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Paul Devantier

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CONCORDIA SEMINARY

SUMMER/FALL 2012



From the classroom to the field

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

FEATURES

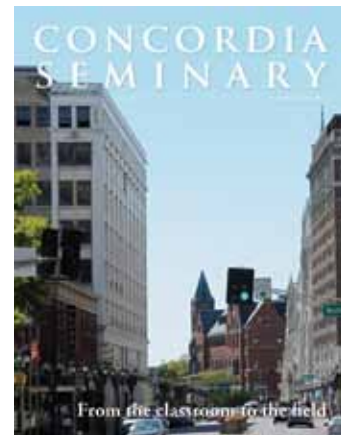
- 5 **MAIN FEATURE: Field education has a renewed focus in the city**
It is important to form the whole future pastor — in Scriptural knowledge, in emotional empathy, in cultural experiences, and much more. Thanks to its location just half a block from the city limits of St. Louis, Concordia Seminary is able to place a great emphasis on the cultural experience part of formation.
- 11 **SPECIAL SECTION: 173rd Academic Year At-A-Glance**
Concordia Seminary's 173rd academic year ended on May 18, 2012. Read this special section to take a look back — and a look forward to the future.
- 22 **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Combining his passions**
"We say that our family has been in the shepherd business for centuries," says Aaron Hannemann, a first year seminarian at Concordia Seminary. "If we aren't shepherds of livestock, we're shepherds of God's people."
- 24 **FACULTY FEATURE: An ambassador for Christ**
In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul teaches that he and his cohorts are "ambassadors for Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:20) Dr. James W. Voelz takes this teaching one step further: He strives to be an ambassador for Christ and for Concordia Seminary.
- 26 **ALUMNI FEATURE: Technology unites family on Call Day**
In recent years, God's gift of technology has enabled the Seminary to offer live streaming of the placement service through the Internet. His health did not allow Rev. Willard Koch to be in St. Louis for the service, but he could watch as his grandson, Timothy Koch, received his call.

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To be added to the mailing list, or to receive the magazine electronically, address correspondence to: *Concordia Seminary* magazine, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Pl., St. Louis, MO 63105; call 1-800-822-5287; or email magazine@csl.edu. Congregations may request that copies be sent to them in bulk for distribution within their churches.

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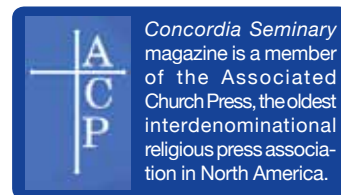
Cover Photograph
Midtown St. Louis
by Nancy Olson

Executive Editor
Fred A. Bleeke

Editor
Emily Boedecker

Designer
Jayna Rollings

Photographers
Emily Boedecker
Linda Ekong
Nancy Olson
Harold Rau



From the PRESIDENT

“Jesus returned to the city.” That’s reported incidentally in Matthew 21:18, not some profound doctrinal teaching or one of those texts that scholars research and debate. It’s just matter of fact, “Jesus returned to the city.” He had entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, spent the night in the “suburb” of Bethany, and the next morning made the “commute” back to the city for the ministry of Holy Week, His passion and resurrection for the salvation of all people. His disciples followed.

This issue of *Concordia Seminary* magazine invites you to think about the city. Are we following Jesus into the great urban centers of America? Is your congregation participating in outreach to the ethnically and economically diverse population of your city or a city near you? Are the members of your congregation known in your community for civic work selflessly done because you follow Jesus? Pastors, are we faithful in congregational duties and also active in our communities? Or to put these questions in a way that haunts me: If your congregation disappeared tomorrow, would it make a difference to the people in your community? If Concordia Seminary closed tomorrow, would it make a difference to the people of St. Louis?

Jesus returned to the city.

Matt. 21:18

Those are the questions in the back of our minds as we present to you this issue of *Concordia Seminary* magazine and announce the Seminary’s new *MissionShift* Institute (see page 9). The mission remains the same, the Great Commission given to us by our Savior Jesus, who taught that the mission begins in the city, Jerusalem, and from the city spreads to the regions influenced by the city, to Judea and Samaria, and finally “to the end of the earth,” in that day the great city of Rome. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8) The word “Shift” signals the Seminary’s new intent, to include in our formation programs a very specific program to teach students how to do ministry in the great urban centers of America. I’m especially pleased that seminarians *and local church members* will participate in the three hour sessions held for 32 weeks during the academic year. It’s another indication that Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is focused on graduating pastors and deaconesses who know how to work *with the laity* to advance the Savior’s mission to all people.

I’m glad to report that funds have generously been given to start the *MissionShift* Institute and invite you to consider sustaining and strengthening this initiative with your prayers and donations. Your support for Concordia Seminary helps us prepare pastors and deaconesses to lead congregations into 21st century mission. They may be called to one of America’s great urban centers, to a suburb, small town or rural congregation. Perhaps God will lead them into military and institutional chaplaincy or to overseas mission. Whatever mission field awaits them, it’s more important than ever that they go with humility and sensitivity to learn about the people and communities they have been called to serve. *MissionShift* is one of many ways Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is preparing servants to work with all the baptized in America the way America is today. “Jesus returned to the city.” We follow Him!



Dale A. Meyer
Dale A. Meyer

From the editor

As you read this issue, what kind of impression will it give you of today's Concordia Seminary? I am pleased that photos, words, design, colors, and paper give you an insight into the very important mission the Church has assigned us. And there is more.

Come, drive onto campus with me, turn off DeMun, the street on our east side, and catch the rising tower begun in 1926 with the gothic architecture, Luther statue, quadrangle, chapel, and faculty houses. What a heritage we have been given by those who have gone before!

Come, see the students, friendly but focused. They are deep into their studies. Students, faculty, and staff stream into the chapel each day at 11:10 a.m. Here is the model of what the students will follow as they someday minister among you.

The day the graduates get their calls (see page 12) is a great day of thanksgiving

and celebration. You are included in those prayers of thanksgiving.

Come, listen to the faculty who bear the privilege of "forming" our pastors, our theological leaders into the mid-part of this century. This group of professors has no weak link among them. They are respected here, in our Church, and throughout the world.

Now the staff. Those who support this whole enterprise.

Under a demanding administration, they are working as if there were no tomorrow. This is urgent business we are about — supporting the formation of pastors and church leaders.

So you see the photos and read the stories. Christ is alive here. Christ is in the people. Christ is in the people who support this Seminary.

Yes, we ask you for financial gifts. But for one day, see the responses that come from men, women, families, congregations, church groups, districts and synod. Much is needed and many respond. Each day we pray for you to pray for the Seminary and provide support.

Come, look upward to the good our God provides. Please join in this vital work for our Church.

Come visit us at www.csl.edu or at 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, Mo., 63105.

With you in Christ's grace, I am,

Fred A. Bleeke
Senior Vice President for Seminary Advancement (Interim)
Executive Editor of *Concordia Seminary* magazine



Concordia Seminary
ST. LOUIS

Mission Statement

Concordia Seminary serves church and world by providing theological education and leadership centered in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the formation of pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars, and leaders in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Vision Statement

Concordia Seminary will be the world leader in Lutheran ministerial formation and scholarship.

Read on-the-go!

download *Concordia Seminary* magazine to your mobile device at www.csl.edu



Field education has a renewed focus in the city

Around Concordia Seminary, you will often hear people talk about “formation.” It is important to form the whole future pastor while he’s at Seminary — in Scriptural knowledge to teach people about Jesus, in emotional empathy for his future parishioners, in cultural experiences so he can relate to the people he encounters in his ministry, and much more. Thanks to its location just half a block away from the city limits of St. Louis, Concordia Seminary is able to place a great emphasis on the cultural experience part of formation. One way that this is accomplished is through the resident field education program.

“It’s not good for students to just be learning theory, immersed in a classroom,” commented Dr. William Utech, associate professor of practical theology and director of the resident field education program at Concordia Seminary. “There’s a theory-practice-reflection loop that needs to be going on all the time so that everything they’re learning is also being put to the test in real-world, real-time ministry.”

