Preparing to Share His Story
By Douglas D. Bauman

A Deaconess Story
By Jacqueline A. Duke

The Story Continues
By Joshua R. Gale
Several years ago I participated in the Thrivent Fellows Program (http://www.thriventfellows.org). As part of this endeavor I was introduced to a useful tool which had a unique and positive way of assessing one’s personal perspective and gifts. Called StrengthsFinder (http://www.strengthsfinder.com/home.aspx) it identifies, on the basis of a series of answers to targeted questions, a set of five “strengths” or themes that characterize the person using the tool. Each time I’ve taken it, my number one theme has been “Context.” As a result, it claims to say the following, among other things, about me:

By accumulating lots of knowledge regarding days gone by, you regularly anticipate the opportunities and pitfalls you are apt to face in the coming months, years, or decades. You typically ask what they think about past events or luminaries—that is, prominent individuals. You probably construct timelines when you need a framework within which to sort through historic evidence. You likely research topics quite thoroughly before you draw any conclusions. Because of your strengths, you examine the past. You discover why things happened. This permits you to foresee the future. Generating clever, resourceful, inventive, and original alternatives, you can offer solutions to age-old problems.

Now, honestly, some of this seems a little overstated—even a little embarrassing. Yet, at the same time, it does a pretty good job of identifying how I think and work.

This tool—and it is just that, nothing more, nothing less—can help one take a look at oneself. What I like the most about it, however, is that it locates identity in strengths, not in what one lacks.

But is this all that innovative? Not really. The Scriptures clearly speak of how God gives each of us unique gifts and how He helps us use those gifts for the good of His Church and in mission to the world. As St. Paul puts it:

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Rom. 12:4-8 ESV)

This issue of For the Life of the World tells the stories of several wonderfully gifted servants of Christ who have put their unique gifts into full-time service in pastoral and deaconess ministries. Coming from a variety of backgrounds, experiencing different formational paths and being placed into widely varying areas of service, they show just how God keeps His promises to use the “gifts that differ” all for the sake of His one mission. The stories of Pastors Doug Bauman and Josh Gale and Deaconess Jackie Duke are testaments to God’s incredible grace working in the life of truly gifted people—the people who make this seminary great.

In the end, however, as Pastor Bauman points out, this really is God’s story—the story of God’s redeeming love which saves us through the person and work of His Son Jesus Christ, “that we might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness.”

In His service,

Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President, Concordia Theological Seminary

P.S. If you’re interested, my four other Strengths Finder themes are: 2) Maximizer; 3) Learner; 4) Strategic; 5) Achiever.
4 Preparing to Share His Story
By Douglas D. Bauman
Whatever the seminarian’s story is before he enrolls at the seminary, whatever the congregation’s story is where he is sent to serve, in the end it’s all God’s story, His story. The vocation of pastor is not easy. The work is often demanding and the devil’s temptations are many and great, but there is no greater joy than serving the people of God with the gifts of God and bringing the Gospel of Christ to those who are in the darkness of sin and unbelief.

6 A Deaconess Story
By Jacqueline A. Duke
My admission into the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, Deaconess Program was not something that I had ever expected. It is, however, a testament to the power of God’s living Word and His faithfulness. Not only did the Lord seek me, find me and deliver me out of the deep, dark pit, He chose me to be His instrument of peace and His hands of mercy.

8 The Story Continues
By Joshua R. Gale
It was this theologically and liturgically rich life at seminary that impacted my ministry in Philadelphia. While it would be foolish to attempt a replication of the CTS campus, there is a lot that can be adapted. Much of my work in Philadelphia centers around care for, and evangelism of, the homeless population. I took this three-fold benefit of seminary life and applied it to the lives of those on the streets.

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When one is ordained and installed as pastor, the pastor’s story and the congregation’s story merge. The pastor and his family gather with the congregation around Word and Sacrament to receive the Lord’s gifts. They worship together, pray together, serve together and fellowship together. They rejoice together and they weep together. As a pastor, you are present at the most important chapters of your congregants’ lives—the births and baptisms of children, confirmations and weddings, and in their final hours on this earth and for their families as they grieve.

As for my wife Michelle and me, we were the married, 20-somethings at the seminary. I grew up in Nebraska, not the son of a pastor but the son of a butcher. Michelle was born in Iowa. We met at Concordia College (now University) in Seward, Neb. I was in the pre-seminary program; Michelle majored in Lutheran education. We were married the January before we moved to Fort Wayne.

At new student orientation we met seminarians and their families who had stories much like ours. We also met others whose stories were radically different. Despite our various stories, our greatest friendships were made at the seminary. We studied and learned together, and we worshiped together daily in chapel. Our families fellowshipped and had fun together. In the chapel, classrooms, dining hall, fieldwork and vicarage congregations the Good Shepherd prepared and formed my classmates and me to be faithful
undershepherds of His flock. We were taught by a world class faculty, with stories of their own, who not only engaged us in the classroom, but also over coffee after chapel, over lunch in the dining hall or in their office if we had questions.

For most seminarians, the decision to enroll is not an easy one. To aspire to the Office of the Ministry involves sacrifice—sacrifice for the seminarian, for the seminarian’s wife and children, and for the seminarian’s home congregation and other individuals who provide financial support. Although never easy, this sacrifice is necessary. Today men are called to serve in a postmodern world that is increasingly hostile to Christ and His Church. Our Lord taught His apostles for three years before sending them out to teach, baptize and absolve. To serve God’s people faithfully and to confess clearly the truth in a land that is sliding into the abyss of paganism require tremendous study of and formation by the Word of God. It requires the sacrifice of individuals, congregations and our Synod to prepare and train properly those who are sent into the Lord’s harvest field.

Every Congregation Has a Story

Just like every seminarian has a story, so too every congregation has a story. Some are young and some are old; some are small and some are large; some are urban and some are rural; some are growing and some are in decline. When one is ordained and installed as pastor, the pastor’s story and the congregation’s story merge. The pastor and his family gather with the congregation around Word and Sacrament to receive the Lord’s gifts. They worship together, pray together, serve together and fellowship together. They rejoice together and they weep together. As a pastor, you are present at the most important chapters of your congregants’ lives—the births and baptisms of children, confirmations and weddings, and in their final hours on this earth and for their families as they grieve. Not only does the congregation become part of your story, but as a pastor you are part of your people’s stories as well.

