Student Mission Trip to Haiti
By Dr. Timothy C. Quill and Rev. Geoffrey L. Robinson

Christ's Servants in Lithuania
By Dr. Charles J. Evanson

My Mission in Africa
Dr. K. Detlev Schulz
Dear Friends of Concordia Theological Seminary:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. A light that no darkness can overcome.

This confession and response is a significant portion of the Service of Light in the Lutheran Service Book (page 243). It captures the biblical truth of John’s Gospel, “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

It also displays a foundational truth: “Without Christ the world is swallowed by darkness.” Indeed, modern Darwinian cosmologies suggest that darkness is what awaits us all. No species—no substance—this view asserts will be spared as the millions and billions of years absorb everything into a cold and aimless cosmic process. Death and darkness that is the final, prevailing story.

Without Christ such a view becomes plausible. And, even before death, the shadows of darkness cover human lives. Abortion is the most public display of darkness. Cruel death to the unborn calls out to every human being as a horror. But the self-absorption that permeates modern cultures is the inner darkness that precedes so much pain and violence.

While visiting Carlsbad Caverns some years ago, my family joined a ranger-guided tour into New Cave—an undeveloped cavern. With flashlights in hand, we descended into the darkness.

At the end of our descent, the ranger asked us to turn off our flashlights. He then said that we were experiencing total darkness, and that if some force would render all our flashlights inoperable even he could not lead us to the surface. Total darkness, he continued, is totally disorienting.

Such is the condition of a human being without Christ. Our calling is to let the light of Christ shine forth in our lives and in our words. This issue of For the Life of the World focuses on this calling.

And what a delightful calling it is! I still recall, ascending from the depths, the pure brilliance of the desert sun as it shown from the entrance to New Cave. How inviting and radiant!

By God’s grace, the light of Christ calls all from death and darkness to life and light. In Christ’s light—in His presence—there is life forever. His cross absorbed death. His Resurrection offers life.

As we share the light of Christ, may God’s grace bring many from darkness and death to life now and forever.

Yours, in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe
President, Concordia Theological Seminary
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Choral Evening Prayer

Music of the Christmas and Epiphany season presented by the Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Saturday, January 1 • 4:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
909 S. Market Street
Wichita, Kansas 67211
316.264.0639
www.immanuellutheranonline.org

Sunday, January 2 • 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 N. Greenwich Road
Wichita, Kansas 67206
316.684.5201
www.holycrosslutheran.net

Sunday, January 2 • 7:00 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran Church
901 SW Fillmore Street
Topeka, Kansas 66606
785.354.7132
www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org

Monday, January 3 • 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church
321 N. 10th Street
Beatrice, Nebraska 68310
402.228.1540
www.stpaulbeatrice.org

Tuesday, January 4 • 7:00 p.m.
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
3825 Wildbriar Lane
Lincoln, Nebraska 68516
402.423.7639
www.goodshepherdlincoln.org

Wednesday, January 5 • 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
239 Frank Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
712.322.4729
www.stpaulslutheran-cb.org

Thursday, January 6 • 7:00 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
36712 Church Road
Louisville, Nebraska 68037
402.234.5980
www.ilclouisville.org

Friday, January 7 • 7:00 p.m.
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2200 S. Western Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105
605.338.6957
www.ourredeemersf.org

Saturday, January 8 • 7:00 p.m.
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church
4040 Hwy 101 North
Plymouth, Minnesota 55446
763.478.6031
www.gloryofchrist.org

Sunday, January 9 • 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
St. John’s Lutheran Church
9141 County Road 101
Corcoran, Minnesota 55340
763.420.2426
www.stjohnsmg.org
Student Mission Trip to Haiti

By Dr. Timothy C. Quill and Rev. Geoffrey L. Robinson

July 11, 2010, will be remembered for an earthquake that transformed the structural landscape of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The epicenter of this seismic event was the Synod Convention in Houston, Texas, as delegates approved resolution 8-08A on Structure and Governance. Gone were the six program boards, including Missions, Communications, Black Ministry, District and Congregational Services, Higher Education and Human Care. It all took just eight seconds. Now our Synod is working together to form two new boards of National and International Mission.
Six months earlier, on January 12, 2010, a massive 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti. The epicenter of the upheaval was 16 miles east of Port au Prince in the town of Léogâne. Within 30 to 40 seconds entire blocks, along with their inhabitants, were simply gone. Since then, Haiti has been struggling to rebuild. The nation’s superstructure and government were left in shambles. Homes, roads, hospitals, businesses, schools, churches and families need to be rebuilt. It is an enormous task that includes not only money, resources and expertise, but also emotional and spiritual care. The LCMS was among the first to respond. Within days, emergency and medical personnel and supplies were mobilized by LCMS World Relief and Human Care and arrived in Haiti. As the rebuilding continues, the LCMS is working closely with the President, pastors and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH).

These are challenging times of change and rebuilding for Haiti, the ELCH and also for the LCMS. These are also exciting days and a time of opportunity for our churches as we engage in evangelical witness, worship and works of mercy. President Matthew Harrison has articulated a theological foundation that will give an evangelical shape to the new synodical structures. All the work undertaken by the two new synodical boards (as is the case with congregations) is nothing more than concrete expressions of the church’s Martyría (witness), Diakonía (mercy) and Koinōnia (life together). Witness includes the proclamation or preaching of the Word, witness to Christ in one’s vocation and mission/church planting. Life together includes Liturgía (worship), doctrine and practice, church fellowship, Lutheran schools, universities and seminaries. Mercy includes works of charity to those both within and without the body of Christ.

The beauty of this threefold emphasis is that it is not an abstract concept or program designed by ivory tower theologians or isolated bureaucrats. It confesses simply what the church is and does. It is profoundly and richly biblical, theological and ecclesial, yet straightforward and concrete. The integrity and reciprocal nature of witness, worship and mercy in the life of the church is also taught in the classrooms at Concordia Theological Seminary. Moreover, the eight seminarians, seminary professor and district mission executive who made a mission-mercy trip to Haiti following the earthquake found themselves participating first hand in Martyría, Diakonía and Koinōnia.

Concordia Theological Seminary began planning the mission trip to Haiti months before the earthquake. The goal of the trip was to expose American seminarians to the mission field in Haiti. The team was scheduled to travel to the city of Tommassique in the Central Plateau in March of 2010 and work with Pastor Michel Jean Claude Marin (father of
CTS seminary student Blaise Marin). The purpose was to learn first-hand how Haitian pastors, teachers, evangelists and laity witness to Christ and the Gospel to people living in fear of the devil, voodoo and spiritual legalism. They would see the church at worship and as it cares for people living in one of the poorest countries on earth. They would also be given an opportunity to teach in the Lutheran schools and churches of the ELCH.

Everything changed when Haiti was struck by the earthquake seven weeks before the mission team was scheduled to depart. Seminarians are preparing to be pastors and missionaries, not doctors and nurses. The earthquake changed the timing of the trip but not its necessity or urgency. Because of the horrendous conditions in Haiti, it was deemed prudent to work with LCMS World Relief. Synod’s human care ministries have vast experience in international disaster relief. The mission trip was delayed until June, at which time it took on a new character of both mission and mercy.

