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Concordia Seminary magazine | Fall 2011

Paul Devantier

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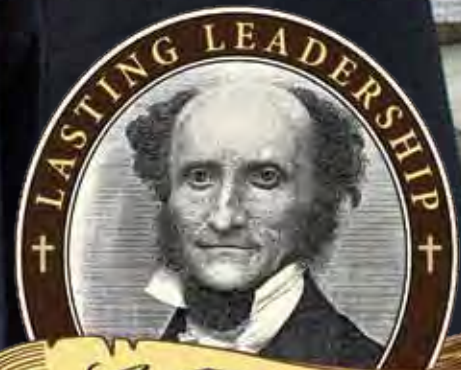
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CONCORDIA SEMINARY

FALL 2011



C.F.W. Walther Bicentennial

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

FEATURES

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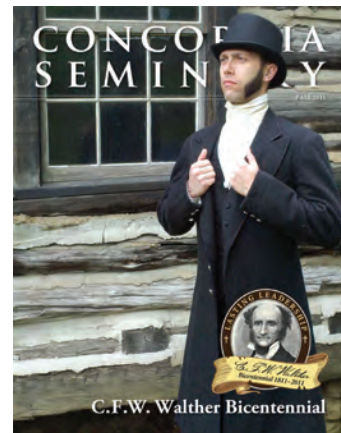
The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus will host three special worship services and concerts in upcoming months: a Reformation Concert, a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the KJV Bible, and Advent Lessons and Carols. All events are free of charge and open to the public.

20 **Beyond the four walls**

"Concordia Seminary has been great in showing me the things I need to know in all facets of ministry," commented Dan Haugen, second year alternate route student. "Ultimately, my goal is to do what God wants me to do. He's never let me down, and I'm just excited for what God has in store for us."

23 **JambalayaFest and a grateful alumnus**

Rev. Paul Ernewein remembers his alma mater in an extraordinary way. Each year, he and several members of his congregation host JambalayaFest on the campus of Concordia Seminary. The tradition began in 2007 after Rev. Ernewein received his first call to The Village Lutheran Church in Lacombe, La.



Cover Photograph

C.F.W. Walther, as portrayed by Jordan Reinwald in "Walther" by John Klinger

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From the PRESIDENT

Countless people were born 200 years ago and most of them have been totally forgotten. Not C.F.W. Walther. This year we celebrate his birthdate of October 25, 1811. Dr. Walther was a pastoral and scholarly leader through whom the Spirit of God continues to make a profound impact upon Concordia Seminary and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Today we need pastoral leadership, but do we need theological faculties in seminaries? My answer is yes, more than ever. A residential seminary faculty is the place ahead of all others within a denomination where theological vitality exists to be imparted to present and future leaders. This is especially so when the faculty's scholarly researches are performed with awareness of the profound changes of postmodern, post-church America. Because the vast majority of people in congregations do not have the time or the specialized training of seminary scholars, denominations have historically seen the value of maintaining scholars in their midst. By their numerous writings and presentations, seminary faculties provide resources to congregations and church workers who understandably cannot keep up with current thought on the many interactions of church and society.

In and out of classrooms we equip future leaders to “interpret reality theologically,” as Dr. Martin Scharlemann put it, thinking on their feet more than aping pat answers that don't fit today's questions. By upholding the intellectual standards of academia, accredited seminaries maintain credibility and give credibility to our graduates in the public square. The landscape of society and churches has changed so dramatically in recent decades and is accelerating with such incomprehensible speed that penetrating, insightful theological analysis of today's realities is needed by those who are supposed to move the mission forward but don't have sufficient time for scholarship. Because “There is nothing new under the sun,” (Ecclesiastes 1:9), the value of a seminary faculty is to research the past to find guidance for today's “new normal.” “Ask for the ancient paths.” (Jeremiah 6:16)

As executive director of the Association of Theological Schools, Dr. Daniel Aleshire hears doubts about the value of seminaries today. He writes:

Is the work that these schools do worth the price tag? If theological education is a commodity to be produced at the least expense for the most recipients, then the question is legitimate. If the goal, however, is the preparation of religious leaders who are deeply formed in an understanding of faith, who can guide congregations in a culture that is less than convinced that religion is a cultural asset, who can lead in the context of significant change in congregational practice, and who both know the tradition and can teach it to the increasing percentage of people who do not know the tradition or understand it, then theological education is not a commodity. The question about cost is really a question about value. If seminaries fail in the future because of inadequate financing, it won't be because there is not enough money available. It will be because there is an inadequate commitment to the essential contribution that theological schools make to the Christian project and religious leadership. (“Earthen Vessels,” 145)

I think C.F.W. Walther, pastoral and scholarly leader, would agree. I hope you do too.

Dale A. Meyer



Film reveals C.F.W. Walther's influence in shaping LCMS



"Walther," the first feature-length film from Concordia Seminary, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the first president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) by depicting his own struggles and his influence in communicating critical theological and organizational positions that endure in the church body today.

"To me, C.F.W. [Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm] Walther was a renaissance man," said Dale Ward, senior media producer, as he described a year of research, writing, and production to make the film. "I can't believe all the things he did," Ward continued. "He wrote, he preached, he composed music, he traveled, and he shaped our church government — and then he turned 30!"

A major portion of the film deals with events in Walther's life among 700 Lutherans who emigrated from Saxony, Germany, arriving in Perry County, Mo., and St. Louis, Mo., in early 1839. Walther, born October 25, 1811, was in his mid-20s and one of several pastors accompanying the group led by the Rev. Martin Stephan. Stephan was serving as bishop of the Lutheran community that sought to practice its faith without government control.

Soon after the Saxons arrived in Missouri, Stephan was charged with financial corruption and sexual misconduct and he was expelled from the community. Without a leader, the Lutherans began questioning the validity of their church in the new world. Through study of Scripture, Martin Luther's writings, and the Lutheran Confessions, Walther was influential in adapting practices that continue today.

A historical account and study tools

"The film started as an idea to help students at both seminaries see things from our church body's history," said John Klinger, the Seminary's chief information officer. "We wanted to create

Through study of Scripture, Martin Luther's writings, and the Lutheran Confessions, Walther was influential in adapting practices that continue today.

for them learning objects that would help them understand where we come from as German Lutherans."

The film, however, evolved into more: The Seminary has sent a DVD copy to every LCMS congregation, school, college, university, and seminary in North America. The DVD includes the feature film, plus tools for study that can be used in adult classes, confirmation, and new member orientation. The DVD collection includes commentary from professors at Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; current and former presidents of both seminaries; current LCMS President Matthew Harrison; and former LCMS Presidents Ralph Bohlmann, Robert Kuhn, and Gerald Kieschnick.

The five parts include:

- the theology of Lutheranism versus the German rationalism the Saxons sought to escape
- the Ten Commandments, Martin Luther, theology of two kingdoms, repentance, confession, and absolution
- the roles of the church, of laity, and of clergy in America
- the invisible church, the visible church, Law, and Gospel
- the legacy of C.F.W. Walther.



Clockwise from top left: Walther reads petitions given to him; the film crew sets up a shot; Jordan Reinwald, left, and Dale Ward aboard the ship; the crew on location in Clarksville, Mo.