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So upon their arrival at Concordia Seminary for their first year of studies, new seminarians are assigned field education churches in St. Louis, where they will ideally spend every Sunday during the first, second, and fourth years of Seminary (with the third year typically reserved for offsite vicarage). Seminarians spend eight to 10 hours at their churches. They are able to lead Bible studies, help distribute Holy Communion, and serve as lectors on Sunday mornings. Their main job is to get to know their pastors and their congregations in order to start to learn what being a pastor is all about firsthand. In an urban setting like downtown St. Louis, seminarians may experience a cross-cultural ministry experience. Several urban churches in St. Louis welcome seminarians as their field education students, including Bethlehem Lutheran Church in North St. Louis and Crave/Christ in the City on the Saint Louis University campus in Midtown.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC) is shepherded by Rev. John Schmidtke, a graduate of Concordia Seminary. A predominantly African-American con-

gregation, Bethlehem has existed in North St. Louis for over 160 years. Rev. Schmidtke was called to Bethlehem 23 years ago and annually asks for seminarians to come to his church.

There's a theory-practice-reflection loop that needs to be going on all the time.

– Professor William Utech

“Probably the greatest experience at Bethlehem is the ‘outside of the box’ thinking toward mission and ministry — whether doing street ministry or building a housing ministry or starting a charter school... whatever we need to do to bring Jesus, we try to do,” Pastor Schmidtke commented. Currently, Bethlehem has four students: first year seminarians Marcus Lane and Mark Budenholzer, second year Lucas Witt, and fourth year Devin Kimball.



Seminarian Devin Kimball reads the lesson at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



First year student Marcus Lane leads the children's message at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

On Sunday mornings, the seminarians at Bethlehem participate as readers, leaders of the children’s message, and communion assistants. “I think it is a blessing to our students to be able to see Lutheran worship that is very sensitive to the young African-American community that we serve, while at the same time not



Among other things, field education students help distribute the Sacraments, as Mark Budenholzer (right) does at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

compromising Biblical worship that is Christ-centered and holds as precious the hallmarks of the traditional Lutheran service — confession and absolution, Scripture, prayers, sermon, communion,” Rev. Schmidtke said.

Another program through which field education students interact with their young people is called Bethlehem Bible Outreach (BBO). Each Wednesday throughout the academic year, 60 to 100 youth, kindergarten through eighth grade, are bussed to a local recreational building by church vans. “I call this a two hour mini Vacation Bible School,” seminarian Lucas Witt said. “During the next two hours Bethlehem Lutheran Church members and seminarians play with them in the gymnasium, sing with them, supervise them for a large group lesson and then teach them in small groups.

“It is a good experience to learn how to make spiritual concepts simple and learn how to handle kids, most of whom have no church background,” Witt continued. “It really is *raw* mission.”

Throughout the last few years, Dr. Utech has seen a great increase in the number of students who ask to be placed in urban church settings. “They tend to come from healthy congregations where their pastors had

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Considering a Gift of Securities?

Are you blessed with appreciated stocks, bonds, mutual funds or other assets? You may be able to avoid capital gains due when you sell the assets outright. Give those assets as a charitable donation! Donating appreciated assets directly to Concordia Seminary can be excellent Christian stewardship. Depreciated assets? You may be able to claim a loss as well as a tax deduction by selling off the asset outright and making a donation using the proceeds.

For more information please call 1-800-822-5287

Corporate Matching Gifts

Many companies will match your donation to Concordia Seminary — even if they do not normally match to religious organizations.

Doubling your gift is outstanding stewardship!

There are two ways to see if the company you or your spouse work for or are retired from matches gifts to Concordia Seminary:

- Call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287;
- Visit the Seminary’s website, www.csl.edu, and follow these steps:

Step 1: Click on the words “Gift Planning” under the “Alumni and Friends” tab.

Step 2: Scroll down to “Employer/Employee Gift Matching” and click on the highlighted words “Employer Match.”

Step 3: Above the Seminary address toward the bottom of the page click on the blue link: www.matchinggifts.com/csl/

Step 4: Type in the name of your company in the box and click “Search.”



Above, from top left: Students and community members hang out at Crave Coffeehouse; seminarian Andrew Bayless (right) chats with Saint Louis University students before Bible study; Rev. Rathje (right) speaks during a small group; the coffeehouse view of Crave.

Below: Christ in the City Lutheran Church sits on Saint Louis University's medical campus in St. Louis and opens its doors to the urban community around it.



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hearts for lost people and that's rubbed off on them, and they come to seminary looking for more of that," he said.

Witt wholeheartedly agrees. "I am being exposed to a culture very different than most local LCMS churches," he said. "I am being stretched by first-hand exposure more than most people care to be. I hear the stories and emotion of people who truly are in 'tough times' filled with lost jobs, checkered histories, and relatives struggling amidst drug activity or killed by gang activity.

I have been forced to consider how people of a non-Germanic ancestry add their culture into Christian worship.

– Seminarian Lucas Witt

"I have been forced to consider," he continued, "how people of a non-Germanic ancestry add their culture into Christian worship. During the worship services I am exposed to music derived from African heritage, and witness a culture that is more verbally and emotionally expressive in praise and prayer, and spend much more time praying than most congregations reserve time for on a Sunday morning."

About five miles south of Bethlehem Lutheran Church sits Christ in the City Lutheran Church and Crave Coffeehouse. This historic building (close to 150 years old) is on the corner of Saint Louis University's (SLU) medical campus. "That campus started growing up around it," Dr. Utech shared. "Next thing you know there are office buildings, and parking structures, and they closed down the street in front of it and turned it into a walkway. Every day there are thousands of students walking by."

Its location on an urban college campus (an official affiliated campus ministry of Saint Louis University) means that community members and students frequently interact. According to Rev. John Rathje (a 2008 graduate of Concordia Seminary), pastor of Christ in the City, this location is ideal for seminarians to experience a good example of urban ministry.

In fact, Christ in the City has seminarians to thank for its existence and success today. According to their

website (www.cravestl.org), the church “restarted” as a church plant in 1996, when Rev. Randy Wilken, then a seminarian, started holding Bible studies for Christ in the City’s three remaining members. Soon, up to 50 people were attending Sunday worship. Seminary students Chad Lakies and David Corson both served as vicars. They, along with other seminarians, started this church plant. Rev. Rathje was the third vicar and he got a call to be its sole pastor in 2008.

“Seminarians have been vital all along the way, from the Bible studies, the worship, the restoration, the building and refurbishing, the neighborhood association, small groups, all places where we have several seminarians participating and serving,” Rev. Rathje said. “Our job, the way we see it as a congregation, is to help them grow and disciple the seminarians to care for the students and the city. It’s the leadership development of discipleship.

“Within a three mile radius there is a large number of dialects or languages,” he continued. By hosting picnics and supporting the neighborhood through school supplies drives, food drives, and buying Christmas gifts for families, the church and coffeehouse have shown that they care about their community.

“Our desire is to be restorers in the city, to connect with anyone so that they might see how Christ can

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MissionShift Institute

“Equipping Christians to build and lead culture-crossing ministries.”

- MissionShift Institute (MSI) collaborates with local ministry leaders to provide knowledgeable training on how ministry works in St. Louis.
- Concepts learned through MSI are transferable from one city to another.
- The goal is to prepare MSI participants to entrepreneur grassroots culture-crossing ministries in their local context.

MissionShift is a 32 week course that meets in the fall, winter, and spring quarters (September 10 through May 6). The course will meet on Monday evenings at Messiah Lutheran Church in St. Louis. Throughout the course, 29 guest speakers (non-profit executives, ethnic and ministry leaders) will expand on the course readings and make the content real-world applicable. Field trips, immersion experiences, and interviews will be integral parts of the course. For more information, please visit us online at www.missionshiftstl.org, email missionshift@csl.edu, or call 314-505-7108.

MissionShift:
Reaching the World **Next Door**



Grave Coffeehouse has a dual purpose with a common goal: to serve the urban community and to minister to them with Christ’s love and caffeine.

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be a restorer of brokenness in their lives. In doing that, we don't see campus students as the end game. Rather, we want to join them in restoring the city and along the way, we disciple," Rev. Rathje said.

"People in our context see seminarians not as people who are trying to fix, but respectfully caring for and walking alongside them."

One of those seminarians is second year M.Div. student Andrew Bayless. "By working in an urban context I have gained valuable experience through working with university students as well as a variety of people from all sorts of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds," he commented.

Andrew and his wife, Ashley (a graduate of Concordia Seminary's deaconess program who currently works at Concordia Publishing House), are involved

in many ministries at Christ in the City, including the weekly young adult gathering called "acts64" and a missional community group called "The Attic." He has also been involved in prayer walking in the neighborhood (where seminarians ask community members if they can pray for their needs), teaching Sunday School, confirmation classes, and preaching a few times a year.