Upon arrival in Port au Prince on June 8, the team traveled immediately up the rugged mountain roads of the Central Plateau. The first task of the team was to roll up their sleeves for some heavy physical labor helping to prepare the foundation of a church in Tommassique. The church center will serve current members and also be used to minister to refugees who moved from Port au Prince following the earthquake.

Rev. Markey Kessa, President of the ELCH, organized an extensive schedule in order to thoroughly expose the students to the Lutheran Church, her congregations, schools, orphanages and needs connected with the earthquake.

From the Central Plateau the team traveled south over the mountainous roads to the coastal city of Jacmel and then to Les Cayes, the home of Pastor Paul Toulette, a graduate of CTS. The Les Cayes experience included visits to large and small congregations and mission stations, Lutheran schools and orphanages, as well as learning about the work being done by CTS Deaconess Intern Alyssa Stone. The students had significant opportunity to worship, share meals and converse with Haitian pastors, seminarians, evangelists, adults and children.

While the seminarians received modest assistance for their trip, the majority of their expenses came out of their own pockets. As a result of their trip, $10,000 has been raised in donations to the seminary which will be sent to Haiti. This has been matched by LCMS World Relief and Human Care which brings the total to $20,000. At the recommendation of the ELCH and LCMS World Relief, donations from the CTS Mission-Mercy trip will be divided equally between humanitarian support for orphans from the earthquake and the construction of the Lutheran church in Tommassique. The distribution of the funds is a concrete testimony to how the church’s mission integrates witness, worship and mercy. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the seminarians and the friends of CTS who made generous donations.

Dr. Timothy Quill serves as Dean of International Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Rev. Geoffrey L. Robinson serves as Executive Counselor for Outreach for the Indiana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

These are challenging times of change and rebuilding for Haiti, the ELCH and also for the LCMS. All the work undertaken by the two new synodical boards (as is the case with congregations) is nothing more than concrete expressions of the church’s Martyria (witness), Diakonia (mercy) and Koinonia (life together). Witness includes the proclamation or preaching of the Word, witness to Christ in one’s vocation and mission/church planting. Life together includes Liturgia (worship), doctrine and practice, church fellowship, Lutheran schools, universities and seminaries. The beauty of this threefold emphasis is that it is not an abstract concept or program designed by ivory tower theologians or isolated bureaucrats. It confesses simply what the church is and does.
Mission activity in Lithuania faces unique challenges. Although Lithuania was the last European country to receive and accept the Gospel and become a Christian nation, the onslaughts of a Soviet captivity, which Lithuania endured for almost half a century, and the pressures of a highly secularized culture inimical to Christian faith and morals have not been entirely successful in their attempts to destroy the Christian church and Christian faith.
Eighty to ninety percent of the Lithuanian population openly state that they believe in God. Most of those who make this declaration are outwardly associated with the Roman Catholic Church or other so-called “traditional” churches (Russian Orthodox, Russia Old-Believers, Lutherans and Reformed). Most Lithuanian children are baptized, and almost every funeral is performed by an ordained priest, pastor or minister. However, only between five to ten percent of the population go to church with any regularity, the divorce rate is high (over 50%), abortions are regarded as normal procedures, an abnormally large percentage of the population is afflicted with alcoholism and the suicide rate is among the highest in the world. It is evident that the years of Soviet domination and regulations which proscribed all but private one-on-one religious instruction, together with strong discouragements to church attendance and any sort of religious activity, have done much to contribute to the development of a post-Christian, secularist society.

Although Lithuanian law allows that school pupils may be permitted to receive a course of religious instruction in the public school, many parents do not take advantage of this option, and in many places the instruction is uneven in quality. In short, our Lord’s mandate to His church to make disciples of all nations by Baptism and instruction in the Christian faith remains unfulfilled, for few receive adequate catechetical instruction or go to church services regularly.

Active mission work is difficult for the pastors and parishioners of Lithuanian Lutheran churches. To engage in active and concentrated mission activity among people who have been baptized and are claimed by churches as their own would open Lutherans to the charge of proselytism. Therefore the mission activities of the Lithuania Lutheran Church must be conducted delicately.

Mission activity is carried out primarily in the local congregations. Church festivals and public parish activities provide opportunities for contact with members of the community. The annual Cemetery Services held in the parish cemeteries attract families members, many of them secularized, to come to decorate the graves of their deceased family members and hear the Gospel. These services provide opportunities for contact with those who have strayed to once again hear the proclamation of the Word of God.

Groups of Lutheran parishes sponsor regional youth camps which attract not only Lutheran young people but friends and classmates who are not actively involved in other churches. In several congregations children’s choirs, music classes and Bible study excite the interest of children who are unchurched or uninvolved. Many unchurched young people subsequently enroll in study courses and confirmation classes, and often whole families are brought into the fellowship of the church.

Many Lithuanians become acquainted with and eventually join the Lutheran Church after marrying Lutherans. Pastors encourage their parishioners to invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to join them in attending Divine Services and to see themselves as Christian missionaries who provide a strong and positive Christian witness to attract co-workers, friends and neighbors who have had little previous contact with any church.

In recent years the Lithuanian Lutheran Church has become actively involved in mission activity in the neighboring country of Belarus. Belarus was at one time a part of Lithuania, and in past centuries the Lutheran Church in Lithuania was instrumental in establishing congregations throughout the country. Pastor Richardas Doksas, assistant to Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis and second pastor of the Lutheran parish in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, now serves also as pastor of the Polosk Lutheran parish in north central Belarus. In addition, a pastor/theologian sent by Concordia Theological Institute.

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The door which had been closed for so many years is once again open and the church has mobilized itself to learn once again to become a mission-minded church in the highly secularized, post-Soviet, European Union environment. With the help of Concordia Theological Seminary and the strong support of the Bishop and Consistory, instructional seminars are held for the pastors of the Lithuanian Church and public school teachers who teach Christian doctrine in the public schools. In addition, the church has undertaken a program of ten special seminars in three geographical regions to provide in-depth instruction in Christian doctrine for parish officers and congregational members. The purpose of the seminars is to strengthen personal dedication, deepen congregational life, provide a renewed vision of the work and worship of the church and develop skills in sharing the Gospel with a secularized, post-Christian people. The church is concerned that, in the words of St. Peter, all may be made ready to give reason for the hope that is in them, and to do so with meekness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15).

Dr. Charles Evanson has been serving in Lithuania since 1999. He was a member of the Department of Evangelical Theology in the Humanitarian Faculty of the University of Klaipeda, Lithuania (1999-2004), and presently serves as Theological Consultant to the Bishop and Consistory of the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church, a sister church of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He is also a member of the ordained staff at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He lectures and leads seminars for pastors and other clergy, teachers, evangelists and lay members of Lutheran churches in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Russia and other nations.
Working in Africa brings many surprises and anxieties—even today where economical development and Western expansion have reached almost all areas of the continent. I recall the incident when my daughter Julia slipped and broke her right arm. We hastened to the village clinic, a hospital. After a few hours waiting in line, we could not be helped. The electricity was off, the X-ray machine wasn’t there, and so we sped off again from Serowe to Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, four hours away to the south, where the excellent medical service quickly put Julia back on the mend.

