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# Concordia Seminary magazine | Winter 2016

Jeffrey Kloha

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# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

SPRING 2016



**#WhoWillGoForUs**

THEY WILL GO FOR US

FORMING PASTORS AND DEACONESSES  
IN THE 21ST CENTURY

BECOMING A STUDENT





# FIRST LOOK

*Batter up! First-year seminarian Matt Bohmann steps into his swing at a pitch from Dale Fjordbotten, a fellow first-year seminarian, during an intramural softball practice game on opening day of the Seminary's season on March 15, 2016. Photo: Jackie Parker*



SPRING 2016

# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

## ON THE COVER

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis students who are studying to be pastors and deaconesses include, from left, Sarah Ludwig, Stephan Roma, Kirk Neugebauer, Shea Pennington, Lee Hopf and Micah Glenn. Photo: Fourth-year seminarian Nikolai Gibbons

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## 6 FORMING PASTORS AND DEACONESSSES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Concordia Seminary's mission is to prepare pastors and other church workers for ministry in the 21st century. Dr. Timothy Saleska shares the most important attribute pastors and deaconesses must have, and offers insight about the Seminary's courses and experiences, which are designed to prepare students to be faithful preachers, teachers, caregivers and leaders.

## 10 THEY WILL GO FOR US

Hear from four students and one alumnus about their journey to the Seminary, their experiences here and their advice for prospective students.

## 14 SPECIAL SECTION: BECOMING A STUDENT

Get words of wisdom from recruiters for the Seminary's pastoral and diaconal programs, find out 10 reasons to attend the Seminary, and learn more about the Seminary's academic programs and offerings in a special four-page section.

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- 5 From the President
- 18 Student Spotlight
- 20 News Worth Noting
- 25 Staff Focus
- 26 Support Your Sem
- 30 Alumni and Friends

## 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.

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Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer with seminarian Colter Knippa, who is on vicarage this year. Photo: Jill Gray

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many years ago our daughter Elizabeth had moved to Washington, D.C., to begin her career. One day on the phone she was telling me about some problem. Naturally I proceeded to tell her how I thought she should handle it. She paused a moment and then said, “Dad, do you want to live my life for me?” My turn to pause. I answered, “Yes, I do, but I know I can’t.”

Recruitment is the topic for this issue. My thanks to our staff for filling each issue of *Concordia Seminary* with information that is timely and I pray helpful for you and your congregation. For some years enrollments have been declining in most seminaries throughout the United States, including Concordia Seminary. At the same time vacancies in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are rising. Recruitment is a timely topic.

Recruitment is an admission that our generation’s time is passing. Just as leadership in our congregations and wider church was once passed to us, recruitment admits that we must pass leadership on to the next generation.

“One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts” (Ps. 145:4 ESV). In my years of dealing with seminarians, I’ve learned that they are significantly different from my generation. They form community in ways different from previous generations. They are keen to worship but not interested in debating various worship styles as older people often do. They want to be part of a thriving Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod but their greater passion is to be faithful to the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this they reflect younger

people’s dissatisfaction with institutions. Whereas my generation grew up in an America where the church had a privileged position and citizens had a general knowledge of the Bible, today’s seminarians are more at home in this time when the institutional church is struggling and American culture no longer favors the church.

All of which is to say, God is raising up this new generation of seminarians for this new time in the history of the church. He’s the Lord of His Church, not our generation or, for that matter, the next generation. Every generation of believers is conditioned by its unique experiences. Every generation of believers remains sinners subject to the subtle attacks of Satan. And in every generation the Spirit of God moves the baptized to faithful witness to the Lord Jesus. Recruitment is an invitation to give up the notion that we can control the future of the church and instead entrust the future to the Lord of the Church and the leaders He is now raising up.

Our students find it curious that older people are making presentations about the millennial generation. “Why don’t they ask us?” We’d like to live the lives of young people, but we can’t. “Each age its solemn task may claim but once; make each one nobler, stronger than the last” (*Lutheran Service Book* 682, 1).

*Dale A. Meyer*  
Dale A. Meyer



# Forming pastors and deaconesses for the 21st century

By Dr. Timothy Saleska



Brothers Tom and Timothy Saleska. Photo: Courtesy of Timothy Saleska

When I was 6 years old, I broke my brother's leg. We had gone to the movie theater because it had been raining all day and we were getting on my mom's nerves. But the rain had stopped by the time we got home, so Tom and I went over to the neighbors' house to swing on their swing set. They had one of those glider swings that you sat on facing each other, and you had to work together to make the thing go. So, we got on and started pumping, and the swing kept going higher and higher. In my mind, that's just what we wanted. But on this day we went too high for my brother's taste, and he got scared. He started crying at me to slow down. But you see, I liked frightening Tom. It was fun, and so I thought it would be a good

idea to keep right on pumping. The legs of the swing set were lifting out of the ground, but I didn't care. Tom, however, had had enough. He was determined to stop his death spiral at all costs. So, in Fred Flintstone style, he stuck his leg to the ground to apply the brakes. But when he did, his foot got caught between the ground and the foot bar of our swing. And that was it. I could see immediately that his foot was not pointing in the direction it needed to go.

Now, that's what I remember. What I don't remember is the reaction of my parents. I really don't. I know that I must have gotten in trouble for it, but I don't remember what happened. I do know that neither they nor my brother used it against me. They never dredged it up or held it over my head or failed to trust me because of it. They didn't put me up for adoption. They continued to love me and care for me.

*continued on Page 8 >*

*Photo left: At Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pat Wachter, left, a church member, and Jess Biermann, a first-year Seminary student, serve food at a Lenten supper before Wednesday evening services March 16, 2016. Epiphany, located in the Holly Hills neighborhood of St. Louis, is Biermann's Resident Field Education (RFE) congregation for the spring quarter. Photo: Jackie Parker*



< continued from Page 7

I am telling you this trivial little story in order to make a huge point. The point is one that you know because you have all experienced it. It is the claim that forgiveness (or lack thereof) has lasting consequences. Think about it this way: If my parents had refused to forgive me for breaking their son's leg, then this little incident could have played an entirely different role in my life than it did. My parents could have never let me forget what I had done — simply by not forgiving me. And my foolishness would have risen like a wall between us. If you have ever had the misfortune of offending someone and that person has withheld his or her forgiveness from you, then you know what it means to feel unforgiven and how that

can affect your life, your sense of peace, your joy. In some people, past sins haunt them every step of the way. They can't shake them off.

So, when people ask me what makes a good pastor or deaconess, I immediately think about my own life and how I grew up in a house full of grace. Without forgiveness, where would I be? I think about how important it is that those in pastoral and diaconal ministry be people who know how to give and receive forgiveness. To put it in Lutheran categories: men and women who are Gospel-centered, not Law-centered. People whose "yes" is much louder than their "no."

*"The most important thing pastors and deaconesses can do is tangibly bring the love of Jesus and the forgiveness of Jesus into the lives of the broken sinners they serve."  
— Dr. Timothy Saleska*



*Dr. Timothy Saleska, dean of ministerial formation, said the Seminary offers courses and experiences to teach students how to be faithful preachers, teachers, caregivers and leaders. Here, he leads a class on the Song of Songs in June 2013.*

Jesus loved us sinners so much and had so much compassion and mercy for us that He died for us — every one of us. Now, that’s an awful thing to think about. Someone died where I should have. But God didn’t hold that against us. He raised His Son. In the resurrection, it is as if God said, “Hey, look! I forgive you! My Son lives. Your sin is not important. You need not bear any guilt again.” Think of the consequences of this act of God. Life, not death. Salvation instead of damnation. Forgiveness has consequences indeed. The most important thing pastors and deaconesses can do is tangibly bring the love of Jesus and the forgiveness of Jesus into the lives of the broken sinners they serve. People in our world are dying for lack of forgiveness. What can people do with their guilt or their sin if there is no one to bring them forgiveness or show them the radical love of Jesus? In her book, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, Rosaria Butterfield writes, “Had a pastor named Ken Smith not shared the gospel with me for years and years, over and over again, not in some used-car-salesman way, but in an organic, spontaneous and compassionate way . . . I might never have met the most unlikely of friends, Jesus Christ himself.”

