

## THE BETHANY PROGRAM OF SPECIAL PRE-SEMINARY TRAINING

Since 1962 the Bethany Program has provided an opportunity for older men who have not followed the Synod's regular course of pre-Seminary training an opportunity to prepare for enrollment at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Professors of Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary at Mankato, Minnesota offer a program of courses which will help men meet the minimum requirements for full participation in the four-year program of the Seminary (three years of academic work and a year of vicar service). Bethany is the educational institution of a sister church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Each year since 1968 a number of Bethany Program enrollees have successfully completed the Seminary course and been assigned as pastors in our Synod.

Following is a survey of the prerequisites for enrollment in the Seminary which the Bethany Program seeks to provide or complete:

Religion: Old Testament and New Testament Survey; a Gospel in Greek (grammar of the Koine); Christian Doctrine; I Corinthians; Gospel of John; Acts 13-28; The Smalcald Articles, and The Ecumenical Creeds.

English: Freshman Rhetoric and Composition; Survey of Literature; Elective in English or American Literature

Greek: Elementary; Intermediate; Advanced (with emphasis on prose)

Mathematics: Freshman Mathematics

Science: Science Survey, if the student has had laboratory course in high school

History: Ancient East and Greece; Roman and Medieval; Modern History (there will generally be high school credit in US History); Reformation Period

Hebrew: Elementary and Readings (4 semesters)

Music: Music Theory; History of Music

Psychology: General Psychology

Latin: Students who have had two years of high school Latin should review and advance to the reading of Latin prose --Vulgata. (Latin is not required.)

German: Fundamentals; Intermediate; American Lutheran German writers--Ernst: "Biblische Geschichte" (German is not required.)

It is evident from this program survey that the Bethany Program does not provide an easy or sub-standard course for entry to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and the public ministry of the Church. Rather, it offers an opportunity for older men--especially those who have family responsibilities--to equip themselves for full participation in the Seminary's complete program of study.

Applicants to the Bethany Program address themselves to the Seminary's Committee on Special Admissions in care of the undersigned. The other members of the Committee are President Armin W. Schuetze, chairman; and Professor David P. Kuske. In considering applications the Committee requires:

- 1) general information concerning the applicant (application form enclosed),
- 2) transcripts of all previous high school and college credits;
- 3) three letters of recommendation (including one from his pastor) which urge the applicant's acceptance as a likely ministerial candidate.

If it is deemed advisable, a personal interview will be requested. Since older men--especially those with family responsibilities--will find that the course of study requires definite scholastic gifts and a great measure of perseverance, the Committee seeks assurance that applicants do have these characteristics in addition to the qualities of character that are essential for the ministry.

After review by the Committee, likely candidates are recommended to Bethany Lutheran College. Bethany, of course, retains the privilege of consulting further with an applicant to ascertain his aptitude for the course, to give him credit for any college work that would be equivalent to courses listed in the survey above, and to outline a program of study suited to his abilities and needs. Bethany also evaluates the performance of students in the program and does not recommend them to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary until they are ready to do Seminary work.

Students enrolled in the Bethany Program are expected to meet educational and living expenses from personal and private funds. Neither the Synod nor the Seminary make budgetary provision for aid to such students. Cost information may be obtained from Bethany College.

We hope that this information will be helpful to you in considering possible enrollment in the Bethany Program of Special Pre-Seminary Training. Please address further inquiries or correspondence to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY  
Committee on Special Admissions

(From 1962 to 1979  
135 entered program at Bethany  
71 enrolled at WLS  
37 graduated from WLS

Professor Richard D. Balge, Secretary  
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