Having been born in South Africa and having been exposed to mission work for most of my adolescent life at the mission station Enhlanhle—my father worked as missionary in South Africa for 38 years—I thought myself to be well acquainted with all that Africa offered. Thus after completing my theological studies in Germany and the United States, I considered going back home. I remember signing off on my contract rather nonchalantly. When, in 1993, we met with our mission executive director of the Lutheran Church Mission (MLC)—or what always had been called the Bleckmar mission—he asked us how many years we were willing to commit ourselves to serve in Africa, six or ten years. We—my wife, Cornelia, and I—chose ten years instead of the six looking forward to an exciting time in Africa where two of my siblings, Ulrike and Eckart, still lived.

But the twelve years of absence from South Africa, involving theological studies both in Germany and the United States, had brought many new changes to that country. Apartheid and its policies were gone. Nelson Mandela, who had been imprisoned for being a member of the prohibited African National Congress (ANC), was the President of the Republic of South Africa, and on TV the faces of the cricket and rugby players had all changed.

In addition, there was much to learn, including Setswana, a language spoken by over two million people. To prepare me for my assignment in Serowe, a large village in northeastern Botswana bordering the Kgalagadi Desert
Concordia Theological Seminary has a strong working relationship with the bishop and principal of the seminary in Tshwane/Pretoria. At regular intervals our professors travel to the seminary to teach a two week course ranging from exegetical courses to ethics and missions. The audience for such classes is students from a number of countries in Africa, but also pastors from the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and from the sister Synod the FELSiSA, the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Africa. These assignments are mutually enriching both for our professors and for those who are taught.

Dr. Schulz with students at the seminary in South Africa.

and home to the Bamangwato people, we stayed in the village of Thamaga for three months before we moved north to the place of my work for the next few years, the village of Serowe.

Surprisingly, Botswana is politically stable and economically wealthy. It has many diamond mines and many beautiful, wild sanctuaries that attract a large number of tourists. The government redirects the revenue from the diamond industry and tourism to address aggressively the huge widespread disease called AIDS. Botswana leads all countries in Africa in treating the AIDS epidemic. In the mid-1990s, when AIDS came to the fore, many African politicians belittled it, framing it as a white man’s disease. Sadly, this disease could not be left unnoticed for long. It came with such a force that after a few years our village’s cemetery below our church building had increased by two-thirds.

What you saw were not only the graves of elderly people, no, young children and teenagers lay there. I recall one late afternoon when members came to my house all anxious about something. It turned out that they had a teenage girl in a wheelbarrow pushed all the way to my house asking for some solution to this problem. This girl had AIDS. On another occasion, I drove past a member’s house. Upon seeing a gathering of women in the yard, I asked what had happened. I was told that one of our teenage members had lost her child of six months and had buried her already in her bedroom under her bed—a common custom for babies who died under one year of age. Yes, next to alcoholism, malaria and now criminality, Botswana and much of all of the Southern African States struggle with AIDS, and missionaries like me were caught in the midst of it. But the joys of church planting surpass its challenges. To see conversions and baptism come about on an almost weekly basis truly was a privilege for me. Botswana, Indian traders and even white settlers all found solace in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since I left for Fort Wayne in the fall of 1998, I look back at productive years in the Lord’s harvest field. In a recent update on the churches I planted and served in Botswana, I was assured that all is well and an indigenous pastor and missionary now serve that area.

In the years after leaving Botswana, I have returned to South Africa a number of times. The occasion for my coming has changed. Now Concordia Theological Seminary has a strong working relationship with the bishop and principal of the seminary in Tshwane/Pretoria. At regular intervals our professors travel to the seminary to teach a two week course ranging from exegetical courses to ethics and missions. The audience for such classes is students from a number of countries in Africa, but also pastors from the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and from the sister Synod the FELSiSA, the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Africa. These assignments are mutually enriching both for our professors and for those who are taught.

Africa needs theological education. Yet, there is no Lutheran seminary in Africa that has been accredited and raised to a level where CTS is comfortable to start an exchange program between the students. Seminaries, however, are the pillars and backbone of any church. Some naysayers may suggest we choose other mission fields since South Africa is saturated with foreign aid and mission workers. However, it all goes back to the quality of education and the need for it. And, hopefully, if resources remain available, our CTS mission to Africa will continue for many years.

The reader should note that CTS has provided an education to three of the professors currently teaching at the seminary in Tshwane, South Africa: Former Bishop David Tswaedi and Nathan Mntambo graduated with a Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) and Elliot Sithole has nearly completed a Ph.D. in Missiology. CTS has therefore a vested interest in the future of the seminary and its well-being within the larger church of the LCSA. Dr. Wilhelm Weber, a personal
Taking Care of Body and Soul

By Dr. Arthur A. Just

Taking care of body and soul captures what we learned by working alongside the deaconesses in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya. The Kenyan deaconesses taught us what it means to embody Christ’s mercy and love as they take care of both the bodies and souls of the saints who are suffering in their parishes. Diakonia embraces the whole person. They enter a place of suffering with singing, expressing joy in the midst of suffering. They read and interpret God’s comforting Word to those they visit, pray for healing, pray for God to be present in suffering and they always bring a tangible expression of mercy, a bag of maize, cooking oil, medicines for ailing bodies. By their very presence, Christ is present, offering to His poor and suffering ones a concrete expression of His mercy.

When Concordia Theological Seminary began its Deaconess Program in 2003, Rev. Matthew Harrison of World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC) encouraged us to visit Kenya and learn from the deaconesses in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya. We went to teach them from Scriptures and our rich confessional tradition, yet it was they who taught us how deaconesses take care of body and soul. Together we learned that the only healing that matters comes from our communion with the flesh of Jesus through baptism, God’s Word and the Lord’s Supper. By giving them the book Visitation, we helped them connect people to the suffering of Christ. We taught them how to use Visitation to enrich their visitations with Scripture and devotions that comfort those who are suffering.

Through the generous donations of agencies like WR-HC, Friends of Mercy and congregations in California, Michigan and Indiana, we were able to bring the 50+ deaconesses together for a week or so of teaching and learning. Our visits are the only time they are able to come together as deaconesses, a reunion for them, a retreat from their diakonal duties. Our meetings with them always address the suffering and death they encounter from the impact of HIV/AIDS in their congregations. How do we take care of body and soul in Christ as we visit His poor and suffering ones? Although we spend a week in theological instruction with them, teaching such things as palliative care, grief seminars and home-based care, we spend two weeks making visitations with them to widows, orphans and others who suffer from HIV/AIDS in both the rural communities and in such districts as Kibera and Kawangware in Nairobi.

Through our five visits to work with the deaconesses of Kenya, there has been mutual learning of what it means to be servants of mercy. They have many needs, both personal ones and needs for the saints they serve. We are committed to continue to support them with tangible expressions of Christ’s mercy by helping them develop capacities to provide for themselves and for others as they take care of body and soul.

Dr. K. Detlev Schulz, serves as an Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and Dean of Graduate Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dr. Arthur A. Just serves as Director of Deaconess Studies and Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Over the summer, the silhouette of the library expansion took shape in structural steel and concrete. After nine months of site preparation and deep foundation and wall construction, the emergence of the silhouette from the womb of the earth was exciting to see.