Citing that most demographers predict that the urban centers of our world will continue to increase in population, Andrew feels that ministries like Christ in the City are integral in proclaiming the Gospel to future generations. "I believe that the church must be present in the heart of our cities on our globe in order to provide God's restoration in Christ to the broken in our cities," he said. "I believe that it is critical for the LCMS to continue to pursue God's mission of seeking and saving the lost."

23RD ANNUAL

Theological Symposium

AT CONCORDIA SEMINARY

**"Doing Justice:
The Church's Faith in Action"**

September 18-19, 2012

**FEATURING PLENARY
PRESENTERS**

John Nunes
Kathryn Galchutt
John Witte, Jr.
Erik Herrmann
Bernhard Seter
Mark Jungkans

Registration deadline is September 7, 2012

To register or for more information about fees, contact continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486, email ce@csel.edu or visit www.csel.edu.



2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

630 students,
151 new pastors,
and much more

SUMMER 2011

4 pastoral calls
10 vicarage assignments
9 deaconess internships

FALL 2011

33 pastoral calls
3 deaconess calls
14 vicarage assignments

WINTER 2012

22 pastoral calls
14 vicarage assignments

SPRING 2012

92 pastoral calls
1 deaconess call
69 vicarage assignments
4 deaconess internships

Plus

The Graduate School awarded the following degrees on May 18:

3 Master of Arts
7 Doctor of Ministry
2 Master of Sacred Theology
2 Doctor of Philosophy

2012 CALLS AND VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS

READ ON

See pages 12 - 17 for a list of winter and spring calls and assignments or go to <http://callday.csl.edu/explore>

WINTER/SPRING CALLS 2012

Unless otherwise noted, all calls were in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program and announced on Call Day, May 1, 2012.

CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

- † **Albrechtsen, Henry** - Love, East Greenbush, N.Y. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Cohn, Daniel** - St. John's, Stuyvesant, N.Y. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Tyce, Martin** - Atonement, Stony Point, N.Y. (Call Pending) (DELTO Winter '12)

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT

- † **Johnson, Benjamin** - Prince of Peace, Fremont, Calif.
- † **Morey, Jeffrey** - Trinity, Stockton, Calif. (SMP Winter '12)

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † **Synnott, Matthew** - Trinity Evangelical Church, Peoria, Ill.

EASTERN DISTRICT

- † **Barry, Matthew** - St. Luke, Cabot, Penn.

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

- † **Durante, K. Anthony** - Trinity, Delray Beach, Fla. (DELTO Winter '12)

- † **Matlock, Albert** - Trinity of Wakulla, Crawfordville, Fla. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Meyer, Joel P.** - Holy Trinity, Kingsland, Ga.
- † **Ogle, Kevin** - Miramar, Miramar, Fla. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Simms, Aaron** - Living Faith, Dalonega, Ga. (SMP Winter '12)

INDIANA DISTRICT

- † **Davis, Christopher** - Trinity, Elkhart, Ind.

IOWA DISTRICT WEST

- † **Bose, Kenneth** - Trinity, Perry, Iowa (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Brandt, Wade** - Zion Evangelical, Ogden, Iowa
- † **Oetting, Timothy** - Our Savior, Sheldon, Iowa
- † **Whitmore, Justin** - Immanuel and Trinity, Clarinda and Shenandoah, Iowa

KANSAS DISTRICT

- † **Schultz, Christian** - St. Paul's, Junction City, Kan. (Call Pending) (DELTO Winter '12)

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

- † **Adams, Caleb** - St. Lorenz Evangelical, Frankenmuth, Mich.
- † **Johnson, Andrew** - St. Paul, Lapeer, Mich.
- † **LeClair, Edward** - St. Peter's Evangelical, Three Rivers, Mich.
- † **Matyas, Dennis** - St. Paul's, Albion, Mich.
- † **Sutton, August Trevor** - St. Luke, Haslett, Mich.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

- † **Behrens, Matthew** - LakePointe, Hot Springs, Ark.
- † **Bushuiakovish, Mark** - Grace, Knoxville, Tenn.
- † **Woodrow, Joshua** - LakePointe, Hot Springs, Ark.

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT

- † **Moquin, Eric** - Faith, St. Cloud, Minn.
- † **Urlaub, Bradley** - Love of Christ, St. Cloud, Minn.
- † **Yeareyan, Timothy** - Grace, Hibbing, Minn.

EXPLORE NOW



To view an interactive map and watch videos of the services, scan the QR code with your smartphone or go to callday.csl.edu.

John Rasmussen, Our Savior
South Windsor, CT



Calls and vicarage/internship assignments were spread across the United States (as noted by the pushpins).

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT

- † **Koglin, Adam** - Redeemer, Rochester, Minn.
- † **Kollmann, Christopher** - Messiah, Mounds View, Minn.
- † **Larsen, Daniel** - Bethany and Trinity, Wabasso and Sanborn, Minn.
- † **Niebuhr, Jon** - Trinity, Carver, Minn.
- † **Schroeder, David** - Our Savior, Excelsior, Minn.
- † **Stroming, Randy** - Mt. Olive, Anoka, Minn. (DELTO Winter '12)

MISSOURI DISTRICT

- † **Bernhardt, Robert** - Holy Cross Evangelical, St. Louis, Mo.
- † **Fittje, Kyle** - Immanuel, Lockwood, Mo.
- † **Fries, John** - Immanuel and St. John's, Trenton and Chillicothe, Mo.
- † **Greer, Johnny** - St. Peter's, Spanish Lake, Mo. (SMP Winter '12)
- † **Hardaway, Matthew** - St. Matthew, Lee's Summit, Mo.
- † **Hasz, Martin** - Eisleben, Scott City, Mo.
- † **Mueller, Jacob** - Holy Cross Evangelical, Emma, Mo.
- † **Wolters, Luke** - Grace Evangelical, Wellsville, Mo.
- † **Yount, Andrew** - The Bridge, Washington, Mo. (SMP Winter '12)
- † **Zeigler, Michael** - Timothy Evangelical, St. Louis, Mo.

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

- † **Duley, Jason** - St. Paul's, Arlington, Neb.
- † **Onken, Adam** - Zion, Leigh, Neb.
- † **Snoberger, Adam** - Trinity, Grand Island, Neb.



Seminarians (including Timothy Oetting, front) are ushered into the service by Dr. Charles Arand.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

- † **Brezina, David** - Messiah, Lynnfield, Mass. (SMP Winter '12)
- † **Loos, Benjamin** - First/Zion, Greenwich/Bridgeport, Conn. (M.Div. Winter '12)
- † **Rasmussen, John** - Our Savior, South Windsor, Conn.
- † **Sorenson, Andrew** - Faith, Groton, Conn. (DELTO Winter '12)

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

- † **Jones, Richard** - Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, N.D.

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

- † **Holdorf, Zachary** - Trinity, Wausau, Wis.
- † **Holoubek, Scott** - St. Peter/Trinity, Wausau, Wis. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Roehrborn, Brian** - St. John's, Almond, Wis. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Schroeder, Ryan** - St. Luke's, New Richmond, Wis.
- † **Starfeldt, Chad** - Shepherd of the Hills, Greenville, Wis.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † **Dickerhoff, Jacob** - Christ the Rock, Rockford, Ill.



Dr. Dale Meyer shakes Dennis Matyas' hand as he receives his call to the Michigan District.



The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus was packed full of family and friends.

- † **Edwards, Lucas** - Holy Cross/Immanuel/Trinity, Onida/Harrold/Blunt, S.D.
- † **Janneke, Kory** - Faith, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- † **Pay, Garen** - Peace, Alcester, S.D.
- † **Sutton, Albert** - Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, S.D. (SMP Winter '12)
- † **Winckler, Paul** - Zion, Rapid City, S.D.

