Megadeth Bassist Becomes A Seminarian

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — Concordia Seminary in suburban St. Louis gets an eclectic mix of students in a program allowing them to train for the ministry online — electricians, farmers, entrepreneurs — and even a founder of one of the best-known thrash metal bands.

David Ellefson plays bass for Megadeth. He also is an online student in the Specific Ministry Program at Concordia Seminary operated by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (http://bit.ly/wGuzF1) reported that Ellefson's studies illustrate why distance learning programs at seminaries have a growing popularity nationwide, allowing students to attend divinity schools without uprooting their lives.

Even in a non-traditional learning setting, Ellefson is a non-traditional student given his band has recorded albums with titles such as "Killing Is My Business ... And Business Is Good!"

The curious mix of rock and religion has been part of Ellefson's life since childhood. Growing up in Minnesota, his family drove from their farm to Our Savior's Lutheran Church each Sunday. Ellefson, now 47, was confirmed there at age 16.

A few years later, in the summer of 1983, Ellefson moved to Los Angeles and within a week of his arrival had formed Megadeth, named for the unit of measurement equal to the death of 1 million people by nuclear explosion. Soon, he was playing bass on stage with other metal bands such as Metallica and Slayer.

The rock star lifestyle caught up with Ellefson by the time he was 25. He entered a 12-step recovery program and was reintroduced to his faith. And he embraced it.

Ellefson moved to Arizona, married and had children. He joined Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church, a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation in Scottsdale.

"I came from a good family, not a broken home," said Ellefson, 47. "That became a model for me, and I saw church at center of it."

Shepherd of the Desert pastor Jon Bjorgaard asked Ellefson to start a contemporary worship service. Ellefson began to write songs using lyrics from the Old Testament.

"For a Christmas service, I remixed some classics, not quite in a Megadeth fashion, but in a pretty heavy rock fashion," Ellefson said.

He started a new music ministry at the church and called it MEGA Life. It became so popular that Shepherd of the Desert bought a new space for the ministry.

Last year, Bjorgaard asked Ellefson and MEGA Life director Jeremy DaPena to enroll in Concordia's Specific Ministry Pro-

"Most people want to become a rock star," Bjorgaard said. "David's a rock star who wants to become a pastor."

After two years at Concordia, Ellefson will be eligible for ordination.

More than 100 students are enrolled in the distance learning program, director David Wollenburg said. The program is open only to those who have been sponsored by someone already working in the ministry.

Classes include "Lutheran Distinctions," "Preaching I & II," "Introduction to Worship" and "Scripture and Faith." Students range in age from 35 to the late 60s.

Eliza Brown of the Association of Theological Schools said the trend of distance learning at divinity schools "is definitely growing," though there is some debate about its merits.

"Some feel you can't be adequately formed as a church leader unless you're engaged in a residential program that has serious faceto-face formation components," she said. Still, 124 seminaries accredited by the organization offer

some form of distance education.

Megadeth remains and the
band will begin a new tour with
Motorhead next week in New Jersey. Ellefson will tend to his studies during down time on the tour
bus. He knows it won't be easy.

Classes begin each Monday, though homework is posted a few days earlier. On Tuesday nights, Ellefson and eight other students sit in online for a two-hour live session with a professor teaching from a Concordia classroom. Once a week he meets with Bjorgaard to discuss the week's work. And late in the week, he uploads homework for the professor to grade.

He has learned to keep his faith and his onstage persona separate. As for songwriting, he now tries to 'stay away from darker themes'

'stay away from darker themes."
"Some people want to morph
things together into one, but I
have a hand in both worlds," he
said. "I love praise and worship
music, and I love heavy metal."

