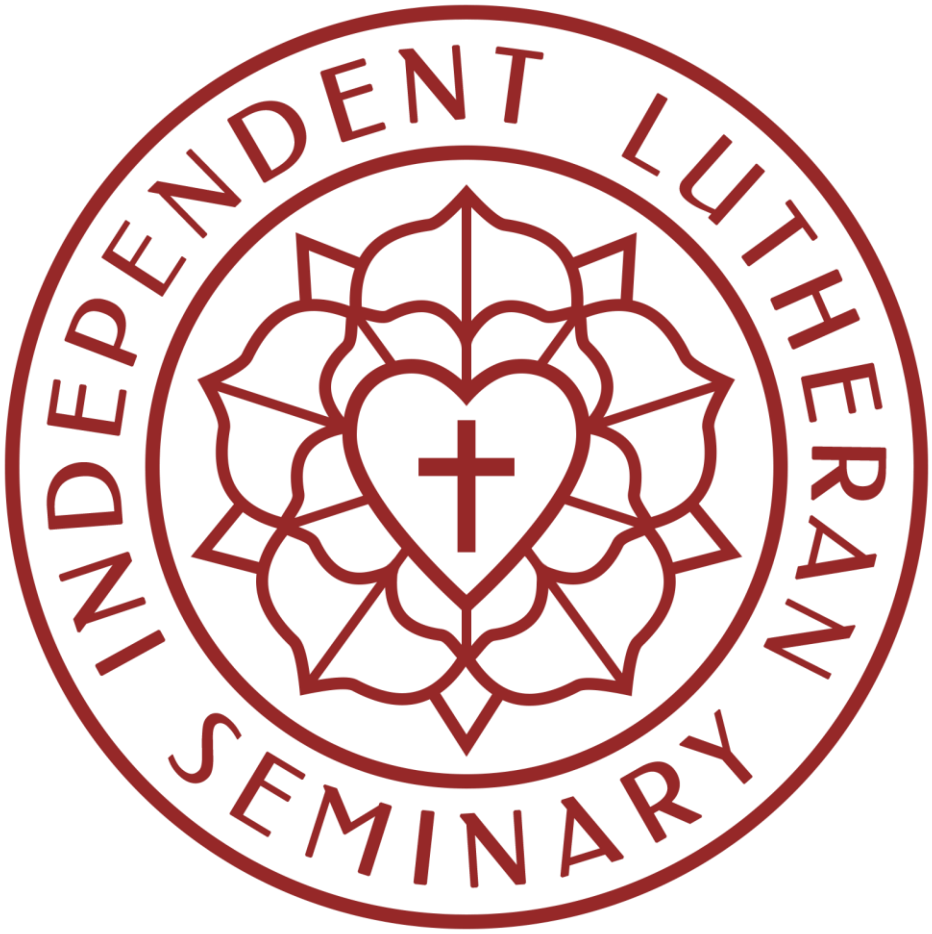
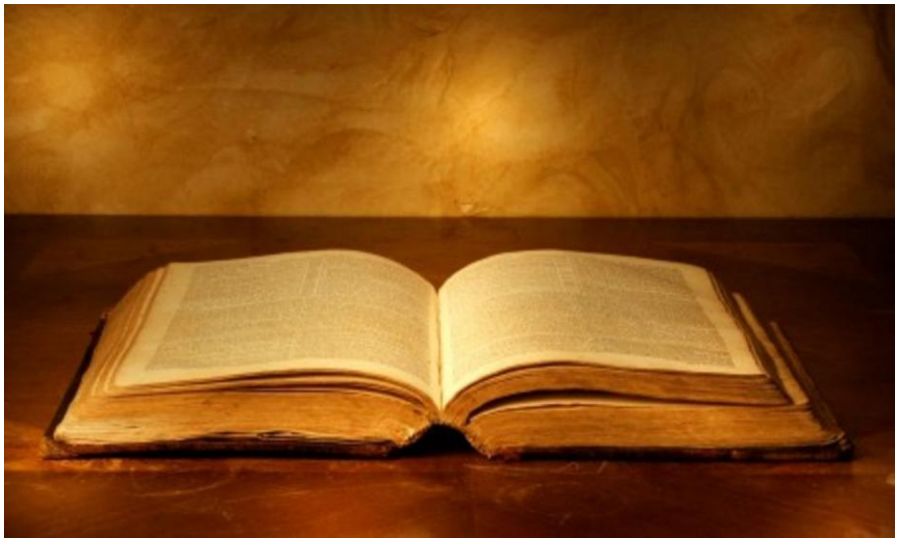


