So, What Is a Vicar?
By Prof. Richard T. Nuffer

Forming Servant Pastors
By Prof. Larry S. Harvala

A Grace-filled “Inoculation” for Healthy Ministry
By Kim Plummer Krull
I would invite each of you who receives *For the Life of the World* to plan a visit to our campus. Such a visit would be educational, enriching and stimulating. The entire seminary community would welcome you to worship with us, to attend class with the seminarians and deaconesses, to enjoy a meal in our beautiful dining hall and to visit the men and women who have devoted their lives to Christ’s service.

You would, I am confident, be encouraged by the display of Christ’s life and presence as the center of our community. Seminary education is more than mastery of information about the Triune God; it is an ordering of one’s life to serve the one true God and share His saving invitation with all of humanity.

A recent book published by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Learning (2006) is entitled *Educating Clergy—Teaching Practices and the Pastoral Imagination*. It refers to such education as “professional” and states “a distinguishing feature of professional education is the emphasis on forming in students the dispositions, habits, knowledge, and skills that cohere in professional identity and practice, commitments, and integrity . . . for doctors and nurses, healing; for lawyers, social order and justice; for teachers, learning; and for clergy, engaging the mystery of human existence” (100).

What this means for theological education, especially for future pastors and deaconesses, is that their character and very beings are to exhibit what religious lives look like in the flesh.

At the seminary, we term this process *formation*. It is a process whereby the student is not only learning about the Triune God and the confession of the faith but is also shaped by worship and life in community to display a life that flows from his or her baptismal identity, a life that confesses Christ clearly and enfleshes His care for every human being.

Such students—formed by Christ’s living voice through prophets and apostles and shaped by daily life with faculty and classmates—can truly “teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

Their confession of the blessed and holy Trinity is especially suited for our day. As the Carnegie study appropriately notes:

"Clergy, in other words, have a special calling to reveal, make real, mediate, or come to terms with this otherwise inaccessible God. The interpretive task of clergy is to *represent* (to re-present; to make tangibly, verbally, physically, bodily present) through rituals, practices, and traditions a God to people who have lost a sense of mystery in their frantic, competitive, technological world, who have lost touch with their own personal significance or purpose in life, or who call out in suffering in the face of apparent cosmic silence. (358)"

May your prayers and lives join us in the wonderful calling of formation as it is treated in this issue of *For the Life of the World*. And may that formation, under God’s grace, “teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

Cordially yours, in Christ,
4 So, What Is a Vicar?  
By Professor Richard T. Nuffer  
Vicarage is a year of practical, hands-on training in which seminary students serve as interns under experienced pastors. They do so to “put legs on” all of their academic classroom training. And they begin to learn how to bring Christ to people who are hurting in a great variety of ways and to those who do not believe.

6 Forming Servant Pastors  
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The important things are that the faithful are faithfully taught, the lost are vigorously reached and all are cared for by the Word and Sacraments with which Christ has marked His beloved Bride.

10 A Grace-filled “Inoculation” for Healthy Ministry  
By Kim Plummer Krull  
In 1999, Dr. John Eckrich, a physician and lifelong Lutheran, founded Grace Place Lutheran Retreats. After years of treating church workers and seeing how their vocational challenges led to health problems and a pulpit exodus, he started Grace Place to help clergy who “were burning themselves out while they cared for others but did not take care of themselves.”

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So, What Is a Vicar?

By Professor Richard T. Nuffer

I was serving my vicarage in my fourth seminary year. As I was greeting parishioners at the door one Sunday, a woman said to me, “What is this vicar thing? Is that a special brand of cigarettes?” On another occasion, a man who was visiting from England said to me, “Oh, it is so great to have a vicar again! I have missed mine from home!” In the Anglican church, a vicar is a minister who, unlike a rector, does not have charge of church property.
One final event really brought home to me how little people know about vicars and vicarage. After my ordination and installation service, a woman, seldom in church, came up to me and said, “My goodness! All along I was thinking your name was Victor!”

Even though these people did not understand vicarage fully, we at Concordia Theological Seminary believe we do. Vicarage is a year of practical, hands-on training in which seminary students serve as interns under experienced pastors. They do so to “put legs on” all of their academic classroom training. They use their newly acquired skills in interpreting the Bible to preach and teach in the parishes they serve. They use a fuller understanding of the Lutheran Confessions to teach Luther’s Small Catechism to children and adults. They use the church history they have learned at the seminary to teach the faith of the one, holy, Christian and apostolic church to all. They begin to learn how to bring Christ to people who are hurting in a great variety of ways and to those who do not believe.

The seminary’s mission is to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. This is not primarily an academic task but a pastoral one. What better way is there to teach students as they do pastoral things? They still need the academic skills, but all academics must serve the end goal of pastoral ministry to Christ’s people.

Another way of seeing vicarage is to think of it as an apprenticeship. Just as a young man was apprenticed to the blacksmith to learn his trade, so a vicar is apprenticed to his pastoral supervisor. Just as in olden days men read law in the office of a mentoring lawyer, vicars learn at the feet of their supervisors.

On vicarage, men desiring to be pastors gain experience doing the things pastors do. Who would want a doctor to remove an appendix if that doctor had not learned and practiced the surgery during an internship? Who would want an architect to design a skyscraper if the architect had not learned the skills required as an intern? Likewise, who would want spiritual advice and comfort from a pastor who had not learned and practiced them on vicarage?

The bottom line is that vicarage forms pastors. The other years of seminary do as well, including field education experiences in local congregations, but perhaps the most formative year is the vicarage year. Here is where the rubber hits the road. Here is where a student can be confirmed in his vocational choice. Here is where the vicar’s family can make sure that the pastoral vocation will work for them. Here is where a pastor and his congregation can have a lifelong impact upon the vicar through their interactions with him. Here is where the vicar is formed “to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

The vicar is not Victor, nor a brand of smokes, nor an Anglican clergyman. A vicar is a student, an intern, an apprentice and an understudy who is being formed for pastoral ministry, so that he might teach, reach and care. Please pray that our Lord Christ will form future pastors of His Church through the vicarage year, so that they can joyfully proclaim His wonderful salvation for all.

Rev. Richard T. Nuffer serves as an Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and Director of Vicarage at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
“Forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all” reflects the mission of Concordia Theological Seminary in pastoral formation for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. There once was a time when the primary mission of a seminary was theological education. Students were trained in systematic, exegetical, historical and practical theology. They were certified as competent theologians. Pastoral formation took place in the church when the theologically
prepared candidate received a divine call from a congregation. These calls were often to smaller congregations that understood their role in pastoral formation. Unable to afford a full salary and benefit package for an experienced pastor, these congregations were served by a series of candidates from the seminary. The congregations knew that these men were still learning to be pastors and were patient with them. The new pastors quickly gained a multitude of pastoral skills as the Lord continued to strengthen them with a pastoral heart for their flock. Other candidates were called to serve as associate pastors in larger congregations where an experienced pastor would work with them. Not only were these congregations aware that the new associate was still learning, the senior pastor was often a kind and wise man who was able to guide the new pastor as the Lord continued to strengthen them together. In most cases, after a few years, those new pastors were called to positions of greater responsibility and looked back fondly on the formative years spent in their first calls.

At some point, a change began to take place in the Synod. Many of the congregations that had called seminary candidates were no longer able to afford even this minimum salary and benefit package. They became permanent vacancies and were served by neighboring pastors or a retired pastor instead of a candidate. Larger congregations now turned to the seminary for candidates, and since they were familiar with veteran pastors, they expected the new pastor to have all the pastoral skills in place. Similarly, larger congregations calling an additional pastor needed someone to specialize in a certain area of ministry, often youth ministry, and the senior pastor no longer assumed the role of mentor for the new pastor.

