Into ALL the World
By Jeffrey H. Pulse

Lutheranism in Mud Huts:
The Rise of the Burkinabé Lutheran Church
By Heath A. Trampe

Reemergence of the Lutheran Church in Spain
By Arthur A. Just Jr.
The world is coming to Concordia Theological Seminary. And Concordia Theological Seminary is going out into all the world.

Several years ago Concordia Theological Seminary revised its mission statement to make it clear that 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 shows how we are forming servants who teach, reach and care throughout the world at the invitation of partner churches and mission associates in collaboration with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s (LCMS) Office of International Mission. The stories are certainly inspiring—but they especially underscore for us that the time to move forward in mission is now!

Synod President Matthew Harrison has rightly noted that we are currently experiencing a “tectonic shift” in world Lutheranism.¹ The fastest growing churches in the Lutheran communion are in the Global South, and it is particularly evident in Africa in countries like Ethiopia, Madagascar and Tanzania.

In May 2013, I was able to observe the effects of these shifts firsthand. Where we in the United States have become accustomed to dreary membership reports over the last 40 years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania is experiencing tremendous growth. In an area where only some 15 percent of the population is Christian, the Lutheran confession of the biblical faith is finding rich soil in which to take root. In Tanzania I was honored to attend the formal establishment of the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese and the consecration of its new cathedral. Most importantly, however, I was able to observe the consecration and installation of the Diocese’s new bishop, Emmanuel Makala—most important because Bishop Makala is currently a Doctor of Ministry student at Concordia Theological Seminary and is being supported in that work by the Mid-South District of the LCMS. It was a great privilege to see one of our students formally moving into leadership for the sake of Christ’s mission.

But continued work is needed. While we focus in this issue on only a few places, CTS’s work extends literally to the end of the earth. But in all those places in which we work, including Ethiopia, Madagascar and Tanzania (among others), there are similar struggles to those facing the Lutheran churches of the United States. At the heart of them all is, of course, the question of the nature and character of God’s Word in a postmodern, secularized, globalized world. Questions regarding women’s service, human sexuality, contextualization, Pentecostalism, the prosperity gospel and so forth, demand careful study of God’s inerrant and infallible Word, particularly as we consider questions of formal church fellowship.

As we go forward with our mission, we do so knowing that all our efforts are ultimately dependent upon the grace and mercy of God. CTS’s faculty, staff and students are committed to continuing faithfully to share and to teach the Gospel and all its articles as confessed in the Book of Concord in a way that is “Christ-centered and biblically-based, confessionally Lutheran and evangelically active.”²

The world is coming to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. With your help, we will not only continue these partnerships both here and abroad, we will expand them.

In His service,

Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President
Concordia Theological Seminary

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² CTS’s Identity Statement (from which this is quoted) and the Mission Statement quoted above may be found at http://www.ctsfw.edu/page.aspx?pid=267, accessed November 19, 2013.
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Spaniards are sophisticated, educated people who respond well to Lutheran theology, especially the clarity of the Lutheran Confessions in proclaiming the Gospel through a systematic theology that is biblical and catholic. . . . Many of them are searching for what Lutheranism has to offer—a liturgical church that is “Christ-centered and biblically-based, confessionally Lutheran and evangelically active.”

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For the Life of the World

Into All the World

The Prophet Isaiah writes, “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.’” (Isaiah 2:2-3a ESV)

CTS has established relationships all around the globe with other church bodies and their seminaries. The faculty is frequently in the air and on the road teaching and preaching in Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Argentina, South Africa, Latvia, Siberia, India, Latin America and more. We are active in helping various seminaries establish credible theological libraries with which to train their students, and we are reaching out to deaconess programs around the world as well.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18b-20a ESV)

Strong words of encouragement from noteworthy and excellent sources, therefore and thus, Concordia Theological Seminary heeds the call to be about the work of reaching, teaching and caring for the world with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ—ALL the world! However, when we hear these words our minds tend to draw boundaries, determine parameters and distinguish one harvest field over another. We are endeavoring that this not be so among us here at CTS!

There are so many opportunities in this wide world of ours, so many harvest fields and so many lost souls, that we have only begun to scratch the surface of the enormity of the task, but we are still scratching and still seriously considering the words of our LORD from both Testaments. Who are these peoples streaming to the holy mountain of

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the LORD as prophesied by Isaiah? What does “ALL the World” mean in the words of Jesus?

These are the questions and the challenges we engage each and every day of our existence as a seminary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. However, this is far more than a simple academic discussion for us. It is a discussion which presupposes action. These are questions and challenges that must not only be engaged, they are our opportunities to be faithful to the LORD’s bidding…and so we are about the task!

CTS has established relationships all around the globe with other church bodies and their seminaries. The faculty is frequently in the air and on the road teaching and preaching in Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Argentina, South Africa, Latvia, Siberia, India, Latin America and more. We are active in helping various seminaries establish credible theological libraries with which to train their students, and we are reaching out to deaconess programs around the world as well.

While exciting and rewarding, it is the planting of the “missionary culture” in our students which bears the most fruit. Not only are the students encouraged to participate in mission trips to places like South Africa, Latvia, Kenya, India and Madagascar, they are also challenged to see the mission field in their own backyard. Currently we have expanded our urban mission training with “teaching modules” that include inner city Baltimore and New Jersey. We also have the unique opportunity of bringing in students from around the world to

**Vicar Justin Massey** serves the Lord through the LCMS as a GEO (globally engaged in outreach) missionary in the Dominican Republic. In his role as a vicar, Justin provides spiritual care and pastoral support for other missionaries serving in this region. He also teaches, preaches and visits the homes of members of the surrounding community in which he lives and serves. In addition to these pastoral duties, Justin tracks LCMS missionaries and pastors serving in Latin America and aids in starting new churches and ministries in the community. (www.lcms.org/Massey)

**Deaconess Sandra Rhein** (CTS 2010) had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania August 15–31, 2013. “Witchcraft remains strong in parts of East Africa. It has a particularly strong hold in northwest Tanzania. Another unique aspect of this area is the high incidence of albinism. Being an albino in Tanzania can be a death sentence. The lack of pigment in their skin, hair and eyes makes people look different and so it is assumed that they must be cursed. Witch doctors use their blood and body parts for their ‘magic potions,’ and will pay large sums of money for their capture. Children, of course, are especially vulnerable.

“While the children clearly suffer from a plethora of health issues and live in startlingly austere living conditions, they were lively and cheerful. An older child, serving as a spokesman for the others, thanked us for coming and expressed his thanks to God for His many blessings. Lord, have mercy on these dear children.”
study side by side with the American students. We have served students from Ghana, Spain, Mexico, India, Philippines, Kenya, South Africa, Germany, Sweden and others. This helps develop an international culture at CTS as well as give our students a taste of the global scene of Christianity.

Another exciting area that is expanding is the assignments and placements of students and candidates to the foreign mission field. This past year we assigned a vicar to the Dominican Republic and a deaconess intern to Peru, South America. This is only the beginning as we have more and more students interested in pursuing placement in mission settings.

However, “ALL the world” includes those nearest and dearest to us as well. Ironically and amazingly, the foreign mission field is growing most rapidly in the United States. CTS has assigned a vicar to plant Chinese speaking churches in Bloomington and Columbus, Ind. We placed three pastors from last year’s class to help maintain and establish Spanish speaking congregations in California, Indiana and Iowa. We have field workers and other students assisting with outreach to the Burmese population in Fort Wayne. More and more the mission field is coming to us!

These are amazing and challenging times for the LCMS. Everywhere we look the field is ripe for the harvest and CTS continues to provide workers for the harvest field. And what a field it is! Broad and wide, high and deep and we are immersed in its midst and engaged in the LORD’s work to be about the harvest. Not only do we want to establish a “mission culture” for our students, we also desire that they develop a sense of urgency.