2026 - 2027

Academic Catalog

Upholding the Truth of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions

INDEPENDENT LUTHERAN SEMINARY



Upholding the Truth of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions

E-mail: indluthseminary@yahoo.com

Contents

A Word from the Chancellor 3

Practical Suggestions 4

General Rules 5

Curriculum 6

Sample Student Transcript 9

Examinations and Diplomas 10

Ordination in the ILD 11

A Word from the Chancellor

Our Seminary is dedicated to providing you with a firm grounding in Lutheran Theology and in equipping lay people, teachers and faithful pastors to effectively proclaim the gospel and serve Christ's church throughout the world.

The Independent Lutheran Seminary offers a solid education that will nourish and deepen your spiritual life along with broadening your Biblical and theological knowledge. Our program centers on Biblical, historical, liturgical, sacramental and systematic theological studies. Our curriculum of theological studies is designed to instill what is central to our faith and tradition. It is our hope that your Seminary studies will provoke thought, stimulate your mind and deepen your understanding by offering you a balanced program specifically suited for those who desire to study at their own pace and who cannot afford or attend an on campus Seminary. This allows you to keep your full-time job and minister within your congregation as you work towards completing your studies at your own pace.

Our Seminary offers these tuition-free academic programs:

- Master of Theological Studies (MTS) in Orthodox Lutheran Theology
- Master of Theology (MTh) in Homiletical Theology
- Master of Ministry (MMin) in Pastoral Theology

For those seeking a route towards ordination, we seek to assist candidates in attaining the various skills and knowledge necessary for today's Pastoral Ministry, enabling them to articulate the Christian faith to others and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ confidently in order to foster a sense of community and commitment to the Lord. Our programs include Pastoral, moral, and spiritual studies designed to develop their talents and to enhance the development of theologically sound and committed candidates as future ordained ministers of God’s people.

In Him,
Bishop Robbie H. Osmundson, DMin
Chancellor

Practical Suggestions

As you begin your studies with the ILS, we understand that self-study can be a bit overwhelming if you have had no previous experience with this type of learning. For that reason we make the following suggestions:

- Find a place where you can study in quiet. Your study area should be free of distractions and comfortable.

- Start each study session with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your studies. Prayer before each session should be routine.

- Schedule regular times to study. Try your best to stick to your study time schedule. An example would be 1 hour between 7 & 8 PM weekdays.

- Don't be afraid to ask for help. Many students get discouraged when they hit roadblocks in their studies. **It is important not to give up, instead ask for help.**

- Make a timeline. Try to stick to your timeline to finish each module.

General Rules

Textbooks

Each study book will be sent to you as an attached pdf book (**with the exception 3 books so noted in the Modules**) along with the appropriate examination. **Read the entire book, then do the exam.** All exams are open book.

Time Limitations

There is a time requirement of **6 months** to complete each complete module. Please let us know if you cannot complete the module on time and **an extension may be granted, if requested.** Seminarians should work at a steady pace as not to lose track of main themes of theological thought. If there is no activity for a period of **1 year** the Student will be placed in an inactive status. Any inactive student may request to be re-instated, and can start at the level that the student last completed by completing a new application.

Questions

If at any time questions arise involving the text or the coursework, you may contact the seminary for explanation or help in understanding it. Accordingly, any questions concerning doctrinal stances and practices within the ILD may be directed to the Seminary.

Ethics and Conduct

All students are expected to demonstrate Christian ethics in their studies and complete all work on their own. All students are expected to live according to Church standards and lifestyle.

Updates

All students are requested to keep us updated as to their current address, telephone number and e-mail address. If a student cannot be contacted by ordinary means (i.e. address, telephone or e-mail), they will be placed in an inactive status.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW AND TEXTBOOKS

- The King James Version (1611) is used as basic textbook.
- The Concordia Study Bible (NIV), The Lutheran Study Bible (ESV from CHP) is recommended for the notes only (Optional)
- Diploma sent upon completion of each course.
- All textbooks are sent in pdf form, transferable to your computer except those indicated which you may purchase or obtain through inter-library loan.

