



**LUTHER
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

Spring 2021 Update

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The year was 1865. The Civil War, perhaps unarguably the darkest era in American history, was coming to an end. Something new in our church body was beginning. 1865 marked the first year of our synod's ministerial education on the Watertown campus. In 1865 Watertown's seminary had eight students enrolled; Watertown's college with its prep department had 66 students.

The synod's official newspaper *Gemeinde-Blatt* stated, "For food, a room, heat, etc. a sum of \$100 is to be paid for the year. With respect to young people who are not able to pay this sum a discount will be granted according to individual circumstances, so that even the poorest can receive an education for the preaching and teaching ministry."

There you have it: Financial aid awarded the very first year of the school's existence. There are no records indicating how many of the 74 students received aid. We know that the Watertown school continued to receive gifts of food and other handiwork from people in the Watertown area, often at the request of the students themselves. A church historian relates, "The keep of the students through the year probably would not have been possible without that."

We have 393 of those "miracles" at LPS. These "miracles" give testimony to faithful Christian parenting....

The students of Luther Prep School today do not go asking for food in the surrounding area as the students did 156 years ago. But the students and their families still rely on the same financial assistance from God's people. Our synod still desires "that even the poorest can receive an education for the preaching and teaching ministry."

Perhaps you have noticed the ever increasing list of vacancies found on the WELS weekly Call Report. 120 vacancies exist across WELS in the preaching ministry and even more in the teaching ministry, the highest those numbers have been in two decades. Yes, the harvest continues to grow; the workers remain few.

That any fourteen year old boy or girl would consider the vocation of the full time gospel ministry—especially when the Church is so maligned—is a miracle of grace. We have 393 of those "miracles" at LPS. These "miracles" give testimony to faithful Christian parenting and Christo-centric shepherding from our pulpits and classrooms. The Holy Spirit daily works on these young hearts through the life-giving Gospel.

LPS is grateful for all of God's people who continue to encourage their young members to consider LPS for their high school education and the public gospel ministry for their vocation.

Matthew Crass
LPS President



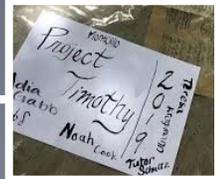
Summer Camps at Luther Prep

Various camps are held throughout the summer months of June and July for WELS/ELS grade school students. Online registration can be found on our website: www.lps.wels.net under athletics.

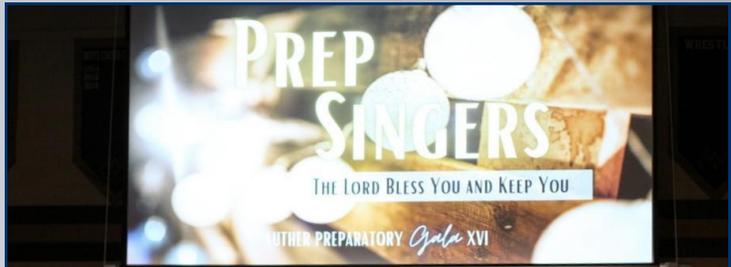


"This is the way;
walk in it."
Isaiah 30:21

2021 Graduates of Luther Prep School



LUTHER *Gala* PREP



"Shine Bright" Gala 2021 was a wonderful and joyful evening with **\$112,000 initial proceeds** given in support of the ministry of LPS. Above the Prep Singers closed out the evening with "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."

Project Timothy-28th year

After being cancelled in 2020, Luther Prep is excited to send 42 senior students to seven congregations this summer and four students in December. These trips have been the deciding factor for numerous students to continue their studies at Martin Luther College for full time ministry. This valuable program would not be possible without the generosity of the many friends of LPS.

2021 Participating Congregations:

- Faith (Camp Luther) Anchorage, AK
- Christ Our Redeemer, El Paso, TX
- Living Hope, Midlothian, VA
- Faith, Sharpsburg, GA
- Northdale, Tampa, FL
- Divine Savior, West Palm Beach, FL
- Divine Savior, Del Ray Beach, FL
- Trinity, St. Lucia (December)