Consider the words of St. John in his Revelation: “After this I looked and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9-10 ESV)

St. John paints quite a picture and reminds us of the challenge that surrounds us.

The Rev. Prof. Jeffrey H. Pulse (Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu) serves as associate professor of Exegetical Theology and director of Placement at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Deaconess Lorraine Roach (CTS 2012) served as part of a Mercy Medical Team that provided medical care and food supplies to rural villages in the Madagascar highlands, August 1-12. The trip was coordinated through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Mercy Medical Teams Program, the Malagasy Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Hospital in Antsirabe, Madagascar.

“We were able to treat more than 830 people, including many children, and we filled 1,650 prescriptions for medications that are not easily obtainable in areas with little access to health care other than a local midwife,” shared Deaconess Roach. “Most homes in rural Madagascar have no electricity or indoor plumbing. It was winter in the southern hemisphere, so we saw many cases of colds and flu, but also malaria, giardia, gastrointestinal issues, skin ailments, infections, high blood pressure, diabetes and other chronic conditions. One infant had severe respiratory distress and likely would have died without the treatment she received at the clinic.

“As one of the ten most impoverished nations on earth, there are few public social services. Most of the care for individuals who cannot care for themselves is handled by the churches—the way it was done for centuries after Christianity began 2,000 years ago. We were grateful for the opportunity to show Christ’s love and mercy to our Malagasy neighbors.”
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mage living in a country where less than a quarter of the inhabitants are literate and over three quarters are unemployed. Imagine a country where the life expectancy is nearly 25 years lower than in America, and the median income is less than $4 a day.¹ Clean drinking water is scarce, and potentially deadly diseases like typhoid, yellow fever and malaria are everyday realities. Burkina Faso, in West Africa, is one of the poorest and least educated countries on the planet, with little hope for change.²

What is one of the most troubling facts concerning Burkina Faso? There are no ordained Lutheran pastors among the Burkinabé. When they seek spiritual guidance, they overwhelmingly turn to the animist religions of their forefathers or to Islam, which is the dominant religious presence in the country. These are people dying to hear of Christ and His work on the cross. Dying to be baptized. Dying to receive our Lord’s true body and blood. For this reason, Dr. Timothy Quill, director of International Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; the Rev. Michael Barnes and the Rev. Heath Trampe from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Indiana District; and the Rev. Frederick Reinhardt, the LCMS area facilitator for French-speaking Central and East Africa, traveled in July 2013 to Burkina Faso to continue the work begun by Rufus K. Kormah Yentemah just a few short years ago.
Seeking refuge from the civil war in his native Liberia, Yentemah traveled to Ghana nearly two decades ago. He then approached the Rev. Dr. Paul Fynn, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, to inquire as to how he might serve. Fynn suggested Burkina Faso, and Yentemah soon found himself in Fada N’Gourma, where he subsequently started The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burkina Faso (EELBF) in 1996. Although he had trained only one year at Le Centre Lutherien d’Etudes Theologique (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo, Yentemah worked diligently with the Togolese seminary to raise up future clergy for this impoverished nation. Progress was encouraging as several Burkinabé had worked their way through the seminary en route to becoming ordained Lutheran pastors…and then Yentemah died. His untimely death halted the momentum of the Burkinabé vicars and they found themselves in a difficult position: just this side of ordination, with little to no prospects for fulfilling their vicarage requirements.

Barnes, having previously taught intensive classes at the CLET—including those for all of the current Burkinabé vicars—was sympathetic to the plight of these men. His plan to visit Burkina Faso to ascertain the needs of the vicars, as well as the future of the EELBF, was well received by Quill, who graciously lent his expertise to the mission. “The LCMS has been working in French-speaking West Africa for two decades. However, for many in our Synod it is the ‘invisible mission field.’ Many

To say that the classes were a success would be an understatement. The Burkinabé, despite their relative lack of formal education (especially among the evangelists) proved to be eager and capable students who displayed a clear desire to learn more about Lutheran doctrine and practice.
Traveling to West Africa is a great adventure. The cultural customs of the Burkinabé are entirely unlike those we practice in America. Their methods of cooking, the materials they use to build their houses, even their dress are different than our own. It takes very little time among the Burkinabé Lutherans, however, to discover what an intimate connection—a true brotherhood—we have as Lutherans and children of God. May our church bodies continue to work together in the future as we bless and find ourselves blessed by our Burkinabé brothers!

The Rev. Heath A. Trampe (pastortrampe@stpetersfw.org) is a 2010 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary and serves as associate pastor of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.


Americans can hardly find Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin and other Francophone countries on a map,” commented Quill. “I am thrilled that LCMS pastors and congregations have taken an interest in supporting these missions, especially in the much needed area of theological education of the clergy.”

Trampe, associate pastor at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, was also added to the group. St. Peter’s has supported the work of the CLET in West Africa for the past few years, and the congregation was excited to send a representative to aid in the work of this trip and see, with congregational eyes, the work of the Spirit in this foreign land.

The practical impetus for the trip was to teach the vicars, along with a group called “evangelists”—so named because they had not attended seminary or, in a few cases, had not yet completed the primary seminary requirements for vicarage—in a variety of subjects. Eschewing the modest cement block structure that served as our classroom in favor of class under the perfectly blue African sky, Quill led a homiletics workshop for an excited group of five vicars with Reinhardt as translator. Since Burkina Faso is a Francophone country, English is a rarity and translators are a necessity. Trampe led a discussion on Luther’s Large Catechism for eight eager evangelists with Barnes as translator, while Barnes later taught the entire group Gerhard Forde’s On Being a Theologian of the Cross.

To say that the classes were a success would be an understatement. The Burkinabé, despite their relative lack of formal education (especially among the evangelists), proved to be eager and capable students who displayed a clear desire to learn more about Lutheran doctrine and practice. The author was often taken aback by their displays of gratitude and genuine desire to grow in understanding. The classroom discussions were highly fruitful, and each of the teachers felt the one week intensive was a success.

The delayed benefit of our trip to West Africa may come from the work that took place behind the scenes. Before ever sitting down with the Burkinabé vicars, our group traveled to Dapaong to meet with the leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Togo, including the leaders of the CLET. Our discussions with Director Kombondjar Souk provided us with a greater understanding of the seminary’s future direction. It also allowed the CLET to ascertain which foreign professors they might be able to secure for the upcoming academic year. Having the American clergy come to teach and preach for them is a system which has worked well for them in the past and, considering the international experience that LCMS clergy receive via these teaching opportunities, this partnership is truly a blessing for everyone involved.

Multiple meetings with Vicar Tchiriteme Tanpo, president of the EELBF, allowed us to discuss his vision for the future of the young church body, as well as what kind of partnership to expect from the LCMS in the future. We were blessed by our time with President Tanpo, and were greatly encouraged by his growth and maturity since being elected to his current position just one year prior.

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Reemergence of the Lutheran Church in Spain

From the Giralda, the magnificent Moorish tower standing alongside the Cathedral in Seville, you can see the large open plaza that fronted Seville’s town hall. In the middle of that plaza Lutherans were brought to trial before the Inquisition in September 1559 and December 1560. Many of these Lutherans were either martyred outside the city or exiled. More Lutherans were martyred in Valladolid in May and October of 1559, essentially wiping out the presence of Lutheranism in Spain.