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

- † **Christensen, Jonathan** - Hope, Fond du Lac, Wis.
- † **Miller, Joshua** - Community of Life, Oregon, Wis.
- † **Peters, Michael** - Christ Memorial, Fitchburg, Wis. (SMP Winter '12)
- † **Schultz, John M.** - St. John, Plymouth, Wis.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

- † **Christenson, Timothy**, Prince of Peace, Springfield, Va. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Gehrke, Wesley** - Christ, Norfolk, Va.
- † **Hengst, Adam** - King of Glory, Williamsburg, Va.
- † **Herberts, Dean** - St. Paul's, Norlina, N.C.
- † **Kobs, Matthew** - Galilee, Chester, Md. (M.Div. Winter '12)
- † **McReynolds, Lawrence**, King of Glory, Williamsburg, Va. (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Roma, Thomas** - Holy Cross, Clayton, N.C.
- † **Rosenkoetter, Brian** - St. Paul, Annapolis, Md.
- † **Weaver, Brian** - Concordia, Conover, N.C.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

- † **Bussman, John** - St. Paul's, Cullman, Ala.
- † **Ninke, John** - Trinity, Scottsboro, Ala.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

- † **Evans, Derek** - Clover Trinity, Buhl, Idaho
- † **Lakies, Chad** - Concordia University Portland, Portland, Ore.
- † **Musegades, Michael** - Trinity Evangelical, Grangeville, Idaho

OHIO DISTRICT

- † **Davenport, Richard** - Trinity, Cincinnati, Ohio
- † **Harbaugh, Darren** - Concordia Evangelical, Columbus, Ohio
- † **Ramsey, John** - Trinity, Grafton, Ohio (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Voelker, John** - Faith, Kent, Ohio (Call Pending) (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Welter, Austen** - St. John, South Euclid, Ohio

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT

- † **Griffith, Christopher** - St. John's, Covington, Okla.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

- † **Smith, Gary** - Crown of Life, Sun City West, Ariz. (SMP Winter '12)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

- † **Burke, Adam** - Mount Hope, Boulder, Colo.

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

- † **Andreasen, Jordon** - St. John and Trinity, Wagner and Fairfax, S.D.
- † **Baumann, Joshua** - Faith Evangelical, Pierre, S.D.
- † **Edge, David** - Zion, Sioux Falls, S.D.



Seminarian Travis Sherman was called to the Wyoming District.



Matthew Behrens, pictured with his wife, Sherrah, and son, were called to the Mid-South District.

† **Wollenberg, Nathan** - St. Paul, McAllen, Texas

WYOMING DISTRICT

- † **Rose, Kevin** - Peace and Our Savior, Marbleton and Pinedale, Wyoming
- † **Sherman, Travis** - Grace Evangelical, Gordon, Neb.

CALLS PENDING

- † **Crawford, King** (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Ikanih, Afam** (EIT)

DEACONESS ASSIGNMENT

ASSIGNMENT PENDING

- † **Griffith, Jennifer**

CHS: Center for Hispanic Studies
 CMC: Cross Cultural Ministry Center
 DELTO: Distance Education Leading To Ordination
 EIT: Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology
 SMP: Specific Ministry Pastor Program

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † **Hemler, Jonathan** - Signal Hill, Belleville, Illinois
- † **Holden, Jason** - Our Savior LC and Student Center, Carbondale, Illinois

TEXAS DISTRICT

- † **Bielefeldt, Douglas** - Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Texas (SMP Winter '12)
- † **Braun, Benjamin** - Mount Olive, Austin, Texas
- † **Brockhouse, David** - Mt. Olive, San Antonio, Texas (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Davidson, Seth** - Holy Cross, Nederland, Texas
- † **Eden, Timothy** - Our Savior, Sulphur Springs, Texas
- † **Hill, Nathaniel** - St. Michael's, Winchester, Texas
- † **Kasper, Robert Gabe** - Board of Mission Admin. (for ACTS, Lakeway), Austin, Texas
- † **Meissler, Craig** - Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Texas (SMP Winter '12)
- † **Misch, Stephen Nathaniel** - Lord of Life, Corpus Christi, Texas
- † **Moore, Tyler** - Good Shepherd, Cedar Park, Texas
- † **Mull, John David** - St. Peter, Roanoke, Texas
- † **Nielsen, David** - Grace, Del Rio, Texas (DELTO Winter '12)
- † **Roettjer, Andrew** - St. Mark, Houston, Texas
- † **Tilt, Aaron** - Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Texas (SMP Winter '12)



Dr. Dale Meyer congratulates Mark Bushuikovish on his call.

VICARAGE/INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENTS 2012

Unless otherwise noted, all vicarage assignments were in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program and announced on Call Day, May 1, 2012.

VICARAGE AND DEACONESS INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT

- † **Conrad, James** - Light of the Hills, Cameron Park, Calif.
- † **Dirks, Dennis** (CMC) - Our Savior, Livermore, Calif.
- † **Hues, Daniel** - Redeemer, Fresno, Calif. (CMC Winter '12)
- † **Morales, Moises** (CHS) - Mount Zion, Richmond, Calif.
- † **Nguyen, Daniel** - Trinity, Sacramento, Calif.
- † **Schuermann, John** (CMC) - St. Luke, Reno, Nev.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † **Hinrichs, Brett** - St. John's, Decatur, Ill.
- † **Holman, Raymond** - St. John's, East Moline, Ill.

EASTERN DISTRICT

- † **Gerber, Anthony** - St. John's, Orchard Park, N.Y.

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

- † **Corps, Rafael** (CHS) - Messiah, Tampa, Fla.
- † **Huertas, Jose** (CHS) - Messiah, Tampa, Fla.
- † **Justiniano, William** (CHS) - Messiah, Tampa, Fla.
- † **Potts, Daniel** - Grace, Winter Haven, Fla.
- † **Reynolds, Stephen** - First, Gainesville, Fla.

- † **Taylor, Ryan** - Mount Calvary, Warner Robins, Ga.

- † **Wildauer, Weston** - Bethlehem, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

INDIANA DISTRICT

- † **Barlau, Joseph** - Immanuel, Seymour, Ind.
- † **Brandon, Kurt** - Faith, Bloomington, Ind.

IOWA DISTRICT EAST

- † **Kane, Patrick** - Zion, Hiawatha, Iowa (SMP Spring '12)

IOWA DISTRICT WEST

- † **Black, Eric** - Trinity, Des Moines, Iowa

KANSAS DISTRICT

- † **Schmidt, Micah** - Ascension, Wichita, Kan.
- † **Wingfield, William** - Beautiful Savior, Olathe, Kan.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

- † **Bender, Douglas** - Immanuel, Macomb, Mich.
- † **Eden, Joel** - St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, Mich.
- † **Hooper, William** - St. Paul, Hamburg, Mich.
- † **Parker, Harrison** - Messiah, Clio, Mich.
- † **Vogeli, Mitchell** - Nativity, St. Charles, Mich.

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

- † **Fertitta, Patrick** - Faith, Tullahoma, Tenn.



Carl Deardoff will serve his vicarage in Madison, Wis.

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT

- † **Erdman, Michael** - Trinity, Rochester, Minn.
- † **Kirchoff, Chad** - Peace, Hutchinson, Minn. (SMP Spring '12)
- † **Omtvedt, Michael** - Hosanna, Mankato, Minn. (SMP Spring '12)
- † **Schaekel, Timothy** - Trinity, Janesville, Minn.
- † **Wampfler, Jacob** - Woodbury, Woodbury, Minn.

MISSOURI DISTRICT

- † **Elfe, Chad** - New Beginnings, Pacific, Mo.
- † **Espinosa, Alfonso** - Salem, Affton, Mo.
- † **Grote, Joshua** - Zion, Palmyra, Mo.
- † **Koltz, Gary** - Beautiful Savior, Bridgeton, Mo.
- † **Krepel, Joshua** - Immanuel, Washington, Mo.
- † **Peters, Matthew D.** - Blessed Savior, Florissant, Mo.
- † **Ross, Bernard** - Our Savior, St. Charles, Mo.
- † **Wade, Jeffrey** - Trinity, Troy, Mo.
- † **Wilshusen, James** - Immanuel, St. Charles, Mo.

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

- † **Heermann, William** - Trinity, Amherst, Neb.
- † **Lally, Richard** - Good Shepherd, Gretna, Neb.
- † **Ohlmann, William** - Trinity, Lexington, Neb. (SMP Spring '12)
- † **Rosse, Andrew** - Trinity, Grand Island, Neb.



Explaining where in Michigan they will be serving their vicarages, Mitchell Vogeli (left) and Harrison Parker (middle) use their hands as maps (with Dr. William Utech).



From left, Joshua Rusert, Joshua Reinke, Andrew Wilson, Brett Hinrichs, Michael Heckmann, and Micah Schmidt will all be serving vicarages in the next academic year.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

† **Martinal, Timothy** - St. Paul's, New Hartford, Conn.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

† **Ankersen, Ryan** - St. Paul, Flemington, N.J.

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

† **Strussenberg, David** - Trinity, Ironwood, Mich.

† **Wilson, Andrew** - Pilgrim, Green Bay, Wis.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

† **Bartholomew, Andrew** - Immanuel, Elmhurst, Ill.

