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Martin Luther’s paradigm for making theologians isn’t a bad model for spiritual fitness among pastors (and other Christians too): Prayer, Meditation, and Affliction (spiritual struggle). Besides vital spiritual self-care, pastors need shepherding too. Just as barbers need barbers or physicians need physicians, pastors need pastors.

22 Devotional Diligence  
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Ranking at or near the top of a list of occupational hazards for ministers of the Gospel is succumbing to the tendency to treat Scriptures as an academic tool while neglecting its devotional use for the pastor’s spiritual strength and well-being. Being “in the Word” includes more than our hands-on approach for preparing cogent sermons and Bible classes.

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Pastoral fitness begins with pastoral passivity. We hear much about pastors “burning out” under increased demands often coupled with confusion over what it is that pastors are to do. Are pastors mainly counselors, managers, public relations experts, or community organizers?
Dear Friends of Concordia Theological Seminary:

Pastoral Care—Seelsorge

Do you have a good family physician? I hope you do. Our family is blessed with a physician who exhibits remarkable care for his patients. His medical knowledge is exemplary and complemented by his readiness to refer to specialists if necessary. He not only provides a diagnosis, but also communicates the reasons and rationale so the patient is fully informed. What is most impressive, however, is how he cares for the patient.

A recent project of the Carnegie Foundation was devoted to reviewing the roles and the contributions of the professions to our society. In a word, it urged that it was important that doctors retain their focus on patients rather than procedures and that attorneys attend to justice for clients more than to billable hours.

After reviewing the various aspects of pastoral work—preaching, teaching, counseling, etc.—it is noteworthy that the Carnegie study affirms the importance and centrality of interpreting God’s reality and presence: “This suggests that questions about God or ultimate meaning have everything to do with the capacity of persons and communities to foster and contribute to existentially coherent human life or to the greater common good in the face of fear, greed, chaos, uncertainty, and suffering of human existence. Interpreting God and God-language, in other words, matters” (Charles R. Foster, Lisa E. Dahill, Lawrence A. Golemon, Barbara Wang Tolentino, Educating Clergy [Stanford, CA: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 2006], 357-8).

To have a pastor who rightly describes the Triune God and faithfully interprets Sacred Scripture is a great blessing and comfort, similar to having a good physician. Just as we treasure a physician who not only knows medicine but also truly cares for his patients, we similarly value a pastor whose right knowledge of God is joined to a compassionate and caring heart. Lutheran theology has especially valued Seelsorge, i.e., the care of souls.

If physicians devote themselves to the physical welfare of their patients, a faithful pastor guides and guards the souls under his care that they might enjoy God’s grace and mercy in Christ now and enjoy the Blessed and Holy Trinity forever in eternity. Christ, the great good Shepherd, established the office of pastor precisely for the care and nurture and salvation of His people.

This aspect of pastoral work is captured in a paragraph by John Watson in John W. Doberstein’s Minister’s Prayer Book (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986), 211:

One’s heart goes back from this eager, restless, ambitious age to the former days, and recalls with fond recollection the pastor of his youth, who had lived all his ministry in one place, and was buried where he was ordained—who had baptized a child, and admitted her to the sacrament, and married her and baptized her children—who knew all the ins and outs of his people’s character, and carried family history for generations in his head—who was ever thinking of his people, watching over them, visiting their homes, till his familiar figure on the street linked together the past and the present, and heaven and earth, and opened a treasure house of sacred memories. He prayed with a lad before he went away—his mother could almost repeat the words; he was constantly inquiring about his welfare, so binding him to his faith and home by silken ties; he was in the house on the day of his return, to see how it had fared with him in the outer world. People turned to him as by an instinct in their joys and sorrows; men consulted him in the crises of life, and, as they lay a-dying, committed their wives and children to his care. He was a head to every widow, and a father to the orphans, and the friend of all lowly, discouraged, unsuccessful souls. Ten miles away people did not know his name, but his own congregation regarded no other, and in the Lord’s presence it was well known, it was often mentioned: when he laid down his trust, and arrived on the other side, many whom he had fed and guided, and restored and comforted, till he saw them through the gates, were waiting to receive their shepherd-minister, and as they stood around him before the Lord, he, of all men, could say without shame, “Behold, Lord, thine under-shepherd, and the flock thou didst give me.”

However long a pastor serves, it is this model of spiritual care that Concordia Theological Seminary cherishes. Rather than the trendy and manipulative, we embrace authenticity, integrity, and charity as the marks of faithful pastoral care.

We believe that our graduates—exhibiting such a life and such care—will give their congregations and the soul of each member wonderful assurance and comfort, assurance that their sins are forgiven and comfort that in Christ even death is no more.

Permeating such a faithful pastor’s life is also a longing for the lost and a constant effort to reach them as our mission statement captures: “Concordia Theological Seminary forms students in Jesus Christ to teach the faithful, to reach the lost, and to care for all.”

Enjoy this issue of For the Life of the World with its focus on pastoral care, and pray for us and support us as we continue to prepare such pastors.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe
President, Concordia Theological Seminary
Pastoral Fitness under the Cross

By The Rev. Dr. B. Albert Collver

“… before time began God preordained what sort of crosses and sufferings he would use to conform each one of his elect to ‘the image of his Son,’ and that the cross of each should and must ‘work together for the good’ of that person …”

(FC SD XI, 49; KW, 648)

What happens when the dream becomes a nightmare? A man, who longed and dreamed to become a pastor, found himself in an impossible situation. The excitement of Call day is shattered by problems in the parish. Imagine arriving at a congregation with divisions and arguments over leadership, a congregation that tolerates gross sin and immorality, a congregation involved in lawsuits against each other, a congregation with disagreements over the practice of Holy Communion, a congregation in dispute over the proper role of women, a congregation with quarrels over worship, and even a congregation that has doubts about the resurrection from the dead. Some might be identifying with individual problems; others might be thanking God that their congregation is not as bad as others, or find it hard to believe a single congregation could have all of these problems. Yet this is exactly the situation Saint Paul encountered as a pastor in Corinth.
Pastors with troubled congregations are often tempted to curse the sheep that the Lord has entrusted them to shepherd. Yet notice how Saint Paul greets his troubled congregation, “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints …” (1 Cor. 1:2). Saint Paul believes that the holy Christian church exists in Corinth and he calls them “saints.” With these words Paul is making a confession of faith just as in the Creed. A pastor under the cross needs to confess the Creed, “I believe in the holy Christian church and the communion of saints …” He needs to be reminded of the promises of Jesus that both the church and the saints are located where the Gospel is proclaimed and where His forgiving gifts are bestowed.

Another temptation a pastor in crisis experiences is to lose his faith in the promises given to him by Jesus. At ordination a candidate hears the words and promises of Jesus: “You did not choose Me, but I chose you …” (John 15:16), “And surely I will be with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20). When crisis comes in the parish, it is easy to forget that the Lord chose the pastor for that congregation. Both the pastor and the parish forget this promise of Jesus. At times both may feel as if Jesus is not with them but has abandoned them.

There is no greater temptation than to doubt the promises of Jesus; likewise, there is no way to survive the cross than to cling to the promises of Jesus. In fact, the pastor in crisis chases after Jesus and captures Him in the promises He gave him as a Christian in Holy Baptism and as a pastor in Holy Ordination. Jesus loves to be captured in His promises.