Jordan Reinwald

“Walther” marks Jordan Reinwald’s screen debut. As a stage actor he was classically trained at The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts [LAM-DA]. He has appeared in commercials, pilots, and print ads in New York City, Chicago, and St. Louis.

In addition, he’s been a featured extra in such films as “Up In The Air” and “Joint Body.” He gives all the glory to God and feels immensely blessed to be involved in this project.

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A film made 'on God's time'

Last October, Ward intended to produce a five-minute documentary from a LutherHostel tour to the Saxon Lutheran Memorial in Perry County. Returning with a mass of material, he discussed the project with Klinger, his supervisor, and discovered that 2011 was Walther's "200th birthday." Realizing the significance, Ward read historical accounts, interviewed professors, went to an immigration seminar at the Lutheran Heritage Center in Perry County, and even attended a workshop on period costumes. During Christmas break 2010, he wrote a script that included reenactments and comments from professors that he had recorded.

Then early this year, Ward put out a local call for professional actors. He received responses from some 40 actors who were willing to volunteer. Actors were eager to include a feature-length historical film on their resumes. Also, they wanted to use their talents for the church.

Cooperation from the Saxon Lutheran Memorial in Frohna, Mo., assured Ward of authentic settings for the Saxon settlement. Concordia Seminary served as one of the settings for old Germany. Clarksville, Mo., (founded in 1840 on the Mississippi River) filled in for early St. Louis and an 1850 hotel in Jefferson City gave the look of New Orleans where the Saxons first arrived by sailing ship. Some ocean and ship scenes were filmed in Clearwater, Fla., where there is a replica sailing ship.

"In hindsight my biggest challenges were the costumes and period aspects like

keeping lightbulbs and electrical outlets out of the picture while making sure we had candles that didn't burn something down," Ward commented. "The good news was that most people were poor back then and they only owned one dress or coat."

At one point, the Seminary was ready to put the film on hold, Klinger added. "God opened the heart of a donor to help us, then opened that heart again to keep things moving," he observed. "And just recently, He opened the hearts of several donors to help with the distribution. This has all been on God's time, not our time."

Actor benefits from Walther role

Jordan Reinwald, who plays Walther, said the role helped him to achieve a personal goal: to eradicate personal pride that would block him from a stronger personal relationship with Christ. "Playing the part of Walther helped me to let go of anything I knew was in the way," he commented. "Walther had to let go of his own moments of holding on to some things."

Reinwald added, "Walther was driven to tell everyone there is a Christian church — visible and invisible — and that Christ is the head of the church. I believe God's hands were on him."

Being Lutheran in America

As strangers in a new country without their leader, the Saxon settlers were confronted with what it meant to be Lutheran in America, observed Dr. Gerhard Bode Jr., assistant professor of historical theology and Seminary archivist. Walther helped them by focusing on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, he said.

"You see a certain characteristic of Walther in his early years that I think the Synod has maintained," Bode added. "On the one hand you have this great desire to hold to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and, on the other, a desire to reach out with the Gospel to those who need to hear."

Thomas Egger, assistant professor of exegetical theology, spent six years working at Concordia Historical Institute researching the life and writings of Walther. He commented, "One of the most important aspects of the film is Walther as preacher of the Gospel and advocate of the preaching of the Gospel."

He said the film accurately pictures Walther struggling with the questions of whether the Church was in the midst of the settlers, whether God was at work among them, and whether the ministry of the Gospel there was pleasing to God. "And Walther really came to a certainty that is found in the Word and promises of God," Egger said. "He located the confidence of the church in the Word of God."

"I'm so thankful for the new Walther documentary," commented Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Concordia Seminary president. "With the hard work of Dale Ward, John Klinger, and countless others, we now have the opportunity to tell the grand story of our church and its founder, C.F.W. Walther, using the latest in cutting edge technology combined with the wisdom of so many who have contributed to make this film accurate, accessible, and exciting for future generations."

The president added a special word of thanks to the donors who made this project possible. "Their heart for history will bless many," he stated.



“Band of Brothers” offers thanks

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Brighton, Mich., was so enthusiastic about their senior pastor, Rev. Mark Milatz (Concordia Seminary class of 2003), that they wanted to call a new Seminary graduate to serve as their associate pastor.

So on May 4, 2011, the congregation received the good news that Benjamin Vogel had been placed at Shepherd of the Lakes. “We could not have been more pleased with the quality of all the students we spoke to,” Rev. Milatz shared, “and we are absolutely thrilled with Pastor Ben Vogel.”

The first weekend after Rev. Vogel was ordained and installed, he joined 50 members of Shepherd of the Lakes at their annual retreat. Known as the “Band of Brothers,” this group of men is committed to a grass-roots effort to strengthen families and battle the cultural norms that are so destructive to God’s church and to families. They provide outstanding leadership and embrace Christian service as a privilege.

At the retreat, the “Band of Brothers” took an offering to give thanks to God for bringing Rev. Vogel to their faith family. Blessed with \$2,500 in gifts, they forwarded their offering to Concordia Seminary to prepare more pastors for the Holy Ministry.

In order to have a personal relationship with a future pastor, Shepherd of the Lakes also participates in Concordia Seminary’s Adopt-A-Student program by sponsoring a second-year seminarian. “Now, with eight years

“I encourage every congregation in our Synod to make every possible effort to remember the Seminary in their giving. I would also encourage individuals to remember the Seminary through legacy giving. It is so important that we walk together to make it possible for more to be recruited and prepared for ministry.”

Rev. Mark Milatz

of pastoral ministry experience, I am acutely aware of just how excellent my education was,” Rev. Milatz commented. “The Seminary really taught me how to think in a Christ-centered way. I’m also very grateful that many generous donors made my time at the Seminary possible.”

For information or questions about supporting Concordia Seminary, including the Adopt-A-Student program, please call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287.



The “Band of Brothers” meet during their annual retreat.

Historic log cabin undergoes epic move

In the decade following the dedication of Concordia Seminary’s Clayton campus, a replica of the original one-room log cabin, built by C.F.W. Walther and others, was constructed. It sat for years on the plot of land where the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus now stands. “When I was a Seminary student in the early 1970s, I lived in Graebner dormitory,” President Dale A. Meyer commented. “And every time I looked out my window, I could see that one-room log cabin and it reminded me of the scant beginnings of Concordia Seminary.”

When the chapel was built, the cabin moved to an area between Loeber Hall and the Concordia Historical Institute.

It was decided that it was time for the log cabin replica to move from its present location to a more prominent spot so that the community might be reminded of Concordia Seminary’s meager beginnings and to stay connected to our historic tradition.

The actual move of the cabin drew a large crowd, partially because of the

remarkable technology employed to move it. A team of three movers came from Indiana with their equipment. The afternoon before moving day, the cabin was slowly lifted off its old foundation by means of a trailer that was constructed piece-by-piece from underneath the cabin. The trailer itself was “completed” when the driving engine was hoisted on to its front — it would direct the wheels and provide hydraulic pressure to the various parts of the trailer so that the cabin could maintain a stable, level position for its ride to the new location.