As faculty and students arrived on campus in preparation for the new academic year, the final pieces of steel for the north lantern were being lifted into place. These final pieces of steel completed the outline of the silhouette…and a major construction milestone.

During the first weeks of the school year, the pre-fabricated concrete edge at the plaza level was lifted into place section by section. Formed in 20-foot lengths and weighing six tons each, the continuous edge formed by these sections works in parallel with the lake wall below. By the last week in September, the bridge spans, connecting the chapel plaza and the library plaza, were also in place…and another major milestone reached.

As the panoramic picture above shows, the lantern buildings, so-named because they will bring light down into the lake level, echo the size and shape of the Saarinen-styled buildings throughout the campus. The poured concrete wall at lake level and the pre-fabricated concrete edge at plaza level echo the concrete plinth that forms the base of the chapel.

The bulldozers will return to campus in early October to set the contours of the lake. Then rock will be placed along the edge and the water will once again start to fill the lake bed. The heaviest work will be behind us.

Meanwhile, in the lake level expansion, metal studs now frame study rooms and offices as well as the bulkheads for the suspended ceiling. Underneath, in the mechanical basement, ductwork to and from the air handling unit, electrical and data conduit rough-ins, steam and chilled water lines from the campus geothermal system, and the water and gas supply lines are evidenced.

October will be a busy month, as bricks, rough whitewashed regular and custom “Concordia” diamond, are laid throughout the project. Diamond bricks will form the interior wainscoting along the lake level windows and grace the corners of the north lantern. Whitewashed brick will complete the north and south facing walls of the lanterns. The custom “Concordia” Ludowici tile will be installed atop the lanterns. Glass will be set in place around the 500 feet of lower level lake view and in the ends of the lanterns.

November will bring us to another construction milestone—a “dried-in” building. Sealed tight from the winter weather, interior work will continue throughout the winter months.

You can see the first year of progress in a time-lapse video. Simply go to www.ctsfw.edu, go to Find Concordia On: located on the right side of the page, then select the YouTube icon. At the same site you can watch an updated walk-through of the library expansion.

To join in the excitement, please call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 877.287.4338 or e-mail Development@cstfw.edu.

Prof. 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.
CTS Receives Ten Year Continuance of Accreditation from both ATS and HLC

In a letter dated August 18, 2010, Concordia Theological Seminary received formal notification from President Sylvia Manning of The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) that a ten-year continuance of accreditation was granted. A letter received from the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in late June brought the same good news.

These formal actions of the two commissions completed a two-year process that included an internal assessment resulting in a 250-page Institutional Self-Study and an external review by teams of three peers from each association in March of 2010. “This ten-year continuance is an institutional first, celebrating a cycle of continuous institutional improvement that has led CTS to a new accreditation height,” noted Prof. Robert Roethemeyer, Coordinator of the Institutional Self-Study. “We pray that this wonderful news will help with the recruitment of new students and will encourage our many faithful donors.”

“This accreditation for ten years is a marvelous recognition of [the seminary community’s] expertise and dedication,” added Dr. Dean Wenthe, President of CTS. “It also provides the basis for a stimulating and rewarding future under God’s grace.”

CTS’ current multimillion dollar addition to Walther Library is an outgrowth of recommendations made by teams during past on-campus visits.

This year, the Board of Commissioners of the ATS noted the library expansion as one of the campus’ strengths, and the HLC looks forward to a report in early 2012 on the impact of the additional space on teaching and learning as CTS seeks to form servants in Jesus Christ, who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

Dr. Scaer’s Works Translated into Spanish

Understanding Four Views on the Lord’s Supper, now its third printing, to which Dr. David P. Scaer is one of four contributors, is appearing in Spanish under the title of Cuatro puntos de vista sobre la Santa Cena. Both editions are published by Zondervan. Professor Jose A. Pfaffenzeller of Concordia Seminary in Porto Alegre, Brazil, is currently translating into Spanish Dr. Scaer’s Law and Gospel and the Means of Grace, published by Luther Academy. His Discourses in Matthew: Jesus Teaches the Church from Concordia Publishing House has already appeared in Spanish translation.

Sponsor a CTS Seminary Sunday in Your Congregation

One of the best ways you can support your seminary is to help tell others about it. There are at least three types of Sundays a congregation may host:

Seminary Awareness—A general description about the role of CTS within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and how we partner with congregations to form students in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. We will also tell of the exciting resources for laypeople.

Seminary Admission—We will provide information concerning the need for future workers in our church and how your congregation can assist in identifying prospective students. You may choose to have a current student or admission counselor come speak to your congregation.

Support the Seminary—An Advancement appeal which discusses ways to support CTS financially. Some of the areas of concentration are: Student Aid, General Operations or the Library Expansion Fund.

The faculty and staff at CTS are most willing to provide materials and personnel to help make this a possibility for your congregation. If you are interested in having a faculty member or an ordained member of the CTS staff preach and make a formal presentation, please contact Rev. Timothy R. Puls by e-mail at Timothy.Puls@ctsfw.edu or phone 260.452.3134.

Should you wish to lead your own Seminary Sunday, there are many materials available on our website, including bulletin inserts and Bible studies that inform, define and reveal the purpose of CTS. Simply go to www.ctsfw.edu, choose Support CTS, then Seminary Sunday Resources.
### FOR ALL ADULT MEN AND WOMEN

**March 24–26, 2011**

A time to worship with the seminary community, experience classes, meet faculty and students. A time for questions with current students, faculty and staff.

[www.ctsfw.edu/PCV](http://www.ctsfw.edu/PCV)

### FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN COLLEGE

**January 20–23, 2011**

Immediately following our annual Symposia, this event provides college students the opportunity to understand better pastoral and diakonal formation. Participants may also register for Symposia.

[www.ctsfw.edu/CAC](http://www.ctsfw.edu/CAC)

### FOR HIGH SCHOOL MEN

Christ Academy is a two-week residential experience for high-school-aged men. Participants receive an in-depth and hands-on seminary experience as they worship, study and enjoy recreation. Classes are taught by seminary professors and other remarkable teachers and pastors.

[www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy](http://www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy)

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Have you ever considered serving as a LCMS pastor or deaconess? One of our visitation events may be just the thing for you or someone you know.

**CTS Visitation Opportunities**

Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne, Indiana

**CTS Visitation Opportunities**

Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne, Indiana

**www.ctsfw.edu/Admission**

1.800.481.2155
What Does This Mean?

Lutheran Missions Must Lead to Lutheran Churches

I write these lines from the campus of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, South Africa, where I, like several of my colleagues, serve from time to time as a visiting professor. Serving here and also in Madagascar, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Siberia has enriched my work in the classroom in Fort Wayne. It has also deepened my conviction that authentic Lutheran theology is vital for global missions. Our overseas partners recognize the necessity for clarity in the confession of Jesus Christ and fidelity to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Our seminary is well known for these commitments. In contrast to the ecumenically-compromised but politically influential Lutheran World Federation, our seminary is engaged in theological education enlivened by the conviction that the Confessions are not relics or museum pieces, but truthful expositions of the one, saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. We know that “inter-faith dialogue” is no substitute for the preaching of the crucified Christ in whose name alone promises eternal salvation to all who believe.