† **Imlah, Peter** - St. John's, Lombard, Ill. (SMP Spring '12)

† **Llewellyn, Joseph** - Christ the Rock, Rockford, Ill.

† **Roskowic, David** - Mt. Olive, Rockford, Ill. (SMP Spring '12)

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

† **Haugen, Daniel** - Redeemer, Bellingham, Wash.

OHIO DISTRICT

† **Hanchett, Mark** - St. John, Akron, Ohio

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT

† **Heckmann, Michael** - Redeemer, Bartlesville, Okla.

† **Meyer, Jonathan** - Holy Trinity, Edmond, Okla.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

† **Sheek, Darrin** - Faith, Capistrano Beach, Calif. (CMC Winter '12)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

† **Bayou, Tomas** - Peace with Christ, Aurora, Colo. (CMC Winter '12)

† **Kruse, Caleb** - Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo.

† **Vanderhyde, David** - University Hills, Denver, Colo.

SELCT DISTRICT

† **Fraker, Timothy** - St. Luke's, Oviedo, Fla

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

† **Clement, Brandon** - Beautiful Savior, Waukesha, Wis. (SMP Spring '12)

† **Deardoff, Carl** - Mount Olive, Madison, Wis.

† **Reinke, Joshua** - Trinity, Howards Grove, Wis.

† **Schockman, Gary** - Christ, Clinton, Wis.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

† **Marque, Edward (Alex)** - Good Shepherd, Roanoke, Va.

† **Rusert, Joshua** - Living Savior, Fairfax Station, Va.

† **Segovia, Marcos** - Fountain of Life, Kernersville, N.C. (SMP Spring '12)

† **Smith, Harry** - Concordia, Conover, N.C.

† **Witt, Lucas** - Immanuel, Baltimore, Md.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

† **Doering, Theodore** - Trinity, Baton Rouge, La.

† **Hestermann, Jeffrey** - Messiah, Prattville, Ala. (SMP Spring '12)

† **Pettit, Joshua** - St. Mark's, Elberta, Ala.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

† **Hanson, Kale** - Zion, Bethalto, Ill.

† **Ostlund, Daniel** - Our Savior LC and Lutheran Student Center, Carbondale, Ill.

† **Schlund, Andrew** - Zion, Litchfield, Ill.

TEXAS DISTRICT

† **Brimer, Bill** - Water's Edge, Frisco, Texas (SMP Spring '12)

† **Mendez, Arturo** (CHS) - Centro Familiar Cristiano, Houston, Texas

† **Murillo, David** - Cross, New Braunfels, Texas

† **Parsons, Jake** - Peace, Hurst, Texas (CMC Winter '12)

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL MISSION

† **Warmbier, Matthew** - Trinity, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

DEACONESS INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

† **Fallaque Maria** (CHS) - Messiah, Tampa, Fla.

MISSOURI DISTRICT

† **Effken, Ashley** - Lutheran Senior Services, Webster Groves, Mo.

† **Elliott, Sarah** - Village, Ladue, Mo.

† **White, Sylvia** - Messiah, St. Louis, Mo.

CHS: Center for Hispanic Studies
 CMC: Cross Cultural Ministry Center
 DELTO: Distance Education Leading To Ordination
 EIT: Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology
 SMP: Specific Ministry Pastor Program



Deaconess students Ashley Effken (left), Sarah Elliott, and Sylvia White sing the opening hymn during the vicarage assignment service.

Benidt Center celebrates with open house

On April 26, the Concordia Seminary community, along with donors, neighbors, and friends, gathered at the Seminary to celebrate and dedicate the Johann Hinrich Benidt Seminary Center.

An integral part of the Phase I improvements to campus, the Benidt Seminary Center serves as a “student union” building. It encompasses several functional areas: Wartburg and Koburg Halls (main cafeteria and formal dining room, respectively); the basement level with the Food Bank and the Re-Sell It Shop; and the two upper floors that have meeting spaces and a student community room with a shared kitchen.



Seminarian Jason Holden addresses the crowd and gives thanks for the Benidt Seminary Center.



Student Association President John Fries (left), Dr. Dale Meyer, Mrs. Bea Benidt, and Board of Regents Chairman Ralph Blomenberg cut the ribbon.

After a short dedication worship service in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, the assembly processed to the lawn outside the Benidt Center to listen to remarks by Dr. Dale Meyer, Mrs. Bea Benidt, and seminarian John Fries Meyer, Benidt, seminarian John Fries

(president of the Student Association), and Ralph Blomenberg (chairman of the Board of Regents) cut the ceremonial ribbon and kicked off the reception. For a short video synopsis of the day's events, please visit www.csl.edu.

Dr. Devantier retires from Concordia Seminary

The Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier, former executive editor of *Concordia Seminary* magazine and senior vice president for Seminary advancement, retired from his position at the end of December 2011.

Devantier served in this post full time since August 2008. He led the advancement division through the successful *How Will They Hear?* Campaign from 2005-2010 which raised over \$80 million for Concordia Seminary. He also led the creative services department during the redesign of this magazine from FOCUS to *Concordia Seminary* magazine.

Devantier will be continuing his efforts for the Seminary through Washington, D.C. relations with the Seminary including trips hosted by Dr. Dale Meyer. He continues to serve as the executive director of the National Lutheran Alliance. The Alliance exists to support and strengthen the educational and government-relations efforts in the nation's capitol of entities affiliated with the LCMS. Devantier will also continue speaking on the internationally-syndicated radio program “By the Way,” which he has been hosting since 1974.



Devantier receives a John Pils print of the Seminary with his wife, Ellen.

Commencement celebrates four honorees

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' Commencement exercises for the 2012 graduating class took place on Friday, May 18, in the Seminary's main quadrangle. In addition to conferring academic degrees, the Seminary celebrated four esteemed men chosen by the faculty to receive honorary degrees and awards.

Rev. Dr. Paul Zimmerman (Distinguished Alumnus Award): a 1944 graduate of Concordia Seminary and a retired president of three Concordia Universities.

Rev. Dr. Rudi Zimmer (honorary Doctor of Letters degree): presently serves as executive director of the Bible Society of Brazil.

Mr. Larry Lumpe (*Christus Vivit* award): presently serves as executive director of the Concordia Historical Institute.

Rev. Héctor Hoppe (honorary Doctor of Divinity degree): presently serves as senior editor and manager of multilin-

gual resources at Concordia Publishing House. Hoppe delivered the Commencement address.



From left, Larry Lumpe, Rudi Zimmer, and Héctor Hoppe (with Dr. Dale Meyer, second from left) received honorary degrees and awards from Concordia Seminary.

Shaving heads to save lives

In March 2012, Concordia Seminary hosted its first "St. Baldrick's Head-Shaving Event" to support the

St. Baldrick's Foundation. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most



Dr. Dale Meyer had his head shaved.

promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. Twenty people had their heads shaved, including one visitor from Tulsa who had leukemia but is in remission, three children, two staff members, 14 seminarians, and Dr. Dale Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary. To date, the participants have raised \$7,101, which is beyond the \$5,000 they had hoped to raise. The volunteer barbers were from a local St. Louis Great Clips.

For more information, please visit www.stbaldricks.org.



CSL students, employees, and community members participated in the event.

LutherHostel 2012 to feature Sem professor

LutherHostel 2012 will be held Oct. 6-9 on the campus of Concordia Seminary. LutherHostel is an event designed to provide growth in biblical knowledge and understanding, fun, and fellowship, and a chance to gain helpful insights for daily living. It is offered for adults age 55 and above.



Biermann

The theme for the event will be "One King, Two Kingdoms: Living as a Christian American." The main presenter will be Professor Joel Biermann of Concordia Seminary.

Everyone knows that in polite conversation two topics are taboo: religion and politics. This year's LutherHostel will not be polite conversation! Ideas about how Christian faith and political responsibility fit together abound, but are often misinformed and misguided. In an election year, the confusion seems to increase. Following the lead of Luther, we will consider more carefully what exactly it means to be a Christian American; and

how we should learn to fit these two realities together faithfully and effectively.

Dr. Biermann joined the faculty at Concordia Seminary in the summer of 2002 in the department of systematic theology, teaching doctrinal theology with a special interest and emphasis

centered on ethics and the correct role of the law in the life of the believer. Outside of his responsibilities at the Seminary, Dr. Biermann serves actively at his home congregation. He has also helped produce similar study material through Lutheran Hour Ministries and provided discussion questions and answers for a series of men's Bible Study books through Concordia Publishing House (*Blessed is the Man*).