For us, this was a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ind. Now in my eleventh year of serving as pastor, I have been blessed in so many ways. People’s stories continue to be written and I have had the privilege of being part of those stories. For example, I’m about to begin confirmation instruction with children I baptized when I first arrived. I have married those I confirmed as youth. It is a joy to witness those from our congregation who entered the seminary and now serve as faithful pastors in the Lord’s Church. It is also a joy to serve God’s saints even as their earthly pilgrimage draws to a close and they are welcomed into eternal paradise.

The Story Is God’s Story

Whatever the seminarian’s story is before he enrolls at the seminary, whatever the congregation’s story is where he is sent to serve, in the end it’s all God’s story, His story. The vocation of pastor is not easy. The work is often demanding and the devil’s temptations are many and great, but there is no greater joy than serving the people of God with the gifts of God and bringing the Gospel of Christ to those who are in the darkness of sin and unbelief.

If you are considering the pastoral office, especially if fellow believers are encouraging you to serve as a pastor, my advice is, “Do it!” Enroll at the seminary, be trained and formed by the Word of God and be sent out to serve.

If you are reading this, God is also using you to be part of His story. Jesus commands all believers to pray to the Lord of harvest to raise up more workers for His harvest field (Matt. 9:38). Pray often that many would aspire to the Office of the Holy Ministry. Pray for pastors, missionaries and all church workers who are already in the Lord’s harvest field that they would serve faithfully. Likewise, identify those you believe have the gifts that would make a good pastor and encourage them to consider the pastoral office.

Whatever our callings are, we all have a story. But in the end, it’s God’s story, for He calls us to faith, strengthens us in the faith and works through us to further His kingdom.

Rev. Bauman has experienced the joy of seeing the members of St. Paul’s grow in Christ.

The Rev. Douglas D. Bauman (CTS 2002) serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (stpaulcolumbus.org), Columbus, Ind.
In my mid-forties something happened. I don’t know how, but suddenly I was overcome with the desire to go back to church. After having visited other churches I made my way into Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Smithfield, R.I. At the age of 45, I was catechized and became a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

A question that one will hear around the seminary campus is, “What’s your story?” Everyone has a story to tell about their journey to Concordia Theological Seminary, and the following is mine.

Deciding what one wants to be when they “grow up” can be quite the challenge for some. And this was certainly true for me. After completing my undergraduate degree in the Fine Arts, I floundered for many years searching for “success” and a sense of fulfillment in vocations that seemed just to fall into my lap. Though these vocations were certainly commendable, something was always missing. It would not be until much later in life that I would discover exactly what that missing piece was: Christ.

For most of my adult life I thought I knew who God was. As many today still seek a god that they have created to suit their desires, I too had sought my own god. I had my own relationship with him, and that was all I needed. Church? Church was for other people, not for me.

In my mid-forties something happened, though. I don’t know how it happened, but suddenly I was overcome with the desire to go back to church. To make this long story short, after having visited other churches I made my way into Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Smithfield, R.I. Having been brought up in the Episcopal...
Church, this was an unlikely church for me to join. But, at the age of 45, I was catechized and became a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

My admission into the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, Deaconess Program was not something that I had ever expected. It is, however, a testament to the power of God’s living Word and His faithfulness. Not only did the Lord seek me, find me and deliver me out of the deep, dark pit, He chose me to be His instrument of peace and His hands of mercy. I know that it is not a coincidence that the pastor of the church to which God had guided me would have a daughter who happened to be a deaconess and the recruiter of the CTS Deaconess Program.

But did I just answer His call with a “Yes, Lord! Here am I!”? No! As a mature woman, the thought of living in a dorm was not so appealing to me. And the thought of leaving my place of employment of 20 years and the comfort of its security, of leaving my family, my friends, my church, my life. But I did not leave. Instead, through much encouragement from others and through continual prayer, campus life became a great joy. I thrived in my classes. I even received a bonus prize! During my first year at CTS I met and married a seminarian! My husband and I were blessed to be able not only to serve our vicarage and internship together in the same parish, but we also had the incredible opportunity to travel to Kenya on a missionary trip with other seminary students.

I continue to be exceedingly blessed. Today, while my husband serves a small congregation in the city of Pittsburgh, I provide spiritual care daily to residents and hospice patients at Concordia Lutheran Ministries, a fully accredited aging services network in Cabot, Penn. As a deaconess in the chaplain’s office, I have had the honor and the privilege of providing the comfort and encouragement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the aged, the sick and suffering, and to the dying. I also teach weekly Bible studies and provide a weekly preschool devotion.

Even in the short time I have been a deaconess, God has blessed me with wonderful opportunities to see Him at work through me. One was a distressed hospice patient who refused to take medication, as she felt she deserved to die in pain. Hearing the Gospel spoken in a way that was new to her, the patient declared that she had never known such peace. She took her medication and did, indeed, die in peace.

Deaconess Jacqueline A. Duke serves as a deaconess at Concordia Lutheran Ministries (www.concordialm.org) in Cabot, Penn.
There is no standard story for those in the seminary. My entrance into the LCMS was the result of being adopted into a Lutheran family. Some seminarians were born and raised Lutheran. There are at any time several students who converted in adulthood. But whatever our background, we all shared in the richness of Concordia Theological Seminary as we trained to be pastors. Our pasts may have been different, but our destination was singular: ordination into the Office of the Holy Ministry. For those who are considering seminary, or those who are either enrolled or graduated, I want to share a few observations I have of my formative days on the seminary campus and how they relate to my ministry now with Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries.

First, my time at CTS was theological. This is a no-brainer, of course. But the pastor’s formation is not dependent upon making him a whimsical people-person, a skilled administrator or even an insightful leader. The pastor is first and foremost a theologian, and the seminary exists to form his theological abilities.

It is this prayerful, deliberate and in-depth study of Scripture and the Confessions, and his adherence to them, that make a pastor capable. In my work with the homeless and very poor of Philadelphia, what we believe, teach and confess is the focus of our outreach, particularly as it is connected to our altars and pulpits. Lutherans can speak like no one else can, and it is imperative that we speak as Lutherans to this dying world.