Sandy Meyer, servant of Christ

Sandy Meyer is the kind of person who is at first surprised, then extremely hesitant to consider the notion of a *Concordia Seminary* magazine article which revolves around her. In fact, when presented with the idea, she said, "Please make sure God gets all the glory. Any talents I may have are gifts from the Lord." She humbly shares that she has simply responded to the love and grace of Jesus Christ that was taught to her by loving parents, caring pastors, and teachers.

Nor does she consider herself an exceptional servant or noted leader. As the Holy Spirit has guided her through the Word, washed her in Holy Baptism and nourished her faith through the Lord's Supper, she has simply followed His guidance. She prays. Serves where she can. Gives as she is able.

People like Sandy are the very lifeblood of the ministry of Concordia Seminary and every other ministry that has been blessed by such a loving response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sandy Meyer is truly a humble servant of Christ. She has volunteered her time in the service of a long list of Lutheran ministries and congregations. Sandy is a current member of the Concordia Seminary Guild and has served on its board. She



*Concordia Seminary
Legacy Society*

MEMBER

is on the advisory board of The Lutheran Association for Special Education. And, even though she does not want recognition, Aid Association for Lutherans once named her one of the top 10 volunteers in the country. "Volunteering is simply a joyful part of my Christian life," she said.

The last 19 of her 46 years of employment were with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, serving in the stewardship department and later in the executive offices. But if you ask Sandy about her accomplishments she will quickly divert the conversation in order to witness to God's grace and the simple joy and privilege of serving Him.

Sandy made her first gift to the Seminary 32 years ago. She has been faithfully supporting this mission ever since, including supporting the recent *How Will They Hear?* Campaign and the Center for Hispanic Studies. She and her husband, Paul, established the Dr. and Mrs. John H.C. Fritz Student Aid Endowment to provide on-going financial aid to seminarians.

Sandy is not content with what she has accomplished and will, by God's grace, continue to do with her life. As part of her faithful stewardship she has remembered Concordia Seminary in her estate plan, making her a Charter Member of the Concordia Seminary Legacy Society. "We need to be good stewards of what the Lord has entrusted to us," Sandy commented. "It is so important that we leave some of what the Lord has blessed us with for the work of His kingdom."

When asked why she continues to be so faithful in her support of Concordia Seminary, Sandy answered, "I am so pleased with Dr. Meyer's leadership. I love the fact that the faculty not only teaches on campus but gets out into the church. And I am so deeply impressed with the Seminary students who have served as fieldworkers in my congregations over the years. They love God's word and they clearly love the Lord."

On moving day, one of the movers picked up the remote control and started the engine. The cabin began slowly to creep its way to its new resting place. A few stops had to be made along the way to clear some low-hanging tree branches. The mover with the remote control confidently guided the cabin, while his partners dashed in and out from underneath the trailer while it moved along, making sure the it was stable and none of hydraulic cables were getting tangled. Slowly the cabin arrived at its new location.

In the following weeks, the historic log cabin would undergo a renovation on the outside, replacing a few logs that were showing their age, setting a few new shingles, and getting some new mortar. A new stone stairway was built for the entrance. The cabin will rest during the winter at its newest setting: the grassy lawn to the south of Koburg Dining Hall.

The log cabin takes the final leg of its journey to its new location.



Timothy Saleska: engaging the topic and growing day by day

Professor, author, basketball coach, dean: In any of, and in all those roles, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Saleska seeks to involve students, get them to engage the topic, then help them grow as Christians and as future pastors.

“I think of what we do in terms of being servants,” says Saleska. “As much as possible, I strive to serve the students whom I’m teaching, to serve the church through my teaching, and to serve in whatever else I do so that God’s kingdom can be extended.”

An associate professor of exegetical theology, Saleska teaches Hebrew and Old Testament. In class, he encourages his students to consider and discuss the text and its meaning to their lives. “If you’re strictly lecturing to them, telling them what the text means, they’ll just take notes,” he comments, “but I don’t think it will be an enriching faith-building experience.”

“I think of what we do in terms of being servants.”

The exchange of ideas and experience is mutually helpful, he adds. “Some of them have such a wide breadth of experience, the second-career guys especially. I’d be shutting myself off from real opportunities to not learn from them.”

As a teacher of Hebrew, his goal is somewhat lofty — that students learn to love the language. As students develop a positive attitude toward the language, Saleska



Dr. Timothy Saleska, in his role as dean of ministerial formation, speaks to new students during orientation.

believes they will be comfortable using it in their study and building it into their ministries. “When you start reading the Bible in the original language, you begin to see things you don’t ordinarily see,” he adds.

Saleska grew up with the Old Testament in Winfield, Kan., where his father taught it at St. John’s College (now closed). As a parish pastor for 15 years in Ohio, he frequently preached on Old Testament texts, and his interest led him to Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati where he earned a Ph.D. degree.

Having attended Lutheran schools from grade school through Concordia Seminary, Saleska stepped into “a different world” at Hebrew Union. “You

talk about the Scriptures with people who have very different views and take the interpretation of Scripture outside of your comfort zone, so to speak. It was a very good thing for me personally.”

Currently, he is writing a commentary on the Psalms for Concordia Publishing House. “You have to read the Psalms as a poet,” he comments. “I find a lot of insights into how to read the Psalms from early churchmen, but also poets such as John Donne, George Herbert, and others who have brought Christian themes into their own poetry.”

“It’s easy for a commentary to become encyclopedic, just compiling other people’s opinions, so I think it’s important to get your own voice in there too,” he continues. “I hope to give people fresh insight and fresh views to take into their own Psalm study.”

Saleska coaches the Seminary basketball team, the “Preachers,” telling his team that the rewards are



Coach Saleska leads the “Preachers” basketball team at Concordia Seminary.

intrinsic: “We can lose a game but still reach some of our goals if we enjoy playing, if we compete well, if we grow in relationship with each other, and witness to the faith in the way we play.”

He tells of encouraging a new student during a recent pickup game at the gym. Later the student told him that no coach had ever encouraged him like that. The lesson, Saleska observes: “People have the joy of the game beaten out of them, but if you restore some of that joy, they take it into their ministry and into their relationships.”

Seminary experiences — from classroom to basketball court and beyond — all play into the process of pastoral formation. It’s a holistic process that goes beyond becoming academically competent, according to Saleska, who was recently named dean of ministerial formation.

“We tend to think of the curriculum now in terms of everything a student encounters, in the classroom and outside of the classroom,” he comments. He points to experiential knowledge, understanding personal strengths and vulnerabilities, addressing personal challenges, acquiring leadership skills — “all things that come under ministerial formation.”

Away from campus, he and his wife, Diane, take a yoga class together. (“The hardest work I’ve ever had!” he says.) They also ride bicycles, enjoy movies, reading, and walking the dog. They have three adult children and anticipate the birth of their first grandchild in December.



Hofman accepts call to LCMS



Hofman

Mark Hofman has served in Concordia Seminary’s development and advancement offices for 16 years, occupying various positions from development officer to vice president. In September he accepted a call to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) International Center in Kirkwood, Mo., to serve as the Synod’s executive director of fund development. “My time at Concordia has been immensely rewarding,” Hofman said. “I’ve been privileged to learn the profession of fund development from a Christ-centered, donor-focused perspective.”

