

THE RESTORATION OF CREATION IN CHRIST

ESSAYS IN HONOR OF DEAN O. WENTHE

EDITED BY
ARTHUR A. JUST JR. AND PAUL J. GRIME



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CONTRIBUTORS

Dean Wenthe's life has been defined by his tenure as professor and president of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Of the nineteen contributors to his festschrift, seventeen of them are also defined by their relationship to him through CTS: nine contributors were called to be professors during his presidency, most of whom were previously his students (Bushur, Gieschen, Grime, Pless, Quill, Rast, Roethemeyer, P. Scaer, Ziegler), four other essayists are also former students (Gard, Harrison, Just, Murray), two have been his colleagues since the early years when the seminary was in Springfield, Illinois (D. Scaer, Weinrich), and two received their honorary doctorates during his presidency (Kleinig, Obare). The other two contributors' relationships to Dean Wenthe are through editorial work on Concordia Commentary with Concordia Publishing House (Mitchell), and as a colleague from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, who also happens to be a shirt-tail relative (Egger).

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Paul J. Grime serves on the faculty of CTS as Dean of the Chapel and teaches in the Pastoral Ministry and Missions department. He has a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance and church music from Valparaiso University, a Master of Music in organ performance from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, his M.Div. (1986) and S.T.M. (1987) from CTS, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Marquette University (1994). He served as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in West Allis, Wisconsin from 1987 to 1996. Dr. Grime served as Executive Director for the LCMS Commission on Worship in St. Louis. During his tenure he served as project director, first for the development of *Hymnal Supplement 98* and then for *Lutheran Service Book*, the Synod's new hymnal, and for all of its companion volumes, which were published in 2006 and 2007. He was called to the faculty of CTS in 2007.

Matthew C. Harrison serves as the thirteen president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He served as a pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Westgate, Iowa (1991–95), and Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana (1995–2001). He joined the staff at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis in 2001 as the Executive Director of the Synod's former World Relief and Human Care ministry. President Harrison received his M.Div. degree from CTS in 1989 and his S.T.M. in 1991. In 2011, he received two honorary doctorates: a Doctor of Laws from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and a Doctor of Divinity from CTS. He is a prolific writer whose books include *A Little Book on Joy* and *Christ Have Mercy: How to Put Your Faith in Action*. He compiled and translated *At Home in the House of My Fathers*, a collection of sermons, essays, addresses, and letters by the first five presidents of the LCMS, and edited *The Lonely Way: Selected Essays and Letters* by Hermann Sasse. President Harrison was a student of Dean Wenthe.

Arthur A. Just Jr. serves on the faculty of CTS as Professor and Chairman of Exegetical Theology, and Co-Director of the Good Shepherd Institute of Pastoral Theology and Sacred Music. Prior to being called to CTS in 1984, he served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Middletown, Connecticut from 1980 to 1984. He received his M.Div. from CTS in 1980, his S.T.M. from Yale Divinity School in 1984, and his Ph.D. from the University of Durham in England in 1990 in the New Testament. Dr. Just served as Dean of the Chapel (2000–2007) and Director of Deaconess Studies (2003–11) at CTS. He published a two-volume commentary on the Gospel of Luke for the *Concordia Commentary* series (1996, 1997) and the Lukan volume for the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*.

John W. Kleinig served as a lecturer at the Australian Lutheran College, formerly Luther Seminary, beginning in 1982. He retired from full-time teaching at the end of 2009 and is now engaged in writing a commentary on Hebrews. He was one of the seventeen students in Luther Seminary's first graduating class in 1968. After his ordination in 1969 he was called to serve as chaplain at Luther College, Melbourne (1969–72), and later at St. Peter's College, Brisbane (1973–79). He received an M.Phil. (1982) and a Ph.D. (1990) from the University of

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Christopher W. Mitchell serves at Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, as editor of the *Concordia Commentary* series. He studied at the University of Wisconsin—Madison (B.S., M.A., Ph.D. in Hebrew and Semitic studies) and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri (M.Div.). He published a commentary on the Song of Songs for the *Concordia Commentary* series (2003) and has served alongside Dean Wenthe as in-house editor of the *Concordia Commentary* series from its inception in the 1990s.

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Walter Obare Omwanza is presiding archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. He studied at Matongo Lutheran Theological College (MLTC) and graduated with a General Certificate in Theology in 1978. He was ordained as a pastor in 1982, after which he served as a parish pastor in nine congregations simultaneously. In 1991 he again studied at MLTC, where he received a Higher Diploma in Theology (1993) and began a teaching career at MLTC. After receiving an M.A. from Concordia Seminary, St Louis, he returned to Kenya and continued at MLTC until August 2002, when he was called into the office of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCK. He was consecrated a

bishop on the November 24, 2002. In 2005, he consecrated a Swedish pastor as bishop of the Mission Province, a group within the Church of Sweden that opposes the ordination of women; his action prompted the Lutheran World Federation to terminate his leadership position in that organization. He was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by CTS in 2006 during the presidency of Dean Wenthe.

