Be an Encourager
By Rev. David C. Fleming

A Theological Recipe for Forming Pastors and Deaconesses
By Dr. Charles A. Gieschen

Supporting Future Pastors and Deaconesses
By Mr. Gary L. Nahrwold
A few years back there was a significant controversy over the words “In God We Trust” appearing on the currency of the United States. Reactions were strong on both sides, some people claiming that the constitution demands a rigid “separation of church and state” (even though that language is not found in the Constitution proper), while others, like here in Indiana, were successful in getting the phrase “In God We Trust” offered on license plates.

That’s the America we find ourselves in now. Deep divisions exist concerning the place of Christianity in our historic, current and future story as a nation.

What that means for the church is that we can no longer assume preferred or even favorable treatment in the postmodern times in which we live. Rather, the church finds itself forced into an apologetic stance unlike that of any time in its recent history here in the United States.

And that is the reason we need committed preachers of the Word, deaconesses to stand alongside pastors who engage in acts of mercy and faithful and well-informed lay leaders to guide the congregations of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partners in mission around the world. That is what Concordia Theological Seminary is about, namely, we exist to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

This issue of For the Life of the World includes three perspectives on the importance of encouraging future pastors and deaconesses, written by our Academic Dean, a pastor in the field and one of our laymen on staff. In each you’ll hear the echo of our mission statement and the importance of leading qualified candidates to consider theological education here at the seminary.

We are particularly convinced that the experience of residential study, the God-given opportunity of “being there” is key to the formation of pastoral and diaconal servants who:

Teach
- Know the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions and have a deep appreciation for the church and its manifestations throughout history.
- Commit themselves to live lives faithful to the Scriptures, the witness of the early church (as expressed in the three ecumenical creeds) and the Lutheran Confessions.
- Catechize the people of God so that they are able to testify to the hope that is within them.

Reach
- Engage the world as God’s own creation with attention to the cultural questions of the contemporary context from the perspective of the Lutheran confession of the biblical witness.
- Reach out with the Gospel with theological integrity and passion for those who do not know Christ.
- Encourage the people of God to support missions at home and abroad.

Care
- Embody Christ in their service by valuing all human life as a gift from God, from conception to natural death.
- Practice spiritual, physical, emotional and collegial care for themselves and those around them.
- Practice a life of prayer and devotion toward God and a life of love and mercy toward their neighbor.

Concordia Theological Seminary has carried out this mission faithfully and well for 166 years. Our circumstances are different from those of our founders and no doubt change will continue. Still God is our refuge, our strength and our hope for the future. We look forward to our ongoing partnership in forming servants for years to come.

Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President, Concordia Theological Seminary
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7 A Theological Recipe for Forming Pastors and Deaconesses
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Be an Encourager

By Rev. David C. Fleming
I remember a disturbing movie. It portrayed a violent and ruthless modern society in ugly civil war, but worst of all there were no babies, no children and no expectant mothers. Consequently, there was no hope. The story followed the only pregnant mother on earth. When her child was born, cried and was carried into the strife-ridden streets, everything stopped. The warring madness ceased. All were enthralled by the first newborn in over a decade. Hope lived again.

Every time a new pastor or deaconess is sent out into the world, hope lives on. The Lord knows we need them. He knows our congregations and communities need willing and well-trained servants. He taught, “Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together” (John 4:35-36). We need sowers of Christ and reapers of Christians for joy.

So what can we do to encourage men to study to be pastors and women to prepare to serve as deaconesses?

Pray. Jesus called on His followers to cry out, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2). He also taught us to pray to our Father, “hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,” which is a daily request that the Lord allow His saving Word to be proclaimed faithfully for the joy and edifying of many people. Pray privately and publicly. Pray with your family and your congregation. Give thanks to the Lord for the pastors and deaconesses He’s given us, but also ask that He send bright men and bright women to prepare for churchly vocations.

Teach. Young children learn the variety of different vocations. By junior high students are starting to narrow down what work is most interesting to them from the possibilities they know. So invite a pastor or deaconess to talk to young students about their work. I still remember my pastor coming to our first grade classroom at our Lutheran school. He showed his vestments, explained what they meant and talked about his work. I also remember he asked the boys to raise their hands if they wanted to become pastors. Almost all the boys did. I didn’t. I wanted to become an airline pilot, but pastor was certainly an option I knew about.

Remember. The author of Hebrews directs the church, “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God” (Hebrews 13:7). The author of Hebrews goes on in chapter 13 to fill out what this remembering includes: giving thanks to God, doing good, sharing the things they have with their leaders and submitting to those who teach the Lord’s Word. A husband remembers his wife on their wedding anniversary not just by thinking about his wife, but by acting on that remembering through thanksgiving to God, kind words to his beloved and perhaps a thoughtful gift; so Christians remember their pastors and church workers by similar actions. What a blessing when pastors and deaconesses faithfully serve and congregations remember them by giving thanks to the Lord for them, providing them with financial support and joyfully receiving the Word of the Lord. The congregation’s love for those who serve her goes a long way in encouraging others to serve in these ways, too.

Teach. Young children learn the variety of different vocations. By junior high students are starting to narrow down what work is most interesting to them from the possibilities they know. So invite a pastor or deaconess to talk to young students about their work. I still remember my pastor coming to our first grade classroom at our Lutheran school. He showed his vestments, explained what they meant and talked about his work. I also remember he asked the boys to raise their hands if they wanted to become pastors. Almost all the boys did. I didn’t. I wanted to become an airline pilot, but pastor was certainly an option I knew about.
**Encourage.** I cannot think of a pastor or deaconess who was not encouraged along the way by several dear Christians. It is very powerful when you tell some man, young or not, “I think you’d be a good pastor.” One part of encouraging is giving opportunities to serve. Where I serve we train confirmed young men to carry the cross and processionals torches giving them an important part in the church’s confession of Christ. Even better is teaching men and women the riches of Holy Scripture so that they might be prepared to give a joyful answer concerning their trust in Christ. Inviting possible future pastors and deaconesses to assist in teaching Sunday School or Vacation Bible School gives them opportunities to see if they are interested in teaching the faith. Sending high school men to Christ Academy gives them a fun opportunity to taste life at the seminary. The congregation I serve has been generous in picking up the tab so there are less impediments to attending.

**Support.** Seminary education is delightful but rigorous. The cost can be daunting. As the Lord allows, give generously from the bounty He provides to support individual students or the seminary’s scholarship fund so that future workers are not deterred. Rarely does someone prepare for full-time work in the church expecting to get rich, but it certainly helps if the pastor or deaconess can begin with little or no debt. If you don’t know of a seminary student, consider adopting one.