Our new synodical President, Rev. Matthew C. Harrison writes wisely: “Lutheran missions must lead to a Lutheran Church” (Matthew C. Harrison, “Lutheran Missions Must Lead to a Lutheran Church” in Logia, Holy Trinity 1998, pp. 29ff). There is no such thing as generic missions. Theological assumptions will shape missions. Universalism—the belief that all are saved apart from faith in Christ—deprives missionary outreach of its focus and energy. Synergistic theologies that fail to confess “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him” put missionaries in the position of attempting to persuade or convince pagans to trade off their old gods for a better one. Theologies which do not see the deep and abiding marks of the fall of humanity into sin in and on culture, will compromise the Gospel under the guise of contextualization. Where justification by faith alone is made ecumenically expendable, new legalisms will emerge based upon human merit or work. Divine justification will be replaced by peace and justice agendas. When the sacraments are seen as optional, broken sinners are left without the comfort of the forgiveness of sins and peace with God no matter where they live.

Challenges in Africa abound that require the best of our theological thinking. Traditional African religions seem to be fertile ground for Pentecostalism imported from the United States, resulting in a syncretistic, new religion that is sometimes confused with Christianity. Writing over 60 years ago in an essay that has proved prophetic, “The Question of the Church’s Unity on the Mission Field,” Hermann Sasse identified temptations to embrace a pragmatic unity which ultimately undermines mission endeavor.

Because our Lutheran confession is genuinely catholic, that is universal, we are a global church. We do not do theology by geography but under the Holy Scriptures as the Word of the Triune God. Concordia Theological Seminary is grateful to play its part in bringing the reconciling Word of Christ to the nations by going into the world to teach all the things that our Lord has entrusted to His church. It is a delight to work in South Africa these days with a sister seminary uniquely positioned to be a vital center for the training of pastors and deaconesses for the whole continent. There are students here not only from South Africa but from other African nations including Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia and Ethiopia. Doors are being opened to allow us to play a part in a vigorous partnership with Lutheran churches here and elsewhere in delivering quality, confessional, theological education that will enable pastors throughout the world to proclaim Jesus Christ.

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.
If you cruise by the website of Grace Lutheran Church of Auburn, Michigan, you will find the following comment from Rev. David H. Reed, “I count it the most wonderful blessing and humble privilege to be a pastor. God’s love and pardon for all people through the cross of Christ is the greatest message to proclaim. I have no greater joy than to administer God’s gifts to His people.” These words express his perspective during his some 37 years in the ministry.

Pastor Reed began his journey of service to the church as a teacher. “I had the privilege of serving for seven years in the teaching ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fremont, Nebraska. There I taught a self-contained eighth grade class and also had responsibilities in youth ministry,” explains Pastor Reed. “It was during a vacancy in that congregation (there were ordinarily two pastors but one had accepted a call) that I was called upon to assist in part of the calling ministry and giving
assistance with the Sunday liturgy, that I began to think more seriously of pastoral ministry.”

In addition to his experience at Trinity, there were many people God had placed in his life who helped point him toward the pastoral ministry. “There were great influences and models of consecrated men in the ministry who shaped my concept of what a true pastor should be. One was the pastor who confirmed me, Pastor Armin Hesse, Faith Lutheran Church, Pasadena, California, and Pastor Donald Levenhagen, the senior pastor of the congregation in Fremont. Both of these men were solid, faithful, selfless servants. They both had a caring, quiet outer demeanor and an iron, inner loyalty to their calling,” recalls Pastor Reed. “My father-in-law (Dr. Richard Schlecht, former president of the Michigan District) equally displayed always the virtues of a man who was a pastor at heart, steady, diligent, long-suffering and loving toward all.” He is also quick to add that his parents had an incalculable influence in shaping his attitude toward ministry. “My parents were faithful, godly and committed Christians active in our Lutheran Church—this no doubt shaped me in uncounted ways—my father especially. He was the kind of layman every pastor in the LCMS rejoices to have in a congregation, never less than fully supportive of whoever the pastor might be and always committed to service and stewardship.”

After much prayer and discussion with his wife, Susan, the Reeds decided it was time to enter the seminary. He chose CTS for many practical reasons: a smaller city, proximity to Susan’s parents in Michigan and many members of the student body also had young families. Yet, there were other factors that helped them decide on CTS. “There simply was the intangible. It was late summertime and the seminary campus was virtually empty. I remember walking into the chapel and someone was at the organ console playing. I sat down by myself and just somehow knew this was the place I might hope some day to study.”

Pastor Reed completed his Master of Divinity degree in 1983, then went on to serve parishes in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. He has served at Grace, Auburn, Michigan, since 1991 and has experienced the joys and challenges of faithfully serving God’s people. He humbly points to his own weaknesses as some of his greatest challenges and thoughtfully shares, “Daily I am aware of my own frailty and failures. Leading and persuading God’s people to steadfastness are very difficult when mindful that I, myself, have so much to learn and still have so little of the discipline I would wish to have. To supervise one’s own heart and character has been the greatest challenge.” Knowing this he remains steadfast in study and prayer.

Then there are the innumerable joys that parish pastors experience throughout their ministry. The opportunity to share the Gospel with many generations, the confirmations, weddings, baptisms and even funerals can be numbered as precious moments in a pastor’s ministry. “It is a joy to me to be granted a loving congregation to serve. Over the years, the parish members become friends. Then friends become family, and family becomes my very heart. To be able to serve and yet be loved by dear Christian people is a privilege which pastors enjoy in a very unique way.”

As he continues to serve the members of Grace, he contemplates their own struggles and how he can best serve them. He teaches them through catechesis and fostering their personal devotional life. He challenges them to subject all things to this litmus test: Is Christ-crucified foremost? Keeping that in mind, he encourages them to critique every program, initiative, event, project and idea by asking whether the effort, role or expenditure is essentially ours or is it Christ’s? Are decisions made on the basis of trends, surveys, statistics, or tastes or upon what is steadfast in the faith?

And most importantly, he serves them by loving them. “Love them by calling on them, praying with them, bearing with their weaknesses and their comments on your own flaws. The laypeople need to have their pastor disappear within the concealment of Christ,” counsels Pastor Reed. “The church doesn’t need bureaucrats, managers, celebrities or autocrats. Among the highest blessings is simply to be an undershepherd of the Good Shepherd. The church needs faithful, humble, Christ-like pastors. To continue to grow and nurture our laypeople is simply to administer the Means of Grace. To embellish or supplement the Gospel is essentially to deny and overshadow it. For the true growth and nurture of the church it is enough to agree concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.”

Pastor Reed has been married for 38 years to his wife, Susan. They are parents of four daughters: Christine Miller, Rebecca VanTol, Allison Wolf and Elizabeth, all of whom have served in church vocations, three as Lutheran educators and one on the Michigan District staff. The Reeds are also very proud and grateful grandparents of seven grandchildren: Emma, Jacob, Nathan, Claire, Caleb, Hannah and Leah.
Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will again host its annual Symposia January 18-21, 2011. Held every year on the Fort Wayne campus, presentations on Exegetical Theology and the Lutheran Confessions will highlight the four-day event.