That is, until the year 2000 when the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Argentina (IELA) sent the Rev. Marcos Berndt to begin mission work in Spain that led to the founding of the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Española, the first mission in Spain since the 16th century when all the Lutherans were either martyred or deported. A lively Lutheranism was blossoming in Spain in the 16th century. The most notable of the Lutheran Spaniards was Casiodoro de Reina, one of the translators of Scriptures into Spanish. The Reina Valera translation of the Scriptures is the “King James” version of Spanish translations. He, too, was forced to leave Spain, and his image was burned in Seville in April of 1562.1

Two of the first Spaniards Pastor Berndt reached out to were Juan Carlos, his wife Ana and their three children in Seville. In late 2000, during his theological studies, Juan Carlos discovered the doctrines of the Lutheran faith, and in comparing them to many of the doctrines he had studied as a student in the diocesan school in Seville he was struck by the clarity of the Gospel, especially the centrality of the Word of God in the believer’s life in the writings of Luther and the Lutheran Confessions, something to which Juan Carlos was not
Spain

By Arthur A. Just Jr.

accustomed to in his theological studies. During all of 2001, Juan Carlos was rethinking what formed the basis for a spiritual life in Christ. He began reading, and teaching, Luther’s Small Catechism in his local parish and was completely captivated by its teaching of the faith. In November of that year, he discovered an internet webpage of the Lutheran Spanish Mission and was again impressed by the clarity of their doctrines. As a result of this webpage, Pastor Berndt visited him and his wife Ana in Seville. Three months later, Pastor Berndt and I visited Juan Carlos and Ana in their home, and in May of 2002, I introduced the Rev. Walter Ralli to him as he was taking over the mission in Spain as the second Argentinian missionary. A few years later the Lutheran church in Argentina would send another missionary to Spain, the Rev. Gustavo Lavia, who continues to serve in the capital city of Madrid.

Little did Juan Carlos realize back in 2002, when Pastor Berndt and I were speaking to him and his family about Lutheranism, that on October 10, 2010, at the tenth anniversary celebration of the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Española (IELE), Juan Carlos would become the first Lutheran pastor in Spain since Casiodoro de Reina. To date we have no direct reference to any other Spanish shepherd fully identified with Lutheranism or serving a Lutheran church in Spain until Juan Carlos’s ordination.

The Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Española is still a fledgling church,
serving in a country that is as diverse as it is united. Its first congregation in the northern province of Asturias was founded on the confession of faith of two faithful Lutheran Spaniards, Javier Sanchez and Virginia, and their children. Their faithful witness was the foundation for the church in Spain, and they continue to confess the Lutheran faith today.

Spain is a country of many different “autonomous communities,” all with a unique character, communities like Madrid, Asturias, Andalusia, Catalonia, Valencia and Murcia. In each of these communities there is a Lutheran presence, with the liveliest congregation in Seville where Juan Carlos serves as pastor. He also works full time as an Aeronautical technician for Airbus in Seville, where he has served on a team that builds Airbus planes since the 1980s. He receives no financial compensation for the work he does as an ordained Lutheran pastor. He is a worker-priest and will continue to be so until his retirement from Airbus. This is the same for all the Spaniards who will serve as pastors in the Lutheran church in Spain such as José Luis in Valencia, Antonio in Cartagena and Santiago Keinbaum in Barcelona, who is currently studying at our seminary to become a Lutheran pastor.

Even though the vast majority of Spaniards identify themselves as Roman Catholic, Spain has become secularized like the rest of Europe. Spaniards may participate in the liturgical rites during the feasts and festivals of the church, but during the week they are not outwardly religious. Like many in our country, they don’t live out their faith and embody Christ in their day-to-day life. Spaniards are family oriented, living very social lives with friends and family. Every evening in every town and city in Spain the streets are filled with families who socialize in the bars, enjoying good food and good wine. Juan Carlos told me that missionaries to Spain from Argentina and the United States should have big families and be willing to meet people, not in their homes but in the bars, where animated conversations take place over politics and religion and every manner of topic.

Since the economic downturn, Spain has been hit hard by unemployment, especially among the youth. Right now is a perfect time for the people of Spain to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and to receive mercy from a Lutheran mission that is able to speak with clarity about Gospel to Spaniards broken by the vagaries of life.

The challenge of the Lutheran mission in Spain is to enter this Roman Catholic, secularized world, a world now challenged by a loss of economic health. Spaniards are sophisticated, educated people who respond well to Lutheran theology, especially the clarity of the Lutheran Confessions in proclaiming the Gospel through a systematic theology that is biblical and catholic. As Roman Catholics with a rich liturgical tradition, they are also attracted to the rich liturgical heritage of the Lutheran church. Many of them are searching for what Lutheranism has to offer—a liturgical church that is “Christ-centered and biblically-based, confessionally Lutheran and evangelically active.”

Pray for Juan Carlos and Gustavo, the two Lutheran pastors in Spain, for José Luis, Antonio and Santiago who are studying to be pastors, and for laypeople like Javier Sanchez and Virginia, who confess the Lutheran faith in a country where Lutheranism has finally returned after a 450 year absence. Pray for the Lutheran church in Argentina that provides leadership for the Lutheran church in Spain, and for our own Synod that makes the mission possible through the generosity of her members.

The Rev. Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr. (Arthur.Just@ctsfw.edu) serves as chairman and professor in the Exegetical Theology Department at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

1. See Raymond Rosales, Casiodoro de Reina, Patriarca del Protestantismo Hispano by CPH for a full history.
This past August I completed my ninth teaching trip to Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Pretoria, South Africa, since first going there in August 2009. It is not uncommon for folks here in the United States to ask me questions about the seminary in South Africa, especially questions like, “What do you teach when you go down there?” Here is a little overview of how I would answer that question in light of my most recent trip.

I taught one course (four hours each day) in each of the two weeks. During the week of August 19, I taught a course entitled “Toward a Pastoral Theology of Suffering.” In this class we worked with the Psalms of Lament, Oswald Bayer’s “Toward a Theology of Lament,” 2 Corinthians as Paul’s “Pastoral Theology of the Cross,” Peter Stuhlmacher’s “Eighteen Theses on Paul’s Theology of the Cross” and selected Luther texts as we examined issues related to theodicy and the pastoral care of those who suffer. This course was especially significant in providing a Lutheran approach to suffering in contrast to the so-called “prosperity Gospel” (health and wealth) on the one hand and liberationist theologies on the other hand as both figure into the African context. We had 21 participants in this class including ordination course students, pastors from the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA), the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) and several evangelist/lay preachers. In addition to students from South Africa, Uganda, Liberia, Ethiopia, Zambia and Botswana, we had two first-time students from the Congo.

The second week, beginning August 26, was devoted to a homiletics course, “Learning How to Preach from Paul’s Epistle to the Romans.” Using Steven Paulson’s Lutheranism and Gerhard Aho’s The Lively Skeleton: Thematic Approaches and Outlines, we examined the theology of preaching in Romans. Students engaged in workshop style presentations on writing and defending sermon outlines based on texts from the Epistle. Eighteen students participated in this class along with several occasional auditors. In many ways this course represented a kind of “high point” in my teaching at LTS. Over the past few years I have had several of the students enrolled in this course attend other classes on topics such as the theology of Law and Gospel, Luther’s On the Freedom of the Christian and the theology of the cross. Preaching is always the ultimate test of theological learning. It was gratifying to see these students were not only retaining what they had learned in previous courses, but utilizing it in their work with texts from Romans. It is true that learning the distinction between the Law and the Gospel is the highest and most difficult art, taught only by the Holy Spirit in the school of experience. It is gratifying to see students make real progress in this art for the sake of proclaiming the cross of Jesus Christ with clarity and power.

Over the last three trips to South Africa, I have noted an increased number of pastors, evangelists and lay preachers coming in for the courses. This is a good thing. In the USA, we regularly accent the need for continuing education. It is important that those who are already working in the field have the opportunity to return to LTS for additional training and mutual support. I’m pleased that Bishop Wilhelm Weber is encouraging this among the LCSA pastors. I hope that in future courses we will continue to see this trend grow even as additional pastors from FELSISA and also from Lutheran World Federation (LWF) related southern African churches are invited to attend.