It’s been a joy here to watch a few men prepare for the office of the Holy Ministry and to send a woman to prepare for the churchly vocation of deaconess. This May, almost exactly 25 years after I received my Divine Call, I was delighted to watch a young man, who has become dear to our congregation, receive his Call into the Holy Ministry. I pray that together we can watch many more pastors and deaconesses be prepared and sent in answer to our Lord’s bidding.

Rev. David C. Fleming serves as pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. You can learn more about the ministry at Our Savior by visiting their website at www.oursavior-gr.org.

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**Want More Info?**

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a deaconess or pastor or if you would like to encourage a prospective student, the best place to start is with the CTS Office of Admission. You can get started at www.ctsfw.edu/Admission and learn about the programs offered, get financial aid information and connect with our Relocation Coordinator.

You can e-mail us anytime at Admission@ctsfw.edu or connect with a counselor over the phone at 800-481-2155.

Choosing to become a deaconess or pastor is a noble task, and we look forward to working with you as you begin your journey!

CTS Admission staff (left-right): Kristin Hodge, Deaconess Admission Counselor; Rev. Andrew Yeager, Admission Counselor; Rev. John Dreyer, Director of Admission; Marsha Zimmerman, Relocation Coordinator.
My wife enjoys cookbooks with photographs that allow her to choose a recipe based upon how the food should end up looking if the recipe is followed. The idea is that if you take the ingredients specified in the recipe and follow the directions outlined, you will have the same pleasant-looking food that you see in the photograph every time.

What is the theological recipe for forming faithful pastors and deaconesses? Is there a formula that works every time it is used and produces the same result? Each of us probably shares some ideas about what it takes to form a pastor or deaconess. For a pastor, begin with a man who has been a Lutheran for several years, has been thoroughly catechized by a solid pastoral mentor, has a pleasant and well-adjusted personality, is intelligent and capable of public speaking, put him through a four year seminary program and out comes a faithful Lutheran pastor. For a deaconess, begin with a woman who has been Lutheran for several years, has been thoroughly catechized by a solid pastor, has a pleasant and well-adjusted personality, is intelligent and...
compassionate, put her through a three year seminary program and out comes a faithful deaconess. Is that how it works? Well, not quite. There is no photograph for how a pastor or deaconess will look after following such a recipe. In fact, in the formation of pastors and deaconesses there are always unique ingredients: the men and women studying for the pastoral and deaconess offices have already been shaped profoundly by their individual experiences prior to arriving at the seminary. Because we are all uniquely and wonderfully made by our Creator and have distinctive experiences prior to seminary through our physical and spiritual families, there are no cookie cutter pastors and deaconesses. And considering the unique needs of diverse congregations, that is a good thing! The church has diverse situations with varied needs. Not every pastor or deaconess can function equally well in every call situation.

As a confessional church, however, we do want each pastor and deaconess to share a common confession and basic competency. So what is the theological recipe for the formation of pastors and deaconesses at this seminary? An important component is coming to the seminary with a strong grounding in the Scriptures and Luther’s *Small Catechism*. Also important are previous educational experiences in undergraduate programs that cultivate critical thinking, literary analysis, clear writing, articulate speech and communication skills helpful for cultivating relationships. Competencies in biblical languages, such as Greek and Hebrew, through one’s undergraduate work allow one to get into the seminary’s pastoral curriculum more quickly and to take additional electives.

The main ingredient in the recipe for future pastors is the Master of Divinity program. This program is approximately three years of academic course work and a year of vicarage. Our recently revised curriculum has courses in the primary theological disciplines—Exegetical, Historical, Systematic and Practical—as well as courses that are integrative. The foundation of the curriculum is the study of the Scriptures in their original languages, especially the study of the four Gospels which focus on the life and work of Jesus Christ. The Gospels courses in the first and fourth years are an important basis for the study of how the truths of the Scriptures have been confessed by the church over the centuries, and they also prepare the student for preaching and teaching the faith. The study of the Lutheran Confessions deepens one’s understanding of the biblical truths that our Reformation forefathers fought to uphold. Fieldwork experiences during the first two years prepare students to develop practical pastoral skills necessary for the year-long vicarage experience where the student is mentored by an experienced pastor. Integrative courses on Baptism, Preaching and the Lord’s Supper help keep these pastoral acts front and center in the formation of pastors as servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. Components of the Master of Divinity program are used in both the Alternate Route program (residential) and the Specific Ministry Pastor program (online).

The main ingredient in the recipe for the formation of future deaconesses is the Master of Arts program, a two year course of academic study followed by a one year internship. Several of the courses draw on the Master of Divinity curriculum because these courses form an important biblical and confessional foundation for deaconess service. Several courses that focus on the unique mercy focus of deaconess service round out the
Discernment Resources

As you begin to think about seminary education, there are many resources to help in the discernment process. You can go to www.ctsfw.edu/Admission and choose from several pertinent articles that will address questions you may have. Rev. John Dreyer, Director of Admission, also offers these suggestions for helpful reading:

**Getting Started:**
- *The Holy Bible* – English Standard Version (Recommend the Lutheran Study Bible from Concordia Publishing House-CPH)
- *The Lutheran Confessions* (Especially the Pocket Edition from CPH)
- *The Lutheran Service Book* (CPH)
- Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation (CPH)

**Preparation Through Prayer and Devotion:**
- *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (CPH)
- *The Lutheran Book of Prayer* (CPH)
- *Reading the Psalms with Luther* (CPH)

**Good Lutheran Resources:**
- *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*, by C. F. W. Walther
- *The Lutheran Difference* (CPH), various authors
- *Luther the Reformer* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press), by Rev. James M. Kittleson
- *The Hammer of God* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press) by Bo Giertz
- *Discourses in Matthew–Jesus Teaches the Church*, (CPH), by Dr. David P. Scaer
- *The Great Jesus Debates: Four Early Church Battles about the Person & Work of Jesus* (CPH), by Douglas W. Johnson
- *The Fire and the Staff* (CPH), by Klemet Preus
- *A Summary of Christian Doctrine NKJV*, by Edward W. A. Koehler

**Non-Theological Works Worth Reading:**
- *Philosophy for Understanding Theology* (2nd ed.), by Diogenes Allen and Eric O. Springsted (Amazon)
- *Primary Readings in Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, by Diogenes Allen and Eric O. Springstead (Amazon)

As always, you can contact our Office of Admission at Admission@ctsfw.edu or 800-481-2155, and one of our counselors will be happy to assist you.
Supporting Future Pastors and Deaconesses

By Mr. Gary L. Nahrwold
As I pondered writing on the topic of encouraging future pastors and deaconesses, my thoughts kept being drawn to the past. For over 165 years the people of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod have shown unwavering support for Concordia Theological Seminary by raising up future church workers and providing much needed financial support for their formation and education.