The seminaries have, therefore, revised both their theological curriculum and contextual training so that more and more pastoral formation takes place prior to the candidate’s first call. There is a greater integration of the theological disciplines to focus on how systematic, exegetical and historical theology can be put into practice in the congregation. With the arrival of many alternate route programs that allowed theological education to take place in a specific context, the seminary also expanded contextual opportunities for pastors and now deaconesses. Fieldwork in a local congregation in the first two years of the residential program is more targeted toward pastoral formation. The vicarage year, preferably in the third year, takes on an even greater significance. Vicarage was always intended to be a year of intense training under a gifted and capable supervising pastor. Congregations were always asked not to consider the vicar as cheap help, but now the need to have regular, quality and close supervision has become more important than ever. Even upon returning to the seminary in the fourth and final year, the candidates are placed on personalized growth plans to assure the church that pastoral formation will not begin with the first call, but is already well underway.

There seem to be more and more areas where we would like to turn back the clock to an earlier time, and theological education and pastoral formation are among them. Short of that, the shift from training students to “forming servants” is a reality from which both pastors and parishes can benefit. The important things are that the faithful are faithfully taught, the lost are vigorously reached, and all are cared for by the Word and Sacraments with which Christ has marked His beloved Bride.

Rev. Larry S. Harvalais is an Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and Dean of Placement at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Attention future pastors and deaconesses! Please join us at Concordia Theological Seminary’s Invitational Campus Visit

March 24–27, 2010, in Fort Wayne, Indiana

SEE Learn about being formed in Jesus Christ. This centers around three things: the chapel where Christ gives you His good gifts; the classroom where you are molded into an informed and thinking servant in and for Christ’s Church; and the community where interaction between students and faculty produces thoughtful and formative experiences.

INTRODUCE Gather with other brothers and sisters in Christ who are also learning how God would have them serve His Church through the pastoral ministry or deaconess programs.

DISCOVER Look at financial aid options, housing, schools and jobs. It’s also your chance to tour Fort Wayne and learn more about the place you will soon call home.

MEET Acquaint yourself with the faculty and students who make Concordia Theological Seminary a school second to none.

INQUIRE Pair up with your “Campus Companion.” Spend time going to class together, grabbing coffee and asking questions.

Please call 1.800.481.2155 with any questions, or go to www.ctsfw.edu/icv. Online registration: www.ctsfw.edu/icv

Concordia Theological Seminary
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In the autumn of 1933, a young lecturer in theology at the University of Berlin by the name of Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a short essay entitled, “What Should a Student of Theology Do Today?” (see Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works-Berlin: 1932–1933, Fortress Press, pp. 432–435). In a few pages, Bonhoeffer reflected upon what is entailed in the study of theology. Over 75 years later, his wisdom still speaks to the life of schools like Concordia Theological Seminary, where theology is studied not simply to provide a theoretical foundation for a multitude of pastoral and missionary tasks, but for the sake of listening to God and being enabled to speak truthfully of Him.

Students may or may not come to the seminary with a particular experience of “being called” to serve as a pastor. The years of seminary study (including field education and vicarage) serve as the arena for vocational discernment. Bonhoeffer gives this blunt but salutary advice to students: “A student who is simply gripped by the subject matter of theology and cannot turn away from it can consider that a calling. But certainly, it must be what theology is really about that enraptures the student—a real readiness to think about God, the Word, and the will of God; a ‘delight in the law of the Lord’ and readiness to meditate on it ‘day and night’; a real willingness to work seriously, to study, and to think. It is not the experience of a call but the determination to do sober, earnest, and responsible theological work that is the gateway to the study of theology” (432–433).

Bonhoeffer goes on to speak of the formation of the theological student not by cultivating his own subjective spirituality, developing his people skills or increasing his capacities for ministerial performance. Rather Bonhoeffer says, “The real study of theologia sacra begins when, in the midst of questioning and seeking, human beings encounter the cross; when they recognize the endpoint of all their own passions in the suffering of God at the hands of humankind, and realize that their entire vitality stands under judgment. This is the great turnaround, which for the course of study means the turn toward theological objectivity. Theological study no longer means revealing [sic] in the passions of one’s ego; it is no longer a monologue, no longer religious self-fulfillment. Rather, it is about responsible study and listening, becoming attentive to the Word of God, which has been revealed right here in this world; it is a toning down one’s self in the face of what is far and away the most important matter” (433).

Such study, Bonhoeffer suggests, is marked by the humility to learn from those who have gone before us. It is not a sign of maturity to dismiss the legacy we have received from our fathers in the faith: “How can such a facile setting aside of issues that were important to wiser and more serious people be evidence of anything but poorly concealed ignorance?” (433). Theological study does not seek novelty only to end in idolatry. Instead, the aim of the study of theology is finally to confess with clarity that Jesus Christ is Lord, knowing the difference between the truth and the lie, between true doctrine and false doctrine. Bonhoeffer continues “that under no circumstances are tactical considerations the way to serve one’s church or the aim of theology; only the purest, most refined truth will do. Even with the best will in the world, tactical solutions only cloud and obscure the situation. The student of theology is the last one who should be thinking tactically and should carry on working with purely theological objectivity, in service to God” (435).

Finally, Bonhoeffer says that the student of theology “should know where the wellspring of the church’s life is found, and how it can become clogged and poisoned” (434) so that in times of confusion he may return to the true wellsprings of the Scriptures and the Confessions to be strengthened like the man Psalm 1 calls blessed. In this way our seminary exists to form faithful servants of Jesus Christ who will speak the truth in love in a confused and dying world. 🎥

Rev. John T. Pless serves as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and Director of Field Education at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
As Jay and Patti Mazikas prepared to take part in a retreat for fourth year Concordia Theological Seminary students and spouses last spring, Patti looked forward to a rare opportunity to get away with her husband while grandparents babysat their children and she enjoyed “no concerns for four whole days.”
While the retreat did prove a respite from the demands of studies and parenting, Patti says it also presented one concern that still bothers her months later: the statistic that, on average, Protestant pastors stay in the ministry only about eight years. “I looked around (at the retreat) and saw men who had been going through four rigorous years of training and were looking forward to serving the church. That was an eye-opening statistic,” Patti said. “It made me see the importance of resources that help pastors keep their own house in order so they can have a strong foundation for ministry.”

In 1999, Dr. John Eckrich, a physician and lifelong Lutheran, founded such a resource: Grace Place Lutheran Retreats. After years of treating church workers and seeing how their vocational challenges led to health problems and a pulpit exodus, he started Grace Place to help clergy who “were burning themselves out while they cared for others but did not take care of themselves.”

Over the years, this unique continuing education ministry, which is also a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has led more than one hundred “mini-sabbaticals” for some 2,500 pastors, teachers and their spouses. For the past seven years, Grace Place also has customized an annual retreat for seminary students: “An inoculation of sorts,” Dr. Eckrich says, “against unhealthy challenges that can limit ministries as new pastors enter their first calls.”

In April, the Mazikases were among the 17 couples who gathered at Pokagon State Park and Retreat Center near Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the Grace Place seminary retreat. This pause point included education sessions with biblically-based strategies to strengthen personal life and ministry and also to avoid that troubling eight-year retention statistic, quoted by Eckrich and based upon studies.

The Grace Place focus is to provide tools to build and maintain what Dr. David Ludwig, Grace Place Associate Director of Retreat Programs, calls the “Power of WE.” “The healthier they are as a couple, the better able (pastors and spouses) are to bring that health to their congregation,” said Dr. Ludwig, a licensed therapist and associate pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Hickory, North Carolina.