A counter-intuitive promise that our Lord has made is that our sufferings, trials, and crosses were predestined before the foundation of the world for us so that nothing would happen in our lives that could take us from Jesus. This is what we confess in Formula of Concord IX and is what Saint Paul wrote in Romans 8, that all things work for good. In the course of the trials we face in our lives and in our vocations, the Lord conforms us into the image of His Son, that is, He puts to death our sinful nature and removes whatever is in our lives that would take us away from Him. We have His promise that no trial, suffering, or cross will take us away from Him.

Saint Paul also shows how to approach difficult problems in the congregation. The simple answer is a proper division of the Law and the Gospel. The art is to preach the Gospel to the weak, to those Christians who haven’t been taught and are resisting because something the pastor says is new or threatening to them. To the strong, to those who know, Saint Paul preaches the Law. Ultimately, through patience, love, and teaching the pastor suffers with his sheep as they work through the trials and problems set before the congregation.

Remembering the promises of Jesus and capturing Jesus in His promises will sustain the weary pastor, his family, and the congregation he serves. The cross is not easy to bear, but each cross serves the good the Lord intended. Jesus is faithful to His word and He has bound Himself to His promises. Jesus will never fail you.

The Rev. Dr. Albert B. Colver is the Executive Pastoral Assistant to the Executive Director, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, St. Louis, Missouri.
Phoebe?

Referenced in Scripture as a female servant of the church by the Apostle Paul (Rom. 16:1–2), Phoebe has become an icon for the Deaconess Program at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS). Phoebe, along with other women throughout history, dedicated herself to a life of service to the poor and needy for the sake of the Gospel. Deaconesses prepare people to hear, believe in, and be comforted by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through acts of mercy. Many female saints embody service (diaconia). Their example shapes the training of our women, which employs the theology of service in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as they follow our chief servant, Jesus Christ.

“We love, because He first loved us.” I John 4:19

Phoebe Academy College Retreat

Born out of the male counterpart (Christ Academy College), Phoebe Academy College Retreat invites all current undergraduate women to come and experience what CTS offers in theological and diaconal training. This extended weekend retreat will provide PACR participants the chance to sit in on classes, informal lectures, and to talk with professors and deaconesses. The primary opportunity is for PACR to be centered around God’s Word and Sacraments in Kramer Chapel with deaconess students, seminarians, and Christ Academy participants. Various activities and fellowship will accompany the weekend retreat. While a focus of the retreat is informing women about the service of deaconesses, we recognize that there may be an interest to explore a Master of Arts degree in theology. We invite women with that curiosity to come as well. CTS welcomes you to consider attending the PACR retreat this February 14–17, 2008.

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” Romans 12:13

Direction and Vocation

How do you know if deaconess studies are right for you? With a focus that is distinctly Lutheran, the PACR explores the many facets that diaconal ministry offers women and its application in the real world.

“Bear one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the Law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

Opportunities are diverse and bountiful for deaconesses in areas such as hospitals, schools, mission work, prisons, parishes, military, campus ministry, music, nursing homes, groups homes, and so on. Deaconesses of the LCMS are carrying on a longstanding, biblical, and feminine tradition of service to reach, teach, and care for the needy.

Phoebe Academy College Retreat Includes (at No Cost):

- Housing on campus
- All meals in Katherine Luther Dining Hall
- A complimentary PACR T-shirt
- A weekend of seminary life and theological reflection in the classroom and in fellowship
- Daily Chapel Services
- Shuttle transportation from airport to Seminary
- Need-based financial assistance

Contact Information:

Melissa DeGroot
Phone: 1.800.481.2155
Fax: 260.452.2227
degrootma@ctsfw.edu

For more information please visit our website, www.ctsfw.edu/admission/pacr/index.php. Please complete the online application to reserve your attendance at Phoebe Academy College Retreat.
Opportunities to Refresh and Renew at CTS

April 4-5 Real Men Follow Jesus
This men’s retreat, led by Dr. Gary W. Zieroth of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Kingsville, Maryland, is designed to re-engage men in their local congregations. Today’s churches, without even realizing it, may create an environment where women and tots thrive but men feel hesitant and restrained. Can the local church be a place where the average guy can connect with God? This retreat will focus on God’s Word regarding such topics as masculinity, spiritual leadership, and the future of men in the church. In addition to the meaty Bible Study, we’ll have basketball (3 on 3, if you’re up for that, and on the big screen—it is NCAA Final Four weekend, after all!), burgers, brats, and Lutheran beverage. Retreat Fee: $100 (includes Friday evening and Saturday meals and on-campus housing on Friday night). Saturday night lodging is available for $25.

April 18 Lutherfest
Join fellow Lutherans on campus for a wonderful German dinner! Tickets are $7 for adults and $3 for children 12 and under. More details on the program to follow.

April 19 Christians and the Challenge of Islam
Mark your calendars! On Saturday, April 19, a team of internationally recognized scholars and missionaries will converge on the seminary campus for a day-seminar on the theme: Christians and the Challenge of Islam. Formal information sessions will cover a wide array of topics such as the history and theology of Islam, contemporary Islamic movements, and Christian approaches to Muslims. In addition, there will be several opportunities to interact personally with our panel of experts as we all come together to think through the challenge of Islam. You won’t want to miss this unique opportunity. Seminar Fee: $50 (includes lunch and refreshments).

April 25-27 Confirmation Retreat
The Lord’s Prayer: What in the World are We Praying For?
Because Jesus gave us this prayer, it must be very important and, of course, it is. But do we really know what we are praying for? Some things in the Lord’s Prayer are clear ... but other things ... well, maybe they are not so clear. In this catechism retreat we will be talking about the importance of prayer and specifically what we are praying for in the Lord’s Prayer. Might be a few surprises along the way! Come and join us as we talk about an often neglected part of our lives: prayer ... and especially the Lord’s Prayer. This Confirmation Retreat, led by the Rev. Ernie Lassman of Messiah Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington, is designed for youth who are currently receiving Confirmation instruction in their home parish. As with all our Confirmation retreats, there will be time to enjoy worship in Kramer Chapel, a scavenger hunt, and recreation time in the campus gymnasium. Retreat Fee: $100 (includes on-campus housing and meals).

For additional information concerning CTS retreats, please go online to www.ctsfw.edu/events/retreat or phone 1-877-287-4338, ext. 2266.
Food and Clothing Co-op

God’s people, whether they are individuals, members of congregations or societies within congregations, or corporations, have blessed the Food and Clothing Co-op this past year. This, then, becomes a blessing to the students who have made the commitment to prepare themselves to serve God in the parish.

The “official” chicken of CTS Fort Wayne continues to be Brakebush Brothers from Westfield, Wisconsin. They keep our students supplied with various varieties of chicken. Many LWML societies from around Synod, as well as District LWML Mission grants, sustain us on an ongoing basis. Because of the gifts of these dear ladies, our students have fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, cheese, and other perishable food items on a regular basis. Many quilting groups in congregations, as well as individual ladies in their homes, make blankets and quilts so that each student can receive one at Christmastime.