John T. Pless serves as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at CTS, where he also serves as Director of Field Education. He served for seventeen years as campus pastor at University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He received his M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. He entered LCMS by colloquy at CTS in 1983. Prof. Pless is the author of many books, including *Handling the Word of Truth: Law and Gospel in the Church Today*; *A Small Catechism on Human Life*; and most recently *Martin Luther: Preacher of the Cross*. With LCMS President Matthew Harrison he is editor of *Women Pastors? The Ordination of Women in Biblical Lutheran Perspective*. He is book review editor for *Logia: A Journal of Lutheran Theology*, a member of the editorial council of *Lutheran Quarterly*, and co-president of the International Loehe Society. He was called to the CTS faculty in 2000.

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Lawrence R. Rast Jr. is the President at CTS and Professor of American Christianity and American Lutheranism. He served as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tennessee (1992–96). He

received his M.Div. (1990) and S.T.M. (1995) from CTS. In 2003, he earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Rast is a member of the Board of Directors for the journal *Lutheran Quarterly*; he is also on the editorial committee of the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*. He is a faculty representative on the LCMS's Commission on Theology and Church Relations (2006–present) and has been Chairman of that commission since 2010. He was called to the faculty of CTS in 1996 at the beginning of Dean Wenthe's presidency.

Robert V. Roethemeyer serves on the faculty of CTS, combining his role as Director of Library and Information Services with the newly created portfolio of Director of Institutional Assessment and Planning. Among his many contributions to CTS has been the shepherding of the expansion project of Walther Library. He received his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary at St. Louis in 1986, and his M.A.L.S. studies in Library and Information Science at the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1993. Professor Roethemeyer previously served as Public Services Librarian and Art Curator at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (1988–97) and as pastoral assistant at Blessed Savior Lutheran Church in Florissant, Missouri from 1989–95. He was called to the faculty of CTS in 1997 near the beginning of Dean Wenthe's presidency.

David P. Scaer is a professor of Systematic Theology and New Testament and holder of the David P. Scaer Chair of Biblical and Systematic Theology at CTS. At the seminary since 1966, he serves as Editor of the *Concordia Theological Quarterly* (1969–94; 1999–present) and was Academic Dean (1984–89). He has served as the organizer of the annual CTS Symposium on the Lutheran Confessions since 1978. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Institute for Biblical Research, the Alliance of Confessional Evangelicals, and the Christianity Today Institute, for which periodical he also serves as a research scholar. A third-generation Missouri Synod Lutheran clergyman, Professor Scaer was brought up in Brooklyn, New York, where his father, the late Reverend Paul H. Scaer, served his lifetime ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church of Flatbush. Dr. Scaer has been a colleague of Dean Wenthe since the latter joined the faculty in 1971 while the seminary was in still in Springfield, Illinois.

Peter J. Scaer serves on the faculty of CTS as a professor of New Testament. From 1996 to 2000 he served as pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Arcadia, Indiana. He did his undergraduate work in the Classics at Indiana University Bloomington, graduating in 1988. From there he went on to CTS (M.Div., 1992), and to Notre Dame, where he earned his M.A. (1995), and completed his dissertation on the Lukan Passion narrative (Ph.D., 2001). A member of the Exegetical Department, he was called to the faculty of CTS in 2000.

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(Andrew Preus), and checking Latin translations (Christian Preus, M.Div. student). And lastly, gratitude is extended to the Rev. Robert Smith, electronic resources librarian at Walther Library, for his invaluable help in navigating the copyright permissions waters.

The festschrift begins with articles that locate Dean Wenthe's career in his architectural legacy with the new library (Roethemeyer) as well as his place among the presidents of Concordia Theological Seminary (Rast). Then his good colleague, William Weinrich, shows how important primary texts are to Dean's scholarship, as well as the significance of liturgy and the pascha in Dean's teaching. Then come the Biblical essays, Old Testament first (Mitchell, Kleinig, and Gard), followed by the New Testament (P. Scaer, Gieschen, Just). The bishops then weigh in (Obare and Harrison), the festschrift concluding with essays by colleagues at this seminary, in the church, and at our sister seminary (D. Scaer, Grime, Pless, Quill, Bushur, Murray, Egger).