I look at that quote and think, “This pastor is the kind of student Concordia Seminary wants to form.” Our faculty is completely committed to teaching our students the scriptural and confessional truth that has been handed down to us. We are determined to form students who faithfully proclaim God’s Word and conduct their ministries in accord with it. To that end our curriculum features courses of study and experiences specifically designed to teach our students how to be faithful preachers, teachers, caregivers and leaders across a variety of contexts and cultures.

But we also are concerned with the hearts of every one of our students. We are interested in their personal and spiritual formation. We want them to love people and know how to relate to others and communicate well with them. We want them to be able to empathize and



*Seminarian James Kirschenmann is serving his vicarage this year at St. Paul's Lutheran Church—College Hill in St. Louis. Photo: Melanie Ave*

show people compassion. We want students who build relationships and bridges with others. We want them to experience joy and delight in ministry and know how to handle conflict in healthy ways. And so, we are also working hard to develop experiences both inside and outside the classroom that will give our students direction in how to nurture their strengths and work on areas in which they may be vulnerable.

I am always excited and humbled by the men and women the Holy Spirit sends to our Seminary. It is a powerful thing to see how willing they are to give their lives to serve others with the Gospel. Please pray that the Lord blesses the work of the Seminary and its students so that we can continue to send out laborers who are well-equipped to work in the fields that even now God is preparing.

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*Dr. Timothy Saleska ('82) is dean of ministerial formation at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*

# THEY WILL GO FOR US

Students and an alumnus share Seminary insight and advice

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BY KENDRA WHITTLE



*Seminarians Daniel Maske and Brennan Woell ('15) review their assignments after Call Day services in April 2013. Photo: Jayna Rollings*

On Call Day, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis students are armed with a folder of information, showing where the church has elected to send them to serve, and a healthy dose of Lutheran teaching. But students say it's their education and experiences at the Seminary that have sufficiently prepared them for the transition from life as a student to life in the ministry. Hear from four different students and one alumnus about their experiences, their advice for prospective students and their hopes for the future as they serve God's people.

# MICAH GLENN.....

Originally from St. Louis, fourth-year seminarian Micah Glenn spent his enrichment year at Westfield House, Cambridge, England, and his vicarage at Ascension Lutheran Church in Huntsville, Ala. But he says it was his congregation back at home that helped spark the idea of being a pastor.

## HIS JOURNEY

"I ended up at Concordia Seminary because people at my home congregation were telling me that they thought that I had gifts for ministry, and I figured that if anybody is going to know what they want in their pastor, it's going to be parishioners."

*"Eventually I listened to what they were saying and decided to go for it, and here I am."*

## IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS

"If I was going to offer any advice for somebody who was thinking about coming to the Seminary, I would say definitely talk to your pastor first and see what he thinks about it."

## CONSIDERING THE SEMINARY?

"Come on campus for a visit, stay the night, sit in on a class, talk to a professor, talk to the guys who are already going to school here and just breathe it all in for a couple of days. Then, go home and pray about it and see where it leads you."

*Hear more from Glenn in a video here: [vimeo.com/album/3831610/video/157632959](https://vimeo.com/album/3831610/video/157632959).*



# .....MOLLIE SCHULTZ

Mollie Schultz, a second-year Deaconess Studies student, is pursuing a dual degree. She is on track to receive her Master of Social Work and Master of Arts with a major in spiritual care and certification through a collaborative program between Concordia Seminary and Saint Louis University.

## THE DECIDING FACTOR

"It was advice that my friend told me that ultimately made me decide, and that was when she said, 'The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few.' And so I went."

*"Who a deaconess is really resonated with me."*

## HELPING A HURTING WORLD

A deaconess "is a holistic caregiver, she is a servant, she is a sharer of mercy because she is an object of mercy. I wanted to learn how to do that, and how to do that for other people."

## WORDS OF WISDOM FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

"Pray about it, because ultimately it is God who is going to lead you in your decision."

*Hear more from Schultz in a video here: [vimeo.com/album/3831610/video/157632958](https://vimeo.com/album/3831610/video/157632958).*

*continued on Page 12*

<continued from Page 11

## DAVE MCGINLEY.....

Fourth-year seminarian Dave McGinley says thanks to his classes, field work in local congregations and vicarage (or pastoral internship) he feels equipped and enabled for the pastoral office.

*“The church I was at really taught me what it looks like to love God’s people well, but also how much God loves me in the process.”*

### FAVORITE CLASS

“My favorite class at Concordia Seminary would have to be homiletics class, a preaching class, with Dr. [David] Schmitt. It’s in that class where he taught us about what preaching is and what it’s not, and the beauty or importance of having people experience a message and experience the Gospel.”

### MEMORABLE VICARAGE EXPERIENCE

“One of the stories that stands out from my vicarage experience has to do with a guy named Daryl, an outspoken atheist who happened to show up at our church one Sunday morning. Through our conversations and Bible study and through the hearing of God’s Word and the Holy Spirit working in him, he became a Christian and was baptized.”

### READY TO SERVE

“The last four years have been so important in shaping my understanding of the pastoral office, and [my family and I] are honored, humbled and excited to see what God has in store for us next.”

Hear more from McGinley in a video here: <https://vimeo.com/album/3831610/video/157633034>.



## .....REV. MARK FEMMEL

Rev. Mark Femmel ('06) is now at Zion Lutheran Church, Maryland Heights, Mo., his second call. He says while on-the-job training since his graduation has been beneficial in building his confidence, it was his time at Concordia Seminary that provided a solid base for ministry.

*“When I graduated from the Seminary, I wasn’t sure I was going to be ready to be on my own, but before I got here, God was here.”*

# PAUL ALBERS

Paul Albers is always on the go. He sings in two choirs, works at the Seminary's Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus and serves as the concluding class president. While he enjoys all of his Seminary activities, he's even more excited to begin full-time ministry at the end of the school year.

## A FAMILY TRADITION

"My father is a pastor. My grandfather was a pastor and also my great-grandfather. The church is everything to my family. That is basically where I grew up, and where I will be blessed to serve as a pastor."

*"The Seminary has given me a wide range of skills and knowledge that I didn't have."*

## LIFE AT THE SEM

"It's great. The classes and course work have helped give me confidence in preaching and leading worship. But also it's been a very strong community of professors, classmates and pastors that I know I can go to and ask for help and advice as I continue to learn and gather my own experience."

## READY FOR THE CALL

"God certainly knew where He was sending me for vicarage, and I trust that He will do the same thing on Call Day. The Seminary has done a great job of placing students in churches, and I'm trusting the Seminary, but trusting mostly God that the Holy Spirit is in this process."

*Hear more from Albers in a video here:*

<https://vimeo.com/album/3831610/video/157633031>.



## ANSWERING THE CALL TO MINISTRY

"Over the course of a week I went from being happy as a math teacher to saying, 'I don't know if I have to go to Kenya or South America or go find a desert island somewhere, whatever it takes, I'm going to be a pastor.'"