ORTHODOX LUTHERAN THEOLOGY
Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

MODULE 1 – BASIC LUTHERAN DOCTRINE (7 Credits)

Overview: Covers the basic doctrines as taught in the Lutheran Church. An insightful course for those who know little or wish to know more about what the conservative Lutheran really believes. Summarizes in clear detail the Lutheran viewpoint on major theological and doctrinal issues.

Textbooks:

- ***The Lutheran Way of Salvation*** by Rev. G. H. Gerberding
- ***Compend of Lutheran Theology*** by Leonard Hutter

MODULE 2 – PIETIST DOCTRINE (7 Credits)

Overview: Explores the beginnings of the Pietist movement in the Lutheran church which spread to Norway and other Scandinavian countries besides the European continent. Gives insight as to why Pietism is an important concept for today. The original ELCA (now known as the Eielson Synod), Norwegian, AFLC, Hauge, and the Church of the Lutheran Brethren were founded on the Pietist movement in Norway.

Textbooks:

- ***Pia Desideria*** by Philip Jacob Spener ***Note:*** *Available from Augsburg Fortress Publishing or Amazon*
- ***True Christianity*** by Johann Arndt ***Note:*** *Newer updated language version available through Paulist Press or Amazon*

MODULE 3 – LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS (4 Credits)

Overview: Goes through the Confessions of the Lutheran church and what Lutherans really believe and teach. Course focuses on the ***Unaltered Augsburg Confession*** and it's history

Textbooks:

- ***The Christian Book of Concord*** ***Note:*** *Updated language and historical notes, etc. in Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions from CHP*
- ***The Augsburg Confession*** by J. L. Neve

MODULE 4 – SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (13 Credits)

Overview: Focuses on the differences between the Lutheran Church and other denominations from whose roots today's current Christian denominations and non-denominational churches come from.

Textbooks:

- ***Conservative Reformation and its Theology*** by Charles P. Krauth
- ***The Doctrine of the Church*** by Revere Franklin Weidner
- ***Popular Symbolics*** by Th. Engelder
- ***Churches and Sects of Christendom*** by J. L. Neve

MODULE 5 – CONGREGATIONAL EVALUATION (7 Credits)

Overview: Assignments cover visitations to various denominations and evaluating various areas of the congregation visited.

HOMILETICAL THEOLOGY
Master of Theology (MTh)

Credit Requirements: Must hold a MTS Degree to qualify for total credits to earn this degree.

Overview: This course explores the construction and delivery of the Sermon from both Lutheran and non-denominational standpoints. The course will require submission of both written and oral sermons. Critiques presented for improvement.

Textbooks:

- ***Homiletics*** by Johann Michael Reu
- ***Law and Gospel*** by C. F. W. Walther ***Note:*** *Updated version available through Concordia Publishing House.*
- ***How to Prepare Sermons and Gospel Addresses*** by William Evans

MODULE 1 – HOMILETICS BASICS (6 Credits)
MODULE 2 – SERMON ANALYSIS (4 Credits)
MODULE 3 – HOMILETICS PREPARATION (14 Credits)

PASTORAL THEOLOGY
Master of Ministry (M.Min)

Credit Requirements Must hold both MTS and MTh Degrees to qualify for total credits needed to earn this degree.

MODULE 1-2 – PASTORAL THEOLOGY (10 Credits)

Overview: This course explores the various aspects of Pastoral Theology and care in the Congregation.

Textbooks:

- ***The Lutheran Pastor*** by Rev. G. H. Gerberding
- ***Pastoral Theology*** by C. F. W. Walther ***Note:*** Two updated versions a*vailable through Christian News and Concordia Publishing House*
- ***The Call to the Ministry*** by F. W. Conrad, DD

MODULE 3 – MINISTRY DIRECTION (optional 10 Credits)

Overview: This course covers introspection, Ministry Direction, steps and checklists towards starting a Congregation and list of Resources. Includes courses in Chaplaincy for those interested. **This Module is required for those seeking ordination in the ILD.**

Textbooks:

- ***Ministry Direction Workbook*** Compiled by Bp. Robbie H. Osmundson, DMin and Rev. Dennis Wyman

