memorial Scholarship** provides financial grants for students demonstrating need. Preference is given to students from the Eastern North Dakota District of the AFLC.

**The Hanson Brothers Scholarship** has been established to provide annual financial help to students of the seminary and Bible College.

**The H. Morris and Olga Borstad Memorial Scholarship** endowment provides annual awards to students of the seminary.

**The Rev. Fritjof B. and Olga A. Monseth Memorial Scholarship** provides annual financial grants for seminary students.

**The Clarence E. Hoff Fund Scholarship** has been established to provide annual financial help to students of the seminary.

**The Seminary Grant** has been established for full-time regular students who intend to serve in an AFLC congregation or ministry and have been a member of an AFLC congregation for at least nine months and who demonstrates need. **The Direct Mission Aid Scholarship**, established by the Direct Mission Aid Society, which was founded by Rev. Arthur Emerson, is used for international student scholarships, faculty overseas teaching missions, and mission resources for the campus library.

**The Rev. Amos and Ovidie Dyrud Scholarship** has been established to provide financial help to seminary students.

**The Living Word Scholarship**, Windom, Minn., was established to encourage men to attend seminary and provide scholarships for them.

**The Merle and Goldie Gray, and Arnold and Alice Rokke Scholarship** provides an annual grant to a seminary student.

**The Dr. Uuras and Sirkka Saarnivaara Scholarship** provides annual grants for male seminary students preparing for parish ministry or missions.

**The Alma Free Lutheran, Verna Dahl Memorial Scholarship**, Argyle, MN, provides an annual scholarship grant to a seminary student.

**Seminary Student Assistance Fund** has also been established to help students who are experiencing difficulty financial situations. Please contact the Dean of the Seminary for further information.

**Adopt-A-Student Program**, provides an opportunity for interested friends (individuals or congregations) to connect personally with seminary students and their families during their training. Those interested in sponsoring a student may notify the seminary of their desire and the dollar amount they are led to give on a regular basis. Each sponsor is assigned a student by the seminary and enters into a relationship of mutual correspondence. The sponsor receives personal letters from the student sharing progress, challenges, and blessings. This is a relationship that can be of significant spiritual encouragement to students as well as providing much needed financial help. (See the seminary web-



site for more information).

## Academics

### Design of the Curriculum

To achieve its theological objectives, spiritual emphases, and academic goals, The Free Lutheran Seminary has developed a biblically-based curriculum. In its instructional program the seminary maintains a core curriculum which gives its graduates a foundational understanding of the Bible, theology, church history, Christian ethics, and the practical skills necessary for the various facets of Christian ministry.

In addition to its required core curriculum, the seminary offers a number of elective courses. At the same time, attention is given to correlating classroom work with field education so that the student is enabled to learn through opportunities for practical ministry.

It is the purpose of the Free Lutheran Seminary to promote educational excellence at the same time it keeps consistently in view the cultivation of the highest quality of personal devotional life.

The Free Lutheran Seminary stands in the tradition of orthodox Lutheran pietism. Its earnest endeavor is to emphasize the trained mind, the disciplined life, and the ceaseless outreach to others in caring, evangelistic and nurturing ministry of the Word of God.

### Academic Calendar

The Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary academic year consists of two semesters with approximately 15 weeks each of classes and examinations. Classroom hours are largely confined to weekday mornings, thereby enabling students who must work part-time easier access to available job opportunities. Summer terms are limited to practicums and independent study options.

### Definition of a Credit Hour

Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary utilizes the Carnegie Unit as the basis for their credit hour definition. One credit hour equals 50 minutes of instructional time with a subsequent break/transition of ten minutes, equaling one hour of time. Credit hours are assigned based on the learning objectives and expected program outcomes of the course. Generally, one unit of credit equals a combination of three hours of in-class and out-of-class time per week. It is acknowledged that formalized instruction may take place in a variety of modes. For each credit hour, based on the typical coursework at the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary, this traditionally would look like one of the following choices:

- One hour of lecture/class time and two hours of study per week
- Two hours of rehearsal with one additional hour of practice/outside requirements
- Three hours of rehearsal with limited outside requirements

## Sequence of Courses

For a full-time student, the normal minimum semester course load should be 14-15 credits in order to complete the required 90 credits during the three academic years.

## Other Factors

In exceptional circumstances, the Free Lutheran Seminary reserves the right to substitute or waive a requirement when it is considered beneficial for a student's achievement of the school's objectives. FLS reserves the right to not offer a course that is listed in this catalog. Courses not listed may also be added as opportunities arise.

## Program and Degree Tracks

One program of study is offered at the Free Lutheran Seminary with two tracks: the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree and the Certificate of Master of Divinity Studies (CertMDiv). Both tracks require a three-year course of study and are planned primarily to equip spiritual leaders for the local congregation. The seminary believes the congregation is the "right form of the Kingdom of God on earth" and therefore must be central in application of Christian theology.