## BEING PREPARED

"I have never been outgunned. I have always been prepared for every question. I've always been prepared for every situation. You learn that by not having any of the answers when you go to the Seminary. When you go to these classes, God just makes it work out."

*Hear more from Femmel in a video here: <https://vimeo.com/album/3831610/video/157633005>.*

## TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

"Someone is going to see the History Channel special and they're going to say, 'Was Jesus really not God? Because this TV show tells us that He was a liar and a manipulator.' You have got to be ready. Then someone [else] is going to come up to you and say, 'How do we really know the Bible is the Word of God?' You have got to be ready for that answer. Then someone is going to come up to you and say, 'My son is struggling with drugs, what I do?' You have got to have the answer to that."

*Kendra Whittle is a communications specialist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*

# WORDS OF WISDOM

## FROM SEMINARY RECRUITERS



**Dr.**  
**Gillian Bond**

*Director, Residential  
Deaconess Program*

### Do you care about people and enjoy getting to know them?

Deaconesses work with people in many different contexts, walking with them through both good times and trying times. We follow our Lord in meeting people where they are, and we share His love with them holistically. This includes sharing the faith, sharing Christ's peace with people in the toughest of times, and addressing a broad variety of spiritual and worldly needs. It also allows us to share in times of laughter and celebration, and to have the joy of seeing Christ work in people's lives. Good relationships with people, based on trust in the deaconess, are key in all of this.

Come and visit the Seminary and learn more about the variety of opportunities that exist to work with people as a deaconess. There are many common and consistent themes, but every experience a deaconess has will be a little different and generally varies from day to day.

### Are you a good team player who can also think on her feet and take the initiative?

Most deaconesses work as part of a team, but there also are aspects of leadership involved, for example in leading laity in outreach or social ministry programs, plus of course, in meeting people where they are at in life. You need to be able to respond to situations as they develop.



**Rev.**  
**Bill Wrede**

*Director, Ministerial  
Recruitment and Admissions*

### How has your interest in full-time church work been validated?

As ministry is not done in isolation, neither should contemplating ministry be done in isolation. While there is most certainly every good reason to spend time meditating and praying, it's important to listen to what others say about your interest in ministry. Have others encouraged you to consider full-time ministry? Have you been asked to use your gifts in ways that both challenge you and affirm your work? Listen!

### Are there any barriers that prevent you from seriously considering ministry?

Are they real or are the barriers a series of "what ifs" that you've created but perhaps never investigated? A telephone conversation, email or face-to-face visit can quickly reveal options or simply give facts that can inform a decision. Our entire campus is a resource for people as they consider the financial cost and financial aid, the impact on families, being second career, hearing about the variety of ministries in the Church and exploring what the Seminary has to offer.

### Come and meet the people!

Nothing can replace visiting our campus in person. What does a visit look like? Sit with a current student and hear about his journey to the Seminary. Eat lunch in Wartburg Hall and listen in on what students discuss. Sit in the chapel and hear the community in song, prayer and the sharing of the peace. Our campus is living and active.

*"And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" (Rom. 10:15 ESV).*

# 10 REASONS...

## to attend Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

1. Campus-wide commitment to leading with the Gospel
2. Ministerial formation informed by Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions
3. Affordable tuition augmented by generous financial aid
4. World-class faculty dedicated to ministerial formation and academic excellence
5. Vibrant student community
6. Hands-on learning connected to the realities of 21st century ministry settings
7. Beautiful, 72-acre campus adjacent to a bustling, urban community
8. Top-ranked Lutheran theological library
9. 100 percent placement of all candidates
10. Continuing education opportunities that foster lifelong maturation of faith, discipleship and skill

## DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, more than 30 congregational calls in the LCMS went unfilled.

### What can you do?

- Pray that God will bless Concordia Seminary, its students, faculty and staff, and raise up future pastors and leaders.
- Encourage potential students to explore enrollment and share names of potential students with our admissions office (See referral card on the back page).
- Participate with a gift ([www.csl.edu/give](http://www.csl.edu/give)).



“There are so many supportive and encouraging people here who really value you as a person and take time to invest in you and invest in your future ministry.”

-Kelly Jacob  
Deaconess Studies



“The theological training I got here has completely changed the way I’ll be able to serve and meet God’s people.”

— Joshua Duffy ('15)  
Master of Divinity

## BY THE NUMBERS





# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## PASTORAL FORMATION

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Residential Alternate Route (RAR)

## DIACONAL FORMATION (DEACONESS)

Master of Arts with Major in Spiritual Care with Certification

Dual-Degree: Master of Social Work and Master of Arts with Major in Spiritual Care with Certification

## ADVANCED STUDIES

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

## DISTANCE MINISTERIAL FORMATION PROGRAMS

Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)

SMP to General Pastor Certification (SMP-GPC)

Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS)

Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT)

Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT)

**WANT MORE  
INFORMATION?**

Visit [www.csl.edu/admissions](http://www.csl.edu/admissions)



# VISITATION EVENTS

Concordia Seminary provides a variety of on-campus visitation opportunities each year. These events give participants valuable information for pastoral and diaconal ministry. There is something for everyone — including events for prospective students who are in high school, college or who are considering ministry as a second career.

To learn more about visitation events, call 800-822-9545, email [admissions@csl.edu](mailto:admissions@csl.edu) or visit [www.csl.edu/admissions](http://www.csl.edu/admissions).

*Visitors during Contemplate get a campus tour in March 2016. Drone photo: Kendra Whittle and Justin Kumfer*

# DID YOU KNOW?

The average Seminary student pays only \$3,200 in tuition annually?

## AVERAGE NET AMOUNT OF STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR TUITION

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
Tuition	\$24,300	\$24,300	\$12,150	\$24,300
<b>Potential Aid (Based on 36 Credit Hours)</b>				
Residential Grant	(\$6,075)	(\$6,075)	-----	(\$6,075)
Adopt-A-Student	(\$5,400)	(\$5,400)	(\$5,400)	(\$5,400)
Priority Endowment	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)
Merit, Presidential & Regent Awards	(\$1,500)	(\$1,000)	-----	(\$1,000)
District Support	(\$2,800)	(\$2,800)	(\$2,800)	(\$2,800)
Home Congregation Support	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)
Outside Aid	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)
<b>NET AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$2,725</b>	<b>\$3,225</b>	<b>(\$1,850)</b>	<b>\$3,225</b>

# CONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pastoral and diaconal formation students receive hands-on training through the Seminary’s Resident Field Education (RFE) program, which allows them to experience the role and functions of a pastor and deaconess of a congregation.

First-year students spend a maximum of eight hours weekly, and second-year and post-vicarage students spend a maximum of 10 hours weekly at congregations in the St. Louis area. Students are placed under the supervision of pastors of the congregations to which they are assigned. In addition, students serve one quarter in an institutional setting and one quarter in a culture crossing context.

“The Resident Field Education program provides a supervised environment in which students

learn to integrate faith, academics and practice in the unpredictable environment of the local congregation,” said Rev. Todd Jones, director of the RFE program.

In addition, pastoral and diaconal students, typically those in their third year of Seminary education, spend a yearlong vicarage or internship, in a parish setting.

“Vicarages and internships give students the opportunity to bring together classroom learning, past experiences in the church, modeling seen from others and personal preparation,” said Dr. Glenn Nielsen, the Seminary’s director of vicarage and deaconess internships. “They learn needed skills and also provide acts of ministry for people in the congregation or institution being served.”



“Concordia Seminary’s devotion to scholarship is exemplary. But its devotion to Christ crucified is what really sets it apart.”

