

# PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS AND  
CONGREGATIONS OF REGION 1 | 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. THOMAS W. KRISE PRESIDENT OF PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

At PLU, we take our middle name seriously. During the past year, we've taken steps to strengthen our relationship with the ELCA congregations and synods of Region 1. At the same time, we've reached out to faith communities throughout the Seattle/Tacoma area to foster greater interfaith understanding that supports our mission of educating students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership, and care — for other people, for their communities, and for the Earth. Here are several developments that have taken place since my last report.

**New University Pastor.** The Rev. Jen Rude was installed as University Pastor immediately following Convocation in September. Jen is an excellent theologian and preacher, a compassionate pastor, and brings a refreshing new voice to our campus. You can learn more about Jen and Campus Ministry at PLU at [www.plu.edu/campus-ministry](http://www.plu.edu/campus-ministry).

**New Approach to Congregational Engagement.** After a lengthy review, a team of stakeholders from PLU and Region 1 congregations set a fresh course for congregational relations that responds to new challenges and new possibilities facing the church in the Pacific Northwest. The new Director for Congregation Engagement will be part of the Campus Ministry team and report to the Office of the

President. You can learn more about the review and the search for a new Director at [www.plu.edu/congregations](http://www.plu.edu/congregations). You'll also discover links to two wonderful benefits for members of ELCA congregations: the PLU Matching Scholarship (PLUMS) and Confirmation Scholarships. We are deeply grateful for the work of the Rev. John Rosenberg, first as interim University Pastor in 2015 and more recently as interim Director for Congregation Engagement. Our Religion department students have also benefited from John's considerable knowledge and skill in the classroom this year.

**New Chair of Lutheran Studies.** After many years of innovative scholarship and programming that has benefited PLU students as well as faith communities throughout the world, Dr. Samuel Torvend is completing his term as PLU's first endowed Chair in Lutheran Studies. PLU is proud of the work Dr. Torvend has done; his successor, Dr. Marit Trelstad, is committed to carrying on the important work that Dr. Torvend began. She begins her term as Chair in September. Watch for announcements of this year's Lutheran Studies Conference on Sept. 28, featuring the National Lutheran Choir, and the annual Knutson Lecture on Nov. 7, featuring Dr. Ulrich Duchrow, at [www.plu.edu/lutheran-studies](http://www.plu.edu/lutheran-studies).

**New Resources to Mark the 500th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Reformation.** Under the heading *Rooted Together 1517-2017*, PLU's Division of Marketing and Communications has developed a set of resources for use by congregations to help mark this important occasion. The resources include fonts, headings, images, print templates, web banners, and a calendar of events. They are free to use and can be accessed at [www.plu.edu/500materials](http://www.plu.edu/500materials). We also invite you to visit campus throughout the year for a number of events to mark the 500th anniversary. Please keep an eye on our calendar at [www.plu.edu/500events](http://www.plu.edu/500events).

In partnership with the congregations and synods of Region 1, PLU seeks to live out one of the lasting legacies of the Reformation: the development of, and reflection on, one's giftedness so that one can capably respond to God's calling and the deep needs of the world. Thank you for your continuing support and for inviting the young people in your faith community to consider PLU for their college education and vocation discernment.



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

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