The children of our students have the opportunity to shop for gifts for their parents, or siblings, or perhaps grandparents at Christmas Marketplace. New items donated to the Co-op are organized and displayed for the children to choose just the right thing for the people on their list. We had over 130 children registered to shop for family members at the Marketplace. Generous people from around the country collect gift cards for us to share with students. We received over $17,000.00 in and for gift cards to be given to students (and more are in route). Each student also received a CPH Bookstore gift card as well as other vendor cards. What a blessing. They can shop at a retail store, or perhaps have a meal in a nice restaurant or put fuel in their car, all because the people of God love their future pastors and deaconesses.

The Co-op is ongoing throughout the year. The only time it is closed is when the seminary campus is closed. We thank God for the people who continue to support the students as they prepare to work for Him.

If you would like any other information about the Co-op, you can contact the Director, Karen Fuelling, at 260-452-2168 or e-mail karen.fuelling@ctsfw.edu or click on the Co-op link on our website ctsfw.edu.

Alaskan Cruise!

August 24-31, 2008

Come explore The Splendor of God’s Creation with President and Mrs. Dean O. Wenthe and Rev. and Mrs. Wayne E. Graumann, Chairman of the Board of Regents, aboard Holland America’s cruise ship, ms Westerdam. Take in the breathtaking natural wonders of Alaska: soaring eagles…breaching whales…shimmering glaciers. Enjoy, too, the charming coastal towns and fascinating glimpses of native culture. While at sea, there will be several opportunities to join the Wenthes and other fellow Lutherans for Bible study and reflection on God’s creation.

Sunday, August 24 – Depart Seattle, WA – Scenic cruising of Puget Sound
Monday, August 25 – At sea – Enjoy the beautiful views and all that the cruise ship has to offer
Tuesday, August 26 – Scenic cruising and Glacier Bay National Park
Wednesday, August 27 – Juneau, AK
Thursday, August 28 – Sitka, AK
Friday, August 29 – Ketchikan, AK
Saturday, August 30 – Scenic cruising of Vancouver Island, then an evening in Victoria, British Columbia
Sunday, August 31 – Return to Seattle, WA

Whether you are looking for adventure and want to partake in some of the myriad onshore excursions available, or whether you are looking to get away from it all and want simply to relax, this cruise has it all!

Prices begin at $1229 per person! (based on double occupancy)

If you’ve ever wanted to cruise to Alaska, now is the time to do it! Not only can you take advantage of the group rate, but Holland America will give $50 to Concordia Theological Seminary for each cabin booked.

For more information, check our website at www.ctsfw.edu/tours/alaska/index.php, call 260-452-2266, or e-mail retreats@ctsfw.edu.
The Lord calls men from all walks of life to the seminary in order that they might be formed into His servants. So it is no surprise that He would lead former middle school math teacher Daniel Brege from teaching in Michigan to studying at Concordia Theological Seminary.

A father of seven and grandfather of six, the Reverend Daniel Brege was raised in Michigan and Illinois. He then attended college, pursuing an education in engineering and mathematics. The son of a pastor, Brege eventually decided on attending the seminary. So with his wife, Lynn, and their children, the family moved to Indiana.

His classes no longer focused on numbers and equations, but Brege dove right in. With regard to teachers, “Dr. Preus and Professor Saleska were two favorites.” Added to that, “Dr. David Scaer [was also] influential, but there were others who were tremendous sources of encouragement and who greatly influenced my pastoral development as well. I appreciated those professors who mingled with the students.”

“The professors make a conscious effort to have Christ at the center of all discussions, classes, and theology,” he notes. A former teacher himself, he observed that, “The faculty strives for excellence, an excellence drawn from and based on God’s Word. We had a superb faculty when I attended, and I believe today’s faculty is probably even better!”

Another helpful aspect was the sense of community cultivated by the students and faculty, and it did not go unnoticed by Brege’s family. “We were assisted a little by the Adopt-a-Student Program, and in our last year at the seminary, we made use of the Food [Co-op]. That especially helped our growing family.” Reverend Brege was even able to take part in the first season of the King’s Men basketball team, which was formed during his second year.

The “seminary gave me the tools—unified doctrine, tools for biblical understanding, practical guidelines—then I had to put these into practice,” Brege says. Practice came in the form of vicarage in Cheyenne, Wyoming. It was an exciting time, but over the course of the year, Reverend Brege learned that “There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into being a good pastor. I also learned that caring for God’s people is of the utmost importance. I also discovered (and am still discovering) that a pastor can never anticipate or fully solve some of the practical situations he will encounter.”

And he is still learning and growing. After finishing his fourth year at the seminary, he was called to St. Paul Lutheran Church of Preble (Decatur), Indiana, and has been there for his entire twenty-five year ministry. “I have been truly blessed to serve the Lord here at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Preble and to remain close to the seminary—geographically and personally,” he says.

Now no longer the math teacher considering the ministry, he is now able to speak to those young men who might be considering attending the seminary, whether they are bankers or construction workers or insurance salesmen. To them he asks, “Are you ready to stand up—and suffer—for the Gospel of Christ? Read the pastoral epistles (I and II Timothy, Titus) and apply them to yourself. Love God’s Word, and love His people. The rest will follow. If you love God’s Word, you will love our Lutheran theology, and if you love God’s people, you will work rightly to apply that Word to them and for them.”

“Love God’s Word, and love His people. The rest will follow. If you love God’s Word, you will love our Lutheran theology, and if you love God’s people, you will work rightly to apply that Word to them and for them.”
Worship with the seminary community at chapel services held four times a day.

Visit seminary classes to experience firsthand the dynamic learning environment.

Learn more about financial aid for your specific situation by meeting with our Director of Financial Aid.

Explore the affordable Fort Wayne housing market by meeting one on one with our Relocation Coordinator, reviewing the homes available for sale from other seminary families, and visiting local neighborhoods and apartment complexes.

Locate Lutheran and public schools with resources provided by our Relocation Coordinator and by visiting the schools themselves.

Identify potential employers, schools, real estate agents, insurance agents, health care services, and campus resources at the Display Fair.

Acclimate yourself to the campus and learn about its architecture with a tour of the chapel, the classroom buildings, the Food and Clothing Co-op, Christ’s Child Learning Corner, and the gymnasium.

Enjoy multiple opportunities for fellowship with our President, faculty, staff, and students.

For more information, contact the Office of Admission at the following address and phone number:

Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton St. Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996
1-800-481-2155 www.ctsfw.edu Admission@ctsfw.edu
only one man in the entire Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has received a Ph.D. in homiletics: Dr. Carl Fickenscher. It’s not necessarily a natural progression from an undergraduate degree in political science, but it works pretty well for him. In fact, he loves it.

Dr. Fickenscher has earned an M.B.A. and even worked for a United States senator, but eventually he and his family ended up in Fort Wayne, and he enrolled at CTS. “I came here wanting to be a pastor, and I left here wanting to be a pastor,” he notes. “Theology here was never strictly an academic thing. It was always very clearly delivered to us that the pastoral ministry was for theology and theology was for the pastoral ministry.” After serving two congregations, Fickenscher went on to get his Ph.D. at Southwest Baptist Seminary.

