

PLTS is a graduate school of California Lutheran University, a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and a member of the Graduate Theological Union.

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# FOUNDERS' DAY



Wednesday, September 21, 2016  
PLTS Chapel of the Cross  
9 am – 3:30 pm  
Rev. Dr. Ted Peters and Dr. Pamela Gay

# KEYNOTE



## Rev. Dr. Ted Peters

Rev. Dr. Ted Peters is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology and Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University.

Along with Robert John Russell,

he co-edits the journal, *Theology and Science*, at the GTU's Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences. He is author of *GOD – The World's Future* and *Sin Boldly! Justifying Faith for Fragile and Broken Souls*. He serves on the advisory board of METI International, an Active SETI group of scientists planning communication with extraterrestrial intelligent life.



## Dr. Pamela Gay

Dr. Pamela Gay is currently an Assistant Research Professor at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, IL. She received her Bachelor of Science in Astrophysics from Michigan State University

and in 2002, she earned her Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Texas. From her website [Starstryder.com](http://Starstryder.com), "Although my first research love was and remains variable stars, I have committed scientific adultery more than once to use my technology skills to explore the secrets of galaxy evolution, and planetary surface geology. Today, along with my astronomy science research, I also focus my efforts on trying to understand why people engage in science in their spare time."

## Taking a Cosmic Perspective: Expanding God into the Expanding Creation: A Dialogue Between a Scientist and a Theologian

Christian theologians through centuries have faced the necessity of re-articulating Christian faith with new languages and engaging the cutting-edge scientific information and epistemologies of their day. In today's world, with our expansive scientific knowledge of human life, of the earth and the cosmos, and as our ways of "knowing" are being transformed with new information, Lutheran theology thrives in a mutually enriching dialogue with our partners in the world of science. We are united in our pursuit for truth and in our amazement of the beauty of life we share. About this year's topic, Rev. Dr. Peters writes, "With Copernicus and the dawning of galactic consciousness, Christian faith sees the need to reform such limiting ideas such as human-centrism and Earth-centrism. Can we think of God's creation as cosmic in scope, inclusive of billions of galaxies, stars, and planets? Can we imagine God's creative work on extra-solar planets elsewhere in the Milky Way? When outer space enters the human soul, we sense that God is present in, with, and under the unfathomable magnificence and beauty of the cosmos."

## Why is understanding science important in Christian ministry?

After lunch, a panel will come together to discuss the above listed question. Included on the panel are Robert Russell and Lisa Fullam from the Graduate Theological Union, Daniel Smith, pastor at Lutheran Church of the Incarnation in Davis, CA and seminarian Isai Garcia. Rev. Dr. Peters will facilitate.

## Reading Luther in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

Following the panel, we will launch "Table Talks," a collaborative project between PLTS and the Sierra Pacific Synod that is open to all. Visit [ref500.blogspot.com/p/reading-luther.html](http://ref500.blogspot.com/p/reading-luther.html) for more information.

## Founders' Day History

On St. Matthew's Day, September 21, 1952, a worship service opened the first academic year of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. As early as 1902, Lutherans in the Western United States dreamed of theological education in their territory. Congregations in the West faced particular challenges regarding how to develop as disciples of Christ in contexts marked by diversity and change.

As a graduate school of California Lutheran University (2014), PLTS is living into a new future for theological education – one which we trust in Christ to be full of transformative grace and exciting opportunity to discover new, more practical and diverse ways of training church leaders in a multicultural world for ministry in a changing church and society. Once again, as we have for more than half a century, we remember the event of our founding. And in honouring our beginnings, we anticipate the joys of God's promised future.

## Schedule

- 9:00 a.m.** – Gathering with refreshments
- 9:30 a.m.** – Academic Procession and Presentation of Alum Awards
- 10:00 a.m.** – Keynote Presentation
- 11:30 a.m.** – Worship
- 12:30 p.m.** – Lunch
- 1:30 p.m.** – Panel
- 2:30 p.m.** – Table Talks: The Reformation Anniversary Year of 2017

## Register online at [Plts.edu/events](http://Plts.edu/events)

The fee for the day is \$20 if paid by September 20, \$25 at the door. GTU students may purchase tickets at a discounted rate of \$10. There is no charge for PLTS students, faculty, and staff. Contact **Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna** at [kstjerna@plts.edu](mailto:kstjerna@plts.edu) with questions.