The **Master of Divinity (MDiv)** degree is granted to those who meet the following requirements:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. (It is recommended that undergraduate work have included one year of philosophy, and two years of study of a foreign language, though this is not a requirement.)
- Completion of three years of academic study at the seminary, 90 classroom credits with a minimum point average of 2.5. (Unless previous credit has been approved, seminary studies must include BI 6231/BI 6232 New Testament Greek II and BI 5131/BI 5132 Hebrew I. A minimum of two years of Greek [or equivalent] and one year of Hebrew is required.)
- "Regular" students must also complete the internship program before graduation and recommendation for call. Twelve additional pass/fail credits will be awarded (six for fall semester and six for spring semester) for those successfully completing the internship requirements.

For those students who do not have a Bachelor's degree, the **Certificate of MDiv Studies (CertMDiv)** is granted to those who meet the same require-

ments as the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree. The CertMDiv could later be upgraded to the MDiv degree if a baccalaureate degree is completed.

This Certificate path is limited to no more than 15% of the MDiv program student body with the following considerations:

As a general rule, the potential student must be at least 40 years of age, have completed at least 60 semester hours of undergraduate study with at least a 2.0 grade point average, and have demonstrated spiritual maturity and significant involvement in congregational life and ministry.

## **Seminary Probation Policy**

All students are admitted to the Free Lutheran Seminary on a one-year probationary basis. At the end of the first year of full-time studies (two semesters), the faculty evaluates the progress of each student in terms of spiritual growth, academic performance, and financial responsibility.

If the faculty determines that satisfactory progress is being made in each area, a recommendation for continuation as a student at the seminary is brought to the Board of Trustees.

If the faculty review indicates unsatisfactory progress in one or more of the areas of consideration, the faculty may recommend to the Board that a student be dismissed or remain on probation as he enters his second year of study. In such cases, the reason(s) for the continuation of probation will be put in writing for the student and discussed with him. Additionally, a faculty counselor will meet with the probationary student regularly with the goal of addressing the issues involved pastorally and remedially. If, at the end of two years of probation, satisfactory progress has not been made, the faculty shall recommend to the Board that the student be considered for dismissal from the seminary.

It is by action of the Board and faculty meeting jointly, that a student may continue his studies or be dismissed.

## **Registration**

All students are required to register during the regular registration days (with forms to be submitted to the Free Lutheran Seminary by August 1). A late registration fee may be charged if a student is unable to register on time and does not secure special permission from the dean or registrar. Registrations are generally due in November for spring semester. A student is officially registered at the Free Lutheran Seminary until he withdraws from all courses and signs an official Withdrawal Statement.

## **Orientation**

The first day of each school year at FLS are devoted to orientation for newly

enrolled students. In addition to providing pertinent information regarding academics, student services, and registration, the orientation program is designed to build community and assists students in getting to know one another. Several activities are planned during orientation days designed specifically for fellowship.

## Grading System

The grade point system is a simplified means for determining the grade average and class standing of the student. The total grade points for each course is determined by multiplying the point value of the grade by the credit value of the course. The grade point average (GPA) is computed by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of credits.

<b>98-100</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Superior</b>
<b>94-97</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Superior</b>
<b>90-93</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>87-89</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>84-86</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>80-83</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>77-79</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>74-76</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>70-73</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>67-69</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>Below Average</b>
<b>64-66</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>Below Average</b>
<b>60-63</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>Below Average</b>
<b>Below 60</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>Failing</b>

*P = Pass, AUD= Audit, W = Withdrawal, I = Incomplete*

*The faculty reserves the right to modify this scale on occasions when it is deemed appropriate upon consultation with the dean.*

## Populi

Students are provided with a Populi account in order to monitor grades, student accounts, and events. Populi is the required method used to communicate with staff and faculty and receive important notices and announcements.

## Email Accounts and Communications

Email is an efficient and effective method of communication. The assigned email account from the Free Lutheran Bible College (FLBC) is the institution's official and primary means of communication among students, faculty, staff, and FLBC administration. Therefore, FLBCS provides flbc.edu addresses for each registered student. This account is the only address that the college (i.e. faculty and staff) will use to communicate electronically with enrolled students. Students are held responsible for all information communicated from the school by email.

Additionally, FLBCS uses Microsoft Teams as a secure, interoffice platform to foster efficient communication and collaboration. Students are required to check Microsoft Teams on a regular basis to remain up to date with pertinent information and promote effective teamwork.

## **Academic Advising**

The Seminary Dean is available to provide academic and spiritual advice to students upon request. The Seminary Dean also oversees the student affairs in the program and works directly with each of the seminary students. Each academic year, first year seminary students are assigned to individual full-time faculty members for academic advisement and spiritual nurture. During the internship year at seminary, interns are also assigned a faculty advisor as well as having a pastor serve as the internship supervisor. While other seminarians are not assigned faculty advisors, full-time faculty members are encouraged to establish relationships with students and if requested to guide them in their academic endeavors and ongoing growth in Christian character.

## **Academic Good Standing**

A student shall maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or above in the MDiv or CertMDiv track to be considered in good academic standing.