After receiving his one-of-a-kind degree, he brought his family (wife, Claire, and children, Rachel, Daniel, and Gabriel) back to CTS where he accepted a teaching position. Today he teaches all of the preaching courses and serves as the Dean of Pastoral Education and Placement. “It was very exciting to me because I did still have that memory of this being a place where you had very sharp people teaching who were very interested in the students and the pastoral ministry. And I have not been disappointed at all. What I had observed and remembered to be true as a student was the same when I came back.”

At the same time, he admits, it was a bit different getting to teach alongside former classmates as well as former professors. “Dr. Wenthe and Dr. Scaer were both on the faculty when I was a student, so my colleagues now were my teachers. It took me a good while to call Dr. Marquart Kurt and Dr. Scaer David. It was such a tremendous honor to come teach here, but I still had the highest honor for my professors.”

But now, as a teacher himself, he is able to encourage students in the same manner in which his esteemed professors once did for him. “God equips a small percentage of men in His Church to be pastors, and that’s by His wonderful design. Some men wonder, ‘Does God want me to be a pastor?’ There’s no way to answer that without checking it out. But when a man is finished here and receives a call into a congregation, then there is no question, because God has said, ‘You’re My man in this specific place at this specific church.’”

The training and formation in Christ that takes place at the seminary is very unique, and Dr. Fickenscher is thankful to be a part of that. “As students and teachers, we have a very strong commitment to the Scriptures and the Confessions. It is the fact that we share the same faith in Christ Jesus and the same understanding of what Scriptures tells us about Him that makes us all so close.” At the end of the day, he smiles, “I ask God to use my very limited wisdom, and I ask Him to bring about His perfect will, and I know that He does.”
Paper Features Professor from Concordia Theological Seminary

Doctoral dissertations on dead theologians are a dime a dozen. But a thesis that focuses on someone still actively teaching is far more rare. So it came as a bit of a surprise when Dr. David Scaer—Scaer Chair of Systematic and Biblical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary—learned that he was to be the focus of a paper written by a professor in Sweden.

Tom Nygren, lecturer in systematic theology at Johannelunds Theological Seminary at the University of Lund in Sweden, needed a dissertation topic. So he picked three well-known Lutheran theologians to analyze, his interest being in each man’s unique theological perspective. In the end, Nygren decided to spotlight three contemporary Lutheran observations on Law and Gospel. With the meaty title “Law and Gospel as Talk about God—An Analysis of the View of Law and Gospel in Some Contemporary Lutheran Theologians: Pannenberg, Wingren, and Scaer,” Nygren’s final argument was that Lutherans today see Law and Gospel in one of three particular ways.

Nygren focused on the theological views of three specific Lutherans: Wolfhart Pannenberg, Gustaf Wingren, and Dr. David Scaer. Each had a distinctive yet differing viewpoint on the topic. After intensive study, Nygren decided that his research led to only one conclusion: both Pannenberg’s and Wingren’s understandings of Law and Gospel were objectionable. Dr. Scaer’s was not. In the end, Nygren was heartened to find that Dr. Scaer’s writings matched his own beliefs.

As such, it is with the help of men like Dr. David Scaer, himself helpful in preparing men for the ministry, that Concordia Theological Seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. Professors like Dr. Scaer assist in doing just that, not only to seminarians on the campus in Fort Wayne but around the world . . . and even in Sweden.
Fit for Ministry

Prayer
Meditation
Affliction

1Tim. 4:7-8
The fitness craze is everywhere. And none too soon, by the looks of things. Evidence shows obesity running rampant throughout our society. And pastors are among the most vulnerable. Huge chunks of their time are spent just sitting around—doing important things, to be sure—but sitting just the same. The sedentary lifestyle, lack of exercise, and high calorie and fat intake is a recipe for looming health problems. Most pastors could stand to get off their chairs, lose a few pounds, and get in better physical condition. Even more importantly, they need to be spiritually fit.

Himself seasoned by spiritual struggle, the apostle Paul gave this counsel to his young protégé, Timothy: “… train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come” (I Tim. 4:7b-8).

Pastors may be God’s servants and stewards of His sacred mysteries, but they’re only human after all. They’re subject to the same temptations, spiritual and emotional struggles as everyone else. Like their parishioners, they too juggle the responsibilities of home, family, and work—24/7. Always on call, pastors must be ready to provide spiritual care to hurting parishioners on a moment’s notice. That kind of readiness calls for spiritual fitness. Yet all too often, while giving careful attention to the spiritual needs of others, pastors don’t practice what they preach. Sadly, they neglect to maintain their own spiritual health and emotional equilibrium.

So how can pastors be spiritually fit? Martin Luther’s paradigm for making theologians isn’t a bad model for spiritual fitness among pastors (and other Christians, too): Prayer, Meditation, and Affliction (spiritual struggle). The affliction takes care of itself. It goes with the territory in a fallen world. Where Christ builds His kingdom, Satan attacks with fury. It will always be tough sledding for those who seriously want to serve the Lord Jesus. Under such affliction, God’s grace is seen all the more clearly.

But prayer and meditation are quite another matter. These need ordered attention, especially in the frenzied world we live in. Meditation as Luther envisioned it is not just ordinary Bible reading, but slow, deliberate oral reading in which a particular text is read over and...
over aloud, pondering and mulling over those words deeply until they resonate not only in the ear but in mind and heart as well.

Then there’s prayer. Prayer about anything and everything that may be weighing down the soul, to be sure, but especially prayer as answering speech in which the soul gives answer to what it hears in the living Word of God. In Luther’s model, prayer is a wreath woven out of the strands of God’s own Word. Therefore prayer starts with reflecting and echoing back what God says in a specific text of Scripture, thanking Him for what He gives or teaches there, confessing sins against that Word, then finally asking for what God commands or promises in that same text. Since Christ is present in His Word, this structured discipline of meditation and prayer provides strength and peace in the midst of on-going ministry, its inherent challenges and the ensuing emotional and spiritual turmoil it brings to the conscientious pastor.

But besides this vital spiritual self-care, pastors need shepherding too. Just as barbers need barbers or physicians need physicians, pastors need pastors. A brother or father confessor is important for the pastor’s spiritual well being: a fellow pastor to whom he can go for spiritual help like pastoral conversation, prayer, or an absolution for his personal confession.

In order to advance spiritual fitness among pastors and provide them with advanced skills in counseling and the art of the cure of souls, a new Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been formed. DOXOLOGY, The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, will provide training in a number of retreat settings around the country beginning in July 2008. A generous grant from the LCMS Board of World Relief and Human Care greatly reduces the cost of the program to participating congregations.

DOXOLOGY’s program of study and reflection includes training in the classic art of soul care as well as insights from contemporary Christian psychology. The executive directors of the program are Dr. Beverly Yahnke, licensed psychologist and Director of Christian Counseling Services, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Dr. Harold Senkbeil, Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary.

The program also addresses parish support for pastoral work; one phase of the program trains laity in how the congregation can support its pastor in his vital work of providing them with spiritual care and emotional counsel.

To learn more and to access registration information, visit the DOXOLOGY website: www.doxology.us

The Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil is an Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and the D.Min. Supervisor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Although it is only days into the new year, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya, a partner of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is already experiencing danger of the deadliest kind. Following a tenuous presidential election, the country is embroiled in rioting, fires, fighting, and demonstrations. Thousands have been forced to flee, hundreds have been killed, and the remainder left without food, water, or shelter.