— Tom Pietsch  
Master of Sacred Theology



“Studying at the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary is a very rich meeting of theology and history of our faith in Jesus Christ.”

— Ramón Cabrales  
Center for Hispanic Studies

# One town, five seminarians

BY JACKIE PARKER

It's one thing for three people to be childhood friends. It's quite another for three people to attend the same kindergarten, grade school, high school, college and seminary together.

soccer matches, basketball games, play practice, vacation Bible school and college dorms. Now they are sharing the path to pastoral ministry at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

"This is our first year alone and we've been able to step out into our own a bit," Reiter said. "It is our time to go forward and do what God has been preparing us to do all along."

They were led to pursue pastoral ministry together. Kegley's brother, Noah, who is a second-year student at the Seminary, also is part of the group.

One of the people they all credit with influencing them to follow the Seminary path is Rev. Lannon Martin, also a Grafton native. He was their youth minister at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Grafton and now serves as admission counselor and Christ Academy director at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Martin said he and the guys still keep in touch, noting that they recently stayed at his house to attend a friend's wedding.

Seeing the three serving in different vicarage settings is interesting, Martin said. Kegley is serving at a church plant at The Point in Knoxville, Tenn.; Reiter is serving at a dual parish at St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnold, Mo., and Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ste. Genevieve, Mo.; and Hauser is serving at a larger church, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, Mich.

"I see in them tremendous growth," Martin said. "It's encouraging to see how the Lord is guiding them as He continues to provide pastors for His Church."



*From left: Beth and Casey Kegley, Aly and Aaron Hauser, and Craig and Christa Reiter after the vicarage assignment service in April 2015. Photo: Mark Polege*

Aaron Hauser, Casey Kegley and Craig Reiter grew up a few blocks from each other in the small town of Grafton, Wis., population 11,400.

The town is about 30 miles north of Milwaukee. The three have shared

"A lot of times, people go their separate ways," Reiter said. "But we didn't."

Currently, the three men are third-year Master of Divinity students on vicarage. This is the first time they haven't been together on a daily basis in 20 years.

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***"A lot of times, people go their separate ways. But we didn't."***

***— Seminarian Craig Reiter***

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*Photo left: John Genszler said of the three men, “They epitomize true servant leadership.” Genszler was their teacher at Living Word High School and is now a fellow seminarian in the Residential Alternate Route (RAR) program. Photo right: On “Dress Like Your Roommate Day” at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, Wis., from left, Aaron Hauser and Gabriel Metzger dressed like each other and Craig Reiter and Casey Kegley did the same. Photo: Courtesy of Aaron Hauser*

Hauser was the first of the trio to decide to become a pastor in the middle of high school. His grandfather was a pastor and three uncles are pastors.

“My dad bribed us to read the Bible so we could play video games. As I read it, I actually enjoyed it. My relationship with God started to grow,” Hauser said. “I was a pretty awful public speaker. It was not a gift of mine ... so that’s why it was so cool that God still worked through my weaknesses.

“I loved God and I loved people,” he said. “Somehow He gave me the confidence and encouragement to do this.”

Reiter felt the call on his life later in high school. For Kegley, he decided when the three of them were freshmen at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis.

“I was on the fence for a long time,” Kegley said. “I was studying Lutheran

secondary education and I realized I wasn’t there to teach. I wanted to share the Gospel with people of all ages and I joined the rest of the crew. It was one of those, ‘I told you so’ moments,” he said. “They knew it was going to happen.”

John Genszler has an especially interesting connection to the Grafton seminarians. He was their teacher at Living Word High School and is now a fellow seminarian. He is a Residential Alternate Route (RAR) student at the Seminary.

“The growth of all three of them doesn’t surprise me at all,” said Genszler, who taught them math, religion and drama. “They epitomize true servant leadership.”

As for their future, the students will wrap up their vicarages this summer and start their final year at the Seminary in the fall. There is a baby boy on the way for Casey and Beth Kegley. Casey’s brother, Noah,

will be getting married in June to Monica Garrett, so there will be reunions in store for the group in addition to Commencement in spring 2017.

“I would feel honored and blessed to have any of these guys as my pastor,” Casey Kegley said. “God is going to do some amazing work through them. Their service is going to make an impact.”

*Jackie Parker is a communications specialist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*



## Seminary student receives Holocaust fellowship



**Paul Flo**

Paul Flo, a second-year Concordia Seminary student, was recently chosen for a fellowship to study the roles of clergy and ethics in

Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Flo was selected from 175 applicants for the 2016 Fellowship at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). He was one of 12 fellows selected.

He is the first student from the Seminary to receive this distinction. The fellowship includes a 12-day trip to Germany and Poland, including a visit to the site of the infamous Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. The trip runs from June 17-30, 2016.

“Ethical discussions sometimes ascend to the abstract realm, disconnected from reality,” Flo said. “Studying these topics in settings like Berlin, Auschwitz and Birkenau will connect them to reality.”

According to FASPE, the fellowship program for seminary students discusses

the fate of “God’s image” in the shadow of the Holocaust, churches and military chaplains in Nazi Germany, apologies and confessions, among other topics.

“By educating students about the causes of the Holocaust and the power of their chosen professions, FASPE seeks to instill a sense of professional responsibility for the ethical and moral choices that the fellows will make in their careers and in their professional relationships,” said FASPE Founder C. David Goldman in a news release. “Understanding that their individual voices and actions can positively influence their colleagues, FASPE fellows will be a part of a growing cohort of professionals who are invested in raising and sustaining high ethical standards among all practitioners in their fields.”

## Sánchez awarded Louisville Institute grant



**Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.**

Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M., the Werner R.H. Krause and Elizabeth R. Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries and director of the Seminary’s Center for Hispanic Studies, has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Louisville Institute in Louisville, Ky.

Sánchez will use the grant for a project that explores Spirit Christology and models of sanctification.

The grant is the first-ever to be awarded to a member of the Seminary faculty from the Louisville Institute. Sánchez was awarded the maximum amount.

“My project will examine what life in the Spirit looks like daily,” Sánchez said. “Is it living a life shaped by Christ’s death and resurrection? Is it a life spent girding for spiritual warfare? Is it a life of discipleship or servanthood? The goal of this research is to develop pastoral, practical applications for envisioning and fostering the sanctified life across a biblical and theological spectrum of ways individuals might identify with when describing their spirituality.”

Sánchez’s newest research will build upon a models-based approach to sanctification that he introduced in an earlier work, *Teología de la santificación, La espiritualidad*

*del cristiano* (The Theology of Sanctification, Christian Spirituality), focusing on the development of descriptions or shapes of Christian life across theological traditions and culminating in a more comprehensive vision of life in the Spirit.

“Dr. Sánchez is a significant voice in bringing Lutheran theology from within a Latino context to the wider church,” said Provost Dr. Jeff Kloha. “Concordia Seminary serves Church and world in providing theological education and leadership, and the awarding of this prestigious and highly competitive grant to Dr. Sánchez demonstrates that the faculty is bringing the Lutheran confession, centered in Christ who sends out His Spirit, to the world.”

The grant period is Sept. 1, 2016, to Aug. 31, 2017. Sánchez’ study will be published and his findings incorporated into his teaching and shared with church leaders and scholars at future conferences, workshops and symposiums.

## LWML presents \$100,000 grant to Seminary

Thank you to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), which presented the Seminary with the first half of a \$100,000 grant Jan. 14, 2016, to help provide theological education to international students.