Regardless of the era, location, being a life-long Lutheran or a recent convert, all these people have two things in common. First, they have experienced change. Second, they have been served by a faithful pastor or deaconess. The change may be slow or it may proceed at a frightening pace. And, admittedly, the service often goes unnoticed. Occasionally the change and service happen in such a way as to highlight why God has put pastors and deaconesses into our lives.

For our family one event occurred in April 2002 when my Dad entered the hospital. He was having some complications from a chronic illness, spent about three weeks in the hospital and we were assured “he is going home tomorrow.” As plans were being made to continue his recovery, he faltered, passing away that very day.

A funeral was held on a Tuesday in late April where our pastor assured us that Dad was in Heaven with his Lord and told us what Christ had done for him to assure that. “He is in Heaven.”

That pastor, formed at Concordia Theological Seminary, is the same pastor who has held several of our grandchildren over the years and baptized them into life in Christ. Our pastor has spoken the comforting words of absolution and administered Holy Communion to our family and countless others.

Though much has changed in over 165 years, some things remain unwavering. Pastors, and more recently deaconesses, are formed at Concordia Theological Seminary to serve in a world that is increasingly hostile towards Christ. They are sent into a society that has experienced enormous social, economic and cultural adjustments. Norms and values have been adjusted to fit the times. Truth is challenged and replaced with the flighty, personal opinions of sinful people. Politicians and celebrities, rather than the Word of God, define value systems and world views.

The unwavering dedication to formation is more than just classroom education, more than the imparting of knowledge and facts. It also takes place in Kramer Chapel, continues in group study, is honed during dining hall discussions with fellow classmates and faculty and is applied in practical experience in fieldwork and vicarage.

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Two more things have been unwavering.

First is the willingness of God’s people prayerfully to encourage men and women in service to His church. Speaking encouraging words to a grade school student. Having coffee with a college student or co-worker and letting them know how God has blessed them with the skills needed to serve. Or the quiet example set by a pastor and deaconess as they go about their call. In these ways, and many more, you encourage the next generation of pastors and deaconesses.

Second is the willingness of God’s people prayerfully to provide generous financial support for the formation of these men and women. God’s people giving, in ways big and small, to sustain our shared mission. Your gifts support the physical operation of the seminary, provide scholarships and tuition assistance and build endowments that help secure the future. You help students through direct current gifts, planned and estate gifts, material gifts that support the Food and Clothing Co-op, gifts given through your congregation or LWML and a multitude of other ways.

As time marches on, more children will be baptized into life, God’s Word will be proclaimed, absolution from sin will be given, Christ’s body and blood distributed, God’s mercy will be demonstrated by works of mercy and words of peace and comfort that pass understanding will be spoken to families. Concordia Theological Seminary will remain unwavering in carrying out our shared mission, to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

Mr. Gary L. Nahrwold serves Concordia Theological Seminary as Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement. If you would like to discuss ways to support our students, feel free to contact him at Gary.Nahrwold@ctsfw.edu or 877-288-4338, ext. 2277.

Will You Adopt a Student?

The Student Adoption Program is a great opportunity for congregations, groups such as Ladies Aid Societies and Sunday Schools or individuals to receive first-hand awareness of the seminary’s mission and its service to you and the church. Through your interaction with students who are dedicating their lives to serving the Lord, you will have the opportunity to share in the joys, and occasional sorrows, of their journey. In this tangible and direct manner you can be an active participant in the formation of pastors and deaconesses. Your support will provide moral and spiritual encouragement through prayer and correspondence.

In addition, your financial assistance will help provide for the physical needs of students and their families, from paying the utility bills to buying shoes for the children. An additional benefit of this program is that students form strong relationships with the individuals and congregations that adopt them as they share the seminary experience.

To become a participant in this rewarding program, please go to www.ctsfw.edu/StudentAdoption. If you have any questions, please contact us by phone at 260-452-2167 or by e-mail at StudentAdoption@ctsfw.edu.
The Lutheran reformation was not a revolution. It brought change to the church, to be sure, but it was a movement that was essentially more conservative than progressive, an attempt to go backward, not forward, in order to recover “the everlasting Gospel” (Revelation 14:6). Even though they were not uncritical of the early church fathers, the first Lutheran reformers and their later followers continued to be influenced deeply by these ancient theologians. Even though Luther disagreed with the way in which the mass was celebrated in his day, he emphatically retained the church’s historic liturgy. This same restorative principle held true at the University of Wittenberg where the traditional liberal arts (including grammar, rhetoric and music) were considered essential training for those preparing to be servants of the Word, the surest guarantee that “theology would stand upright.”

There is a growing movement among thoughtful Lutherans to return ad fontes, the fountainheads of the past which have so profoundly shaped the present contours of our minds and hearts. These seminal sources are, first and foremost, the Scriptures in their original languages, but they also include: the church fathers, whether earlier, like Jerome and Chrysostom, or later, like Chemnitz and Gerhard; the traditional hymns, liturgy, music of the church (think Ambrose and Bach); and the enduring literary masterpieces of the world’s great poets and thinkers—from Homer and Virgil to Augustine and Luther.

The purpose of this conference is not simply to revisit the past as an academic exercise, but to help to make it vibrantly alive today, in universities and seminaries, in grade schools and high schools and in worship services. By embracing their rich and distinctive historical identity Lutherans may, paradoxically enough, discover how best to be freely and fully Lutheran in the future. With 20 sectional presentations, three plenary papers, a banquet address, a panel discussion on “Why the Fathers Still Matter to Lutherans,” a pedagogy workshop designed for classical educators, three worship services in Latin, “Lutheranism and the Classics II” provides a wide variety of offerings that should appeal to anyone interested in learning more about the critical importance of the “classics,” broadly defined, for the preservation of theological integrity, the renewal of confessional identity and the genuine growth of the church.

