

2026 05 20 Media Advisory

## **Honorary Doctor of Divinity to be conferred on Ralph Carl Wushke**

The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan will confer a Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*) on the Rev. Ralph Carl Wushke, at the May 29, 2026, convocation.

The LTS announcement, said,

“Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon is pleased to confer an honorary degree upon Rev. Ralph Carl Wushke at our convocation celebrations, in recognition of his exceptional service to the church and society.

A 1978 graduate of LTS, Rev. Ralph Carl has been a courageous advocate for the full inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the church. He was instrumental in bringing the work of Lutherans Concerned/North America (now Reconciling Works) to Canada.

His faithfulness, courage, and love for the church reflect the kind of Gospel-centred leadership LTS seeks to nurture.

We give thanks to God for his legacy and are proud to celebrate him.”

Ordained in 1978, Rev. Wushke was called to parishes in Redvers and Carlyle, Saskatchewan. From 1988-90 he was co-chair of Lutherans Concerned/North America (now Reconciling Works). In 1989 he was removed from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada due to policies excluding homosexuals from the ministry.

He was a minister in The United Church of Canada from 2000-2019 serving Bathurst United Church, Toronto, and the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at U of T.

In 2020 Rev. Wushke was reinstated to the clergy roster of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and installed as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Toronto, where he served until 2025.

A native of Wapella, Saskatchewan, Wushke also holds a BA (Luther, U of Regina, '74), a Master of Divinity (LTS, Saskatoon '78), a Bachelor of Journalism, Hons. (Carleton '86) and a Th.M (Emmanuel College in U of T '04.)

Two convocation events are open to the public:

Friday, May 29, 10:00 am (CST) Conclusio Eucharistic Worship, St. Andrew's College, 1121 College Drive, Saskatoon. Wushke will preach at this service.

Friday, May 29, 7:00 pm (CST), Convocation Ceremony, Augustana Lutheran Church,  
1201 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon.

Both events will be livestreamed as follows (please note time difference.)

10:00 am – **Conclusio Eucharist Worship**, St. Andrew's Chapel.

Livestream Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82963758924>

7:00 pm – **Convocation Ceremony**, Augustana Lutheran

Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/0fS57-FSIUc>

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Info:

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