FRII	DAY				E NIG		F-00	0-00	0-00	7.00	7-00	0-00	0-00	0-00	0-00	10-00	10-00	11-00	11.00		NUAR		
BROAD	CAST	3:00 STATION		4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	1:30
PBS KUSD (2)	Q (2)	Arthur © (DVS)	WordGirl © (DVS)	Wild Kratts ©			Business	PBS Newsh Stereo) ©	Hour (N) (In	Washing- ton Week		State- house		Duets II" To	ny Bennett si		BBC World News	Charlie Ro Stereo) ©	se (N) (In	Tavis Smi- ley (N) ©	America's Heartland	Tony Benne	ett sings with
		Extra (N)		Ellen DeGe	eneres	News 4			Ent	(N) © Chuck (N)		Chuck ©		many artists Dateline Ni	BC ©		Jay Leno		Late Night		Carson		Extra
NBC KDLT 5	5 (5)	The Doctor Health Secr vealed!" (N)	ets Re-	Judge Judy (N)	Judge Judy @	KDLT News (N) ©	Nightly	KDLT News (N) ©	The Big Bang Theory	Chuck Sar with a big s Stereo) ©	ah returns secret. (N) (In	Chuck Chu help stoppir Quinn. ©		Dateline Ni Stereo) ©	BC (In	KDLT News (N) ©	The Tonigh With Jay L Stereo) ©		Fallon (In S	With Jimmy Stereo) 🕮	With Car- son Daly	According to Jim ©	Paid Pro- gram
		Dr. Phil 🚾		The Dr. Oz		News	ABC	News	Inside	Shark Tan	. ,	Primetime:		20/20 🚾		News	Nightline	Jimmy Kin		Paid	Inside	Paid	Paid
CBS KELO (1)	3 (11)	Dr. Phil (In	Stereo) 🖾	The Dr. Oz Stereo) ©	Snow (In	News	CBS Evening News	News	Entertain- ment Tonight (N)	runs into a	lan Michael former	CSI: NY An teenager is dead. ©		reopens a co worked on.	case Frank	News	(In Stereo)	With David	Letterman	The Late L With Craig (In Stereo)	Ferguson	News	The Insider (N) ©
ABC		Jeopardy!	Be a Mil- lionaire		DeGeneres In Stereo) ©	KSFY News at 5	ABC World		Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tan		Primetime: Would You		20/20 (In St		KSFY News at 10	Nightline	Jimmy Kin Stereo) ©	nmel Live (Ir	(Extra (N)	Paid Pro- gram	Paid Pro- gram
KSFY (B)		Nate Berku		The Doctor		in HD KMEG 14		in HD Jeopardy	(N) ©	Stereo) © A Gifted N		Stereo) © CSI: NY ©		Blue Blood	is cc	in HD News	Letterman		Late		Paid	Paid	Paid
FOX			Swift Jus- tice	Anderson (reo) ©	`	America's F Home Video	s (In Ste-	How I Met Your	How I Met Your		visits restau-	Fringe The give a warn	Observers ing. (N) (In	The Office	The Office "Mafia"	Friends ©	Friends ©	Excused (N) ©	Excused	New Adv./Old	New Adv./Old	Hates Chris	Hates Chris
KTTW 21	9 🕧	The Dr. Oz	Show	Dr. Phil ©			ABC	Mother News	Mother Ent	rants he's h Shark Tanl		Stereo) © Primetime:	What	20/20 @		News	Nightline	Jimmy Kin	nmel Live	Christine Paid	Christine Ent	Paid	Paid
KOLN KPTH		Ellen DeGe Million.		First four Jdg Judy	Jeopardy Jdg Judy			News Big Bang	Wheel Two Men	A Gifted N Kitchen Ni		CSI: NY ©	CC	Blue Blood News	is © 30 Rock	News 30 Rock	Letterman Office	Office	Late Mother	Mother	Paid Friends	Inside Raymond	Weather Raymond
KSCB	97 99 1 2	S Ade Arthur	Winston Martha	Children Wild	Hillsong	Zola Lev Curious		Back to	J. Hagee Inside	Parsley Wash.		val Church	Services Great Perfo	Van Impe		Word Business	Copeland Outdoors	Life To Lark Rise	J. Meyer	Sound (Off Air)	EVO		Church
KXNE PAY CH	8	Curious		Arthur		Wild		PBS Newsh		Quest		Wash.	Need		ormances (N		Ragtime	Served?	Served?	(Off Air)			
	17 401	*** "Uns	toppable" (2			** "The Ea			nning Tatum,	REAL Spo Bryant Gu		Life & Times	Freddie Roach	Real Time \		Real Time \	With Bill	Life & Times	*** "Uns Washington		2010) Denzel	*** "Face	
HBO2		Wrong "Man-	"Desperate	ly Seeking		*** "Dick	Tracy" (1990) (In Stereo		Angry	Angry	Boxing Fear" (199	** "The Lo	sers" (2010	0) 🚾	** "Preda	tors" (2010) Sex	Adrien Broo	dy. Files 3: Sex	Real/Bill M		** "Euroti	rip"