We are privileged to declare the love and grace of God to unworthy sinners, presenting the sure and certain hope of forgiveness, life and salvation as we are found in Christ. All of our doctrine is what is said about Christ to us; therefore, all theology is practical. When we tell people what Christ has done for them and how He still provides for them, forgives them and renews them, we are speaking theologically. It is this message that continuously brings us and others back to the liturgy and the Sacrament to hear God’s Word, receive His absolution, to partake of Christ’s body and blood, then turns outward in fruits of love to our neighbor.
Everything else is peripheral; everything else is secondary. This is because mercy is not the Gospel. The nice things we do for others are not the Gospel. The programs and activities of the church are to be formed by our theology and are not simply an end in and of themselves, but they lead back to the liturgy and the gifts of God presented there, the place where the Gospel of Christ’s perfect work on our behalf is heard and received, the place where we are truly renewed and God’s kingdom is given to us for free.

Second, my seminary days were residential. I left a great job that I loved and thrived in (as did my wife), bid farewell to our friends, moved away from family and took on the financial responsibility of residential studies—not because I was simply able to or because it was the easiest option, but because it was the most fruitful path.

It was fruitful because the richness of the classroom was coupled with an even richer life together that cannot be replicated in a way other than residential seminary studies. I often didn’t have to email questions to a professor when I could speak across the lunch table with him. I was very rarely in the professors’ offices because we had coffee together after chapel, spent a few hours together every Friday night and attended church with some of them on Sunday morning.

Furthermore, the students, the ones who made the same sacrifices I did to prepare for the ministry, all shared their lives together. We could compare notes and debate with one another around the dinner table. We could also personally share together the difficulties of life. When my newborn son was near death during my vicarage, it was the students, faculty and staff who stepped in like our family to encourage us in that trying time.

After graduation, we were then part of a brotherhood that spanned the world. I have friends in the Czech Republic, Siberia and Kenya, to name a few, not to mention the many who are spread out over the United States.

All the students endure trying financial times as well. It is then that congregations from coast to coast adopt students to help provide for them in part so they can focus on their studies. Congregations and individuals also donate to the Food & Clothing Co-op on campus where students receive food, clothing and household items at no cost. I think this is a wonderful picture of koinonia (life together).

Third, and related to the first two, my time at the seminary was liturgical. The chapel building itself stands above the other buildings as the beating heart of the campus. This building is the center of seminary life and the thing I miss most about the three years I spent at CTS. There’s nothing else in the world like Kramer Chapel. Attending the services there provides a rhythm to the week centered on God’s Word and the reception of the Sacrament.

It was this theologically and liturgically rich life at seminary that impacted my ministry in Philadelphia. While it would be foolish to attempt a replication of the CTS campus, there is a lot that can be adapted. Much of my work in Philadelphia centers around care for, and evangelism of, the homeless population. I took this three-fold benefit of seminary life and applied it to the lives of those on the streets.

We now have our first houses to be used as transitional homes for people affected by issues of poverty, where men live together around the beating heart of the chapel. These houses, and all of my work in the city, are anchored by the church that has been planted on the property. Somewhat like seminary, the experience for the residents is theological, residential and liturgical.

In-depth catechesis is a requirement for admittance into the houses, placing our theology as the foundational component for a person’s recovery. We also celebrate the Sacrament daily with private confession and absolution, and in so doing, place Word and Sacrament as the nucleus of Lutheran inner-city work, extending mercy from our altars and pulpits.

To conclude, my theological, residential, liturgical seminary life was rich beyond my expectations. Not only was seminary worth the sacrifices, those sacrifices were like dust in the balance compared to what I received in preparation for ordination, and the richness of seminary life has extended far beyond the campus.

The nice things we do for others are not the Gospel. The programs and activities of the church are to be formed by our theology and are not simply an end in and of themselves, but they lead back to the liturgy and the gifts of God presented there, the place where the Gospel of Christ’s perfect work on our behalf is heard and received, the place where we are truly renewed and God’s kingdom is given to us for free.
While growing up in the Catawba Valley of North Carolina, the over 50 Lutheran congregations in that four-county area had the practice of hosting a banquet for all the youth confirmed each year. Held at Lenoir-Rhyne College, the dinner would also include a notable speaker. The year I was confirmed the speaker was Roland Bainton, best known for his biography of Martin Luther, *Here I Stand*. A professor of Church History at Yale, Bainton was a wiry figure, well along in years with white hair and ancient-looking glasses. Yet when he opened his mouth to speak, the audience of a couple of hundred teenagers and their pastors was captured by his bold, Luther-like voice telling the stories of rogues like Tetzel and Leo X and, of course, the hero of the narrative, Luther himself. I can still hear Bainton intoning “When the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory doth spring.” Bainton’s after dinner speech hooked me with an interest in Luther that would never let up.

Not long after that night—in fact, I think it was the very next day—I went to our school library and searched out *Here I Stand*. Luther’s story, as told by Bainton, grabbed my attention and I wanted to know more about this German friar who mocked the Pope and threw ink wells at the devil. Our school librarian, the venerable Mrs. Mauney, a stately lady with deep roots in southern Lutheranism, was at the circulation desk. She took one look at the cover of the volume in my hands and without pause she said, “Young man, you should be a pastor!”

If the truth be told, I had already been thinking about the ministry although at that point, I had not told anyone about that aspiration. My parents and my confirmation pastor had quietly and gently planted that seed. Other experiences in childhood and youth had been leading me in that direction. But the words of Mrs. Mauney left an impression upon me throughout high school and on into college and seminary. I never veered from the path Mrs. Mauney pointed to when she said “Young man, you should be a pastor.”

Our students take many different routes to the seminary. Some come fresh out of college; others after long careers in other occupations. No doubt all of them have some figure like Mrs. Mauney along the way. Someone who recognized in them interests, gifts and capacities that might well be put into the service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the pastoral office and was bold enough to suggest or assert, “you should be a pastor.”

Keep an eye out for that young man in your congregation who might be a promising candidate for the ministry, and don’t be afraid to utter those words which Mrs. Mauney spoke to me back in the fall of 1967: “Young man, you should be a pastor.”

*The Rev. Prof. John T. Pless (John.Pless@ctsfw.edu) serves as assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.*
CTS Presents Kenyan Hymnal

The Kenyan Hymnal Project is an incredible labor of love just completed by Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, Ind.

