

# LTS NEWS

Vol. 18, Issue 1 Page 1



LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL  
**SEMINARY**



## Installation of new LTS rector

The installation of Rector Dr. Walter Winterle (LTS) was held on February 4, 2018 in conjunction with that of Rev. Kurt Böhmer, pastor of the Afrikaans members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is in partnership with the Lutheran Theological Seminary

by Bishop Dr. Dieter Reinstorf

It does not happen often that two installations are held in one service. The date was 4 February 2018 at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Pretoria, held in both English and Afrikaans. Dr. Walter Winterle was installed by Bishop Modise Maragelo from the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) as the rector of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Tshwane and coordinator for the mission work in Mozambique. Bishop Dieter Reinstorf installed Pastor Kurt Böhmer as the pastor of St. Paul's congregation, primarily responsible for its Afrikaans speaking members.

After two brief installation sermons, one held by the Mission Representative of the Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC), Missionary Christoph Weber, the other held by Bishop Reinstorf, the sermon for the divine service

was held by Dr. Winterle on 2 Corinthians 3:5: *Not that we are competent in ourselves... but our competence comes from God.*

Dr. Winterle, to whom this new calling seems like an overwhelming challenge, shared both his fears and his trust in God with the assembled congregation. These words of the apostle Paul comforted him in the knowledge that he who calls us into his service, also gives us the competence to fulfill the task. Dr. Winterle replaces Dr. Wilhelm Weber as rector of the seminary, who with great foresight had helped that the LTS becomes an institution for theological training not only for the two local confessional Lutheran Churches, in South Africa, but many Lutheran Churches throughout Africa. It is our prayer that under the leadership of Dr. Winterle the LTS will continue to be a blessing to many.

## Introducing Rev. Dr. Winterle, the new rector of the LTS

Rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle is a fascinating figure with a long history of ministry in the church. He was ordained in 1973 and served in various mission congregations in São Paulo, Brazil. He served as the Brazilian Lutheran Hour speaker and also served in various positions of leadership in the Brazilian Lutheran Church (IELB). He was an assistant professor for homiletics at Concordia Seminary in São Leopoldo, RS before being called to serve as the National President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil. In this time, the Brazilian church made great strides to reach financial independence. Dr. Winterle served on the executive of the International Lutheran Council.

(continued overleaf)

*(Introducing Rev. Dr. Winterle, the new rector of LTS - continued from front page)*

After serving out two terms of office as synod president, he was called to serve at the Uhuru Highway Lutheran Cathedral in Nairobi, Kenya in 2006. In 2011, he moved to South Africa to serve at St Thomas Lutheran Church, the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) congregation in Cape Town. During this time, Dr. Winterle also served the Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC) part-time as project coordinator for its mission in Mozambique. In this role, he was responsible for the theological training of the first pastors of the newly established confessional Lutheran Church in Mozambique. After his retirement from congregational work in Cape Town, the MLC called Dr. Winterle to a fulltime role as missionary.

He would surely have had enough work to do just to oversee the theological training in Mozambique and the newly planned Mission Training Center the MLC is planning to establish in South Africa, but we are very grateful that he was also willing to accept the urgent call to serve as rector of the LTS in Pretoria. This position became vacant at the end of 2017 after the members' (trustees') meeting of the LTS,

comprised of representatives of the MLC, LCSA, and FELSISA, decided not to extend the rectorship of Dr. Wilhelm Weber. The members of the LTS believe that Dr. Winterle brings a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge to the LTS, and we trust that his many connections in the worldwide Lutheran Church community will be of benefit to the LTS. His leadership skills have been honed in his terms as president of the IELB and many other positions he has held. His experience in Brazil, Kenya, and Mozambique provide a unique perspective that we believe is relevant for our African context.

The Concordia Universities in Austin and Irvine have recognized this by bestowing upon him honorary doctorates in Law

(L.L.D) and Divinity (DD), while Concordia Seminary in St. Louis has recognized his contributions to mission in awarding him another honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. To take up his new position at the seminary, Dr. Winterle recently moved to Pretoria with his wife Lídia. His contract with the MLC and LTS is for three years. The funding for his position is raised by the MLC through donations. His three adult children are all married and live in three different overseas countries (Germany, England and Canada). The Winterle's have six grandchildren.

by Rev. Christoph Weber

Mission Representative of

the Mission of Lutheran Churches



On the left:  
Rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle and his wife, Lídia

Both Rector Winterle and his wife are natives of Brazil. After many years of service throughout the world, they now live in Pretoria, South Africa.



