

## Future pastors taking alternative tracks

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Luke 10:2 NIV). One way the Lord prepares workers for service in Lutheran Church–Canada is through the Pastors with Alternative Training (PAT) program.

Two students currently enrolled in PAT—which operates through Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS), Edmonton—are James Kay, originally from Sudan, and Assefa Aredo, originally from Ethiopia.

James, an active member of Edmonton’s Grace Lutheran Church for several years, emerged as a spiritual leader among the Sudanese people who worship there. Now in his second year of PAT studies, James enjoys the guidance of Grace’s pastors, Revs. Wayne Jensen and Larry MacKay.

Assefa has provided spiritual leadership to an Oromo community of believers located in Winnipeg for the past seven years. In his first year of PAT, Assefa has Rev. Richard Beinert of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Winnipeg as his mentor.

Created by convention resolution, PAT recognizes that some communities need the services of an LCC pastor but for a variety of reasons (e.g., remote location, cultural or linguistic challenges, lack of existing resources, economic conditions prohibiting a full-time pastor) cannot find one.

The Edmonton seminary, which developed PAT, tailors the program to each individual, and it includes mostly distance/online education—important so that the future pastor remains in his own community as he learns, serving local believers and being mentored by a local pastor. (Some coursework modules on the Seminary campus.) PAT studies usually take at least four years to complete, after which the student is ready for ordination as an LCC pastor.



Student James Kay    Student Assefa Aredo

At least five steps go into creating a PAT student:

1. LCC’s Council of Presidents identifies a Christian community or mission opportunity as a PAT site.

2. The local community of believers identifies a candidate and requests PAT application forms from the seminary.

3. Applicant returns the forms with recommendations from the District president, outreach executive, and a local LCC pastor.

4. The seminary’s registrar and PAT studies supervisor evaluate the application.

5. If the candidate “passes” the evaluation—and a local mentor/supervisor is in place—his name goes to the Council of Presidents for approval. Once approved by the council, the PAT student finally enrolls at CLS!

PAT continues to undergo evaluation and revision as it responds to challenges and opportunities in the Canadian mission context. Please pray for its continued development and growth, and please pray that PAT studies will prepare many more people for service in God’s harvest field! We extend a special word of thanks to LWMLC for a generous grant that has helped fund many of the initial costs of PAT.

Anyone interested in applying for PAT site status, please contact your District president. When you are ready to apply for the PAT studies program, contact Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, PAT Supervisor, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton.

*From a report by Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, Executive Assistant-Outreach, ABC District*

## Recognizing Excellence in Lutheran Education

Do you know a Lutheran educator who always goes the extra mile? Now is your chance to celebrate his/her service to Lutheran schools. The Lutheran Teacher’s Association executive is calling for nominations for the Excellence in Lutheran Education Award.

This award will highlight the service of a Lutheran educator based on the following criteria:

- Strong commitment to serving the Lord
- Active in local community as well as Lutheran community
- Commitment to excellence and meeting the social, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive needs of children and families
- Administrator or teacher in a Canadian Lutheran school or preschool

- Four (4) or more years experience in a Lutheran school
- Equipped and willing to profess and teach Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective; desirable: Synodically trained, colloquized, or active participant in colloquy program

- Demonstrates effective educational skills
- Member of the LTA, and member of other professional associations

Letters describing how the nominee meets the criteria for the Excellence in Lutheran Education Award should be sent to LTA President, Lorilee Schelp either by email: [lorilee@canada.com](mailto:lorilee@canada.com) or by regular mail: c/o Zion Lutheran School 5950 179th St., Surrey, BC V3S 4J9. Nominations must be received by **April 30, 2009**