Like many retreat participants, Rev. Jay Mazikas has now been placed in his first call. Looking back, he says he appreciates the Grace Place emphasis on balancing ministry and family demands. The retreat helped him and Patti “recognize potential conflicts and have some strategies that will help us work through them,” said Rev. Mazikas, who is serving both congregations to recognize their critical role in supporting the overall well-being of their servant.”

Rev. Vincent Shaw, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Sebastopol, California, called last spring’s seminary retreat a good “stepping stone” into his first congregation as he learns to serve in the world as one called by Christ. He and his wife, Erica, learned valuable communication tools, including to look to one another, united in the cross. And if, on down the road, the couple feels the need to sharpen those tools, Rev. Shaw says they know where to turn: another grace-filled retreat! 

Rev. Timothy R. Puls, CTS Assistant Vice President for Church Relations, says Grace Place helps form servants by allowing students and spouses to reflect upon areas critical to their personal lives, including their relationship, physical health, finances and time management.

“Retention of church workers and pastors is often lost when that worker lacks regular support and encouragement from his spouse, family or from within the parish or institution,” said Rev. Puls, a Grace Place board member. “Grace Place assists church workers by valuing them through appreciation and acknowledgement and also by encouraging congregations to recognize their critical role in supporting the overall well-being of their servant.”

Kim Plummer Krull is a St. Louis-based writer and a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Des Peres, Missouri.
The identity of the deaconess is shaped by the incarnation and the gifts Christ gives us through His holy Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. As servants of Christ and His Church, we live out this life by extending His hands of mercy to those in need.
Women for whom full-time study at a post-graduate institution is not an option now have access to theological training at the graduate level and potential certification as a deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through Concordia Theological Seminary’s (CTS) new MA in Deaconess Studies Program. The program, which received preliminary approval from the Association of Theological Schools and was launched in September 2009, is delivered through a combination of electronic, distance-learning and on-campus intensives.

One of the founding pastors of CTS, Rev. Wilhelm Loehe, was committed to the training of deaconesses for service in the church through acts of mercy and charity. The CTS Deaconess Program continues Rev. Loehe’s longstanding tradition.

“Many women serve in roles involving diaconal work and aspects of spiritual care without having had formal theological training at the graduate level. Concordia Theological Seminary is delighted to be able to honor their diaconal work by providing an opportunity for these women to study theology at an advanced level and gain an MA so that they can be certified as deaconesses,” said Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr., Director of Deaconess Studies at the seminary.

Even though the role of deaconess has existed since the days of the early church, many people are not aware of how deaconesses are trained to work within a congregation. The new CTS degree includes a rigorous program of theological study, together with training in practical, diaconal skills. Students interact with faculty and fellow students and take part in campus activities during two-week intensives held on campus twice a year. All students also participate in fieldwork.

The full-time degree can be completed in 2.5 years, but students may opt to take courses on a part-time basis. The curriculum is structured to take into account the experience and workload of the students; nearly one-third of the credit hours are based upon activities relating to the student’s current job. The director of the online program works with the students to provide advice and ensure that their workload is manageable.

The role of deaconess includes teaching the faith and assisting the pastor, especially in areas of human care such as shut-in visitation and ministering to women in need. This is an excellent outlet for women to use their gifts of caring to demonstrate the mercy of Christ. Whether in a congregation, in an institution or on the mission field, the deaconess perceives and responds to need with gentle helpfulness, expressing the compassion of Christ in a tender, nurturing way.

“My studies thus far have helped me see that the life I live in Christ is not my own. The identity of the deaconess is shaped by the incarnation and the gifts Christ gives us through His holy Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. As servants of Christ and His Church, we live out this life by extending His hands of mercy to those in need. During our visitation of the sick, the poor, the lonely and the suffering, we bring Christ’s light through our presence, devotions and prayer,” said Pamela Boehle-Silva, parish nurse and student in the MA in Deaconess Studies Program. “The in-depth studies of this program have given me a deeper theological understanding of the Word and Sacraments, which enables me to articulate even better the hope that lies inside me.”

In delivering the new program, CTS is drawing upon a wealth of experience gained in carrying out distance learning pastoral training programs since the mid-1990s. “The approved online MA in Deaconess Studies demonstrates the commitment of the seminary to providing creative ways to teach deaconess students the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need for diaconal work in their specific context,” said Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., CTS Academic Dean.

We invite you to find out more about the MA in Deaconess Studies by visiting the CTS Web site at www.ctsfw.edu; e-mailing us at Deaconess@ctsfw.edu; or calling Dr. Cynthia Lumley, Associate Director of Deaconess Studies, 260-452-2225; or Deaconess Melissa DeGroot, Deaconess Program Admission Counselor, 260-452-2178; or Dr. Arthur Just Jr., Director of Deaconess Studies, 260-452-2138.

Dr. Cynthia E. Lumley is a deaconess intern and Associate Director of Deaconess Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
For the Life of the World 14

Contact us for more information:
1-800-481-2155
cac-pac@ctsfw.edu

14 Concordia Theological Seminary excels at pastoral and diaconal formation. Christ Academy—College and Phoebe Academy—College provide undergraduate men and women the opportunity to experience for themselves what Concordia Theological Seminary has to offer. For a few days you will become a part of the seminary community and experience seminary life.

Come sit in on classes, get to know professors and students, and worship with the seminary community. Arrive early for the Symposia and rub shoulders with world-class theologians, deaconesses, parish pastors and laypeople from all over the world.

Join us January 22–24, 2010, or arrive early and attend the 2010 Symposia as our guest (January 19–22). Come and experience Christ at the center of everything we do.

What’s Included (at no cost):

- Meeting your brothers and sisters in Christ who are interested in serving the church as a pastor or deaconess
- Housing on campus
- All meals in Katherine Luther Dining Hall
- Time for questions with current seminarians, pastors and deaconesses
- A complimentary Christ Academy—College/Phoebe Academy—College shirt
- A one-of-a-kind experience of seminary life in worship, classes and community
- Optional: Registration, housing and meals for any or all of Symposia events (January 19–22)

Note: Limited reimbursement for travel is offered as available. Please inquire.

Register Online for Christ Academy College at: www.ctsfw.edu/cacollege or Phoebe Academy College: www.ctsfw.edu/phoebeacademy

Concordia Theological Seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.
Specific Ministry Pastor Program Seminars Held On Campus
By Dr. Douglas L. Rutt and Rev. Robert E. Smith

In the last warm week in September, an architect from California, a Lutheran school principal from Illinois, a restaurant owner from Arkansas and a TV weatherman from Spokane, Washington, joined 31 other men for a four-day seminar in Fort Wayne. They have one additional thing in common: their congregations have asked them to serve as workers in the harvest field of souls. They are students of Concordia Theological Seminary in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP).

For the first time, two groups of students gathered on campus. The Alpha cohort is in their second year of the SMP program. They have completed four courses already: one class taught partially on campus and three entirely online using the seminary’s Moodle online classroom management software. Their seminar on campus focused on their fifth class, “Heaven on Earth: The Worship of Lutherans Today,” with Dr. Paul J. Grime, CTS Dean of the Chapel. After the week of intensive study, the class continued online.

The Beta cohort came for orientation to begin the SMP program. While here in Fort Wayne, they took a tour of the campus; got to know the seminary’s faculty, staff and residential students; participated in chapel services; enjoyed a night of entertainment with Vicar Rennie Kaufmann, a member of the Alpha cohort and a professional musician; and attended a fireside chat presentation by Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo to learn about the work of the Malagasy Lutheran Church of Madagascar.

But there was also a lot of other work to do. They were introduced to the technologies that make their online classes possible and completed the assessment tests taken by all entering pastoral students. Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer and Rev. Robert E. Smith gave them a primer on library resources and research tools in the Internet age. They also began their first class, “Confessing Christ in Today’s World,” with Dr. Douglas L. Rutt, the Dean of Distance Learning.