Celebrating its 26th year, the theme for the Exegetical Theology Symposium is *Israel and the New Israel: Learning about Church from the Scriptures*. The 34rd annual Symposium on the Lutheran Confessions has chosen *C.F.W. Walther and His Times, His Theology and His Impact* as its theme.

### Tuesday, January 18, 2011

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**—Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, President and Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary

9:05 a.m. **The Role of Christ’s Second Coming in the Church’s Mission: Learning from Paul’s Eschatology in 1-2 Thessalonians**—Dr. Charles A. Gieschen, Professor of Exegetical Theology and Chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary

10:00 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. **Democracy or Torah Solidarity? Reflections on Scriptural Ecclesiology**—Dr. Dean O. Wenthe

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. **The Ecclesiology of Acts**—Dr. C. Kavin Rowe, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina

2:15 p.m. **Luke and the Foundations of the Church**—Dr. Peter J. Scaer, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary

3:00 p.m. Coffee Break

3:15 p.m. Panel Discussion—Dr. Arthur A. Just, Moderator

3:45 p.m. **Paul’s Use of the Old Testament in Philippians**—Dr. John G. Nordling, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary

4:45 p.m. Vespers

5:30 p.m. Dinner

### Wednesday, January 19, 2011

7:45 a.m. Short Exegetical Paper Sectionals (see below)

### Call for Papers

The Department of Exegetical Theology invites proposals for exegetical papers not to exceed 25 minutes for presentation during the sectionals on January 19 beginning at 7:45 a.m. A paragraph abstract is to be submitted by November 15, 2010, to Mr. Anthony Oliphant, Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 North Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825, or e-mail: Anthony.Oliphant@ctsfw.edu
The 34th Annual Symposium on The Lutheran Confessions
C. F. W. Walther and His Times, His Theology and His Impact

Wednesday, January 19, 2011
1:00 p.m.  Introduction: Walther’s Importance for Lutheranism Today — Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., Academic Dean and Professor of Historical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
1:15 p.m.  Walther and the Revival of Confessional Lutheranism — Dr. Martin R. Noland, Trinity Lutheran Church, Evansville, Indiana
2:15 p.m.  Theodore Kliefoth and the Revival of Confessional Lutheranism — Dr. Naomichi Masaki, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
3:00 p.m.  Walther and J.A.A. Grabau — Dr. Benjamin T. G. Maves, Editor, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri
4:00 p.m.  Wilhelm Loche: His Voice Now Heard in Walther’s Church — Professor John T. Pless, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, Concordia Theological Seminary
5:00 p.m.  Choral Vespers
6:15 p.m.  Dinner
Evening  Free

Thursday, January 20, 2011
8:45 a.m.  The Reception of Walther’s Theology in the Wisconsin Synod — Dr. Mark E. Braun, Professor of Theology, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Friday, January 21
9:00 a.m.  Walther’s Use of Luther — Dr. Cameron A. MacKenzie
10:00 a.m. Missouri’s First Justification Controversy: Edward Preuss Goes to Rome — Prof. Roland F. Ziegler, Assistant Professor, Systematic Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
11:00 a.m. Itinerarium

Lenten Preaching Workshop:
Monday, January 17, 2011
Christ’s Passion and Walther’s Passion

This year’s Lenten series will select moments from Christ’s last days and proclaim those saving acts by drawing upon the words and story of our Synod’s first voice. The presenter is Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II, Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, Dean of Pastoral Education, and Editor of Concordia Pulpit Resources. Cost for the seminar is $30.00. You may register online at www.ctsfw.edu/symposia, or by phoning 260.452.2172.
W ith great joy and thankfulness Concordia Theological Seminary began its 165th year of forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. Opening service for the 2010-11 academic year was September 12 in Kramer Chapel. Rev. Wayne E. Graumann, Chairman of the CTS Board of Regents and pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, Texas, served as preacher for the service, and a mixed-voice, seminary choir also participated.

“The opening of the 165th academic year is a display of God’s grace. For 165 years God has led young men to prepare for the Holy Ministry. For 165 years God has led the church to provide support for the formation of faithful and knowledgeable pastors. And now, God’s grace in Christ attends us as we prepare both pastors and deaconesses to serve God’s people with the precious Gospel in word and deed,” commented CTS President, Dr. Dean O. Wenthe. “With such a history, how confident we can be that the future is in God’s gracious and strong care. In Christ, we behold how deep and complete that care is for each of us. What a splendid way to begin our 165th academic year!”

In addition to welcoming residential pastoral ministry and deaconess students, distance learning students and graduate studies students from all around the world, Rev. Roger E. Rohde, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Indiana District, installed the members of the Board of Regents, including newly-elected members Dr. Ronald M. Garwood, Casper, Wyoming, former Wyoming District President; Dr. Leo S. Mackay, Alexandria, Virginia, Vice President, Corporate Business Development, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Dr. Scott R. Murray, Houston, Texas, Senior Pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church; and Dr. Bradd W. Stucky, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, Professor of Education—Marian University.

Rev. Rhode also installed two new staff members: Dr. Cynthia E. Lumley as Associate Director of the Deaconess Studies Program and Rev. Andrew T. Yeager (CTS 2010) as an Admission Counselor.
Blessings Abound for Food and Clothing Co-op

The seminary Food and Clothing Co-op depends greatly on the donations of organizations and individuals from across the United States. Two of those groups are Lutheran Fraternities of America-Michigan, a division of Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh, and the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter 30840 of St. James Lutheran Church, Logansport, Indiana.

CTS students, many of them summer Greek students, were happy to give of their time to unload the donations from LFA. Mr. Dick Hallgren and Mr. Russ Seifferlein drove the truck to the seminary.

On May 18 and August 30 of this year the Co-op received shipments from Brakebush Brothers, Chicken of Westfield, Wisconsin. For many years they have been faithful in their efforts to feed the students here at the seminary. These two shipments totaled over 3,600 pounds of chicken product. We thank God for the decades of generosity of Brakebush Brothers of the past and the commitment to continuing to provide chicken even with the passing on May 1, 2010, of President William C. Brakebush, a dear friend of CTS.

The members of the Thrivent Chapter presented a check to President Wenthe in the amount of $1,000 to purchase much needed items for the Co-op. They are displaying the receipt for the items purchased with that $1,000… it is over seven feet long! Members from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter 30840 include: James and Gloria Metz, Jo Lynn Miller, Dorann Heimlich, Carol Hallam, Darla Ward, Verla Neuendorf and her mother-in-law Mrs. Schmidt, Karla Popejoy and Kathryn Norlin.

In addition to donating financially, members from St. James, Logansport, also give of their time by stocking the items their dollars purchased and by sorting paper goods at the Co-op.

Spaghetti O’s were flying as students formed a line to help unload the food items that were donated by Lutheran Fraternities of America. This is the 24th year the group from Michigan has gathered donations and brought them to the seminary.