Discussions concerning the need of a hymnal for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) began in 2008 between ELCK Archbishop Walter Obare and Dr. Dean Wenthe, then CTS president. Together they appointed a hymnal commission with members from CTS and the ELCK, with work beginning on the project in 2009. Now, just four years later, *Ibada Takatifu* (Divine Service) has rolled off the printing presses. The newly published hymnal was presented to the Rev. Tom Omolo, chairman of the hymnal commission and pastor in the ELCK, during the 2013 Symposia Series on January 24.

“It is absolutely amazing to have produced the book in just four years,” says Dr. Timothy Quill, dean of International Studies at CTS and advisor to the hymnal commission. “The liturgy and hymnody in the new hymnal are works of beauty. When people hear it sung and prayed by the Kenyans, they will say with wonderful certainty, ‘This worship is without question both Lutheran and Kenyan in nature.’”

“Ibada Takatifu contains 175 hymns with 30 of those hymns translated into Swahili for the first time. Other sections in the hymnal are rites for baptism, confirmation, marriage, and funerals; Luther’s Small Catechism; the one and three-year lectionaries; and the church year calendar,” explains Deaconess Sandra Rhein, coordinating editor of the hymnal.

While the hymnal was dedicated at the Lutheran Cathedral in Nairobi on February 17, there is still the final challenge of shipping the books from Mombasa to Nairobi and from there to the various dioceses and congregations at a cost of approximately $7,000. Donations can be made online at www.ctsfw.edu/KenyaHymnalProject or sent to Concordia Theological Seminary, Kenyan Hymnal Project, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Many hands worked together to make *Ibada Takatifu* a reality, including Front Row: Kantor Richard Resch, Dr. Ronald Feuerhahn, Rev. Tom Omolo, Deaconess Sandra Rhein and Rev. Moses Okoyo. Back Row: Dr. Timothy Quill, Dr. Lawrence Rast, Dr. Paul Grime and Steve Blakey.
In its 167 year history, Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, has always been faithful in preparing men to serve in Christ’s Church. It has grown from the tiny prairie school to a world-class seminary, instructing men for the ministry and women for deaconess service. In that time, more programs have been developed with the guidance of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to support and enhance the seminary’s mission to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program is one of the newest programs at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. As described on our Synod’s website (www.lcms.org), “The SMP Program is a distance-based, specialized program of theological education at both seminaries and is available to those who are involved in a ministry site where they will serve as vicars for the first two years of the program. After successful completion of the first two years and certification by the seminary faculty, students are ordained and complete two more years of instruction.

Preparing to Lead People to Christ

By Jayne E. Sheafer
program of study and faces restrictions concerning service in the pastoral ministry. In all programs, certification by seminary faculty is required before a candidate may receive a call to serve as a pastor in the LCMS."

The seminary welcomed its first cohort of SMP students in the fall of 2008. In November of 2012, the CTS community celebrated as this group of 13 students completed their studies and are now serving as pastors of congregations from California to Maryland (see page 21). There are four more cohorts of men who are in different stages of the work in the program as they prepare to serve in the LCMS.

Several years ago, the leaders of Salem Lutheran Church in Homewood, Ill., were assessing the growing specific needs of their congregation. “Salem Lutheran Church serves a racially diverse and changing community. We have had a variety of assistants over the years such as a director of Christian education, deaconess and vicars. It became clear to us that we needed help in reaching out to the community.” The new SMP Program seemed to offer an answer. "SMP allowed us to look at resources and people who were already here and familiar with both the congregation and the community,” explains the Rev. Dr. David Speerbrecker, senior pastor at Salem.

One of those people who knew the place very well was Brian Mayo, a member of Salem who had long ago considered becoming a pastor. “I always felt a special joy in hearing the Word of God, and seeing how it brought out the best in people. I wanted to be able to help others experience that joy. Over the approximately 40 years since I first turned away from going into the ministry, I would occasionally feel the call, despite having a steady career with AT&T and later having a family,” explains Mayo. “Over the years, I had become very concerned that I was living in what I perceived to be an increasingly dark world, and that it was very important that there be honest, sincere and godly pastors to lead people to the light of Christ.”

“We encouraged Brian to pursue this [SMP] course based on his extensive service to the congregation, leadership and spiritual depth,” says Speerbrecker. So now Brian is the Rev. Brian Mayo, currently in his third year of studies in the SMP Program of CTS and serving at Salem under his mentor, Rev. Speerbrecker.

The SMP Program at CTS affords men the ability to remain in their current vocation, while still participating in a challenging academic program. “We address this by offering a hybrid of residential intensive and distance learning opportunities which enable men to be trained ‘on the job,’” says the Rev. William Johnson, director of Distance Learning. “By combining the wisdom and expertise of the world class CTS faculty with a local mentor, students are able to learn the basics of theology and pastoral ministry without having to leave their ongoing work.”

Even with these distance learning opportunities, the men in the SMP Program face many of the same challenges as those enrolled in the residential program. “The greatest challenges have been balancing family responsibilities, job, vicar/pastoral duties and seminary study,” says Mayo. In the face of these challenges he is most grateful for the love and support of his family and his congregation.

To support SMP students and to ensure they feel a part of the CTS community, the Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher II, SMP Program supervisor, shares four goals for the program: “To enable our SMP students to know that in every sense they are CTS students; to engage fully the mentors in the program; to build excitement among our faculty for teaching these students using a combination of residential intensives and online technology; and to achieve real excellence in the teaching/learning experience.”

Mayo will continue his studies, both on and off campus, for the next two years. He will also serve the members of Salem Lutheran Church by preaching, teaching, visiting the sick and shut-ins and helping wherever he can. This “on-the-job” training gives him a unique perspective as to how he will serve in the future. “My personal goals and visions are to experience greater knowledge, joy and growth in my walk with the Lord, to be God’s servant in bringing the salvation of Christ to as many people as possible, both by preaching the Word of God and by living it.”

To learn more about the SMP Program at CTS, go to www.ctsfw.edu/SMP or contact our Office of Admission at Admission@ctsfw.edu or 800-481-2155.

Rev. Mayo's first baptism at Salem Lutheran Church
Just as there is an ever-present need for men to become pastors, there is also a growing need for deaconesses to serve God’s people. A deaconess’ training equips her for professional service in the church, especially in counseling, social ministry, visitation of the sick and dying and teaching the faith under the direction of the pastoral office.

