



ASIA LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Academic Catalog

2026-2027

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Student,

Welcome to Asia Lutheran Seminary. It's our mission to prepare Christians to serve as leaders of confessional Lutheran groups across Asia and Oceania. We are glad that you are here! Whether you are just beginning your preparations or you've been an ALS student for many years, it is our privilege to help you prepare for service in Christ's church. At ALS, you will find much more than just an academic program. You'll find yourself fed with God's word. You'll grow in your faith. You'll become part of an international family of students and leaders from across Asia. You will be equipped to share the truth of God's word with those around you.

Before sending out his disciples into ministry, Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matt. 9:37-38). Today, we can say the same: "The harvest is still plentiful, but the workers are few." It is our prayer that God will bless your time at ALS and that through you and many more, he will carry out his harvest in the ripe harvest fields of Asia.

God bless you,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
President, Asia Lutheran Seminary

1. INTRODUCTION TO ASIA LUTHERAN SEMINARY

1.1 Asia Lutheran Seminary Overview

Asia Lutheran Seminary (ALS) prepares faithful servants of the Gospel for ministry throughout Asia, Oceania, and beyond. Grounded in the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, ALS equips pastors, church workers, and Christian leaders with the theological knowledge, practical skills, and spiritual maturity needed for service in Christ's Church.

As a confessional Lutheran seminary, ALS affirms Scripture as the inspired and authoritative Word of God and upholds the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord as a faithful exposition of biblical teaching. This commitment shapes the seminary's teaching, formation, and mission.

ALS serves a diverse community of students from a wide range of cultural, linguistic, and ministry backgrounds. The seminary prioritizes training students in their own settings for service among their own people. Rigorous academic study is joined with practical ministry formation and close attention to the realities of Christian witness in Asia. Students are challenged to think deeply, communicate clearly, and apply biblical truth faithfully within their ministry contexts.

ALS offers one integrated program with four recognized ministry stopping points. From certificate to diploma to degree levels, students are equipped for immediate service in their communities.

The curriculum brings together biblical studies, systematic theology, historical theology, practical theology, and missiology in a unified course of study centered on Christ and His saving work. Faculty members contribute both academic expertise and ministry experience, helping students build a solid theological foundation while preparing them to serve effectively in congregations, mission fields, schools, and other ministry settings.

Education at ALS extends beyond the classroom. Through worship, prayer, mentoring relationships, and supervised ministry experiences, students are formed for lives of faithful service. The seminary seeks to cultivate leaders who preach and teach the Word with confidence, administer the Sacraments faithfully, care for God's people with compassion, and engage in mission with wisdom and humility.

Guided by its mission to support the church in proclaiming Christ to the nations, Asia Lutheran Seminary remains dedicated to forming servant-leaders who are grounded in God's Word, faithful to the Lutheran confession, and equipped for lifelong ministry in a changing world.

1.2 Vision and Mission

Mission: To prepare Christians to serve as leaders of confessional Lutheran groups across Asia and Oceania.

Motto: Truth Shared

Values: Be One; Be Bold; Be True

Vision: A growing network of Lutheran communities across Asia and Oceania actively reaching the lost, discipling the found, and equipping future leaders.

1.3 History

Foundations and Vision

Asia Lutheran Seminary traces its roots to the 1960s when the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) began mission work in Hong Kong. By the 1970s, local churches and missionaries established a Bible institute to train local leaders. Missionary and visionary founder of ALS, Rev. Gary Schroeder, recognized the growing need for a regional institution focused on Chinese-speaking fields. Acting on his and others' guidance, a WELS committee was formed which formally proposed the creation of a regional seminary in 2003. Acting president Missionary Rob Siirila convened the first board meeting of "Asia Lutheran Seminary" in May 2004.

Growth and Academic Development

Dr. John Lawrenz arrived in late 2004 as ALS's first full-time professor and president, establishing a rigorous curriculum featuring a top-level biblical language program. The seminary officially opened on May 29, 2005. While early instruction relied heavily on visiting US professors, the resident faculty grew steadily under the leadership of Dr. Steven Witte, who became president in 2011. By 2012, ALS offered comprehensive degree tracks, including Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity programs, alongside the Asia Lutheran Satellite Seminary program for regional distance learning.

Expansion and Accreditation

A milestone was reached in 2022 when ALS achieved full academic accreditation of its degree levels from the Asia Theological Association (ATA). To support its ongoing evolution into a regional seminary for all of Asia, ALS expanded under the leadership of Dr. Jon Bare, who was installed in 2022, by establishing a second campus in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Today ALS offers its entire academic program in both English and Chinese, equipping faithful leaders across Asia to share the truth of salvation with as many as possible.

1.4 Organizational and Doctrinal Affiliation

ALS was founded and is supported by members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This church body has committed itself to supporting ALS through its prayers and offerings. ALS also works in cooperation with the association of churches, which comprises the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).

All ALS faculty, whether full-time, adjunct, or visiting, share a common subscription to the teachings of the Confessional Lutheran church and a commitment to preparing leaders who will faithfully proclaim the true message of salvation through Christ Jesus in their churches and communities. To ensure the quality and doctrinal integrity of its teaching, the faculty of ALS is called from member churches of the CELC or churches that subscribe to these beliefs. Each professor has advanced studies in his assigned areas of teaching.

1.5 Regional Theological Education Program

Through the Regional Theological Education Program (RTEP), Asia Lutheran Seminary supports partner church bodies across Asia in training their own gospel ministry leaders. Working with WELS missionaries and local church leaders, RTEP facilitates collaboration among theological educators, assists with program and curriculum development, coordinates instructional resources, and provides professional development for missionaries, local instructors, and seminary leaders. Led by ALS professors, the program currently serves theological education efforts in approximately twelve countries, primarily in South and Southeast Asia.

1.6 Local and International Cooperation with Other Institutions

ALS has ongoing cooperation in the form of faculty and/or student exchanges with Martin Luther College (New Ulm, MN, USA), Wisconsin Lutheran College (Milwaukee, WI, USA), Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (Mequon, WI, USA), and Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Lutheran (Indonesia). Study trips and other cooperative ventures are also arranged with these and other Lutheran institutions.

ALS works in close collaboration with the Asian office of WELS Multi-Language Productions (MLP) in developing biblically accurate Chinese Christian materials for the wider Chinese community. MLP offices are located on the 16th floor of the ALS Shanghai St. campus. To purchase translated publications, please contact Yvonne Yeung at the MLP Hong Kong office at +852 2190 6218, email: yvonne.yeung@wels.net. For printed books, contact AsiaMLP@yahoo.com, or visit the Northwestern Publishing House website: <https://online.nph.net/multi-language-productions>

1.7 Institutional Goals and Training Objectives

ALS is an institution that...

- Is grounded in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, faithful to their doctrine in all that it teaches and does.
- Partners with regional CELC member churches to foster a growing network of confessional Lutheran leaders and churches across Asia-Oceania.
- Stewards and develops its faculty, finances, and facilities so that faithful training endures for the church in Asia-Oceania for generations to come.

ALS provides a program that...

- Forms students in the convictions and practices of confessional Lutheranism, equipping them to teach, preach, and confess Christ Jesus faithfully in their contexts.
- Prepares students fully as servants of Christ, integrating intellectual formation, ministry-skill development, and personal spiritual growth at every level of its program.
- Adapts in form and language to meet the educational and ministry needs of the church bodies it serves.
- Equips graduates to share the gospel with the lost, disciple believers, train other leaders, and multiply Lutheran communities throughout Asia-Oceania.

1.8 Accreditation

The ALS program has been granted full accreditation by the Asia Theological Association for its degree levels. The academic and theological integrity of ALS has also been formally recognized by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and by the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.

1.9 Legal Establishment

Asia Lutheran Seminary is registered in Hong Kong under Life Net Ltd. of Hong Kong, which provides a variety of ministry and educational services in Hong Kong.

1.10 Location and Contact Information

Asia Lutheran Seminary (ALS) Hong Kong campus is located at 688 Shanghai Street in Hong Kong in the Mong Kok district of Kowloon. The seminary currently occupies four floors of the Chun Hoi Commercial Building. The seminary offices occupy the 8th floor. The main classroom is on the 4th floor, and the second classroom and meeting room are on the 11th floor. The library is on the 16th floor.

The ALS office can be reached from 10:00 to 19:00 (Hong Kong time) weekdays at info@asiaseminary.com, phone number +852-3118-6445, or WhatsApp +852 6755 3568.

1.11 Website

Up-to-date information on the ALS curriculum and events can be found at its website: <https://en.asiaseminary.com/>

2. ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Governing Board

(Year indicates end of current term of service)

Rev. Jonathan Leach, Chairman, Nampa, ID, USA (2027)
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Fisher, Vice-Chairman, Milwaukee, WI, USA (2027)
Dr. Benjamin Clemons, Secretary, New Ulm, MN, USA (2027)
Rev. Angus Au, Hong Kong, China (2029)
Mr. Theodore Rattei, San Jose, CA, USA (2027)
Rev. Alex Wong, Hong Kong, China (2029)
Rev. Qiang Wong, Vancouver, BC, Canada (2027)

2.2 President's Chinese Advisory Committee

Rev. Alex Wong, Hong Kong (Chairman)
Rev. Angus Au, Hong Kong
Mr. Michael Lin, Taiwan
Mr. C.K. Lee, Taiwan
Rev. Andrew Chen, China
Mr. Liu, China

2.3 Administrative Officers

President:
 Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
Vice President:
 Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Academic Dean:
 Rev. Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus
English-Language Certificate Dean:
 Mr. Jeremy Seeger
Chinese-Language Certificate Dean:
 Rev. Anthony Barthels
Faculty Recording Secretary:
 Rev. Timothy Matthies
Student Advisor Coordinator:
 Rev. Zhu Yue William
Hong Kong Recruitment Director:
 Rev. Anthony Barthels
Regional Theological Education Program Director:
 Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Worship Coordinator:
 Rev. Timothy Matthies

2.4 Administrative Committees

First Name listed is Chair; President is Advisory to all committees.

Executive:

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Rev. Jonathan Leach
Mr. James Brandt

Admissions:

Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Rev. Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus

Deans:

Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Rev. Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus
Rev. Anthony Barthels
Mr. Jeremy Seeger

Communications Committee:

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
Rev. Anthony Barthels
Ms. Irene Ng

Technology:

Mr. Jeremy Seeger
Rev. Anthony Barthels

RTEP:

Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Rev. Daniel Kingsbury
Rev. Harland Goetzinger (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)

Mission Advancement:

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
Rev. Anthony Barthels
Mr. James Brandt
Rev. Jonathan Leach
Ms. Irene Ng

2.5 Support Staff

Office Manager: Ms. Irene Ng
Accounting Assistant: Ms. Mandy Wong
Administrative Assistant (Hong Kong campus): Ms. Vivian Ho
Administrative Assistant (Chiang Mai campus): Ms. Linda Marquardt
Librarian: Ms. Shan Cheung
Media Designer: Ms. Ivy Choi
Mainland Registrar Assistant: Ms. Elim Xie
Translation Assistant: Ms. Jenny Chen

3. TEACHING STAFF

3.1 Faculty

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bare
Rev. Anthony Barthels
Rev. Dr. Cheung Kwok Fai Angus
Rev. Daniel Kingsbury
Rev. Dr. Guy Marquardt
Rev. Timothy Matthies
Mr. Jeremy Seeger
Rev. Zhu Yue William

3.2 Adjunct Faculty (2026-2027)

Rev. Dr. Matthew Doebler
Rev. Chen
Rev. Harland Goetzinger
Rev. Peter Janke
Rev. Liu
Rev. Robert Siirila
Rev. Justin Steinke
Rev. Xu
Rev. Zhao

3.3 Emeritus Faculty

Rev. Dr. John Lawrenz †
Rev. Dr. Steven Witte †
Rev. Dr. Glen Thompson

3.4 Former Faculty

Rev. Dr. Michael Smith
Rev. Dr. Matthew Oseka
Rev. Aaron West
Rev. Dr. Matthew Doebler

3.5 Visiting Professors, Adjunct Professors, and Teaching Assistants

In addition to the faculty mentioned above, ALS is blessed to have numerous other prominent Lutheran missionaries, pastors, and scholars serve as visiting faculty, adjunct instructors, and teaching assistants. All faculty and teaching assistants, whether full-time, adjunct or visiting, share the Lutheran vision of ALS and are members of church bodies that are associated with the CELC.

4. STUDENT LIFE

4.1 Overview

ALS is a regional institution whose program is delivered primarily online through a combination of live and asynchronous learning. This enables students from throughout Asia and Oceania to pursue theological education while remaining active in their local churches and communities. Some classes meet regularly in person at the Hong Kong campus, and intensive courses may also be offered in Hong Kong, Chiang Mai, or at other locations as needs and opportunities arise. ALS seeks to provide students with at least one in-person learning opportunity each year to strengthen relationships across its international student body. Most faculty members are based in Hong Kong and Chiang Mai, Thailand, while guest instructors from other locations may teach online or in person. Opening and closing services and graduation services are streamed live, as are occasional public lectures and other events, helping students participate in the shared academic and spiritual life of the seminary.

4.2 Student Orientation

Orientation is offered at the beginning of each academic year for incoming students and for students entering a new level of study. Through a combination of videos, a self-paced online tutorial, and a live online meeting with ALS staff, students become familiar with the structure and goals of their program; expectations regarding attendance, conduct, and academic participation; the use of Moodle, Zoom or Webex, student email, and library resources; and essential administrative procedures, including course registration and tuition payment.

4.3 Student Support

ALS supports students academically, spiritually, and practically throughout their studies. Course instructors and faculty members provide guidance related to classes and theological study; student advisors help students monitor their progress and address broader circumstances affecting their studies; and ALS staff assist with administrative procedures, online learning systems, and access to learning resources. Students are encouraged to seek assistance promptly when difficulties arise.

4.3.1 Consultation with Faculty

Students are encouraged to consult their course instructors regarding course content, assignments, grades, and other matters directly related to a class. They may also contact other faculty members or the appropriate program-level dean for academic, theological, or spiritual guidance. Faculty members will respond directly or help students identify the appropriate person or resource.