## Joint Meeting of the LTS Boards

Following the installation, a joint meeting was held between representatives of both LTS boards, staff, and students to discuss LTS operation in 2018.

At the close of the meeting, the call documents of the rector were signed (see below).



## Pastor Tobias Ahlers steps in

Pictured on the right is Rev. Tobias Ahlers, pastor of the English Lutheran Fellowship (ELF), a FELSISA congregation in Randburg. Due to the vacancy in the post of systematic theology at the LTS, Pastor Ahlers was approached with the request to teach a systematics course at the LTS this semester. He kindly agreed, and his congregation very generously granted him permission to do so. Pastor Ahlers commutes to the LTS from Randburg by motorcycle, braving the arduous traffic congestion twice a week. Systematic theology happens to be his area of special interest, which makes for a great fit for us. Welcome, Rev. Ahlers! We are most grateful for your contribution. The Lord's blessing on your service.





## Chairman's report

by

**Dr. Gunter Rencken,  
chairman of the LTS  
Board of Directors**

To All Our Valued Friends and Supporters of the LTS:

As we commence with a new academic year at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (LTS), I would like to welcome all students and staff for 2018. A

special welcome is extended to Rev. Dr. Walter Winterle, who has been appointed as the new rector with effect from 1 January 2018. Dr. Winterle's impressive curriculum vitae (resume) and background is described elsewhere in the newsletter.

I would also like to welcome two new directors to the LTS Board, namely, Messrs B. Shole and Hugo Meyer. Also a hearty welcome to Mr. Ralf Gevers, who kindly accepted the call to act as Treasurer of the LTS. The directorships of Messrs Berno Niebuhr, Michael Grosse, and Reuben Dlamini expired at the end of 2017 and, as mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, Rev. Matthias Albers also requested that he be relieved as a director. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all four outgoing directors for their support and advice over many years. Their input is highly appreciated.

As the LTS embarks on a new era under the leadership of the new rector, I would like to acknowledge

the loyal service and dedication of the previous rector, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, over a period of more than 16 years. Dr. Weber was instrumental in developing the LTS from humble beginnings to what it is today. This was not always an easy task and the LTS is very grateful to Dr. Weber for his major contribution.

Dr. Weber's three year service agreement as rector, which expired at the end of 2017, was not renewed by the Members of the LTS. Unfortunately, Dr. Weber did not accept a lecturer position in Lutheran Dogmatics and Symbolics at the LTS, as he decided to explore other opportunities outside of the institution. We wish Dr. Weber and Dr. Winterle well in their new endeavours.

Dr. Gunter Rencken  
Chairperson of the  
LTS Board of Directors

## LCSA Board Members

As Bishop S. Modise A. Maragelo explains on the next page, the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) has nominated two board members to serve on the LTS Board of Directors. One is an old hand at the business, Mr. Mophalane Ntshoe, who has already served with distinction for many years. He is joined by Mr. B. Shole. The two gentlemen are pictured below.

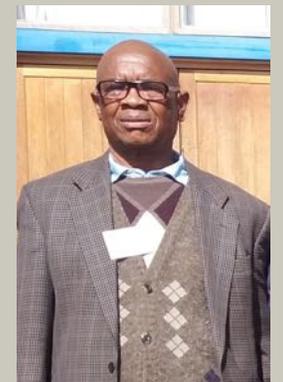


Above: New board member

Mr. B. Shole

Below: Long-standing board member

Mr. M. Ntshoe.



## Students' Report

by

**Mathibe Ben Mokopanele**

On the 30th of January, the LTS opened its doors for the new year. We usually begin classes at the same time as other local institutions of higher learning, but in order to accommodate intensive

lectures mid-quarter, we commenced earlier.

Our students hail from all over Africa: Congo (DRC), Zambia, Uganda, Liberia, Sudan, Ethiopia, and, of course, South Africa. We thank God for granting safe travel to all.

Over the past two years, students Ben Mokopanele, Peter Kizungu, and Martha Tembo served as student

representatives. We thank them for promoting unity and cooperation among the students from different nations and cultures. It was a great privilege to work together. On 13th February, a new students' representative committee was elected: Safari Chomachoma, Dumisani Mokobedi, and Patience Gbotoe. We wish them all the wisdom and blessings from God.