I’m delighted for the partnership that Concordia Theological Seminary has with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in South Africa. It is an honor to be able to go to Pretoria twice each year to teach the same faith that we teach here in Fort Wayne. Generous donors here in the States have supported my travel and have provided me with the funds to take along books for both the students and the library. This is just one more way that Concordia Theological Seminary is reaching the lost, teaching the faithful and caring for all. It is an exciting time to be part of a global seminary!

Prof. John T. Pless (John.Pless@ctsfw.edu) serves as assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
After graduating from high school in Mexico, Fajardo began his studies in the United States at the University of Texas Pan-American graduating with a degree in Manufacturing Engineering. While that was time well spent, he decided to pursue a different calling and that also called for a change in his mindset. “It was really challenging to switch from math and statistics to Greek and Hebrew. But it is a great blessing to be able to learn and understand the foundation of our Lutheran Church, its doctrine and teachings based upon Scripture,” shares Fajardo.

Making that decision to change careers was not easily made. Fajardo credits his father’s counsel and a real desire to help others learn about Christ as the big influences in helping him decide to enroll at CTS in 2009. “The reason I entered seminary is so that I can serve the Lord in His Church. Although I am grateful to have grown up in a Christian home, there were many things I did not understand about God and our Christian life and, quite honestly, was not paying much attention to it,” explains Fajardo.

“I still do not know everything, of course, but the formation at the seminary has prepared me to become a pastor focused on Christ’s life and resurrection for us. I hope to be a good steward of the Lord’s gift to His people.”

That preparation had been rigorous, filled with both challenges and rewards. “The greatest challenge for me has been to really keep up with the high academic
standard CTS has, but, thankfully, both professors and students have been a model for me in my preparation and studies. At the same time I have received the greatest reward, to be able to learn from them and share and grow together with my seminary brothers.”

During his second year at the seminary, Fajardo had the opportunity to study at Westfield House in Cambridge, England. “Without a doubt this was one of the most exciting and blessed years in my life. Not only for learning about other cultures by being in a continent with so many different countries and cultures so close to each other, but the opportunity to live with other Christian Lutherans from other parts of the world.”

In his third year at CTS Fajardo served his vicarage at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Whiting, Ind., and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther in Chicago, Ill., under the supervision of the Rev. Jacob Gaugert (CTS 2010). “In both congregations we were able to develop a worship service in Spanish. Through *English as a Second Language* classes we were able to get in touch with the students and establish good friendship relationships and, eventually, invite them to have their children baptized. We also taught confirmation classes for the children of the adults who attended classes,” says Fajardo. “This led to welcoming new families to attend our Spanish services, as well as having confirmation and catechism classes for the whole family in Spanish.”

Fajardo is in the middle of his final year at CTS. He continues to enjoy the challenge of his academic work and the many social opportunities on campus. He is also looking forward to the Candidate Placement Service on April 30, 2014, when he will receive his call into the pastoral ministry. He knows God will place him where he can best serve and looks forward to using his bilingual skills wherever he is placed. “I am hoping to receive a call to be able to serve the fast-growing Spanish speaking population. We have kids who speak Spanish at home and English in classrooms and the workplace. We need to share God’s Word in both languages. This is especially important with recent immigrants who find themselves in cultural shock or feel out of place being in a new country and learning a new language. I want to help them understand the Church is also their home, where they are welcomed in Christ’s love.”

Jayne E. Sheafer
(Jayne.Sheafer@ctsfw.edu) serves as managing editor of *For the Life* of the World magazine and director of Public Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Concordia Theological Seminary Hosts Symposia Series 2014

The 29th Annual Symposium on Exegetical Theology
“Where Does God Dwell?”—A Real Presence Hermeneutics

Tuesday, January 21, 2014
8:45 a.m. Welcome—Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., President and Professor of Historical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
8:50 a.m. More than Words: Jeremiah’s Sacramental Richness—Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, President Emeritus and Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
11:00 a.m. Ascending to God: The Cosmology of Worship in the Old Testament—Prof. Jeffrey H. Pulse, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
1:00 p.m. To See Where God Dwells: The Tabernacle, the Temple and the Origins of the Christian Mystical Tradition—Dr. Gary A. Anderson, Professor of New Testament at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana
2:15 p.m. The Divine Presence Within the Cloud—Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
3:45 p.m. Panel Discussion: “Where Does God Dwell?”—A Real Presence Hermeneutics—Moderator: Dr. Charles A. Gieschen, Academic Dean and Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer (Kramer Chapel)

Wednesday, January 22, 2014
7:45 a.m. Short Exegetical Paper Sectionals
9:00 a.m. The Bread from Heaven, the Bread of Presence: Reflections on the Interplay of Forgiveness and Communion—Dr. Peter J. Scaer, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary
10:00 a.m. Divine Service (Kramer Chapel)
11:30 a.m. Creation, Fall and the Presence of Christ: An Examination of Genesis 4:1—Dr. Daniel L. Gard, Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary

Lenten Preaching Workshop
Preaching the Catechism in Lent

Monday, January 20, 2014 • 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
The Lenten Season is an apt time for catechetical preaching. This seminar will explore ways in which preachers might utilize the chief parts of Luther’s Small Catechism as the basis for sermons at midweek Lenten services so that the Christian congregation is deepened in the life of repentance, faith and vocation under the cross. The seminar will utilize the stellar series, Commentary on Luther’s Catechisms by Albrecht Peters currently available from Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org).

Presenter: Prof. John T. Pless

Cost for the workshop is $40.00. You may register online at www.ctsfw.edu/Symposia or by phoning 260-452-2204.
REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1, 2014!

Christ Academy High School
The Summer Event for High School Men
June 15–28, 2014

A retreat for high school men who are considering the vocation of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

For more information please call:
1-800-481-2155

or contact us via email at:
ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu.

You may also register online at:
www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy.
For the Life of the World

his first career. Booker served in the U.S. Army as a Russian and German linguists, then worked in sales and project management for engineering companies.

Considering service in the pastoral ministry wasn’t a decision he and his wife, Connie, made overnight. “It took us six years to make up our minds about going back to school for four years. The greatest influences were elders in the congregations where we attended. And when finally our pastor joined in, I knew I had to consider this prayerfully,” commented Booker. “The joy I had in teaching Bible classes far outweighed any satisfaction I was receiving from any big sales deal.”

He began his studies at CTS in the fall of 2007 and adjusted to life as a full-time student. In addition to interaction with professors and fellow students in the classroom, Booker found his field work assignment at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., to be an invaluable experience. “This experience was irreplaceable; Pastor Thomas Eggold gave me a lot of responsibility for hospital visitations and some difficult Bible classes. He is a tremendous teacher and mentor.”

As his final year at the seminary drew to a close, his classmates were looking forward to calls in all parts of the United States. He, on the other hand, was waiting as the Placement Office at CTS and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Board for Mission Services worked to secure his call to Prague, Czech Republic. “I was called

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. These words from Matthew 28 are perhaps some of the most familiar in Scripture: the call and command from our Savior, Jesus Christ, to go into all the world with His life saving message of salvation.

When men come to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., to prepare for the pastoral ministry, they know they are preparing to fulfill this Great Commission. Few, however, know that one day they will leave their homeland and go serve in nations across the world. But for the Rev. Tony Booker (CTS 2011), that was not an unknown possibility; his parents served as missionaries in Austria. Even with that background, serving as a pastor was not

From Fort Wayne to the Czech Republic

By Jayne E. Sheafer
to the English-speaking congregation at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Prague. When I arrived, there were only three or four people sitting in the pews,” explained Booker. “Even after visiting people who had previously attended, hardly anyone ever came to church. I was starting to feel like a leper. It was six months before attendance began to increase. Now we regularly have attendance in the 20’s or more. The Lord has brought the increase bit by bit.”