To register go to www.ctsfw.edu/Classics or phone 260-452-2204.
Helmut Thielicke once said that when we teach children the Catechism it is like an adolescent boy being clothed in his father’s suit. The pants are too long. The boy’s arms are too short for the sleeves of the jacket. Engulfed in an unwieldy outfit, the kid is an odd sight as he staggers around inhibited by clothes that don’t fit. Every movement is awkward and embarrassing. Yet, Thielicke concludes it is a good thing that the church teaches the Catechism to children even though it might be oversized for their comprehension at that moment in their lives. Thielicke wisely observes that just as the youth grows into his father’s clothing, so children grow up and into the Catechism. Just as a teenager dressed in clothes that fit exactly will soon grow out of them, bursting the seams and exhibiting limbs that protrude out of pants legs and sleeves that have become too short, so, too, the child who is taught something that superficially appears to be “age appropriate” will soon grow out of it. The goal of Christian teaching is not that children (and adults) grow out of the faith but up and into it more fully.

This means, as Luther puts it, that “the Christian is an eternal pupil, from infancy onwards” (WA 32, 136, 3). Standing in front of the Holy Scriptures, we continue to learn that which many of us were taught from infancy, always continuing to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). This was the way of Timothy who was instructed “to continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). Timothy, no doubt, learned the faith from his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois (see 2 Timothy 1:5). He is instructed by the Apostle Paul; urged to study as one approved by God as a “worker who has no need to be ashamed rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

The teaching that goes on in the home and the congregation continues at the seminary as men are prepared for the pastoral office and women for diaconal service. But the teaching does not end with graduation. It is significant that the ordination liturgy puts this question to the pastoral candidate: “Will you be diligent in the study of the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions?” (Lutheran Service Book Agenda, p. 166). Faithful pastors will continue to grow in their knowledge of the Bible and the Book of Concord. To paraphrase Luther just a bit, “the pastor is an eternal student, from ordination onwards.” Continuing education is essential both for the pastor’s own well-being but also for the sake of God’s flock he is called to serve. Theological study, whether alone or with brother pastors, is not a luxury or a leisure time undertaking; it is a necessity. The pastor must continue to grow in the knowledge and the skills provided by a seminary education. The degree might be completed but education is not.

Freshly ordained pastors might sometimes appear as Thielicke’s confirmand decked out in over-sized vestments. Parish ministry provides the opportunity not to exchange it for something that fits for the time being but to grow up and into the vestments with careful and continued study. 

Prof. John T. Pless serves as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and Director of Field Education at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. You may contact him at John.Pless@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2271.
New from Prof. Jeffrey Pulse

Rev. Jeffrey Pulse, Assistant Professor of Exegetical Theology at CTS, has written *A Year in the Old Testament: Meditations for Each Day of the Church Year*. *A Year in the Old Testament* guides you through reading the major stories of the Old Testament in the course of a year, and does it in a way that is encouraging and manageable. Along the way readers gain an understanding of the message of God’s Word.

**Each Day Includes**
- Main Psalmody
- Additional Psalmody
- Old Testament Reading
- New Testament Reading
- Prayer of the Day
- Brief Meditation

**Extras**
- Brief Introduction to the Christian Church Year
- A Liturgical Calendar–Sundays and Seasons
- A Sanctoral Calendar–Feast, Festivals and Commemorations with explanations
- Additional prayers

*A Year in the Old Testament* takes the readers from their own experiences of daily life into the Bible. There is no greater source of comfort, hope, help and counsel than the Word of God itself. Nothing serves the Christian faith more than diligently and daily reading and searching the Holy Scriptures. (Description from cph.org)

The book may be ordered by calling the CTS Bookstore at 260-452-2160 or online at www.cph.org.

CTS—Always Within Reach

Thanks to the use of today’s technology, the vast resources of the Concordia Theological Seminary media site, media.ctsfw.edu, are never more than a click away. Many of our friends have been making great use of the site via laptop and desktop computers, and Apple’s iPhone and iPad for instant access to the media site. “This means that the resources from the media site are available to people around the world, literally in the palm of their hand,” commented Rev. Bill Johnson, CTS Theological Education Technology Specialist.

The CTS media site contains full text of the entire publication history for *Concordia Theological Quarterly*, the CUEnet DELTO video collection, daily chapel sermons from Kramer Chapel, full courses from some of the biggest names in the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and more. The additions to the media site continue as CTS strives to expand this incredible tool for clergy, students and laity.

For additional information on the media site, please contact Rev. Johnson at William.Johnson@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-3202.
There are many stories throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod where young men follow in their pastor-father’s footsteps and also become a pastor. In most cases there are usually about 25 years between the seminary graduations of father and son. But for the Heath family it was a bit more abbreviated; dad, Timmothy Heath Sr., graduated from CTS in 2004 and son, Timmothy Heath Jr., will graduate in 2013.

“My father has always been my role model. He taught me how God’s grace to us in Jesus Christ is the source, foundation and joy of our eternal life in His presence. I began thinking about preparing for the Office of the Holy Ministry when my father went to seminary. He had been an elementary school counselor and had seen how these children and families needed so much more than the wisdom and counsel of man; they needed the absolving and recreative word of Christ to save them. That spurred him into the ministry,” said Timm. “Once we moved to Fort Wayne, we discussed theology more often and more deeply. During my last year of high school, I recognized the ever-present need for faithful
pastors, looked at the abilities God had given me and decided I would see if He would use me to serve His people as a pastor.”

With that in mind Timm enrolled at Concordia University—Nebraska, majored in History and pursued their fine Pre-Seminary program. During his undergrad years Timm also thought about where he would attend seminary. “Since my father attended CTS when I was in high school, the campus already felt like home. But it wasn’t until I had met the professors and graduates, and looked at its publications and curriculum that I made my final decision to attend,” explained Timm. “CTS prepares men for God’s formation by feeding them with an education and community deeply rooted in the gracious truth of the Word. Its professors pass on that Word, faithful to the Lutheran Confessions, and seek to plant within students the deep desire to love and serve the people God gives us so we can pass that Word on to them. In this way, CTS understands its chief purpose as serving God’s people by preparing men to be their faithful pastors.”

To find out more about the seminary he participated in Christ Academy College/Phoebe Academy College, which is an annual event for college students interested in pastoral ministry and the vocation of deaconess. In addition to getting many questions answered concerning the rigors of seminary life, he also had the pleasure of meeting Hannah Payton; the couple married in November 2009.