Mentors for the Beta cohort came to Fort Wayne with their vicars to join their students for many of the activities of the week and to receive special orientation on the important role they play in preparing the SMP participants for pastoral ministry. The mentors are the local supervising pastors who are responsible for the supervision, guidance and encouragement of their SMP participant.

During morning chapel services on Wednesday, September 30, the seminary recognized the participants in the SMP program. Professor Richard T. Nuffer, CTS Director of Vicarage, announced their names and vicarage assignments as each student came forward to be recognized by the seminary community.

As the students left for their homes and vicarages, feedback began to arrive via the online forums. Beta cohort student Brian Mayo of Homewood, Illinois, wrote reflecting on his campus experience, “While at Concordia, I felt welcome and accepted. I saw not one frown . . . not even on the faces of the kitchen staff! I learned that my fellow Beta cohorts are a great bunch of seminarians and our teaching staff is down-to-earth, but top notch! We will be very busy, but it shall be a labor of love.”

In addition to the SMP Program, the seminary operates an online MA in Deaconess Studies Program, a Pre-Seminary Greek course, and is finishing out the last cohort of the Distance Learning Leading to Ordination Program.

For additional information concerning the Specific Ministry Pastor Program or other online offerings, please check the seminary’s Web site (www.ctsfw.edu) under “Academics” and “Online Education,” or contact Dr. Douglas Rutt at Douglas.Rutt@ctsfw.edu, or 260-452-2133.

Dr. Douglas L. Rutt serves as Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and Dean of Distance Learning.

Rev. Robert E. Smith serves as the Electronic Resources Librarian at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will again host its annual Symposia January 19-22, 2010. Held every year on the Fort Wayne campus, presentations on Exegetical Theology and the Lutheran Confessions will highlight the four-day event.

Celebrating its 25th year, the theme for the Exegetical Theology Symposium is *The Sacraments in the Scriptures*. The 33rd annual Symposium on the Lutheran Confessions has chosen *God: Past, Present, and Future* as its theme.

**EXEGETICAL THEOLOGY**  
**Tuesday, January 19, 2010**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30–7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Matins, Kramer Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration, Sihler Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome — Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, President and Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:05 a.m.</td>
<td>“Baptism and the Lord’s Supper in Luke-Acts” — Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr., Professor of Exegetical Theology and Director of Deaconess Studies, Concordia Theological Seminary</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>“Baptism and the Lord’s Supper in John’s Gospel and Epistles” — Dr. Charles A. Gieschen, Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary</td>
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<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>“Covenant and Communion: On the Sacramentality of Scripture” — Dr. Scott Hahn, Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio; and the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>“Baptism and the Lord’s Supper in the Pauline Epistles” — Dr. Peter J. Scaer, Assistant Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>“Baptism and the Lord’s Supper in the Catholic Epistles” — Dr. David P. Scaer, The David P. Scaer Chair of Biblical and Systematic Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel Discussion (Dr. Daniel Gard, Moderator)</td>
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<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Vespers</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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**Wednesday, January 20, 2010**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Short Exegetical Paper Sectionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>“The Sacramental Character of the Old Testament Scriptures” — Dr. Dean O. Wenthe</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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11:00 a.m. “The Sacramental Character of the Scriptures in Early Christian Interpretation” — Prof. James G. Bushur, Assistant Professor of Historical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary

11:45 a.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Organ Recital

3:30 p.m. Panel Discussion — “God, Creation, and the ELCA”

5:30 p.m. Symposium Reception and Banquet — Concordia Theological Seminary

**Friday, January 22, 2010**

9:00 a.m. “God in Public Discourse: Reflections on the Theology of Stanley Hauerwas” — Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer, Executive Director, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

10:00 a.m. “The Holy Trinity: What’s the Point?” — Dr. William C. Weinrich, Rector, Luther Academy, Latvia; and Deployed Faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary

11:00 a.m. Itinerarium, Kramer Chapel

11:50 a.m. Lunch

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**Lenten Preaching Workshop:**

**Monday, January 18, 2010**

“Dear Christians One and All Rejoice”

This year’s seminar borrows its title from the famous Luther hymn, *Dear Christians One and All Rejoice*. Oswald Bayer says that in this hymn “Luther sang of the fact that God’s being is gift and promise.” This midweek Lenten series will use Luther’s hymn, along with selected texts from the Fourth Gospel, to preach repentance and faith in Christ Jesus whose proper office it is to make God certain. Using insights from Bayer’s works (*Living By Faith, Theology the Lutheran Way,* and *Martin Luther’s Theology: A Contemporary Interpretation*), the sermon series will seek to proclaim Christ as the One “who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth” (Preface, DS II, *LSB Altar Book*, 189). The presenter is Prof. John T. Pless, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions/Director of Field Education.

Registration is $130.00. Full payment or a non-refundable deposit must accompany all registrations to guarantee your registration. The deadline for registration is January 8, 2010. Registration forms and additional information can be found online at [www.ctsw.edu/symposia](http://www.ctsw.edu/symposia), or call 260-452-2172.
Chapel Wall Restoration  
Prelude to  
Library Expansion  

By Rev. Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer

Plinth. Noun. In architecture, the base or platform upon which a column, pedestal, statue, monument or structure rests. Tall stone plinths are often used to add monumentality to sacred buildings.

A reinforced concrete wall backfilled with earth from the hollow below forms the plinth upon which Kramer Chapel and its surrounding plaza were constructed in 1957–1958. The plinth is iconic to the campus logo, which consists of three elements: the chapel and its free-standing bell tower, both underlined by the concrete wall.

The gently rolling prairie land of the Kramer farm had as its natural highpoint a little hill upon which an apple orchard was planted. The land sloped away from there into a natural hollow. That little hill became the site of the chapel, and that natural hollow was easily transformed into a little lake. The December 1958 issue of Progressive Architecture magazine captured in words the architectural vision of Eero Saarinen:

As in a village of the Northern European type, the chapel is in the center, placed on the highest spot, with the other buildings grouped around this central and all-important symbol.

The pitched roof seemed to give the right architectural expression to the whole complex. This sort of roof is symbolic of the North European church. By using it on all the buildings, the group was united in one spirit. By making the pitch of the roofs of the other buildings lower than the one on the chapel, the lesser buildings seemed to rise up toward the most significant one.

And significant it is. Kramer Chapel rises to a height of 97 feet; its roof pitched a very steep 23.5 degrees from the vertical. The visible surface of the concrete wall carries that same steep angle and provides a plinth rising 15 feet above the lake, further heightening the effect! That effect is most dramatic when you walk down the stairs under the canopy between the administration building and the south classroom building and across the lower plaza where the lake comes right up to the edge. Then you ascend that 15 feet from lake level to chapel level!

Fifty years of exposure to the elements left sections of the chapel wall heaving and other sections weeping. So, during this past June and July, every section of the wall was either replaced or repaired. Those that were replaced were rebuilt from the ground up, beginning with new foundations. Those that were repaired were chiseled back to solid concrete and filled out afresh. The whole was then given a weather-sealing topcoat, creating a monolithic appearance. The end result is cleanliness in color and crispness in contour that rival the wall when it was new.

The chapel wall restoration served as a prelude to the library expansion. The rock road built to provide construction access to the wall cut across the site of the library extension. Site development began with the opening of the academic year. Foundation work was underway by All Saints’ Day. Concrete work on the foundations, the mechanical basement, the eastern and northern poured walls, and the western and southern lake walls should be complete by Christmas. Structural steel erection is slated to begin after Christmas. By Call Day, April 28, 2010, the building envelope should be nearing completion.

