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# Four Honored as Distinguished Alumni

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LSTC will recognize the outstanding ministries of four alumni at a banquet on February 21. The honorees were nominated by their peers and selected by LSTC's alumni board. The four are: Madelyn Busse, Daniel Erlander, David E. Jensen and Reuben J. Swanson.

"The lives of our alumni extend LSTC out into the world with a bounty of gifts and fruits of ministry," said Kim Beckmann, chair of LSTC's alumni board. "We are thrilled to be able to celebrate these 2006 distinguished alumni awards recipients. In and through their service to the church, they have shaped ecumenical relations locally and globally; advanced biblical scholarship and interpretation; changed the way the church thinks about the office of ministry and the candidacy process; and formed a generation of college students in a sacramental, gentle, peaceful and justice oriented faith."

She added, "As we lift up the gifts of excellence in the awardees, each of us can be strengthened in our own ministry in the body of Christ through the words 'you are my beloved, in you I am well-pleased.'"

**Madelyn Busse**, (1996, M.A.) will receive an "Excellence in Ministry Award" in the category of "Leadership: Churchwide, Synod or Agency." Busse, a diaconal minister, serves as assistant to the bishop for the Rocky Mountain Synod. She serves as synod staff liaison to the board of the Church in Society unit of the ELCA and, as the nomination stated, "has helped this board become one of the most proactive and creative in the ELCA." Busse is a role model for others who might consider becoming diaconal ministers. She worked in candidacy for nine years and sits on the board for Lutheran Services in America.

**Daniel W. Erlander** (Augustana, 1966, M.Div.) is characterized as a "consummate pastor, leader, teacher, author and disciple of Jesus." He has written and illustrated more than a half dozen books that explain Lutheran theology in a "down-to-earth, winsome" way. His book, *Baptized We Live*, has sold more than 100,000 copies and is used in new member classes throughout the ELCA. Erlander was LSTC's pastor-in-residence in January 1999.

Dan Erlander will receive a "Faithful Servant" award. He is also a featured speaker at the 2006 Leadership Conference, "Christ in Us: Wellsprings of Lutheran Spirituality" at LSTC February 20-22.



Madelyn Busse & Daniel Erlander will be among those honored on February 21

**David E. Jensen** (1980, M.Div.) will receive the "Excellence in Ministry Award: Ecumenical Leadership." He holds a doctorate in ecumenism and has been active nationally and internationally in ecumenical councils and organizations.

Jensen is pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Minocqua, Wisc. He is a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic-United Methodist Commission. He coordinates ecumenical activities for Region 5 through the Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN) of the ELCA. He is a delegate to the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ and in 2003, was elected to the ELCA Churchwide Council. Jensen is an adjunct professor of philosophy at Nicolet College.

**Reuben J. Swanson** (Augustana, 1945, M.Div.) has labored for over 40 years collecting all of the important Greek manuscripts of each book of the New Testament, and arranging each source, one line at a time, for all the relevant manuscripts containing the same passage. He has published separate volumes for each of the gospels, Acts, Romans, I and II Corinthians, and Galatians. At 87, he continues to work on the last few smaller books of the New Testament.

The nomination stated, "Never in history has a more accurate, complete and efficient collation of the various New Testament sources taken place. Literally the whole world is indebted to Dr. Swanson."

He will receive the Distinguished Alumni "Faithful Servant Award."