4.3.2 Student Advisor Program (SAP)

ALS places strong emphasis on the spiritual growth and holistic formation of students as they prepare to serve as Christian leaders and pastors. For many years, ALS has supported this goal through its distinctive Mentor Program, which complements academic study with personalized spiritual guidance from experienced Christians. This one-on-one mentorship has helped students deepen their faith and apply theological knowledge to personal life and

ministry, always grounded in God's Word and framed by the proper distinction of Law and Gospel.

In recent years, as ALS has grown and the ministry context has become more complex, the seminary has established the Student Advisor Program (SAP) to strengthen the relationship between students and the institution. The SAP serves as an effective bridge for timely communication and ongoing academic and spiritual enrichment.

Through regular contact with assigned advisors, the SAP provides a reliable channel for communication that supports both student life and academic administration. When students face challenges or need additional support, advisors offer care-oriented guidance and collaborative problem-solving rather than direct academic instruction.

Looking beyond graduation, ALS also seeks to maintain lasting partnerships with its alumni. The seminary aims not only to walk with students throughout their studies but also to continue sharing vision, offering mutual support, and fostering close ministry collaboration once they enter their respective fields of service.

4.3.3 Administrative and Technical Support

ALS staff assist students with registration, tuition payments, student accounts, schedules, official records, student email, Moodle, videoconferencing platforms, and access to library resources. Students should contact the ALS office when they need administrative or technical assistance and should ensure that ALS has their current email address, telephone number, and preferred method of communication.

Students may communicate with ALS via electronic messaging, telephone, or email. The ALS office manager and other office staff are located on the 8th floor of the seminary building and are all multilingual in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. The ALS office can be reached from 10:00 to 19:00 (Hong Kong time) weekdays at info@asiaseminary.com, phone number +852-3118-6445, or WhatsApp +852 6755 3568.

4.4 Spiritual Life

ALS provides multiple opportunities for students to grow in their faith and life outside of the classroom and beyond the Student Advisor Program. Three times a year, we host livestreamed worship services that all students are invited to join: an opening service at the beginning of the Fall Term, a graduation service in the middle of the Fall Term, and an Ascension service 40 days after the Church's celebration of Jesus' resurrection in the Spring Term. In addition, ALS publishes weekly devotions that can be received by email or on social media. We also regularly share answers to questions about the Bible and ministry and letters of spiritual encouragement from our faculty.

4.5 Character Probation and Suspension

Asia Lutheran Seminary expects students to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their Christian confession and with the character appropriate for those preparing to serve Christ and his church. The biblical expectation that Christian leaders be "above reproach" does not imply moral perfection, but it does require a credible pattern of Christian integrity, respect for others, accountability, and conduct that does not bring serious reproach upon the student's Christian profession, ministry, or the seminary. These expectations apply to conduct

in classes and other ALS activities, in electronic communications and online platforms, and outside the classroom when a student's conduct substantially affects the Christian character, safety, learning environment, reputation, or mission of ALS.

ALS welcomes honest questions, respectful theological discussion, and thoughtful examination of beliefs. Students will not be disciplined merely for expressing uncertainty or respectful disagreement. Concerns may arise, however, when a student persistently advocates teachings contrary to the confessional Lutheran position of ALS in a manner that impedes learning, undermines the purposes of a course or program, disregards reasonable direction from an instructor, or pressures, intimidates, or bullies others concerning their beliefs. Other serious or persistent misconduct may also result in disciplinary action.

For detailed procedures, please refer to the ALS Student Character Probation Policy.

4.6 Learning Resources

4.6.1 ALS Library

A theological library and resource center is located on the 16th floor of the ALS campus. This collection now includes a multi-language circulating library, virtual learning resources, maps, and a small bookstore. All enrolled students are issued a library card and may use library resources on-site or borrow most circulating materials for up to 120 days. Please contact the ALS Librarian for library hours, a library card application, and the current lending policy.

To support students studying from around the world, ALS also provides access to a growing collection of online academic resources. These include the **EBSCO ATLA Religion Database**, **GALE eBook Platform**, **GALE Religion and Philosophy Collection**, and **GALE Primary Sources**, offering thousands of scholarly journals, eBooks, historical documents, and primary source materials for theological study and research.

Students may access the ALS online library catalog and many electronic resources at <https://library.asiaseminary.com/>.

Students are encouraged to use the PDF resources available for free download at the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary website <https://www.wisluthsem.org/resources/essay-files/>.

Additionally, students may visit *Fourth Century Christianity* (www.fourthcentury.com), founded and overseen by ALS Professor Emeritus Glen L. Thompson. This website contains more than 1,500 pages of material on the early church and the late Roman Empire, including primary documents, English translations, maps, charts, and recommended readings. Together, these print and digital resources provide ALS students with extensive support for theological education, research, and lifelong learning.

4.6.2 ALS Bookstore

At its Hong Kong campus, ALS operates a small bookstore on the 16th floor. The main purpose of the bookstore is to supply the necessary books for students to purchase for their ALS classes. The bookstore especially concentrates on Lutheran materials that are not available through other local Christian bookstores. The bookstore is also the chief distributor for ALS publications, as well as many of the English and Chinese language materials

produced by WELS Multi-Language Productions. For bookstore hours, contact the ALS office.

In addition to the bookstore located at its Hong Kong campus, ALS operates an online bookstore (<https://asiaseminary.boutir.com>) to provide students, church workers, and other interested readers with convenient access to theological and educational resources regardless of their location. The online bookstore offers academic and theological books, with particular emphasis on resources supporting the study of Scripture and the Lutheran faith, including publications of Asia Lutheran Seminary. It also serves as an online platform through which students and other learners may pay for selected ALS online courses. Through the online bookstore, ALS seeks to make theological resources and learning opportunities more readily accessible to students and believers throughout Asia and beyond, supporting their continued growth in biblical knowledge, Lutheran theology, faith, and ministry.

4.7 Campus Facilities

4.7.1 Student Lounge

For students who visit our campuses, we provide lounge space to relax and study. At our Hong Kong campus, the ALS library, located on the 16th floor, also serves as a student lounge. Our staff librarian or other administrative staff are available to ensure student access. At our Chiang Mai campus, use of our campus space can be arranged by contacting our administrative staff.

4.7.2 Photocopy Facilities

Normally, students should do any required copying before they arrive at ALS. Many professional printing companies are located near our campuses. ALS does have copy facilities, but they are normally for use by ALS staff only. In the event of an emergency, ALS staff may be able to assist students for a set fee.

4.7.3 Holidays and Cancellation of Classes

See the ALS Calendar in section 10 and the class syllabus for specific holidays and class cancellations.

No classes will be held at the Hong Kong campus on any Hong Kong public holidays. Classes may be cancelled as needed by the professor. Students will be informed at the earliest convenience.

In the event of the announcement of a No. 8 signal storm warning or a black rainstorm signal, students meeting at the Hong Kong campus should follow the guidelines below:

- If the signal is lowered before 07:00, morning classes will meet as usual.
- If the signal is lowered before 12:00, afternoon classes will meet as usual.
- If the signal is lowered before 17:00, evening classes will meet as usual.

5. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

5.1 Definition of Student Status

Enrolled students at ALS may be classified under one or more of the following categories:

- **Program students:** Students who have applied for and been approved for one of the ALS certificate, diploma, or degree levels. Program students will be classified as full time or part time.
- **Full time:** A program student who takes 12 or more credits in one semester will be classified as full time for that semester.
- **Part time:** A program student who takes at least one credit-bearing course but fewer than 12 credits during a semester will be classified as part time for that semester.
- **Non-program students:** Students who have registered to take classes for studying biblical languages but have not enrolled in an ALS certificate, diploma, or degree program.
- **Single Subject students:** Students who register for individual ALS courses for credit without being enrolled in a program. This category may include ALS graduates returning for further study and prospective certificate or diploma students who wish to take courses before formally entering a program. Prospective diploma students may take no more than 12 credits through Single Subject and Audit registration before admission to the respective program.
- **Audit students:** Students who attend a course for personal learning without earning academic credit. This category may include ALS graduates returning to refresh or expand their theological knowledge and prospective certificate or diploma students wishing to experience ALS courses before entering a program. Audited courses do not receive academic credit or count toward program requirements. For prospective students, Single Subject and Audit enrollment together is limited to 12 credits for diploma-level study.
- **Inactive students:** Program students who have not registered for any ALS course for two consecutive years are classified as inactive. An inactive student who wishes to resume studies should contact the ALS Office and may be required to receive approval before re-enrollment.

5.2 Application and Registration Procedures

See Section 6 for information on enrollment procedures.

5.3 Prerequisites and Competencies

ALS program students will normally be secondary school graduates. Exceptions may be approved by the faculty.

Since classes are offered in multiple languages, students must demonstrate competency in the respective language to register for classes offered in that language. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Academic Dean in consultation with the course instructor and faculty.

ALS diploma and degree levels require academic research and writing. As a result, students are typically expected to have sufficient computer skills to complete such assignments. Exceptions must be approved by the Academic Dean.

The ability to do original exegesis in Greek and Hebrew is a prerequisite for the M.Div. degree.

5.4 Instructors and Students

At all levels, ALS provides instruction that is rooted in the cross of Christ and the teaching of Scripture that is led by confessional Lutheran instructors and professors. All students must respect this instruction and have the ability and disposition to do post-secondary level study.

5.5 Waiver of Courses

The ALS faculty may implement required courses or a required breadth of coursework in any of its degree award levels. This catalog outlines the regulations currently in place. Under unusual circumstances, the faculty may agree to waive one or more of these requirements upon the recommendation of the Academic Dean or upon application by the student. Application for such a waiver must be filed in writing with the Academic Dean. A decision will normally be made within 90 days and communicated in writing to the student.

5.6 Attendance

Regular attendance and active participation are essential components of successful learning at Asia Lutheran Seminary. Students are expected to attend all scheduled online class sessions, participate in class discussions and activities, and complete all required coursework. Occasional absences due to illness, family emergencies, ministry responsibilities, work obligations, or other exceptional circumstances may be unavoidable. When possible, students should notify the instructor in advance directly or through the ALS office. Students remain responsible for all course content, assignments, and assessments missed during their absence.

For synchronous online courses, attendance is normally recorded through participation in the live online class. When class recordings are made available, they are intended to support students who have missed a session or wish to review course material. However, viewing a recording does not automatically constitute attendance unless the instructor specifically approves an alternative attendance arrangement, and any required follow-up activities are completed.

Students who miss more than 20% of the total scheduled instructional hours of a course are normally ineligible to receive academic credit for the course. Exceptions may be granted only with the approval of the instructor and the Academic Dean after consideration of the circumstances and the student's successful completion of any required make-up work or alternative learning activities. Students are encouraged to maintain a stable internet connection and suitable learning environment during online classes. Technical difficulties should be reported to the instructor as soon as possible. In cases of verified technical disruptions, instructors may provide reasonable accommodations when appropriate.

5.7 Add/Drop Policy

Adding a Course: Students may add a course during the official add/drop period, which extends before the third scheduled class meeting. After this deadline, registration may be permitted only with the approval of the instructor and the Academic Dean, provided the student can reasonably complete all missed coursework and meet all course requirements.

Dropping a Course: A student who drops a course before the third scheduled class meeting will have the course removed from the academic record without academic penalty.

Course Withdrawal: After the add/drop period has ended, a student who is unable to complete a course may submit a written request to withdraw through the ALS Office. Withdrawals approved before 60% of the scheduled instructional period has been completed will be recorded on the transcript with a grade of W (Withdrawal). After 60% of the course has been completed, withdrawal is generally not permitted, and the student will receive the grade earned unless the Academic Dean approves an exception for documented extenuating circumstances.

Administrative Withdrawal: The Seminary reserves the right to withdraw a student who fails to attend class, fails to participate in required online learning activities, or fails to meet financial or academic obligations in accordance with ALS policy.

5.8 Cancellation of Courses

Insufficient student enrollment and a variety of other circumstances may necessitate the cancellation of an advertised or scheduled course. In such cases, tuition fees are fully refunded. ALS, however, assumes no other liability for such cancellations.

5.9 Policy on Submission of Written Assignments

It is the responsibility of students to ensure assignments are submitted to their instructors in the proper format and style and on time. Students in face-to-face classes can either hand in their assignments in person or, if the instructor permits, e-mail them as attachments or upload them to the course site at ALS-Online. Students in online classes should normally submit their assignments via the course site at ALS-Online. Students should not submit assignments through the ALS office or the office manager, either in person or electronically.

5.10 Achievement Standards

ALS values a holistic approach to the student's development. While academic achievement is important, the spiritual growth of a student is also a major concern to ALS. Similarly, the continual development of the student's integrity and passion for serving the Lord is also important. Grades, however, will primarily reflect the integrity, promptness, and completeness of the academic work done in a course. Each course syllabus will specify the standards used in grading that course.

5.11 Grading Scale

ALS uses the following alphabetical grading system for most classes. A few courses may be graded Pass or Fail. The following table is used to determine the letter grades:

Letters	Grade Points	Representation
A+	4.00	97 - 100
A	4.00	94 - 96
A-	3.70	90 - 93
B+	3.30	87 - 89
B	3.00	84 - 86
B-	2.70	80 - 83
C+	2.30	77 - 79
C	2.00	74 - 76
C-	1.70	70 - 73
D+	1.30	67 - 69
D	1.00	64 - 66
D-	0.70	60 - 63
F	0.00	Below 60, failing; no credit granted
I	Incomplete	Not counted for grade points; no credit granted
P	Pass	Not counted for grade points
AU	Audit	Not counted for grade points; no credit granted
W	Withdrawal	Not counted for grade points; no credit granted

5.12 Policy on Incomplete Courses

An **Incomplete (I)** grade may be granted when a student is unable to complete course requirements by the end of the term due to illness, family emergency, ministry obligations, or other exceptional circumstances. The student must request an Incomplete before the course ends and obtain the instructor's approval.

All remaining coursework must normally be completed within **90 days** after the course ends. Upon completion, the "I" grade will be replaced with the final grade. If the work is not completed by the deadline, the Incomplete will be converted to the grade earned based on completed coursework. Any extension requires the Academic Dean's approval.