## **Academic Progress**

Unsatisfactory attendance and/or substandard academic record will be placed on probation. A student may be counseled in relation to unsatisfactory progress when his grade point average for any semester is less than 2.50 in the MDiv or CertMDiv track, or when his transcript shows two or more grades of incomplete (I) or failing (F) in one semester. If a student's grade point average falls below 2.50 in the MDiv or CertMDiv track for any semester, he will be placed on academic probation and placed in an academic accountability program until the grade point average is raised to the required minimum. A student who persists in a pattern of unsatisfactory progress may be suspended from the Free Lutheran Seminary. A student who has been suspended for this reason must repeat the entire semester.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words, ideas, or conceptions as if they were one's own. Plagiarism is serious because it is considered cheating and regarded as a form of lying and stealing. All assignments and tests must be the work of the student whose name appears on it. The only exception would be when instructors choose to give assignments to groups where the submitted work would represent the entire group and not simply individual students. Students are not allowed to let other students use their work and submit it as his or her original work, nor are they allowed to use any author's work and submit it



as their own in an assignment or on a test. Proper citing and referencing must be done when using the work of other authors. The writing guide used at the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary is the Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 9th edition. FLBCS uses Unicheck, integrated with Populi, to alert to potential plagiarism issues.

Instructors that discover evidence of plagiarism will first allow the student a chance to offer an alternate explanation of the evidence or to admit fault. If it still appears that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may choose one of the following options, listed in order of increased severity according to the extent and evident deliberateness of the deceit:

- Reprimanding the student and requiring a revision of the work to eliminate plagiarism or additional paper, assignment, or exam.
- Lowering the grade for the paper, assignment, or exam (even as far as a zero) without opportunity to regain the lost credit.
- Directed withdrawal of the student from the course.
- Failure of the student for the course.
- Referral of evidence to the FLS or FLBC Dean or Chief Academic Officer for appropriate disciplinary action (which may include suspension or dismissal).

## Attendance Policy

Faculty members determine the specific class attendance policies for their courses in how it will affect a grade for the course. This policy shall be listed in the syllabus and announced at the beginning of the course.

Students are required to attend at least one AFLC Annual Conference.

## Auditors

With the permission of the administration and faculty, classes may be audited. Regular students may audit without charge. Non-degree seeking students may audit courses at the rate of \$185 per credit hour. In exceptional cases, a student living on campus may audit as many as five credit hours of classes per semester; however, a student living on campus is required to carry a minimum of 9-12 credit hours per semester for credit. Permission to audit must be obtained from the instructor. Auditors are required to attend all classes but are not required to complete any class assignments or take any examinations unless specified by the instructor.

## Directed Study

Directed study courses may be offered in extenuating circumstances to students with specialized interests and needs or, when other options fail, for a course retake. Any directed study is to be arranged by the dean and paid for at the current cost per credit. Directed independent study is limited to five credits

total, and will normally be available to students with cumulative grade point averages of 2.5 or higher in the MDiv or CertMDiv track.

## Repeating Courses

Grades are issued at the end of each semester. Since some students may experience academic difficulty, any courses may be repeated. If a course taken at FLS is repeated at FLS, it will be noted on the transcript that the course has been repeated, and the higher grade will stand. Credit will be given for only one of these courses.

## Withdrawals and Adding Courses

A student must secure permission to withdraw from an individual course by obtaining the appropriate signatures.

Week zero through week two:	No notation on transcript
Week three through four:	No notation on transcript and \$10 fee applies
Week five through week ten:	Withdraw (W) on transcript and \$10 fee applies
Week eleven and after:	Zero on all uncompleted work and grade earned for semester entered on transcript and \$10 fee applies

New courses must be added prior to the beginning of the second week of classes for the desired course. Course Change Forms are located in the Registrar's office.

## Incomplete

Grades are issued at the end of each semester. Since some students may experience academic difficulty, any courses may be repeated. If a course taken at FLS is repeated at FLS, it will be noted on the transcript that the course has been repeated, and the higher grade will stand. Credit will be given for only one of these courses.

## Grade Appeal Process

In the event a student has a dispute with a final semester grade, the student should first inform the instructor and attempt to reach an agreement.

If a resolution cannot be determined to the satisfaction of both parties, the student may submit a written appeal to the Dean for consideration within 30 days of the semester grade being finalized. The Dean, in conjunction with the Registrar, will seek a reasonable resolution to the appeal. The Chief Academic Officer will be consulted as indicated.

The decision of the Academic Administration will be deemed final and communicated to the student and instructor.

### Withdrawal from School

If a student should decide to withdraw from all classes and leave campus before the end of a semester, he must come into the Seminary/Heritage office and obtain a withdrawal statement. All library books need to be returned, fines paid, financial obligations to the school settled, and the dean's signature obtained.

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## Student Complaint Procedures

The faculty, staff, and administration of the Free Lutheran Seminary desire to continually improve both the curricular and co-curricular programs for its students. Further, the Free Lutheran Seminary wants the community environment to be conducive to the student body's academic and personal and spiritual growth. In order to achieve these goals, input from students is greatly encouraged.

Students are encouraged to submit their specific suggestions, concerns, or complaints regarding their experience at the Free Lutheran Seminary. This can be accomplished by submitting their concerns in writing, to the Free Lutheran Seminary Dean.

