



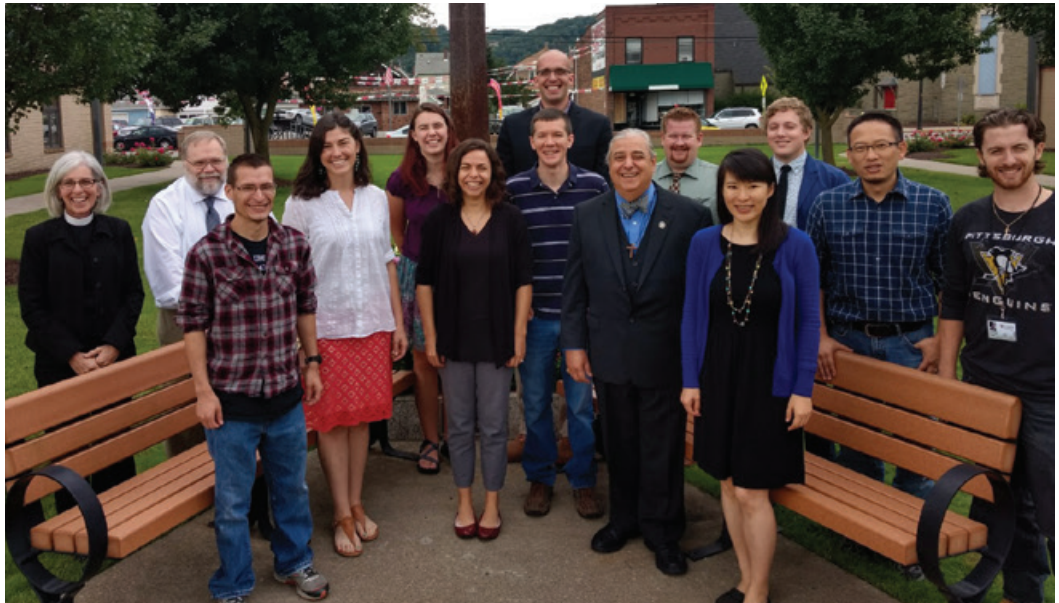
Inside  
This  
Issue

2017 orientation held: NALS welcomed new students  
Taylor Rister, Ryan Henkel and Colin Neill

NALS and Concordia College's Center for Contextual  
Leadership partner to create shortened track to bachelor's  
and M.Div. degrees

Reformation Event to be held October 14 at  
St. John's Lutheran Church in Old Economy Village  
located near the Seminary

2017 *Orientation*



The North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) celebrated the orientation of three new students at the start of this semester.

The new students that were welcomed into the Seminary this year are Taylor Rister, Ryan Henkel and Colin Neill, who are all pursuing their M.Div.

The students and staff celebrated the fresh start over prayer and a formal dinner, with speakers from the Seminary offering their warmest welcomes and congratulations.



## *President Amy Schifrin's* Teaching and Preaching Schedule

**Sept. 26-27**

**Event:** General Retreat of the Society of the Holy Trinity

**Location:** Mundelein Seminary — Mundelein, IL

**Details:** The Rev. Dr. Schifrin will serve as the cantor for the Evening Prayer Service on Sept. 26 and will preach at the morning Lutheran communion liturgy on Sept. 27. About 200 Lutheran and 200 Catholic leaders will gather to commemorate the Reformation on Tuesday evening.

**Oct. 13**

**Event:** NALS Rural Ministry Day

**Location:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church — Berlin, PA  
St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church — Hooversville, PA

**Details:** The Rev. Dr. Schifrin and The Rev. Nila Cogan will lead a trip to local churches, a monument for the first Lutheran missionary sent to America — Father Heyer, a local farm, and the Flight 93 Memorial where they will lead a prayer service.

**Oct. 22**

**Event:** Joy Lutheran Church

**Location:** Joy Lutheran Church — Richmond, TX

**Details:** The Rev. Dr. Schifrin will preach.

**Oct. 23-24**

**Event:** NALC North and South Texas — Mission District's Pastor's Retreat

**Location:** Cedarbrake Renewal Center — Belton, TX

**Details:** The Rev. Dr. Schifrin will teach Bible, Liturgy and Life of Prayer to NALC pastors from the North and South Texas districts.

**Oct. 28**

**Event:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church Reformation Celebration

**Location:** Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church — State College, PA

**Details:** The Rev. Dr. Schifrin will be the Keynote speaker, focusing on the topic Luther on Preaching.

**Oct. 31**

**Event:** Beeson Divinity School — Finkenwalde Day

**Location:** Beeson Divinity School — Birmingham, AL

**Details:** The Rev. Dr. Schifrin will be the Keynote speaker, focusing on Singing the Reformation.

## NALS and Concordia College Partner to Provide Shortened Track to *Bachelor's and Master's Degrees*

The North American Lutheran Seminary and Concordia, specifically Concordia New York's Center for Contextual Leadership, have partnered to provide a broader range of academic opportunities for those interested in the Seminary to explore. The partnership with the New York college means the addition of an accelerated, five-year program that would lead students to the completion of a diverse list of bachelor's and master's degrees, and an eventual M.Div. degree from the NALS/Trinity School for Ministry.



