



PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Fact Sheet

### **PLTS cultivates leaders for the ELCA with a forward-thinking approach.**

- Located in Berkeley, California, PLTS has about 85 students enrolled in its master degrees and certificate programs.
- Our curriculum and formation programs are being revised this school year so that students can more effectively prepare for ministries in the church that are emerging in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Students intentionally and creatively develop Lutheran understandings and practices in contexts that are multicultural, pluralistic and global.
- PLTS is a member of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU).
  - The GTU in Berkeley, California, is the largest and most diverse partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States. Eight seminaries and twelve interreligious centers in the San Francisco Bay Area share the largest theological faculty in one location and a world class library.
- Students have access to UC Berkeley libraries, courses, and recreational facilities.

### **Together, Cal Lutheran and PLTS are able to:**

- Attract students to the unique opportunity of pursuing theological education in the West.
- Fully utilize technology to provide more flexible theological education for students, clergy and laity.
- Attract and adequately support highly qualified faculty, including three new faculty members in the fall of 2015: Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (Christian Ethics), Dr. Kirsi Stjerna (Lutheran History and Theology), and Dr. Julián González (Old Testament).
- Expand our practical training in leading ministry organizations in such areas as education, counseling, management, and leadership.
- Enable students to discover and live their vocation. Cal Lutheran is a place where those of all faiths and backgrounds are encouraged to discover their passions and gifts for serving in the world. The integration of a seminary into the academic programs does not change this. If anything, it makes the whole university more inclusive because we share the gifts of a place to train those whose calling is to professional church leadership.

### **Graduates of PLTS and Cal Lutheran earn degrees that will prepare them to serve the church through a broad range of professions such as:**

- Church clergy
- Campus minister
- Director of non-profit organization
- Military chaplain
- Author
- Bishop or synod staff
- Community organizer
- Mission developer

- Country coordinator for global missions programs
- Hospital or prison chaplain
- Musician
- Outdoor ministry leader
- Professor
- Spiritual leader
- Social service coordinator
- Youth and family minister

### **Cost of attendance at PLTS**

- The nine-month Cost of Attendance for a PLTS student is \$34,000 of which \$15,680 (\$560 per unit x 28 units) is for tuition in the 2015 – 2016 academic year.

### **Seminary student debt**

- In 2014, the median amount of debt (including undergraduate loans) per ELCA seminary student borrower was \$46,386.

### **Gifts Cal Lutheran and PLTS can bring to your congregation**

- PLTS offers many learning opportunities for church members and pastors! You can:
  - Enroll or audit a course – some available online.
  - Participate in FREE stewardship education classes like the Endowment Lab.
  - Attend a special event – Luther Lecture in March; Founders’ Day in September
  - Sign up for Week of Renewal – next one starts January 11, 2016.
  - Request meeting and retreat space for your church and ministry groups to use at one of our campuses.
- Staff, faculty, and students can bring learning opportunities to your community including:
  - Guest preaching for worship services
  - Teaching for Bible studies and adult education forums
  - Financial and philanthropic planning
  - Church council/endowment/stewardship committee leadership training

### **How can your congregation help?**

- Pray!
- View and share the new PLTS video at: [www.plts.edu/video](http://www.plts.edu/video)
- Encourage people you know with skills for ministry to go to seminary.
- Support theological education with a gift to the PLTS seminary fund.
- Apply to host a PLTS intern or teaching parish student for a year.
- Contribute to the Religion and Vocational Life Scholarship
  - Provides much needed support to PLTS students, pre-seminary students, and undergrads majoring in Religion or Theology & Christian Leadership, or vocationally headed towards Youth and Family Ministry.
- Adopt a seminarian by making a non-tax deductible gift to a specific student. Direct student support from a seminary student’s home congregation will be matched, up to \$2,500 per year, as a part of the CPE scholarship program.

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