5.13 Policy on Repeating a Course

A student may repeat a course in which the student has received a failing or unsatisfactory grade, or when repetition is necessary to meet program requirements. Repeating a course requires the approval of the Academic Dean.

Both the original and repeated grades will remain on the student's academic record, but only the higher grade will be used in calculating the student's GPA. Academic credit for the course will be counted only once toward program requirements.

A course may normally be repeated only once. Any additional attempt requires approval from the Academic Dean.

5.14 Course Papers and Theses

ALS course papers and theses should normally follow the commonly accepted practices of composition. To avoid plagiarizing, students should use citations to give credit where credit is due. Students writing in English should follow *The Chicago Manual of Style* for instructions on proper citations, or the guidelines found in *The SBL Handbook of Style*, which is available in the ALS library. A summary entitled “Student Supplement to the SBL Handbook of Style” is available from the ALS office. A similar guide for those writing in Chinese is also available from the ALS office.

A thesis advisor will be assigned to work with each M.A.R. and M.Div. student when they begin working on their thesis. Thesis proposals approved by the advisor are to be submitted one school year in advance of the student’s graduation. The completed thesis must be submitted to the Academic Dean at least 60 days prior to graduation. If the student has been requested to make alterations, the revised thesis must be submitted in proper form at least 30 days prior to graduation.

5.15 Practicums and In-Service Training

Many ALS degree students are preparing for leadership activities in the church. Therefore, whenever possible, students will be encouraged to practice, in a congregational or other ministry setting, the skills they are learning in the classroom. ALS will assist wherever possible in coordinating such in-service practice and training and will record it in the student’s academic record on a non-credit basis.

5.16 Directed or Independent Study

Occasionally, a student may be allowed to fulfill a requirement or pursue a special interest through directed or independent study. Such study must receive prior approval from the Academic Dean in order to earn credit towards a degree. Students can obtain an application form from the ALS office.

5.17 Graduation

ALS has a tradition of holding its yearly graduation services in late October or early November. Students who qualify for an ALS degree in a given year will receive information about participation in the ceremony and how to prepare for it from the ALS office. A nominal participation fee will be assessed to cover the cost of gown rental and other related costs.

5.18 Academic Honesty

ALS expects academic honesty from all students at all times. Academic dishonesty violates the scholarship standards of ALS, and more importantly, it does not align with God’s commands. Academic dishonesty can result in serious penalties, including denial of academic credits along with dismissal from the seminary. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or plagiarizing on assignments or examinations, or submitting insufficient academic sources. Students who are charged with academic dishonesty have the right to appeal to the Academic Dean. Any actions taken will also be communicated to the student’s pastor or other spiritual overseer.

5.19 Use of Generative AI

Asia Lutheran Seminary recognizes that AI can be a helpful tool for research, brainstorming, and language support, but it must not replace the student's own study, understanding, and voice. Presenting AI-generated material as one's own work, or failing to disclose that AI was used, is plagiarism and is handled under the disciplinary procedures above. Because course objectives differ, each instructor will state in the syllabus whether AI is prohibited, permitted with prior approval, or permitted with explicit acknowledgment; where no guidance is given, students should cite AI as they would any other resource. Unrestricted, unacknowledged use is not permitted.

5.20 Academic Probation and Suspension

If a student's cumulative GPA falls below the minimum standard of a C average (GPA of 2.0), the student may be placed on academic probation. A student on academic probation may register for no more than 6 credits during the probationary semester and must achieve a GPA of at least 2.5 for the courses taken during that semester.

If, by the end of the probationary semester, the student's cumulative GPA has risen to 2.0 or above, the student will normally be removed from academic probation. If the student achieves a GPA of at least 2.5 for the probationary semester, but the cumulative GPA remains below 2.0, the student may appeal to the Academic Dean to continue academic probation for one additional semester.

If the student fails to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress during the probationary semester, the student will normally be placed on academic suspension and will not be permitted to register for additional courses without written permission from the Academic Dean after consultation with the faculty.

5.21 Policy on Inactive Students

A program student who has not registered in any ALS course for two consecutive years will be classified as an inactive student. An inactive student who wishes to resume studies must submit a new application for admission. The application will be reviewed by the Student Admission Committee, which will determine whether the student may be readmitted to the program.

If a student is classified as inactive for the third time, any credits previously earned at ALS will be subject to review. The applicability of those credits toward the student's program will be determined according to current ALS academic and program requirements.

5.22 Dismissal

A student whose academic performance does not meet the minimum standard or whose behavior has negatively impacted the Christian character of the ALS community, its learning environment, or the mission of the seminary may face dismissal. The final decision for dismissal remains with the faculty.

5.23 Resumption of a Study Program

The following procedures apply to students who wish to resume their studies after being suspended, dismissed, or declared inactive:

The resumption of a study program will normally occur within a 4-year period after the student was suspended or dismissed. A resumption petition must be made in writing to the Academic Dean, and he and the faculty must concur in granting it. New registration fees must be paid upon resumption.

5.24 Academic Appeals

Students who believe that a grade, academic-standing decision, or application of academic policy was made in error should first discuss the matter with the responsible instructor or administrator. If the matter remains unresolved, the student may submit a written appeal within fourteen calendar days of receiving notice of the decision. Appeals of grades and other course-level decisions should be submitted to the Academic Dean; appeals of academic probation to the faculty; and appeals of academic suspension to the Executive Committee.

The appeal must identify the challenged decision, state the grounds for appeal, and include relevant supporting information. Grounds may include a significant factual or procedural error, inconsistent application of published policy or course requirements, or relevant information not reasonably available when the decision was made. Mere disagreement with academic judgment is not sufficient grounds for appeal. The reviewing authority may consult appropriate persons and will communicate its decision in writing.

5.25 Transcripts of Academic Records

The ALS office maintains current transcripts for all enrolled students. These can be seen by the students upon request.

A student may at any time obtain an official transcript from the ALS office for a nominal fee. Official transcripts can also be sent to other institutions or organizations for a fee. Please note the following:

- Typical processing time is 1–2 working days.
- ALS will not release a student's transcript if he has remaining financial obligations.
- ALS requires students' signatures to release transcripts.

5.26 Confidentiality

Academic records are private and are treated as such. Access is normally limited to the ALS registrar, the Academic Dean, and the faculty.

5.27 Policy and Program Changes

From time to time, the faculty may find it necessary to change the catalog, academic and other procedures, and degree requirements. Every effort will be made to inform students promptly of any changes that affect them. If changes are made to the requirements for a degree program, students may be allowed to finish their program under the old requirements at the discretion of the faculty.

6. ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

6.1 Entrance Requirements

All applicants for ALS courses and degree programs should normally be baptized Christians.

Requirements for each level: Applicants will submit one or more appropriate letters of recommendation. At least one recommendation must be from an individual who is familiar with and can comment meaningfully and knowledgeably on the likelihood that the student has the academic gifts to study successfully in seminary-level courses. The applicant must also submit at least one recommendation from his or her pastor or the head of the applicant's church body. The applicant may submit one letter if the writer of the recommendation fulfills all the above requirements.

6.2 Application for Admission

An application form for admission to an ALS certificate, diploma, or degree level can be obtained from the ALS website. The completed application must be submitted together with the application fee before attendance is allowed in any classes.

New students applying for admission into the ALS program should submit the completed application form and all required supporting documents at least 30 days before the beginning of the next semester. Required documents may include a letter of recommendation from the applicant's pastor and evidence of previous educational qualifications, according to the admission requirements for the respective program level.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Following review, applicants will receive one of three decisions: acceptance, provisional acceptance, or rejection. Students who are accepted or provisionally accepted will receive further instructions from the ALS Office regarding course registration and tuition payment. Continuing program students should register for courses according to the registration instructions and deadlines announced by the ALS Office each semester.

6.3 Transfer of Credits

Students who have not completed a bachelor's degree but have received at least two years of college-level education may be allowed to transfer some credits in appropriate areas of study from a recognized post-secondary institution towards an ALS bachelor's degree program. Such students must maintain a grade point average (GPA) above 2.50 while earning their first 30 credits at ALS to continue in their ALS degree program.

Usually, a maximum of 30 credits can be applied to the D.C.M. or other foundational theological degree program. The credits obtained by non-degree students are kept on file by the ALS office.

Any transfer of credits from other recognized theological schools is accepted towards an ALS degree solely at the discretion of the faculty and the Academic Dean. To apply for a transfer of credits, an official letter of request must be submitted to the Academic Dean together with official copies of transcripts from the other institutions. A decision will generally be made within 90 days and communicated in writing to the student.

6.4 Entrance Examinations

Applicants for a diploma or degree program who do not have at least a secondary school diploma or its equivalent, or who have other possible educational deficiencies, may be required to take an entrance examination and may be admitted on probation. The Academic Dean will be responsible for making such determinations.

6.5 Application for New Level

Upon completion of an ALS certificate, diploma, or degree, a student must reapply to be accepted into a new level of the program. This process will ensure that ALS has current information on the student's contact information and up-to-date information on their church affiliation. The application will require only filling out the application form and submitting an updated recommendation by the student's pastor. No new transcript needs to be supplied, and no application fee will be charged by ALS.

See the specific requirements for each level in section 8.2.

6.6 Acceptance of Students

Students become candidates for a certificate, diploma, or degree when they are accepted by the Admissions Committee. Whenever ALS accepts a candidate, there must be an expectation that the program can be completed satisfactorily within a reasonable amount of time. ALS may terminate a program for good and sufficient reasons. Candidates will be advised regularly regarding their programs, their status, and any changes to program requirements.

6.7 Deferred Admission

Successful candidates may choose to defer their admission to a later academic semester. Application files are valid for two years following the original acceptance. After two years, the candidate must reapply.

6.8 Enrollment and Registration Deadlines

First Day of Fall Term: Tuesday, September 1, 2026

- Last Day to Submit Applications for Fall Term: August 21, 2026
- Last Day to Apply for Financial Aid for Fall Term: August 21, 2026
- Last Day to Add a Fall Term Course: before the third session
- Last Day to Drop a Fall Term Course: before the third session

First Day of Spring Term: January 18, 2027

- Last Day to Submit Applications for Spring Term: January 8, 2027
- Last Day to Apply for Financial Aid for Spring Term: January 8, 2027
- Last Day to Add a Spring Term Course: before the third session
- Last Day to Drop a Spring Term Course: before the third session

7. CHARGES, FINANCIAL AID, AND DISCOUNTS

7.1 Tuition and Fees

The operation of ALS is heavily subsidized through gifts and grants from the WELS, South Asia Lutheran Evangelical Mission (SALEM), other church bodies, and individuals. As a result, it maintains a tuition and financial assistance policy that allows all students access to its courses and degree programs. Tuition varies depending on the degree program. In addition, there is a one-time enrollment fee, administrative fees for each semester of enrollment, fees for auditing classes, and charges for late registration and/or late payment.

The following system of fees and charges has been approved for the 2026-2027 school year.

7.1.1 Tuition

D.C.M./B.Th./Single subject	HKD 790 per credit
M.A.R./M.Div.	HKD 910 per credit
Audit Student	HKD 310 per credit

7.1.2 Administration Fees

Application fee	HKD 110 one-time
Registration fee for non-program students	HKD 110 per semester
Late registration (exceeding deadline)	HKD 220 per semester
Graduation fee	HKD 200 per participation
Official printed transcript	<i>first transcript free of charge</i>
	HKD 50 per additional transcript
Transcript sent to another institution	HKD 150 per institution

7.1.3 Discounts and Financial Assistance

ALS regularly evaluates requests for financial aid, scholarship awards, and other grants to degree students who demonstrate the requisite need, potential for service in public ministry, and dedication to finishing a specific ALS program.

Full-time students will qualify for a 20% discount. Other discounts based on student location or other factors may be applied at the discretion of ALS leadership. If a student qualifies for multiple discounts, only the larger discount will be given.

Financial assistance is available to students who have demonstrated financial need. Applications are available through the ALS Office. Financial assistance applications should be submitted by one week before the start of the semester. Remaining tuition and fees are due by the 3rd session of class. Students who have not paid their tuition or requested a payment plan may be dropped from the registered course.

7.1.4 Examples

Student A (D.C.M./B.Th. student): HKD 790 x 3 credits x 20% = HKD 1896

Student B (M.Div.): HKD 910 x 3 credits x 20% = HKD 2184

Student C (Single subject): HKD 790 x 3 credits + HKD110 (Admin. Fee) = HKD 2480

7.2 Refunds

ALS will refund 100% of tuition costs to students within a month if a course must be cancelled at any time. Students will also receive a full refund if they drop a course before the class meets for the first time. Students will receive a 50% refund if they drop the course before the third class. If, however, a student has outstanding financial obligations to ALS, the refund will be applied to his/her account.

7.3 Students with Unpaid Accounts

Any students with unpaid financial obligations from any preceding semesters will not be permitted to register for classes for a new semester without special permission from the vice president. ALS will also not allow a student with an unpaid account to graduate, receive a diploma or degree, or receive an official transcript.

8. THE CURRICULUM

8.1 Academic Program Overview

ALS offers a program of study that leads to several certificates, a diploma, a bachelor's degree, and two options for a master's degree. Descriptions of each of the program levels can be found in section 8.2 of this catalog.

In our unified mainstream program, students who are beginning or are in the early stages of theological study may earn a **TELL Certificate**.

Following this beginning level, students may earn a **Diploma of Church Ministry (D.C.M.)** by completing the D.C.M. requirements.

Following this secondary level, students may earn a **Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)** degree by completing the B.Th. requirements.

Following this degree, students may continue into the master's level via one of two paths. The first path is to earn a **Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.)** degree by completing the M.A.R. requirements. The second path is to earn a **Master of Divinity (M.Div.)** degree by completing the M.Div. requirements.

As part of its emphasis on understanding and sharing God's Word, ALS offers thorough training in biblical Greek and Hebrew. Students who successfully complete this level will receive a **Certificate in Biblical Hebrew** or a **Certificate in Biblical Greek**. Each of these certificates is a prerequisite for several courses in the M.Div. program.