On May 18 and August 30 of this year the Co-op received shipments from Brakebush Brothers, Chicken of Westfield, Wisconsin. For many years they have been faithful in their efforts to feed the students here at the seminary. These two shipments totaled over 3,600 pounds of chicken product. We thank God for the decades of generosity of Brakebush Brothers of the past and the commitment to continuing to provide chicken even with the passing on May 1, 2010, of President William C. Brakebush, a dear friend of CTS.
Students in the seminary’s distance learning courses will soon have a much easier time learning from their professors thanks to the generous support of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. Due to the generosity of LWML members from across the nation, the seminary is a recipient of a $36,000 grant for the purchase of computers for distance education.

These new systems have enabled the rebirth of the distance learning lab as a place for creating content for the seminary’s online programs, including both the M.A. in Deaconess Studies as well as the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program. The new system allows the faculty to teach using familiar tools and methods and to have that classroom experience recorded in a way that makes it easy for students around the world to view and learn.

Because the system is modular in nature, it allows for not only enhancing the distance education programs, but also to improve the technology available to our residential students. Starting later this year two of our classrooms will be fitted with automated recording systems which will enable students to watch a video of their class as soon as two hours after the class is complete. Should a student miss class or otherwise need to review something the professor has said, it will then be available at the touch of a button. As funding allows, the system will be rolled out to more classrooms and the recording technology will benefit more students, both residentially as well as at a distance.

We’ve taken our first steps into a much wider world, and the gifts today from the ladies of the LWML will continue to benefit students for generations to come.

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**Retreat to the Seminary 2011**

**Spring Confirmation Retreat**
March 18-20

The retreat will be led by Rev. David O. Stecker and Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer, both of whom serve as pastors of Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Indiana. 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 e-mail Retreats@ctsfw.edu or phone 260.452.2172.
Seminary’s Official Magazine Now Available Online

*For the Life of the World*, published by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, is a magazine that speaks eloquently to the issues of the day from a confessional, Lutheran perspective and offers thoughtful insight into the complexities facing our church, our community and each individual. It is an excellent resource to keep you updated on the training of pastors, missionaries and deaconesses as they prepare to spread the good news of the Gospel to all corners of the earth.

We are pleased to announce that a full, digital version is now available via the internet. “We are excited to be able to offer *For the Life of the World* via our website, as people are increasingly getting their news and information electronically,” commented Jason L. Iwen, CTS Director of Information Technology. “This gives us one more avenue by which we can teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

The complete library of issues, dating back to December of 1997, is now available in an easy-to-read format by going to www.ctsfw.edu/ForTheLifeOfTheWorld. Each issue is available in its entirety. Also at this site you will have the opportunity to create an account to choose to receive the traditional, print version; e-mail notification for new issues of the digital version or both. The issues are also being indexed on our media site at media.ctsfw.edu and will be fully searchable. This will be an invaluable service for those doing research on a particular subject and congregations that would like to download specific articles to supplement Bible studies.

Manage Your *For the Life of the World* Subscription

- Online at www.ctsfw.edu/ForTheLifeOfTheWorld
- By e-mail: PublicRelations@ctsfw.edu
- By phone: 260.452.2250
- By mail: Concordia Theological Seminary
  *For the Life of the World*
  6600 N. Clinton Street
  Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Alumni Updates

The class reunions in May of 2010 were deemed a rousing success by the attendees. In fact, one couple told us being on the campus was “the next thing to being in heaven!” We are humbled by that comment and look forward to another group of reunions in May 2011. If 2011 marks the 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th or 55th anniversary of your graduation from CTS, mark your calendars for May 19–20 as we will gather on the campus to Celebrate Ministry, Friends and Memories. There will be many activities, as well as ample time to visit with your classmates. More information will be available in the coming months.

If you have questions about the reunions, please contact Rev. Robert Shonholz, Alumni Reunion Coordinator, 260.452.2195, Alumni@ctsfw.edu.

We would also like to begin an alumni page in *For the Life of the World* where we can include alumni, accomplishments, anniversaries, etc. If you have news you would like share, simply e-mail it to PublicRelations@ctsfw.edu; if you include photos, JPEG format at 300dpi is best. You may also mail your news to *For the Life of the World*, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. We will include as many updates as possible in upcoming issues of the magazine.
The mission of the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild is to serve God by communicating the needs and encouraging the support of the seminary and its students. God’s grace enables us to pray, to encourage men and women in our LCMS congregations for the ministry and the deaconess program, and support the seminary by providing for its spiritual and physical needs. We meet at the seminary on a monthly basis, and we would love to have more of our friends join us.

Each year we raise funds for a project that will benefit the students. We are pleased to announce that we have met (and exceeded) our $10,000 goal to replace washers and dryers in all the dorms. Our students may now use the new, commercial-duty machines free of charge! All this was made possible due to the generosity of our members and groups from their congregations. We’ll keep you updated when the project for 2011-12 is decided upon. The photos on the next page show many of the thankful residential students!

Currently we work together with nearly 70 congregations in the greater Fort Wayne area. Most of these congregations have first and second year seminarians serving as fieldworkers, and now some of these congregations may have a deaconess serving as well. If you are a member of a congregation that has a fieldworker, vicar or deaconess intern and you wish to find out more about CTS, do not hesitate to talk to him or her. We would love to have you as a Guild member! If you are a member or group (Bible Study Group, Circle, LWML, Altar Guild, etc.) of an LCMS congregation further away from the Fort Wayne area, you can become an Organization member. Annual dues are $10 for individuals and $25 for organizations.

For additional information please visit us at www.ctsfw.edu/Guild or phone 260.452.2172.

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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, Seminary Guild President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Box 8, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

☐ 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.

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**2010-2011 Calendar**

**2010**

November 9 Military Month

December 7 Christmas concert with the Seminary Kantorei, refreshments and fellowship

**2011**

February 8 Mission Emphasis

March 8 Spring Luncheon

April 12 Election of officers and preparation of auction baskets for Lutherfest

April 15 Lutherfest
Dear Sisters in Christ:

How privileged we are to be recipients of the Lord’s blessings through you. Like loving mothers and grandmothers, you went to work and succeeded beyond our expectations. Not only did you make our everyday lives better by replacing our old, coin-operated washers and dryers—you provided brand-new, coin-free, state-of-the-art equipment that makes doing laundry easier and more efficient. This gift has improved our lives in the seminary dorms more than we can say. We deeply appreciate your act of love in providing for our everyday needs in such a generous way.

Your Brothers and Sisters,
the Residential Students

With Many Thanks!
Military Project: Bringing Living Water to a Scorched Land
By Deaconess Intern Carolyn Brinkley

I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. Matthew 25:35

The extreme summer heat of the Afghanistan desert made conditions almost unbearable for those who protect our country. This provided a unique opportunity for the Military Project to bring the mercy of Christ to our suffering troops. In response to a request by Chaplain Sean Ballard over 4,000 freezer pops were sent in a series of shipments throughout the summer.