In envisioning the design conceived by the Fort Wayne architectural firm of MSKTD and Associates, Inc., project architect Douglas Winicker wrote in 2007:
The Library program suggests a development equal in scale to the north quadrangle. This solution would draw from the existing environment for its further design refinement. In this proposal, a more equal scale of campus development would now exist south of the Chapel. This proposed solution would strengthen the centrality of the Chapel. This also elevates the Library to more reflect its importance to the campus. By retaining its current placement in the overall campus plan, the Theological, Village and Campus Community concepts established by Saarinen can be used to enhance the project.

The site borders the lake for the entire Library development. As the majority of the campus buildings are positioned away from the Lake, the design proposed draws from the Chapel plaza for its expression. The existing Library building remains adjacent to the Chapel plaza and wall. The Library front lawn to the lake is retained. The new addition then repeats the pattern of the Chapel plaza wall, lawn, plaza wall, and finally lawn. At the south end of the new Library, the site is engaged in the manner of the existing library.

The Library addition has two levels. The plaza level restates the north quadrangle development and provides a prominent location for the Instruction/Multimedia Room.

The large lower level serves as a visual foundation for the plaza above. The large footprint to house the Library’s largest collections can be developed without overwhelming the scale of the other close-in campus buildings. From the Library standpoint, this layout provides the significant advantage of one large area on one level for future flexibility.

The poured-in-place lake wall and the pre-fabricated plaza edge with its railing work together to cut that same steep 23.5 degrees from the vertical angle, forming a new plinth for the expansion. The plinth is relieved by a ribbon of glass framed in concrete while Saarinen-styled lantern buildings rise above the library plaza.

That which was halved when CTS returned to Fort Wayne in 1976 will be quadrupled in 2010! By next year at this time, the 45,000 square foot expansion will be finished and renovation of the 15,000 square feet of the historic library building will be underway. Adequate space for students, staff and stacks will be available well into our future, delivering a resounding response to the constant accreditation refrain of “inadequate library facilities” for a school offering CTS’s range of graduate degrees.

Fundraising continues while building begins with the firm hope that additional donors will step forth as CTS both cares for its campus at age 50 and builds for the next 50, providing the physical environment in which servants in Jesus Christ are formed!

Concordia Theological Seminary is seeking comments from the public about the seminary in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its two accrediting agencies. The seminary will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit on March 15–18, 2010, by two teams: the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) and The Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The teams will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the criteria for accreditation. Currently, the school has been accredited by the NCA since 1981 and by ATS since 1968.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the seminary to the following addresses:

Public Comment on
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

Public Comment on
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana
The Association of Theological Schools
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential. All comments must be received by February 15, 2010.

Please contact Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer, Self-Study Coordinator, at (260) 452-2146 or at Robert.Roethemeyer@ctsfw.edu for further information.

Rev. Robert V. Roethemeyer serves as an Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, Director of Library Services, Executive Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Self-Study Coordinator.

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
Jim Bresette had his share of influences that would also shape his world view. His grandmother, Gladys Schwenk, was dedicated to the Lord and the Lutheran church. Knowing the importance of good Christian life management, she and her husband, Bill, were more than willing to commit to a weekly offering at their congregation. Unfortunately, Bill was laid off during the Depression and given only a small pension that equaled their offering to the Lord. Never one to doubt her Lord’s promises, “Give and it will be given to you,” the pledge was honored, and the household was supported by raising chickens, taking in laundry and boarding local children. This lesson of sacrificial giving had a material impact on young Jim.

Little did Jim and Celeste know that their Lord-directed paths would lead them to meet, be married and journey together along life’s way, no matter where it might lead. Celeste graduated from nursing school as a registered nurse while Jim was in the United States Air Force. Together they decided that Jim would return to school to become a pharmacist while Celeste worked to

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)
support the family. After graduation, Jim transferred his commission to the Public Health Service (PHS) in order to serve the health needs of American Indian tribes.

With three children, Tara, James and Adam in tow, their first PHS assignment was to serve the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes on the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana. Jim and Celeste decided that it was important for Celeste to stay home with the children, confident in knowing the Lord would provide and they could survive on a junior officer’s pay. While financial challenges abounded, life lessons were not forgotten, “Give and it will be given to you.” The checking account was often empty early in the month, yet God remained first and an offering was given.

Eventually Jim, Celeste, Tara, James, Adam and Erik (born in Montana) would return to their home in Columbia, Maryland, after Jim was transferred back to Indian Health Service headquarters, where he now serves as the Deputy Director in the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services. Now, all the children are in school and Celeste has returned to work as a part-time geriatric nurse, but the life lessons learned so early are being instilled in the next generation.

Nightly family devotions, just before bedtime, are standard in the Bresette household. Scripture readings and Luther’s Small Catechism are resources used, and the forgiveness of Christ clearly proclaimed as the family gathers near the fireplace. The attitude of gratitude is constantly reinforced as lessons from childhood are passed on, “Give and it will be given to you.”

“Why is supporting your seminaries so important?” Jim and Celeste were asked. Their response was immediate: “An empty pulpit is an opportunity lost, a watchtower unmanned!” Mission and ministry are clearly in their sights. “So often,” Jim offered, “when things get tight in congregations, one of the first things we cut is outreach and mission spending. Celeste and I decided very early on that we would provide direct support to Concordia Theological Seminary as well as support our local congregation.” He continued, “At Concordia Theological Seminary we know that pastors and deaconesses will be prepared as best as they can be and firmly grounded in the essential truth.”

Joyful, first fruits giving benefits not only the recipient but also the giver. Both show trust and confidence in the endless bounty of a loving Savior who said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

We invite you to join with the whole Bresette family as partners in mission and ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary, which exists to “form servants in Jesus Christ to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.” For additional information on giving opportunities, please contact Gary Nahrwold, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at 260-452-2277, or e-mail him at Gary.Nahrwold@ctsfw.edu.

Rev. Robert F. Shonholz serves as an Advancement Officer for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Yes, please use my gift to help prepare pastors, deaconesses and missionaries.

Use my gift of $______ for the following purpose:

☐ Where most needed ☐ Student Aid  ☐ Other___________

☐ Check is enclosed. ☐ Charge my credit card.
☐ MC ☐ VISA  3-digit security code (on card back):_____

Card #: ____________________________Exp. Date: _______

Signature: __________________________________________

☐ Donate online at www.ctsfw.edu

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☐ My employer matches gifts.
☐ Please have someone from the seminary contact me.

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: ____ Zip:_______

Telephone:________________________________________

E-mail address: _____________________________________

Please detach, fill out and mail back to:

Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton St. • Fort Wayne, IN 46825
877-287-4338 Ext. 2212
Music of the Christmas and Epiphany season presented by the Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

**Sunday, January 3 • 10:00 a.m.**
Grace Lutheran Church
4301 16th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
727-527-1168
www.grace-lutheran.com

**Sunday, January 3 • 7:00 p.m.**
Lutheran Church of The Cross
2300 Luther Rd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33983
941-627-6060
www.lccross.org

**Monday, January 4 • 9:00 a.m.**
Grace Lutheran Church Day School
4301 16th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
www.grace-lutheran.com
727-527-6213

**Tuesday, January 5 • 7:00 p.m.**
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
9700 W. Newberry Rd.
Gainesville, FL 32606
352-331-4409
www.abidingsavior.info

**Wednesday, January 6 • 7:00 p.m.**
Faith Lutheran Church
2727 S. Grove St.
Eustis, FL 32726
352-589-5433
www.faithheusitis.org

**Thursday, January 7 • 7:00 p.m.**
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
2021 West State Rd. 426
Oviedo, FL 32765
407-365-3408
www.stlukes-oviedo.org

**Friday, January 8 • 7:00 p.m.**
Redeemer Lutheran Church
6465 Mayport Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224
941-475-2410
www.redeemerfl.com

**Saturday, January 9 • 7:00 p.m.**
Immanuel Lutheran Church
2913 John Moore Rd.
Brandon, FL 33511
813-689-1787
www.godsloved.org

**Sunday, January 10 • 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
Immanuel Lutheran Church
2913 John Moore Rd.
Brandon, FL 33511
813-689-1787
www.godsloved.org

**Sunday, January 17 • 4:00 p.m.**
Kramer Chapel
Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
260-452-2224
www.ctsfw.edu
Summit on Theological Education Held on Fort Wayne Campus

It is often said that open lines of communication and the free exchange of ideas ensure success. Creating such an environment of open communication was the focus of the Summit on Theological Education hosted on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, November 4–5, 2009. The summit was organized by the Office of the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

“It was a delight for Concordia Theological Seminary to host President Kieschnick’s Summit on Theological Education,” offered Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, CTS President. In addition to President Kieschnick and his staff; the Board for Pastoral Education; the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri; the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and select seminary faculty attended the two-day summit.