As he continues his work in Prague, it is clear he is working in the middle of a ripe mission field. “The Czech Republic, and Prague in particular, are some of the most agnostic and atheist places in all of Europe. Most of our congregation come from Christian homes where in the rest of the world they would be the norm; here they feel isolated and marginalized. They need a community of believers, a family of God that gathers around Jesus Christ, in truth and in spirit, enfleshed and alive.”

With God’s good guidance Booker has been able to provide that community and see his little flock grow through both infant and adult baptisms and in Bible class, where participants feel free to ask questions about faith, doctrine and the Church. “We can never teach our people enough. Encourage questions and show them how their faith is relevant to their lives and for eternal life. Don’t be complacent, but challenge new members to desire the nourishment that we receive in God’s Word, as it comes to us from the Scriptures, from the pulpit, in the words of absolution, in the cleansing flood of our baptismal waters and in the Lord’s Supper—in short, where Jesus forgives us our sins.”

Serving a congregation in a different culture presents challenges in parish ministry, as well as in the day-to-day life for a pastor and his family. Booker’s wife, Connie, had to adjust to not having a job for the first time in her adult life as work permits are very difficult to attain in the Czech Republic. Even so, she has proven to be an incredible helpmate with her willingness to serve wherever needed. “Connie sets up the coffee and tea hour after service. That’s a time when many important questions come up and where we meet with the frequent visitors to this tourist town. Her serving in this way leaves me free to answer questions. It is an invaluable service.”

While Booker serves in a venue quite different from most of his fellow pastors in the LCMS, the challenges and goals remain very much the same. “It is an ongoing struggle to find ways to communicate God’s unchanging truth in a way that hits people from all walks of life and from all kinds of cultures. The congregation here went from being comprised mostly of Americans and British to being very international the year I arrived. We have families and people here from Pakistan, Madagascar, Columbia, El Salvador, Russia, the Netherlands, often from Finland and occasionally from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. I learn more every day about the cultures, languages and history that form the people with whom I come into contact, and it helps us bridge divisions that exist outside of faith, allowing us actually to talk about issues that matter, such as life everlasting and being sustained in the faith—that marvelous gift from our heavenly Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ.”

Jayne E. Sheafer (Jayne.Sheafer@ctsfw.edu) serves as managing editor of For the Life of the World and director of Public Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Seminary’s Daniel Gard Promoted to Rear Admiral

The government was shut down in Washington, D.C., on October 4, 2013. Metro stations were quiet, traffic was minimal and signs announcing the shutdown were posted around the city. But it didn’t stop Navy chaplains from recognizing the promotion of one of their own. At the Pentagon, in the hallowed Hall of Heroes, Chaplain Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard, Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters, was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. Gard assumed his duties as deputy chief on September 23.

“Chaplain Dan Gard has personified a unique professional balance throughout his service as a Navy chaplain,” said Rear Admiral Mark L. Tidd, chief of chaplains, to those gathered. “As a chaplain, he has lived up to the requirements of his calling as a pastoral leader, both on the faculty of Concordia [Theological] Seminary in Fort Wayne [Ind.], and to the sailors and Marines family the Navy has charged him to serve.”

Interview following the ceremony, he noted, “CTS has stood by me and my family when I made all these deployments and trips. I’ve never had to worry about my wife and kids because there’s community there, taking care of them. I am so grateful for the support of my colleagues individually in filling in for me. They are amazing pastors.”

His work in academia has been integral in his leadership role with the Navy, he said. “CTS is about preparing men for pastoral ministry and women for diaconal service. Chaplaincy is just one part of that. I remember getting back from a particularly challenging deployment and staff asked me, ‘How did you do that?’ I told them, ‘I learned it at CTS. They trained us to be pastors.’ CTS is the most precious place on earth.”

“I know I speak for the entire CTS community when I say how pleased and proud we are that Dr. Gard has received this promotion,” stated CTS President Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. “Dr. Gard’s service to this seminary, the church at-large and to his country has been exemplary and provides an excellent example of a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ.”

(Excerpts from an article by Adriane (Dorr) Heins, associate executive director for Communication Services for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Reprinted, with permission, from Reporter Online (reporter.lcms.org), the electronic version of the LCMS national newspaper. The entire article can be found at http://blogs.lcms.org/2013/gard-promoted-to-rear-admiral.)

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Concordia Theological Seminary invites you to join us in touring

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November 15–25, 2014
$2,759 Round trip airfare from Chicago

Destinations include Waterford, Killarney, Galway, Connemara, Sligo Dublin

Tour includes accommodations in first class hotels; most meals; comprehensive sightseeing; services of English-speaking guides; automatic $100,000 flight insurance policy; all admission fees, porterage, hotel taxes and service charges.

For more information contact CTSTours@ctsfw.edu or (877) 287-4338 or (260) 452-2212.

2014 CTS Wall Calendars

The 2014 wall calendar from Concordia Theological Seminary features photos of the seminary community, CTS events for 2014 and the lectionary for the year. The calendars were mailed to all CTS alumni and all congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in mid-November. A limited number of additional copies are available to individuals and congregations by phoning 260-452-2150 or emailing Colleen.Bartzsch@ctsfw.edu. There is a $5.00 mailing charge for quantities of one to 10 calendars.
**Faculty in Print**

**Martin Luther: Preacher of the Cross—A Study in Luther’s Pastoral** (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2013) by John T. Pless, Assistant Professor, Pastoral Ministry and Missions. A good description of this volume is offered by the author in his Introduction: “This book looks into Luther’s practice of pastoral care. His insights, gleaned from his lifelong endeavor to bring consolation to troubled consciences by setting them right with God through the justifying Word that they might live in the freedom of faith toward their Creator and in the generosity of love toward the neighbor, provide lessons that might assist contemporary pastors.”

Order from the CTS Bookstore by phoning 260-452-2160 or emailing CTSBookstore@ctsfw.edu.

**Mercy at Life’s End: A Guide for Laity and Their Pastors** (St. Louis: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s (LCMS) Life Ministries, 2013) by John T. Pless, Assistant Professor, Pastoral Ministry and Missions. This booklet lays out a biblical understanding of these issues in light of God’s Law and Gospel while providing spiritual guidance for Christians faced with decisions regarding care and treatment when death appears imminent. A thoughtful critique of trends toward euthanasia and assisted suicide as ways of attempting to assert human autonomy and evade the last enemy is included, as well as questions to help provide clarification and assist family members who are charged with the responsibility of making decisions for a dying loved one. This will make an excellent resource for a Bible class setting as well as in situations where the pastor is helping his people work toward God-pleasing decisions when death draws near.

Order from the CTS Bookstore by phoning 260-452-2160 or emailing CTSBookstore@ctsfw.edu.

**Twentieth-Century Lutheran Theologians**, edited by Mark C. Mattes (Goettingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013). Prof. John T. Pless and Dr. David P. Scaer are among the 14 authors of essays in *Twentieth-Century Lutheran Theologians*. Each essay takes an in-depth look at theologians who shaped theological thought in the first half of the last century, including those from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod such as Werner Elert, Paul Althaus, Hermann Sasse, Edmund Schlinck, Ernst Kaemann, Gustaf Winren and Gerhard Ebeling As that era begins to fade out of sight, these essays give a bird’s eye view in explaining how we have come to do theology as we do. More info is available here: www.refo500.nl/actions/item/309/twentieth-century-lutheran-theologians/language:en.

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**JOIN US IN THE HOLY LAND!**

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**March 3–12, 2014**

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**$3,499 Round trip airfare from Chicago**

Tour includes accommodations in first class hotels; daily breakfast and dinner; comprehensive sightseeing; services of English-speaking guides; automatic $100,000 flight insurance policy; all admission fees, porterage, hotel taxes and service charges.