Linking Concordia New York's Center for Contextual Leadership, a program that focuses on training people for multiple leadership roles, with the NALS will be beneficial for both parties. The Center's overall goal is to train leaders for every context of life, and this goal lends itself well to vocational life with the Lutheran church. Concordia's Campus Pastor and Vice President of Leadership, Reverend Victor Belton, said the program would be a perfect fit for anyone discerning about their vocational calling to pastoral ministry.

The academic track this new partnership provides is a great venue for formation for those who feel a calling to lead God's people and wish to do so by furthering their education at the Seminary. In addition, the Center for Contextual Leadership's courses at the Master's level can be tailored to align more closely with a student's vocational interests, and their needs and vision for their future, as the coursework involves a significant amount of independent study.

Before partnering with Concordia, the NALS offered four degree programs: M.Div., Diploma in Lutheran Studies, M.A. in Religion (Lutheran Track) and Certificate in Lutheran studies. These degrees are all still offered through the Seminary Center at Trinity School for Ministry, and the certificate of Lutheran Studies as well as the M.A. can be earned online through the Center too. The addition of the partnership with Concordia will add even more diverse educational opportunities while still leading students on their vocational path.

**We rejoice to enter into  
this partnership with our  
brothers and sisters  
at Concordia NY!**



## *Ambridge Ecumenical Reformation Event* on October 14th

On October 14, a commemorative event for the anniversary of the Reformation will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Old Economy Village near the Seminary in Ambridge. The goal of the event is to commemorate the historic Reformation and to recognize and repent the ongoing division in our world, while also acknowledging all of the positive

changes that have been made for Christian unity. This free event encourages a united community, and is open to pastors, leaders and community members from all denominations to attend.

Pastor Jill McGregor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and Our Saviors Lutheran Parish, as well as Pastor Joseph Carr from Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church and Good Samaritan Parish, will jointly lead the community in both repentance and celebration on this inclusive day of prayer and unity. Students from the NALS/Trinity School for Ministry will be among the participants.

### ACTIVITIES

#### **3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

##### **Prayer and Music Service**

This worship service involves prayer and music led by church leaders and a formal chorus but is open for all to join. A candle lighting ceremony for unity in the community and amongst all people will be held during the service as well.

#### **4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

##### **Time of Unity in Art, History and Prayer**

After the formal service concludes, a more informal time for different churches, organizations and people to share the way they personally worship will be held. Participants will share their worship through various art forms: song, dance, words, etc. A prayer walk will also take place through Old Economy Village to bless all organizations, businesses and people associated with feeding ministries, prevention networks, family groups, and other associated organizations that work toward bettering the community as a whole.

#### **Open all day**

##### **Family Activities**

Historical photo and dress-up stations will be open all day for families and children to enjoy.

## Donors, Partners & Graduates

### GRADUATE FEATURE: Caleb Douglas

Caleb grew up in a suburb of Chicago in a “Bible-affirming” household as a child, but didn’t set foot into a Lutheran church until his last year of undergraduate studies. After graduating, he sought a Presbyterian church that offered weekly Eucharist. However, the church that he found was Lutheran!

While researching the church, he and his wife came across documents that the Lutheran congregation had published that spoke so strongly to them it drew them to visit the church. They immediately felt spiritually connected to the type of worship they experienced there and talked with the pastor afterwards, who told them to go listen to a speaker from the NALS. When they arrived to hear the speaker, they found her to be the same woman who had written the articles that drew them to the Lutheran church in the first place: The Rev. Dr. Amy Schiffrin, President of the NALS.

From there, Caleb’s relationship with the NALS grew and led him to move to Ambridge, PA to pursue his M.Div. at the seminary. He graduated last year and is now living in Manhattan, NY with his wife, who attended the NALS as well to pursue an M.A, for a one year period of pastoral learning.



**GRADUATE:**  
**Matthew Vatalare**

Matthew left Charleston, WV for the NALS after spending undergraduate years studying science in college. He graduated from the NALS last year with an M.Div., and is now in his internship year at Christ Rupp Lutheran Church in Kittanning, PA.