Kenyan Lutherans are not exempt from this political unrest. A recent graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Reverend Dennis Meeker, and his wife, Deaconess Lorna Meeker, are serving at Springs of Life Lutheran Church in Kibera, a poor suburb of Nairobi. Experiencing the danger firsthand, both are now coping with the fact that their church, school, and clinic were set on fire by angry looters. In an e-mail to concerned friends, Reverend Meeker wrote, “It is in a veil of tears that I inform you that Springs of Life Lutheran Church and Medical Clinic [have] suffered severe damage as rioters looted everything and then set it on fire. Our nursery school has also been looted and burned.” Another close friend of Concordia Theological Seminary, Bishop Walter Obare, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, has been threatened as well. Both his safety and home are in peril.

Speaking on behalf of the entire seminary, Dr. Lawrence Rast, Academic Dean of Concordia Theological Seminary, has been watching the situation in Kenya unfold. He notes, “From my first visit to Kenya in 2000, I have been impressed with the integrity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya in both its doctrine, practice, and desire to reach out with the Gospel. This church body, under the courageous leadership of Bishop Walter Obare, has been a strong voice for the biblical message of salvation in Christ as rightly confessed by the Lutheran Church. Their deep roots in the Lutheran tradition have prepared our brothers and sisters in Kenya for the trying events of the present. They are faithful people who daily live the theology of the cross.”

In an effort to help those Lutherans who have been affected by the situation, LCMS World Relief and Human Care has offered its help. “Concordia Theological Seminary’s partner, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, is an excellent means by which we can seek to serve and help our fellow Christians in Kenya,” says Dr. Rast. “The Lord is providing us with a great opportunity to remember them in our prayers and to support them with the gifts that He has entrusted to us.” To that end, money designated for the Kenya Relief Effort can be donated via check or online at www.lcms.org.

Right now, however, the Lutherans in Kenya need more than simply money or a new church or a school unmarred by flames and soot. They are in greater need of prayer. “Please continue to pray for us,” writes Reverend Meeker. “We thank God our faith is not in material possessions. Our faith will stand firm, and we pray God’s intervention for the sake of Kenya. We rejoice in the fact that faith does not burn and the church is never destroyed.”

“It is in a veil of tears that I inform you that Springs of Life Lutheran Church and Medical Clinic [have] suffered severe damage as rioters looted everything and then set it on fire. Our nursery school has also been looted and burned.”

ONE CAN EASILY GIVE THE OVERARCHING THEOLOGICAL REASONS FOR THE QUESTION OF PAIN AND SUFFERING IN THE WORLD, EVEN WHILE THE INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS OF WHY SUCH THINGS HAPPEN WITH FAR GREATER FREQUENCY TO ONE PERSON THAN ANOTHER REMAIN UNANSWERED.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER, “WHY ME, LORD?” THAT WE’D LIKE TO ADDRESS, THAT IS, “WHY SHOULD I SUPPORT CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WITH MY CONTRIBUTIONS?”

THERE WAS A TIME … HOW OFTEN HAVE WE HEARD THAT EXPRESSION? THERE WAS A TIME WHEN FAMILIES ATE TOGETHER, WHEN SUNDAYS WERE RESERVED FOR CHURCH AND FOR THE MOST PART ONLY ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES, SUCH AS HOSPITALS, WERE OPEN, WHEN CHILDREN COULD PLAY BALL IN THE STREET, AND WHEN PEOPLE WORKED AT ONE JOB FOR THEIR WHOLE LIVES.

THERE WAS ALSO A TIME WHEN THE SEMINARY COULD RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF GOD’S PEOPLE FROM PART OF THEIR SUNDAY MORNING OFFERINGS. LIKE THE THINGS ABOVE, THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE, FOR A MUCH SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF THE SUNDAY MORNING OFFERINGS NOW REACHES OUR SYNODICAL OFFICE, THUS LIMITING WHAT THE SYNOD CAN DO FOR THE SEMINARY TO JUST A TINY FRACTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET. THUS THE SEMINARY MUST RELY FAR MORE ON GIFTS COMING DIRECTLY FROM GOD’S PEOPLE THROUGHOUT OUR CHURCH.

BUT, “WHY ME, LORD?” WHY NOT SOMEONE ELSE? WHY NOT THE PERSON IN THE PEO ahead of me? WHY NOT THE RICH PERSON WHO HAS MONEY FOR EVERYTHING?

THERE ARE SOME BLESSINGS ATTACHED TO DIRECT GIVING TO THE SEMINARY THAT DID NOT HAPPEN YEARS AGO. THOUGH EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE CONGREGATION COULD FEEL THAT PART OF HIS OR HER OFFERING HELPED OUR SEMINARIES, THERE WAS NO DIRECT CONTACT.

WHEN ONE SUPPORTS THE SEMINARY TODAY, IT OPENS DONORS TO HEARING THE SPECIFIC STORIES OF OUR SEMINARIES’ LIVES. SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR AS APPEALS ARE SENT, THE STORY OF THEIR LIVES, THEIR HOPES, THEIR DREAMS, THEIR ASPIRATIONS, AND THE DIFFERENCE THEY ARE MAKING IN THE WORLD WILL BE TOLD.

DONORS SEE FOR THEMSELVES HOW OUR STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HOLY MINISTRY, HOW THEY PARTICIPATE IN MISSIONS EVEN WHILE THEY PREPARE, IN PLACES SUCH AS NEW ORLEANS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA, IN MADAGASCAR, IN HAITI, IN PLACES AROUND THE GLOBE, BRINGING THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST TO BLOOD-Bought SOULS WHO DO NOT YET KNOW HIM.

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Have you ever longed to see the great sights of Christian history? Rome, where St. Paul and St. Peter were martyred for their witness to Christ; The Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel where Michelangelo placed his genius in service to Christ; The Colosseum and Roman Forum where Christians gave their lives for Christ; Florence, Assisi, Ravenna, Venice – where architects and artists created masterpieces of Christian art and constructed captivating churches.

We invite you to enjoy all these sights with knowledgeable guides and commentary by your three hosts: Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri; Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann, Emeritus Executive Director of the Board for Pastoral Education; and Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Tour Cost Includes:
• Round trip airfare from Chicago or St. Louis.
• First class/Select hotels (including one night in a Villa) with twin beds and private baths.
• Continental breakfast daily plus a total of eight evening dinners.
• Comprehensive daily sightseeing by private motor coach.
• Qualified driver and professional tour guide.
• All admission fees and hotel taxes.
• Automatic $100,000 flight insurance policy.

The 12 Day Itinerary Includes:
• Venice
• Rome
• Vatican City
• Assisi
• Pisa
• Sorrento
• Florence
• Pisa
• Venice

Join us for the experience of a lifetime. 1-877-287-4338 x2241
The CTS “Support Our Military Care Package Project” is rapidly growing across the nation. We have received donations from all across the country including Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, and Idaho. We received such a large donation from Connecticut that we were able to expand our project by sending extra boxes to LCMS Chaplains who are serving in the war zones. In this way we are able to help our Chaplains reach out to many who are serving in the military in addition to sending packages to our seminary family and friends. Many of those whom the Chaplains are able to reach through these packages are either fallen-away Christians or non-Christians … a wonderful outreach mission.