Scheduled activities for LutherHostel 2012 will feature a reception and dinner with President and Mrs. Dale A. Meyer.

Other activities include presentations, class visitation, student-led evening devotions, opportunities for informal interaction with faculty, a private demonstration of the organ in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, and a tour of selected St. Louis area sites. An optional tour of Lutheran historical sites in Perry County, Mo., also is available on Oct. 10, immediately following LutherHostel.

LutherHostel 2012 will explore the complexities of being a Christian American.

The LutherHostel fee is \$325 per person, which includes all meals and refreshments for the event. Housing is available on campus (on a limited basis for an additional cost) or in nearby hotels. The registration deadline is Sept. 7.

For more information about LutherHostel, contact the Seminary's office of continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486 or ce@csl.edu.

2012 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

- Jul. 30-Aug. 1: Making Sense of [Your] Preaching - Dr. Joel Okamoto, Seymour, IN
- Aug. 6-8: Exploring Exodus: The Origins of Biblical Israel - Dr. Reed Lessing, Pocatello, ID
- Aug. 6-8: Making Christian Counseling More Christ-Centered - Dr. Richard Marrs, Overland Park, KS
- Aug. 6-8: James - Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, Cleveland, OH
- Aug. 6-8: Follow Me: Making Disciples Ritually in a Post-Modern World - Dr. Kent Bureson, West Des Moines, IA
- Aug. 6-8: Out of Creation Comes Creativity—for Preaching - Dr. Glenn Nielsen, West Bend, WI
- Aug. 6-8: When Things Fall Apart - Dr. Henry Rowold, Atwood, KS
- Aug. 6-8: Isaiah 1-12, The Holy One of Israel in Our Midst - Dr. Andrew Bartelt, Hillsboro, OR
- Aug. 13-15: Isaiah 40-55 - Dr. Reed Lessing, Old Bridge, NJ
- Aug. 17-18: Christ, Redeemer of the Family: Ministering to the Hispanic/Latino family in a North American Context - Prof. Mark Kempff, Woodbury, MN
- Aug. 20-22: The Uniqueness of Christ in a Pluralistic Culture: Through Lutheran Eyes - Dr. Joel Okamoto, Santa Fe, NM

The cost for each summer workshop is \$135, which includes 1.25 CEU credits. Payment is due 21 days prior to the beginning of each workshop, and workshops have a minimum required enrollment. Housing and meal information may be obtained from the host pastor. For more information or to register for workshops, contact continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu; or www.csl.edu.

UPCOMING FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Trinity Lutheran, Scottsboro, Ala., Aug. 12

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, presenter, five evenings of lectures on Matthew's Gospel, Faith Lutheran, Capistrano Beach, Calif., Aug. 13-17

Dr. David Schmitt, preacher, 125th Anniversary of St. John's Lutheran, Union, Ill., Sept. 9

Dr. Reed Lessing, chaplain, Annual Camp Arcadia Women's Retreat, Arcadia, Mich., Sept. 21-23

Dr. Reed Lessing, keynote speaker, Southern Illinois District LWML Convention, Edwardsville, Ill., Sept. 29

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, "Isaiah 40-55," Atlantic District Fall Pastors' Conference, Bronxville, N.Y., Oct. 2

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, presenter, "The Resurrection of Jesus and the Church's Life in the Book of Acts," Rocky Mountain District Church Worker Conference, Breckenridge, Colo., Oct. 3-5

Dr. Reed Lessing, teacher, "Book of Psalms," Kansas District Live Video Conference, Oct. 6

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Village Lutheran, Lacombe, La., Oct. 14

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, Justice and Righteousness in the Old Testament, North Wisconsin District Fall Pastors' Conference, Eau Claire, Wis., Oct. 15-17

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Trinity Lutheran, Centralia, Ill., Oct. 21

Dr. Reed Lessing, preacher, Zion Lutheran, Piedmont, Calif., Oct. 28

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Winter Haven Circuit, Lakeland, Fla., Oct. 28

Dr. David Schmitt, preacher, Redeemer Lutheran, Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 31

Upcoming on-campus events

JULY

July 24-26 Faith and Writing Workshop

AUGUST

August 29-31 New Student Orientation

August 31 Opening Worship

SEPTEMBER

September 1 Field Day for Students

September 4 First Day of Classes

September 17 Day of Exegetical Reflection

September 18-19 23rd Annual Theological Symposium

September 21 Sem Guild Luncheon

OCTOBER

October 6-9 LutherHostel

October 10 LutherHostel Perry Country Trip

October 11-13 Contemplate

October 12 Oktoberfest

October 19 Green and Gold Day

NOVEMBER

November 4 Prayer Breakfast

November 7-11 Interim Ministry: Planting Phase

Want to receive updates on Seminary news and events and find out who's speaking near you?



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Combining his passions

Aaron Hannemann
Nebraska District
First year seminarian

“We say that our family has been in the shepherd business for centuries,” says Aaron Hannemann, a first year seminarian at Concordia Seminary. “If we aren’t shepherds of livestock, we’re shepherds of God’s people.”

Three members of the Hannemann family are currently learning the “trade” of shepherding God’s flock at the same time as Aaron – two cousins, Thomas Schlund (first year) and Andrew Schlund (second year) and Aaron’s older brother, Justin, who is currently on vicarage in Omaha, Neb. His dad, two uncles, grandfather, and great-great grandfather have all been engaged in the pastoral ministry. Many other members of his extended family shepherd God’s creatures.

Aaron is passionate about both career paths. If he weren’t enrolled at the Seminary right now, he thinks he would be working toward owning and running a sustainable farming business. “I want to change the way we do food in this country,” he said.

If he weren’t at Seminary now, Aaron would be running a sustainable farming business.

“I want to shake the hands of my customers and guarantee the quality of my food through face-to-face interaction,” Aaron says.

“I admire my father and the work he does as a pastor,” he continued. “I always saw myself doing the same, but I did not feel the direct call until recently.”

During college at Concordia University Nebraska, Aaron was enrolled in the pre-seminary program and took Greek and Hebrew. He was very involved in campus ministry, through leading Bible studies, playing the bass guitar in praise bands, and giving the

message at the student-led worship service once a week. While all of these activities contributed to his seminary preparation, one experience stands out above the rest.

“The best thing I ever did to prepare for the Seminary was doing a three month internship in Guatemala with CALMS (Central American Lutheran Mission Society),” Aaron commented. “I was a missionary/translator/logistics coordinator. This experience changed my life and continues to change the way I look at the world.”

Though he cannot run a farming business and be a full time seminarian at the same time, Aaron has masterfully found a way to combine these passions.

Since the beginning of the “Phase One” renovations to the cafeteria complex, Concordia Seminary has had a renewed emphasis on the health and wellbeing of its students. A part of this effort is the newly-formed “Food Committee,” of which Aaron is an integral player.

Aaron serves as the liaison between the kitchen and the Seminary’s grounds department. This is also thanks to the Seminary’s efforts in community gardening in both offering plots to rent to students and their families, and in growing produce and herbs (like tomatoes, peppers, garlic, and basil) for community use.

“I inform the chefs as to which plants and vegetables we have on campus available to harvest,” Aaron said. “They tell me what they want, and I pick them from the campus gardens and bring them to the kitchen.”

There are many more examples of Aaron’s involvement on campus — he serves on the “Health Committee,” regularly attends Community Nights, plays intramurals, and works at the front desk of Pedersen Fieldhouse — that maintain his status as a highly active seminarian. In the future, Aaron could see himself serving in the foreign mission field. This summer, he plans to marry his long-time girlfriend, Kaela.

“I am excited to learn about how to minister to God’s people in an ever-changing world,” Aaron said. “There is so much practical knowledge and wisdom that I want to learn from the professors before I leave.”



Seminarian Aaron Hannemann sows seeds for the Seminary’s garden.

“How do we get our next pastor?”

Epiphany Lutheran Church in Kenmore, Wash., has been blessed. Their pastor had served there for three decades. Yet, with the blessing, came an immense challenge.

“When our pastor announced that he would soon retire, our congregation was faced with a process it had not experienced in thirty years: How do we get our next pastor?” explained Epiphany member, Ed Stemple. “We were in for quite a shock.”

Ed is an experienced business person with one of the largest companies in the world. He is also an active layman at Epiphany. By his own account, he never had an occasion to think about finding a pastor.