Chaplain Sean Ballard writes, “I am coming to the end of my tour, but I want you to know that your efforts and the efforts of the staff, volunteers and donors to the Military Project aided in lifting the morale of 3,500+ military members and third country nationals. I proudly wear the title of the “Freezy Pop Chaplain.” I consider it an honor, because Christ has used us to lift the morale of those who are sacrificing so much. I witnessed adult men and women, 30 and 40 years-of-age, transformed into little children because of those pops. Wow, the power of a little love can change the heart of the roughest and toughest people. You can only imagine what joy comes to my heart when people who, working in 70% humidity and 110+ degrees, smile and say, ‘You’re the best chaplain’ and what that means. God worked through all of you. Sharing Christ in the military has been very difficult and those freezy pops broke down doors. God bless the hands and hearts of those who God calls to serve those who serve.”

Chaplain Sean Ballard distributed freezer pops to overheated troops as they endured extreme temperatures and harsh conditions of the Afghanistan summer.

How can you help?
Please keep our chaplains and the soldiers they serve in your prayers. They are God’s instruments of protection. They leave family, home and country so we and our families can live in peace and security.

For more information on how your church can set up a military project or participate in current service projects, please e-mail militaryproject@ctsfw.edu or call 260.452.2100.

Monetary donations can be mailed to:
Concordia Theological Seminary
Attn: Military Project Coordinator
6600 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

379th Air Expeditionary Wing
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
AWARDED TO
Concordia Theological Seminary
Thank you for the freezer pops. The troops here at Victory Chapel in Southwest Asia just love what you sent them. The care you put into our ministry touched the hearts of everyone here. Ministries like yours help us do a good job in taking care of troops. Be proud knowing that you made hundreds of people very happy and made this a better place.

Glorifying God, Serving Airmen, Pursuing Excellence
Profile in Giving

Oh Give Thanks!

Over the past year, these pages have shared stories of people and congregations just like you who have supported the students of Concordia Theological Seminary in various ways. We have entitled these stories “Profiles in Giving.”

Each profile we share has a common thread of thankfulness for what God has entrusted to them. They are thankful having realized it all has come from Him by His grace, mercy and love. They are thankful for being served by a pastor, and possibly a deaconess, who loves and cares for them just like Jesus did when He walked the earth over 2,000 years ago. These people, congregations and organizations want to help fulfill the Great Commission by continuing to have faithful servants who are formed in Jesus Christ who will be there from birth to the grave constantly proclaiming Christ to them, their families and the communities in which they serve.

We will continue to share real stories on these pages in the future, because those profiled would like to encourage others to be involved and support Concordia Theological Seminary in forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. For now, however, it is time for us to pause and give thanks to you—our partners in mission and ministry—for all you have done and continue to do.

We offer thanks because, by God’s grace, you have been faithfully supporting Concordia Theological Seminary for over 164 years with your gifts, time, talents and prayers. You have encouraged sons of your congregations to answer the call to be pastors and daughters to become deaconesses. You have been faithful financial supporters. You are God’s people who give, in ways large and small, to sustain our shared mission. It is these gifts that support the physical operation of the seminary, that provide scholarships and tuition assistance, and endowment gifts that help secure the future.

We thank God for the myriad of ways you, His people, give by direct, planned and estate gifts, material gifts that support the Food and Clothing Co-op, through your congregation, LWML and a multitude of other ways. We want you to know how important your prayers and gifts are to the men and women who will serve the church around the world.

We invite you to continue to look for these “Profiles in Giving” and to keep Concordia Theological Seminary in your prayers as we, with your help, prayers and by God’s grace, continue to provide to His church faithful servants formed in Jesus Christ!
Rev. James Keller and his family began work with the Buddhist Burmese in 1998 while he was a student at Concordia Theological Seminary and serving at his fieldwork assignment at New Life Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. Visiting Asian markets, meeting Burmese refugees and learning Burmese from a Buddhist monk were all experiences that prepared him for his vicarage and call to New Life to work among the nearly 6,000 Burmese who live in Fort Wayne, the largest group of Burmese refugees outside of Thailand. Rev. Keller was ordained in June 2001 and began Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese (LAMB) in 2004.

The ministry of LAMB is to train and equip evangelists, Bible teachers, pastors and missionaries for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and plant churches among the Burmese people. Pastor Keller has an unpaid call to New Life Lutheran Church as associate pastor and is deployed to LAMB. In addition to his ministry duties, Pastor Jim must raise his own funding for ministry.

The basis of this Bible Study comes from his many years of service to the Buddhist people in Fort Wayne,

Buddhism is built on the concept of Dukkha (suffering). The Buddha became enlightened by realizing the truth about suffering. This is called the Four Noble Truths:
1) The universality of suffering
2) The origin of suffering
3) The overcoming of suffering
4) The way leading to the suppression of suffering (The Eightfold Path)

What the Buddha taught about suffering is that the origin of suffering is desire. What does the Bible say is the origin of suffering? Many people would answer sin. Yet what is the origin of sin?

For a Buddhist, suffering is to be avoided. Yet because of wrong desire (sin) we have suffering. A Buddhist believes that the only purpose of suffering is to pay for your wrong desire (sin). What does the Bible teach as the first purpose of suffering? Romans 6:23

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The Bible also gives us other reasons for suffering. What does Hebrews 12:7 tell us is a purpose of suffering?

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What does 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 tell us is a purpose of suffering?

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What does 2 Corinthians 1:6 tell us is a purpose of suffering?

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What does 2 Timothy 2:10 tell us is a purpose of suffering?

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How can suffering further the cause of God’s Mission? The early church had a saying, “The church grows on the blood of her martyrs.” How you handle suffering can be an effective witness to others. How you help others in their suffering can also be an effective witness. What promise does Romans 8:28 hold for you in your suffering?
Think on the lives of famous missionaries. How much suffering did they endure in order to bring the Good News of Jesus to others? What do Matthew 5:11-12, Colossians 1:24 and 1 Peter 4:12-14 have to say about suffering?

The Buddhist concept of suffering is a fatalistic view. Suffering is deserved for sins of either this life or previous lives. But the Christian view of suffering is much different. This suffering has a greater purpose than just penalty for sins. Through the Holy Spirit, a Christian may view suffering with a mission perspective. We suffer so that others may be brought to faith through our suffering.

My mother died of cancer five years ago. This was a difficult time for our family. The Buddhist view of my mother’s suffering was that she had cancer because of a past sin. My father deserved to have a wife with cancer because of his past sin. My sisters and I deserved to have a mother with cancer because of our past sins. But the Christian view is much different. My mother had a very strong faith in Christ. Many Burmese Buddhists came to visit my mother during her last days. They wanted to see how a Christian family reacted to this suffering. When my mother died, many Buddhists attended her funeral. They were shocked that our family did not grieve as Buddhists grieve. Yes, we were sad, but we were not overwhelmed with our grief. We held on to the hope of the resurrection. Many Buddhists asked questions of the Burmese Christians present at the funeral. These Christians were able to share our hope in Christ. God used my mother’s sufferings and our family’s as a means to witness to His goodness and grace. How will you look upon your suffering now?

Rev. James Keller has served at New Life Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, since 2005. He is married to Annette and their missionary family includes: Gwen, Peter, Felicia, Parker, MaryJane, Glory, Jessica, Elizabeth and Anna.

For additional information concerning any of the events, please visit www.ctsfw.edu or phone 260.452.2100.
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