

NEW SEMESTER AT THE THEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

On August 19, we started a new semester at the Theological Community and the Lutheran Seminary where I teach. Just to give you an idea of what the Theological Community is all about, in one of the courses I am teaching this semester, Introduction to Theology II, I have a total of 20 students that come the following churches, the majority of whom are in the photo below: Lutheran (2), Methodist (6), Anglican (2), Presbyterian (2), two different Baptist churches (1 from each), an Interdenominational church (1), the Church of God-Seven Day (1), and students from four different Pentecostal churches. As you can imagine, it's an interesting mix!



In spite of the differences, what brings us together is a common understanding of the gospel of God's grace and a commitment to a holistic understanding of ministry. That focus keeps the theology we do very much grounded in the practical concerns of mission and service in the diverse contexts in which we find ourselves. Below is another photo of a group of some of our students and professors, taken after our opening chapel service which we celebrated together.



OUR SUMMER

This summer was an eventful one—unfortunately, not all for good reasons. It was wonderful having both of our daughters visit us, though both got food poisoning (not at the same time) and needed emergency medical attention. Then, while I was in the U.S. for the annual ELCA Convocation of Teaching Theologians on Aug. 7, Alicia fell on a slippery sidewalk while shopping and broke her left wrist and a finger in her right hand. That made it necessary for me to cut my trip to the U.S. short, which meant that I was not able to attend the ELCA Churchwide Assembly as planned.

Because of her injuries, Alicia has not been able to return to work yet at the school where she teaches. Hopefully she will be all healed by late September.

Bad news aside, however, it was great having the girls in Mexico and being able to spend some time together as a family.



**FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION,
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