During his service, Hofman and his fund-raising colleagues encouraged gifts to support the annual operation of the Seminary, as well as special capital improvement projects. He was very involved in the successful *How Will They Hear?* Campaign that exceeded its \$77 million goal. Hofman acknowledges that the Concordia Seminary of 2011 is a very different place than it was in 1995. There have been many campus improvements — residence halls, the main auditorium, the new Benidt Center. Concordia Seminary’s endowment is significantly larger. Support for seminarians through Adopt-A-Student has grown from \$250,000 annually to more than \$1 million today. “The list of improvements and the list of wonderful donors are long, indeed,” Hofman remarked. “I know I’m going to miss those who champion this place, and those with whom I’ve worked through the years.”

Hofman said the decision to accept the call was easier than expected. “Concordia Seminary is strong and stable. It has good leadership. Its financial house is in order. It’s easier to go when an organization is sound.” Hofman is a 1987 graduate of Concordia University Nebraska. In 2010 he completed his studies and was awarded an M.B.A. degree from Fontbonne University. He and his wife, Rachel, have one son, Matthew.



Rachel, Matthew, and Mark Hofman celebrate Mark’s graduation from Fontbonne University.

Hymn Competition chooses two winners

In spring 2011, two Concordia Seminary students won the Prevallet Hymn Competition. Mark Squire, now an S.T.M. student in the Seminary's Graduate School, wrote the text for "On the First Day" to the tune of *Unser Herrscher* (LSB 901). Rev. Eric Hutchison, associate pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Norwood Young America, Minn., wrote the text and original music for "Christ the Faithful, For the Faithless."

The competition, begun in June 2000 by Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Prevallet in remembrance of their daughter, serves to foster the creation of new liturgical hymns of the highest caliber for the church. The Pamela Anne Prevallet Memorial Fund at Concordia Seminary holds the copyright to the texts of the winning hymns. The use of these hymns in congregations is encouraged. For more information, contact Dr. Kent Burreson, dean of the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, at 314-505-7569 or email burresonk@csl.edu.

"On the First Day" by Mark Squire (tune of *Unser Herrscher* [LSB 901])

1. On the first day after Sabbath, they brought spices to the tomb,
To anoint their teacher's body, precious spices and perfume.
But as they approached that place, what they saw lit up each face!
2. Angel dressed in white robes gleaming, sitting on the stone removed.
"Why do you look for your master? His words unto you are proved!
He has risen from the dead! He will meet you as he said!"
3. They who heard were sorely frightened, and they wondered at these things.
But the women did not tarry, to disciples word did bring.
"He has risen from the dead! He has risen as he said!"
4. John and Peter ran with vigor, seeking proof of what they heard.
When they saw the linens folded, they believed the women's word.
"He has risen from the dead! He has risen as he said!"
5. All of them did not yet grasp it, that the Scripture spoke of him.
But the Word himself incarnate, showed the wounds that once were grim.
"I have risen from the dead! I have risen as I said!"
6. If the Father had not raised him, then our faith in ruin lies.
But he has indeed arisen, gives to us the wondrous prize.
Gift of life that will endure! Jesus Christ our promise sure!
7. Life eternal, resurrection, death's dark sway did Christ destroy.
Now we share in fervent witness timeless words of ceaseless joy:
"He has risen from the dead, He has risen as he said!"

"Christ the Faithful, For the Faithless" by Eric F. Hutchison (Original Music)

1. Christ the faithful for the faithless
One sure word the Scriptures speak:
Word of God in flesh appearing
Lost creation to redeem.
Son of God and Son of Man
All creation longs for Him.
Ev'ry soul and knee shall bow,
To the Lord and God of all.
2. Christ the faithful for the faithless
Bore the weight of sin and death.
God the Father to His children
Grants us life and peace and rest.
Now forever more we know
That before us Christ shall go.
Taste and see that God is true.
3. Christ the faithful for the faithless
Pouring out His Spirit now.
Sealing our salvation surely
Granting us His grace and love.
Now forever more we see
That we live eternally.
Now we see like shadows dim,
Then we'll see and know with Him.



Eric Hutchison, left, and Mark Squire

Summer and fall placement

CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (EIIT)

† **Peter Gatkuoth**, Sudanese Mission, Omaha, Neb.

† **Kasongo Gui Kabeo**, Eglise Internationale de Sion, Milwaukee, Wis.

† **William Main**, Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots, Brookfield, Wis.

† **Park Timber**, Circle of Life, Lame Deer, Mont.

VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS

MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)

† **Eric Luhman**, St. John's, Plymouth, Wis.

CENTER FOR HISPANIC STUDIES (CHS)

† **Edilberto Alzate Morales**, LINC, Dallas, Texas

† **Omar de León**, San Pablo, Aurora, Ill.

† **Nelson Hernández**, LINC, Houston, Texas

† **Jorge Mazariegos**, San Pablo, Aurora, Ill.

† **Antonio Mercado**, LINC, Houston, Texas

† **Artidoro Mesones**, Faith, Hialeah, Fla.

† **Ángel Morales**, San Pablo, Aurora, Ill.

† **Walter Ramírez**, San Pablo, Aurora, Ill.

† **Juan Vallejo**, First Immanuel, San Jose, Calif.



The new fall 2011 cohort of SMP students received their vicarage assignments during the opening service.

ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (EIIT)

† **Andre Mezilus**, Immokalee Lutheran Mission, Immokalee, Fla.

SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR (SMP) PROGRAM

† **Brock Cain**, LC of the Pines, Waveland, Miss.

† **Tim Carter**, Salem, Tomball, Texas

† **Azor Cigelske**, Zion, New Holstein, Wis.

† **Jeremy DaPena**, Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, Ariz.

† **Gary Dunker**, Faith Evangelical, Lincoln, Neb.

† **David Ellefson**, Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, Ariz.

† **Joel Fridgen**, Concordia, Hagerstown, Md.

† **Jose Gonzales**, Epiphany, Pearland, Texas

† **Amos Gray**, First, Hot Springs, Ark.

† **Ronald Howard**, First, Long Beach, Calif.

† **Timothy Ihssen**, Our Savior, Tacoma, Wash.

† **James Jennings**, Epiphany, Pearland, Texas

† **A.J. Mastic**, Faith, Bentonville, Ark.

† **Jackson Onkka**, Grace, Pensacola, Fla.

† **Darren Scruggs**, Hosanna, Mankato, Minn.

† **Edward (Tad) Thayer**, Family of Faith, Middletown, N.Y.

† **Michael Vieregge**, Our Shepherd, Birmingham, Mich.

† **Matthew Werner**, Salem, Tomball, Texas

DEACONESS INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

CENTER FOR HISPANIC STUDIES (CHS)

† **Diana Bermúdez**, Messiah, Tampa, Fla.

† **Raquel Eusebio**, Messiah, Tampa, Fla.

† **Lisa Fernández**, Messiah, Tampa, Fla.