The Dean shall determine if the complaint warrants a formal investigation. If one is deemed appropriate, the complainant may be asked to meet with the Dean and any other necessary staff for further information and clarification. If, from this meeting, the Dean finds evidence supporting the complaint, the Dean will determine what action, if any, is needed. If further direction is necessary, the Dean shall forward the written complaint and other relevant documentation to the President and, if deemed appropriate, to the Board of Trustees for their recommendation if any is warranted. If the Dean would happen to be connected to the complaint, communication should begin with the President. If the complaint is considered by the Board of Trustees, the complainant may request to meet with the Board of Trustees, which will review all related documentation and make a final determination in the matter. Any action by the Board of Trustees shall be final.



## Free Lutheran Seminary Distribution of Credits

### Exegetical Theology (BI)

BI 5101	Pentateuch	3 credits
BI 5112	Historical Books	3 credits
BI 5131/5132	Hebrew I	6 credits
BI 5201	Gospel of John	2 credits
BI 5202	Synoptic Gospels	3 credits
BI 6111	Poetical Books	2 credits
BI 6122	Major Prophets	3 credits
BI 6212	Romans and Galatians	3 credits
BI 6213	Corinthian Epistles	3 credits
BI 6221	Captivity Epistles	3 credits
BI 6222	Hebrews/Unity of the Testaments	2 credits
BI 6223	Pastoral Epistles	3 credits
BI 6230	Greek Intensive	1 credit
BI 6231/6232	New Testament Greek II	4 credits

**Core credits: 41 credits**

### Systematic Theology (TH)

TH 5301	Basic Principles of Theology/ Doctrine of the Word	3 credits
TH 5302	Lutheran Symbolics	2 credits
TH 6301	Theology/Anthropology	2 credits
TH 6312	Ecclesiology/Eschatology	3 credits
TH 6322	Christology and Pneumatology	2 credits
TH 6323	Soteriology	3 credits
TH 6331	Christian Ethics	2 credits

**Core credits : 17 credits**

### Historical Theology (HI)

HI 6401/6402	General Church History	6 credits
HI 6411	Lutheranism in America	3 credits

**Core credits: 9 credits**

## Free Lutheran Seminary Distribution of Credits

### Practical Theology (PT)

MU 5631/6631	Seminary Chorus	2 credits
PT 5703	Principles of Pastoral Theology	3 credits
PT 5731/5732	Expository Preaching I	2 credits
PT 5733	Hermeneutics	2 credits
PT 6702	Worship and Ministerial Acts	2 credits
PT 6711	Pastoral Counseling	2 credits
PT 6721	Evangelism and Apologetics	3 credits
PT 6722	Discipleship/Servant Leadership	3 credits
PT 6731/6732	Expository Preaching II	2 credits
PT 7731/7732	Expository Preaching III	2 credits

**Core credits: 23 credits**

**Total: 90 core credits**

### Electives:

BI 6142	Minor Prophets	2 credits
BI 6191/6192	Hebrew II	4 credits
BI 6291	Revelation	2 credits
MU 7691	Seminary Chorus (third semester)	1 credit
PT 6752	Christian Education	2 credits
PT 6770/7770	Research Paper	1 or 2 credits
TH 6352	Comparative Symbolics	2 credits

*(Electives listed are potential options but subject to change)*

## Cycle of Classes (Three year rotation)

### Fall Semester 2023-2024

#### Junior core classes:

BI 6230	Greek Intensive	1 credit
(Required one week class during the last week in August)		
BI 5101	Pentateuch	3 credits
BI 6231	Greek 2	2 credits
MU 5631	Seminary Chorus	1 credit
PT 5703	Principles of Pastoral Theology	3 credits
PT 5731	Expository Preaching I	1 credit
PT 5733	Hermeneutics	2 credits
TH 5301	Basic Principles of Theology/ Doctrine of the Word	<u>3 credits</u>
Total:		16 credits

### Spring Semester 2023-2024

#### Junior core classes:

BI 5112	Historical Books	3 credits
BI 5131	Hebrew 1	3 credits
BI 5201	Gospel of John	2 credits
BI 5202	Synoptic Gospels	3 credits
BI 6232	Greek 2	2 credits
PT 5734	Expository Preaching I	1 credit
TH 5302	Lutheran Symbolics	<u>2 credits</u>
		16 credits

## Cycle of Classes (Three year rotation)

### Fall Semester 2024-2025

#### Middler core classes:

BI 5132	Hebrew 1	3 credits
MU 6631	Seminary Chorus	1 credit
BI 6111	Poetical Books	2 credits
BI 6221	Captivity Epistles	3 credits
PT 6731	Expository Preaching 2	1 credit
PT 6711	Pastoral Counseling	2 credits
TH 6323	Soteriology	<u>3 credits</u>
		15 credits

### Spring Semester 2024-2025

#### Middler core classes:

BI 6213	Corinthian Epistles	3 credits
BI 6222	Hebrews/Unity of the Testaments	2 credits
HI 6411	Lutheranism in America	3 credits
PT 6702	Worship and Ministerial Acts	2 credits
PT 6732	Expository Preaching 2	1 credit
TH 6312	Ecclesiology/Eschatology	<u>3 credits</u>
		14 credits