Timm began his studies at CTS in the fall of 2008. In addition to classes and fieldwork, he sang in the seminary’s Kantorei, which sings during chapel services and travels on two tours each year. For his third year, when most are setting off for vicarage, Timm and Hannah were headed to Cambridge, England, where Timm studied at Westfield House for one year. “The next summer we flew back to the U.S., drove across the country to California where I would begin my vicarage at Trinity Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, California. It was here, on January 11, 2012, that our beautiful daughter Adelaide was born.”

Now preparing for his final year at CTS, Timm is cognizant of the task for which he prepares, “It’s extremely daunting and humbling to be one who would speak God’s unerring Word to people deafened by and suffering in their sin. There is so much I don’t know, so much I haven’t read or studied, so much I haven’t yet experienced or known. Who am I to speak for God? Who am I to teach or preach to these people? The great challenge is recognizing that I, in myself, have nothing to give them. They do not come to church to hear my eloquence (however bland) or my wisdom (however dim). The challenge is also recognizing that despite my limitations and inabilities, God’s Word gives them everything. His Word does not return to Him empty.

And this, then, is the greatest reward: to see God’s marvelous Word at work in these same deafened and suffering sinners, casting out their fear and guilt and shame, opening their ears and mouths and hearts to receive His Son in Word and body and blood, opening their eyes and hands to serve with God’s own love and mercy those whom He has put in their lives. It is seeing Jesus at work among His Church, comforting them with His Gospel and giving them His life.”

Even as Timm prepares to graduate in May 2013, men and women across the country will be pondering the possibility of full-time church work, and new students will be beginning their journey at CTS. With that in mind, Timm offers these words of encouragement, “All vocations are God-pleasing and He uses them all to care for His people and His creation. Do not think that the Office of the Ministry is the only way you can ‘really serve.’ Consider the gifts, talents and opportunities God has given you and decide the best way you can use them, whether it be as a pastor or deaconess or mechanic or architect or entrepreneur or any other vocation. God will use you well whatever you do, and He will still give you ample opportunities to speak His Word to those who need to hear it and show His mercy to those who suffer.

“If you do decide to pursue the Office of the Ministry, do so with the greatest humility. To be a theologian, you must not only read and meditate on the Word, but you must suffer. Trust your God to be your fortress and deliverer. Surround yourself with the Word and learn to pray. Know that your formation and education will only begin when seminary ends: the proper distinction of Law and Gospel is taught only by education will only begin when seminary ends: the proper distinction of Law and Gospel is taught only by the Holy Spirit in the school of experience.”

To learn more about becoming a pastor or deaconess, go to www.ctsfw.edu/Admission or contact the Office of Admission at Admission@ctsfw.edu or 800-481-2155.
Partners in Formation

By Jayne E. Sheafer

The mission statement of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, reads: Concordia Theological Seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.” That formation most often begins when men and women are encouraged by members of their home congregation to pursue the vocation of pastor or deaconess.

The pastors and members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, Oklahoma, have been an integral part of that formation since the congregation’s founding in 1901. Since 1988, Trinity’s pastor, Rev. David R. Nehrenz (CTS 1982), has had the opportunity to encourage men for the ministry by serving as a vicarage supervisor for 23 men, beginning with Peter Scaer, who went on to serve a congregation in Indiana, earn his Ph.D. and now serves as an assistant professor at CTS, to current CTS student Aaron Uphoff, who began serving his vicarage at Trinity in July.
As a vicarage supervisor, Rev. Nehrenz has a natural role as an encourager. “I want to commend any person who has decided to become a deaconess or pastor. You are convinced that this is how God intends to use your life in His kingdom. He has tugged at your heart. Perhaps you say to yourself, ‘I want to serve the Lord Jesus and God’s people like I have observed other pastors and deaconesses serve in my congregation. I want to bring God’s joy, love, peace and salvation to a broken and doomed world.’ You have been chosen for a noble task. Every ability, talent and interest God has given you can be used in the life of the parish.”

In reflecting upon the life of his parish, Rev. Nehrenz explains three areas of ministry at Trinity. “The Church—We have all the facets of a congregation: Divine Services, Sunday School, Bible classes, Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, a seniors group, Lutheran Youth Fellowship, choirs, men’s group, confirmation classes, adult catechesis, church boards and council. We conduct the care of the sick, visit of the shut-ins and counsel with the comfort of absolution.

“The School—We have had a Pre-School and an accredited school that goes to fourth grade and includes a day care. We also have a summer Sonshine Camp. The children have chapel and religion lessons each week with the pastor and vicar. This affords a tremendous mission opportunity to evangelize the many unchurched families who have children in our school.

“The Campus—We are the official Oklahoma District LCMS Campus Ministry to the University of Oklahoma here in Norman, Boomer—Sooner! Our 23rd vicar will assist me in conducting our campus ministry in a town/gown setting. We have wonderful stories over the last 23 years of the impact of our work with college students. Some of our former vicars are now leaders at our LCMS campus sites across the country. We also have an international outreach with English as a Second Language (ESL) classes on campus.”

Even in a vibrant, servant-focused church community there are challenges that must be addressed in order to best serve God’s people. “Our challenge is to reach out with the pure Gospel and save people from darkness and bring them into the light of the Lord Jesus Christ,” explains Rev. Nehrenz. “How can we best do this without compromising our principles as Lutherans? We offer solid theology in a real world context.”

How, then, do pastors offer that solid theology in an ever-changing world? Rev. Nehrenz offers these thoughts. “It is very simple and difficult at the same time. It is simple—the church grows by Word and prayer. God comes to us in His Word, we speak to Him in prayer. It is also difficult—the church withers when Word and prayer are neglected. Materialism, modernism, spiritual lethargy and immorality threaten the church at every turn. Only the Law and the Gospel properly applied in our lives can rescue us from these temptations. If every week all our church members were regular in attendance at the Divine Service and reception of the Sacraments, if they were all in Bible class and Sunday School with their whole family, if daily they saw their vocation and calling as a God-pleasing work and if they took on just one task or position in their congregation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we could move mountains!”

While shepherding Christ’s flock, Rev. Nehrenz will continue to face the challenges of day-to-day ministry. He finds great encouragement, though, in the support of his congregation and in remembering the joys that are found in faithful service. “Our great joy as pastors is to have been blessed with the truth of the theology of the cross. Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and His completed work on the cross is central to our theology and to our lives as pastors. It saturates all that we say and do,” says Rev. Nehrenz.