In addition to the national growth, local support for the project is also on the rise, which includes both on- and off-campus groups. Seminary departments from as diverse areas such as the Clothing Co-op and Accounting Department have made wonderful individual and group donations and helped other aspects of the project. Assistance from the campus postal mistress and her staff has been invaluable. Off campus, the LWML Decatur Zone and The Bethlehem Ladies, who have always supported the seminary and seminary projects, have been generous with their gifts and support.

Only a few weeks ago, our November shipment was a record number of parcels shipped. We sent 39 individual packages full of baby wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, beef jerky, nuts, crackers, oatmeal, and a variety of candies, along with devotional items. An additional 30 boxes were sent to the Chaplains, and the Chaplains report that the contents are greatly appreciated and are dispersed to grateful soldiers incredibly quickly.

Due to the encouraging responses and reflection of how much appreciation the troops have for our efforts, we are welcoming and continuing the expansion of our project by sending even more items to our Chaplains—many of the same items above, but as we have entered Advent, we are also including Christmas decorations and lights in the packages.

To start your own project you may begin by:

- Setting parameters for who shall receive care packages. At the seminary, our relatives and family members who are currently in war zones are eligible to receive packages.
- Compile a list of military personnel. Make sure you keep contact information for the persons requesting the package in case you need to contact them.
- Set drop-off spot(s) and dates open for drop off.
- Notify the public and volunteers with dates and an item list for specific items suggested.
- Set shipping dates and assembly dates. We send packages four times a year.

For further information on “How to Set up a Military Project,” please see the contact information below so a complete list can be sent to you.

If you would like to add a name to our mailing list, please contact the Military Project Coordinator, Renee Moshier, at military project@ctsfw.edu or call 492-8739.

Members of the CTS community gather to assemble military packages.
Fort Wayne Seminary Offers Free Calendars

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, is pleased to offer free 13-month calendars. Each month contains Scripture reading notations, liturgical color codes, seminary events, along with featuring artwork from our beautiful Eero Saarinen designed campus. If you would like a complimentary 2008 Concordia Theological Seminary calendar, please e-mail calendars@ctsfw.edu.

Music
Passion Choral Vespers
Sunday, March 9, 4 p.m.
Seminary Schola Cantorum
Kramer Chapel
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2224

Easter Choral Vespers
Sunday, March 30, 4:00 p.m.
Seminary Kantorei
Kramer Chapel
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2224

Retreats
Men’s Retreat
“Real Men Follow Jesus”
April 4-5, 2008
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2241

Confirmation Retreat
“The Lord’s Prayer: What in the World Are We Praying For?”
April 25-27
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2241

Lutherhostel Retreat
“Christians and the Challenge of Islam”
October 30-November 3
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2241

Events
Exegetical and Confessions Symposia
January 15-18, 2008
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2241

Lenten Preaching Workshop
January 14, 2008
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2224

First Sunday Brunch
February 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
March 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Katherine Luther Dining Hall
1-877-287-4338, ext. 2223

Christ Academy College
February 14-17, 2008

Phoebe Academy College Retreat
February 14-17, 2008

Invitational Campus Visit
March 26-29, 2008
1-800-481-2155

Lutherfest
April 18-19, 2008

Italy Tour
October 13-24, 2008
Conversations can be formative for directing one toward paths leading to genuine pastoral growth and renewal. I was fortunate enough to have had one of the more helpful of those chats while serving on vicarage in upstate New York. During evening banter in the living room of a delightful couple who had invited my wife and me to dinner, ‘Jim’ steered the course of our musings to the topic of hermeneutics—or so I thought. I was a bit too naïve at the time to realize the man had a deeper point in mind (he had seen some twenty vicars come and go before me) when he inquired, “How do you go about preparing for a sermon?”

Relentless rigors of parish duties make for a perfect storm that can send (pastors) adrift on mounting waves of stress and confusion.
‘Jim’ listened patiently for some twenty minutes as I dug the hole for my personal burial deeper and deeper with every shovel full of verbiage I threw into the air about the dozen or so steps of exegesis-leading-to-oration I had diligently learned at seminary. I must have sounded as meticulous in the workings of sermon-craft as a chemist might go about his laboratory labors. Fortunately [no ‘sic’-ness here] for me, ‘Jim’ had a keen flare for the dramatic, knowing his point was being made more memorable the longer he waited to hit me with the punch line.

The blow finally landed after the pregnant pause that followed my oral dissertation, but for that moment of awkward silence and catching a glance at ‘Jim’s’ stoic demeanor I shockingly realized I must have left some vital element out of the equation for sermon production, but what? After commending me for my thorough academic grasp of the subject of biblical preaching, my host erupted with the penetrating reason for his questioning. “What about prayer?” he quizzed. “When does prayer enter into the process of your sermon preparation? I would have thought it to be one of the first things you would do as you set upon your task.”

‘Jim’ will forgive me for approximating his exact words in that last line of quotation, but he will be pleased to know that I have never forgotten his pungent point. He continued to give me some of the finest spiritual advice I have ever had the privilege to receive and employ in the course of doing the faithful work of a pastor in Christ’s Church. I am happy to pass along what I received in what remains of this article.

Ranking at or near the top of a list of occupational hazards for ministers of the Gospel is succumbing to the tendency to treat Scriptures as an academic tool while neglecting its devotional use for the pastor’s spiritual strength and well-being. Being “in the Word” includes more than our hands-on approach for preparing cogent sermons and Bible classes.

By The Rev. Kerry David Reese

Ranking at or near the top of a list of occupational hazards for ministers of the Gospel is succumbing to the tendency to treat Scriptures as an academic tool while neglecting its devotional use for the pastor’s spiritual strength and well-being. Being “in the Word” includes more than our hands-on approach for preparing cogent sermons and Bible classes. Certainly those important tasks require due diligence in studying and coming to understand God’s Word if
Pastors who do not take time out of each day for reading the Scriptures for their own sake without pretext or agenda risk becoming mired in despair as they lose their sense of joy in serving the Lord despite bringing the Gospel to others.

one is to proclaim and teach hearers properly and faithfully. Nevertheless, when the pastor neglects his need for having God touch him personally through his own reading and reflecting on Scriptures in daily devotions, his heart may grow cold toward his work even though he mouths the correct formulations of faith and doctrine.

Pastors who do not take time out of each day for reading the Scriptures for their own sake without pretext or agenda risk becoming mired in despair as they lose their sense of joy in serving the Lord despite bringing the Gospel to others. Relentless rigors of parish duties make for a perfect storm that can send them adrift on mounting waves of stress and confusion. We know this to be true—intellectually, at least. As our Lord Jesus took many occasions to separate Himself from the crowds for prayer, so we who carry on our pastoral work in His stead and by His command do well to go and do likewise. More than that, working as means of grace, God’s Word acts as the food which nourishes us from within, so that we have more to give the people we serve in Christ’s name.

I wish I could say that I immediately took ‘Jim’s’ words to heart and applied them without fail throughout the course of ministry. Alas, I was not so smart as that. Like many other servants, for a time I allowed my devotional reading to lapse while buying into the myth that all of my other handling of Scriptures in the ways already related were enough to maintain the joy and spiritual perspective we otherwise require. Wrong. Sometimes conversations are insufficient means to drive a point home; when words fail or fade, experiences of stress can teach the lesson again how urgently we need to hear the still small voice of the Lord in Scriptures. Learn well. Pastoral wellness is served by devotional diligence. We can thank all the ‘Jims’ we may meet for pointing this out.