STUDENT TRANSCRIPT

INDEPENDENT LUTHERAN SEMINARY
Upholding the Truth of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions
1915 Carlson Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
e-mail: indluthseminary@yahoo.com
Not Valid Without Raised Seal and Authorized Signature

ID 1234
John Doe

Master of Theology (MTh) In Homiletical Theology	Credits Earned 00

Not Valid Without Raised Seal and Authorized Signature

Course	Instructor	Text	Commenced	Completion	Credits	Earned
HM11	Reu	Homiletics			3	3
HM12	Walther	Law and Gospel			3	6
HM21	Assignment	Sermon Technique Analysis #1			3	9
HM22	Assignment	Sermon Technique Analysis #2			3	12
HM23	Assignment	Sermon Technique Analysis #3			3	15
HM24	Assignment	Sermon Technique Analysis #4			3	18
HM31	Evans	How to Prepare Sermons			3	21
HM32	Assignment	Textual Sermon Submission			3	24
HM33	Assignment	Expository Sermon Submission			3	27
HM34	Assignment	Topical Sermon Submission			3	30
HM35	Assignment	Final Sermon Submission			3	33
HM41	Assignment	Homiletics Evaluation			1	34

Not Valid Without Raised Seal and Authorized Signature

EXAMINATIONS AND DEGREES

What to Expect

All examinations in the Independent Lutheran Seminary are open book. We are more interested in:

- Whether you are getting the points of the instruction given in the book.
- Your understanding of the text and how it relates to you and how it applies today

Grading

There is no grading point average in the Seminary program. The Lord is more interested in your understanding of His Word, Doctrines and the living out of the Christian life, than in man's determination. For those desirous of a Pastoral Ministry: understanding of the Word, Doctrines and living righteously and the purity of teaching it, is imperative.

Degrees and Diplomas

If a student has credits earned from another conservative Seminary, they may be sufficient towards our requirements for a degree in the Independent Lutheran Seminary.

Upon completion of each course of study (i.e. Orthodox Lutheran Theology, Homiletical Theology and Pastoral Theology) you will receive an 8 ½ x 12 Parchment Degree for framing. Each Degree will be issued at the end of the month of completion. A Sample Diploma is shown below:

Independent Lutheran Seminary

Having satisfactorily completed the prescribed requirements of Theological Studies and examinations, the Seminary Academic Board has conferred upon

John Doe

the Degree of

Master of Theological Studies

in

Orthodox Lutheran Theology

With all the honors, rights and privileges appertaining thereto

Given this 10th day of May 2021 in Klamath Falls, Oregon

R H Osmundson

Rev. Robbie H. Osmundson, DMin.
Chancellor

ORDINATION IN THE INDEPENDENT LUTHERAN DIOCESE

Ordination in the Independent Lutheran Diocese (ILD) is a matter not to be taken lightly. The vows taken by an ILD Pastor are serious – it is your obligation and commitment to the Lord God Almighty and hence, will be judged by Him as to whether you are faithful to the true Doctrines and practices as taught in the Holy Bible, and the Book of Concord (as a true and faithful exposition of the Doctrines in the Holy Bible) James 3:1.

Upon completion of the above courses, The Seminarian may enter into a Colloquy with the ILD, where you will be required to complete an Application, a CET (Colloquy Evaluation of Theology) and background checks. At this time also, your life experience within a Lutheran congregation is taken into consideration. Consecration or Ordination to the ministry in the Independent Lutheran Diocese is dependent upon meeting the qualifications and standards of the ILD.

For those Pastors who already serve in Lutheran congregations, they may enter into a Colloquy with the ILD to join the rostered membership in ILD and may do so at any time by requesting and completing the ILD Application for Ordination/Transfer of Credentials and the CET providing the Congregation approves membership in the ILD.

Determination for the Office of the Ministry is based on Theological soundness, life experience and agreement with ILD Doctrines, Practices and guidelines.

We thank God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that the Holy Spirit has guided you to consider the Independent Lutheran Diocese as a home for your Ministry and Service to the Lord of Hosts and King of Kings.

In Him Who gave His life to Redeem us,

Bishop Robbie H. Osmundson, DMin
Presiding Bishop
Independent Lutheran Diocese