## Cycle of Classes (Three year rotation)

### Fall semester 2025-2026

#### Senior core Classes:

BI 6223	Pastoral Epistles	3 credits
HI 6401	General Church History	3 credits
PT 7731	Expository Preaching 3	1 credit
TH 6301	Theology/Anthropology	2 credits
PT 6731	Evangelism and Apologetics	3 credits
TH 6331	Christian Ethics	<u>2 credits</u>
		14 credits

### Spring Semester 2025-2026

#### Senior core Classes:

BI 6122	Major Prophets	3 credits
BI 6212	Romans and Galatians	3 credits
HI 6402	General Church History	3 credits
TH 6322	Christology and Pneumatology	2 credits
PT 6732	Expository Preaching 3	1 credit
PT 6722	Discipleship/ Servant Leadership	<u>3 credits</u>
		15 credits

**Total core credits offered: 90**

**Total credits needed for graduation: 90**

Elective credits are additional offerings beyond those required for graduation with one to two elective courses offered each year

**\*\*Cycle of classes depicts typical course offerings, but is subject to change**

## Course Descriptions

Each course is identified by topical initials (BI for Biblical Theology, TH for Systematic Theology...) and by course number. The first number indicates introductory (5), intermediate (6), or advanced (7). Typically, introductory classes are offered for seminary juniors. Intermediate and advanced courses are available for both middlers and seniors. The second number indicates the topical department while the third number delineates a core class (0-3) or an elective (4-9). The fourth digit is typically reserved for identification of fall or spring semester, but does contain some variability. ***PT 6752 Christian Education*** would indicate a Practical Theology elective course at the intermediate level which would typically be offered in the spring semester. The descriptions listed in this catalog are considered core courses unless depicted with an (E), designating it as an elective.

### EXEGETICAL THEOLOGY

#### Old Testament

##### **BI 5101                      The Pentateuch                      3 credits**

The literary, historical, and theological aspects of the five books of Moses are illuminated. Emphasis is given to Genesis (the book of origins—of the created world, the LORD's people, and the LORD's plan for salvation) and Exodus (the LORD's revelation of Himself as Savior through the initiation of the prototypical salvation history narrative).

##### **BI 5112                      The Historical Books                      3 credits**

This course includes a close reading of the books of Israel's history (Joshua-Esther), examining their respective places in salvation history. Emphasis is given to the history and theology of Joshua through Kings.

##### **BI 5131, 5132              Hebrew I (two semesters)                      6 credits**

This course is devoted primarily to the essentials of the Hebrew grammar. Readings from the Hebrew text and use of the lexicon are emphasized in the second semester.

##### **BI 6111                      The Poetical Books                      2 credits**

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon will be introduced, with special attention being paid to the unique approach to theology presented by Israel's Wisdom Literature. Emphasis will be given to the literary, historical, and theological aspects of the Psalms.

##### **BI 6122                      The Major Prophets                      3 credits**

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel will be studied with consideration given to the literary, historical, and theological aspects of each of these prophetic

books. Emphasis is given to Isaiah, the prophet *par excellence*, and then to Jeremiah and Daniel.

**BI 6142                      The Minor Prophets                      2 credits (E)**

All twelve books will be introduced, with special attention given to Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Zechariah.

**BI 6191, 6192      Hebrew II (two semesters)                      4 credits (E)**

A continuation and further development of Hebrew I with deeper involvement in the use of lexicons and grammar. Pre-requisite: Hebrew I

**New Testament**

**BI 5201                      Gospel of John                      2 credits**

This course is devoted to the study of the purpose and special characteristics of the fourth Gospel, its authenticity, and unique value. Selected passages will be exegeted.

**BI 5202                      The Synoptic Gospels                      3 credits**

The historical framework and significance of Christ's ministry will be considered in the study of the Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The interrelation of the three Gospels and their unique characteristics will be explored.

**BI 6212                      Romans and Galatians                      3 credits**

The essence and application of the Gospel, summarized in Romans by the expression "the righteousness of God," will be studied. Special attention will be given to Paul's proclamation of both law and Gospel, including discussion of the place of Israel in God's divine economy and the life of the Christian in society. Pre-requisite is New Testament Greek I.

**BI 6213                      The Corinthian Epistles                      3 credits**

Paul's correspondence with the church in Corinth deals head-on with a list of common problems faced by congregations in our own day. These letters reveal the consequences of a misunderstanding of the Gospel message and how a healthy congregation must be grounded on the true Gospel of Christ.

**BI 6221                      The Captivity Epistles                      3 credits**

The historical background and theme of each of the Pauline epistles of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon will be studied. Each epistle is considered for its unique theological emphasis and instruction for Christian living. Pre-requisite is New Testament Greek I.

**BI 6222                      Hebrews/Unity of the Testaments                      2 credits**

The study of Hebrews will focus on "Christ, the new and better way" in comparison to the Old Testament sacrificial system. The rich Old Testament back-

ground to Hebrews will be examined. Pre-requisite is New Testament Greek I.

**BI 6223                      Pastoral Epistles                      3 credits**

The practical truths of the Thessalonian epistles with their emphasis on Christ's return and the call to appropriate Christian living will be explored. I and II Timothy and Titus will be examined with a focus on how these letters equip leaders for effective pastoral ministry.