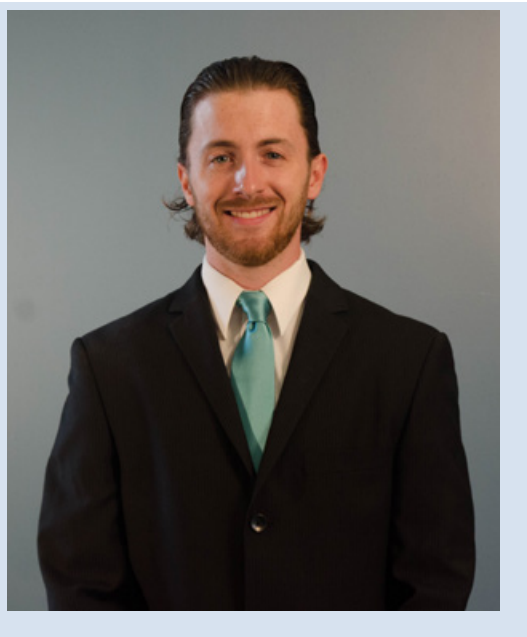
### DONOR: Emmanuel Lutheran Church – Fayetteville, AK

Arkansas’ Emmanuel Lutheran Church donated \$20,000 to the NALS this past Spring to support the seminary’s programs. Spencer Armstrong, President of the church’s council, says the congregation hopes the donation helps the NALS grow its programs and, ultimately, increases enrollment in vocational programs.

After receiving the donation, NALS President, The Rev. Dr. Schiffrin traveled to Fayetteville to preach and teach at the church.



## New *Students*



### **NEW STUDENT FEATURE: Colin Neill**

Colin Neill is a new student at the NALS and is from Pleasant Hills, PA, a borough in Allegheny County. He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Brentwood, where he grew in his faith and served as Director of Youth Ministry.

His involvement with his Youth Ministry program connected him to the NALS when leaders within the ministry introduced him to the Seminary. Colin is now a first-year student at the NALS, pursuing an M.Div., a degree that will prepare him for ordained ministry.



### **NEW STUDENT: Taylor Rister**

Taylor is a first-year student at the NALS who is pursuing an M.Div. She is from Chapin, SC.



### **NEW STUDENT: Ryan Henkel**

Ryan is a first-year student at the NALS who is pursuing an M.Div. He is from Graymont, IL.



## Our Faculty



**PRESIDENT** The Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin, STS

*President and Associate Professor of Liturgy and Homiletics*

Amy earned a B.Mus. from Arizona State University, M.Mus. from Northwestern University, M.Div. from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from The Graduate Theological Union. She now serves as President of the NALS and frequently preaches throughout the United States.

**PROFESSOR** Dr. David Yeago

*Professor of Systematic Theology and Ethics*

David's background includes a B.A. from The College of William and Mary, graduate study at Catholic University of America, M.Div. from Luther Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA, and M.A. in Philosophy and Ph.D. from Yale University. He now serves as a professor at the NALS.



**ADJUNCT FACULTY** The Rev. Dr. Maurice Lee

*Adjunct Faculty, Systematic Theology*

Maurice earned a B.S. from Wheaton College, M.S. from California Institute of Technology, M.A. from Fuller Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. from Yale University. He now serves as an online instructor for the NALS and serves as pastor at his local parish in Santa Barbara, CA.

**ADJUNCT FACULTY** The Rev. Dr. Nathan Howard Yoder, STS

*Adjunct Faculty, Systematic Theology*

Nathan has a B.A. from Lenior Rhyne University, M.Div. from Wake Forest University, S.T.M. from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and Ph.D. from the University of Regensburg. He currently acts as Dean of the Carolina's Mission District, serves St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Maiden, NC, and teaches as an adjunct faculty for the NALS.





# NALS

North American Lutheran Seminary

## Mission/Vision Statement

“ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we are forming pastors and church leaders for the North American Lutheran Church who will faithfully preach, teach, and live God’s eternal truth, through Word and Sacrament, proclaiming Christ’s cross and resurrection, making disciples who will renew and grow the church in Christ’s name. ”

*We are thankful* for everyone who partners with the NALS. Our partners help provide the scholarships and operating expenses for the seminary. Your help is important to the future of forming pastors for the NALC. If you want to partner with us, there are three different ways:

**1. Support the NALS Theological Education Fund by sending a check to:**

North American Lutheran Church  
PO Box 860565  
Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

The check should be payable to the North American Lutheran Church.

Use the memo line to indicate if your donation is for the “Seminary” or the “Theological Education Fund”. If the memo line is blank, the donation will be applied to the NALC general fund.

**2. Thrivent members can choose the NALS for your Thrivent Choice Dollars.**

**3. Donate online at the NALS website (<http://thenals.org/donate/>)**

**The North American Lutheran Seminary**  
**311 Eleventh Street, Ambridge, PA 15003 \ 724-385-8000**