"We feel like we are partnering with you in this endeavor, by not only helping you financially with our monetary gifts but with the prayers we send with them," said Sally Handrick, chairwoman of the LWML mission grants committee, before presenting the check to Vicki Biggs, senior vice president for Seminary advancement.

Biggs said the Seminary is grateful to the LWML. "What the women of the LWML accomplish for the sake of the Gospel is tremendous," she said.

The LWML grant helps many international students, who are often sent to the Seminary from their church bodies, which are partners of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Most are unable to afford a Seminary education on their own. After earning degrees, the students return to their homeland and train countless others to proclaim Jesus boldly.



*From left: Michael Louis, the Seminary's chief operating officer and executive vice president; Provost Dr. Jeff Kloha; Sally Handrick, chairwoman of the LWML mission grants committee; Vicki Biggs, senior vice president for Seminary advancement; and Dr. Gerhard Bode, dean of advanced studies. Photo: Jackie Parker*

The Seminary currently has 48 international students enrolled from 24 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, Germany,

Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand, Togo, Uganda and Uruguay.



## Laudamus tour

*Laudamus, the Seminary's select men's choir, recently concluded its spring tour, performing at nine different locations in five states — Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Missouri and Illinois. Under the direction of Jim Marriott, the Seminary's director of musical arts, the choir delights in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music. Celebrating the warm weather in Florida, choir members performed in their clerical collars and flip flops in Jacksonville, Fla., in February 2016. Front row, from left: Matt Bohlmann, Gerard Bolling, Daniel Clemens, Jeffrey Burgess, Stephan Roma, Nikolai Gibbons, Adam Thompson, Director of Musical Arts Jim Marriott and guest conductor Erica Heggeland. Back row, from left: Andrew Howe, Paul Albers, Alexander Schraeder, Chris Jung, Joshua Rusnak, Joshua Reifsteck and Lee Hopf. Photo: Courtesy of Nikolai Gibbons*

# First HMong Symposium explores theme of ‘One Household in Christ’



*Participants of Concordia Seminary’s first HMong Symposium with Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) President Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, center in purple, at the LCMS International Center in January 2016. Photo: Jackie Parker*

The first HMong Symposium at Concordia Seminary Jan. 23-25, 2016, welcomed more than 40 attendees from six of the eight Lutheran Church—Missouri District (LCMS) districts with HMong ministries. The worship services and symposium were presented in HMong and English, with the theme of “One Household in Christ: *Ib Tse Haw/Huw Tswv Yexus.*”

Rev. Kou Seying, the Seminary’s Lutheran Foundation Professor of Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry and associate dean for Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry, explored the biblical concept of becoming one family in Christ through the means of grace and uniting as one family in Christ through His mission in his keynote address.

Symposium guests toured Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Concordia Publishing House and Lutheran Hour Ministries. They also visited the LCMS International Center and met

with LCMS President Dr. Matthew C. Harrison.

“The response to the symposium was beyond all expectations,” Seying said. “Being the first one at the Seminary, I wasn’t sure how it would turn out. But thanks and praises to God that it went so well and was received very positively with so many mountaintop experiences for all the participants.

“This was a way for Concordia Seminary and the LCMS to say ‘thank you’ for being a part of this church body for 40 years,” Seying said. “By offering this unique HMong Symposium, we wanted to affirm to a little-known people that this Seminary and the LCMS belong to them as well.”

The symposium was such a success that it is going to become an annual event.

## Scholarships offered for minority students

Gerard Bolling came to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis from his Brooklyn, N.Y., home to become a faithful minister of the Gospel.

Now in his fourth year at the Seminary, Bolling, 25, is thankful for the Robert H. King Minority Student Endowment Fund Scholarship for helping reduce his tuition costs and make his dream of a Seminary education a reality.

“I knew that this Seminary was the place for me ... to cause real change



in people’s lives through the power of the Holy Spirit working in me,” said Bolling, who is married to Lorenda, a Lutheran school teacher. “This Seminary gives me the tools to do just that.”

The Robert H. King Minority Student Endowment Fund was created in 1994 to provide scholarships to African-Americans and other minority students working on a Master of Divinity at the Seminary.

Today, more than two decades later, the fund is the largest single source of scholarships for men studying to become pastors at the Seminary. It is one of six endowed scholarships available for minority students.

This academic year, 13 students are benefiting from the fund, which was created by an anonymous donor in recognition of Dr. Robert H. King, the first African-American to serve as a vice president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). King, of Jefferson City, Mo., was ordained in 1949. He served as an LCMS vice president for 21 years, having been elected seven times.

While the amount available for the King scholarship varies, based on market fluctuations, it has provided about \$7,300 per student per year in recent years or

**Numerous awards and scholarships are available to eligible students for meritorious performance and exceptional financial situations.**

**For more information, visit [www.csl.edu/admissions/financial](http://www.csl.edu/admissions/financial).**

about 40 percent of the average student’s out-of-pocket tuition costs.

The King scholarship is one of several that Bolling receives to attend the Seminary. He said he looks forward to Call Day and entering the Office of Holy Ministry.

“If I could pray one prayer every day, it would be for God to make me a faithful minister of the Gospel so that I could ignite in peoples’ hearts, through the Holy Spirit, the faith of Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father,” he said. “I walk by faith toward the pastoral ministry, and the Lord God guides my steps.”

To learn more or to contribute to the Robert H. King Minority Student Endowment Fund, please contact Seminary advancement at [advancement@csl.edu](mailto:advancement@csl.edu) or 800-822-5287.

## NOW AVAILABLE! Regent and Presidential Awards



**Regent Awards help future pastors overcome financial barriers and fulfill their call to ministry.**

- Two grants cover full tuition for up to 45 hours per academic year plus an annual \$4,500 cash stipend in years one, two and four.
- Two grants cover full tuition for up to 45 hours each academic year.
- Two grants will be awarded to candidates who competed for but were not awarded the larger Regent grants. Recipients will receive an additional 25 percent discount on the published tuition rate for up to seven credit hours per academic term of the regular academic year.
- Two grants provide \$1,000 per academic year.



**Presidential Awards provide financial aid for incoming students from Concordia University System universities and Valparaiso University.**

- All Concordia University System and Valparaiso University students are eligible for a \$500 award.
- The top three applicants from each institution are awarded \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$1,000 based on cumulative GPA, church and campus experience, and a pastor’s and admissions officer recommendation.

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## Multiethnic Symposium promotes coming together across cultural lines



More than 90 participants were on campus Jan. 26-27, 2016, for the fifth Multiethnic Symposium, meeting under the theme “Communities of Hope: One Community in Christ.” The symposium is held every two years and brings together Lutherans of various ethnicities from across the country for two days of workshops.

“How do we transition from ‘doing’ multiethnic ministry to ‘being’ a truly multiethnic church?” asked Dr. Andrew Bartelt in his welcome remarks on the symposium’s first day. Bartelt served as co-chairman of the symposium committee.

The question of how The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), which is 95 percent Caucasian, becomes more multiethnic and accepting of different cultures was the focal point of the symposium.

“The LCMS is an ethnic immigrant church, one that has adapted very quickly to American culture — and is in some ways the worse for it,” Concordia Seminary Provost Dr. Jeff Kloha said.

Several presenters said the LCMS has made good strides in promoting overcoming cultural diversity, but many challenges are ahead.

“Knowing that we rank at the top of being the least ethnic churches in America, we don’t talk about it,” said Rev. Kou Seying, the Lutheran Foundation Professor of Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry. “We need to deal with the quietness.” Dr. Mason Okubo, senior pastor of Immanuel First Lutheran Church, West Covina, Calif., stated that an intimacy between cultures is an essential step in making a multiethnic church a reality. “Success will be in the

small things: communication, listening, learning about each other,” Okubo said.