The Deaconess Studies Program at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, is led by Dr. James G. Bushur, director, and Deaconess Cynthia E. Lumley, associate director. CTS has offered a residential, Master’s level program in Deaconess Studies since 2003. In 2009 that program was expanded to include a distance learning component. The full-time degree can be completed in 2½ years, but students may opt to take courses on a part-time basis. Full-time students take two online courses in each of the Fall and Spring Quarters, and two, two-week intensives in each of the Winter and Summer
Quarters. All students also participate in fieldwork. The curriculum is structured to take into account the experience and workload of the students, with nearly one-third of the credit hours based on activities relating to the student’s current job. The director of the online program works with the students to provide advice and ensure that their workload is manageable. Students who receive the M.A. in Deaconess Studies (distance learning) degree will ordinarily remain in the positions in which they have been working throughout their studies.

The distance learning option is a perfect fit for Jillene Houser of Omaha, Neb., whose husband serves Lamb of God Lutheran Church and also as a Chaplain in the Nebraska Army National Guard. They have three children between the ages of 17 and 25. Houser also teaches religion classes at Boys Town High School. Boys Town, founded in 1917 by Father Flanagan, is a program for at risk youth who have been neglected or abused and that today serves millions of children, families and professionals through a variety of programs. She explains, “As a wife, mother and teacher, the residential program was not an option for me. The Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies (distance degree) at CTS provides the study of theology at an advanced level to women who already serve in roles that involve diaconal work and spiritual care. The program combines innovative online distance learning methods with on-campus learning, which includes interaction with faculty and fellow students in study, worship and formational campus activities.”

While staying in Omaha with family, church and at Boys Town High School was important, Houser also wanted to make sure she would receive the type of training that would strengthen her service as a deaconess. “The programs at CTS offer an understanding of the Christian faith that is Christ centered, biblically based, confessionally Lutheran and evangelically active. These core values line up with the mission and witness of my home congregation (Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Papillion, Neb.). CTS is committed to forming diaconal theologians, that is, theological deaconesses. At CTS, deaconesses are immersed in a Christologically focused community of study, worship and daily living.”

Having made the decision to continue her education, Houser now has the challenge of juggling her duties as wife, mother and teacher with her coursework that includes reading, writing, posting, presenting and test taking. A challenge? Yes! But even with all that, she says the rewards have far outweighed the challenges. “As deaconess students we not only support and help each other in our theological studies and fieldwork pursuits, we also are able to lean on one another in regards to suffering faced both personally and congregationally.

Dr. Bushur, Deaconess Lumley and the seminary professors instill christological, biblical and doctrinal truth and understanding, while at the same time graciously opening their hearts and homes in a way that enhances diaconal formation. During our on-campus studies, we become a part of the community in worship, service and social gatherings.”

Houser continues to study and keep up with her responsibilities at home with an eye toward completing her studies in August of this year. She looks forward to that time when she will be commissioned and how that will enhance her service at Boys Town and within her congregation. “As a deaconess at Boys Town, I will be dedicated to providing acts of mercy and charity to students who have been broken by sickness and sin. My responsibilities will continue to include teaching the faith, Christian service opportunities, as well as retreat and peer ministry,” says Houser.

“My personal goals include continuing my ‘missionary work’ to the youth culture at Boys Town while also serving my home congregation. By sharing with the congregation what I have learned in my deaconess studies, it is my hope to support the members as they instinctively provide acts of mercy and charity to those broken by sickness, sadness, suffering and sin.

“Deaconess studies, for me, is not the beginning or launching of a career. Instead it is a solidifying aspect to an already established career which has been filled with a multitude of ministry opportunities. Becoming a deaconess will strengthen my ability to serve Christ and His Church. It is my hope to continue to share the gifts God has given me, now and in the future.”

Want to learn more about the Deaconess Studies opportunities at CTS? Go to www.ctsfw.edu/Deaconess or contact our Office of Admission at Admission@ctfw.edu or 800-481-2155.

“A deaconess’ training equips her for professional service in the church, especially in counseling, social ministry, visitation of the sick and dying and teaching the faith under the direction of the pastoral office.

Boys Town and within her congregation. “As a deaconess at Boys Town, I will be dedicated to providing acts of mercy and charity to students who have been broken by sickness and sin. My responsibilities will continue to include teaching the faith, Christian service opportunities, as well as retreat and peer ministry,” says Houser.

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“Life has failed these kids at the very beginning of their lives. They come to Boys Town with feelings of anger, loneliness and frustration. Without faith, students will fail when they leave.”

Father Peter, Executive Director Emeritus
The idea of serving the Church was never foreign to Chad Smith, second-year seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. His parents modeled a life of service by serving at their congregation and encouraging him to do the same. As he grew, his pastor also fostered his love of worship and the liturgy. Smith thought he would fulfill that by becoming a music teacher, yet as he entered high school his thoughts turned toward the pastoral ministry.

“A big influence for me was spending a lot of time growing up in the life of the congregation. I would go with my parents to clean and attend weekly worship services. My parents also saw the need and stressed the importance of raising my brother and me in the faith. They sent us to the congregation’s Lutheran day school from preschool to eighth grade, never questioning the financial burden. For them, it was important to give their children a Christ-centered education,” shares Smith. “Another big influence was my good friend, mentor and childhood pastor, the Rev. Raymond Orth. Before or after school he would sit down and read Bible stories to me. As I grew older, he began to talk theology with me and we would sit in his study talking about different aspects of the Pastoral Office. When I entered college, he began sending me books that I would need to further my studies in theology.”
At the time Smith prepared to enter college, he was still a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He wanted to attend a Lutheran university and stay in Michigan, so he decided on Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., a university of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). He intended to attend an ELCA seminary upon graduation. “By the end of my sophomore year, it was clear that I would transfer membership to the LCMS. The issue wasn’t just their stance on the ordination of homosexuals, but how they viewed the authority of Scripture,” says Smith.

With that in mind he knew he wanted to affiliate with a LCMS congregation. His first step was to take an adult instruction class at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Mich. Following that he visited Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hartland, Mich., and began to meet with Rev. Christopher Thoma. After additional discussion and instruction, he became a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church.

