

We offer many opportunities both in and out of the classroom to educate and equip students to serve in a rural context.

Seminary Courses include:

#### RURAL PLUNGE

The goal of this course is to expand the student's understanding of the rural setting in order to promote ministerial effectiveness in a small church parish. We will examine the context of the town and rural church and explore the future minister's understanding of him- or herself as a community and spiritual leader.

#### RURAL J-TERM (JANUARY INTERIM)

A brief integrated experience in the rural world: church, community dynamics, and theology/ethics. Participation in rural churches through a 7-day immersion and seminars; primary emphasis falls on experiential learning.

#### MINISTRY IN RURAL CONTEXT

Students learn to understand the rural setting in order to promote ministerial effectiveness in small town and rural congregations.

We also organize bi-monthly RURAL CONCERNS LUNCHEONS on campus. Interested students and faculty gather in an informal setting for fellowship and brief programs centered on issues relevant to ministry in small and rural congregations.

The Center for Theology and Land offers a number of denominational and ecumenical online courses each year with a focus on strengthening ministry in town and country churches. All of the courses are taught by faculty from fully accredited theological seminaries and are the equivalent of a 1-hour seminary course. The online courses are designed for:

- Clergy and laity seeking continuing education
- Individuals preparing for ordination through the ELCA's Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program
- As part of the CTL's Certificate in Town & Country Church Leadership
- Anyone who wants to learn more about the topic offered

Previous course offerings have included:

*Discovering Hope: Best Practices for Building Vitality in Rural Congregations*

*Building Sustainable Communities*

*The Church as Learning Community*

*Engaging the Gospels: Perspectives on Following Jesus*

*Seen and Heard: Foundations for Youth & Family Ministry*

*Understanding Loss and Grief*

Course details including start dates, current course offerings & descriptions, and course fees are available on the CTL website at [www.ruralministry.com](http://www.ruralministry.com).

The Certificate in Town and Country Church Leadership was designed for clergy and laity who are new to rural ministry and/or want to strengthen their ministry in small town and rural churches.

The Certificate is comprised of 12 courses; a combination of courses in foundational subjects (Old & New Testament, Theology, Church History, etc), rural ministry, and community development. Coursework is completed online and in residency allowing students the flexibility to work at their own pace taking one, two or three courses at a time.

Additional information including course requirements is available at [www.ruralministry.com](http://www.ruralministry.com).

## rural ministry conference

For over 25 years, Wartburg Seminary has hosted this 3-day event held annually in March in Dubuque, Iowa. The CTL's Rural Ministry Conference is one of the largest of its kind and draws participants from many denominations and across the country. The conference addresses emerging issues in rural America in such a way that town and country churches can carry on their mission in a changing context.

The 26th Annual Rural Ministry Conference – *Sustainable Ministry: Faith, Farm and the Future* will be held March 4-6, 2007.

## teem curriculum

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) is an educational program in partnership with synods and the ELCA. Wartburg Seminary provides a curriculum for approved TEEM candidates. The Center for Theology and Land administers this program.

## from our students...

“The on-line learning community was great... There was a freedom in sharing what one learned. On-line classes open doors for continued learning that is not available in my community. I enjoyed reading and learning from the class responses and their involvement in ministry... This course affirmed my call in the ministry. I have been able to reflect and analyze what I do and share it with someone.”

BEVERLY WOLFF, AIM Sioux City, IA

“I have greatly enjoyed my on-line learning experience. It is very helpful to be able to ‘go to class’ at whatever time works for me be it 11pm, or 6am... It has been wonderful to have all the ideas and comments from all of [the participants] (and they are written down for me to refer to in the future!).”

CLARANNA VYTLACIL Racine, WI