



**For Immediate Release  
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## **PLTS and CLU to Explore Proposed Merger**

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) and California Lutheran University (CLU) announce that they are exploring and assessing a proposed merger that would enhance the educational offerings of each institution. This process of exploration was formally endorsed by the governing boards of the university and the seminary at their fall meetings.

CLU and PLTS are both schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with complementary missions. The boards of each school seek to discover how the two schools can carry out their missions better together. The faculty of PLTS and the religion faculty of CLU affirm that a merger would be advantageous for supporting the other's programs, delivering shared programs for the church, and developing new approaches to teaching. Beyond the programmatic and educational advantages, operating on a greater scale would make the mission of the seminary even more sustainable over time.

The boards anticipate collaborating in ways that honor the fundamental integrity, identity and mission of each school. This includes PLTS remaining a full seminary of the ELCA, located in Berkeley with continued full participation in the Graduate Theological Union (GTU).

As these schools of the church enter into the due diligence phase of our exploration, they seek your prayers for wisdom, creativity and insight such that both schools can reach an informed decision regarding the proposed merger. Thank you for your continual prayers and support.

*California Lutheran University is a diverse scholarly community dedicated to excellence in the liberal arts and professional studies. Rooted in the Lutheran tradition of Christian faith, the University encourages critical inquiry into matters of both faith and reason. The mission of the University is to educate leaders for a global society who are strong in character and judgment, confident in their identity and vocation, and committed to service and justice.*

*Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary is a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a member of the Graduate Theological Union. PLTS develops leaders for the church by deepening faith in Christ, challenging the mind, expanding the heart, and energizing for mission.*