ALS may validate and accept some coursework completed at other institutions of higher learning on a case-by-case basis. However, a significant number of credits will have to be earned at ALS for the faculty to approve a student for an ALS degree. Please see section 6.3 Transfer of Credits for more details.

Since ALS exists to prepare people to serve the church, we encourage students to enroll in an entire program level rather than just choosing single courses. Still, if students are undecided about enrolling, we may allow them to audit a few courses. Please contact ALS for further information.

8.1.1 The Five Areas of Instruction

The ALS program consists of elements from each of the following five areas:

Biblical Theology – The careful study of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible

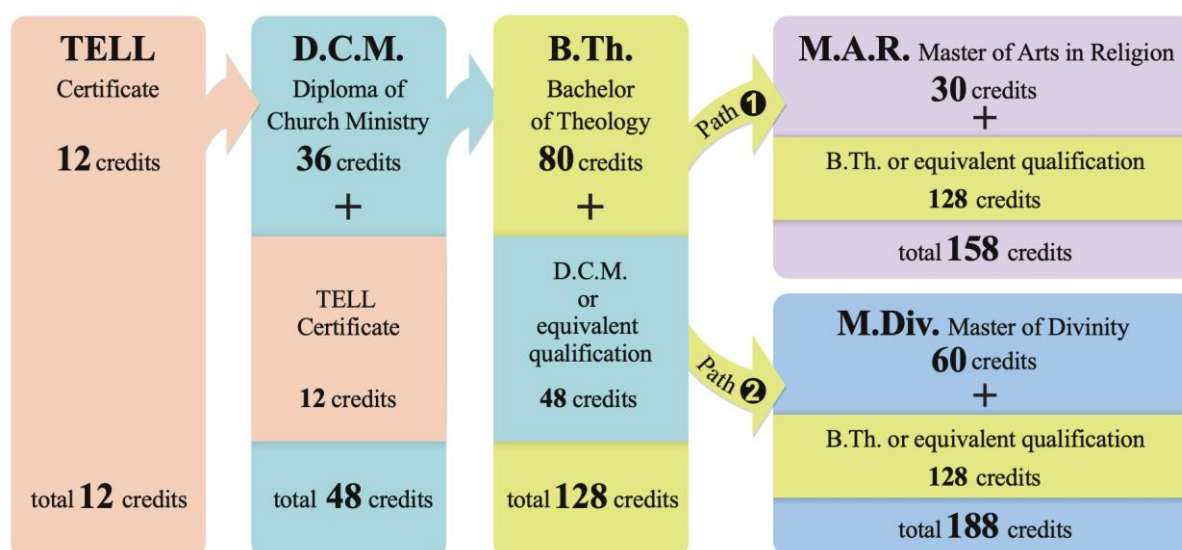
Systematic Theology – A topical and analytical exploration of the Bible's teachings

Historical Theology – Learning from the church's past achievements and struggles

Practical Theology – Equipping students to minister to God's people in today's world

Missional Theology – The study of bringing the gospel to people who do not yet believe

8.1.2 Graphic Overview of ALS Program



8.1.3 Definition of a Credit

In all levels of the program, ALS follows the Asia Theological Association's Credit Unit system, in which a single 'credit' represents 40 learning hours. This includes any learning activities whether in the classroom or assigned. As an example, a two-credit course would require a total of 80 hours spent during that semester in some form of learning activities appropriate to the course level: e.g., attending lectures, group discussions, assigned reading and writing, quizzes and tests, or other projects as described by each course's syllabus. Each hour typically consists of 50 minutes of learning and 10 minutes of rest.

8.1.4 Languages of Instruction

ALS's mainstream curriculum offers certificate-to-degree level training in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. Additional courses in other languages may be offered via an interpreter when there is a need. Teaching materials and textbooks are also normally provided in the language of instruction.

8.2 Description of Program Levels

8.2.1 TELL Certificate

Description

The TELL Certificate (12 credits) is the entry point to theological study at ALS and is open to all Christians. Students will grow through experiencing and understanding God's Word, his teaching, and his ministry in a practical way. They will learn about their own gifts for ministry, grow in their Lutheran identity, and develop skills necessary for starting and leading a group that gathers around the Means of Grace (the gospel in Word and sacraments). Instructors will use and model the TELL Method – Think, Evaluate, Learn, Lead – to study various short Bible passages, so that students are equipped to use pre-made materials to teach a group of people the basic message of the Bible.

Students who complete the TELL certificate may apply to study for a Diploma of Christian Ministry (D.C.M.).

Prerequisites

A secondary school diploma or an equivalent aptitude for learning is needed. No previous coursework in theology is required. However, some students may need to complete three short, online, self-study introductions in order to move into the first set of teacher-led courses.

All who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled.

Length of Study

Students who take one TELL course every two months may earn this certificate in approximately three years. Some students may choose to move through this level more quickly by registering for two courses simultaneously.

Certificate Completion Interviews

As a student nears the end of the TELL Certificate, ALS will arrange an interview with him or her. Where applicable, this interview will be conducted in coordination with the student's church or church body. In the interview, the student's progress through the program will be reviewed. The student will be given an opportunity to describe his or her commitment to the doctrine and practice of biblical Christianity and Confessional Lutheranism.

Recommendations for ministry and higher-level studies will be discussed.

Graduate Profile

Upon completion, students will be equipped to lead a small group gathered around the Means of Grace with provided pre-made materials.

Will Know	The basic message of the Bible from creation to new creation; the core content of law and gospel; the foundational teachings of the Christian faith; the identity of a disciple and what it means to make disciples; and the principles of simple, biblical worship.
Will Be Able To	Exhibit the habits of a disciple — regular engagement with God's Word, prayer, and fellowship; use pre-made TELL materials to teach the basic message of the Bible to a small group; share the law and gospel clearly in personal and group settings; lead a basic gathering around the means of grace; prepare and present a simple devotion; and begin the process of making and multiplying disciples within a local community.
Attitude & Character	Value Christ and the message of salvation as the central focus of all scripture; appreciate the power and blessings of the means of grace; demonstrate respect for the teachings of the Lutheran church; show willingness to submit to the teachings of God's word; value fellow believers as members of God's family; and express a desire to share the gospel, serve others, and help them do the same.

Required Courses (12 credits):

BIB 111: Work of the Savior (0 credits, entry)
BIB 112: In the Beginning (0.5 credits)
BIB 113: The Chosen Nation (0.5 credits)
BIB 114: The Fallen Nation (0.5 credits)
BIB 115: The Coming of the Savior (0.5 credits)
BIB 116: The Christian Church (0.5 credits)
SYS 131: The Ten Commandments (0.5 credits)
SYS 132: The True God (0.5 credits)
SYS 133: Sacraments and Prayer (0.5 credits)
SYS 134: Legalism – Enemy of Grace (0.5 credits)
SYS 135: Spiritual Identification (0.5 credits)
MIS 151: Living as a Disciple (0.5 credits)
MIS 152: A Disciple Makes Disciples (0.5 credits)
MIS 153: Multiplying Disciples (0.5 credits)
MIS 154: Multiplying Ministers (0.5 credits)
MIS 155: Multiplying Churches (0.5 credits)
PAS 141: Biblical Principles of Worship (0.5 credits)
PAS 142: Worship in Practice (0.5 credits)
PAS 143: Psalms as a Devotion (0.5 credits)
PAS 144: Letters of Faith and Wisdom (0.5 credits)
PRA 191: Practicum Competencies (2.5 credits)

8.2.2 Diploma of Church Ministry**Description**

The Diploma of Church Ministry (D.C.M.) is designed to provide students with a more in-depth foundation for ministry in the church. It includes a relatively broad study of Scripture, discussions of key aspects of congregational life, and practical preparation in regard to Christian worship, helping others learn biblical teaching, and preparing and sharing devotions in different settings so God's Word can be applied to people's hearts.

The D.C.M. requires completing 36 credits of coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 9.

Students who complete the D.C.M. may apply to study for a Bachelor of Theology degree (B.Th.).

Prerequisites

The TELL Certificate or its equivalent is required for admittance to the D.C.M. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS certificate. A secondary school diploma is also required.

Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Admission also requires character befitting of a person who aspires for ministry as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Length of Study

By taking approximately six credits per semester, students may expect to complete the requirements for the D.C.M. in approximately three years.

Diploma Completion Interviews

As a student nears the end of the D.C.M. diploma, ALS will arrange an interview with him or her. Where applicable, this interview will be conducted in coordination with the student's church or church body. In the interview, the student's progress through the program will be reviewed. The student will be given an opportunity to describe his or her commitment to the doctrine and practice of biblical Christianity and Confessional Lutheranism. Recommendations for ministry and higher-level studies will be discussed.

Graduate Profile

Upon completion, male students will be able to lead a public-facing church site on their own with the assistance of an overseeing pastor in the area. Female graduates will be able to, on behalf of their church site, serve women and children with God's word (in cooperation with their group leader or an overseeing pastor).

Will Know	A broad survey of the Old Testament; the life of Jesus Christ through the four Gospels; the historical and cultural background of the Bible; foundational principles of biblical interpretation; the core doctrines of the Christian faith as taught through Luther's Small Catechism; the proper distinction and application of Law and Gospel; principles of evangelism; and God's design for the Christian family.
Will Be Able To	Teach a basic Bible lesson to children or adults; write and deliver devotions in various ministry settings; present the gospel clearly to unbelievers; shepherd a small group or congregation; equip believers for various types of service; promote the Christian family; and manage the basic mechanics and preparation of a worship gathering.
Attitude & Character	Demonstrate Christian character as befitting a person who aspires for public ministry (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1); show eagerness to confess and share the faith; embrace a commitment to Scripture as the foundation of Lutheran doctrine and practice; and exhibit the humility to serve within a congregation under pastoral oversight.

These objectives will be attained through the completion of the following courses (36 credits; students will take either PAS 247 or PAS 248):

- BIB 211: Old Testament Survey 1 (3 credits)
- BIB 212: Old Testament Survey 2 (3 credits)
- BIB 213: Life of Christ (3 credits)
- BIB 215: Bible Background (3 credits)
- BIB 216: Basic Bible Interpretation (1 credit)
- SYS 231: Luther's Small Catechism 1 (2 credits)
- SYS 232: Luther's Small Catechism 2 (2 credits)
- SYS 233: Luther's Small Catechism 3 (2 credits)

SYS 234: Law and Gospel (2 credits)
PAS 241: Evangelism (2 credits)
PAS 242: Christian Family (1 credit)
PAS 243: Equip the Believers to Serve (2 credits)
PAS 244: The Heart of Lutheran Worship (2 credits)
PAS 245: Prepare to Teach the Bible (2 credits)
PAS 246: Prepare a Basic Devotion (2 credits)
PAS 247: The Man of God Shepherds Believers (2 credits)
PAS 248: Women's Ministry (2 credits)
PRA 291: Practicum Competencies (2 credits)

8.2.3 Certificates in Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Greek

Description

At any point in their ALS studies, students may apply to work toward a certificate in biblical Greek or biblical Hebrew. While these two biblical languages are only required for the study of exegetical courses at the Master of Divinity level, they will be a blessing to all students who participate. Students will be equipped to carry out a basic exegetical study of a biblical narrative using Greek or Hebrew. To enhance learning efficiency, the latest interactive pedagogical techniques are used, including Total Physical Response (TPR) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS).

The Certificate in Biblical Hebrew requires completing 12 credits of Hebrew coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 9.1.1.

The Certificate in Biblical Greek requires completing 12 credits of Greek coursework. For the detailed list of courses, please see section 9.1.2.

Students who earn either certificate will, upon approval by the professor, be eligible to register for an ALS exegesis course in that language. The exegetical courses for biblical Greek are the Gospel of John, Galatians, and 1 Corinthians. The exegetical courses for biblical Hebrew are Genesis, Psalms, and Jeremiah.

Prerequisites

To register for a biblical language certificate course, a student must apply and be accepted as an ALS student. Potential students must also receive the permission of the ALS Academic Dean for enrollment. Registration may be limited due to class size. Preference will be given to students in the ALS bachelor's degree and master's degree program levels, and to students who commit to attending the full program for that language.

Length of Study

Each language certificate can be earned in one year of study. Students are welcome to repeat these courses when desired, which would allow them to grow in their ability to use these languages and also would allow them to assist their fellow students in their studies.

Graduate Profile

Upon completion of the Certificate in Biblical Hebrew and the Certificate in Biblical Greek (12 credits each), students will have the skills to read and interpret the Bible in its original languages. This coursework equips students to carry out exegetical study of the Bible in the original texts.

Will Know	The foundational vocabulary and grammatical structures of the original language; the principles of language acquisition through auditory processing and contextual immersion; and the ability to read and comprehend large sections of the biblical text in its original language.
Will Be Able To	Listen, speak, read, and think in the target language; apply language skills to translate and interpret specific biblical books; engage with the original text beyond reliance on vernacular translations; and perform basic exegetical analysis of biblical narratives.
Attitude & Character	Demonstrate a patient, diligent commitment to the discipline of language learning; exhibit a profound reverence for the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God; and express a desire to engage more deeply with God's message through the study of its original languages.

These objectives are attained through the completion of the following course sequences.

Certificate in Biblical Hebrew

HEB 471: Hebrew 1 (4 credits)

HEB 472: Hebrew 2 (3 credits)

HEB 473: Hebrew 3 (1 credit)

HEB 474: Hebrew 4 (3 credits)

HEB 475: Hebrew 5 (1 credit)

Certificate in Biblical Greek

GRE 481: Greek 1 (2 credits)

GRE 482: Greek 2 (3 credits)

GRE 483: Greek 3 (2 credits)

GRE 484: Greek 4 (3 credits)

GRE 485: Greek 5 (2 credits)

8.2.4 Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)

Description

At the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) level, students progress in their understanding of Scripture and in their use of it in their ministry. Students will attain bachelor-level competencies in five areas: biblical theology, historical theology, systematic theology, practical theology, and missiology. Students will graduate with a solid understanding of Lutheran theology and the ability to share this knowledge in a variety of ministry applications. Graduates will be equipped for leadership roles in the church.

The B.Th. degree requires completing 80 credits of coursework.