“All these participants heard analysis from and engaged in conversation with Dr. Daniel Aleshire, Executive Director of the Association of Theological Schools,” said Dr. Wenthe. “While diverse views about the future were expressed, a clear consensus emerged that supported enhanced service on the part of both historic seminaries.”

CTS Celebrates 164th Academic Year

The beginning of a new academic year is always accompanied by expectation and promise. As the students, faculty and staff of Concordia Theological Seminary joined together for the opening of the 164th academic year on September 13, 2009, that promise was evident not only in the faces of the new students, but most importantly in the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ.

“Concordia Theological Seminary is a community of the faithful shaped by the biblical narrative of redemption in Jesus Christ—a narrative embedded in all of its worship, learning, work and play,” commented Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, CTS Academic Dean. “It is a living community of servants that exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

The students who make up this community are men and women from California to Maine, as well as students from numerous foreign countries, including South Korea, Kenya, Madagascar and China. They are preparing to serve the Church throughout the world by pursuing degrees in the Master of Divinity, Deaconess Studies, PhD, Master of Sacred Theology and Doctor of Ministry programs.

Attendees of the Summit on Theological Education included LCMS President, Dr. Gerald Kieschnick and his staff; the Board for Pastoral Education; the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri; the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and select seminary faculty.
CTS Hosts Conference on Lutheran Unity in South Africa

Through the organization of Dr. Timothy C. Quill, Dean of International Studies, Concordia Theological Seminary teamed up with Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa, to sponsor an international theological conference from August 11–14, 2009. The theme for the conference was “Lutheran Unity: I Believe in One, Holy, Christian and Apostolic Church.” The 65 participants consisted of church leaders, bishops and presidents, professors and scholars, and pastors and missionaries from South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda, India, Germany, Finland and the USA. In addition to Dr. Quill, CTS was represented by Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., Academic Dean, and Prof. John T. Pless, Assistant Professor for Pastoral Ministry and Missions.

Is outward unity among the churches possible today? Some suggest that the tragic divisions between the various Christian communions will remain insurmountable unless churches are willing to change, abandon or compromise their doctrinal convictions and relegate their confessions to the position of mere historical statements. In the church’s confessions, Article VII of the Augustana further states: “For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached harmoniously according to a pure understanding and that the sacraments are administered in conformity with the divine Word.” Some regard this as a so-called minimalistic requirement that requires only an outward acceptance of the Gospel and the recognition of Baptism and Communion as significant moments in the life of the church and its members. Others hold it to be the Lutheran Church’s ready acknowledgement of its continuity with the pre-Reformation church. Troublesome as well are the divisions among Lutherans who find it increasingly difficult even to agree on the nature of the Gospel. For many, the Gospel is any good news concerning the latest social-political agenda for the improvement of human society: environmental issues (global warming, climate change, etc.), economic, social and political issues (same-sex marriage, ordination of homosexual clergy, the ordination of women, workplace issues, overpopulation, etc.). The two kingdoms are confused, and the Law replaces the Gospel.

As the 2010 Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Stuttgart, Germany, approaches, there are growing concerns about its direction and goals as well as its effectiveness as an agency of the member churches. Questions have been raised about the lack of helpfulness provided to member churches that outspokenly state their intention to remain faithful to the catholic theology of the Lutheran Confessions, about the Federation’s future relationship, and perhaps an administrational amalgamation of the LWF with the Reformed World Alliance. In recent years, many are asking the question, “How will confessional Lutherans Churches and individuals relate to one another amid the crisis of unity among Lutheran Churches worldwide?”

International Food Festival

Over 180 students, faculty and friends of CTS feasted on ethnic food from Brazil, the Congo, England, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Norway, South Africa, Slovakia, Sweden, New Zealand and the United States. Both international and American students and families prepared national dishes for all to sample. Members from St. Augustine Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne also provided authentic dishes from Ethiopia, Kenya and the Congo. Festivities included polka and jazz bands comprised of seminary students and violin duets by Ka Hee and Ji Hoon Cook. This was the Second Annual International Food Festival organized by the International Studies and Dean of Students’ Offices.
Study Abroad in Riga, Latvia

From May 2–June 12, 2009, eight seminarians traveled to Riga, Latvia, for a two-week intensive course, “The Theology of the Greek Fathers,” taught by Dr. William C. Weinrich, who is deployed by CTS and serves full time as the rector of the Luther Academy in Riga. Dr. Weinrich is well known as a rigorous and demanding professor. However, in Riga, the students were rewarded with the opportunity of ongoing, informal theological conversations at quaint beer gardens in old Riga.

The next short-term study abroad is scheduled for May 20–June 5, 2010, at Luther Rose House in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria. Prof. John Pless, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at CTS, will teach, “William Loehe: Pastoral, Missional, and Diaconal Theologian.”

CTS provides numerous opportunities for international studies. Possible future short-term sites include Russia, Kenya, South Africa, Brazil and France. One year exchange programs are also in place with Lutheran seminaries in Oberursel, Germany; Cambridge, England; and São Leopoldo, Brazil. For additional information concerning these programs offered at CTS, please contact Dr. Timothy C. Quill, Dean of International Studies, at Timothy.Quill@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2137.

Brotherly Support from Indiana to Siberia

Twenty-seven putters, one photographer and one 11-month-old observer gathered for a miniature golf tournament in support of our brethren at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia. When the Fort Wayne seminarians who had studied at the seminary in Siberia in 2007 heard of the financial hardship facing the seminary due to the worldwide economic crisis, they decided to help. In response, they put together a fundraising event that combined fun and community and, at the same time, raised awareness of the need. Over $250 was raised for the Siberian seminary. Dr. Timothy C. Quill, Dean of International Studies and Director of the Russian Project, said, “I am really proud of our students and the encouraging message they are sending their fellow Lutheran seminarians in Russia. The students and faculty in Novosibirsk are in our thoughts and prayers.”

If you would like more information on the work of CTS in Russia or desire to make a donation, contact Dr. Quill at Timothy.Quill@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2137.
As we near the celebration of our Savior’s birth, we are pleased to announce the availability of two CDs that will allow you to share the beautiful music of Concordia Theological Seminary with family and friends.

**Infant Holy: Christmas with the Seminary Kantorei**

The selections chosen for this CD are sung by Kantorei members over a period of eight different school years. *Infant Holy* is the Kantorei’s sixth CD. The choir is directed by Kantor Richard C. Resch with accompaniments by Kantor Kevin J. Hildebrand.

**Hymns of Comfort and Peace: Hearing God’s Promises in Times of Need**

This is a CD of beautifully arranged, well-known hymns that was produced by the Good Shepherd Institute. This endeavor is meeting a need for those who are overwhelmed, sick, lonely, grieving, depressed or dying. Pastors and churches have ordered 20, 50, 100 copies at a time. We also have a growing file of letters from clergy, laity and members of the military telling us how this sung proclamation has given Christ to their hearts and minds in the time of need.

