



July 30, 2026

Dear Lay Leader,

Greetings in the name of Jesus from your seminary in Mequon. Pastors are gifts from the Ascended Savior to his Church, and at the end of May we had the privilege of seeing another graduating class assigned into our synod's public pastoral ministry.

Next year (2027) marks 35 years since your pastor's graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We'd like to invite your congregation to mark this anniversary by sending your pastor — and his wife — to the Remaining in Grace Celebration of Ministry retreat, held Wednesday, March 31 through Friday, April 2, 2027, in San Antonio, Texas.

This retreat, along with efforts like mentoring for new pastors, is part of a broader commitment to strengthen and encourage those who serve us in pastoral ministry, and to renew their joy in this calling. Here's what previous attendees have said:

- "Everything was wonderful, from the relevant topics to the fellowship/free time to the accommodations!"
- "I was thankful that the themes focused on joy in the personal Gospel and support for ministry struggles; I had been worried that the emphasis would be more on improving one's ministry skills, etc. There is surely a time and place for that, but it was wonderful to come and hear the good news without any guilt-tripping about things that could be done better! Thank you for the joyful Gospel focus!"
- "Time being refreshed. Knowing we're not alone. Remembering what an awesome job we have before us. Seeing old friends. Digging into the Word. Talking through things. We came home refreshed in every way possible. This was a blessing beyond our expectations. Thank you!"

We hope your congregation will consider covering your pastor and his wife's registration and travel costs as a gift for this milestone year.

Please consider the following estimated expenses when planning:

Expense	Estimated Cost
Registration	\$200 per individual / \$400 per couple
Drury Hotel	Approximately \$425 for a two night stay, Wednesday and Thursday nights
Travel	Mileage or flight

Reasonable travel expenses include mileage for those driving to San Antonio, economy airfare, standard baggage fees, airport parking, and economical transportation between the San Antonio airport and the Drury Plaza Hotel.

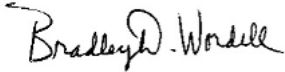
If reasonable travel expenses exceed \$400 per individual or \$800 per couple, congregations may submit a **Retreat Travel Assistance Request** when registration opens. Grow in Grace has endowment funds available to help offset these additional travel costs. Grant amounts will depend on the number of requests received and available funding; in recent years, assistance has generally covered approximately one-half of the travel costs above the base amount.

Travel assistance is not intended to cover additional hotel nights, rental vehicles used only in San Antonio, airline upgrades or flight changes, meals, sightseeing, or other personal travel expenses.

Requests must be submitted before April 30, 2027. Grow in Grace will review requests based on reasonable travel costs and available funding. Complete travel assistance guidelines and request instructions will be available when registration opens.

If you have any further questions, please contact the retreat coordinator, Kim Workentine, at kimberly.workentine@wls.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bradley D. Wordell", is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Bradley D. Wordell
Director of Continuing Education



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Dear Lay Leader,

Greetings in the name of Jesus from your seminary in Mequon. Pastors are gifts from the Ascended Savior to his Church, and at the end of May we had the privilege of seeing another graduating class assigned into our synod's public pastoral ministry.

Next year (2027) marks 25 years since your pastor's graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We'd like to invite your congregation to mark this anniversary by sending your pastor — and his wife — to the Excelling in Grace Celebration of Ministry retreat, held Wednesday, March 31 through Friday, April 2, 2027, in San Antonio, Texas.

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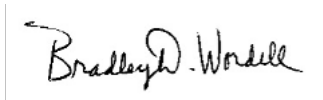
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Next year (2027) marks 10 years since your pastor's graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We'd like to invite your congregation to mark this anniversary by sending your pastor — and his wife — to the Renewed in Grace Celebration of Ministry retreat, held Wednesday, March 31 through Friday, April 2, 2027, in San Antonio, Texas.

This retreat, along with efforts like mentoring for new pastors, is part of a broader commitment to strengthen and encourage those who serve us in pastoral ministry, and to renew their joy in this calling. Here's what previous attendees have said:

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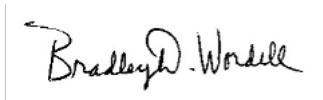
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Next year (2027) marks three years since your pastor's graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We'd like to invite your congregation to mark this anniversary by sending your pastor — and his wife — to the Begun in Grace Celebration of Ministry retreat, held Wednesday, March 31 through Friday, April 2, 2027, in San Antonio, Texas.

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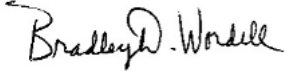
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Because your congregation has participated in the Pastor Partners mentoring program, a portion of your annual program fee has been designated to support your pastor's attendance at the Celebration of Ministry Retreat. After your pastor completes registration, Grow in Grace will mail a **Pastor Partners Retreat Grant** to your congregation to help offset the cost of the retreat.

The grant is calculated using the following estimated expenses:

Expense	Amount
Registration	\$200 per individual / \$400 per couple*
Drury Hotel	Approximately \$425 for a two-night stay, Wednesday and Thursday nights
Travel Stipend	\$400 per individual / \$800 per couple

*Once your pastor registers for his retreat, your congregation will receive a grant check made out to the congregation in the amount of \$1,025 for a single pastor and \$1,625 for a couple.

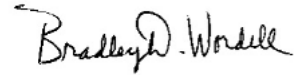
If reasonable travel expenses exceed the travel allowance included in the grant, you may submit a **Retreat Travel Assistance Request** when registration opens. Reasonable travel expenses include mileage for those driving to San Antonio, economy airfare, standard baggage fees, airport parking, and economical transportation between the San Antonio airport and the Drury Plaza Hotel.

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