Students who earn a B.Th. may apply to study for a Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) degree or a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. Students who desire to continue on to the M.Div. level are encouraged to begin their study of Greek and Hebrew at the bachelor's degree level if they have not already done so.

Prerequisites

An ALS Diploma of Church Ministry (D.C.M.) or its equivalent is required for admittance to this program level. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS D.C.M. A secondary school diploma is also required.

A recommendation letter from the student's pastor is required. Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Admission also requires character befitting of a person who aspires for ministry as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Length of Study

By taking approximately sixteen credits per semester, students entering ALS with a D.C.M. or its equivalent may expect to complete the B.Th. degree in approximately two-and-a-half years. Students who have no such background or who are taking fewer credits per semester may expect to take at least four years.

Degree Completion Interviews

As a student nears the end of the B.Th. degree, ALS will arrange an interview with him or her. Where applicable, this interview will be conducted in coordination with the student's church or church body. In the interview, the student's progress through the program will be reviewed. The student will be given an opportunity to describe his or her commitment to the doctrine and practice of biblical Christianity and Confessional Lutheranism.

Recommendations for ministry and higher-level studies will be discussed.

Graduate Profile

A graduate of the B.Th. degree level has gained a solid and comprehensive foundation in confessional Lutheran theology and is equipped for a variety of appropriate leadership roles in the church, according to the graduate's call, ecclesiastical authorization, and local church context. This could include spiritual oversight of a congregation, preaching to a gathering of believers, or equipping others to share the gospel and teach God's Word to the people around them.

Will Know	The full sweep of the Old and New Testaments, with attention to Christ-centered interpretation; the complete range of Lutheran systematic doctrines (prolegomena, theology, anthropology, Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, eschatology); key periods and movements in church history from the apostolic era through the modern period; the foundational Lutheran confessional documents (ecumenical creeds, Augsburg Confession, Luther's Catechisms); principles of homiletics, worship, counseling, and teaching; and the missiological principles of Paul and confessional Lutheran mission practice.
Will Be Able To	Interpret the Bible using the historical-grammatical method; preach expository sermons drawing on both Old and New Testament texts;

	teach Lutheran doctrine clearly to congregation members; lead and design appropriate worship services; provide basic Christian counseling using law and gospel; introduce others to saving faith through personal and congregational evangelism; and apply an understanding of missiology in a local church planting context.
Attitude & Character	Demonstrate a personal faith rooted in the unconditional gospel; show a commitment to Scripture as the sole norm of doctrine; embrace the Lutheran confessional identity; exhibit a servant-leader disposition that equips and empowers fellow believers; and show readiness to continue growing in the understanding and use of God's Word.

These objectives will be attained through the completion of the following courses (80 credits):

BIB 311: Old Testament: The Books of Moses (3 credits)
 BIB 312: OT: The Former and Latter Prophets (3 credits)
 BIB 313: Old Testament: Poetry (3 credits)
 BIB 314: New Testament: The Four Gospels (3 credits)
 BIB 315: NT: Acts and the Pauline Epistles (3 credits)
 BIB 316: NT: Non-Pauline Epistles and Revelation (3 credits)
 BIB 411: Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (3 credits)
 BIB 412: Isaiah: The Fifth Gospel (3 credits)
 BIB 413: Romans: Daily Bread of the Soul (3 credits)
 SYS 431: Prolegomena and Theology (2 credits)
 SYS 432: Anthropology (2 credits)
 SYS 433: Christology (2 credits)
 SYS 434: Soteriology (2 credits)
 SYS 435: Ecclesiology (2 credits)
 SYS 436: Eschatology (2 credits)
 HIS 321: Church History to A.D. 1400 (3 credits)
 HIS 322: The Reformation (3 credits)
 HIS 323: Modern Christianity (3 credits)
 HIS 421: Book of Concord: The Ecumenical Creeds (3 credits)
 HIS 422: Book of Concord: Augsburg Confession and Apology (3 credits)
 HIS 423: Book of Concord: Luther's Large and Small Catechisms (3 credits)
 PAS 341: Understanding and Leading Worship (2 credits)
 PAS 342: Counseling (2 credits)
 PAS 343: Teaching (2 credits)
 PAS 441: Introduction to the Life of a Shepherd (2 credits)
 PAS 442: Stewardship (2 credits)
 PAS 443: Homiletics 1 (2 credits)
 PAS 444: Homiletics 2 (2 credits)
 MIS 451: Paul the Missionary (3 credits)
 MIS 452: Introduction to Lutheran Missiology (3 credits)
 RES 361: Essay Writing and Skills (3 credits)

8.2.5 Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.)

Description

After earning a B.Th., students who desire to continue to master's level training but do not require the ability to work in the original biblical languages may apply to study the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) degree. The M.A.R. degree provides students with a foundation of scholarly, master's level training along with further growth in practical skills for ministry and leadership in the church. It culminates in a three-credit research thesis on a topic of the student's choice.

The M.A.R. degree requires completing 30 credits of coursework.

Prerequisites

An ALS B.Th. degree or its equivalent is required for entrance into this level of the academic program. A solid foundation in Confessional Lutheran teachings is required. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS B.Th. degree. A bachelor's degree is required.

A recommendation letter from the student's pastor is required. Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Admission also requires character befitting a person who aspires for ministry as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Research and Thesis

Candidates for the M.A.R. degree from ALS must demonstrate the ability to do theological research. They will do this by writing a thesis on a topic selected through consultation with the ALS faculty. The thesis must be read and endorsed as satisfactory by a committee of at least three ALS faculty members or outside examiners, as appointed by the ALS Academic Dean.

Length of Study

By taking 5-6 credits per semester, M.A.R. candidates who hold a B.Th. degree should normally complete their degree within two-and-a-half to three years of enrollment.

Degree Completion Interviews

As a student nears the end of the M.A.R. degree, ALS will arrange an interview with him or her. Where applicable, this interview will be conducted in coordination with the student's church or church body. In the interview, the student's progress through the program will be reviewed. The student will be given an opportunity to describe his or her commitment to the doctrine and practice of biblical Christianity and Confessional Lutheranism.

Recommendations for ministry and higher-level studies will be discussed.

Graduate Profile

A graduate earning the M.A.R. degree has gained advanced theological training and practical preparation for appropriate leadership roles within the church, according to the graduate's call, ecclesiastical authorization, and local church context. This could include providing spiritual oversight for congregations or church bodies, as theologians with confessional Lutheran doctrinal training.

Will Know	Advanced principles of Lutheran biblical hermeneutics, including canon history, historical-grammatical interpretation, the history of biblical interpretation; advanced systematic theology across the full range of doctrines; the history of Lutheran Christianity since the Reformation and in the student's own regional context; the key Lutheran confessional documents (Smalcald Articles, Formula of Concord); the pastoral calling as described in the New Testament's Pastoral Letters; principles of church leadership and administration; and the history of Christian mission.
Will Be Able To	Apply advanced hermeneutical principles to the proclamation of Scripture; articulate and defend Lutheran doctrinal positions against contemporary theological errors; lead a congregation with competence in shepherding, administration, and stewardship; guide a confessional Lutheran mission movement at a local or regional level; and complete original theological research culminating in a well-reasoned academic thesis.
Attitude & Character	Demonstrate mature Christian character befitting public gospel ministry (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1); exhibit a confessional Lutheran commitment to Scripture as the sole norm of faith and life; show a willingness to engage contemporary theological questions with scholarly rigor and pastoral care; and foster a commitment to lifelong learning and mentoring of others.

These objectives will be attained through the completion of the following courses (30 credits, including a 3-credit thesis). Courses marked with * are required; remaining credits are chosen in consultation with ALS administration:

- *BIB 511: Hermeneutics: Canon History (1.5 credits)
- *BIB 512: Hermeneutics: Historical-Grammatical Interpretation (1.5 credits)
- *BIB 513: Hermeneutics: History of Biblical Interpretation (2 credits)
- SYS 531: Advanced Systematic Theology 1 (3 credits)
- SYS 532: Advanced Systematic Theology 2 (3 credits)
- *HIS 523: Book of Concord: The Smalcald Articles (2 credits)
- *HIS 524: Book of Concord: The Formula of Concord (3 credits)
- HIS 521: Lutheranism since the Reformation (3 credits)
- HIS 522: History of Christianity in the Student's Context (3 credits)
- PAS 541: The Pastoral Letters (3 credits)
- PAS 542: Church Leadership and Administration (2 credits)
- MIS 551: History of Missions (3 credits)
- MIS 552: Leading Gospel-Mission Movements (2 credits)
- *RES 561: Thesis Writing (3 credits)
- *THE 591: Master's Thesis – M.A.R. (3 credits)

8.2.6 Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Description

After completing the B.Th. degree, students may apply to earn either the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) or the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. The M.Div. degree level provides students with some scholarly training and further growth in practical skills to be pastoral leaders of churches or church bodies, theologians, and seminary instructors. It emphasizes Greek and Hebrew exegesis so as to provide a solid foundation for clearer interpretation of the Bible, clearer understanding of its teachings, and clearer proclamation to the church and the world. The M.Div. degree level culminates in a six-credit research thesis on a topic of the student's choice.

The M.Div. degree requires completing 60 credits of coursework.

Prerequisites

An ALS B.Th. degree or its equivalent is required for entrance into this level of the academic program. A solid foundation in Confessional Lutheran teachings is required. If students do not have this background, they will be encouraged to first complete the ALS B.Th. degree. A bachelor's degree is required.

The Certificate in Biblical Hebrew and the Certificate in Biblical Greek are each a prerequisite for Old Testament and New Testament exegesis courses, respectively.

A recommendation letter from a confessional Lutheran pastor is required. Students normally will be members of a local congregation, and all who attend classes must demonstrate respect for the Lutheran character of the school. Students are to maintain good Christian character while enrolled. Admission requires character befitting of a person who aspires for public ministry as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Admission will be granted upon approval by the ALS academic administration.

Research and Thesis

Candidates for the M.Div. degree from ALS must demonstrate the ability to do theological research. They will do this by writing a thesis on a topic selected through consultation with the ALS faculty. The thesis must be read and endorsed as satisfactory by a committee of at least three ALS faculty members or outside examiners, as appointed by the ALS Academic Dean.

Length of Study

By taking approximately 10 credits per semester, M.Div. candidates holding a B.Th. degree should normally complete their degree within three years of enrollment. To make this possible, students contemplating enrollment in the M.Div. degree are urged to begin biblical language training during their bachelor's level training.

Program Completion Interviews

As a student nears the end of the M.Div. degree, ALS will arrange a Program Completion Interview with him. Where applicable, this interview will be conducted in coordination with the student's church or church body. In the interview, the student's progress through the program will be reviewed. The student will be given an opportunity to describe his commitment to the doctrine and practice of biblical Christianity and Confessional

Lutheranism. Recommendations for ministry and continuing education studies will be discussed.

Graduate Profile

A graduate of the M.Div. level has gained the deepest level of theological study available through ALS and is equipped for appropriate leadership roles within the church, according to the graduate's call, ecclesiastical authorization, and local church context. This could include serving as a pastoral leader of congregations or church bodies, as an exegete with biblical languages and confessional Lutheran doctrinal training, or as a seminary instructor.

Will Know	Advanced principles of Lutheran biblical hermeneutics, including canon history, historical-grammatical interpretation, the history of biblical interpretation, and textual criticism; thorough working knowledge of biblical Greek as applied to exegetical study of the Gospel of John, Galatians, and 1 Corinthians; thorough working knowledge of biblical Hebrew as applied to exegetical study of Genesis, the Psalms, and Jeremiah; the history of Lutheran Christianity since the Reformation and in the student's own regional context; the key Lutheran confessional documents (Smalcald Articles, Formula of Concord); the pastoral calling as described in the New Testament's Pastoral Letters; principles of church leadership and administration; the history of Christian mission; and the full range of systematic theology at an advanced level, with facility to engage contemporary scholarship.
Will Be Able To	Conduct original exegetical study of the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, and assess vernacular Bible translations; preach and teach from any part of the biblical canon with theological depth and pastoral sensitivity; serve as a stand-alone, confessional, evangelical Lutheran pastor or as a theological instructor; lead a gospel-mission movement, mentor emerging leaders, and guide a congregation or church body; and produce original scholarly research at the master's level.
Attitude & Character	Exhibit a mature, gospel-centered faith and a deep personal commitment to the Word of God; demonstrate the character and qualifications for the pastoral office as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1; show an eagerness to collaborate with partners in ministry across Asia and the world; remain committed to the CELC's confessional Lutheran heritage while engaging Asian cultures with contextual sensitivity; and display a servant spirit and a passion for reaching the lost.

These objectives will be attained through the completion of the following courses (60 credits, including a 6-credit thesis):

BIB 511: Hermeneutics: Canon History (1.5 credits)

BIB 512: Hermeneutics: Historical-Grammatical Interpretation (1.5 credits)

BIB 513: Hermeneutics: History of Biblical Interpretation (2 credits)
 BIB 514: Hermeneutics: Textual Criticism (1 credit)
 HEB 571: Hebrew Exegesis: Genesis (3 credits)
 HEB 572: Hebrew Exegesis: Psalms (3 credits)
 HEB 573: Hebrew Exegesis: Jeremiah (3 credits)
 GRE 581: Greek Exegesis: The Gospel of John (3 credits)
 GRE 582: Greek Exegesis: Galatians (3 credits)
 GRE 583: Greek Exegesis: 1 Corinthians (3 credits)
 SYS 531: Advanced Systematic Theology 1 (3 credits)
 SYS 532: Advanced Systematic Theology 2 (3 credits)
 HIS 523: Book of Concord: The Smalcald Articles (2 credits)
 HIS 524: Book of Concord: The Formula of Concord (3 credits)
 HIS 521: Lutheranism since the Reformation (3 credits)
 HIS 522: History of Christianity in the Student's Context (3 credits)
 PAS 541: The Pastoral Letters (3 credits)
 PAS 542: Church Leadership and Administration (2 credits)
 MIS 551: History of Missions (3 credits)
 MIS 552: Leading Gospel-Mission Movements (2 credits)
 RES 561: Thesis Writing (3 credits)
 RES 592: Master's Thesis – M.Div. (6 credits)

9. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following list describes the courses that are taught at ALS, although not all courses are offered every year. Additions or changes to this list may be made from time to time, as needs require.