The Rev. Kerry David Reese is pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Snohomish (Maltby), Washington.
Pastoral fitness begins with pastoral passivity. We hear much about pastors “burning out” under increased demands often coupled with confusion over what it is that pastors are to do. Are pastors mainly counselors, managers, public relations experts, or community organizers? How does one man balance so many required skill sets? How does he attend to his vocation as husband/father while attending to the diverse needs of a congregation and the community that he is expected to evangelize?

Pastoral passivity is certainly not laziness; it is not inactivity. Luther speaks of the passive life as the receptive life. Pastors always called upon to give must ever and always be on the receiving end of God’s work and gifts.

Here the insights of Oswald Bayer in his recently translated book, *Theology the Lutheran Way*, are particularly striking. In a wonderful discussion of the Divine Service as the context for theology, Bayer observes that “Divine service (*Gottesdienst*) is first and last God’s service to us, the sacrifice he made for us in Christ, which he distributes to us in the particular divine service: ‘Take and eat! I am here for you!’ (compare I Cor. 11:24 with Gen. 2:16). We misunderstand this divine service, which is meant to delight us, if we want to give as a work what we are meant to take as a gift. Here we ‘are not offering a good work, we are not actively receiving the Lord’s Supper,’ as if our actions could bring about the self-realization of the church. Rather, we receive through the ‘priest,’ as the servant of the divine word, ‘the promise and the sign, and we receive the Lord’s Supper passively.’ The sacramental gift-giving word is not a prayer; and the gifts we receive are not to be offered to God as a sacrifice. The Lord’s Supper is not a ‘sacrifice that we offer to God.’ Rather, God in his gracious condescension and self-surrender gives himself to us in this meal. We are the recipients; we simply receive his sacrifice” (*Theology the Lutheran Way*, Eerdmans, 2007, p. 90).

In fact, Bayer shows that Luther’s triad of *oratio, meditatio, tentatio* renders the pastor passive, that is, he is divested of his attempts to run the verbs. Christ Jesus speaks His words of spirit and life into our ears. He causes His words to dwell in us richly. The pastor is made receptive as his posture is a servant of the Word. He can only speak the words which he has received. Through the suffering of the *tentatio*, the pastor is ever driven back to the promises of God and away from his own resources and devices that tempt him as guarantees for a “successful ministry.” In other words, the Third Commandment also applies to the pastor. To paraphrase Luther’s catechetical hymn, we lay aside the work we do so God can do His work in us:

“You shall observe the worship day
That peace may fill your home and pray,
And put aside the work you do,
So that God may work in you. Have mercy, Lord!” (*LSB* 581:4)

Relaxing under the righteousness of Christ Jesus we are delivered from frantic activity as though the burden of the world’s salvation rested on our shoulders. It does not. Christ alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. It is given to His servants to hear that Gospel for themselves and then to speak it faithfully and fully to all who have ears to hear.

The Rev. John T. Pless is an Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Editor of *For the Life of the World.*
What would you have me do?

This is a question we as Christians often ponder. As Luther rightly stated, even changing a baby’s diaper is a God pleasing act! No one is being asked to change diapers, but there is a variety of ways to help when it comes to the Fort Wayne Seminary Guild.

**PRAYERS:** We should never cease in praying for the saints. We can pray daily for our ministerial students and deaconess students and their families, both for their spiritual and physical needs.

**PARTICIPATION:** The Seminary Guild has several areas in which you could prayerfully consider participating. At present we are in need of a seamstress to sew T-shirts that are given to babies born to our students. Single students enjoy receiving homemade cakes, cookies, or brownies for their birthday while they are away from home. The seminary Food and Clothing Co-op is in constant need of items. If you live within close proximity of the seminary, we would love to have you attend our meetings that take place the second Tuesday in September, November, December, February, March, and April; with our annual Donation Day event the third week in October.

**PLAN ON ATTENDING** *Lutherfest* which is scheduled for April 18, 2008! You will enjoy a delicious meal and opportunity to share in fellowship with others concerned about our seminary and her students. Donations from this event will go towards our most recent project, *The Tunnel Time Line*, a look into the past.

The mission of the Fort Wayne Concordia Theological Seminary Guild is to serve God by communicating the needs and encouraging support of the seminary and its students. The Guild strives to be inclusive of ladies of all ages, professions, and cultures. In doing so, we reflect our student body where men, and now women, of all ages, different professional backgrounds, and diverse ethnicity study together in order to become servants of the Lord as pastors or deaconesses. We invite and encourage individuals and groups from our LCMS congregations to participate with us in this service. For additional information about the Seminary Guild, go to www.csfw.edu, select About CTS, and then select Seminary Guild.
What is Christ Academy College?
Christ Academy College is intended for all college age men, from both state and private institutions, who are seeking the Office of Holy Ministry. The weekend includes classroom observation in the seminary, unique lectures specifically for CAC students, and an opportunity to visit with both students and professors at the seminary. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming CAC retreat, and we welcome you to our seminary community.

What’s Included?
- All meals in Katherine Luther Dining Hall.
- Housing on campus during the retreat.
- A complimentary CAC polo shirt.
- A weekend of seminary life and theological reflection in classroom and lectures.
- Reimbursement may be available for travel. Please inquire. Note: Please identify your need for reimbursement when present at CAC weekend. We will need your travel receipts to properly refund expenses.

Contact Information:
Rev. John M. Dreyer - Director of CAC
E-mail: John.Dreyer@ctsfw.edu
Phone: 260-452-3139 or 800-481-2155

Sam Schultheisz - Assistant Director CAC
E-mail: CACollege@ctsfw.edu

For more information please visit our website, www.ctsfw.edu/admission/academy/college.php. Please complete this online application to reserve your attendance at CAC 2008.

Itinerary

Wednesday—February 13:
Arrival day at seminary for CAC weekend, Fort Wayne city visitation, and class observation (optional)

Thursday—February 14:
Arrival day for CAC weekend and free time to relax or get acquainted
7:30 a.m. Matins (Kramer Chapel)
10:00 a.m. Chapel (Kramer Chapel)
4:30 p.m. Vespers (Kramer Chapel)
9:30 p.m. Evening Offices (Kramer Chapel)

Friday—February 15:
7:30 a.m. Matins (Kramer Chapel)
8:00-8:55 a.m. Class Visit
9:00-9:55 a.m. Class Visit
10:00 a.m. Chapel (Kramer Chapel)
11:00-11:55 a.m. Class Visit
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00-1:55 p.m. Class Visit
2:00-2:55 p.m. Class Visit
3:00-3:55 p.m. Class Visit
4:00 p.m. Vespers
4:30 p.m. Gemuetlichkeit
5:00-6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Reception

Saturday—February 16:
8:00 a.m. Matins (Kramer Chapel)
8:30-9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.-noon Lecture
12:00-1:30 p.m. Lunch
2:00-5:00 p.m. Lecture
5:00-6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00-9:00 p.m. Fireside Chat
9:30 p.m. Compline

Sunday—February 17:
Worship at historic St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Day for departure
Concordia Theological Seminary: Touching Lives Across the Globe

In the spring, an air of excitement encompasses Concordia Theological Seminary. Call night is close at hand, and each seminarian ready for placement wonders whether he’ll end up in the sunshine of California, the corn fields of Iowa, or the scenic forests of Maine. But every now and then, one or two students wonder what it will be like when they return to their homes outside of the United States.