That, of course, called for a change in plans as far as his post-graduate work. He would now choose a LCMS seminary to attend. “When looking at CTS I saw a seminary that puts the formation of pastors as the primary focus. This formation does not come from how the rest of the world views the formation of pastors. I saw that CTS does not bend to the gimmicks of the world. Instead CTS forms pastors according to authentic Lutheran theology. This formation not only takes place in the classroom, but is centered around the daily chapel services. Upon visiting CTS, I knew this was the place I wanted to study.”

Smith began his studies in the fall of 2011 and quickly found the experience to be full of challenges and rewards. “The seminary path is not easy. It challenges the student physically, mentally and spiritually. My biggest challenge has been not to become discouraged. I have always been a perfectionist, wanting to understand and do everything the best the first time and before everyone. While at seminary I have been forced to learn that I will never be perfect at what I do and I will make mistakes. I may not catch on to everything right off the bat, but I work through the frustrations and continue to study. The biggest reward is learning at the feet of professors who have devoted their studies to the Word of God. It is a joy to go to class each day and learn about Christ and Him crucified.”

As his time at CTS has progressed, Smith continues to handle the challenges and cherish the rewards. He has also found balance by participating in extracurricular activities. He is a member of the Kantorei, a sixteen-voice choir of students studying for the Office of the Holy Ministry that sings in chapel services and tours the United States. He also works in the Admission Office where, this year, he is serving as student director of Christ Academy—High School, the seminary’s two-week retreat for young men who want to learn more about the pastoral ministry.

Each person’s path to the seminary is different, but Smith offers some advice to those who may be considering becoming a pastor. “First, I would encourage them to talk to their pastor. Have multiple meetings with him and discuss with him the joys and discouragements of being a pastor. Ask him for introductory books to read and explore whether studying theology is for you. Then, at some point, ask the pastor if you can shadow him for a day, going with him on shut-in visits and church meetings. Next, I would encourage a visit to CTS for a couple of days. The Admission Office offers several events each year, but you can also visit on your own, maybe bring your pastor along.”

Interested in learning more about pursuing the vocation of pastor? Begin your journey at ctsfw.edu/Admission. You can contact an admission counselor at Admission@ctsfw.edu or 800-481-2155.
Luther called youth the fount and seed of the Church, and rightly so, for today’s youth will be tomorrow’s pastors, teachers and dedicated church leaders. What a joy to take part in ministering to youth!

But the church has witnessed a steep decline in the number of youth who are retained into adulthood as active participants in the congregation. Some 85-90% of confirmed Lutheran youth leave the church by age 25. That’s bad news. Perhaps the reason for this is that so many forces are jockeying for a young person’s attention these days: work and sports on Sunday morning are compounded with the pressures of school, and soon enough the young people fall away from regular attendance. With time, delinquency turns more hard-hearted as all the “isms,” that is, all the philosophies and vain delusions of the world are hoisted upon students in secular colleges. Many fade away from the church in high school and stay away in college.

Christ Academy–High School is a two week summer program for high school men held on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS). Its purpose is to teach and encourage the future pastors of the church. All of the students at Christ Academy want to learn more about their faith. Most want to serve the Church one day through the noble vocation of the pastoral ministry.

At Christ Academy we offer no “ism” to beat back the onslaught of the pagan culture. Rather, we offer our students a Person: the incarnate Lord Jesus Christ. We come armed with nothing more than the clear proclamation of His Gospel. In Him youth are baptized; in Him youth live, as He lives in them. In Him, they grow and mature in their faith. At Christ Academy, we seek to grow in who we are and what we’ve been given in Christ.

The 50 or so high school students who come to Christ Academy will be the next generation’s pastors. They will lead the way in teaching the faithful and reaching the lost. So, how do we guard and guide the faith of the students who come to Christ Academy?

According to good Academy tradition, we are committed to the infallible Scriptures, to the Creeds, Confessions and doctrine of the Church that have been handed down to us by those who came before (2 Thess. 2:15). It is absolutely essential to have a clear, confident presentation of objective truth in this postmodern environment. The instructors at Christ Academy are our own seminary professors and their material is no watered-down version of what we believe, but a solid, clear and unadulterated presentation of the faith. Our curriculum is intensive, and these young men, eager students of their faith, rise to the task.

Secondly, our program is anchored firmly in the Means of Grace, Christ’s own instruments for growing and sustaining His Church. Christ Academy meets regularly for worship, four times daily to be exact, to pray Matins, Vespers, Compline and the other Offices of the Church. Through regular worship, our students remain anchored in the identity given them at their Baptism.

If you know a young man in high school who is contemplating the pastoral ministry, invite him to become part of this life changing event! Contact Chad Smith, Christ Academy student director, at Chad.Smith@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-3140 for more information.

The Rev. Andrew T. Yeager (Andrew.Yeager@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of Christ Academy and admission counselor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Worship: The Center of the Experience
Students are immersed in the daily prayer life of the seminary. The four daily offices are prayed by professors and students alike.

Exploring the Holy Ministry
Through a uniquely Lutheran lens, Christ Academy explores the many facets of pastoral ministry and its application in the world.

Life-Changing Studies
Christ Academy, like Concordia Theological Seminary, is centered on Christ crucified who dwells in His Church through the Means of Grace. Students of Christ Academy will study Exegetical, Systematic, Historical and Practical Theology. The classes are taught by professors from CTS and professors from our Concordia University System.

Fun Activities
Lifelong friendships are formed at Christ Academy. Through dorm life and activities such as trips to Cedar Point and TinCaps baseball games, flag football, capture the flag and more, students have time for fellowship with others who have similar goals and aspirations in life.

For more information about Christ Academy, please contact us at:

1-800-481-2155 or ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu

You can also find information at:

www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy
Improving the Economic Well-being of Future Servants of Jesus Christ

The concern of student indebtedness ranks high with students and administrators at all institutions of higher learning. In an effort to address this in a tangible and effective way, Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) has been awarded a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.

The three-year grant, awarded December 1, 2012–December 31, 2015, will be used to raise awareness among the student body, donors and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at large. “The grant will allow the seminary to engage in a vigorous and ambitious program that will produce research that will educate the seminary itself, its internal and external stakeholders, including its students, local congregations, along with the circuits, districts and Synod itself,” explained CTS President the Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. “It has the support of the faculty, staff, administration, Board of Regents and the Synod administration. Its outcomes are well defined and geared not only to produce but also to impact people and institutions.”