**BI 6230                      New Testament Greek Intensive                      1 credit**

This one-credit pass/fail course is designed as a one-week review of the basics of first-year New Testament Greek primarily for incoming seminary students. The course will utilize the Basics of Biblical Greek text by William Mounce (3rd or 4th edition). A proficiency test will be administered for purposes of assessment for those taking the class for credit.

**BI 6231, 6232              New Testament Greek II (two semesters) 4 credits**

This course is devoted to a further study of the Greek grammar. The goal is to provide additional grammatical help for exegesis. There will also be a brief introduction to the evaluation of biblical manuscripts. Pre-requisite is New Testament Greek I.

**BI 6291                      The Book of Revelation                      2 credits (E)**

This course is a survey of responsible hermeneutical approaches to the book of Revelation as well as a study of its main themes. Its relationship to other prophetic Scriptures is also considered.

## **HISTORICAL THEOLOGY**

**HI 6401, 6402              General Church History (two semesters) 6 credits**

This is a study of the history of the Christian Church from the Apostolic Age to the present, with special emphasis on the Reformation period.

**HI 6411                      Lutheranism in America                      3 credits**

This course traces the history of Lutheranism in America, with special attention given to the organizational and theological roots of current denominations.

## **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

**TH 5301                      Basic Principles of Theology/  
Doctrine of the Word                      3 credits**

This course begins with the most basic questions, What is theology? How is theology properly practiced? and How does systematic theology relate to the other theological disciplines? The Lutheran system of theology is introduced. In the Doctrine of the Word section of this course, Holy Scripture is presented

and defended as the only source and norm of Christian faith and life. The characteristics of Holy Scripture are carefully studied with special emphasis on Scripture's authority, inerrancy and efficacy.

**TH 5302                      Lutheran Symbolics                      2 credits**

This course introduces the student to the complete Lutheran *Book of Concord*, with special attention to the Ancient, Ecumenical Creeds, the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism—considering the important question of confessional subscription. The special historical situations in which each symbol was prepared and a systematic overview of the theology of the Book of Concord is presented.

**TH 6301                      Theology and Anthropology                      2 credits**

This course begins with the question of how we can know God and proceeds from God's Word and the proper source for the knowledge of God to a consideration of the being and essence of the Triune God as well as His Attributes and Works. After recognizing God's work in the creation of all things, the crown of God's creation (humanity) is studied according to Scripture, especially noting fallen, corrupt and spiritually impotent man as the object of God's saving grace in Christ.

**TH 6312                      Ecclesiology and Eschatology                      3 credits**

The first two-thirds of this course consider the presence and work of the Triune God in the universal body of Christ and in the congregation. The church is studied from Scripture considering both its inner attributes and its external marks. Special attention is given the congregation as the right form of the kingdom of God on earth. In the last third of this course, Last Things are presented according to God's Word in a study of human death and the intermediate state, the glorious return of Christ, the end of the ages and the final states of man.

**TH 6322                      Christology and Pneumatology                      2 credits**

This course moves beyond the Biblical revelation of the Triune God to a detailed consideration of both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, studying each according to His person and work. Special attention is given to the personal union of God and man in the Incarnate Christ and His work for our salvation. Then the Holy Spirit's work of applying that salvation is carefully studied in connection to the divinely-given means of grace at work in the church.

**TH 6323                      Soteriology                      3 credits**

This course considers the way of salvation as presented in Scripture by asking how the perfect redemption of Christ becomes the experience of the individual. The objective means of the Word of God as Law and Gospel along with the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper are considered according to their institution by Christ and according to their application in pastoral min-

istry. Also the subjective results of conversion, saving faith, justification and sanctification within the life of the believer are carefully studied as presented in Scripture. The eternal election of God in Christ rounds out the course.

**TH 6331                      Christian Ethics                      2 credits**

Emphasizing grace and forgiveness, this course attempts to prepare today's pastor to minister evangelically in the world where precepts of Antinomianism, and situationism are prevalent. Pietism is also studied as an ethical option.

**TH 6352                      Comparative Symbolics                      2 credits (E)**

This course compares the theology of the Lutheran church with that of other Christian denominations in light of the historical creeds and confessions which distinguish each, including Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, Calvinism, Arminianism and modern Evangelicalism.

## **PRACTICAL THEOLOGY**

**MU 5631, 6631, 7691                      Seminary Chorus                      2 credits**

This required (2 years) and elective (3<sup>rd</sup> year) course affords an opportunity to pray, praise, and thank God through participation in a male chorus. The objectives include an increased familiarity with our musical heritage; a deeper understanding of the profound intent and meaning of the poetry; and a comprehension of musical phraseology and content. This course seeks to prepare the servant pastor by teaching a practical understanding of healthy vocal use, appropriate warm-ups, and knowledge of the entire vocal mechanism for both singing and speaking.

**PT 5703                      Principles of Pastoral Theology                      3 credits**

This course is a historical and practical study of the foundations of the pastoral office and a survey of the ministerial functions.