Markus Pöyry and his wife, Raakel, came to CTS from Finland, where he had earned his Master of Theology from the University of Helsinki. “The teaching there is very academic and scholarly but unfortunately almost totally lacks the confessional Lutheran understanding of the Word of God and does not equip you well to serve as pastor,” says Pöyry. But taking classes in the Master of Sacred Theology program at CTS “remarkably deepened my understanding of the Bible and the Lutheran theology,” remarks Pöyry. “In the classroom and in the daily chapel services, I got both theological and practical tools that I really need as I serve the church of Christ in Finland.”
In the last decade Walther Library has supported the education of pastors in Haiti, Russia, Kenya, Lithuania, Madagascar, South Africa, and now Ethiopia by sending resources for the seminary libraries in those countries. Each year we receive numerous donations of books from retiring or deceased pastors. The books are sorted and considered according to what is needed in our collection and then what is needed for our sister seminaries. After that the books are boxed and set aside for what has become an annual book sale.

Walther Library does not have a lot of space to handle the donations we receive. The process is spread over different floors and often spills over onto carts parked in public areas. But what we lack in space, we make up for in people. During the break between winter and spring quarters last year, librarians and student staff worked through over 70 boxes of donated books. The student staff also donated their time to set up the book sale in Luther Hall.

The book sale is a win-win-win situation. First, we get rid of the donated books we don’t need and are able to clear our shelves for the next batch of donations. Second, the students can buy the books at greatly reduced prices. Third, and most importantly, we raise money to ship the books to whatever sister seminary we are supporting that year and often have money left over to purchase new books or access to electronic resources for that seminary. Last year we earned enough to send eight boxes of Lutheran materials to South Africa, including a new Hebrew textbook and lexicon for each of their 25 students.

The difficulty in working with seminaries overseas is getting them the materials they need. It would do no good to just send books. We take the time to make contacts and find out what their particular needs are. At times we have been able to hire an international student in the library and have him select materials from our gift books. In a few cases we have set up a database and taught basic library cataloging so he can continue to update and maintain the collection back home, when his studies are completed in Fort Wayne.

This fall we earned money to send books selected by current library student worker and Ph.D. student the Rev. Berhanu Arsse to a Lutheran Seminary in his home country of Ethiopia.

On Saturday, May 26 of 2000, a tornado hit campus. In the immediate aftermath the campus was closed but the library was open. It had to be open. The following Monday was our last day to assemble books for a shipment to Haiti. We took over the library’s main level and went through the donated library from the late professor Heino Kadai. This became the core of the seminary library in Haiti. By 1:30 p.m. 18 boxes were packed and ready to be shipped. They contained 488 titles and over 90 volumes of Lutheran journals. On a day when most of the campus was dealing with ripped up trees, broken windows, and scattered debris, the library was focused on missions.

After completing his time at CTS, Pöyry and his wife returned to Finland, where he was installed to serve at Luukas-koinia in Seinäjoki. With the entire Church, Concordia Theological Seminary rejoices with the Pöyrys as one of its own serves to bring the gifts of God to His people in Finland.
**Six CTS Students Selected for the 2008 Mercy Mission Expedition to Madagascar**

Prof. John T. Pless of Concordia Theological Seminary announced that six ministerial students have been selected to accompany him on the third Mercy Mission Expedition to Madagascar in February. The six students are Jacob Corzine (Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Peoria, IL), Samuel Janssen (Trinity Lutheran Church, Urbana, IL), Michael Meyer (University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis, MN), Terry O’Brien (Living Word Lutheran Church, The Woodlands, TX), Daniel Pezzica (St. James Lutheran Church, Overlea, MD), and Samuel Schuldheisz (St. Michael Lutheran Church, Portland, OR). The Mercy Mission Expedition to Madagascar is sponsored by LCMS World Relief and Human Care. The trip will give students the opportunity to see how Malagasy Lutherans coordinate the church’s life of corporate mercy for people with profound human need with the proclamation of the Gospel. After the completion of the trip each student will make at least ten presentations to church groups to share their experiences and raise awareness of human care needs in Madagascar.

Prof. Pless noted “the students selected for this trip represent some of our seminary’s finest and most promising students. The time they spend among our Malagasy Lutheran brothers and sisters will deepen in them a theological understanding of how the church ministers to human need. They will grow in their awareness of how Lutherans living daily with the challenges of poverty, suffering, and disease are able to respond with compassion and competency. These men will come back to the States better equipped to interpret the work of LCMS World Relief and Human Care to their peers at the seminary and ultimately to the congregations where they will serve as pastors.”

Several of the students also reflected on what they anticipate from the trip. Daniel Pezzica commented, “During my vicarage in Baltimore, my desire to spread the Gospel to those who have never heard the good news grew tremendously. Mission work has grown from something that was foreign and intimidating to me, to now being one of the most exciting aspects of the ministry. The primary reason I am so excited about traveling to Madagascar is to see a good example of how mission work can be done so effectively.” Jacob Corzine said, “I know that every community, congregation, and individual come with their own complex human history. As a pastor it will be my task to speak the forgiveness of Jesus Christ into that history, providing an anchor in otherwise very rough waters. I believe that my experiences with other churches and other cultures have helped prepare me for this task. I believe that the Mercy Mission Expedition to Madagascar will help me to continue to grow in this area.”

Prior to the trip students will have the opportunity to read and reflect on materials on the theology of mercy produced by World Relief and Human Care as well as Beyond Charity: Reformation Initiatives for the Poor. While in Madagascar, the students will visit churches, a school for the blind, a seminary, several hospitals, tobys (literally “encampments of mercy” spread through the country to care for the needy), and the Good Samaritan Center for the Poor. As has been the case with the previous two expeditions, the students will select a human care project to support once they return home. The 2006 CTS group raised enough money to construct a kitchen at the Good Samaritan Center. Last year’s group is gathering funds to support human care projects at a regional seminary of the Malagasy Lutheran Church.

“Leading the Mercy Mission Expeditions to Madagascar is the yearly highpoint of my work as a teacher of theology. On these trips, our students are given wonderful opportunities to see Lutheran theology informing and shaping the vitality of the Malagasy Lutheran’s witness in word and deed to the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. I’m grateful to LCMS World Relief and Human Care for making it possible for my students to have such a rich experience” said Pless.

Front Row (Left to Right): Prof. John Pless, Daniel Pezzica, Samuel Janssen, and Samuel Schuldheisz. Back Row: Michael Meyer, Jacob Corzine
Christ Academy is a two-week residential program for high-school-aged men, founded by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. It is a place where students can study about Christ who is present in His Word and Sacraments and who died that their sins would be forgiven. It is a place where students can experience seminary life. It is a place where students can explore the possibility of one day becoming a pastor.

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T-Shirt Size__________ Musical Experience _________________________________
Do you play an instrument?______ If yes, what instrument?_____________________

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