“It is God’s doing and we are glad servants of His Word and Sacraments. We see that with the Bible, the Small Catechism and the hymnal, we are used by God to radically change people’s lives. God divinely serves our people with forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. God gives and we receive! In pastoral practice, we live under the cross, which fits real life. It is a tremendous comfort in the midst of afflictions and trials. To us and to our people, young and old, God comes under the humble means of Word with water, bread and wine. The ordinary becomes extraordinary.”

Rev. David R. Nehrenz and his wife, Kathy (Knipp), are parents to Kurt, Mark, Stephen and Michelle. To learn more about Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, Oklahoma, go to www.tlcnorman.org.

For more information concerning church worker formation at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, go to www.ctsfw.edu or phone the Office of Admission at 800-481-2155.
Concordia Theological Seminary

Visitation Opportunities in Fort Wayne

2012

Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit
October 11–13, 2012

Christ Academy College/
Phoebe Academy College
October 18–21, 2012

2013

Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit
March 21–23, 2013

Christ Academy High School
June 16–29, 2013

Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit
October 10–12, 2013

Christ Academy College/
Phoebe Academy College
October 17–20, 2013
Confirmation Retreat—October 26–28, 2012

The Sixth Commandment: Untangling of the Mess of Love and Dating in Today’s World

Let’s be honest: love is difficult. We use the word in so many different ways that it’s confusing. I love cheeseburgers. I love my parents. I love my dog. I love my wife. These are all love, but they’re all completely different. With all the different voices in our culture it’s easy to become confused and to live out our relationships in destructive ways. But what does the Bible say about love, dating and marriage? What does true love look like? Can marriage really last? How does keeping God’s commands help us build a relationship to last a lifetime? What on earth are boys thinking, anyway?

Join us in October as we explore the answers to these questions and more through God’s Word and the Catechism.

Retreat Leader: Rev. Bill Johnson, Concordia Theological Seminary (and Dad to three daughters)
Cost: $110/person (includes on-campus lodging and meals)
To register or for more information call 260-452-2204 or e-mail Retreats@ctsfw.edu.

Grobien Named to Faculty

Dr. Gifford A. Grobien has been called as an Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology and Supervisor of the Doctor of Ministry Program at CTS. He earned his M.Div. from CTS in 2005 and his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 2010. He also served as assistant pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church, South Bend, Indiana, from 2006-2012. He will be installed at the Opening Service on Sunday, September 9.

His area of specialty is Christian ethics, and he will teach Dogmatics and Pastoral Ministry courses in our various academic programs. “We are thrilled to have Dr. Grobien join the faculty of CTS. Even as a young professor, he has a rich combination of experience from his years as an officer in the U.S. Navy, a parish pastor and a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame that will be a blessing to our students, including pastors in our Doctor of Ministry Program,” said CTS Academic Dean, Dr. Charles Gieschen. “The addition of Dr. Grobien shows our seminary’s ongoing commitment to offering students learning opportunities with a faithful, vigorous and distinguished theological faculty.”
The 166th academic year at Concordia Theological Seminary drew to a close on May 18, 2012, with the distribution of diplomas, certifications and awards for the student body. “Seminary commencement is a time for the church to rejoice in the formation of faithful servants and honor a few exemplary servants whom our Lord has used mightily for decades,” said Dr. Charles Gieschen, CTS Academic Dean. “Our faculty is profoundly grateful for the theological learning that has occurred in the graduates from our many programs, be they new deaconesses and pastors, experienced pastors or theological educators. These servants in Jesus Christ will certainly be a blessing as they teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

Rev. Michael F. Welmer (CTS 1973) and father of 2012 graduate Donald Welmer served as preacher for the morning Baccalaureate Service. Commencement exercises took place on the evening of the 18th with Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as guest speaker. In
addition to the conferring of degrees in the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Philosophy in Missiology, several special honors were presented.

Rev. Mueller received the Doctor of Divinity Degree–Honoris Causa. Rev. Mueller served congregations in Illinois from 1979–1994. In 1994 he was elected District President of the Southern Illinois District and served until 2010. At the 2010 LCMS Convention, he was elected First Vice President of the LCMS. He and his wife, Faith, have been blessed with three children and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Arlene G. Ponitz, Azle, Texas, was awarded the Miles Christi (Soldier of Christ) Award. This award has been created by the seminary faculty to honor a Lutheran layperson who has glorified God through a real contribution in some field of human endeavor and who has displayed the characteristics of a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Mrs. Ponitz, along with her late husband Mahlon, has been a faithful supporter of the seminary through donations to the Food & Clothing Co-op and, more recently, to the Walther Library expansion.

Rev. Robert W. Hill (CTS 1961) was the recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award. This award was established by the CTS Board of Regents to honor a graduate who has distinguished himself by faithfully shepherding the people of God with excellence in preaching, teaching the faithful and reaching the lost while also strengthening his alma mater by recruiting, publicizing and supporting the seminary’s mission. Due to another commitment Rev. Hill was unable to attend the ceremony but was well represented as his grandson, Joshua Woelmer, a current CTS student, accepted the award in his stead.

The faculty, staff and student body thank God for another year of His guidance and blessing and look forward to the beginning of the 167th academic year on September 9, 2012.
We are pleased to announce that Dr. John W. Kleinig will present From Slavery to Divine Service: The Foundation of Israel as a Liturgical Community in Exodus, September 17–21, 2012, on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne. This course is open to all professional church workers as well as laypeople.

In Exodus God institutes the divine service for the Israelites at the tabernacle and establishes them as His holy people, a unique liturgical community dependent upon Him for its existence. In fact, He had rescued them from slavery, Pharaoh and the Egyptian gods so that He could be their God, dwell in their midst, and meet with them daily in the divine service to bless them and share His holiness with them. This course will examine the book of Exodus as a founding story for Israel and discuss its relevance for the theology and performance of the divine service in the Lutheran church. For more information on this course go to www.ctsfw.edu/CE, e-mail CE@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2103.

Dr. Kleinig is retired after teaching for 26 years at Luther Seminary in Adelaide, South Australia. In the last 20 years he has taught in many different Lutheran seminaries in North America and Asia. Earlier this year he lectured at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Pretoria in South Africa. He is an Old Testament theologian with an M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Cambridge University in England and an honorary doctorate from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

His published doctoral dissertation was The Lord’s Song: The Basis, Function and Significance of Choral Music in Chronicles. Dr. Kleinig’s commentary on Leviticus for Concordia Publishing House explores how the people of God share in His holiness through their participation in the divine service. He has published two books on spirituality, a congregational study, Prayer: We Speak to God, and a handbook on Lutheran piety called Grace upon Grace: Spirituality for Today (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 2008).

