

## **D. Patti Meyer**

### **Master of Divinity Student (Year 4)**

Master of Divinity student D. Patti Meyer was born and raised an Iowan, but actually came to Wartburg Seminary via the Grand Canyon Synod, after having left Iowa for Arizona...in what she now realizes may have been an effort on her part to run away from the “external” call she was hearing from others around her to go to seminary. Patti had considered the idea of seminary, but as a single mom with three high school aged boys at home, she found reasons to dismiss it, and after her children graduated from high school, Patti’s work took her out of Iowa and on to Phoenix, Arizona.

Even though Patti relocated to Arizona, the call she had felt came with her. She reflects, “My gifts for ministry continued to be affirmed by external sources who encouraged me into leadership positions in the church and in worship.” When her job required so much travel that Patti could no longer participate in her local church, she found employment elsewhere that would allow her to be home on weekends and evenings so she could grow in her relationship with God through study and worship. That is when, she says, “the internal messages started calling.” She adds, “I was told by a very wise person that if I was tired of saying NO to God, that I might want to rethink the question and examine if there could be a different answer to God’s call. At once, I knew I had been hit with a 2 x 4 and it was time to listen more deeply to discern what I was hearing externally and now internally.”

When Patti discerned that she was being called to ministry, Wartburg seemed like the logical choice for seminary. Two of the three pastors who were encouraging her to go to seminary were Wartburg grads themselves. It was when Patti actually visited the Wartburg campus herself, though, that she knew it was the place for her, “I realized that everything that the prior grads had said about this being a welcoming, worship-focused, community-minded place was and remains to be true.”

Patti says she feels that sense of community is one of the most valuable gifts she has gained from her Wartburg experience. She shares, “It has always been important for me to build a family around me wherever I am. And that is very easy to do here at Wartburg. What I find distinctive is that I can call the student body (past, present, and future) as well as faculty and staff my family now. I see deep relations forming between students and I find faculty and staff willing to open themselves to students and form valued relationships that last well beyond the time lived out here on the Wartburg campus.”

This May, Patti will graduate from Wartburg. As she prepares to be sent out to serve the people of God, she says, “I am excited to claim being a pastor who is shaped and formed by Wartburg and all it has to offer. I feel prepared through my seminary training to shepherd a congregation, and to walk with them and help them identify where and how God intersects with them in their daily living.” She adds, “I pray that I have been strengthened through my experience at Wartburg to proclaim God’s goodness and to help the goodness of God’s love spread throughout communities and the church of the future.”