The symposium included various panels and workshops, largely led by LCMS ethnic leaders.

The event concluded with the 10th Annual Lecture in Hispanic/Latino Theology and Missions, featuring Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M., the Werner R.H. and Elizabeth R. Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries and director of the Seminary’s Center for Hispanic Studies. Dr. F. Javier Orozco, executive director of Intercultural and Interreligious Affairs and director of Hispanic Ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, offered the response.

“The Hispanic experience dares us, all Christians, to be ourselves again,” Sánchez said, “to claim anew our identity in Jesus Christ in that Church that, as we confess in the Creed, is both one and catholic.”



*Photo right: Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M., the Werner R.H. and Elizabeth R. Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries and director of the Seminary’s Center for Hispanic Studies, gives the 10th Annual Lecture in Hispanic/Latino Theology and Missions at the Multiethnic Symposium in January 2016. Photo: Melanie Ave. Top photo: Panelists at the “Cultural Hermeneutics: A Case Study in Reading Scripture” lecture January 2016. From left: Dr. James W. Voelz, the Dr. Jack Dean Kingsbury Professor of New Testament Theology; Dr. John Loum, director of the Seminary’s Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology; Rev. Kou Seying, the Lutheran Foundation Professor of Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry; and Rev. Will Main, director of Haskell Lighthouse Campus Ministry. Photo: Kendra Whittle.*

# Helping students fund their Seminary education

BY KENDRA WHITTLE

Laura Hemmer said if there's one thing a prospective Concordia Seminary student should not do, it's look at the price tag of tuition before talking to her.

"If you just look at the website and you just look at the portion that tells you about how much it costs to come to Seminary without even talking to someone, it's daunting," said Hemmer, Concordia Seminary's director of financial aid.

But, she said, the annual \$25,000 tuition should never discourage students from pursuing their plans. That's because the average student pays only one-fifth of the annual tuition — about \$3,200 annually.

Hemmer said it is her mission to help students have as little student debt as possible by the time they take their first call. It's a much different philosophy than any other colleges where Hemmer has worked.

Other schools often tell students how much they will pay per credit hour and point them to government grants and loans to help pay for it.

After working at financial aid offices in several St. Louis area colleges and trade schools, Hemmer arrived at Concordia Seminary in 2014.

She was happy to adjust to the Seminary's debt-free approach. During her college years, she committed to leaving school with no debt.

"I had to pay for the last two and a half years of it on my own," she said. "When I got my undergrad, I was working a job where I was making \$11 an hour and literally every penny of it

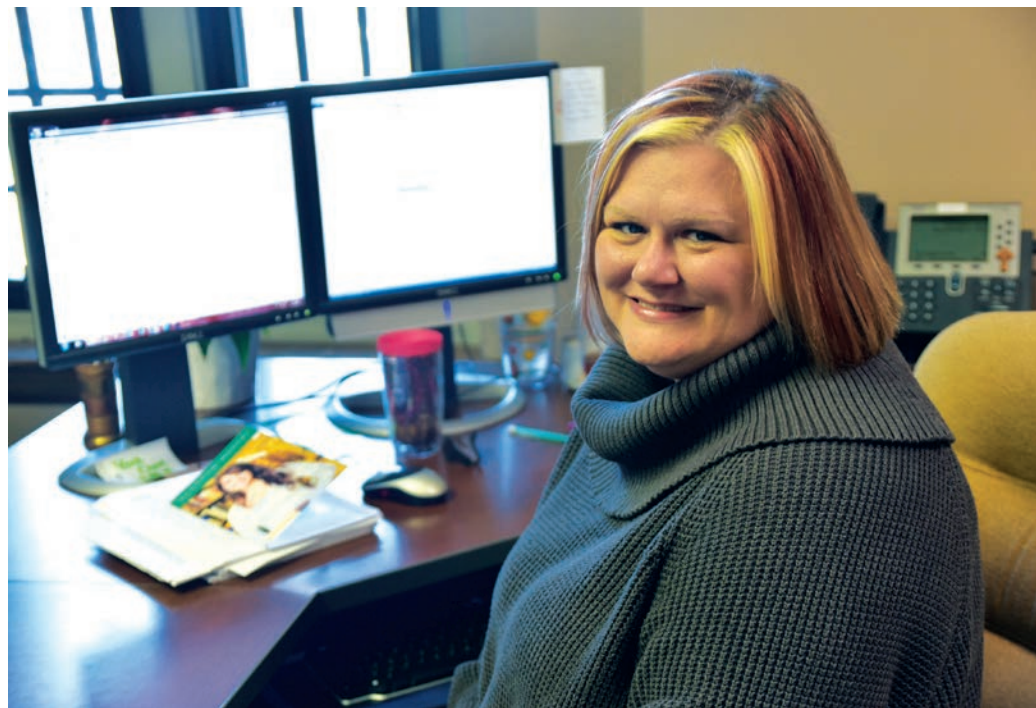
went to the school so I didn't have to take out loans. It was hard."

Hemmer said it's a rewarding challenge to help students get their finances in order. She enjoys helping distribute donor funds, large and small, to the students who need them the most. Sometimes that takes a little detective work to identify the students in need.

Seminary donors in supporting students sets the Seminary apart.

Last year, the Seminary's financial aid office was able to assist third-year student Rob Bailey in locating a supportive donor and additional grant money to assist him with some of his outstanding loans.

Bailey said in the midst of financial



*Director of Financial Aid Laura Hemmer has been with the Seminary since 2014.  
Photo: Kendra Whittle*

"I'll say, 'Has anyone heard of anything? Any new babies being born, anything that's happened?'" Hemmer said. "We had \$100 come in one day, and that day a baby was born. A new baby is expensive, and \$100 buys a lot of diapers."

Hemmer said the generosity of Concordia

difficulties, he found comfort in Christ. "I was reminded who my Lord was, that He has everything under control and I needed to stop trying to be my own lord," Bailey said. "My faith, my hope is in Him."

*Kendra Whittle is a communications specialist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*

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***The average seminary student pays about \$3,200 annually in tuition thanks to generous and faithful donors.***

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THE PROMISE OF CHRIST FOR ALL  
**GENERATIONS**  
 THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA SEMINARY

*Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer speaks at a campaign event in Houston in January 2016. Photo: Kim Braddy*

## Generations Campaign events held in Texas, Florida

Concordia Seminary's Generations Campaign went on the road in January 2016 with special events for longtime supporters and new friends in Houston and St. Petersburg, Fla.

The Generations Campaign is the largest in the Seminary's 177-year history and aims to ensure that future generations will be served by faithful pastors who

share the Gospel message in ways that advance the Great Commission.

To date, the campaign has raised more than \$136 million in gifts and pledges toward a \$180 million goal. The campaign seeks to build endowment, increase annual support and scholarships, renovate the library and enhance learning technology.

During a special event in Houston, Seminary representatives shared the mission and ministry of the Seminary and explained more about the campaign during a special dinner with about 85 attendees.

Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer shared how the Generations Campaign is "about more than raising a lot of money."



### Endowment Funds and Estate Gifts

*\$110 million*

- Operational endowments
- Endowed faculty chairs
- Scholarship endowments



### Annual Support and Scholarships

*\$60 million*

- Sustain and grow scholarships
- Retain and develop world-class faculty
- Maintain the campus

“It’s about ensuring that our families have access to the Gospel — regularly communicated and lived out by faithful, loving pastors,” he said. “This is a momentous time in the history of Concordia Seminary. In the face of a culture that is turning its back on and scorning Christianity; at a time when our church is looking to Concordia Seminary for pastors who are able to reach a new generation; at a time when the mission field — right here in our own backyard — is calling. I truly believe that God has brought the resources and called our generation to endow the critical ministries of the Church with their most generous gifts.”