“We were shocked at the complexity of the challenge,” Ed commented. “We came to realize that there simply aren’t enough pastors to fill all the vacancies around the country. If we take a pastor from someone else’s congregation, then they are without a pastor. And, if we request to call a new

graduate, there are not always enough of them to go around.” Since then, Ed, his wife Jan, and two young children, Luke and Matthew, have taken a great interest in Concordia Seminary. The Seminary has been blessed with generous gifts from them. And, their Christian

It’s just not right that a person considering seminary might not come because he cannot afford to do so.

– Ed Stemple
Layperson at Epiphany, Kenmore, Wash.

stewardship includes matching gifts from Ed’s employer.

“I support Concordia Seminary so that I can help recruit and prepare our next pastor, or the pastor of someone else’s congregation,” Ed commented. Ed has also become a spokesperson for Concordia Seminary. Last year, Ed made a presentation to his congregation’s adult Sunday School class about the importance of supporting the Seminary’s mission of preparing the church’s future pastors.

“Many people in the class had no idea that the Seminary was not completely funded by the synod,” he said. “They were also surprised that seminarians had to pay for a portion of their education, with many students needing to take out substantial loans to fund their Seminary years.

“It’s just not right that a person considering seminary might not come because he cannot afford to do so. Some have families! And, if they do enroll at Concordia Seminary, we do not want to saddle them with a burden of debt.”

Ed is passionate about the mission of God’s church. “Our congregation has a great mission at the doorsteps of its members,” Ed said. “We live in Redmond, the home of Microsoft. There are people who have come from all over the world to work here. Plus, our part of the country is largely unchurched. We need pastors to equip and go with us as we reach out with the Gospel.” If your congregation finds itself in a similar situation and you want to know more about how to call a Concordia Seminary graduate, please contact the placement office at 314-505-7170.

The Emmaus Walkers — not what you’d expect

If you had to guess the name of their congregation and the main activity of the Emmaus Walkers, it would be natural to answer: Church name? Emmaus. Main activity? Walking, perhaps for exercise and fellowship.

So, it is surprising to learn that the Emmaus walkers are members of Immanuel Lutheran in Bristol, Conn. And, their purpose is not walking, but gathering to study God’s Word and enjoying the fellowship that comes in sharing their joys, challenges, and sorrows with one another. One of the joys they share in is supporting the Adopt-A-Student program at Concordia Seminary.

The group was started in the late 1990s by Immanuel’s senior pastor at that time, Rev. Larry Rockemann, and Doug Fitz, one

of Immanuel’s lay leaders. Early on, Pastor Rockemann suggested the group be called the Emmaus Walkers because they would be experiencing the same blessing the two disciples enjoyed when the Risen Christ taught them on the road to Emmaus.

“Group co-founder, Doug Fitz, invited me to start coming to Emmaus Walkers,” commented Marvin Heidom, a longtime member of the Emmaus Walkers. “At first, I decided not to go. But I figured that he would probably keep asking until I did! That was 14 years ago. There has never been a week when I haven’t looked forward to participating.”

One of the participants in the Bible study was Concordia Seminary alum Tony Sikora, then a vicar at a neighboring congregation. After Pastor Rockemann left,

Vicar Sikora began teaching the group. When the group realized that Vicar Sikora was the student pictured on the front of the Concordia Seminary Adopt-A-Student brochure at that time, they decided to join the program.

Over the last 13 years the Emmaus Walkers have sponsored many students. And, they have very generously increased the amount of their support year after year. “I always tell them that I will just keep passing the envelope until we get more than last year’s total,” Marvin jokes. “However, I’ve never actually had to do that.”

Vicar Sikora, now Pastor Sikora, has fond memories of his time with the group. “What a joy it was to be with those men every week, feasting, fellowshiping, and walking together the Emmaus road!”

An ambassador for Christ: How one faculty member extends the Seminary's reach

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul teaches that he and his cohorts are “ambassadors for Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:20) Dr. James W. Voelz takes this teaching one step further: He strives to be an ambassador for Christ and for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He accomplishes this in four unique ways: as a professor at Concordia Seminary; as an adjunct professor at a local Catholic seminary; as an active member in notable academic societies; and as an athletic coach.

Ambassador as professor

First and foremost, Voelz is a called professor at Concordia Seminary, where he has served various academic roles. First called in 1989 to be an associate professor of exegetical theology, Voelz was elevated to full professor in 1993. Since then, he has served as dean of the graduate school (1996-2002) and dean of the faculty (2006-2010).

He serves as a liaison between the Seminary and LCMS congregations. Through his recently completed commentary on Mark 1:1-8:26 (Concordia Publishing House), Voelz will assist pastors and laity in understanding the complexities of Mark's Gospel.

“It took a little while to get it done, but I have finally finished the manuscript for the first half of my Mark commentary and it has been accepted by my editors. Once

they are finished looking it over, it will go to print and should be out next year,” he said.

Ambassador around St. Louis

In addition, Voelz has worked to serve the Seminary as an ambassador to surrounding institutions. One of those surrounding institutions is Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, a Roman Catholic seminary, located just a few miles away. “About three years ago, Kenrick Seminary was looking to offer their students an elective in New Testament Greek,” Voelz commented. “They were lacking someone to teach the language as such, so they approached me to see whether or not I would be willing to help them out.”

Voelz's travels have helped him gain an appreciation for the faculty in both their Scriptural and language teaching skills.

Years prior Voelz had worked with Father Gregory Lockwood to initiate faculty dialogues between the two seminaries. It was not the inter-seminary dialogues that compelled Voelz to be an adjunct professor at Kenrick; rather, he simply wanted to teach the Word.

“When they approached me, I thought to myself: ‘Here is a chance for somebody to teach God's Word from the original.’ I agreed to teach the course and have been an adjunct teacher there for three years now,” Voelz said.

Voelz has also been successful in arranging a full-faculty dialogue between the two schools on the topic of ministerial formation.

“By being in dialogue, you get a better understanding of both sides,” he commented. “We have found that there is a lack of understanding about Lutheranism on their part. They tend to view us as just average, American Protestants. We have been able to clarify for them what Lutherans actually believe.”



Dr. James Voelz prepares for Commencement 2012.



Dr. Voelz (left) in action at the recent over-65 national soccer tournament in Escondido, Calif., in June 2012.

Ambassador to the academic world

Voelz also serves as an ambassador beyond the confines of St. Louis proper. He is a member of *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* (SNTS), a prestigious, invitation-only, international New Testament society.

“I was invited to join it in 1984,” Voelz said. “The society meets somewhere in the world every year. Last year, we met in upstate New York. In previous years we have met in Berlin, Vienna, Sweden, South Africa, and Israel, among other places.”

Currently, Voelz is the only Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod representative in the society. The society meets annually to discuss new developments in the field of New Testament scholarship. As a part of the society, Voelz has co-chaired the hermeneutics seminar and currently co-chairs the Greek of the New Testament seminar.

“The content of my graduate level hermeneutics course and my Synoptic Gospels course flows out of my work with this international society,” he added. “These society meetings are where cutting-edge scholarship is being presented. This allows our students to interact with these ideas before they are published in books.”

Along with his involvement with *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*, Voelz has also been a member of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) since 1977. This North

American society has provided Voelz with opportunities to present papers and serve on subgroup steering committees. “In addition to being a forum for learning a lot from presentations and discussions, these societies allow me to make a very positive contribution through furthering a view of Concordia Seminary and the LCMS as being responsible interlocutors,” Voelz said.

Voelz’s extensive travels have helped him gain an appreciation for the faculty at Concordia Seminary and hearing presentations from the world’s premier language scholars has reinforced Voelz’s already high regard for his fellow faculty members.

Ambassador as sportsman

Finally, sports have given Voelz the opportunity to serve as a representative of Concordia Seminary. He is a member of the Concordia University Wisconsin Sports Hall of Fame for his contributions as both a player and a coach on the collegiate and seminary levels. As a seminarian Voelz briefly played tennis for the local entrepreneurial legend Ted Drewes.

Having previously coached the Seminary’s tennis and basketball teams, Voelz currently coaches the golf and soccer teams. Along with his vast interest in sports, Voelz has a tremendous interest in contract bridge. “I was very big into bridge in college, seminary, and grad school, but it became so all-consuming that I almost did not finish my doctorate. I was playing too much club and tournament bridge, so like an addict, I literally had to quit playing cold turkey,” said Voelz. He plays only about once a week now, allowing him to educate future pastors for over 37 years. His loving and faithful wife, Judy, has supported him through it all. Together they have one son, Jonathan.