9.1 Biblical Theology

The Biblical Theology curriculum faithfully examines the Old and New Testaments. It pays close attention to the intention of the original authors who revealed in their inspired writings the expectation and coming of Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Savior.

BIB 111: The Bible: The Work of the Savior (WS) (0 credits) – In this course, we will focus on the week when the Son of God gave his life for us and took it back up again on the third day.

BIB 112: The Bible: In the Beginning (ITB) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we will learn the principles of everything: creation, the human race, the plan of salvation, and the origins of the people of Israel.

BIB 113: The Bible: The Chosen Nation (CN) (0.5 credits) – In this Old Testament course, we will see how God made a great nation out of the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God saved them from Egypt, gave them laws, led them into the promised land, and blessed them through wise leaders.

BIB 114: The Bible: The Fallen Nation (FN) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we will learn about the idolatry and disobedience of God's people and their consequences. The kingdom was divided. Powerful enemies were approaching. Would God remain faithful to his promises? Would a remnant survive? And, most importantly, would the Messiah still come?

BIB 115: The Bible: The Coming of the Savior (CS) (0.5 credits)– In this course, we will learn how God came into our world in human flesh. We will also discover Jesus' early ministry: his entry into ministry, his teachings, and his miracles.

BIB 116: The Bible: The Christian Church (CC) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we will learn about the obstacles that the disciples faced in carrying out their great mission as instructed by the Savior. And we will answer the question: What can we learn from the ministry of the Christian church in the book of Acts?

BIB 211: Old Testament Survey 1 (3 credits) – This course studies selected events and key people in the Old Testament from the book of Genesis to the book of Ruth. It observes “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise of the Savior continues”. Students will describe some of the basic contents and main themes of these books. They will describe some of the prophecies about Christ in these books. In addition, they will apply to their own lives “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise has continued”.

BIB 212: Old Testament Survey 2 (3 credits) – This course studies selected events and key people in the Old Testament from the book of First Samuel to the book of Malachi. It observes “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise of the Savior continues”. Students will describe some of the basic contents and main themes of these books. They will

describe some of the prophecies about Christ in these books. In addition, they will apply to their own lives “what people do, what God does, and how God’s promise has continued”.

BIB 213: Life of Christ (3 credits) – This course provides an overview of the four Gospels in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. By reading various passages in the Gospels with some background information, students will gain a deeper understanding of those events in the Bible, especially focusing on the life of Jesus Christ in his first coming to the world. Meanwhile, through reading these passages, students will also learn the messages of God’s law and God’s gospel that they contain.

BIB 215 Bible Background (3 credits) – This course provides a brief overview of Bible history while at the same time teaching students the basics of geography and daily life in Bible times. It provides students with the big picture of biblical events. By the end of this course, students will be able to read the Bible in depth with proper cultural context and historical background.

BIB 216 Basic Bible Interpretation (1 credit) – This course teaches the basic principles of understanding and interpreting the Bible. We will learn why interpretation is important, how to employ simple methods to help us study the Bible, and how to defend its authenticity. By the end of this course, we will have the tools to read and understand the Bible more effectively.

BIB 311 Old Testament: The Books of Moses (3 credits) – This course studies God’s revelation of himself and of his plan of salvation in the first five books of the Bible, which are foundational for understanding the rest of Scripture. These books explain the origin of the universe, of humanity, of sin, and of the promise of the Savior; they recount that God provided more details about this promise to the patriarchs and to his Old Testament people Israel; and they show that God protected and separated them so that the Savior could eventually come for us. Students will demonstrate that these books center on Christ and teach God’s grace, appreciating the axiom “The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is made clear by the New.” They will also become familiar with the laws that God gave through Moses and distinguish whether they are binding for all people of all time. In addition, they will become more confident about their grasp of the outlines and background information of these books and of the meaning of individual passages.

BIB 312 Old Testament: The Former and Latter Prophets (3 credits) – This course studies God’s revelation of himself and of his plan of salvation from the entrance into the Promised Land until the re-entrance into the Promised Land after the exile. This is the majority of the Old Testament – 26 books – and they show that God was faithful to his covenant, that he sent his Word through the prophets, and that he provided more and more details about the Messiah who was coming. Students will demonstrate that these books center on Christ and teach God’s grace, appreciating the axiom “The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is made clear by the New.” They will also summarize the general flow of the history of Old Testament Israel, as well as describe common themes in the prophets’ messages. In addition, they will become more confident about their grasp of the outlines and background information of these books and of the meaning of individual passages.

BIB 313 Old Testament: Poetry (3 credits) – This course studies God’s revelation of himself and of his plan of salvation in Israel’s standalone poetry and wisdom literature (that

is, the parts of the Old Testament that are neither books of history nor books of prophecy – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations). These books are key for expressing trust and praise towards God, for understanding what he is like and what humans are like and what the Messiah is like, and for living our everyday lives in gratitude to him and in service to our neighbor. Students will demonstrate that these books center on Christ and teach God’s grace, appreciating the axiom “The New Testament lies hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is made clear by the New.” They will also summarize the characteristics of Old Testament poetry, as well as interact with scholarship on major theological themes in these books. In addition, they will become more confident about their grasp of the outlines and background information of these books and of the meaning of individual passages.

BIB 314 New Testament: The Four Gospels (3 credits) – In this course, students will learn the isagogic information of each Gospel and understand what makes each unique. Using the historical-grammatical method of interpretation, they will also strengthen their skills of interpreting and explaining the Gospels. Finally, by reading closely the stories of Jesus as presented in the Four Gospels, students will deepen their personal faith rooted in the unconditional Gospel of Jesus Christ.

BIB 315 New Testament: Acts and the Pauline Epistles (3 credits) – This course will provide an isagogic overview of a significant portion of the New Testament, beginning with Acts and continuing with the epistles of the Apostle Paul. The background information for each of these books will be examined, so as to provide a clearer picture of the early church in New Testament times. Major themes in Paul's letters will also be explored. During this course, students will strengthen their interpretive skills by using a Law-Gospel hermeneutic and the historical-grammatical method. Finally, upon completion of this course, students will be more firmly rooted in the unconditional gospel of Jesus Christ as preached by the Apostle Paul.

BIB 316 New Testament: Non-Pauline Epistles and Revelation (3 credits) – In this course, students will learn about the General Epistles in the New Testament. The content of each letter, including features and teachings that are unique to each letter, will be studied in depth. Additionally, students will express biblical truths and apply them to their own lives and the lives of others using a Law-Gospel hermeneutic. Finally, they will appreciate the connections between these letters and the rest of the Bible, gaining a deeper appreciation of the unconditional gospel.

BIB 511 Hermeneutics: Canon History (1.5 credits) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The Canon History course covers historical information and discussions about the formation of the biblical canon, including both the Old Testament and New Testament. Topics studied include: the Apocrypha, translations of the Bible, and how the biblical canon was preserved.

BIB 512 Hermeneutics: Historical-Grammatical Interpretation (1.5 credits) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for

students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The Historical-Grammatical Interpretation course covers principles for reading the Bible, as well as methods for conducting historical-grammatical interpretation step-by-step. It highlights using a principal Lutheran doctrine, Law and Gospel, to help us organize and analyze the messages that we are interpreting. At the same time, it also emphasizes that the various biblical messages are in harmony, thus demonstrating the principle of *sola scriptura*.

BIB 513 Hermeneutics: The History of Biblical Interpretation (2 credits) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The History of Biblical Interpretation course provides students with a deeper understanding of different types of biblical interpretation that have been used – from the patristic period to the Middle Ages, to the Reformation period, to Modern interpretation, and to the Postmodern understanding of Scripture. It aims to help students affirm the importance of proper biblical interpretation, as well as recognize the errors caused in doctrine and practice by some improper methods of interpretation.

BIB 514 Hermeneutics: Textual Criticism (1 credit) – The teaching of hermeneutics at ALS is divided into four areas: Canon History, Historical-Grammatical Interpretation, the History of Interpretation, and Textual Criticism. These areas are closely interrelated, and the goal of these courses is to provide comprehensive training for students in Lutheran biblical interpretation skills. The Textual Criticism course provides students with an introduction to textual criticism in both the Old Testament and New Testament, while holding on to the doctrines of the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. This course includes teaching about biblical manuscripts' text types, writing mediums, naming, and dates. Discussions on variants from different manuscripts are conducted. The history of textual criticism will be briefly reviewed. Through the workshop sessions in this course, students can expect to gain a more in-depth understanding about the topic of textual criticism.

9.1.1 Biblical Theology: Hebrew

HEB 471 – HEB 475 (12 Credits) This unified set of five courses studies the original language that is used for nearly three fourths of the Bible: ancient Hebrew. It employs a living-language method that engages not only students' skills of memorization and pattern recognition but also the brain's auditory processing center, so that participants may acquire Hebrew's relatively easy vocabulary and grammar as smoothly as possible. Students will quickly learn many Hebrew words and will become more and more familiar with the way Hebrew is spoken and written, even gaining the ability to produce some simple responses. They will also gain fluency in reading short stories and performing simple dialogues. In addition, by the end of these five courses, students will have read – with comprehension – the narrative sections of the original text of the book of Jonah.

HEB 471 Hebrew 1 (4 credits)

HEB 472 Hebrew 2 (3 credits)

HEB 473 Hebrew 3 (1 credit)

HEB 474 Hebrew 4 (3 credits)

HEB 475 Hebrew 5 (1 credit)

HEB 571 Hebrew Exegesis: Genesis (3 credits) – This course studies, in detail, portions of the Hebrew text of the first book of the Old Testament: God’s revelation concerning the early history of his saving activity. It includes the LORD’s dealings with the entire human race from his creation to the worldwide Flood and then also his promises to and training of Abraham, the father of the Old Testament chosen people and our father in faith. Students will gain a thorough comprehension of the portions of Genesis that we study exegetically in Hebrew (about one third of the book). They will also increase the speed with which they can read and comprehend a Hebrew narrative, expand their grammatical recognition and working vocabulary, and become familiar with some reference works for Hebrew exegesis. In addition, they will explore some topics regarding the book of Genesis that have deep significance for our Christian faith.

HEB 572 Hebrew Exegesis: Psalms (3 credits) – This course studies, in detail, portions of the Hebrew text of this Old Testament book of prayer, praise, teaching, and thanksgiving. This book has played a key role in the life of believers, both before and after the coming of the Messiah, and serves as a crossroads for the rest of Scripture. Students will gain a thorough comprehension of the portions of Psalms that we study exegetically in Hebrew (about 30 psalms, or one fifth of the book). They will also increase the speed with which they can read and comprehend Hebrew poetry, expand their grammatical recognition and working vocabulary, and become familiar with some additional reference works for Hebrew exegesis. In addition, they will explore some topics regarding the book of Psalms that have deep significance for our Christian faith.

HEB 573 Hebrew Exegesis: Jeremiah (3 credits) – This course studies, in detail, portions of the Hebrew text of this major Old Testament prophet. This book places before our eyes the crosses and deep sorrow that often come to messengers who bring God’s Word to others, and yet it also comforts us with the promise of Christ, the Righteous Branch of David, who is the LORD our Righteousness. Students will gain a thorough comprehension of the portions of Jeremiah that we study exegetically in Hebrew (about one fourth of the book). They will also increase the speed with which they can read and comprehend prophetic narrative and poetry in Hebrew, expand their grammatical recognition and working vocabulary, and become familiar with some additional reference works for Hebrew exegesis. In addition, they will explore some topics regarding the book of Jeremiah that have deep significance for our Christian faith.

9.1.2 Biblical Theology: Greek

GRE 481 – GRE 485 (12 Credits) This unified set of five courses studies the original language that is used for the New Testament: Koiné Greek. It employs a living-language method that engages not only students’ skills of memorization and pattern recognition but also the brain’s auditory processing center, so that participants may acquire Greek’s vocabulary and grammar as smoothly as possible. Students will quickly learn many Greek words and will become more and more familiar with the way Greek is spoken and written, even gaining the ability to produce some simple responses. They will also gain fluency in reading short stories and performing simple dialogues. In addition, by the end of these five courses, students will be ready to read and comprehend the Greek text of the New Testament.

GRE 481 Greek 1 (2 credits) – Greek 1 is our gateway to learning biblical Greek (Koiné Greek). In this course, students will learn the Greek language directly in Greek, just like a child, without using another language for translation. While our

main goal is reading and interpreting the Bible in its original language, listening and speaking are crucial for effective language learning. This course will help us listen, speak, read, and even think in Greek. Unlike online courses that mostly use a modern language to teach Greek, this immersive experience in Greek itself will build a strong foundation for students' future studies.

GRE 482 Greek 2 (3 credits) – This course builds on the fundamentals learned in Greek 1. After taking Greek 2, students can read fluently and communicate simply in Greek. Students will also learn (in a modern language) how the basic grammar structures taught in Greek 1 work.

GRE 483 Greek 3 (2 credits) – In Greek 3, students begin to read and discuss Bible stories in Greek. More time will also be spent mastering more difficult grammar points, particularly using the past tense and future tense.

GRE 484 Greek 4 (3 credits) – Greek 4 builds off the previous Greek courses in that more grammar is added to what students have already learned. At this point, in addition to learning the Greek language, students will also begin to translate biblical texts. During this course, students will begin reading the books of 1 John and 2 John.

GRE 485 Greek 5 (2 credits) – In Greek 5, the final grammatical structures that students need to read biblical Greek will be introduced. By the end of this course, students will have mastered participles and various uses of the infinitive. Students will also be ready to read biblical texts on their own.

GRE 581 Greek Exegesis: The Gospel of John (3 credits) – In this course, students will master the outline and themes of the Gospel of John. Using the historical-grammatical method of interpretation, they will strengthen their ability to read New Testament Greek and will practice exegesis techniques using the original text. Additionally, students will deepen their understanding of their Savior and God's plan of redemption.

GRE 582 Greek Exegesis: Galatians (3 credits) – In this course, students will master the Greek of the book of Galatians as well as its interpretation. By the end of the course, students will have translated Galatians into their native language. In addition to historical matters, the key theological themes in Galatians will be discussed. Finally, students will have gained a deeper appreciation for gospel-centered faith and personal commitment to the Word of God.