Key points of this effort will include:
- examining the way financial aid is administered to determine the most equitable method of distributing aid;
- exploring student financial literacy and ways of improving our students’ understanding in this area;
- developing new funding methods to help reduce student debt;
- conducting a church-wide campaign to educate the seminary’s major stakeholders as to the economic challenges currently facing students;
- producing a “Student Economic Challenges and Opportunities” curriculum which will include video, print, PowerPoint and other learning tools. This will be used in communicating the student debt issue to the church members, pastors, congregations, circuits, districts and synodical administration of the LCMS.

“This grant is an exceptional opportunity to study the growing problem of student educational debt. The data gleaned from this study will enable the seminary and the entire LCMS to understand better the financial challenges that are facing current and future seminary graduates,” commented the Rev. Mark C. Sheafer, CTS director of Financial Aid. “Our prayer is that the Church will be able to respond in ways that will help reduce the financial burdens facing future church workers.”

Seminary Staff Receive Honors from Concordia Historical Institute

Friends and members of Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Mo., gathered at the 38th annual Awards Banquet, held on November 8, 2012, to recognize excellence within the field of Lutheran history. Five members of the Concordia Theological Seminary community were honored with awards. CTS President the Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast was awarded the CHI Distinguished Service Award. See For the Life of the World, December 2012.

Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II. CTS professor, Pastoral Ministry and Missions, for “The Preaching of C. F. W. Walther,” Concordia Pulpit Resources, Volume 21, Parts 1-4. Fickenscher serves as editor of Concordia Publishing House’s Concordia Pulpit Resources. He contributed this series of articles in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of C. F. W. Walther in 2011. Employing excellent quotes from some of Walther’s sermons translated from the German by the Rev. Joel Basely, he shows that Dr. Walther, the first president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and seminary professor, was indeed a classic Lutheran preacher and a classic preacher of Law and Gospel whose example, even in these different times, our pastors and preachers would do well to follow.

Mr. Kevin Hildebrand. CTS associate kantor, for “Friedrich Lochner and Der Hauptgottesdienst,” Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, Volume 84, Number 4, Winter 2011-2012, a well-researched journal article that contributes to our knowledge and appreciation of a leading authority in liturgical theology and practice in the early years of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, whose work still instructs the church today in its understanding of the Divine Service—der Hauptgottesdienst.

Dr. Cameron A. MacKenzie. CTS professor, Historical Theology, for “C. F. W. Walther: His Use of Luther,” Concordia Theological Quarterly, Volume 75, Numbers 3-4, July/October 2011, an interesting, thought-provoking look at two heroes of the faith, Martin Luther and C. F. W. Walther, through an investigation of Walther’s regard for, and attitude toward, Luther.

Rev. John Pless. CTS assistant professor, Pastoral Ministry and Missions, for “Wilhelm Loehe: His Voice Still Heard in Walther’s Church,” Concordia Theological Quarterly, Volume 75, Numbers 3-4, July/October 2011. It is no accident that Pless so ably describes Wilhelm Loehe’s ongoing influence in the Missouri Synod, since that influence is in large part Pless’s own work. Pless’s efforts have been instrumental in reminding the Synod of Loehe as a “forgotten founding father.” With this new contribution to a detailed and nuanced study of Loehe, Pless joins men like Arthur Carl Piepkorn, John Tietjen, Walter Bouman and Kenneth Korby as theologians in “Walther’s church” who are willing to learn from the pastor from Neuendettelsau.
CTS Specific Ministry Pastors Complete Studies

On November 6, 2012, the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, community celebrated as the first cohort of students completed their studies in the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program. 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. The members of the Alpha Cohort are:

- Rev. Joseph Atwater, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, San Diego, Calif.
- Rev. Jason Bauer, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Interlochen, Mich.
- Rev. James Edwards, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, La Crescenta, Calif.
- Rev. Thurman Frey, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Towson, Md.
- Rev. Daniel Grissom, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisle, Ill.
- Rev. Thomas Haas, Grace Lutheran Church, Orange, Texas
- Rev. Jeffrey Howell, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.
- Rev. Lance Irey, Christ Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa, Calif.
- Rev. Robert Pudell, Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Roselle, Ill.
- Rev. Daniel Ramthun, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Detroit, Mich.

“We are delighted to honor the first class of SMP students to complete their studies at CTS. Not only have they been serving faithfully in their places of ministry for two years of vicarage and up to two years as pastors, but have also helped us immeasurably in assessing how the program should go forward,” commented Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II, supervisor of the SMP Program at CTS. The program has progressed with four more groups of SMP students currently studying at CTS.

This group of trailblazers has also been instrumental in helping Fickenscher form future goals for the program. “In particular, observing the Alpha Cohort has helped me formulate four goals I have for the SMP Program:

- To enable our SMP students to know that in every sense they are CTS students;
- To engage fully the mentors in the program;
- To build excitement among our faculty for teaching these students using a combination of residential intensives and online technology;
- And to achieve real excellence in the teaching/learning experience.”

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

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Winter Placements
February 1, 2013

Deaconess Calls
KARLA A. CARTER
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Bartlesville, Okla.
Oklahoma District

DORIS A. KAYSER
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Saint Paul, Minn.
Minnesota South District

PAMELA J. VOORMAN
Trinity Lutheran Church
Lincoln, Neb.
Nebraska District

Deaconess Internship Assignment
STEPHANIE A. TREEE
Concordia Lutheran Church
Louisville, Ky.
Indiana District

Vicarage Assignment
JOSEPH L. ADAMA
The Urban Ministry Center of
Concordia Theological Seminary at
St. Lukes Lutheran Church
Elizabeth, N.J.
New Jersey District

Please join the entire CTS community in remembering these new workers in prayer. We pray God’s richest blessings on them and the people they serve. More information concerning churchworker placement can be found at www.ctsfw.edu/ChurchworkerPlacement.