The CDs may be purchased through the Concordia Publishing House bookstore on the CTS campus by phoning 260-452-3108. They are $15.95 each.

Those wishing to order a quantity of five to nine CDs may order them at a cost of $12.00 each; quantities of ten or more may be ordered for $10.00 each from the CTS Music Department. To do so, please e-mail Yohko Masaki at Yohko.Masaki@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2224.

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**Faculty in Print**

**Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr.**

*Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service* (CPH, St. Louis, 2008)

The liturgy is not a style of worship. The liturgy is the substance of justification as it is brought through means.

This book is an introduction to the liturgy and its importance. It takes the liturgy and makes it easy for the layperson to understand that the New Testament church service brings God’s presence, in Jesus the Christ to the people of God who have been cleansed from their sins. This is a holy meeting made possible by the blood of Christ that cleanses the believer. This understanding of the church service helps one to understand that the church service is more than a meeting place; it is the manifestation of the New Testament church on earth as Christ calls His bride around Word and Sacraments.

*Heaven on Earth* will deepen your understanding of the Divine Service and why it remains the Church’s chief worship service.

*(Description from www.cph.org)*

**Dr. Timothy C.J. Quill**

*Perspectives on Christian Worship—Five Views* (B & H Academics, Nashville, Tennessee, 2009)

Edited by J. Matthew Pinson

*Perspectives on Christian Worship* presents in counterpoint form five basic, common beliefs on Christian worship that have developed over the course of church history with a view toward determining which is most faithful to Scripture. Each chapter is written by a prominent person within each tradition, and each writer has the opportunity to respond to each differing view. Dr. Quill authors the chapter on liturgical worship.

*(Description from www.bhpublishinggroup.com)*

**Dr. K. Detlev Schulz**

*Mission from the Cross* (CPH, St. Louis, 2009)

This book will provide a contemporary look at mission, including crucial topics such as cultural anthropology, communication styles and linguistics, strategic and ecumenical issues, and much more related to what mission is and how mission is accomplished.

Dr. Schulz gathers into one place the history, terminology, guiding principles, goals, key topics, ethics and so much more related to mission. He interacts with key players in the modern mission scene and offers a readable analysis of past efforts and current initiatives in the Christian community. He encourages readers to realize that mission is not simply going to a foreign country but occurs in numerous ways in our immediate daily situations.

*(Description from www.cph.org)*

All three books may be purchased from the CPH bookstore located on the CTS campus by phoning 260-452-3108.
The Military Project Expands
By Deaconess Intern Carolyn Brinkley

Concordia Theological Seminary has established the Military Project to support LCMS chaplains and other military personnel in theaters of war as well as their families with prayers, encouragement and items of support for both their bodies and, most especially, their lives in Christ.

In addition to sending our soldiers and chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan the Divine Service on CD, a 30-minute CD entitled Voice of Bethlehem, is now available on the seminary’s Web site. Although they are absent from their home congregations, this provides our military personnel with regular, weekly worship services uniting them with the holy Christian church as they defend freedom in war-torn lands.

LTC Loren Dathe writes, “Reading the Bible gives strength and peace. Our Christian background with holding to the truth is comforting and refreshing. I have missed our Lutheran heritage and worship. Non-denominational church services aren’t the same. Receiving the Comfort and Peace CD, the Lutheran Service Book, Voice of Bethlehem, The Lutheran Witness and For the Life of the World have helped fill the void. Thank you and the team’s efforts and work to bring God’s love, comfort and peace to those in the military. Being away from home and in a war zone can present challenges and stress. Most service members can get Bibles from military chapels, but it is the Lutheran heritage and music that is often missing and missed. The music on CD and worship services recorded on CD is easy to transport and use.”

They are God’s instruments of protection. They leave family, home and country so that we and our families can live in peace and security.

For more information on current service projects in which your church can participate, needed supplies or to learn how to set up a military project, e-mail militaryproject@ctsfw.edu or call 260-452-2100.

Monetary donations should be mailed to:
Concordia Theological Seminary,
Attention: Military Project Coordinator
6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.
All checks should be made payable to the CTS Military Project.

Deaconess Intern Carolyn Brinkley serves as the Military Project Coordinator at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

How can you help?
Please keep our soldiers and chaplains in your prayers.

Deaconess Intern Carolyn Brinkley watches as his father, seminarian Jeremy Swem, writes notes to military personnel. Throughout the year the seminary community sends “Words of Encouragement” to our soldiers and chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Serving in Love. How is this done? Only through servanthood are we able to achieve these goals. The Guild has been in existence for a long time. If we did not have active women from the inception of this organization, we would not be here today, and if we fail to be involved today, we will not have a Seminary Guild in the future.

Many ladies have been members for years and have had the joy of seeing the Guild’s efforts positively affect the lives of those we serve. There are those who have baked dozens and dozens of cookies for receptions and been hostesses for various events. They’ve baked pies, stuffed snack packs or made T-shirts. To you, we say thank you for your service and dedication. Thank you to those who have served in leadership roles. Some may be new and still learning the ropes. We welcome you and encourage you to become involved. There are those of you who may think you can’t do that, but it is truly amazing what we can do with God’s help and encouragement from others.

Encouragement. We can all encourage. As our mission statement says, we serve by “encouraging the support of the seminary and its students.” Our main emphasis is on the students and families, but don’t you think that should also include the faculty and staff, as well as the students? Where would our students be without our faculty and staff? May the members of the Guild be included in that encouragement as well. Those who serve as officers and board members put in many unseen, extra hours making our meetings and events special and purposeful. We can all use a little encouragement at times. Romans 15:5–6 says: “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Support. We can support our seminary and the Guild in many ways, but at this time, I would like to emphasize financial support. Our yearly dues help fund T-shirts, sun catchers for our wives in their husbands’ final year at the seminary, hams and turkeys for the students, and a variety of other needs. Donations of food and clothing items are welcomed and appreciated by the students as well as Marketplace items at Christmastime. Lutherfest has also become an annual event to raise funds for our special projects. Finally, your financial support to the seminary itself is also greatly appreciated.

Prayer. Prayer is a blessing we have to communicate our needs, wants and petitions to the Lord. If you feel this is what you can do, then pray! Pray for the Guild and for her officers and board member that they serve in a God-pleasing way. Pray for the needs of the students and their families. Pray for the professors that they continue to teach sound doctrine and convey these truths to the students. And pray that the students go out into the field well-equipped to serve the Lord of the harvest!

Lynne Brege serves as President of the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild.

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**Concordia Theological Seminary**

**Seminary Guild Registration**

- Yes, we are interested in becoming members of the Seminary Guild. Please send more information to:
  
  Name: ____________________________________________
  Organization: ________________________________________
  Address: ____________________________________________
  City: ___________ State: ________ Zip: _________________

- We are enclosing a donation payable to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, C/O Seminary Guild President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Box 8, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

- Please contact me with more information.

- I have enclosed my yearly $10.00 check to be an individual member.

- We have enclosed our yearly $25.00 check for our group to be a member of the Seminary Guild.

- Donation Day gift.
Thrivent Chapter Continues Tradition of Support

The Cass/Carroll County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has supported funding of the seminary Food Co-op since 2004. Each year, a willing group of Thrivent members drives from Logansport, Indiana, and volunteers time stocking shelves, cleaning shelves or packaging items for the shelves of the Food Co-op. In August of this year, they came to work, fellowship with the seminary staff and present a check for $800 from their Care and Community Program. What a wonderful gift to the students of the campus!