Location:
Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Contact:
Prof. Jeffrey Pulse
Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu
260-452-2103 (Kara Mertz)
Military Project: Caring for Those Who Defend Our Freedoms
By Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley

All mercy flows from the cross of Christ. It is the foundation and source of the Christian life. This is the paradigm of the Military Project. Just as our Heavenly Father showers us with His gifts of creation for our physical welfare and His gifts of salvation for our spiritual welfare, we support those who serve our country with body and soul care.

Thank you to all who partner with us in this important opportunity to bring the mercy of Christ to our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod chaplains and the military personnel they serve. They leave home, family and country so we and our families can live in peace and security. We greatly value your support enabling us to continue to care for those who defend America’s freedoms as they serve in war-torn lands.

Notes from Chaplains

Chaplain Shawn Found

“I just received your care package from Fort Wayne. What a thoughtful and wonderful surprise! I wanted to personally thank you for all you are doing. You are truly providing ‘selfless service’ on so many levels. As if the wonderful music, magazines and newsletters (which were great in catching me up with what is going on back at CTSFW and Fort Wayne in general) weren’t enough, you even went so far as to provide much-needed ‘olfactory relief’ with the delicious-smelling lavender and organic soap! While the mountain and desert scenery can be pretty here (out away from the cities), many people will tell you that some of the smells around here are almost traumatizing. I often wonder if my nose will ever be the same! I sat here for about 15 minutes just smelling the lavender and thinking of green grass and trees and flowers (all three are non-existant here).

Again, God bless you and the good work you are doing to support us and the soldiers (in His Name). Take care.”

Chaplain Edward Wright

“Thank you for your continued support. It is deeply appreciated. I am doing fine. We only have a few more weeks before we return home. All of us are getting excited. Things are very busy around here, but I trust in God’s continued guidance and in His grace…”

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

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:16

Seminary students participate in writing “Words of Encouragement” for our deployed LCMS chaplains and military personnel.

How can you help?

Please keep our chaplains and military personnel in your prayers. They are God’s instruments of protection. For information on service projects or how to start a military project, please e-mail MilitaryProject@ctsfw.edu or call 260-452-2140.

Monetary donations can be mailed to:
Concordia Theological Seminary
Attn: Military Project Coordinator
6600 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
The Seminary Guild—Encouragers of Future Pastors and Deaconesses

By Mrs. Elfreida Spencer

Holy Scripture proffers many examples of encouragement given to God’s people and when followed, by God’s grace through faith, brings about the stimulation, inspiration and motivation needed. Good counsel and encouragement are gifts we are able to share with others on occasions of frustration, doubt and discouragement. Prayer is integral in the process for the encourager and the discouraged.

The Concordia Theological Seminary Guild strives to offer encouragement, inspiration and assistance in our service to the students. We pray for them, that God will provide for all their needs, spiritual, emotional and physical.

We remember them with energizing snack packs during exam times. On birthdays the ministerial and deaconess students receive a birthday cake or cookies and sometimes flowers for the deaconesses. Their letters of appreciation let us know these acts of remembrance are very special to them. When they see us on campus, they tell us, “Thank you for all the Guild does for us.”

Several months ago, Stephen K. Preus, then a graduate and also a student in the Master of Sacred Theology Program, spoke at a monthly Guild meeting. He opened by reading Ephesians 2:8-10 with emphasis on verse 10, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” What joyful encouragement from Jesus Christ! Then we heard Stephen say, “Before I begin my presentation, I want the Guild to know how much I appreciate your furnishing new washers and dryers for our use on campus! You have no idea how many quarters I lost trying to insert money in the worn out equipment!” Now it is the opportunity of members of the Guild to likewise say, “Thank you so much for the donations you sent to help us (from locations throughout the United States) so that new laundry equipment could be installed!”

The Guild hosted a reception after the graduation service in Kramer Chapel May 18, 2012. Two deaconess graduates approached our table to thank the Guild “for all you did for us, especially the new laundry equipment.” It appears as though our prayers, love, concern and service offer encouragement to the seminary students. All glory be to God!

One more thing, the CTS Guild sends a personal invitation to women in the area, including Ohio and Michigan, to join us the second Tuesday of each month during the academic year (September–April). We extend a most cordial welcome! Meetings begin at 1:00 p.m., with the exception of Donation Day on October 9, 2012, with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Luther Hall. Mrs. Elfreida Spencer serves as President of the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild. To learn more about the Guild, go to www.ctsfw.edu/Guild or contact Guild Advisor, Rev. Tom Zimmerman at 260-452-2152.
A

mazing, isn’t it, how much power and impact one word or small phrase of encouragement can do for the vision, purpose and direction of someone’s life and vocation? What would have happened to Nathanael if Philip had not sought him and encouraged him to see Jesus? What would have happened if Philip had given up on Nathanael after he was stifled by Nathanael’s first response, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” We know that Jesus could have extended a direct invitation to Nathanael, just as He did to comfort Thomas after he fell into misbelief and despair following our Lord’s resurrection, but He didn’t do that with Nathanael. Instead, He used Philip as His instrument. Jesus did extend direct invitations to most of the apostles to follow Him, including St. Paul, who was also directly called by Jesus on the road to Damascus, but He also used His apostles to call others indirectly through the invitations of others to serve Him.

Since the time of the apostles all pastors have been indirectly called through or by the invitation or encouragement of other pastors. When I was the Dean of Students, I remember talking with prospective CTS students who noted that “the tipping point” for them visiting the seminary or even entering the seminary began with the individual encouragement, care and invitation of their pastor to consider studying for the ministry. A pastor took them aside, visited with them and encouraged them to be open.

Philip could see this picture in part, because he had a limited vision for Nathanael in ministry, but Jesus possessed the full, complete and great vision for Nathanael. “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

Alumni, dear fellow brothers in the ministry, you open your ears every day to hear what your people tell you and you reply with meaningful words which are truly a wonderful blessing to all of God’s people. Their faith is strengthened when their sins are forgiven and their lives are uplifted by the Word and Sacraments which you distribute to them. Further, some of them long to be directed by you in order to discern wisely God’s calling for their lives through the words which you share with them. The Holy Spirit uses this mightily. Will you help lead others toward ministry as Moses who called Joshua, as Elijah who called Elisha or as Philip called Nathanael? We know many of you have already done this, and we pray that by God’s grace it will continue so that His kingdom may come and His will may be done among us.