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When Walter A. Maier was born on June 24, 1925, and was given the name of his father, it was not a widely known name. That changed with the founding of the Lutheran Hour in 1930 by his father, who also served as its principal speaker. Over the next two decades, the name that he shared with his father became the most widely recognized name of a Missouri Synod pastor in households across the United States and even internationally.

Walter Jr. attended Concordia College in Milwaukee, then Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (where his father was a professor) and finally Washington University in St. Louis. After receiving his first call to rural Faith Lutheran Church in Elma, N.Y., Walter Jr. was ordained and installed by his father at this congregation on September 11, 1949. Little did anyone know that this event would prove to be “the passing of the baton” of service to Christ and His Church as the elder Walter A. Maier was suddenly called from this life four months later to the day on January 11, 1950. As one distinguished servant was completing his work on earth, another servant by the same name was beginning what has become 64 blessed years of faithful service to congregations, a seminary and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).
Besides his parents, no other person has been more significant to Maier’s decades of service than Leah Martha Gach, whom he met at his first congregation and married on August 27, 1951. A theme for their marriage and family has long been “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:1), a text prominently displayed on their current family room fireplace. The Lord has blessed their marriage with much rejoicing for over six decades. Leah, whom Walter calls “the angel of my life,” was at his side when they moved to suburban Levittown, Pa., where he was used by the Lord to help Hope Lutheran Church grow from a few families to 1333 souls from 1954-61. Their next stop was Hope Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Wis., from 1961-65, which was a town-gown situation that allowed Pastor Maier to teach religion and Greek classes at nearby Concordia College. During these years of service to congregations, their marriage was blessed with the birth of two sons, Walter III and David, both of whom became pastors.

This combination of rural, suburban and urban congregational service, along with his teaching experience at the college level, prepared Dr. Maier to follow in his father’s footsteps as a seminary professor, which he did by accepting the call to Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Springfield, Ill., in 1965. During his early years of teaching New Testament classes at Springfield, he completed his Master of Sacred Theology (1967) and Doctor of Theology degrees (1970) at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

His rapid-fire lecture style, his faithfulness to the biblical text and his attacks on the Historical Critical Method contributed to his popularity as a speaker in the LCMS and his advancement in rank to associate professor (1968) and professor (1973). He moved with the seminary to its present campus in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1976. His time at CTS includes services as chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology, academic dean, vice president/assistant to the president, director of the Distance Education Leading to Ordination (DELTO) Program and chairman of the seminary’s 150th anniversary (1996). He also served as a vice president of the LCMS from 1973–1995. Concordia College, Bronxville, awarded him the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 1999. In recent years, Dr. Maier remained active teaching Greek Readings each quarter until fully retiring from the CTS faculty in August 2013.

Dr. Maier’s joy in teaching and proclaiming God’s Word in his speaking and writing has always been evident. His eldest son, Dr. Walter A. Maier III, expressed clearly what many “spiritual sons” of Dr. Maier’s seminary teaching experienced in his classrooms and while enjoying hospitality in his home in Springfield and Fort Wayne, “My father has been a wonderful teacher and example for me all my life—before I entered the seminary, then during the period of seminary education and ever since. It was an added blessing from the Lord to have been his colleague on the seminary faculty for many years. He has shown me what it means to be a father, pastor, professor, scholar and churchman, that is, a true servant of God, one motivated and empowered by Christ.” Dr. Maier, a true servant of God, has done much to help us all “rejoice in the Lord always!”

Top: Dr. Walter and Mrs. (Leah) Maier II
Bottom: CTS President Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr. presents Dr. Maier with a plaque commemorating his many years of service to CTS and the church-at-large.

The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Gieschen (Charles.Gieschen@ctsfw.edu) serves as academic dean and professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Wenthe Named Interim President of Concordia University System

On behalf of the Concordia University System (CUS) board of directors, the Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Jastram, the board’s chairman, announced October 4, 2013, that the Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe has been named CUS interim president, effective immediately.

Wenthe, retired president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., concurrently was named CUS director for Cooperative Services, a staff position based at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s International Center in St. Louis. Wenthe will hold both positions while the nominations process for the university system’s president is re-initiated.

Wenthe succeeds the Rev. Dr. Alan W. Borcherding, who had served as CUS interim president since 2010. Borcherding will continue in his full-time position as CUS director of University Education.

“I am so pleased to welcome Dr. Wenthe to this position,” said Jastram. “His many years of distinguished service as a seminary president and professor will serve him well in his new responsibilities and be a great blessing to the university system and the church at-large. I also want to express my sincere appreciation—and the thanks of everyone on the board—to Dr. Borcherding for his service as interim president during this vacancy and for his ongoing work for the university system.”

As required by LCMS Bylaws, the appointing of the university system’s interim president was made with the concurrence of LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison.

CUS is comprised of 10 colleges and universities operating under the auspices of the LCMS. Located across the United States, the schools offer more than 160 undergraduate and 50 graduate programs. While each institution is unique, all 10 campuses offer a learning experience grounded in the Lutheran Confessions and with the common goal of developing Christian leaders for service and vocation in the church, community and world.

(By Vicki Biggs director, Public Relations, for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Reprinted, with permission, from Reporter Online (reporter.lcms.org), the electronic version of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s national newspaper.)
Second Cohort of SMP Students Complete Courses at CTS

Tuesday, November 5, 2013, marked the completion of course work for the second cohort of Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. The SMP Program is a distance-education program designed to meet the need to train pastors in context for ministry and mission opportunities in the church.

Members of the Beta Cohort who have completed their studies are:
- Albrecht, Brian A., St. John's Lutheran Church, Spokane, Washington, Northwest District
- Becker, Gregory H., Zion & Immanuel Lutheran Churches, Turtle Lake & Clayton, Wisconsin, North Wisconsin District
- Christensen, Mark F., First Lutheran Church, Missoula, Montana, Montana District
- Ciprys, Frank C., St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rockford, Illinois, Northern Illinois District
- Franzen, Dennis J., Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisle, Illinois, Northern Illinois District
- Lee, Joshua T., Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, South Wisconsin District
- Mayo Sr., Brian P., Salem Lutheran Church, Homewood, Illinois, Northern Illinois District
- Plain, Robert D., Mt. Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio, Ohio District
- Reinking, Aaron M., Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, Georgia, Florida-Georgia District

More information about the SMP Program at CTS can be found at www.ctsfw.edu/SMP or by contacting the CTS Office of Admission at Admission@ctsfw.edu or 800-481-2155.

Continuing Education Opportunity at Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne, Indiana

Bishop Bo Giertz in Context: His Life, His Work, His Writings

Dr. Rune Imberg
January 27–February 7, 2014
Monday-Friday: 3:00–6:00 p.m.

For more information go to www.ctsfw.edu/CE, email CE@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2103.
Military Project: Shepherds in the Field

By Carolyn S. Brinkley

There were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8

A Chaplain from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is first and foremost a pastor. He is a shepherd who leaves his church family and country to be the presence of the Good Shepherd to those who serve in the field of combat and other unstable regions around the world. Through Word and Sacraments he brings the mercy of Christ to those who suffer fear, loneliness and danger as they defend America’s freedoms on foreign soil far from home. What a great opportunity and privilege it is to support and encourage these courageous pastors! They not only serve our church, but also our country as they keep watch over those who risk their lives for our freedoms in the darkness of war and political strife.

Our deployed chaplains need our help.

Previous government funding for purchasing supplies for worship and other acts of mercy has suffered cutbacks. Some chaplains have reported buying liturgical items from their own pockets. Now more than ever, with your help we have the opportunity to support these shepherds as they are the presence of Christ to those in the field.

How Can You help?