MAX MAX2	420	Shoe" "Legend-G	Lee Jones.	(In Stereo) `	Street" (198	(2010, Fanta	sy) Daniel R	adcliffe. (In 🤅			Nolte, Jessi	ca Langè. (Ir			,	Games ockers" (201	Games	(2010) Jena	ae Alt. (In Ste		(In Stereo)		
	18 (435)	"The Con A		*** "The	Company M	, ,	V.	★★ "Casino	Jack" (201	0) Kévin Sp	acey.		King's Spee		CC]	Sebastian			Inside the		★★ "I'm St	ill Here" (20	
TMC	CTAT	Ed Wood			2010) (In Ster		"Dragon Fig	,		,	d Out" (2008)		"Rosencrar				our Party P	. (/			Dared Me To	0" 🚾	Eat.
A&E	57 (41)	Dog	Dog	Dog Bount		Dog Bounty		Dog Bount		Dog Boun		Dog Bount		Dog Bount	y Hunter	Dog Bount		Dog Bount		Dog Bount		Dog Bount	
ANPL	19 43	*** "Se7e	Be Alive	CSI: Miami Planet Earl	th 🚾	CSI: Miami River Mons	ters	CSI: Miami The Haunte	ed ©	*** "The Infested! (In Stereo)	Infested! (N	,	Confession	ns	Infested! (I	n Stereo)	Confessio	ter Stallone. © ns	Infested! (I		The Haunte	
		Tabatha Tal ★★★ "Great		** "Honey	y" (2003, Dra ★★ "Footlo	ma) Jessica ose" (1984)		Housewive , Lori Singer		Housewive Sweet Hor		* * "Next F Sweet Hom	riday" (2000 ne		Sweet Hom		riday" (200 Swande	0) Ice Cube. Redneck V	acation	** "Honey Dukes-Haz	y" (2003, Dra zard	ma) Jessica Dukes-Haz	
		Closing Be The Situati	II on Room W	Options th Wolf Blitz	Money in zer (N)	Mad Money John King,		The Kudlov E. B. OutFr		American Anderson		American (Piers Morg		American (Mad Money E. B. OutFr		American Piers Morg		American (Paid Anderson	Tummy Cooper
COM	45 61	Futurama		Sunny		Daily	Colbert	30 Rock	30 Rock	Tosh.0 Politics &	Tosh.0		Mulaney Star	nd-Up Playli	,	Public Policy	/ Todav	Chap	Chap	Russell	★★ "Eddie	Murphy Rav	w"
DISC		American (Random		MythBuste		Gold Rush		Gold Rush	Good	Gold Rush Good		Gold Rush Jessie	(N) ©	Bering Sea Austin		Gold Rush		Bering Sea	ANT	Gold Rush Jessie	Fish	Gold Rush Austin	Stepsis
DISXD	65 103	Young	Fo. Bo		The War of the		ls"		Buttowski	Zeke	Zeke D) Days of Su	Vampire	Fo. Bo	Phineas The Soup	Phineas	I'm-Band	Suite Life E! News	I'm-Band	Zeke Chelsea	Phineas Fashion	Kid The Soup	Jim	Kid Chelsea
ENC	(480)	Multiplcty	** "The La	ast Song" (2	2010) Miley C	yrus.	∗∗∗ "Easy	A" (2010)) C	*** "Letl	nal Weapon 2	2" (1989) 🚾	,	★★ "The K	arate Kid" (2	2010) Jaden	Smith. 🚾	(4.1)	** "Nothi	ng but Troub	ole"	*** "Easy	y A"
ESPN2	29 25		J. Rome	SportsNati	on (N)	NFL32 (N)	C /	NFL Kickof	NBA f (N)	NFL Live (. ,	Boxing		. /		-	ter (N) (Live)	CC	NBA	ter (N) (Live) X Center (N)	N) (Live)	SportsCen Winter X G	ames
	74 <u>65</u> 62 <u>40</u>	Hermie '70s	Divine 70s Show	Truth in '70s		Church *** "Dirty		Daily Mass 1987) Jennife	er Grey.	Life on the			Rosary (1990) Richar	Door to Ho d Gere.	pe	Image The 700 Cl		Daily Mass Prince	Prince	Life on the Paid	Rock Paid	Catholic Paid	Defend Paid
		Mother Neil Cavuto	Mother	Two Men The Five (N		Mother Special Rep		*** "Kung FOX Repor	g Fu Panda" t			*** "Kun Hannity (N	g Fu Panda"	(2008, Com Greta Van S		UFC- FX The O'Reill		rine" (2006) Hannity	John Cena.	Greta Van	Louie Susteren	Paid The Five	Paid
FOXSP	35 27	World Poke	er Tour:		Football	Action Spor					etball: Spurs				Wolves	Gopher	Wolves Central	Action Spo	orts World	NBA Baske			Gopher
HALL	22 33	The Walton		The Walton Dream Hon	ns 🚾	Little House	/Prairie	Little Hous		Little House	se	Little Hous Selling	e/Prairie	Frasier Hunters	Frasier Hunters	Frasier Hunters	Frasier Hunters	Golden Selling	Golden Selling	Golden Hunters	Golden Hunters		Newhart Hunters