† **Iris Guevara**, Messiah, Tampa, Fla.

† **Érica Jofré**, LINC, Houston, Texas

† **Rosaura Martínez**, LINC, Houston, Texas

† **Panchita Portillo**, Cristo Cordero de Dios Lutheran, Grand Island, Neb.

† **Flor Sanabria**, Messiah, Tampa, Fla.

† **Yolima Sanabria**, Messiah, Tampa, Fla.



EIIT pastoral assignments (left)

CHS vicarage and deaconess internship assignments (right)



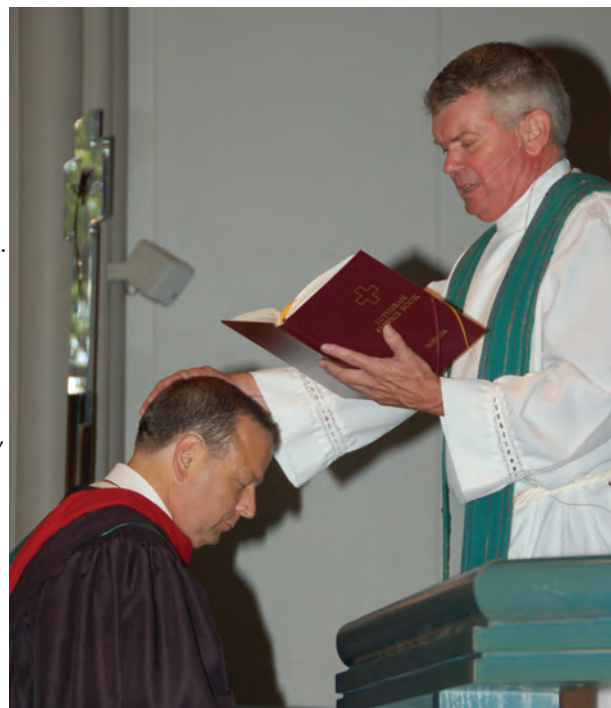
New classes welcomed at opening service

On Friday, September 2, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, began its 173rd academic year with an opening worship service in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president, served as preacher. Dr. Meyer spoke on the theme for this year, "Translation," which was chosen to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible.

The incoming class is composed of 132 students, including all those newly enrolled in residential and distance programs: 70 residential M.Div. students;

four certificate students; one deaconess student; 10 EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology) students; 18 SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor program) students; one DIT (Deaf Institute of Theology) deaconess student; and five CHS (Center for Hispanic Studies) students and one CHS deaconess student. In addition, Concordia Seminary's Graduate School has 22 new students: five M.A. (Master of Arts) students; eight Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) students, and nine S.T.M. (Master of Sacred Theology) students. In addition, one staff member was installed: William Wrede as admissions officer for enrollment management.

Wrede has served as the Mission Field Developer for the Deaf in the Atlantic District serving Harlem, Queens, and Long Island (2000-2008) and pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church and School and Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Queens, N.Y. (2008-2011). He also served as an interpreter for the deaf with Special School District of St. Louis County (1986-1995) and director of the Seminary's Sign School (1990-2000). He received the B.A. degree from Concordia College (now University)



Rev. Bill Wrede, left, is officially installed in his position as admissions officer by Dr. Dale A. Meyer.

Ann Arbor, Mich. (1982); the M.Div. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (2000); and holds the Certificate of Interpretation from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.



Dr. Dale A. Meyer preaches from the pulpit during the opening service.

Meyer, Biermann win Telly Awards

Dr. Joel Biermann and Dr. Dale Meyer, professors at Concordia Seminary, recently garnered Telly Awards for their work with Bible studies through the Men's NetWork Video Bible Study Series of Lutheran Hour Ministries. They both appeared in "We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms." Both received Telly Awards in the categories of "Low Budget" and "Religion/Spirituality." The studies can be previewed and purchased on www.lhmmen.com.

The Telly Awards honor the best local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions, and work

created for the Web. Since 1978, their mission has been to strengthen the visual arts community by inspiring, promoting, and supporting creativity. Biermann and Meyer were presented their awards at the "Party in the Park," a barbeque hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries for all new students of Concordia Seminary.

Dr. Joel Biermann accepts a Telly Award for his work in a Bible study for Lutheran Hour Ministries.



Bergt memorialized in sacred concert

A special concert was held in memory of Rev. Robert Bergt, the late conductor and music director of *Bach at the Sem* concerts and artist-in-residence at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The concert took place on Sunday, September 25 in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus.



Bergt

at no charge, thanks to the generous support of Richard and Phyllis Duesenberg and Robert and Lori Duesenberg. The concert was broadcast one week later on KFUCO radio and classic99.com.

Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, provided a reflection during the concert. The concert featured pieces

by J. S. Bach, many of which have been performed in past concerts, including *Et Resurrexit* and *Cum Sancto Spiritu* from the Mass in B Minor. The congregation joined the American Kantorei in singing "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus."

A small reception was held directly after the concert on the chapel plaza. To read a biography of Rev. Bergt, please refer to the spring/summer 2011 issue of *Concordia Seminary* magazine.

St. Louis musician and theologian, Robert Bergt, whose work and reputation are known around the world, died Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at the age of 81. He founded the American Kantorei in 1968, the first group of its kind in the United States. The Kantorei is a highly skilled choral and instrumental group that has performed in a variety of settings in St. Louis and beyond. Since 1993, the American Kantorei, under the direction of Robert Bergt, has performed regular concerts in the *Bach at the Sem* series in the chapel at Concordia Seminary. The popular series of concerts featured the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and other sacred music composers and was open to the public



A display of photographs greeted the guests in the narthex of the chapel for the memorial concert.

New Advent sermon series offered

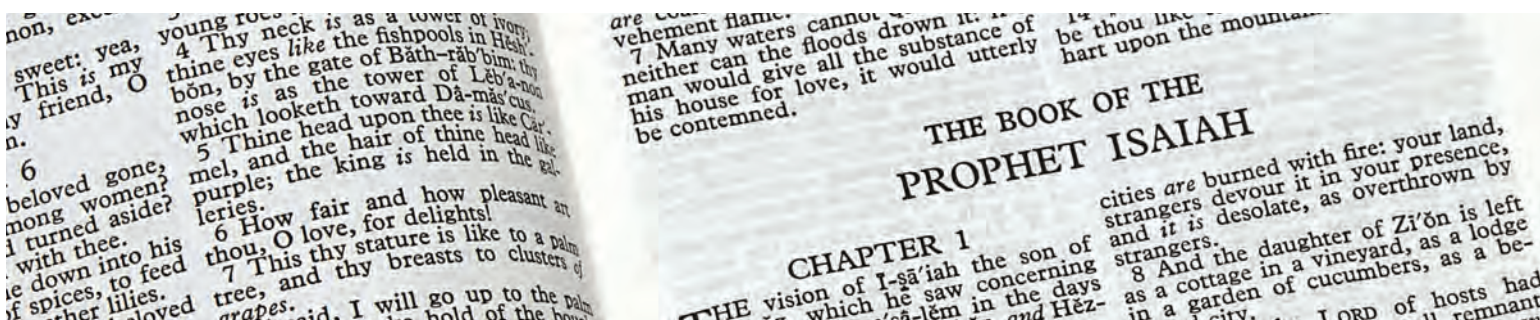
Concordia Seminary is releasing a brand new Advent sermon series called "Savior of the Nations, Come," written by Dr. Reed Lessing, professor of exegetical theology and director of the Graduate School at Concordia Seminary. The sermon series is based on Isaiah 40 and unpacks the chapter's relevant Advent

themes of comfort, hope, and expectation.