Finally, we would like to say to all who help make it possible for the LTS to function: Thank you very much! Please, continue to support the seminary, and may God bless you and your families. To the outgoing management of the LTS, thank you very much for your leadership and service. And to the new leadership: May God lead and grant you wisdom.





# LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



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**LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER AFRIKA** Mogale City  
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## Office of the Bishop

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### The Role of the LTS

The aim and the role of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) is to prepare men for the office of the public ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Lutheran church. To that end, the seminary seeks to equip students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed for the ministry, leading them

- ❖ to accept without reservation, the scripture of the Old and New Testaments as the written Word of God and the only rule and norms of faith and practice, as well as the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord as the true statement and exposition of the Word of God;
- ❖ to have a comprehensive understanding of the theology of the Bible and the skill to interpret Holy Scripture in accordance with sound hermeneutical principles that promote Christ;
- ❖ to gain greater understanding of the pastoral office as the ministry of proclaiming God's word to human need within the discipline of worship, preaching, teaching, pastoral care and counselling for the edification of God's people, enabling them to carry on the mission of the church; and
- ❖ to indicate a complete dedication to the office of the public ministry and readiness to accept their first call.

### LCSA Representatives

The LTS is co-owned and led by three members, namely The LCSA holding a share of 40% and The MLC and FELSISA holding a share of 30% respectively.

In the members' meeting the LCSA is represented by The Bishop, Right Rev. S.M.A Maragelo, and his Deputy, Rev. Dean M. Thwala. Rev. Dean Danisa, the former dean of Gauteng, used to be part of the delegation, but is no longer able to take part. We thank him very much for his selfless contribution.

In its last sitting, the members' meeting appointed two LCSA members to the LTS Board of Directors, the long-serving Mr M. Ntshoe and a new member, Mr B. Shole. We are grateful for the contribution of Mr R. Dlamini, who had served diligently as a member for quite some time. His contribution does not go unnoticed.

We warmly and affectionately thank those presently serving and all those who served earlier very much for representing the LCSA whenever and wherever their services are and were needed.



## A message from the LTS rector

by

Rector Dr. W. Winterle

*Our competence comes from God*  
(2 Corinthians 3:5)

Dear Friends,

A new academic year has begun at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, Pretoria. 36 students from seven different countries in Africa are enrolled: From Liberia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Congo (DRC), Zambia, and South Africa. The LTS took the difficult decision not to accept any new students this year, mainly because we cannot provide accommodation to additional students at this time and because we do not have the necessary funds to offer them a scholarship, but also because I would like first to settle in well before accepting new candidates.

Many changes have taken place at the LTS since last year. The contract of former rector Dr. Wilhelm Weber expired on 31st December 2017. He was invited to stay on as systematics lecturer, but decided to accept a position at the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany instead. We pray the

Lord's blessings on his new call. As far as the seminary is concerned, we at the LTS are in need of a new systematics professor and believe that it will be imperative to call one soon. May the Lord aid us in this endeavor.

As the new rector, I still have much to learn in terms of the students' realities and the day-to-day work at the seminary.

I have invited Prof. Dr. Karl Böhmer (not to be confused with Rev. Kurt Böhmer, pictured on the front page) to serve as the seminary registrar, and I am grateful for his capable assistance. Prof. John Nkambule has been released from parish ministry in order to serve as a full-time professor at the seminary, but we first need to finalize the LTS budget for this year before his position can be structured accordingly. Guest professors from abroad and from South Africa have been contacted and have indicated their willingness to serve as guest lecturers at the LTS this year. We are very grateful for their partnership with us.

Our two boards have also seen some changes. Several new members of the Board of Shareholders (also referred to as members) and also from the Board of Directors (executive) have come on board and are gradually being familiarized with their roles.

Our task is not an easy one; but with God's help, we will manage the many challenges we have. I am always encouraged by the watchword of my graduation, which is also my personal watchword: *Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God**. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant* (2 Corinthians 3:4-6).

As for you, dear friends of the LTS, we welcome your support with your prayers and with your donations. The students need full scholarships to come here, and the LTS is fully dependent on donations to accomplish its goal.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have, or to learn more about life at the seminary. We will gladly share the students' stories, day-to-day life, and experiences, and especially also share God's love with you and with the world through the training of the candidates to the Holy Ministry.

