



# COMMENCEMENT

*ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOURTH YEAR  
ACADEMIC EXERCISES*

*THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER  
MAY 19, 2023 · 7 p.m.*

*CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS*



*Carillon Recital by John Klinger (Carillonneur)*

## **PRE-COMMENCEMENT MUSIC**

*The Order of the Groups in the Processional*

Candidate for the Residential Alternate Route Certificate  
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts  
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Divinity  
Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Ministry  
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Sacred Theology  
Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
Faculty and Staff  
Board of Regents  
Recipients of the *Christus Vivit* Award  
Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award  
Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Divinity  
Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Laws  
Platform Officiants

### *A Note on Academic Dress*

The hoods worn by faculty members and candidates for degrees indicate the degree held, the subject in which it is held and the institution that conferred the degree. The colors of the silk lining the hood are the colors of the institution that granted the degree (e.g., the hood of Concordia Seminary is lined with myrtle green and gold). The color of the velvet edging of the hood, running forward around the throat, indicates the faculty or department in which the degree has been earned.

Scarlet: Theology  
Violet: Law  
White: Arts and Letters  
Dark Blue: Philosophy  
Light Blue: Education  
Lemon: Library  
Drab: Business  
Pink: Music

A gold bullion tassel on the cap indicates a doctoral degree.

**THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES**

*In nomine Jesu*



*As the hymn is introduced,  
please stand and face the processional cross.*

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### Thy Strong Word (*LSB* 578)

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,<br/>         Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,<br/>         Throats that shout the hope that fills us,<br/>         Mouths to speak Thy holy name.<br/>         Alleluia, alleluia!<br/>         May the light which Thou dost send<br/>         Fill our songs with alleluias,<br/>         Alleluias without end!</p> | <p>6 God the Father, light-creator,<br/>         To Thee laud and honor be.<br/>         To Thee, Light of Light begotten,<br/>         Praise be sung eternally.<br/>         Holy Spirit, light-revealer,<br/>         Glory, glory be to Thee.<br/>         Mortals, angels, now and ever<br/>         Praise the holy Trinity!</p> |
|---|--|

## THE INVOCATION

The Rev. Prof. Thomas J. Egger, *M.Div., Ph.D.*  
*President*

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.
- L** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C** He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

## THE READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

*John 14:15–21*

## THE HYMN

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me (*LSB 683*)



1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no  
2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure  
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to  
4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy  
tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,  
love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,  
Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,  
love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,  
And reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -  
My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my  
Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be  
O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and  
lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.  
heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.  
all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.  
staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

## THE ADDRESS

Rear Adm. Gregory N. Todd, *M.Div., D.Min.*  
*Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy, Washington, D.C.*

## THE CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES

The Presentation of the Residential Alternate Route Candidate  
Rev. Prof. David I. Lewis, *M.Div., S.T.M., Ph.D.*  
*Director of the Master of Divinity and Residential Alternate Route Programs*  
*Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology*

## THE CONFERRING OF EARNED DEGREES

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts  
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*  
*Dean of Advanced Studies*  
*Frank and Valerie Fuerst Professor of Historical Theology*

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Master of Divinity  
Rev. Prof. David I. Lewis, *M.Div., S.T.M., Ph.D.*  
*Director of the Master of Divinity and Residential Alternate Route Programs*  
*Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology*

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Ministry  
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*  
*Dean of Advanced Studies*  
*Frank and Valerie Fuerst Professor of Historical Theology*

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Master of Sacred Theology  
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*  
*Dean of Advanced Studies*  
*Frank and Valerie Fuerst Professor of Historical Theology*

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*  
*Dean of Advanced Studies*  
*Frank and Valerie Fuerst Professor of Historical Theology*

## **THE CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY AWARDS**

The Presentation of the Recipients of the *Christus Vivit* Award

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

*Dean of Faculty*

The Presentation of the Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

*Dean of Faculty*

## **THE CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY DEGREES**

The Presentation of the Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Divinity

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

*Dean of Faculty*

The Presentation of the Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Laws

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

*Dean of Faculty*

## **THE RECOGNITION OF RETIRING PROFESSORS**

The Rev. Prof. Thomas J. Egger, *M.Div., Ph.D.*

*President*

## **THE CLOSING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR**

The Rev. Prof. Thomas J. Egger, *M.Div., Ph.D.*

*President*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION**

*During the recessional hymn, please turn to face the cross as it passes you, then face forward again when the cross reaches the back of the quadrangle.*



## THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (LSB 821)

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the

scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is  
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the  
nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of  
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.  
Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.  
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the  
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -  
As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in  
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der

like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of  
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -  
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of  
flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both  
like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of

ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."  
get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

## POST-COMMENCEMENT MUSIC

*Soli Deo Gloria*

## THE MARSHALS

Rev. Prof. Joel Biermann, *M.Div., Ph.D.*  
Rev. Prof. Peter Nafzger, *M.Div., Ph.D.*  
Rev. Prof. Mark Rockenbach, *M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.*

## THE MUSICIANS

### **The Clarion Brass**

Mary Weber, *Director*  
Jason Harris  
Christina Schempf  
George Manning  
Matt Kuebler

### **Conductor**

Greg Gastler, *Interim Director of Choral Activities*

*Everyone is invited to remain in the Main Quadrangle for a cookie reception,  
sponsored by the Seminary Guild, following Commencement exercises.  
(In the event of inclement weather, the reception will be held in Koburg Hall.)*

### **Acknowledgments**

Text to "Thy Strong Word"© 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082. Tune "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"© Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082.

## CANDIDATE FOR THE ALTERNATE ROUTE CERTIFICATE

*This student has completed academic residency and will be eligible for certification and ordination upon completion of a one-year vicarage.*

Matthew Allan Martin

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

§<sup>1</sup> Alicia Rose Benning  
‡ Grace Elizabeth Bergt  
\* Joshua R. Duncan  
§<sup>3</sup> Jenny Zoë Huelsman  
\* Donald James Hutchinson  
\*<sup>1</sup> Leon C. Jameson  
§ Sarah Talena Rusche  
‡<sup>3</sup> Erin Dewberry Schulte  
‡<sup>3</sup> Abigail Kathleen Ward  
<sup>2</sup> Douglas D. Widger

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY

Chad Stewart Berg	<sup>2</sup> Joshua Aaron Makey
Brandon M. Bettcher	Scot Dustin Missling
James Stewart Bozarth	Aidan M. Moon
Hayden August Brown	Jacob Michael Moore
James David Burke	Briton James Nelson
Jacob Louis Childers	Drew Ryan Oswald
Jarod Michael Fenske	† Nickalaus William Palmer
Ryan Michael Ferguson	*† Daniel Soe Reh
* <sup>2</sup> Adam Ryan Flanick	Jeffrey August Reuter
Matthew N. Gerzevske	Jacob William Rhodes
Christopher T. Hill	Zachary Hayden Roll
Joshua A. Kintz	Jonathan Michael Sharp
James Alexander Kirk	Jacob Andrew Sipes
Jonathan Sayers Lackey	Noah Olaf Strand
Oliver Quinton LaMie	Nicholas Mark Wagenknecht
Daniel James Langewisch	Joel Andrew Werner
Kyle A. Lewis	<sup>2</sup> Álvaro José Witt Duarte

\* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage or summer course work

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

<sup>1</sup> Degree granted Aug. 19, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Degree granted Dec. 16, 2022

<sup>3</sup> Degree granted Jan. 20, 2023

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Edmund David Auger  
*Major Applied Project*  
*Positive Factors Related to the Decision to Study for the Office of the Ministry*  
*by Men of The Lutheran Synod of Nicaragua*  
*(Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua / Lutheran Church—Canada)*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Michael Baumgarten  
*Major Applied Project*  
*“There is a Place for You and Your Little Ones”*  
*Homiletics and Liturgy in View of Pregnancy Loss*

Aaron Gary Flatau  
*Major Applied Project*  
*Medical Leave and Unrealistic Ministry Expectation:*  
*A Study at Zion Lutheran Church*

<sup>2</sup> Nicholas Lee Hagerman  
*Major Applied Project*  
*Children Are a Heritage from the Lord:*  
*A Procreation-Centric Approach to Christian Marriage and Family Education*

Brent Matthew Hartwig  
*Major Applied Project*  
*Hospitality: Areas that are Effective in Creating a Desire for a Visitor*  
*to Connect to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*

<sup>3</sup> Paul Erich Hass  
*Major Applied Project*  
*Discovering the Means to Provide Mentorship for Post-Seminary Pastoral Formation*  
*from Apprentice to Craftsman: A Pastoral Journey*

Daniel Russell Prugh  
*Major Applied Project*  
*The Dwell Bible Listening App as an Effective Tool to Habituate Daily Bible Engagement*  
*in the Local Congregation*

<sup>2</sup> David Stanley Schleusener  
*Major Applied Project*  
*Pastoral Care for National Guard and Reserve:*  
*Using Bible Study to Equip National Guard and Reserve to Navigate Through the Blessings*  
*and Burdens of Civilian-Military Vocations*

\* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage or summer course work

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

1 Degree granted Aug. 19, 2022

2 Degree granted Dec. 16, 2022

3 Degree granted Jan. 20, 2023

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE  
OF MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY**

Tat-Yeung Fung  
\*<sup>1</sup> Scott Edward Herbert  
<sup>1</sup> Joseph Cameron Highley  
\*<sup>3</sup> Subin Raj Vijayamma  
<sup>1</sup> Joshua Phillip Reifsteck  
Craig Joseph Reiter  
<sup>1</sup> Jared Michael Stoner  
<sup>3</sup> James Clark Wallace

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE  
OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Martin Johnson  
*Dissertation*  
*To the Glory of God: Evaluating Origen's Exposition of the Scripture  
in His Leviticus Homilies*  
*Adviser: The Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer*

Dennis Wesley Matyas  
*Dissertation*  
*Embodied Superintendence: The Person of the Preacher in Lutheran Homiletics  
Especially in Relation to Cultural Identity*  
*Adviser: The Rev. Dr. David Schmitt*

\* Benjamin J. Nickodemus  
*Dissertation*  
*The Apocalyptic Character of the Ethnic Identity Argument in Galatians*  
*Adviser: The Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid*

Larry Marvin Vogel  
*Dissertation*  
*Behind the Numbers: A Traditional Church Faces a New America*  
*Adviser: The Rev. Dr. Richard Marrs*

\* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage or summer course work

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

<sup>1</sup> Degree granted Aug. 19, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Degree granted Dec. 16, 2022

<sup>3</sup> Degree granted Jan. 20, 2023

## THE CHRISTUS VIVIT AWARD

*Chosen by the faculty – after consideration of personal knowledge and/or recommendations by others – the recipient of the Christus Vivit Award has demonstrated exemplary service to the church.*

### *Kaye Dumas Wolff*

Kaye Dumas Wolff, a retired information and technology professional, has dedicated much of her tremendous volunteer service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries and initiatives that serve minority groups. She has worked closely with LCMS Black Ministry and other ethnic ministries. She is a founding member of Concordia Seminary's Multiethnic Symposium committee, which began in 2008, and she remains a part of the planning committee and also is a past presenter. She also served on the advisory committee for the Seminary's Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) during its inception in 2002. She has served as chairman of the LCMS Black Ministry Church Planting Task Force (1996-2003) and also served on an LCMS convention resolution task force (2016-19). Additionally, she has presented several LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission webinars.

Wolff has authored articles for the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and Bible studies for Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) groups. She also has contributed articles to *Lutheran Mission Matters* (formerly *Missio Apostolica*) and has written Lenten devotions for Lutheran Hour Ministries, where she was a MissionU witnessing facilitator for 14 years. She was instrumental in making the LCMS docu-movie "The First Rosa," about the pioneer Lutheran educator and missionary Rosa Young (LCMS, 2014), in which she served as the unit production manager.

In 2020, Wolff presented at the Theological Convocation on Race Relations at the Seminary. She also has been a guest on KFUE's radio show "The Coffee Hour" periodically over the last six years. From 2020-22, she also served on a church worker recruitment committee.

Active in the LWML most of her life, Wolff has served in local, district and national roles within the organization. During her term as LWML vice president of special focus ministries (2015-19), Wolff started the Deaf Ministry Outreach Program to encourage hearing women to learn basic American Sign Language (ASL) and deaf culture, and to encourage and welcome deaf women into active participation in LWML groups. She currently serves as chairman of the 2021-23 Nominating Committee.

A frequent visitor to the Seminary campus, Wolff is known by many former and current students as "Auntie Kaye" for her frequent mentoring, support and commitment to them. Wolff and her husband, Rev. Paul A. Wolff, live in Southfield, Mich. They worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dearborn, Mich., where Rev. Wolff serves as the assistant pastor. Kaye Wolff is learning ASL and enjoys cooking and eating, dressing in cultural attire, traveling and music. She and her husband have three grown children, five granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. They enjoy frequent visits with those family members who live close by.

## THE CHRISTUS VIVIT AWARD

*Chosen by the faculty – after consideration of personal knowledge and/or recommendations by others – the recipient of the Christus Vivit Award has demonstrated exemplary service to the church.*

### *Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke*

Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke of Brookfield, Wis., is a clinical psychologist who has provided consultation and care for Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) district presidents, pastors, principals, teachers and congregations for more than three decades. She is known throughout the church as a compassionate counselor, articulate speaker and engaging teacher.