Each sermon is based on a well-loved Advent hymn, and includes exegetical notes, commentary, a sermon manuscript, and additional homiletical illustrations. Also included in the series

are prayers for each week, sermons for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and PowerPoint slide templates.

The cost is \$9.95 for the PDF and \$1.95 for the PowerPoint slides. It is available for purchase and download at <https://store.csl.edu>.



20th Annual Choir Member Workshop

Concordia Seminary will offer its 20th Annual Schola Cantorum: An Adult Choir Member Workshop, on Saturday, February 4, 2012. The workshop will be held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus and the Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium on the Seminary campus.



Buchholz

of the music learned that day. Dr. Horst Buchholz will serve as clinician.

Dr. Buchholz is the director of music at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Prior to this appointment he held positions at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio; Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception,

The Schola Cantorum is open to all choir members, choir directors, and ministers of music. The schedule for the day begins with registration at 8:15 a.m., Morning Prayer at 8:45 a.m., and rehearsal sessions at 9:15 a.m. The day concludes at 3:30 p.m. after the Closing Prayer service, which will include some

Denver, Colo.; and other churches in the United States and Europe. Dr. Buchholz studied organ and sacred music at the Berlin College of Church Music and the University of the Arts. He earned his Doctor of Music degree in orchestral conducting from Indiana University. As a conductor Dr. Buchholz has worked

with many choirs, opera companies, and orchestras in the United States and Germany. As an educator he has been on the faculties of Cleveland State University, St. John Vianney Seminary, and the University of Denver. Dr. Buchholz is married to Dr. MeeAe Cecilia Nam.

A Choral Reading Session will be held Friday, February 3, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In the session, Dr. Buchholz will guide participants through an evening of choral and instrumental song in which he will preview new and current titles of music. The session is open to all, but is especially designed for choir directors.

For more information on fees or for registration forms, call 314-505-7486 or email ce@csl.edu.

Three special services at Concordia Seminary

The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus will host three special worship services and concerts in upcoming months. All events are free of charge and open to the public.

Reformation Concert by Perry County Lutheran Chorale, Oct. 30, 3:00 p.m.

This concert will include performances by the Perry County Lutheran Chorale, readings and meditations, and congregational singing. Musical selections will include traditional and contemporary works in various styles. The Perry County Lutheran Chorale includes members of Lutheran churches from Perry, Cape Girardeau, and Ste. Genevieve counties in Missouri. Founded in 2006, the group performs regular concerts throughout the year, as well as provides music for special events.

Translation Opens the Window: A Service Praising God on the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible, Nov. 6, 3:00 p.m.

The service will include readings, reflections on the historical significance

and contemporary impact of this translation, and psalms, hymnody, and choral music reflective of the tradition of the King James Translation. Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, associate professor of exegetical theology, will preach.

Advent Lessons and Carols, Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m.

Laudamus and Pro Musica Sacra will present a service of Lessons and Carols. The service will include favorite Advent hymns, readings, and choral music. Laudamus and Pro Musica Sacra are both ensembles in residence at Concordia Seminary for students and community members.

For more information about these events, please contact Marla Brewer, senior administrative assistant to the dean of the chapel, at 314-505-7009 or brewerm@csl.edu.



UPCOMING FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Dr. Joel Biermann, presenter, "From Sea to Shining Sea: A Christian's Perspective on America and Its Politics," Lay Bible Institute, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 26, Nov. 2

Dr. Dale Meyer, speaker, Christi Crux Lectures, Portland, Ore., Oct. 28-30

Dr. Glenn Nielsen, preacher, Iroquois Circuit Reformation Service, St. John Lutheran, Buckley, Ill., Oct. 30

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, Book of Isaiah, 2011 Kansas District Live Video Conference, Nov. 5

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, leader and Bible study teacher, Elders Workshop on Ministering to the Sick and Bereaved, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Dallas, Texas, Nov. 12

Dr. James Voelz, book review panelist and steering committee member, annual national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 18-22

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Holy Cross Lutheran, Cary, Ill., Nov. 20

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, "Preaching From Amos: Upsetting the Status Quo" and "Yahweh versus Marduk: Creation Theology in Isaiah 40-55," Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 20-21

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Bethlehem Lutheran, Ferris, Ill., Dec. 11

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Immanuel Lutheran, East Dundee, Ill., Jan. 8

Dr. David Peter, leader, "Christ Our Passover," Pre-Lenten Retreat, Fargo, N.D., Jan. 9-10

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, presenter, Pre-Lenten Workshop for the South Wisconsin District, Jan. 9-11

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, "Amos: Restore the Roar," Dallas Lutheran High School, Dallas, Texas, Jan. 17

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Holy Cross Lutheran, Fort Wayne, Ill., Jan. 22

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, St. Michael's Lutheran, Winchester, Texas, Jan. 29

Dr. Reed Lessing, leader, "Worthy is the Lamb," Southern District Pre-Lenten Sermon Workshop, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Gardendale, Ala., Jan. 29-30

Dr. David Schmitt, speaker, "Living in God's Story: Intersections of Narrative and Mission in Daily Life," Regeneration Summit, Chicago, Ill., Jan. 29-31

Upcoming on-campus events

OCTOBER 2011

October 25 C.F.W. Walther Bicentennial

October 26 Lay Bible Institute: "From Sea to Shining Sea"

October 28 Seminary Guild Meeting

October 30 Reformation Service by Perry County Lutheran Choral

NOVEMBER 2011

November 2 Fall Placement

November 2 Lay Bible Institute

November 4 Prayer Breakfast

November 5-11 Interim Ministry Workshop

November 6 Translation Opens the Window:
A Service Praising God on the 400th Anniversary of the KJV

DECEMBER 2011

December 2 Seminary Guild Meeting (Advent by Candlelight)

December 9 Advent Lessons and Carols

December 11 St. Louis Symphony "Party of Note" Concert

JANUARY 2012

January 5 Shepherds of God's Flock

January 6 Green and Gold Day

January 11, 18, 25, February 1 Lay Bible Institute

January 14-16 Taste of the Sem

January 28 Making Abortion Unthinkable

January 30-31 Multi-Ethnic Symposium

FEBRUARY 2012

February 3 Seminary Guild Meeting

February 4 Schola Cantorum

February 13 Winter Placement

February 12 Reaching Out Together

MARCH 2012

March 8-10 Contemplate...

March 10 Prepare/Enrich Workshop

March 18 Green and Gold Day

March 18-21 National Lutheran Alliance Event
with Dr. Dale Meyer, Washington, D.C.