Each essay accents some aspect of the theme of this festschrift—*The Restoration of Creation in Christ*—as well as many of the accents of Dean Wenthe's teaching throughout his career at Concordia Theological Seminary.

DEAN O. WENTHE

A BIOGRAPHICAL APPRECIATION



Dean Orrin Wenthe was born in the modest central Illinois town of Effingham just before the twentieth century reached its halfway point. Located today at the intersection of Interstates 57 and 70, Effingham has always been a “crossroads.” At the time of Dr. Wenthe’s birth, the Pennsylvania and Illinois Central railroads crossed paths in Effingham. Today, Effingham is best known for the “Cross at the Crossroads,” a 198-foot tall cross that dominates the short stretch of road where the two interstates join together.¹ Dean Wenthe has always maintained “the Christological crossing” as the center of the biblical witness and heart of the Christian faith. As professor, pastor, and president, Christ has always been at the center of Dean Wenthe’s confession and practice.

Whether he would pursue pastoral service as his life’s vocation, however, was not a certainty. As he approached graduation from Effingham High School in 1962, Dr. Wenthe explored the possibility of studying physics at the University of Illinois.² Instead, Christ led him toward the pastoral ministry. He prepared for the Office of the Ministry

¹ <http://www.crossusa.org/index.html> (accessed October 14, 2013).

² Dell Ford, “Concordia’s Wenthe Prepares His Students to Be Shepherds,” *Journal Gazette* (September 2, 1997).

at Concordia College, Milwaukee (Associate of Arts, 1965), Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne (Bachelor of Arts, 1967), and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (Master of Divinity, 1971). He received his Master of Theology (Th.M.) at Princeton Theological Seminary (1975), and a Master of Arts (M.A. 1985) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. 1991) from the University of Notre Dame.

Just prior to his vicarage, on July 26, 1969, Dr. Wenthe married Linda Arnholt. They have been blessed with four sons, Timothy, Matthew, Joel, and Joshua, three daughters-in-law, and eight grandchildren.

After his seminary graduation, Dr. Wenthe was called to Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, first as Instructor (1971–1973) and then as Assistant Professor (1973–1977). While in Springfield he served as a chaplain in the Air Force Reserves. In 1977 he accepted a call to Zion Lutheran Church in Atlantic, Iowa, where he served as pastor for three years. He returned to the seminary (now in Fort Wayne) as Associate Professor of Old Testament in 1980, and in 1992 he was elevated in rank to Full Professor. While teaching at the seminary, he served pastoral vacancies at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Wayne Trace (Soest), Indiana, and Zion Lutheran Church in Garrett, Indiana. From 1989 to 1996 he was pastoral assistant at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Haven, Indiana.

For Dr. Wenthe, the transition between professorial and parish life was largely seamless. Dean loved parish life; he also loved seminary life. After returning to the seminary in 1980, he noted “how great it is to be back. The three years of parish experience have deepened our appreciation for the strategic work that the sem is called upon by the church to perform.”³

His service to the church-at-large has been rich and varied. He has served for various lengths of time on the Exegetical Subcommittee of the Church Literature Commission (1972–1978), the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, and the Commission on the Sanctity of Life; as an advisory member of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (1996–2010), the Board for Mission Services (1996–

³ Dean O. Wenthe to Robert D. Preus, September 3, 1980.

2010), and the Boards for Higher and Pastoral Education (1996–2010); as a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1974, 1978, 1979, and 1992; and as an LCMS representative to the Lutheran/Catholic dialogues. He has delivered papers at numerous conferences and written articles for a variety of theological journals. He served as an associate editor of the *Concordia Self-Study Bible* and is currently the General Editor of *Concordia Commentary: A Theological Exposition of Sacred Scripture*, published by Concordia Publishing House, for which he is also writing the commentary on Jeremiah. In 2009 he edited the volume on *Jeremiah/Lamentations* in the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* (InterVarsity Press).

Dean Wenthe was called as the fifteenth president of Concordia Theological Seminary on February 17, 1996. As he accepted the call to the presidency, he reflected on the Synod's tradition of pastoral formation and the role he had played in it:

The Lord has blessed the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with a dual tradition of academic excellence and compassionate pastoral care in theological education. As a professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, it has been a privilege to place theological reflection and confession in the service of the Church's work of nurture and outreach.

Convinced that the call to the presidency was from God, he, typically with great humility, thought of the institution first.

As our culture places new challenges before the church, a marriage of clarity of mind, integrity of confession, and charity of heart will hold the Gospel before our age in all its brilliance. The seminary, under God's grace, can form pastors who will integrate an unswerving commitment to the Triune God with sterling care for God's people.⁴

His installation as president was on April 28, 1996.