## University of Pretoria: Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Theology

On January 26, Drs. Winterle and Böhmer travelled to the nearby University of Pretoria to meet with representatives of the Faculty of Theology to discuss possible avenues for cooperation between the two institutions. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the LTS and UP in 2011 and is due for review and renewal.

Before classes began, Rector Winterle arranged for a work day on the seminary campus to beautify the grounds and to get some of the footpaths back into shape.

Students and staff on campus pitched in and donated several hours of labor.

Thank you to all who participated in the work day!



## Upcoming Visits by Guest Lecturers



Prof. John Pless



Dr. Sibongiseni Elliot Sithole

## From the FELSISA

by

### Bishop D. Reinstorf

Since the *Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa* (FELSISA) was invited in December 2009 by its partner church, the *Lutheran Church in Southern Africa* (LCSA), to become a member of the *Lutheran Theological Seminary* (LTS) in Tshwane, we have been actively involved both in the administration and funding of the LTS. Although the long term goal of the FELSISA has always been that its own students of theology should study at the LTS, this goal has (with the exception of attending a few classes) not been realised yet, since its students continue to make use of opportunities provided by partner churches abroad to study there, in particular at the *Lutherische Theologische Hochschule* (LThH) in Oberursel, Germany. That being said, this has not diminished the FELSISA's involvement at the LTS, which – at this stage – is largely seen as one of its mission projects to be actively supported in its endeavour to become an accredited institution not only for students of the LCSA and the FELSISA, but of students from Lutheran Churches throughout Africa that do not have an own seminary and cannot afford the tuition fees of tertiary education.

From 2009 to 2010 Dr. Dieter Reinstorf served on the LTS Board of Directors (BOD). After being elected Bishop of the FELSISA, Dr. Reinstorf was replaced on the BOD in 2011 by Pastor Matthias Albers, then pastor in Pretoria and since 2012 pastor in Panbult. Pastor Albers served on the BOD with distinction and commitment. At the end of 2017 Pastor Albers, who needed to make a return trip of 700km from Panbult to Pretoria to attend BOD meetings, indicated that he wished to step down should the FELSISA manage to find an

able replacement for him.

Bishop Dr. Reinstorf approached Mr. Hugo Meyer (Pretoria) to serve on the BOD, based in particular on his management skills and his active involvement over many years in the local German-speaking *Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation* in Arcadia, only two streets away from the LTS.

Mr. Hugo Meyer is a successful farmer near Skeerpoort outside of Pretoria, serving the pig and meat industries in various capacities. His management skills are unique. He regards not his farm, but rather his staff as his most important asset. In contrast to many other farmers in South Africa, he has managed to build his farming enterprise into a sizable business by transferring skills to his staff members. His leadership style is one of inclusion and empowering others, even if such a practice can lead to initial disappointments and mistakes being made. But the long term achievements always outweigh the short term successes.

Apart from running his business, Mr. Meyer also served on the St. Paul's church council twice, from 1992 to 1997 and 2010 to 2014.

Mr. Meyer is a valuable asset on the BOD of the LTS. The FELSISA is most grateful that he accepted this position and is confident that his input and hard work will serve the LTS well.

Mr Meyer can be contacted via email at [hugomeyer28@gmail.com](mailto:hugomeyer28@gmail.com) or telephonically at +27 82 572 0054.

## Coming up@LTS

### February

- 26 Intensive Classes with Guest Professors Prof. John Pless (CTS Fort Wane) and Dr. S. Elliot Sithole (SA Bible Society) begin, running until 9 March

### March

- 28 Lectures end for Quarter 1

### April

- 3 Lectures Commence for Quarter 2
- 16 Intensive Classes with Guest Professors Dr. John Nordling (CTS Fort Wayne) and Dr. Heinz Hiestermann (FELSISA) begin, running until 26 April

*Training Christ's followers as pastors, teachers, evangelists, missionaries, bishops, and deaconesses for faithful service in the Lutheran Church of Africa.*

The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane is a registered Public Benefits Organization. Donations to LTS can be deducted according to Section 18(a) in the South African tax laws.

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Above: Mr. Hugo Meyer (FELSISA)

Left: Mr. Meyer hosted students and staff for an opening braai, ably assisted by Mr. M. Johannes. Tasty!