In 2008, Yahnke accepted an invitation from the DOXOLOGY Board to serve as executive director for Christian counsel for the charitable nonprofit, which is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. The organization is dedicated to serving pastors, lay leaders and pastors' wives. DOXOLOGY, founded by Yahnke and her colleague, Dr. Harold Senkbeil, is committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially as God gives it through the Holy Ministry. DOXOLOGY provides an innovative program of advanced study retreats to strengthen pastors for the task of faithfully shepherding the souls entrusted to their care.

Previously, Yahnke has served as professor of psychology and department chair at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon (CUW) (1978-90; 2010-15). Early in her tenure at CUW, she was named Faculty Laureate for excellence in teaching. She also received the university's Dettmann Award for Dedicated Service.

Yahnke worked for more than 20 years in private practice at the clinic she founded, Christian Counseling Services, in Milwaukee, Wis. The clinic was devoted to providing care for clients of faith including church workers and their families. Yahnke has written numerous articles about psychology, education and faith, and is a frequently invited speaker for clergy and educator conferences throughout the United States and abroad.

Yahnke has served the LCMS as a nationally elected member of the LCMS Board for Higher Education (1998-2004). She was elected by the LCMS convention to serve as a member of the Board of Regents at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (2016-22). In 2016, Concordia Theological Seminary awarded her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

## THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

### *Reverend John Barton (Bart) Day*

Rev. John Barton (Bart) Day was born in Breese, Ill. He attended public schools throughout his elementary, middle and high school years. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1992 from Concordia College, Seward, Neb. (now Concordia University, Nebraska [CUNE]). During his time at Concordia Seminary, he spent a year studying at Westfield Theological House in Cambridge, England (1994-95), and graduated from the Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 1997. In 2019, he earned a Master of Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis. Day was ordained June 8, 1997, at Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston. He served there as associate pastor until 2011. In 2005, he also became headmaster of Memorial Lutheran School, adding to his pastoral duties the financial oversight and day-to-day management of the school.

Day's service also includes: liturgical adviser for the Lutheran Hymnal Project [The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Commission on Worship, 2001-05]; a *Lutheran Service Book* presenter (2006); an instructor for Lutheran Musical Enrichment in Houston, Texas (2002); teacher colloquy at Concordia University Texas, Austin (2002-05), and LINC Houston Bible Institute program (2007-12); a presenter for the LCMS Commission on Worship Liturgy Conference in Mequon, Wis. (2002); and a mentor for Concordia Seminary's Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (2003-04). He also served on several boards of directors, including the Friends of Westfield House, Houston (2002-present) and the Friends of Mercy, St. Louis (2005-09). In 2011, Day became the executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission in St. Louis. He oversaw 20 domestic programmatic ministries supporting 35 districts until 2017. During that time, he also served as LCMS interim chief mission officer (2014-15); LCMS interim executive director of Pastoral Education (2015-16); a board member for Lutheran Services in America, Washington, D.C. (2015-17); board member for Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services, Baltimore (2012-17); and Lutheran Hour Ministries LCMS liaison (2016-17). He currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation. Since September 2017, Day has been president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) in St. Louis. During his tenure, LCEF has surpassed \$2 billion in total assets, making it the largest denominational extension fund.

Among Day's awards are the Charis Award (Grace Place Wellness Ministries, 2016), the Award of Commendation (Concordia Historical Institute, 2016) and Alumnus of the Year (CUNE, 2017). He has written for *Higher Things*, *Teacher Interactive Magazine*, Concordia Publishing House (CPH) and *Strength for the Day*, and has edited several essay collections, including collections for sainted Concordia Seminary faculty members Dr. Norman Nagel and Dr. Ronald Feuerhahn.

Day and his wife, Julie (nee VanOsdol), have six children: Isobo, Jonah, Seth, Caleb, Jotham and Lydia. They live in St. Louis. He enjoys hiking, attending sports event and concerts, and spending time with his wife, children and two dogs.



## CANDIDATE FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

*Awarded to clergy who have rendered outstanding service in church life.*

*Rear Adm. Gregory N. Todd  
Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa*

Rear Adm. Gregory N. Todd was born in 1961, a native of Seattle, Wash. He is a 1984 graduate of Concordia College in Portland, Ore., where he earned a bachelor's degree in pre-seminary studies and minored in education. He attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis starting in 1984, and spent his vicarage at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Lutheran Student Center in Macomb, Ill. He was commissioned in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1986, training in the Navy's chaplain candidate program while completing his Seminary studies and earned a Master of Divinity in 1988. He went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Christian leadership from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., in 2009.