**PT 5731                      Expository Preaching 1 (Fall)                      1 credits**

This course explores the basic practices involved in Bible exposition as it applies to sermon development and delivery as well as the public reading of Scripture. Students will preach from the New Testament Gospel pericope texts and receive evaluation from the instructor and fellow classmates.

**PT 5732                      Expository Preaching 1 (Spring)                      1 credit**

Students continue to develop skills in Bible exposition and sermon development using pericopes from the New Testament epistles. Additionally, attention is given to the proper distinction between Law and Gospel and to distinguishing carefully between justification and sanctification in the preaching task, as well as to strategies for preaching about faith and the means of grace.

**PT 5733                      Hermeneutics                      2 credits**

An introduction to the principles and methods used in the interpretation of the Scriptures. Includes an examination of general and special hermeneutics and discussion on past and present issues in the field of biblical interpretation.

**PT 6702                      Worship and Ministerial Acts                      2 credits**

This course offers an in-depth study of Biblical components of worship and of Christian music. We trace our musical lineage and elements of corporate worship through the Scriptures, the early church, the Reformation, to today. We study our musical Lutheran heritage, and we evaluate contemporary trends for doctrinal purity and musical depth. This course also includes instruction in a variety of ministerial acts both inside and outside the Sunday morning corporate worship setting.

**PT 6711                      Pastoral Counseling                      2 credits**

Students will be introduced to theories of Biblical and Christian counseling. This class will instruct students to counsel on a variety of parish counseling issues such as pre-marriage, marriage, baptism, and grief.

**PT 6721                      Evangelism and Apologetics                      3 credits**

This course introduces students to a variety of evangelism techniques and considerations, along with the right place of reasons and answers in evangelism. Students will learn how to identify and answer essential questions asked by unsaved souls and questioning Christians.

**PT 6722                      Discipleship and Servant Leadership                      3 credits**

A study of effective use of congregational resources to care for converts and disciple them. Discipleship is combined with basic leadership training, strategic analysis, in the Biblical equipping of the saints.

**PT 6731,                      Expository Preaching 2 (Fall)                      1 credit**

Students will learn to preach from the Old Testament. Students will preach with the perspective of redemptive history, asking "What does the text say of Christ?"

**PT 6732                      Expository Preaching 2 (Spring)                      1 credit**

Students will learn how to grapple and preach from narrative passages from both the Old and New Testament. This class will deal especially with longer narrative passages and the unique challenges they present and how to engage listeners with the overarching theme of the narrative with application for the congregation.

**PT 6752                      Christian Education                      2 credits (E)**

A study in the application of basic principles and methods of Christian education to the whole congregational program. A survey of the AFLC Ambassador Sunday School curriculum is made.

**PT 7731                      Expository Preaching 3 (Fall)                      1 credit**

Students will learn how to prepare and preach special service sermons including: Funeral, Wedding, feast days, and national holidays. Sermons will follow expository preaching guidelines.

**PT 7732                      Expository Preaching 3 (Spring)                      1 credit**

Students will review what has been taught in the five previous preaching classes with an emphasis on preparing an expository sermon. Students will also prepare for the chapel service in which they will preach a sermon.

**PT 6770, 7770      Research Paper                      1or 2 credits (E)**

This is an elective research paper on a topic in one of the theological disciplines (exegetical, historical, systematic, or practical). The topic is selected by the student and must be approved by Faculty. The completed paper must be submitted to Faculty by April 15th of the student's senior year. The research paper will be a minimum of 20 pages for one credit or a minimum of 40 pages for two credits. Students considering future doctoral studies are encouraged to consider the research paper elective as many graduate programs require a sample of academic writing as part of the admission process.

**PT 7735, 7736      The Internship Program                      12 credits**

An internship normally occurs after a regular student has finished his third year at the Seminary. The faculty of the seminary and the Board of Trustees recommend students for an internship. After students are recommended, they are assigned to a parish by a committee consisting of the dean of the seminary and the president of the AFLC. While students as well as congregations may express their preferences, this committee makes the final decision as to assignment.

At the end of the internship, the interns return to the seminary for a workshop with the faculty and students. This permits a review of the intern's work as well as an opportunity for each intern to present a research project based on a selected facet of his internship experience.

The completion of an internship does not necessarily imply being recommended for a call into a congregation of the AFLC. The seminary faculty may require, where there are specific concerns, additional experience, further education, etc., which it may deem best for the welfare of the intern in his training and for congregations which he may serve in the future.

As a student completes his internship, the following procedure is necessary for a student to be recommended for a call in the AFLC. First, the faculty passes its recommendation on to the Board of Trustees of the seminary. Upon their positive decision, the student is interviewed by the AFLC Coordinating and Colloquy Committees who give the final approval. The student is normally available for call no earlier than March 1 of his internship year.