President Wenthe's accomplishments in office are too lengthy to list at this point. He admits that his "pet peeve" is "disorganization, messiness. To have things not in their proper place," yet the result was a series of remarkable accomplishments during his tenure as president of

⁴ Dean O. Wenthe to Raymond A. Mueller, chairman of the Board of Regents, February 23, 1996.

the seminary.⁵ Included among them, but not exhaustive by any means, are:

1. He guided the seminary to its first ever ten-year accreditation from both the Association of Theological Schools and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the highest level of accreditation achievable.
2. His commitment to mission led CTS to be known the world over for its international work, particularly through his support of the “Russian Project.”
3. His compassion found concrete expression in the establishment of the Deaconess Program in 2003.
4. Finally, under Dr. Wenthe’s leadership, the seminary, after more than thirty years of on again/off again planning, successfully began expansion of its library facilities, creating a structure that can only be described as world class.

Dr. Wenthe retired from the presidency on June 5, 2011. However, that has not stifled his creative and energetic service. In addition to returning to the classroom and continuing work on his Jeremiah commentary, he was most recently named interim president of the Concordia University System, which oversees the ten colleges and universities operating under the auspices of the LCMS.

One thing that has always characterized Dr. Wenthe is his engaging, encouraging personality. From the time I was a student at this seminary, agonizing over sermon preparation, to discussing “future possibilities” with him following his election to the presidency of CTS in the spring of 1996, to serving with him in seminary administration, he has consistently held forth a gracious, Christ-centered vision for this institution and encouraged his colleagues in the same. His clarity of thought and charity of heart has encouraged and inspired parishioners and, especially, students entering the pastoral ministry in coming to a deeper understanding of their Lord Christ.

Our primary calling as theologians is to interpret reality for ourselves and for our people. In our day, we behold the tragic paradox of secular

⁵ Dell Ford, “Concordia’s Wenthe Prepares His Students to Be Shepherds,” *Journal Gazette* (September 2, 1997).

man seeking something more solid than the phony, penultimate, pleasure trips, of either the gross or more refined variety, that are constantly held before us as the only route worth traveling . . . and, in their seeking, find no one to speak to them of that which is solid and real. The saints whom you serve will at times overwhelm you with their support and love. The sinners whom you serve will at times send you scampering to the throne of grace for more patience and wisdom than your flesh can muster. And yet, on this latter point, I can forthrightly say that for all their frailties you will find your flock a joy to serve.

I was simply not prepared for that closeness which is forged between Pastor and people as they seek to live a real life in the midst of a phony world.

Frankly, IT'S GREAT!!! And if these tasks do not plant the seeds of joy and happiness in our service, then we have ourselves drifted from that which is real.

For his more than forty years of service to this seminary, fifteen of which were spent as president of Concordia Theological Seminary, we can only give thanks to God, especially for Dr. Wenthe's collegiality and the way in which he has embodied the CTS mission to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

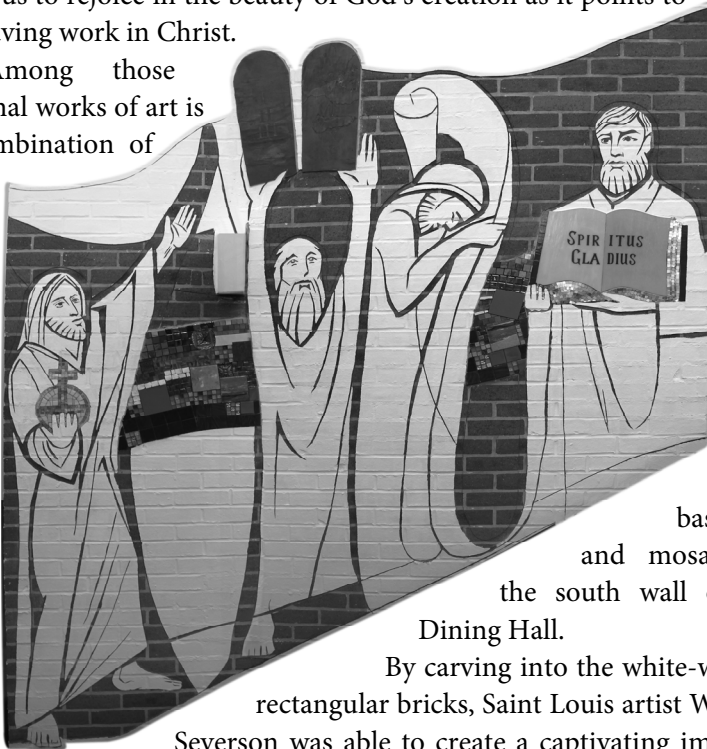
Lawrence R. Rast Jr.