Because Karen Fuelling, Director of the Food and Clothing Co-op, knew the group would be donating $800, she shopped at a local grocery store before the group arrived. “We were able to purchase $1,344.72 in grocery items with that $800 thanks to store specials,” said Mrs. Fuelling. “The volunteers from Logansport were able to see how far their gift went and even stocked the items.”

The group consisted of the Thrivent President James Metz and his wife, Gloria, Helen Schmidt, Verla Neuendorf, Larry and Karla Popejoy, and Doranne Heimlich. We were privileged to have four generations of a family within the group from five-year-old Hannah Neuendorf to great-grandma Helen Schmidt, who is proud to say she is 92.

We thank God for the time and talents of these generous people!

LWML Public Relations Director Edie Norris (left) and National President Jan Wendorf (middle) meet with Karen Fuelling (right) before the Final Year Student Reception sponsored by the LWML on October 3, 2009. They host the reception each year to share current information with the students and provide each with a large amount of resource materials for their future congregations.

Brakebush Brothers, Inc. of Westfield, Wisconsin, continues to provide the CTS Food Co-op with large amounts of chicken products to be given to the students. Brakebush is lovingly named the “Official Chicken of CTS.”
One day, when one of my sons was a little boy, he said to me, “Dad, you never let me do what I want to do.” I said to him, “What do you want to do?” His response: “I want to do what I want to do!” How familiar those words are to us self-centered sinners.

The Way of Service

How different is the way of Jesus Christ: the way of service. In John 6:38, He says, “I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me.” In effect He was saying, “I want to do what My Father wants Me to do!” That’s service in Jesus Christ: doing the will of God, doing what God wants us to do. Christ calls us to follow Him in the way of service. Please read Mark 10:42–45. How does Jesus define greatness in God’s sight? ____________________________________________

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The Motivation for Service

The above passage from Mark 10 shows us that the motivation for service comes from Christ’s service to us. He does not tell us to serve so that He will serve us. Rather, He says that we are to serve because He has served us and has given His life on the cross for us, for the forgiveness of our sins. He always makes the first move. He always takes the first step. “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34) “We love, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

Transformed in Christ

Service does not come naturally to us self-centered sinners. In order for servants to be formed, sinners first need to be transformed. Transformation precedes formation. We need to be in Christ in order to be a servant of Christ. Jesus commands, “Baptize . . . and teach.” First comes spiritual rebirth, then maturation and development. Please read 2 Corinthians 5:16–17. How does being “a new creation in Christ” cause you to see yourself and others in a new way? Be as specific and practical as possible. ____________________________

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Here’s how Jesus puts it in Matthew 5:16: “Let your light so shine before people that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Nothing brings greater joy to the heart of a believer than bringing glory and honor to God. That’s what Jesus teaches us to pray in the Our Father: “Hallowed be Thy name,” which means, “May Your name be honored and exalted among us and through us.”

Living Sacrifices

Please read Romans 12:1–8. Notice the opening words: “In view of God’s mercy . . .” It’s not in view of God’s justice or wrath, not in fear or guilt, but in gratitude for the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. That’s why we offer ourselves in service to God and to others, using our gifts for the good of our neighbor and the glory of God. As you honestly and realistically assess your gifts (v. 3), where do you see yourself serving now or in the future? How have you been the beneficiary of someone else’s gifts in the past or the present? ____________________________

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Formed for Service

God formed each of us in our mother’s womb. He endowed us with natural talents in our genetic code. In our new birth in Baptism, the Holy Spirit gives each of us spiritual gifts according to His will and pleasure. Please read 1 Peter 4:10–11. What is the highest and best use of our natural talents and spiritual gifts? ____________________________

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What is the result of these God-pleasing efforts done in the service of God in the strength, talents and gifts that God supplies? ____________________________

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CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Calendar of Events

December 2009
December 6  First Sunday Brunch, Katherine Luther  
Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
Advent Candlelight Choral Vespers  
with the Seminary Schola Cantorum,  
Kramer Chapel, 4:00 p.m.

December 8  Kantorei, Refreshments, and Fellowship*  
Kramer Chapel, 1:00 p.m.

January 2010
January 3  First Sunday Brunch, Katherine Luther  
Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

January 17  Epiphany Lessons and Carols  
with the Seminary Kantorei,  
Kramer Chapel, 4:00 p.m.

January 18  Lenten Preaching Workshop

January 19–22  Symposia Series 2010

January 20  Organ Recital, Brad Hall from  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa,  
Kramer Chapel, 12:45 p.m.

Symposia Choral Vespers  
with the Seminary Schola Cantorum,  
Kramer Chapel, 4:45 p.m.

January 22–24  Christ Academy College/  
Phoebe Academy College

February 2010
February 7  First Sunday Brunch, Katherine Luther  
Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

February 9  Deaconess Pat Nuffer  
on “Hands of Mercy”*  
Luther Hall, 1:00 p.m.

March 2010
March 7  First Sunday Brunch, Katherine Luther  
Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

March 9  Spring Luncheon with  
Dr. Carl Fickenscher on  
“Law and Gospel”**  
Luther Hall, 12:00 p.m.

March 21  Passion Choral Vespers  
with the Seminary Schola Cantorum,  
Kramer Chapel, 4:00 p.m.

March 24–27  Invitational Campus Visit  
*Seminary Guild Events

For additional information concerning all these events, please visit www.ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2100.

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A Servant’s Epitaph

“When David had served God’s purpose in his generation, he fell asleep” (Acts 13:36). That says all that needs to be said about a life well lived in the service of God. God grant that these words may be true of us in our generation, that we will serve God’s purpose—in the strength, talents and gifts supplied by God with all to the glory of Him—and then fall asleep in Christ. When we awake, we shall be in His presence and in His likeness, beholding Him as He is, serving Him day and night in His temple. Please read 1 John 3:2. In our earthly life, we are each a work in progress. When will our process of transformation and formation be completed for all eternity?

Please read Revelation 7:13–17. Look at all the wonderful things God will do for His people in heaven. What will we be doing for God?

We pray: Father, give us the power of Your Holy Spirit to do what You want us to do in the strength You supply, using the talents and gifts You provide to make a Christlike difference in the lives of others all to Your glory and honor, now and forever. Amen!

Rev. Richard Koehneke retired on July 31, 2009, after 38 years in pastoral ministry, serving for the last 16 years as senior pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. Since 2001, he has been a member of the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He is a member of the Next Steps Advisory Group of the LCMS Indiana District.

December 2009
Spring Confirmation Retreat
_Baptism: Wash Before You Eat_
April 16–18, 2010

What is Baptism? Are babies to be baptized? What great and precious gifts are given in Baptism? Is it possible for an unbaptized person to be saved? Why do we get baptized before we eat at the Lord’s Supper? The world understands how to wash the dirt off the outside of the body but does not understand how the Lord washes us clean (Baptism) all the way through and creates a clean heart within us. Please join us in learning about the Lord’s gift of Baptism, not only for our own benefit but also so that we may explain it to others who do not yet understand so that they, too, may rejoice in being a child of the Lord.

The retreat will be led by Rev. Brian Mosemann, Dean of Students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Born in rural South Dakota, as the third of four children, Rev. Mosemann was raised on farming, music and church activities. He has served as parish pastor and Lutheran high school instructor in New York City and as Assistant Professor of Theology at Concordia University in Chicago and Austin, Texas. He enjoys music, art, animals and outdoor activities.

This confirmation retreat is for youth who are currently receiving confirmation instruction in their home parish. It will be a time for learning, rejoicing, worship in Kramer Chapel, recreation in the gym and other fun activities.

Retreat Fee: $100 (includes on-campus housing and meals)
For additional information or to register, please visit www.ctsfw.edu, e-mail Retreats@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2172.