Todd was ordained July 17, 1988, at Hope Lutheran in Seattle, Wash., and served Our Savior Lutheran Church and Student Center in Carbondale, Ill. (1988-90), then Christ Lutheran Church in Jacob, Ill. (1990-94). During that time, he also served in a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve unit for six years while pastoring his congregations in Illinois.

In 1994, Todd converted to active duty and served as base chaplain at the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado in San Diego and then reported to USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), deploying to the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific for counter-narcotics operations (1996-98). In his first U.S. Coast Guard tour, he was assigned to U.S. Coast Guard Activities New York. While there, he was the first Navy chaplain to respond at "Ground Zero" following the attacks Sept. 11, 2001, on the World Trade Center in New York City and hosted the Coast Guard Chaplain Emergency Response Team to provide ministry to emergency workers and civilians.

He reported next to 2D Force Service Support Group (FSSG) at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (2002-05), and deployed with Forward Battalion, 2D FSSG to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as chaplain with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (2004) and deployed to Afghanistan as part of OEF/Operation Mountain Storm, establishing the religious program at Forward Operating Base Ripley in Oruzgan Province. He reported to his next assignment as officer-in-charge of Marine Corps Chaplain and Religious Program Specialist Expeditionary Skills Training, Camp Johnson (2005-08), before being detailed as command chaplain on USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) (2008-10). Following his sea tour, Todd assumed duties as command chaplain for the 2D Marine Logistics Group (2010-13) and then was detailed as force chaplain, II Marine Expeditionary Force (2013-14).

From 2014 to 2018, Todd served as the 10th chaplain of the Coast Guard where he supervised religious ministry support for the more than 88,000 Coast Guard personnel and developed the Coast Guard Auxiliary Clergy Support Program, linking volunteer religious ministry professionals with Navy chaplains in support of Coast Guard members and their families.

In June 2018, Todd was promoted to the rank of rear admiral and became the 20th chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps and deputy chief of Navy chaplains until assuming his current role as the 28th chief of Navy chaplains in May 2022. He leads the religious ministry for more than 570,000 personnel and their families of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Department of Transportation 9/11 Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Today, Todd and his wife, Teresa, live in Washington, D.C. They have five daughters, three sons-in-law and four grandchildren. They attend Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Va., and enjoy good food, hosting family and friends, music and golf.

## CANDIDATE FOR THE DOCTOR OF LAWS

*Reverend Raul Blum*  
*Doctor of Laws, honoris causa*

Rev. Raul Blum was born in Novo Hamburgo in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where he and his family lived throughout his childhood. Music has been a big part of his life since he was 8 years old.

Blum attended and graduated from *Seminário Concórdia* in Porto Alegre, Brazil, with both his pre-seminary education and a high school diploma (1967), and his seminary education and a bachelor's degree in theology (1971). During his time in the seminary, he studied organ as his love for music continued. For 12½ years, he served as parish pastor at several congregations including Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Campo Ere, Santa Catarina, Brazil (1972-77); Christ Lutheran Church in Candelaria, Rio Grande do Sul (1977-79); and Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul (1980-84).

From 1984 to 2002, he was professor of worship and music, teaching music and liturgy at *Escola Superior de Teologia* in São Paulo, Brazil, the second seminary of *Igreja Evangélica Luterana do Brasil* (IELB). In order to better serve in this position, Blum studied at *Faculdade Santa Marcelina* in São Paulo, and in 1992 graduated as conductor. To further improve his music and teaching skills, he obtained a master's degree in church music with an emphasis in choral conducting from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, in 2001. After the closing of *Escola Superior de Teologia* in 2003, Blum taught at *Seminário Concórdia* in São Leopoldo, south of Brazil, and retired in December 2022.

At both *Escola Superior de Teologia* and *Seminário Concórdia*, Blum established music programs with choirs, instruments and orchestra. In 1988, he began the music program *Diaconia em Música* (Diakonia in Music), which prepares organists, conductors and musicians for the church. This program continues today under his coordination. Since 1992, he has conducted the annual Cantate Sunday, a traditional worship service that joins choirs, soloists and orchestra on the campus of *Seminário Concórdia*. Blum also chairs the Worship Commission of IELB that revised the altar book and lectionaries. He took the lead in the preparation and production of a revised edition of the hymnal, *Hinário Luterano* (Concordia Publishing, 2016), which included scores for four voices.

Today, he and his wife, Nádia, live in São Leopoldo as Blum continues to teach at the seminary part-time. The couple has two children: Isabel Cristina and Ezequiel.

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