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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wartburg Theological Seminary Draws Strength From Heritage

DUBUQUE, IA – July, 2009 - The Wartburg Theological Seminary community is drawing strength from its heritage as it moves into its 157th academic year. In their retreat at the end of June, the board of directors and the trustees of the foundation focused their energies on a faculty paper on “The Loehe Legacy and the Apostolic Calling of WTS for the Church and World in the 21st Century.”* Founded by the “The Sent Ones” from Wilhelm Loehe in Neuendettelsau, Germany, Wartburg Theological Seminary continues to gather and send “apostles” for the mission of Christian communities in the global church.

The seminary community gathered on July 6 to welcome the new board chair, Bishop James Justman and Dr. David Tiede, the new interim president. Justman and Tiede conveyed the commitment of the boards to sustain Wartburg’s distinctive mission, while exploring options on how the seminary can best develop and deploy its strengths to meet the needs of the church in the 21st Century. In challenging economic times, Wartburg is deeply confident of its calling to form valued leaders for the church’s mission. Collaborations are continuing with Wartburg’s sister ELCA seminaries as well as the University of Dubuque. Interim President, Dr. David Tiede said, “Wartburg knows what it is here for, embodies its vocation in the church, and will continue to be a blessing in the life of the world God loves.”

Meanwhile, fifty-three graduates were sent out in June to serve congregations and ministries throughout the world, thirty-six interns are being sent to faithful, teaching congregations, and new students are being gathered from their home congregations to accept the call to begin their theological education at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of eight theological schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Wartburg is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and educates women and men to serve the church as ordained and lay leaders. Established in Dubuque, Iowa in 1854, Wartburg Theological Seminary is entering its 157th academic year.

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*The faculty paper, “The Loehe Legacy and the Apostolic Calling of WTS for the Church and World in the 21st Century” is available at www.wartburgseminary.edu in the news section.