Upcoming opportunities to visit CSL

SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S FLOCK, JANUARY 5

Shepherds of God's Flock is a one day add-on to the beginning of Green and Gold Days in January. Prospective students will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of the ministry through Bible study, panel presentations by pastors, missionaries, and chaplains, and a panel of students and spouses. There will also be an opportunity to meet with members of the faculty. College students are especially encouraged to attend one or both days of these visitation events as they are scheduled specifically during Christmas break.

GREEN AND GOLD DAYS, JANUARY 6

Green and Gold Days are for college students thinking about becoming

pastors, deaconesses, and church workers. Throughout the year, Concordia Seminary will host three of these one-day events that will provide a quick opportunity to see all the Seminary offers. They will interact with current students, attend classes, worship in chapel, and speak with members of the faculty in a "Table Talk" setting. Visitors will also take a "Loop de Lou" bus tour of St. Louis' and the Seminary's main attractions. To end the day, Concordia Seminary will treat participants to a dinner reception.

TASTE OF THE SEM, JANUARY 14-16

Taste of the Sem is an opportunity for high school men to spend a weekend at Concordia Seminary to study theology, pray, worship, meet, and talk with Seminary students and professors. Visitors will

spend time with one Seminary student at his field education congregation on Sunday morning and attend classes with him on Monday morning. The main goals of Taste of the Sem are to help visitors: study the scriptures and the Small Catechism and take a closer look at whom we confess; gain insight into the Trinity at work; and understand the importance of confessing the Apostles' Creed. Throughout the weekend, visitors can also participate in sports tournaments.

All Concordia Seminary visitation events are free of charge, and meals and lodging are provided. Concordia Seminary is delighted to provide complimentary airport pick-up.

For more information on these events, visit www.csl.edu, call 1-800-822-9545, or email admissions@csl.edu.

**GREEN
GOLD
DAYS**

**Thinking about becoming a pastor or a deaconess?
Green & Gold Days provide an opportunity for college
students to see all Concordia Seminary offers.**

**January 6, 2012
March 16, 2012**

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CONCORDIA SEMINARY Online Store

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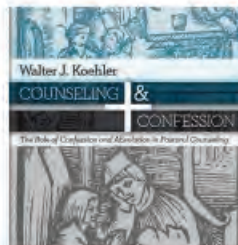
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New

Purchase your copy of "Walther" today
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Walther 4 Disc DVD Set
Posted on October 4, 2011 by SemPress

This 4 disc DVD set contains:

- DISC 1: The feature-length motion picture *Walther*
- DISC 2: Parts 1 & 2 of the movie with commentary
- DISC 3: Parts 3 & 4 of the movie with commentary
- DISC 4: "Reflections of the Presidents" – Interviews with all living presidents of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and both seminaries on the legacy of C.F.W. Walther

Also included are bonus materials like a trailer, discussion guides, deleted scenes, and more!

About the movie:

The Pilgrims on the Mayflower were not the only colonists to flee religious persecution in a far-off land. In 1839 more than 700 Saxons left their homeland to build a colony in the new lands of America where they could speak freely, worship freely, and believe freely. The challenging journey across the Atlantic and up the Mississippi River is documented, as well as their initial struggles in these new lands. Out of this group emerges a great leader who guides the group through their trials and tribulations and builds the foundations for an

Beyond the four walls

Dan Haugen
Northwest District

“...it’s more about the ‘heart’ knowledge than it is about the ‘head’ knowledge”

God brings men to the pastoral ministry in many different ways. Some come straight out of college, either from the Concordia University system, private, or state schools. Some leave behind successful careers in their respected professions. And some run. “I guess I have always known that I would eventually end up at the Seminary, but I ran for 30 years before the Lord finally made it obvious,” commented Dan Haugen, a second-year alternate route student at Concordia Seminary. “I have had countless people encourage me, and it seems that everyone knew that I would end up here before I did!”

After serving as a full-time deacon at Zion Lutheran Church in Ashton, Idaho, a Thrivent financial representative, and the executive director of an LCMS outreach program, Dan chose to sharpen his pastoral leadership skills through the Alternate Route program for a pastoral certificate at Concordia Seminary. As a dedicated

husband to Cheryl and father of three (Erik, Alexander, and Emily), Dan was strongly encouraged by his family and circuit pastors to pursue a seminary education. “Pastor Jerry Reinke always showed great faith in my abilities and Pastor Jonathan Dinger finally convinced me by telling me that I was not a deacon — but a pastor.”

When Dan served as the executive director for Cross Country Ministries he developed a passion for mission, and a desire to create an impact beyond the four walls of the church. “I saw a real hunger for the gospel out there. Luther said, ‘Everyone has a god,’ and I believe that. People want an answer, and you reach them through their passions and interests.”

Putting God first, while making time for his family, and striving to *learn* instead of *earn* grades is the ‘greatest challenge’ for Dan. “The professors really understand that you need to learn as much as possible before you leave the

Sem,” Dan commented. “My family and I have always been a unit and we all put God first. I had to be reminded that I don’t need straight A’s and since then I have relaxed more and my grades have been good.”

While Dan studies, his wife, Cheryl, works as the Food Bank coordinator at Concordia Seminary. She sees firsthand God providing for the students’ daily needs. “The Food Bank relies one hundred percent on donations,” Cheryl said. When volunteers and students see the volume of items we stock, it shows them how God is at work through those who give so generously. I hear frequently from students how thankful they are for what they receive.”

Part of the Phase One renovation project includes relocating the current Food Bank across campus to offer an enhanced shopping experience for the student body. “I am very excited about the move,” Cheryl said. “The new location will be well lit with lots of natural light, larger, and the traffic will flow better for the shoppers.” (Currently the Food Bank is located in the basement level of Loeber Hall.)

“I don’t think donors realize just how richly they have blessed us. I like to make a point to tell them that most Seminary students recognize the financial difficulty they will face when they answer the call to go to seminary, and that they put their trust completely in God to see them through those challenges. Having the donors see their donations on the shelf and hearing from the students how much their donation means to them when they receive their thank you letters brings the donors joy.”

The Haugens say that the Seminary community has become their “St. Louis family,” one that they will miss once Dan completes his education. Until then, he continues to grow daily through classroom experiences, chapel services, and relationships formed outside of the four walls of the classroom. With a strong emphasis on education, Concordia Seminary equips future church servants and leaders with the necessary tools they will need in mission and ministry.

“Concordia Seminary has been great in showing me the things I need to know in all facets of ministry,” he said. “I have been blown away by all the great professors and the immense knowledge they share with us. It seems they understand that this education is only a small part of what we have to learn in pastoral ministry...they have been great in reminding us that it’s more about the ‘heart’ knowledge than it is about the ‘head’ knowledge. Ultimately, my goal is to do what God wants me to do. He’s never let me down, and I’m just excited for what God has in store for us.”

The residential certificate program, popularly known as the Alternate Route program, closely parallels the M.Div. program. Ordinarily, it is for men at least 35 years old who have at least 10 years’ experience directly related to Word and Sacrament ministry and who have completed at least 60 semester hours of college-level coursework, although completion of a college degree is strongly encouraged. The residential certificate program itself does not lead directly to a degree, but rather offers a certificate of completion and faculty certification as competent for a call into the ordained ministry.