## The Purpose of Internship

A vital component of preparation for pastoral ministry in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is the internship program of Free Lutheran Seminary. The objectives of this program are:

- To give the theological student an opportunity to apply preaching and pastoral skills acquired in the classroom in the everyday parish context.
- To permit the student to preach the Law and the Gospel to a congregation over an extended period of time, seeking to “do the work of an evangelist” as well as to nurture God’s people.
- To give the theological student supervised, on-the-job training in practical aspects of parish ministry under the direction of a pastor experienced in his work.
- To observe the theological student in a congregational setting, endeavoring to develop his strengths further, and to eliminate as far as possible his weaknesses.
- To permit the theological student to work and develop confidence in his abilities, and to have weaknesses noted and corrected.
- To observe and counsel the student regularly to correct any deficiencies in his personal life and character, such as the need for living within a schedule, punctuality, and other personal habits.
- To observe the theological student in the parish setting as he works with all age groups, to ascertain his emotional stability in crisis situations and his personal and doctrinal integrity in the context of congregational life, evaluating his overall fitness for the ministry.
- To assist the student to prepare for independent, unsupervised work as a parish pastor.
- To acquaint the theological student with life in the parishes of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.
- To instill in the theological student a love for daily ministry in a Christian congregation.
- To provide assistance to a congregation in its varied ministries and activities.

## Administration and Faculty



Rev. Dr. Wade Mobley  
Free Lutheran Bible  
College and Seminary  
President



Rev. Dr. James Molstre  
Free Lutheran Seminary  
Chief Academic Officer  
and Seminary Dean



Rev. Adam Osier  
Free Lutheran Bible  
College Dean



Mr. Andrew Hanson



Rev. Dr. Jerry Moan



Rev. Steve Mundfrom



Rev. Dr. Brent Olson



Rev. Dr. Nathan Olson

## Free Lutheran Seminary Administration, Faculty, and Lecturers

**Mr. Andrew Hanson**, BM, MM,—*Instructor, 2008 to Present*; BM, St. Olaf College; MM in Choral Conducting, St. Cloud State University; Music Teacher, St. Francis High School, St. Francis, MN, 2002-2008; Music Director, Church Music Director, Maple Grove, MN 2002-present; Singer with Kantorei 2006-2008.

**Rev. Dr. Jerry Moan**, BA, MDiv, STM, DMin —*Instructor, 1995 to Present*; Graduate FLBC; Minnesota State University Moorhead; BA, Crown College, St. Bonifacious, MN; MDiv, Free Lutheran Seminary, Plymouth, MN; STM, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN; DMin, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Plymouth, MN; Pastorate: Minot, ND.

**Rev. Dr. Wade A. Mobley**, BA, MDiv, DMin —*Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary President and Instructor, 2015 to Present*; Graduate FLBC; BA University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN; MDiv Free Lutheran Seminary, Plymouth, MN; DMin, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN; Pastorate: Sioux Falls, SD.

**Rev. Dr. James Molstre**, BS, MDiv, DMin —*Free Lutheran Seminary Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary Chief Academic Officer, and Instructor, 2017 to Present*; Graduate, BS, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND; MDiv, Free Lutheran Seminary, Plymouth, MN; DMin, Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA; Pastorates: Zumbrota, MN; Bethel Park, PA; New-ark, IL.

**Rev. Steve Mundfrom**, BA, MDiv, DMin in progress —*Instructor, 2016 to Present*; Graduate FLBC; BA, Moorhead State University; MDiv, Free Lutheran Seminary, Plymouth, MN; DMin in progress, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; Pastorate: Sebekka, MN; Arlington, SD; Valley City, ND.

**Rev. Dr. Brent Olson**, BA, MA, MDiv, PhD —*Instructor, 2011 to Present*; BA, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL; MA, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN; MDiv, Free Lutheran Seminary, Plymouth, MN; PhD, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO; Pastorate: Bethel Park, PA.

**Rev. Dr. Nathan Olson**, BS, MDiv, PhD —*Instructor, 2021 to Present*; BS, University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN; MDiv, Free Lutheran Seminary, Plymouth, MN; PhD, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO; Pastorate: Eagan, MN

**Rev. Adam Osier**, BS, MDiv —*FLBC Dean, 2019 to present*; Graduate FLBC; BS, University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN; MDiv, Free Lutheran Seminary, Plymouth, MN; Pastorate: Wadena and Bluegrass, MN; Bethel Park, PA

## **Board of Trustees**

**The Free Lutheran Seminary is operated by the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary Corporation. A Corporation of fifty men and women is elected by the church at its annual conference. A Board of Trustees of seven members are elected from the corporation and have the immediate responsibility to guide the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary.**

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## The Summer Institute of Theology

The Summer Institute of Theology provides an opportunity for continuing education for pastors, as well as for lay men and women. It is conducted each summer during the first week of August. A full range of abbreviated courses in Old and New Testament, Theology, Church History, and Practical Studies is offered, taught by regular faculty members and guest instructors.

None of the classwork in the Summer Institute of Theology can be transferred into either the MDiv or CertMDiv tracks of the Seminary program. The Coordinating Committee of the AFLC has established requirements for licensed lay-pastors in the AFLC regarding participation in the Summer Institute of Theology and may choose to offer certificates of completion to lay-pastors. The seminary does not offer any certificate or diploma for the work done in the Summer Institute of Theology.



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# Free Lutheran SEMINARY

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3134 E MEDICINE LAKE BLVD, PLYMOUTH, MN 55441  
(763)544-9501 | [FLBC.edu](http://FLBC.edu)

Preparing servant pastors for free and living congregations.