Among the presenters was third-year seminarian Craig Reiter of Grafton, Wis. “As an active student I get to meet most of my classmates,” he said. “Although we come from many different backgrounds, cultures and countries, we all share a sincere sense of calling, a desire to share the Gospel and a commitment to shepherd the people God puts in our lives as we prepare for service as a pastor. There is no other vocation more suited for allowing us to do what we love in the name of Him who first loved us.”

Also in January, about 40 Seminary friends and supporters gathered in St. Petersburg, Fla., to hear about the campaign and learn how they can get involved. Speakers included Meyer, National Campaign Council (NCC) Chairman Craig Olson and NCC members Bob and Marcy Shuck.

“At a time when our society is increasingly hostile to the Church — Christians are being murdered around the world for their beliefs and young people in our communities are falling away from the Church — the role of Concordia Seminary and the formation of effective and faithful pastors is more important than ever,” Olson said. “We [he and his wife, Jane] have given our hearts and much of our philanthropic support to Concordia Seminary because we feel it has the greatest potential to change the trajectory of our beloved Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod and is another way we are being called to help carry out the Great Commission.”

Olson encouraged the dinner guests to “leave viewing Concordia Seminary and the students as worthy beneficiaries of your generosity.”

To learn more about the Generations Campaign or to make a gift, visit [www.csl.edu/generations](http://www.csl.edu/generations).



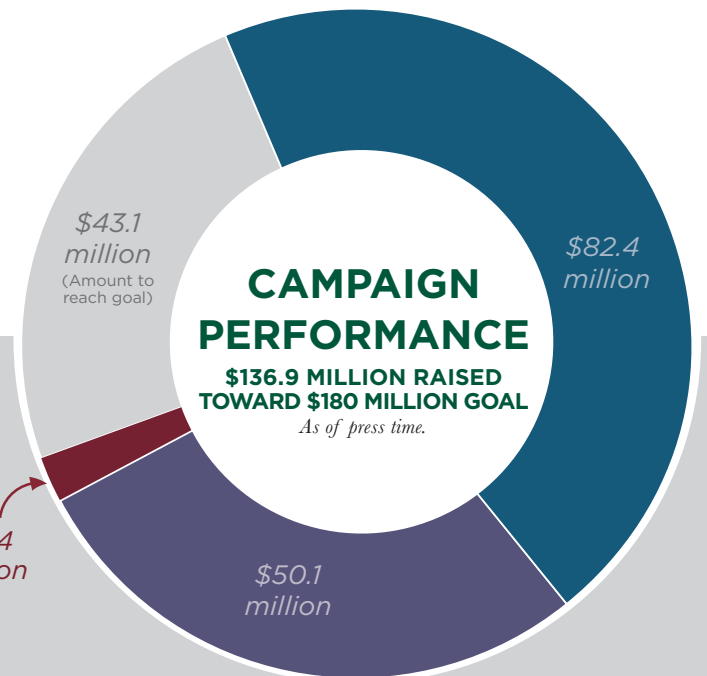
Top photo: National Campaign Council Chairman Craig Olson explains why he is involved in the Generations Campaign during an event in January 2016 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Photo: Tom Rehkop. Bottom photo: Seminarian Craig Reiter shares his journey to the Seminary during a Generations Campaign event in January 2016 in Houston. Photo: Kim Braddy



### Library and Learning Technology

\$10 million

- Digital accessibility
- Facility enhancements



Amount to reach goal      Annual Support and Scholarships  
 Endowment Funds and Estate Gifts      Library and Learning Technology

# Seminary donor turns 100

## SUPPORTING PASTORAL EDUCATION A PRIORITY

BY MELANIE AVE

Lutheran pastors have always played a big role in the life of Mildred Nienaber.

When she was baptized as a child in 1916. When she was confirmed in the faith as a teenager. When she married the love of her life, the late William “Bill” Nienaber, in 1951. ... When he died in 2009 on their 58th wedding anniversary.

That is just one reason why Mildred Nienaber supports Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, which has been forming pastors since it was founded in 1839. “The Seminary

in Kansas to her life today at a senior housing complex in Boulder, Colo.

“Christ was in the center of our lives, all our lives,” she said. Church, prayer and daily devotions give her joy and comfort and hope. When she feels blue, the Lord’s Prayer never fails to lift her spirits.

Mildred celebrated her 100th birthday Feb. 3, 2016, surrounded by family, friends and pastors at the complex with panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains. Celebrating with her that

and faithful woman of God who wants future generations to have the kind of pastors she has had her entire life.

“Attending Mildred’s 100th birthday party was one of the most special events of my year,” said Richard, a senior gift officer.

“I was humbled to be invited.”

Mildred created an endowment in her estate plan that will help provide financial aid to students for years to come.

Richard said donors like Mildred enable the Seminary to help offset tuition costs for future pastors, allowing students to focus on their Seminary education instead of their financial concerns.

“She will, in perpetuity, be providing shepherds for future generations of children and their families for years to come,” Richard said during Mildred’s party as she looked on smiling. “We thank you for what you’ve done and for your prayers and for your concern for our students and for the pastors of the future.”

Born in Afton, Kan., Mildred was the second oldest child of six in a hardworking family of farmers. She spoke German until she went to school in first grade. Beginning at age 17, she worked as a switchboard operator in Hanover, Kan., but quit after she married fellow Lutheran Bill Nienaber, whom she had known since she was a child. He worked first as a barber and later as a carpenter.

The couple moved to Beatrice, Neb., for a while and then to Boulder where Bill Nienaber and his brother established a successful home building business.



*Seminary Senior Gift Officer Richard Jostes holds the hand of Mildred Nienaber during her 100th birthday party in February 2016. Photo: Melanie Ave.*

is putting out some good pastors,” she said. “That’s very important in our lives today.”

Mildred’s Lutheran faith has played a central role in her life from her childhood

day in the Aspen Room were Richard Jostes and Tom Rehkop of Concordia Seminary. Both men said they were thrilled to be on the guest list of such an amazing, generous



*Left photo: From left, Seminary Senior Gift Officer Richard Jostes, Mildred Nienaber and Tom Rehkop, executive director, Seminary Support. Right photo: Richard Jostes, right, thanks Mildred Nienaber for her support. Photos: Melanie Ave.*

The Nienabers, who were unable to have children, worked hard but lived simply, which allowed them to give to the Seminary, Children's Hospital Colorado and Mosaic, a faith-based organization for people with intellectual disabilities in Omaha, Neb. They also created an endowment at Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward, Neb., to help support pre-seminary students.

Mildred Nienaber moved into the complex where she now lives after her husband's death. While she walks well and her mind is sharp, she struggles with poor eyesight because of macular degeneration. While she feels happy to have had such a long life, she admits that it comes with some heartache because of the deaths of her husband and all of her siblings.

"When I sit back in my chair and think seriously about it, it fills my heart with sadness," she said. "How wonderful it would be if they could enjoy the day with me."

Even so, she rejoices in the visits from sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. The people with the organizations she supports have become friends.

"I have a lot to be thankful for," she said. "All these things God has done. I've had a good life. I still have to be thankful to God that He's taking good care of me."