Key differences between the certificate program and the M.Div. are a reduced number of courses and the study of the Old Testament done on the basis of the English language (rather than Hebrew). The study of the New Testament based on the original language, Greek, is required. And, in some cases, certificate students qualify for entry into the Graduate School’s Master of Arts program.

The usual competency examinations (Old Testament content, New Testament content, Christian Doctrine content, and New Testament Greek) are required for admission.

This three year program is tailored for experienced-in-the-congregation men. This experience could be as a lay-leader or in another church work vocation. By enrolling in the residential certificate program, a man can test and discern the nature of his call into the ordained ministry as he engages in a robust study of theology and its application to his life and to the lives of others whom he will serve.

Bruce M. Hartung, Ph.D.
Director, M.Div./AR Programs

Seminary alumni – God’s blessing to church and communities

Approximately 150 alumni, spouses, widows, and guests attended the annual Concordia Seminary Alumni Reunion, held June 7-9 on the Seminary campus. The theme was “The Way We Were . . . Are . . . And Will Be: Under God’s Grace.” Those attending had many opportunities to celebrate and thank God for His blessing upon their past, present, and future years of service in His church.

This year’s reunion included graduating classes from years ending in a “6” or “1.” This year’s 1961 class was joined by those in the 1962 class who began their studies with the ’61 class, but chose to accept a two year vicarage to assist in the transition to Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind. Thirty-nine members of the class of 1961 and 1962 were present for their 50th graduation anniversary.

Concordia Seminary’s alumni have served their church, community, the nation and the world. A few of the many possible examples from this year’s reunion attendees include:

Rev. Dr. Roy Maack (1956), who served as the guest preacher for the opening

service, served as a parish pastor and Southeastern district president, and still remains active as a supporter and speaker for “Food for the Poor” in various parts of the U.S.

Rev. Dr. Hilbert Riemer (1961), who served as the guest preacher for the Jubilarian service, served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve, and gave 42 years of missionary service with the Lutheran Church of Korea.

Rev. Roger Venzke (1961) gave over 40 years of service as a U.S. Army Chaplain, eight years of which he served as director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces.

Rev. Dan Otto (1961), besides service in the congregation, circuit, and district, is also involved in “Food for the Poor,” and chaired the Mid-South District Hurricane Relief efforts in 2005 for assisting the U.S. Gulf Coast victims.

At the alumni reunion banquet, Rev. Harlan Wendler was honored with the Erwin T. Koch Award, an award given to the oldest reunion attendee. Along with his pastoral service to congregations in Oklahoma and Illinois, Pastor Wendler



Rev. Harlan Wendler was honored with the Erwin T. Koch award, given to the oldest reunion attendee.

also served circuit, district, synod, and Seminary.

Rev. Wendler noted the “clergy unity” within his class. This unity or bond is something mentioned every year — especially with the older classes (those who graduated from the Seminary through the 1960s). There was a time when most of the pastoral candidates attended high school, college, and seminary together, allowing for the creation of a bond that kept them connected through the many years of pastoral service.

Rev. Wendler celebrated the 65th anniversary of his ordination, as well as his 65th wedding anniversary with his wife, Dorothy. This is also something that becomes quite clear at alumni reunions: pastors’ wives are the unsung heroes of the Lutheran ministry.

The Seminary is grateful to the Concordia Historical Institute for hosting a reception for our guests, and to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund for providing financial support for the alumni reunion.

The 2012 Alumni Reunion, including graduating classes from years ending in a “7” or “2,” will be held June 5-7, 2012. Information and registration materials will be sent out in late February.



George Rattelmuller, left, and Ellis Rottman, both members of the class of 1956, chat with Dr. James Brauer, professor emeritus at Concordia Seminary.

JambalayaFest and a grateful alumnus

Rev. Paul Ernewein remembers his alma mater in an extraordinary way. Each year, he and several members of his congregation travel from Louisiana to host JambalayaFest on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The tradition began in 2007 after Rev. Ernewein received his first call to The Village Lutheran Church in Lacombe, La.

As a student at Concordia Seminary, Rev. Ernewein not only learned Lutheran theology, he also learned to effectively connect Lutheran theology with the people of his community. During his seminary years, he often looked for ways to improve “community” within the Seminary community. “Paul always succeeded in promoting events that would get people together,” commented Rev. Kyle Castens, admissions officer at Concordia Seminary. “A number of his ideas were adopted — and are still active — in our admissions program.”

Through his leadership, the congregation of The Village Lutheran Church in Lacombe has made it a point to be active in their community. They have an established partnership in human care with The Samaritan Center; members provide Saturday lunch at the Lacombe Senior Center; and support and par-



A member of The Village Lutheran Church pours out the spread of freshly boiled spicy corn-on-the-cob and crawfish.

ticipation is given to the work of the local nursing home and to Habitat for Humanity. Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Ed Homrighausen, offers daily devotions over a local radio station. With the arrival of Easter, the congregation hosts more than 200 children (only 20% are members) with the help of the local fire and EMT departments for an “Eggstravaganza.” The congregation has a monthly “Village Night at Sicily’s Pizza,” a Summer Youth Camp, and a JambalayaFest.

A few years ago, Rev. Ernewein approached Rev. Castens with the idea to have a JambalayaFest at Concordia Seminary. He wanted to show the people of his congregation where pastors are trained and express appreciation to the Seminary. And so for the past several years, in the second week of May (following Call Day), Rev. Ernewein and members of The Village Lutheran Church come to St. Louis to provide a JambalayaFest. It is a spread of Southern dishes including homemade jambalaya, a mixture of rice, chicken, sausage, and Cajun spices. In addition, Rev. Ernewein and his team of volunteer chefs prepare other Cajun foods including spicy corn on the cob, smoked alligator, and fresh Louisiana crawfish.

The members of The Village Lutheran Church raise funds to sponsor the event each year. Members of the Men’s Club host fundraising events to cover the cost of food and travel expenses. Anyone who wants to participate from the congregation is invited, and while some make the trip up to St. Louis, many are very involved in the preparations at home.

“I prefer to lead by example,” commented Rev. Ernewein. “I think an enthusiastic pastor can inspire church members and get them excited about participating in events. It is important to be passionate about what you want others to be passionate about. Never expect someone else to do what you can do.”



A member of The Village Lutheran Church demonstrates how to eat crawfish.



Crawfish and spicy corn-on-the-cob.



Rev. Kyle Castens, left, presents Rev. Paul Ernewein with an honorary wooden spoon, signed by members of the Concordia Seminary community.

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A screenshot of a web browser displaying the Concordia Theology website. The page title is "Concordia Theology LECTIONARY AT LUNCH+". Below the title are navigation links: "BACK TO CONCORDIA THEOLOGY", "HOW TO USE", and "SHOW GUIDES". A calendar for November 2011 is the central feature, with the 30th highlighted. The calendar table is as follows:

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

At the bottom of the page, there are links for "LSB FEASTS AND FESTIVALS" and "St. Andrew Ezekiel 2:16-21". A "JUMP TO:" section allows users to select the month (November) and year (2011).