GRE 583 Greek Exegesis: 1 Corinthians (3 credits) – First Corinthians is a beautiful letter filled with great theological truths. In this course, students will use the historical-grammatical method to examine and interpret 1 Corinthians in its original Greek. Time will be spent dealing with translation and exegetical issues. By the end of the course, students will have read through all of 1 Corinthians in Greek and translated large portions of the text.

9.2 Historical Theology

The Historical Theology curriculum surveys the historical record of the believers who have gone before us. It helps us to learn, from their lives and their testimony, that God graciously preserves and extends his church by means of his unconditional gospel.

HIS 321 Church History to A.D. 1400 (3 credits) – This course covers church history from the period of the apostles up until about A.D. 1400, which includes the ancient and medieval periods. It covers information and concepts related to some main church fathers, some main heresies, the spread of the church, church organization, and developments in the worship life of the church. Through these lectures, students will gain a more in-depth understanding and a more complete picture of the development of the church in the first 1400 years after Christ.

HIS 322 The Reformation (3 credits) – Reformation, from the Latin word *reformatio*, carries the meaning of restoration back to the true and unchanging original form. Such were the religious reforms that took place in the Western church in the sixteenth century. The starting point of the Reformation is generally considered to be the time when Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in Wittenberg. What distinguished Martin Luther from previous reformers who criticized corruption in the life of the church was that he went to the theological root of the issue, so as to preserve the doctrines of grace and salvation. In this course, the origins and development of the history of the Reformation are focused on, illustrating this scene of Christianity's restoration.

HIS 323 Modern Christianity (3 credits) – This course surveys the development of Christianity in the Western world from the Enlightenment to the present. It examines major movements such as liberalism, evangelicalism, fundamentalism, and the ecumenical movement. Students will analyze key figures, theological trends, and the ongoing challenges facing the church today.

HIS 421 Book of Concord: The Ecumenical Creeds (3 credits) – This course studies the historical background and doctrinal content of the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. These three creeds proclaim the biblical truth that the Christian church has always believed, and they defend it against opposing doctrines that appeared in the early church and may still appear again in our times. Students will gain a clear comprehension of the meaning of the various lines of these creeds in their historical context. They will also recognize the dangers that the false teachings which are denied in the three creeds pose to the Christian faith. In addition, they will thank the Holy Spirit for moving believers to proclaim and defend his teachings, so that the church may continue to have God's truth now and in the future.

HIS 422 Book of Concord: The Augsburg Confession and Its Apology (3 credits) – This course will study these two Reformation-era documents that define what it means to be Lutheran. The Augsburg Confession and its Apology neither seek to prove nor to clarify the mysteries of the Christian faith in a rational way but rather set forth in great precision what Scripture does say and does not say – in interplay with what other Christian groups were saying at that time and still do today. Students will get to know the chief concepts of the Christian faith that are confessed in the Augsburg Confession and its Apology and thus gain a more precise understanding of doctrine. They will also see more fully from the history of the Reformation era that doctrinal aberration often comes from accommodation with or concession to human reason. In addition, they will perceive that, while doctrinal concession and compromise undermine and destroy the unity of the church, biblical truth unites the church.

HIS 423 Book of Concord: Luther's Large and Small Catechisms (3 credits) – This course studies Luther's two catechisms and their role as key resources for the maturation of the church. These two catechisms present the foundational content of the Christian faith in a

way that is designed to build up both clergy and laypeople. Students will grow in appreciation for the fact that the purpose of these two catechisms is to summarize in a simple way the doctrine of Scripture and to educate people in it effectively. They will also glimpse the heart and mind of Luther the reformer in his historical context. In addition, they will apply the teaching of these two catechisms to their own service to God's people and to the home life of their own family and the Christian families around them.

HIS 521 Lutheranism since the Reformation (3 credits) – In the five centuries stretching from 1521 through the 2020s, the Lutheran church has spread from Electoral Saxony to the far reaches of the globe. There is a vast body of historical material that allows for the study of the Lutheran church in the centuries of its existence. The purpose of this course is to provide a brief survey of the history of Lutheranism. Through learning the history of Lutheranism, our goal is that we in the Lutheran church will be able to expound on who we are and how we came to be where we are today.

HIS 522 History of Christianity in the Student's Context (3 credits) – This course allows students to explore an overview of the development of Christianity in their context, from its earliest introductions to the present day. It examines key periods related to the arrival of Christianity, the progression of mission work, and the situation in the modern era. Special attention is given to the interaction between Christian teachings and culture, society, and politics. Students will explore major figures, movements, and challenges faced by the church in different historical contexts. Through lectures, readings, and discussions, students will gain a deeper understanding of Christianity's evolving role within the history of their context.

HIS 523 Book of Concord: The Smalcald Articles (2 credits) – This course examines the doctrinal content of Luther's *Smalcald Articles* and the historical circumstances in which they were written. Students will consider the document's role in clarifying and strengthening Lutheran unity, especially in response to the teachings of the Roman Church. The course emphasizes that the Lutheran Confessions are normed by Scripture and faithfully confess its teaching, while doctrinal error often arises when human reason is allowed to overrule God's Word. Students will gain a deeper appreciation for Luther's mature theology and apply the teachings of the *Smalcald Articles* to contemporary church life and ministry.

HIS 524 Book of Concord: The Formula of Concord (3 credits) – This course examines the *Epitome* and *Solid Declaration* of the *Formula of Concord*, the final and most comprehensive confession in the *Book of Concord*. Students will study the controversies that divided the Lutheran church after Luther's death and consider how the *Formula* restored doctrinal unity and continued to safeguard biblical teaching against subtle errors. Students will compare orthodox Lutheran doctrine with teachings promoted by those false teachers who claimed a place within the Lutheran church and will apply the *Formula of Concord* to contemporary church life and ministry.

9.3 Systematic Theology

The Systematic Theology curriculum presents an orderly and thorough study of God's plan for redeeming the world through faith in Christ Jesus. The biblical doctrines are presented over a series of courses, with the goal that students will learn to comprehend the truth of God in an organized fashion, so that they can, in turn, communicate it to others clearly and completely.

SYS 131: Jesus' Teachings: The Ten Commandments (TC) (0.5 credits) – This course will help us understand God's law, the use of the Ten Commandments, and their application in the life of a follower of Christ today. We will also see that Jesus Christ is the one who fulfilled God's law as our substitute.

SYS 132: Jesus' Teachings: The True God (TG) (0.5 credits) – Who is God? Human beings of all times have desired the answers to such questions. In this course, we will study God's Word that holds clear answers. We will see God's great love for humanity.

SYS 133: Jesus' Teachings: Sacraments and Prayer (SP) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we will study the blessings of Baptism and the Lord's Supper and God's promises about prayer. In addition, we will see what the Bible says about the Ministry of the Keys and the role of spiritual leaders.

SYS 134: Fellowship: Legalism – Enemy of Grace (EG) (0.5 credits) – Legalism confuses people and makes them think that their relationship with God is based on how well they play by the rules. God doesn't want this kind of relationship with us. In this course, we will clear up all the confusion. God wants a relationship with us that is based on the saving message of the gospel!

SYS 135: Fellowship: Spiritual Identification (SI) (0.5 credits) – A basic psychological need is to discover our identity. Questions like "Who am I?" and "What makes me, me?" help us to discover our identity. We also have a spiritual identity, which is based on the teachings of God's Word. In this course, we evaluate God's Word to confirm and grow in our spiritual identity.

SYS 231 Luther's Small Catechism 1 (2 credits) – This course studies Christian doctrine and life using Luther's Small Catechism as an outline of the Bible's teaching. The specific focus in this course is the three articles of the Apostles' Creed. Students will understand, treasure, and fix in their minds the Bible-based doctrines that we find in these parts. They will also begin to become familiar with some diverging doctrines related to these parts that have divided different Christian groups. In addition, they will grasp the importance of the biblical doctrines and be ready to explain them to others.

SYS 232 Luther's Small Catechism 2 (2 credits) – This course studies Christian doctrine and life using Luther's Small Catechism as an outline of the Bible's teaching. The specific focus in this course is Baptism, Confession and the Ministry of the Keys, and the Lord's Supper. Students will understand, treasure, and fix in their minds the Bible-based doctrines that we find in these parts. They will also begin to become familiar with some diverging doctrines related to these parts that have divided different Christian groups. In addition, they will grasp the importance of the biblical doctrines and be ready to explain them to others.

SYS 233 Luther's Small Catechism 3 (2 credits) – This course studies Christian doctrine and life using Luther's Small Catechism as an outline of the Bible's teaching. The specific focus in this course is the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Daily Prayers, and the Table of Duties. Students will understand, treasure, and fix in their minds the Bible-based doctrines that we find in these parts. They will also begin to become familiar with some diverging doctrines related to these parts that have divided different Christian groups. In addition, they will grasp the importance of the biblical doctrines and be ready to explain them to others.

SYS 234 Law and Gospel (2 credits) – This course offers an organized exploration of the Lutheran doctrine of Law and Gospel, providing students with a deeper understanding of God's Word. Through this study, students will examine the definitions, functions, and applications of Law and Gospel in the Christian life. The course emphasizes the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, equipping students to apply these concepts thoughtfully and effectively in both personal faith and ministry contexts. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation vis-à-vis this core theological framework and its significance for Christian teaching and practice.

SYS 431 Prolegomena and Theology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of two areas – *prolegomena*, that is, the foundational overview to the study of biblical doctrines, and *theology*, that is, in a strict sense, the study of God. In this course, students will grow in their understanding of God's Word as the foundation of every part of our doctrine. The student will study God's essence, his attributes, and his work as our Triune God. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 432 Anthropology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *anthropology*, that is, in a theological sense, the study of mankind as the object of salvation. In this course, students will grow in their understanding of the following topics: creation, the false teaching of evolution, God's providence, angels, mankind, and sin. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 433 Christology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *Christology*, that is, the study of the person and work of Christ. Through this course, students will grow in their understanding of God's grace to humanity, which is expressed through the person of Christ and his work of salvation. This study will cover the person of Christ as true God and true man, the communication of attributes, Christ's states of humiliation and exaltation, and the threefold office of Christ. Further, specific applications and common errors in each of these areas will be discussed. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 434 Soteriology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *soteriology*, that is, the study of the topic of salvation itself, the result of Christ's work. Students will study the topics of faith, conversion, and election, learning to apply these teachings accurately and to respond to common errors. Students will also grow in their understanding of the means through which God works to apply salvation to us – his "Means of Grace". This will review what has been learned in other courses concerning the Word of God and will introduce the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 435 Ecclesiology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *ecclesiology*, that is, the study of the church. Students will study the results of Christ's work of salvation in the life of Christians. Specifically, this course will cover the topic of sanctification and the related topics of good works, adiaphora, prayer, and cross-bearing. This course will include an in-depth study of the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Students will also

explore, from a theological and practical perspective, the topics of the church, the ministry of the church, and church fellowship. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 436 Eschatology (2 credits) – This course provides a focused study of *eschatology*, that is, the study of the end times. From a broad perspective, the end times include all that happens between Christ's ascension and his return. This course will first explore three key aspects of the Christian's life in this world before Christ's return: the relationship and distinction between church and state, the life of Christians regarding marriage and family, and the marks and identification of the Antichrist. The course will then delve into the specific study of the end times. This will include studying the signs of the end times, the scriptural understanding of the millennium, and Christ's return and eternal reign. Through this course, students will grow in their commitment to the truth of God's Word, will be equipped to teach this truth to others, and will be prepared to defend this truth against errors.

SYS 531 Advanced Systematic Theology 1 (3 credits) – This course builds directly on the foundational studies from the bachelor's level, diving deeper into the doctrines of theology, anthropology, and Christology. Students will go beyond the basics to critically analyze various doctrinal claims from a scriptural perspective. They will engage in advanced research and thoughtful discussions that will challenge them to think critically about these doctrines and their connections. Through this course, students will not only grow in their understanding of these concepts and their appreciation for these teachings but also be able to apply, articulate, and defend key biblical teachings in a clear, compelling, and loving way. Students who complete this course will be prepared to be a voice for Lutheran, scriptural theology in a world of complex contemporary theologies.

SYS 532 Advanced Systematic Theology 2 (3 credits) – This course builds directly on the foundational studies from the bachelor's level, diving deeper into the doctrines of soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. Students will go beyond the basics to critically analyze various doctrinal claims from a scriptural perspective. They will engage in advanced research and thoughtful discussions that will challenge them to think critically about these doctrines and their connections. Through this course, students will not only grow in their understanding of these concepts and their appreciation for these teachings, but also be able to apply, articulate, and defend key biblical teachings in a clear, compelling, and loving way. Students who complete this course will be prepared to be a voice for Lutheran, scriptural theology in a world of complex contemporary theologies.

9.4 Practical Theology

The Practical Theology (or Pastoral Theology) curriculum nurtures students to be competent leaders in the church, making use of the Means of Grace to show people God's love, teach, equip, and comfort them.

PAS 141: Let Us Worship 1: The Biblical Principles of Worship (BPW) (0.5 credits) – This course presents the biblical basics of conducting a worship service solely based on the Word of God.

PAS 142: Let Us Worship 2: Worship in Practice (WP) (0.5 credits) – This course presents useful tips and practical suggestions for conducting a worship service solely based on the Word of God.

PAS 143: Psalms as a Devotion (PD) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we will gain an appreciation of the Psalms, develop a daily habit of being in God's Word, and learn how to create a devotional plan – not just for ourselves and our families, but also for sharing with our group.

PAS 144: Epistles: Letters of Faith and Wisdom (LFW) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we will read 16 of the letters of the New Testament and learn about their context and content. We will be prepared to use these letters to answer questions about salvation, holy living, and God's will for his church.

PAS 241 Evangelism (2 credits) – This course studies how to share the gospel of forgiveness of sins in Christ with people who do not believe in our Savior. It explores several methods for doing this and several settings where this may be done. Students will engage with the teaching of the Bible about the gospel's necessity, content, and power. They will also consider how it can be spread to people around us – whether by individuals or by congregations. In addition, they will complete a project that will help them communicate clearly with unbelievers about God's law and God's gospel.