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

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

Dear Carolyn:

I received the package you sent me recently and wanted to express my sincere thanks. I am in South Korea for one year without my family, and it is amazing how a kind gesture from someone I don’t even know can warm my heart. I actually tear up while telling my wife, Lawrie, about the homemade card and soap and the mint that you grow in your garden. I have enjoyed the Scripture cards to people who have come. I have been giving away the CD hymns of comfort and peace you sent.

May the Lord continue to bless you, your family and your important and effective ministry.

In Christ,
Chaplain Major Joe Watson

Deaconess Carolyn S. Brinkley (MilitaryProject@ctsfw.edu) serves as coordinator of the Military Project at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Chaplain Charles Mallie conducting the Divine Service in the field.
This Is Our Treasure... to Serve and to Pray for the Called

By Elfrieda Spencer

On September 10, 2013, the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild held its first meeting of the 168th Academic Year with the Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege sharing information on his ministry at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines. There he taught ministerial students and ordained pastors. While the travel is exhausting and the culture very different, for him it is a joyful privilege to bring the power of the Word to the seminary in Baguio City. Individual members of the Guild have supported him with prayer and financial gifts. In fact, the Baguio City seminary was established with primary funding from the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) in the 1950s.

Most, if not all, women of the CTS Guild also hold membership in the LWML. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been granted to the seminary at both the national and district LWML conventions. Seminary students on campus from Africa, Germany and other nations receive financial gifts and service from the Guild and LWML societies.

At the 1987 International LWML convention in Texas, the Rev. Nicholas Salify, a Lutheran pastor in Ghana, was given a large grant to pursue mission ministry in Africa. Later in his ministry he observed how the Lutheran School system worked in the United States. He knew this was something Ghana needed urgently. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), founded by the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Rahn, provided translated copies of A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories for their school. By the end of their first year, the four-year-olds had memorized the Ten Commandments, Lord’s Prayer and parts of the Apostles’ Creed. About 50% of the students at the school are Muslim. They, too, are required to memorize the Catechism. Their parents don’t object because they want their children to have a better education. We were pleased to have Dr. Rahn as our guest speaker at a recent meeting.

The Guild assists Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley, CTS Military Project coordinator, in supporting Military Chaplains overseas. As part of our November meeting, we wrote notes of greeting and spiritual encouragement on Christmas cards. This year 200 cards, artistically created by Cathy Jones, were sent. A portion of the cards were sent without messages allowing Chaplains to distribute to military personnel, giving them the opportunity to use them to send greetings to their families. It is truly a treasure to be part of this special effort that serves at home and around the world! 🎁

Mrs. Elfrieda Spencer (espalm62@gmail.com) serves as president of the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Concordia Theological Seminary
Affiliate Guild Registration

☐ Yes, we are interested in becoming an Affiliate Guild. Please send more information to:
Name: _________________________________________________________________
Organization: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: _______ Zip: _________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________

☐ We have enclosed our yearly $25 check for our group to be an Affiliate Guild.
☐ I have enclosed my yearly $10 check to be an individual affiliate member.
☐ Donation Day gift.

☐ Enclosed donation payable to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, c/o Linda Scicluna, 4 Wycliffe Place, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

February 11, 2014
Seminarians in Ministry
Luther Hall, 1:00 p.m.

March 11, 2014
Spring Appreciation Luncheon
Becky Rogness
Director of Communications,
Allen County Right to Life
Former Press Secretary to
U.S. Representative
Michele Bachmann
Luther Hall, 12:00 p.m.

April 8, 2014
Deaconess Emphasis
Deaconess Karen Blank
Presentation on her work
with Burmese immigrants
in Fort Wayne
Luther Hall, 1:00 p.m.

This Is our Treasure... to Serve and to Pray for the Called

By Elfrieda Spencer

On September 10, 2013, the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild held its first meeting of the 168th Academic Year with the Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege sharing information on his ministry at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines. There he taught ministerial students and ordained pastors. While the travel is exhausting and the culture very different, for him it is a joyful privilege to bring the power of the Word to the seminary in Baguio City. Individual members of the Guild have supported him with prayer and financial gifts. In fact, the Baguio City seminary was established with primary funding from the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) in the 1950s.

Most, if not all, women of the CTS Guild also hold membership in the LWML. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been granted to the seminary at both the national and district LWML conventions. Seminary students on campus from Africa, Germany and other nations receive financial gifts and service from the Guild and LWML societies.

At the 1987 International LWML convention in Texas, the Rev. Nicholas Salify, a Lutheran pastor in Ghana, was given a large grant to pursue mission ministry in Africa. Later in his ministry he observed how the Lutheran School system worked in the United States. He knew this was something Ghana needed urgently. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), founded by the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Rahn, provided translated copies of A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories for their school. By the end of their first year, the four-year-olds had memorized the Ten Commandments, Lord’s Prayer and parts of the Apostles’ Creed. About 50% of the students at the school are Muslim. They, too, are required to memorize the Catechism. Their parents don’t object because they want their children to have a better education. We were pleased to have Dr. Rahn as our guest speaker at a recent meeting.

The Guild assists Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley, CTS Military Project coordinator, in supporting Military Chaplains overseas. As part of our November meeting, we wrote notes of greeting and spiritual encouragement on Christmas cards. This year 200 cards, artistically created by Cathy Jones, were sent. A portion of the cards were sent without messages allowing Chaplains to distribute to military personnel, giving them the opportunity to use them to send greetings to their families. It is truly a treasure to be part of this special effort that serves at home and around the world! 🎁

Mrs. Elfrieda Spencer (espalm62@gmail.com) serves as president of the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Concordia Theological Seminary
Affiliate Guild Registration

☐ Yes, we are interested in becoming an Affiliate Guild. Please send more information to:
Name: _________________________________________________________________
Organization: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: _______ Zip: _________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________

☐ We have enclosed our yearly $25 check for our group to be an Affiliate Guild.
☐ I have enclosed my yearly $10 check to be an individual affiliate member.
☐ Donation Day gift.

☐ Enclosed donation payable to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, c/o Linda Scicluna, 4 Wycliffe Place, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

December 2013
Over the past several months some of our Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) alumni have received recognitions and acknowledgments while others have achieved personal accomplishments. If you are a CTS alum and have items to share, please send them to Alumni@ctsfw.edu.

**Rev. Dr. Robert H. Bennett** is a 2002 M.Div. and 2011 Ph.D. graduate from CTS. He is the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Reese, Mich. He recently wrote a book on outreach and missions, *I Am Not Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2013). It is a fascinating first-hand account of the spiritual warfare found within the Lutheran Church of Madagascar. He is dedicated to studying Malagasy culture and the evangelism methods employed by the Malagasy Lutheran Church. He is also adjunct professor of Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dr. Bennett will be signing copies of his book on Wednesday, January 22, at 12:00 p.m. in the CTS Bookstore. Books can be ordered by phoning the bookstore at 260-452-2160.

**Rev. Timothy R. Puls**, CTS director of Alumni and Church Relations, is a recent recipient of the Charis Award presented by Grace Place Lutheran Wellness Ministries for dedicated, passionate service and active and energetic commitment to Lutheran church workers and their families. The event raised financial support to provide Grace Place Retreats for seminarians and spouses from both seminaries as well as LCMS missionaries from the Dominican Republic in 2014.

**Rev. Philip J. Rigdon**, a 2008 CTS graduate and associate pastor at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Avon, Ind, recently wrote a fiction novel called *Under the Bridge to the Seeds of Light* (Mustang, Okla.: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC., 2013). The story is based on three friends who are looking for a missing friend. In so doing they discover numerous characters and another place with mysterious power. There is much darkness and things look hopeless until possible help arrives. The book can be ordered at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore.