HIST	46 47	Top Shot ©	0	Top Shot ©	C]	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	American	Pickers	To Be Ann	ounced	American Police Stor	American	To Be Anno		American	Pickers	To Be Ann	ounced	American	American
KWSD	12 14		Paid	70s Show	70s Show	Til Death	King	Daniel Boo Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Highway to Nikita "Sar	nctuary"	Starsky an Supernatur	ral 🖭	Cops	'Til Death	The Saint King		Da Vinci's South Pk	Rose.	Rose.	Paid		Paid
		Mother Dylan Ratio		Unsolved M Hardball M	atthews	Amer. Most PoliticsNati		Amer. Most Hardball Ma		Amer. Mos	ow (N)	Amer. Mos Rachel Ma	ddow	Amer. Most Lockup "Lo		The First 4 Lockup		Amer. Mos Lockup		Amer. Mos Lockup		Amer. Mos Lockup	
NICK RFDTV	32 37	Victo Auction (N	Victo (Live)	Victo Auction (N				iCarly Jimmy	iCarly Porter	Kung Fu Family Re		'70s California		George TruCoun	George Winner	Friends Nashville	Friends Alaska	Friends Heritage	Friends Farm	'70s Farmers	'70s American		My Wife Country
SOAP SPEED		Beverly Hil Monster Ja		Brothers & Hot Rod		Brothers & Ride		Young & Re PassTime		Days of ou Car Warrio		General Ho Car Warrio		Young & Ro		Days of ou Car Warrio		General Ho Car Warrio		All My Chil Car Warrio		All My Chil Car Warrio	
		Gangland [CC	Gangland [Gangland ©		Gangland ©	C]	⋆⋆ "Walki	ng Tall" (200 lios "Spartacu	4) The Rock			ng Tall" (200			Ink Master		Ink Master	CC		Entou
SYFY		"House of	Bones" (201	0, Horror) 🖾	0	** "The Ar	nityville Hor	ror" (2005)	[CC]	WWE Frid	ay Night Sma	ackDown! (N	V) CC	Merlin "Aith	nusa" (N)	Being Hum	an	Merlin "Aith	nusa"	Lost Girl @	0	Lost Girl @	9
TCM	76 53	Inside		n's Prison"	(1955)	** "House	of Numbers				Great Garrio	ck"	★★ "One M	ore River"		**** "Th	e Invisible N	lan"	**** "Fra	ankenstein"		"Possession	on" (1981)
TNT	37 59	Law & Orde	er	Fabulous C Law & Orde	er	Toddlers & Law & Orde	r	Four Weddi Law & Orde	er		Lord of the	Rings: The	Return of the		03) Elijah Wo			Four Wedd Franklin &	Bash	Say Yes Franklin &	Bash	Four Wedd "John Gris	ham"
TRAV	24 35	Ed, Edd Diner Para	dise 🖾	Johnny T Got Home		MAD Ghost Adve		Adven Paranorma	NinjaGo I	Star Ghost Adv		King/Hill Ghost Adv		American The Dead F	American Files	Fam. Guy Ghost Adv		Chicken Ghost Adv		Aqua The Dead I		American Ghost Adv	
TRUTV	52 42	Disorder in Contessa	the	Cops Cooking	Cops Paula	World's Dur Diners		Wipeout © Best	Best	Wipeout © Diners	Diners	Wipeout ©		World's Du Diners	mbest Diners	Forensic Diners	Forensic Crave	World's Du Diners	Imbest Diners	World's Du Diners	mbest Diners	World's Du Diners	mbest Crave
TVLND	47 39	Bonanza ©		Bonanza ©	C	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H		Home Im			Raymond		The Exes	Raymond		King Hasta-Dine	King	The King o	f Queens	Rose. La Jaula	Rose.
	31 58	House ©		NCIS ©	. ,	NCIS ©		NCIS "Hear	t Break"	Law & Ord		Law & Ord	er: SVU	Law & Orde	er: SVU	White Colla	ar cc	CSI: Crime	Scene	CSI: Crime	Scene	"Children o	of Men"
WE	30	"Cheaper-I		Ghost Whis	sperer	Baseball Wi		Mob Wives Charmed ©		Mob Wives Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier		Frasier	Behind the Frasier	Frasier	Joan & Me	lissa	Love & Hip Ghost Whi	sperer	Mob Wives "Cheaper-I	Oozen"
WGN	16 📧	Cheers	Cheers	Chris	Chris	30 Rock	30 Rock	Funny Hom	ne Videos	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	WGN News	at Nine	30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny	Sunny	Futurama	Futurama	South Pk



I Can Get The Best Deal

(800) 514-4001 | ConnectWithKnology.com

What can you do?