Dr. Timothy R. Puls serves as Director of Alumni and Church Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He may be contacted at Timothy.Puls@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2260.
Jesus’ words in John 16, His High Priestly Prayer, speak in direct and powerful ways to our present-day circumstances. I can imagine the disciples, as they heard the Lord’s gracious words, were also a bit overwhelmed by the prospect of what lay before them as He prepared them for their unique service in and for the world. That, of course, is the case with any changes that we experience as human beings. But the gracious and firm words of promise that Jesus offers repeatedly are, “For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me; I am praying for them . . . for they are Yours” (John 17:8-9). What a profound comfort it is that our Lord, who has called us as His own and led us into all truth, continues to pray for His people!—Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

I am so grateful to Concordia Theological Seminary, especially the faculty and staff, in helping me in my formation as a pastor. My time here at the seminary has been some of the best years of my life. I know, however, that this journey would not have been possible without the love, prayers and generous financial support of the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. With their help, and by God’s grace, the seminary continues its mission to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.—Josemon Hoem (CTS 2012)

To know that people are hurting in both body and soul requires action. Our Lord Jesus Christ does not call us to sit idly by as one part of the Body of Christ suffers. Rather, we are called to help by bearing one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2). The spiritual life at Concordia Theological Seminary prepares men to be effective pastors not merely with class work and assigned readings, but with true spiritual growth achieved by daily worship and interaction with other Christians. Jesus lived with His disciples for three years, teaching them all the while and preparing them to go out into the world to spread the Gospel. This “hands-on” model of learning and formation was chosen by our Lord Himself, and it continues to serve His church well.—Lannon Martin (CTS 2012)
As I approach the end of my first year of studies in the Deaconess Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, it is appropriate to reflect on the enormous blessing God has given me and my sisters in Christ. As our Triune God continues to bless us in studying theology, He shapes and forms us for His service as deaconesses in the church and world. All praise and thanks be to God as He provides opportunities to serve others through acts of mercy. Through human care, the love of Christ will abound with His people in this world!—Jennette Morrison, Second-year Deaconess Student

Your seminary has the privilege of forming servants in Jesus Christ. You are vital in this mission. Your generous gifts make it possible to continue Concordia Theological Seminary’s mission of forming servants to serve God’s people with the Gospel in word and deed. Join with the seminary community in prayer and thanksgiving for the grace and goodness of our Lord in sending His servants to a dying world with the Word of Life. For more information on giving go to www.ctsfw.edu/SupportCTS or phone 877-288-4338.

Your gift of support TODAY will keep on giving eternally as the Gospel is shared!

Enclosed is my gift of:
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In support of:
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Gift matching opportunity:
If your employer matches charitable contributions, remember to request matching funds from your company.

Please send me information on:
☐ Endowments  ☐ Including CTS in my will
☐ Estate planning  ☐ Gift Annuities

Please detach and mail to Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825
There is a true story about a minister whose boys, one day, brought home a stray dog. The minister really took a liking to the dog as did his two boys. The dog was coal black except for three white hairs in its tail. One day they read an advertisement in the local newspaper about a lost dog that described perfectly the stray dog, right down to the three white hairs in the tail. With the help of his boys, the preacher carefully separated the three white hairs and pulled them out. The real owner, hearing about a dog fitting the description of the one he had lost, arrived at the preacher’s small farm one day. When he arrived the dog showed every sign of recognizing him and the man was going to take the dog home. Then the minister spoke up, “Didn’t you say the dog had three white hairs on his tail?” The owner, unable to find the three white hairs, was forced to leave the dog behind. Later, this preacher wrote in his diary, “I kept the dog but lost my boys.” The names of the two boys were Frank and Jesse James.

We all are examples and thereby encouragers. However, there are good examples and encouragers and poor examples and encouragers. And these examples and these encouragements prove to be powerful in the influence of those placed in our charge.

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9:
Love who?
Serve who?
Teach who?
Note the order!

Before we can teach our children, we first walk the path of faith and provide an example of our faithfulness to the One True God for our children. This example is what encourages our children to walk the same path of faith and faithfully serve the LORD.

Read Proverbs 22:6:
Even though there are no guarantees in this life that raising up our children in the fear and admonition of the LORD will always bear the proper fruit, it is our God-given responsibility to teach, nurture and train our children in the ways of the LORD. It is a great act of love to provide an encouraging example of faithfulness to our sons and daughters.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:32-11:1:
What is it that “encourages our encouragement”? ________

St. Paul is encouraged by the example of Christ.

Read John 13:12-17 and 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.
How are we encouraged by Christ’s example? ________

Read also 1 Peter 2:21-24 and Philippians 2:1-11.
What is the ultimate example and encouragement for the child of God? ________

There is another opportunity for encouragement as well. As parents, pastors, teachers, deaconesses and other professional church workers, we have the responsibility and the opportunity to be a positive example and an encourager to those around us.
Read 2 Timothy 4:2-5:
What are the dangers that stand in the way of hearing the Word of God? ________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Why are good, God-like examples essential for encouragement? ________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Also read Philippians 1:12-14; Colossians 2:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10.
Statistics are very telling and they clearly show that the vast majority of those who enter into professional church work vocations do so because of an example set by another professional church worker and the encouragement they received to consider this direction. No one in the church would disagree that we are in need of faithful servants to follow the path to full-time church work. Consider how we might encourage, as parents, as pastors, as teachers, as deaconesses, etc. toward serving the LORD, full time in His church. Write down some thoughts:______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Read Romans 10:14-17:
Matthew 9:37 “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”
Pray, be an example, be an encourager in order that workers might be sent into the fields white with the harvest. The LORD is calling for workers to preach, teach and show mercy and enjoy service in the household of faith. ▶

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CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2012
September 4 Fall Quarter Begins
September 9 Welcome Brunch, Katherine Luther Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Opening Service for the 167th Academic Year, Kramer Chapel, 3:00 p.m.
September 11 Seminary Guild, Luther Hall, 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2012
October 9 Seminary Guild Donation Day, Registration in Luther Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.
October 11–13 Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit
October 18–21 Christ Academy College/Phoebe Academy College
October 26–28 Confirmation Retreat

NOVEMBER 2012
November 4–6 Good Shepherd Institute
November 4 Organ Recital, Steve Buzard, Kramer Chapel, 4:30 p.m.
All Saint’s Choral Vespers, Seminary Schola Cantorum, Kramer Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

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

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