***"The Seminary is putting out some good pastors. That's very important in our lives today."***

***— Mildred Nienaber***

At her centennial celebration, she wore a burgundy pleated dress and graciously greeted one well-wisher after another. After many kind words were said about the birthday girl, a song was sung and cake was eaten. Richard Jostes and Tom Rehkop of Concordia Seminary bid her farewell.

"I'm glad I got to be 100," Nienaber told them.

"I'm glad to hear you say that," Richard replied. "God bless you and thank you."

"I'm so glad you got to come," she said, gripping his hand. "It's good we have a seminary down there. We need some good pastors."

"We're working on that," Tom replied.

"There's a need for a lot of them," she said.

"There sure is," Tom replied.

*Melanie Ave is communications manager at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*



*The scholarship committee at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Va., awarded scholarships for church work studies to interns Sara Scungio and Harry Grimes last year. Left to right: Kathy Froehlich; Scungio; Senior Pastor Bill Harmon; Grimes; Tara Wolf, director of Christian education, and the youth and family minister; and Hope Collier. Photos: Courtesy of King of Glory Lutheran Church*

## Intern program reaches future church workers

BY JACKIE PARKER

When Sara Scungio experienced the behind-the-scenes, day-to-day life of her church, she knew she wanted to become a deaconess and commit her life to church work.

Scungio, 19, was one of the first interns in a unique ministry program for high school students at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Va. Now a freshman in the deaconess program at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., she remembers being an intern, listening to a phone call between Senior Pastor Bill Harmon and a church member.

“He was there to listen to this person and it hit me, ‘Yeah, I could see myself doing this,’” Scungio said. “Being a deaconess is all about mercy and spiritual care.”

King of Glory’s internship ministry program officially started in 2014 but had its beginnings in quarterly dinners arranged by Harmon and Tara Wolf with high school students

whom they saw as having gifts, talents and skills for church work. Wolf is director of Christian education, and the youth and family minister at King of Glory.

Dinner conversation often centered on how he and other church workers got into ministry. Then he and Wolf, decided to go one step further.

“Let’s be intentional about this and let’s let them see what church work is actually like,” Harmon said. Much like the National Honor Society, which recognizes outstanding high school students, the church’s internship program issued invitations for students to apply for the semester internships. Through the application process, students had the opportunity to think through the reasons they wanted to be a part of the program.

To date, two interns have gone on to the Concordia University System. Scungio is studying to become a deaconess and

Harry Grimes is studying to be a director of Christian education.

While there are no Seminary students yet, Harmon said, “The internship is the introduction to the possibilities that await. If we do not ask them and if we do not let them experience it, they may have never considered it at all.”

Students can be interns for one or two semesters and also in the summer. The summer interns are paid for their work. During the fall and spring, interns are expected to work two hours each week and two Sunday mornings each month. King of Glory has four Sunday services — traditional, blended, family and contemporary — giving the interns plenty of opportunities to lead prayers and help with other parts of the services.

But it is the work week when the interns really see what goes on at the church, Wolf said.

Preparing Bible studies for adults, organizing attendance at events like The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s National Youth Gathering, and coordinating and planning events instead of just showing up on the day of, gives the interns a new perspective.

Interns spend time with a variety of church directors, including operations, music, school and family ministry. By working in the church’s front office, they see the good, the bad and the underbelly on the front lines, Wolf said.

“When people are hurting and sad, people turn to the church family. It goes beyond Sunday morning,” Wolf said. “The Church is not one person. What Paul talks about the Body of Christ, this internship gives them a picture of the planning, prep and decisions it takes.

- Pre-law or communications – Harmon said that this intern “is very involved in the life of the church and will no doubt be a future leader within the priesthood of believers.
- Undecided – Harmon said that while this intern is only a sophomore, she is a great public speaker and undoubtedly will be a great asset to the ministry of the church.

Wolf and Harmon said other churches should consider offering internships as a way of encouraging more workers for the harvest.

Harmon said, “As a community of faith it is not only my role to help students discern whether they should be a professional church worker. The staff, leaders and congregation as a whole play a vital role. A youth hearing from a member of the church that they would be a great pastor

**“The only way students are going to get these church experiences is if we can give them to them.”**

**— Rev. Bill Harmon**

This is not like a token thing. We ask the interns to do a lot,” Wolf said. “We want to give them every experience. This is our gift as a church body to be able to do this, no matter what they decide to do.”

Currently, King of Glory has seven interns and the career paths they have chosen include the following:

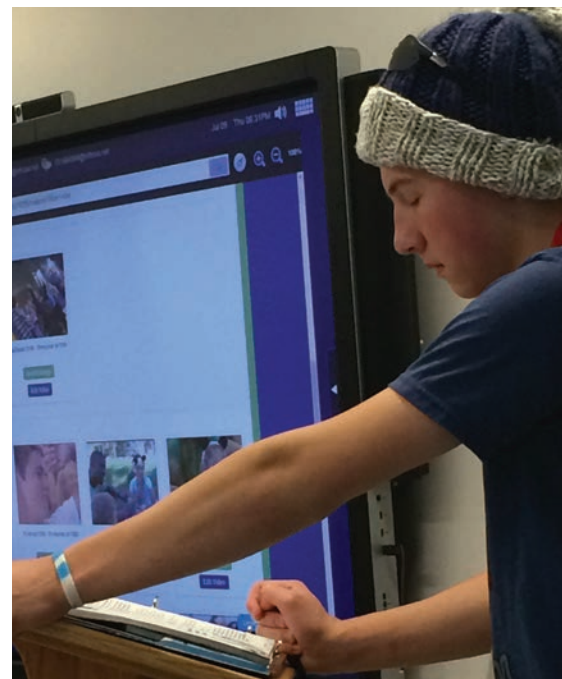
- Deaconess
- Pre-seminary for three of the interns. One intern is also considering being a director of Christian education (DCE).
- Information technology (IT) – Harmon noted that this intern will be “a great informed member and leader of his church.”

or from the youth and family minister that they are a great leader and, yes, even the pastor — all has impact.

“The beauty of the internship is that it is not one person helping a future leader discern but rather it is a team of folks walking with them, giving them tools, offering insight and inviting them to first hand leadership in the church,” Harmon said. “That is where I believe the Holy Spirit works and leads the youth in discovering his or her vocation in the life of the Church.”

*Jackie Parker is a communications specialist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*

*Top photo: As an intern, Harry Grimes asked to serve as a co-director of King of Glory’s vacation Bible school (VBS) last summer. Grimes helped lead the VBS team in a seven-month preparation and managed 100 volunteers and 300 children who attended VBS. Middle photo: Tara Wolf, director of Christian education, and the youth and family minister, and King of Glory Senior Pastor Bill Harmon meet with former interns Sara Scungio and Harry Grimes, who are now students at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. Bottom photo: Intern Jack Harmon prays at VBS training. Harmon also asked to serve and co-directed VBS with Harry Grimes.*





# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

801 SEMINARY PLACE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63105



## #WhoWillGoForUs REFER A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT

### Who is our next church worker?

Below is the name of a person I think would be an excellent pastor or deaconess.

*(If you don't know the information requested, name and congregation/city is sufficient.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate age of candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- I have discussed the possibility of studying to be a pastor/deaconess and he/she is interested.
- I have not discussed this possibility with him/her, but I feel that he/she has been blessed with the necessary gifts to serve as a pastor/deaconess.

Please return this form to the Seminary's Ministerial Recruitment and Admissions office at the address below. Concordia Seminary will send information to this prospective student. You also may contact the office at 800-822-9545 or [admissions@csel.edu](mailto:admissions@csel.edu).

*"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me!'" (Is. 6:8 ESV).*



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