*The Rev. Timothy R. Puls (Timothy.Puls@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of Alumni and Church Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.*
A penny saved is a penny earned.” Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) donors Tom and Ruth Olsen have added a playful twist to that old saying by commenting that their pennies have turned into nickels (and much more) to support the work of the seminary.

After many years in New Jersey, Tom and Ruth now live in Lewes, Del. They are lifelong Lutherans, and like many of their generation, they met at Walther League. They married and God blessed them with four children and eight grandchildren.

Both Tom and Ruth have served the Church and their community in a variety of ways. Tom was an elementary school principal for 40 years, and the Thomas N. Olsen Library at Berkeley School in Westwood, N.J., was named in his honor at his retirement. Tom also served on the Board of Regents of Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y. He did this while remaining active in his own congregation, serving in a variety of offices, including congregational president, elder and Sunday School superintendent.

As the daughter of a pastor, Ruth grew up serving in the Church. It’s not surprising then that after she and Tom were married, she decided to start a small Christian preschool for her children and their friends at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood, N.J. With God’s amazing blessings, the school grew. When Ruth retired, the school had 120 children, a staff of 23 and nine classrooms. The preschool continues to thrive today.

Tom and Ruth have been closely associated with CTS for more than 25 years. In 1987, a friend suggested to Dr. Robert Preus, then-CTS president, that Tom and Ruth be invited to sit on the President’s Advisory Council (PAC) at the seminary. Since Ruth’s father was a 1919 graduate of CTS, they were honored to serve in this way.

As members of the PAC, they particularly remember Dr. Preus’ appeal to them that they support CTS so that our graduates would not have to leave seminary with large amounts of debt. They remember him telling them that too many of our graduates were serving in the parish for only a year or two before having to resign their call because they could not make ends meet. The debt burden they incurred from seminary was too great to bear on a pastor’s salary. This so troubled Tom and Ruth that they decided to establish The Rev. Henry H. Kuehn Ministerial Assistance Endowment Fund in honor of Ruth’s father to provide scholarships to CTS students.

The endowment fund started small, but it is valued at more than $120,000 today. As Ruth stated, “It is amazing to see how pennies turn into nickels. This is how we were able to start the endowment fund and how we are able to continue our support of it today—by watching our pennies and nickels.” Family members and friends, as well as students who have received a scholarship from it, have also given to the fund.

A favorite Bible verse of Tom and Ruth is 1 Peter 2:9, “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Tom and Ruth rejoice that God has called them out of darkness into the light of His Son, Jesus Christ, and they rejoice that God is working through them to bring others into His kingdom. Their desire is that by God’s grace many will be called out of the darkness of this sinful world and be brought into the marvelous and gracious light of Christ.

Tom and Ruth are very pleased to support CTS because they know that our students are being formed to do this very thing—to shine the light of Christ into a dark and dying world. They invite you to join them in supporting the students of Concordia Theological Seminary with your financial gifts as these future pastors and deaconesses go forth with the light of Christ to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

For more information about endowment giving, as well as other ways to support future pastors and deaconesses, please contact the CTS Office of Advancement at 877-287-4338 or Advancement@ctsfw.edu. ⤡

The Rev. Brian T. Crane (Brian.Crane@ctsfw.edu) serves as an advancement officer at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Together with the Church, the seminary has always been mindful of her important role to provide the church and the world with preachers, who in Christ’s name preach repentance and forgiveness to all people. Our text underscores the need for this kind of mission by drawing attention to four important points:

- The necessity of the work;
- The basis and content of the message;
- The universality of the work;
- The empowerment for that work.

Let us now look at the text in some detail:

1. These words of our Lord are significant for the reason that the suffering and resurrection of Christ and the preaching of the Gospel to all heathens are already prophesied in the Old Testament (as it is written οὕτως γἐγραπται), and that both must occur according to God’s will.
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
   b. Read Psalm 110:2 and show how “The Lord will extend His mighty scepter from Zion” in Luke 24. __________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________

2. The Lord assigns a specific content to that preaching: It is a proclamation that demands repentance and grants forgiveness in His name as the two principal acts of salvation and that this preaching has to be directed to all nations beginning in Jerusalem.
   a. How does the story of Jonah (Jonah 3:1 and 10) reflect the content of the preaching in v. 47? _______________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________

3. Only those are charged who have personally witnessed Jesus’ death and resurrection and who will then be clothed with the Spirit from on high (vs. 48-49).
   a. In Acts 5:29-32 who affirms that he has been a witness of Christ’s death and resurrection, and how many others does Paul mention in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8? __________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
   b. What event is described in Acts 2:4 and how does it tie into Luke 24:49? __________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________

4. Our text refers to the scope of mission. Though the disciples are instructed to remain in Jerusalem, they must become preachers to the Gentiles and soon that actually happens. The Book of Acts records the apostles’ mission to the Gentiles. This is done in three stages based on the master plan of Acts 1:8b:
   “You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
   Read Acts 15:5-11, 28-29: What initial problem stood in the way of preaching the Gospel to all nations? How was it resolved? __________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________

5. We often forget that the basis for doing mission comes from Scripture. The Lord Himself supported His commission with reference to Scripture: “It is written.” Mission is based upon God’s will, He wants it and He demands it. Preaching the Gospel is not an option the church may decide to do or not to do. In fact, just as it was necessary for Jesus to die and rise, so too the preaching is also a necessity.
   a. How does the seminary relate to the charge of sending preachers? __________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
   b. What was Jonah’s problem (Jonah 1:3)? Reflect on two reasons you know that may be used as excuses in the church to avoid preaching the Gospel to all nations. __________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
      ____________________________________________________
6. The preaching of the Gospel spans the whole world just as Christ’s death and resurrection occurred for all people. Without the Lord’s death and resurrection there would be no preaching. However, without preaching people would not hear and come to believe in what the Lord has done for them. Faith in Christ comes from the preached word.

Read Romans 10:14-17: What concerns does the Apostle Paul express in this text and how can our Church today respond to his concerns?

__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

7. The content of our preaching should be the call to repentance and then the granting of forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ. Thus, there is no other way to come to Christ than through a change in a person’s life, from a denial of who he is, to a heartfelt sorrow for one’s sins to a trust in the words of forgiveness. Mission work done in the name of Christ and remission of one’s sins provides not temporary but eternal release. As Martin Luther says: “For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and eternal salvation to all who believe it.” (Small Catechism, 4th Chief Part, Question Two)

Reflect on the worship service on Sunday. Point to stations in it where you receive forgiveness and recall the words spoken to you.

__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

8. God also uses witnesses today. While none of us was personally in the company of Jesus when He walked the earth and while none of us has witnessed His death and resurrection, our witness (e.g., 1 Peter 2:9) of what He has done for us and all people in this world can bring people to faith and to church. The Holy Spirit gives us the faith and the strength to speak about Christ. We do so willingly and not grudgingly because we feel forced to do so.

a. Read Matthew 5:13-16 and 1 Peter 2:12: What images are used to reflect on the role of Christians in this world and what particular aspect of our Christian life helps in being good witnesses to an unbelieving world?

__________________________________________________


__________________________________________________

The Rev. Dr. K. Detlev Schulz (Detlev.Schulz@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of the Ph.D. in Missiology Studies Program and chairman and professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
ON CAMPUS VISITATION EVENTS
Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne, Indiana
Visitation events for future pastors or deaconesses

Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit
March 20–22, 2014
www.ctsfw.edu/PCV

Christ Academy High School
June 15–28, 2014
www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy

Phoebe Academy High School
August 1–3, 2014
www.ctsfw.edu/PhoebeAcademy

Christ Academy College & Phoebe Academy College
October 30–November 2, 2014
www.ctsfw.edu/CAC

For more information you may also call 1-800-481-2155, email Admission@ctsfw.edu or visit www.ctsfw.edu/Admission.