EVERLASTING SON OF THE FATHER

During Dean O. Wenthe's tenure as president of Concordia Theological Seminary, the three-decade dream of expanding the library on the Saarinen-designed campus became a reality. Careful and painstaking work with architects and contractors who were sensitive to the seminary's desire to maintain the integrity of the original design of the campus resulted in an expansion of the existing library into a world-class facility that will serve the seminary for years to come.

The architectural beauty of the CTS campus is matched by an artistic plan unified under the theme of the ancient church's hymn of praise, the *Te Deum*. Wood, metal, fabric, and stone are joined in various works of art around the campus, inviting all who step on the campus to rejoice in the beauty of God's creation as it points to his saving work in Christ.

Among those original works of art is a combination of

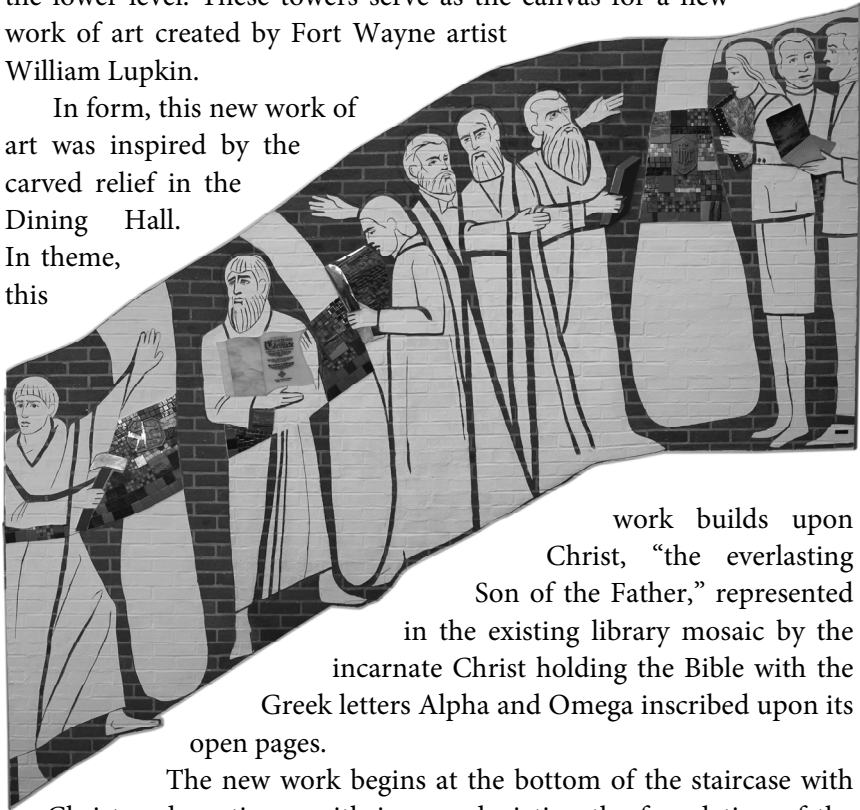


bas-relief
and mosaic on
the south wall of the
Dining Hall.

By carving into the white-washed rectangular bricks, Saint Louis artist William Severson was able to create a captivating image of the saints gathered together, singing their praises to God. A pattern of colored plastic, enameled copper, and stained glass chips in the center of the image takes the shape of a loaf of bread.

In the final design of the library expansion, two brick towers of white-washed brick were erected next to the grand staircase that connects the first of two “lantern” buildings with the main collection in the lower level. These towers serve as the canvas for a new work of art created by Fort Wayne artist William Lupkin.

In form, this new work of art was inspired by the carved relief in the Dining Hall. In theme, this



work builds upon Christ, “the everlasting Son of the Father,” represented in the existing library mosaic by the incarnate Christ holding the Bible with the Greek letters Alpha and Omega inscribed upon its open pages.

The new work begins at the bottom of the staircase with Christ and continues with images depicting the foundation of the law and the prophets, as well as the apostolic witness, on the first column (facing page). The second column (above) begins with Luther, nailing the Ninety-five Theses, and Chemnitz, holding a Book of Concord. This Biblical and confessional identity is handed on to our seminary founders, Loehe, Craemer, Sihler, and Wyneken, who in turn hand it on to our students, diaconal, international, and pastoral. In its wholeness, the work captures the transmission of the Word through the ages, providing a fitting image of the role of a theological library and a seminary faculty.

Robert V. Roethemeyer

A color version of this artwork may be viewed at <http://www.ctsfw.edu/librarymosaic>.