PAS 242 Christian Family (1 credit) – What is God's design for the Christian family? This course explores how marriage, parenting, and family life reflect God's purposes and how these differ from worldly models. We will discover biblical roles, practical ways to show love, and tools for healthier communication. With Scripture as the foundation, we will learn to identify areas for growth and seek God's help to strengthen relationships. This course will equip us to live out grace and truth in our families, reflecting Christ's love at home.

PAS 243 Equip the Believers to Serve (2 credits) – This practical course equips students with the essential knowledge needed to prepare God's people for various forms of ministry. Students will develop a deep understanding of the true meaning of service and become aware of the diverse ways they can serve. The curriculum explores how to serve God across all areas of life: within the family as spouses, single individuals, parents, or children; in the workplace as both employees and leaders; and in society as active citizens, friends, and neighbors. Additionally, students will learn how to model and mentor servant leadership within the church. Ultimately, the course teaches them how to instill these values in others, fostering a collaborative environment to equip God's people for meaningful acts of service.

PAS 244 The Heart of Lutheran Worship (2 credits) – This practical course explores the heart of Christian worship – what it is, why it matters, and how it can be led well. We will gain a clear understanding of worship's biblical roots, historical development, and enduring significance, with special attention to its Lutheran expression. We will apply key principles as we plan worship services that are simple yet meaningful, incorporating liturgy, music, and the Means of Grace. By the end of this course, we will be confident in our understanding of worship and will be able to design and lead worship according to biblical principles in our own settings.

PAS 245 Prepare to Teach the Bible (2 credits) – One of the most effective ways to encourage God's people and proclaim the gospel is through a well-prepared lesson about a

part of God's Word. This has the power to reach many people at once – to correct, instruct, encourage, comfort, and inspire. This course will equip us with the essential skills to faithfully prepare and deliver Christ-centered lessons. These principles can help us teach the gospel in a variety of appropriate formats – whether to children or adults.

PAS 246 Prepare a Basic Devotion (2 credits) – This course teaches students how to prepare meaningful devotions that are Christ-centered and rooted in Scripture. It covers the essential steps of selecting a text, identifying a clear theme, and applying the message to daily life. Students will learn how to craft devotions that both encourage believers and proclaim the gospel. Through practical exercises and feedback, students will gain confidence in writing and delivering devotions for various ministry settings.

PAS 247 The Man of God Shepherds Believers (2 credits) – This practical course teaches men how to shepherd a group, whether a small church or a small group that is a ministry of an existing church. Students will learn the biblical principles of shepherding and what shepherding looks like in daily life. They will learn hands-on application of shepherding principles in real-life situations so that they can more confidently live out their vocation as a shepherd of souls in various situations.

PAS 248 Women's Ministry (2 credits) – This practical course teaches women to minister to the sisters in Jesus' church. It will help us consider specific examples of what this work might consist of and what qualifications and training are required. Students will learn hands-on practices of visitation and spiritual care that addresses women's particular needs in daily life and will grasp more fully how their Father in heaven has made them treasured daughters and heirs in his family.

PAS 341 Understanding and Leading Worship (2 credits) – This course focuses on exploring the definition, objectives, content, and significance of worship. Guided by biblical teachings on worship, students will delve into the principles and elements that constitute Christian worship. In this course, students will gain a clear and comprehensive understanding of worship, appreciate its historical practices and importance, develop an informed appreciation for Lutheran worship traditions, and acquire the necessary skills to design appropriate worship rites that are tailored to their congregational contexts.

PAS 342 Counseling (2 credits) – This course introduces the basic principles and techniques of a Christian approach to counseling, based on the application of God's law and God's gospel. Through this course, students will grow in their understanding of themselves and their relationship to Christ, as well as in their compassion for fellow human beings. Students will understand the unique role and the unique tools of the Christian counselor, will become familiar with techniques for achieving gospel resolution, and will be able to recognize circumstances that call for the integrated application of God's law and God's gospel.

PAS 343 Teaching (2 credits) – This course is designed to deepen future church leaders' and educators' understanding of the foundational principles of Christian teaching while equipping them with practical instructional methods to convey biblical truth more effectively. Students will gain both pedagogical skills and the theological-educational reasoning that underpins good teaching. The approaches introduced apply across church settings, including adult Bible studies and children's Sunday school.

PAS 441 Introduction to the Life of a Shepherd (2 credits) – This course invites students into the lifelong formation of the pastor’s life and vocation. Through a re-examination of the shepherd’s essential calling, students learn to establish a sustainable personal devotional life, provide foundational shepherding care in diverse circumstances, identify and overcome common pastoral challenges, and engage regularly with a mentor for formation, accountability, and support. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to pursue a faithful, joyful, and balanced pastoral life under Christ.

PAS 442 Stewardship (2 credits) – This course is designed to explore the biblical concept of stewardship and its application to financial management, Christian giving, and cultural engagement. Upon completion of this course, students will gain an appreciation for stewardship as the principled practice of responsibly managing and utilizing the resources entrusted to them by God – such as time, talents, finances, and other gifts – in ways that honor him and benefit others. With a mindset rooted in gratitude and in our belonging to Christ, students will be equipped to foster a culture of generosity, develop and enhance stewardship ministries, and guide congregations in embracing stewardship as an integral part of their Christian lifestyle.

PAS 443 Homiletics 1 (2 credits) – This homiletics course is an introductory program designed to give students an understanding of the broader picture of homiletics. It focuses on expository preaching, including the following elements: learning how to use God’s law and God’s gospel to prepare sermons, discussing how to effectively use examples, considering how to preach the message of Christ’s cross, and practicing some preaching techniques. Through this course, students will gain a basic grasp of the elements of preaching and understand the significance of expository preaching for Christian faith and practice. This course will focus on passages from the Gospels and the Pauline letters.

PAS 444 Homiletics 2 (2 credits) – This homiletics course is an introductory program designed to give students an understanding of the broader picture of homiletics. It focuses on expository preaching, including the following elements: learning how to use God’s law and God’s gospel to prepare sermons, discussing how to effectively use examples, considering how to preach the message of Christ’s cross, and practicing some preaching techniques. Through this course, students will gain a basic grasp of the elements of preaching and understand the significance of expository preaching for Christian faith and practice. This course will focus on passages from the Old Testament, both narrative books and prophetic books.

PAS 541 The Pastoral Letters (3 credits) – This course is designed to provide students with an expository introduction to Paul’s letters to Timothy and Titus in the New Testament, emphasizing the thematic application of their key principles. Through this course, students will be able to: (1) identify and understand the qualifications, duties, responsibilities, and attitudes that God has established for the office of the public ministry; (2) gain deeper insights into the things that Paul emphasizes in his instructions; and (3) explore and determine various ways in which the content of the Pastoral Letters can be applied in contemporary contexts.

PAS 542 Church Leadership and Administration (2 credits) – This course is designed to examine the models of church and ministry that are presented in the Bible, drawing on leaders who appear in the Bible as exemplars. It encourages critical reflection and discussion – rooted in Christ’s cross – on current leadership theories, as well as on related themes such

as challenges, vision, goals, and decision-making. Through this course, students will be equipped to comprehend and apply biblically grounded principles and theories of church leadership and management within specific ministerial contexts. They will also be prepared to guide the church and God's people to align their focus with God's mission, thereby maximizing the fulfillment of this mission.

9.5 Missional Theology

The Missional Theology curriculum equips students to bring the good news of Jesus Christ as humanity's only Savior to people who have not yet heard God's truth – whether near to home and within their own culture or elsewhere in God's world.

MIS 151: The Word Grows: Living as a Disciple (LD) (0.5 credits) – In this course, it is our privilege to learn from Jesus' disciples about being disciples of Jesus. We will ask the question, "What is a disciple?" More importantly, we will look in the mirror and ask ourselves, "Am I a disciple?" and "If I am a disciple of the risen Christ, what does this mean for my life today?"

MIS 152: The Word Grows: A Disciple Makes Disciples (DMD) (0.5 credits) – "Go and make disciples....," said our Lord. In this course, we will learn how to go and make more disciples.

MIS 153: The Word Grows: Multiplying Disciples (MD) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we take a closer look at the book of Acts. We will look at the chains of disciples there – that is to say, we will look at how God multiplied believers in the early Christian church.

MIS 154: The Word Grows: Multiplying Ministers (MM) (0.5 credits) – The purpose of this course is to learn how to identify, train, and call other people for ministry. In other words, we will learn how to engage other people – motivated by God's Word – to grow his kingdom.

MIS 155: The Word Grows: Multiplying Churches (MC) (0.5 credits) – In this course, we will discuss how to multiply churches. In order to do so, it will be important that we understand not only the concept of multiplication, but also the concept of God's church.

MIS 451 Paul the Missionary (3 credits) – This course includes a careful study of the Book of Acts to understand the life of Paul as a missionary and his role in the early church. The mission methodologies and strategies of Paul are discussed to review their influence on missions today. The details of Paul's missionary routes will help students gain a deeper understanding of church planting and the spread of the gospel at that time.

MIS 452 Introduction to Lutheran Missiology (3 credits) – This course introduces missiology as a theological discipline and helps students understand it from a Confessional Lutheran perspective. Throughout this course, students will grow in their appreciation of the freedom, gospel-centered nature, and gospel motivation that characterize Confessional Lutheran missiology. By the end of this course, students will feel motivated to carry out God's mission in their own lives and will be able to infuse mission DNA into their local church and its local leaders, for the sake of reaching out, evangelizing the lost, and planting churches.

MIS 551 History of Missions (3 credits) – This course includes historical information and discussions about mission work in Christianity from the time of Jesus up to the postmodern era. It will discuss the influence of various cultural movements, in different periods, on the methods of doing mission work. Based on this historical perspective, students are expected to rethink the meaning of mission work and its relationship to Lutheran theology.

MIS 552 Leading Gospel-Mission Movements (2 credits) – This course reviews Confessional Lutheran missiology and trains students in how to serve as a leader of a Confessional Lutheran mission movement. Students will learn how to shepherd other shepherds, how to lead other leaders, and how to keep the eyes of everyone on the Great Commission. Students will learn how to help their movement continue to strengthen its theological foundations, while also broadening their reach through national church planting and international missions.

9.6 Practicum Competencies

PRA 191 TELL Certificate Practicum Competencies (PC) (2.5 credits) – The TELL practicum competencies are designed to help us practice key things that the TELL certificate equips us to go and do – while at the same time recognizing that different people may require somewhat differing amounts of time to demonstrate proficiency. The following five areas – all related to TELL course topics – are checked: law and gospel, the habits of disciples, making disciples, multiplying disciples or churches, and the practical aspects of a worship service.

PRA 291 Practicum Competencies (2 credits) – The DCM practicum competencies are designed to help us practice key things that the DCM equips us to go and do – while at the same time recognizing that different people may require somewhat differing amounts of time to demonstrate proficiency. The following seven areas – all related to DCM course topics – are checked: using the Small Catechism, evangelism presentations, promoting Christian family, preparing some aspects of worship services on one's own, preparing Bible lessons on one's own, preparing devotions on one's own, and ministering to other believers.

9.7 Research and Thesis

RES 361 Essay Writing and Skills (3 credits) – This course serves as a training workshop for bachelor's level students to grow in their abilities to write in an organized and thoughtful way. It includes discussions about various topics related to writing, such as forming a thesis statement, constructing paragraphs that share helpful details and analysis to provide logical support for the thesis statement, making beneficial use of references, and so on. The aim is to provide a practical learning process for bachelor-level students as they carry out their coursework and serve the church.

RES 561 Thesis Writing (3 credits) – This course serves as a training workshop for master's-level students to write their final thesis. This workshop includes discussions about various topics related to research and writing, such as the research question/topic, research methodology, finding sources, and source citation. The aim is to provide a practical learning process for master's-level students before they begin to write their thesis.

RES 591 Master's Thesis (M.A.R., 3 credits) – An in-depth study of a theological topic approved by the faculty, selected from one of the five areas of theological study offered at ALS. Approved topics may also be interdisciplinary, integrating multiple areas of theology.

Students pursuing the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) degree at ALS are required to complete this thesis under the guidance of a thesis advisor.

RES 592 Master's Thesis (M.Div., 6 credits) – An in-depth study of a theological topic approved by the faculty, selected from one of the five areas of theological study offered at ALS. Approved topics may also be interdisciplinary, integrating multiple areas of theology. Students pursuing the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree at ALS are required to complete this thesis under the guidance of a thesis advisor.

10. 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Academic Dates and Deadlines:

Opening Service: Sunday, August 30, 2026

First Day of Fall Term: Tuesday, September 1, 2026

- Last Day to Submit Applications for Fall Term: August 21, 2026
- Last Day to Apply for Financial Aid for Fall Term: August 21, 2026
- Last Day to Add a Fall Term Course: before the third session
- Last Day to Drop a Fall Term Course: before the third session

First Day of Spring Term: January 18, 2027

- Last Day to Submit Applications for Spring Term: January 8, 2027
- Last Day to Apply for Financial Aid for Spring Term: January 8, 2027
- Last Day to Add a Spring Term Course: before the third session
- Last Day to Drop a Spring Term Course: before the third session

Ascension Service (no evening classes): Thursday, May 6, 2027

Holidays:

National Day (Hong Kong campus closed): Thursday, October 1, 2026

Double Nine Festival (Hong Kong campus closed): Monday, October 19, 2026

Christmas Eve (no classes): Thursday, December 24, 2026

Christmas Day (no classes): Friday, December 25, 2026

New Years Day (no classes): Friday, January 1, 2027

Spring Festival (Hong Kong campus closed): February 6-9, 2027

Good Friday (no classes): Friday, March 26, 2027

Easter Monday (no classes): Monday, March 29, 2027

Hong Kong Public Holiday (no classes): Monday, April 5, 2027

Ascension Service (no evening classes): Thursday, May 6, 2027

Hong Kong Public Holiday (Hong Kong campus closed): Thursday, May 13, 2027

Dragon Boat Festival (Hong Kong campus closed): Wednesday, June 9, 2027