An ambassador’s conclusion

“My wife is the most supportive woman you could imagine,” he shared. “She is truly exemplary for what it means to be a pastor’s wife.”

“I go to meetings all around the world, and I can tell you that our faculty is as good if not better than any other Scripture faculty worldwide,” Voelz claimed. “This Seminary simply has some of the best guys around.”

Concordia Seminary Guild

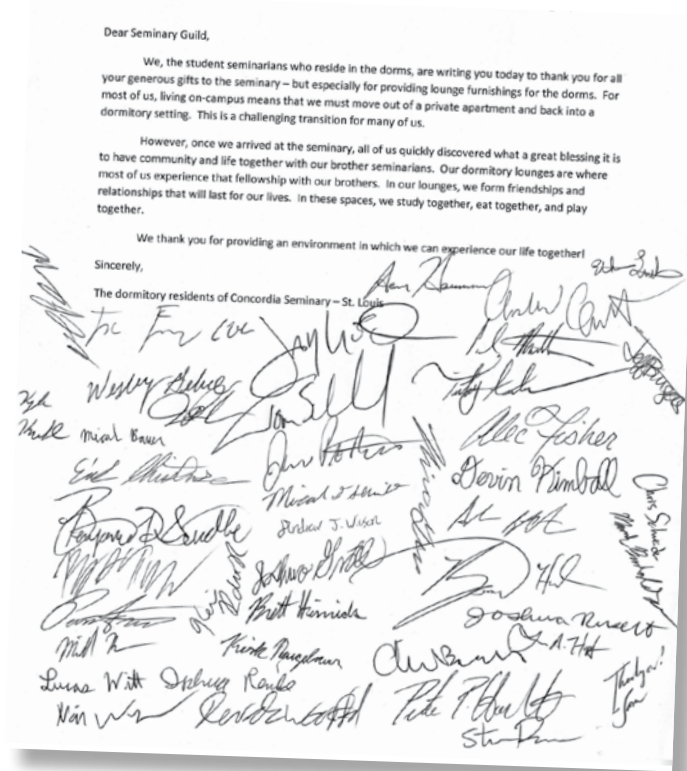
A note of thanks from our students

"We, the student seminarians who reside in the dorms, are writing you today to thank you for all your generous gifts to the Seminary – but especially for providing lounge furnishings for the dorms. For most of us, living on-campus means that we must move out of a private apartment and back into a dormitory setting. This is a challenging transition for many of us.

"However, once we arrived at the Seminary all of us quickly discovered what a great blessing it is to have community and life together with our brother seminarians. Our dormitory lounges are where most of us experience that fellowship with our brothers. In our lounges, we form friendships and relationships that will last for our lives. In these spaces, we study together, eat together, and play together.

"We thank you for providing an environment in which we can experience our life together!"

The dormitory residents of
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis



Letter from seminarians thanking the Seminary Guild for furnishings they provided in dormitory resident lounges.

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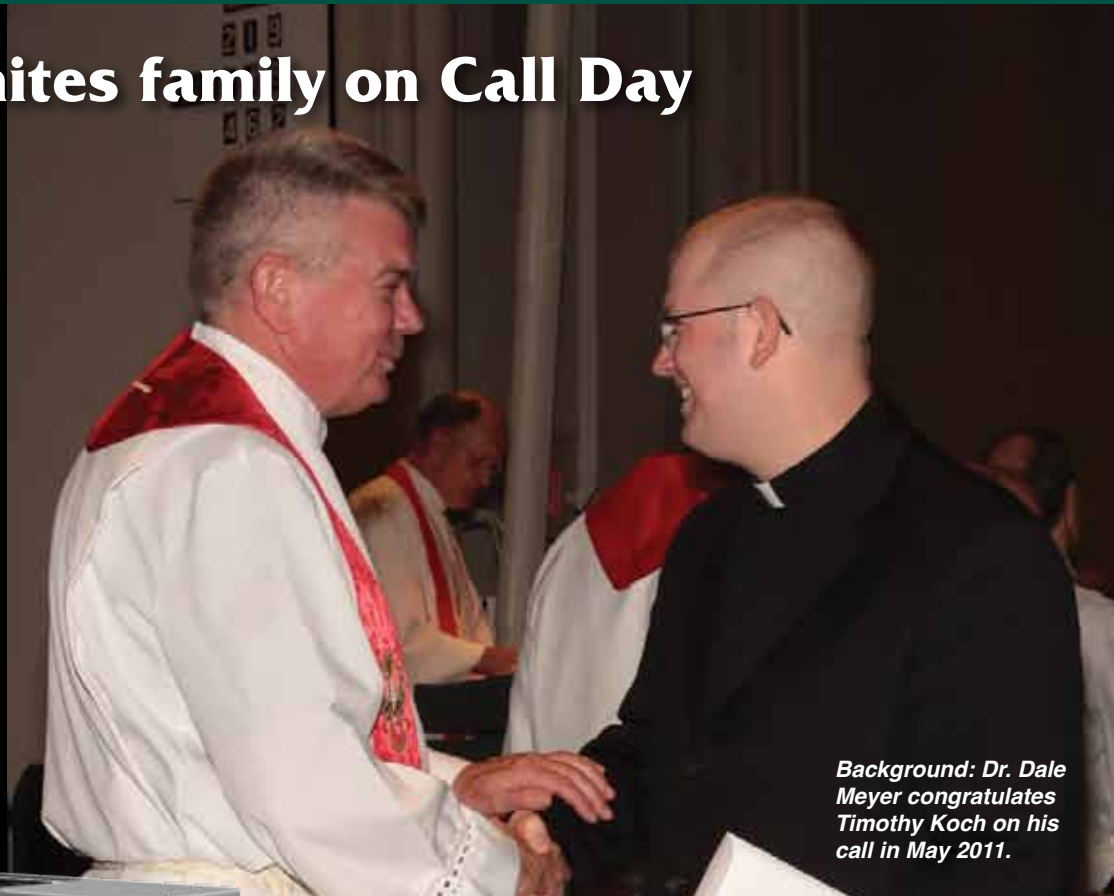
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Thank You for Your Support!

For questions concerning the Seminary Guild, please call 800-822-5287.

Technology unites family on Call Day

Concordia Seminary's Call Service is streamed live on the Internet each year.



Background: Dr. Dale Meyer congratulates Timothy Koch on his call in May 2011.

"It was God's plan," commented Valera Koch, widow of Rev. Willard Koch, "that all of this came together in such a marvelous way. To see the joy on Willard's face is a memory I will always treasure."

Valera, along with other family members, was sitting at the bedside of Rev. Koch on Concordia Seminary's Call Day, May 4, 2011, watching the placement service on a computer screen. In recent years, God's gift of technology has enabled the Seminary to offer live streaming of the service through the Internet. His health did not allow Rev. Koch to be in St. Louis for the service, but he could watch as his grandson, Timothy Koch, received his call to serve congregations in the same circuit in South Dakota in which Rev. Koch had served for many years. Seeing Timothy receive his call let Rev. Koch experience first-hand the continuation of a Koch family tradition.

Rev. Willard Koch's grandfather immigrated to the U.S. in 1869 and gradu-

ated from Concordia Seminary in 1892. Willard's father graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1918, and Willard himself in 1944. His son, Kenneth, graduated from Concordia College, Seward, Neb., in 1975 and serves as principal at Trinity Lutheran School in St. Francis, Minn. Now Timothy, the fifth generation Koch church worker, was being assigned his first call, and Willard was able to view the grand moment — as it was happening — on the computer screen.

Viewing Timothy's call turned out to be a very special blessing for Willard — one of the last he experienced during his time on earth. Just several hours after the placement service, Rev. Willard Koch entered eternal life. "How grateful we are to God for granting Willard the great joy of being part of Call Day," Valera said.

"How can you not be overwhelmed by God's generosity and blessing?"

Though bedridden, Rev. Willard Koch watched the Call Service online in South Dakota and saw his grandson, Timothy, receive his call in St. Louis.

commented Rev. Timothy Koch, now pastor at Immanuel and Concordia Lutheran Churches in Wecota and Cresbard, S.D. "He shows it in the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, for us. The hymnist says it well: 'Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?' The events surrounding my grandfather's death are just more examples of God's goodness."

Also, Rev. Koch thanks the Seminary. "I am grateful that the Seminary provided this opportunity to my grandfather and many others. On May 4, 2011, my family was on the receiving end of a rich blessing. Future Call Days will bring blessings to many others as well."

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

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