The SMP students of Alpha Cohort celebrate the completion of their program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Front row: Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr., CTS president; Rev. Thurman Frey, Rev. Thomas Haas; Rev. Wayne Graumann, chairman, CTS Board of Regents. Second Row: Rev. Jeffrey Mueller, Rev. Joseph Atwater, Rev. Daniel Ramthun. Back Row: Dr. Paul Grime, CTS dean of the Chapel; Dr. Carl Fickenscher II, CTS dean of Pastoral Education and Certification; Rev. Bill Johnson, CTS director of Distance Learning.
Faculty News

Prof. John T. Pless, Assistant Professor, Pastoral Ministry and Missions

Prof. Pless taught an ordination course for ten students on “Luther’s Theology of the Cross in Preaching and Pastoral Care” at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, Africa, November 12–21, 2012. Students were provided with copies of the two major texts for the course: On Being a Theologian of the Cross by Gerhard Forde and Luther and the Stories of God by Robert Kolb. The class consisted of lectures and discussion of Luther’s Heidelberg Theses. With the basic framework of Luther’s theology of the cross in place, they examined Luther’s lectures on Psalms 51 and 90 as well as several of his house and church postils on Gospels in the lectionary to determine how Luther expressed this theology in proclamation and the care of souls. They also read and discussed Oswald Bayer’s sermon, “Wrestling for Grace” based on Genesis for a contemporary example of preaching profoundly informed by Luther. The students engaged the material and brought significant questions to the table for discussion, especially in light of the African religious contexts where theologies of glory are often pervasive.

Dr. David P. Scaer, Professor and Chairman, Systematic Theology

Luther Academy, publisher of Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics, has undertaken translating certain volumes in the series into Spanish for use in Latin America where some countries have significantly Lutheran populations. They will also be used in preparing Spanish speaking pastors in the United States.

Dr. David P. Scaer’s Law and Gospel and the Means of Grace is being published as the first in the series under the title of Ley Y Evangelio Y Los Medios De Gracias, translated by Dr. Jose Pfaffenzeller of Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires. Scaer’s book will be available from the Luther Academy (lutheracademy.com).

The Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics series was initiated by the late Dr. Robert D. Preus, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1957-1974), and president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (1974-1993).

Dr. K. Detlev Schulz, Professor and Chairman, Pastoral Ministry and Missions

Dr. Schulz taught 35 Lutheran pastors from Kenya, Uganda and Sudan an intensive course on the “Office of the Church” at the Lutheran Seminary of the Evangelical Church of Kenya, Matongo, Kenya, December 3–7, 2012. The event was sponsored and organized by the Luther Academy.

Symposia 2013 Presentations Available


The 2013 Symposia Series, January 22–25, saw hundreds of theologians, clergy and laypeople gather on the Concordia Theological Seminary campus for lectures on many ethical issues facing Christians today. Topics included abortion, ethics in seminary curriculum, challenges to the traditional family and more. All the presentations can be found at media.ctsfw.edu, Listen/View Conferences and Events, Symposia, 2013.

The dates for Symposia 2014 are January 21–24, 2014. More details will be posted at www.ctsfw.edu/Symposia as they become available.

Save the Date

Highlights of Italy

November 16-26, 2013
Hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Gieschen
Contact: CTS Tours at ctsfw.edu or 877-287-4338

For the Life of the World
Military Project: A New Opportunity

By Carolyn S. Brinkley

Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD, the LORD is my strength and my song and He is my salvation. Isaiah 12:2

We’ve all been there. When facing difficult and distressing situations, we struggle to remember the comfort of God’s Word. Our minds become blank, our hearts tremble and we long to hear the voice of our Good Shepherd. The Bible is so vast that often when trouble and traumatic experiences present themselves in our lives, we struggle to lay hold of specific passages of our Savior’s assurance reminding us that He is with us, forgives us, will never leave us and will use all things for our good no matter how they look or feel.

Can you imagine how difficult that would be in the midst of the horrors and loneliness of war, thousands of miles from home with no church, family or Bible in sight? With that in mind, the Military Project is embarking on a new opportunity to provide comfort found only in the cross of Christ for our deployed military personnel. We have designed a compact way to accommodate a selection of verses from the Old and New Testaments that anchor the Christian heart. “Words of Comfort and Encouragement” contains 15 carefully chosen Bible verses printed on business card-sized cardstock and packaged in a small, sleek vinyl case. Measuring only 2” x 4” x 1/4” this can easily fit into a pocket and be kept close to the heart. It is our prayer that this little collection of Christ’s mercy and peace will be a blessing to many who courageously toil to preserve America’s freedoms.

Thank you to churches, schools and individuals for your generous support of the Military Project. Your help enables this project to continue. Your loving gifts are the backbone of this work of mercy. As our Heavenly Father cares for us physically and spiritually, your contributions make it possible for the Military Project to provide body and soul care for those who protect our country as they serve in distant dangerous lands.

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 email MilitaryProject@ctsfw.edu or call 260-452-2140.

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

Deaconess Carolyn S. Brinkley (Carolyn.Brinkley@ctsfw.edu) serves as coordinator of the Military Project at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Have you ever heard a little boy, about two years old, persistently ask, “I want to see Jesus!”

On December 20, students of our Lutheran elementary school participated in a pre-Christmas Eve worship service with songs and narration telling the history of Jesus’ birth. I met a mother and her son in the hallway leading to the narthex. I stopped to greet them. Her son looked at me but did not respond. She picked up her son and said to me, somewhat anxiously, “My son wants to see Jesus!”

He had just heard the Christmas message!

I offered to accompany her to the narthex, where earlier in the week I had seen “the baby Jesus lying in a manger.” But he was not there! The manger and the “baby” had been placed in the chancel near the altar for the worship service. The mother was noticeably disappointed.

In the 1950s, our church membership and student enrollment at St. Paul, Napoleon, Ohio, had outgrown its facilities. After the dedication of the new church and school at a new location, the old church was razed, but not until furniture and especially all the stained glass had been removed. Two life-sized stained glass panels were installed in the new narthex, one of Jesus knocking at the door and the other of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Holding her son in her arms, she turned around and saw the stained glass window with Jesus holding a baby lamb in His right arm, the staff in the left hand and sheep on the ground. She was elated! Smiling, she said to me, “Now I can show him Jesus.”

Almost every day since this experience, I think about the child’s desire and persistence to “… want to see Jesus.” My continuing thoughts are: the mother listened to her son; the child’s infant baptism; the working of the Holy Spirit in this child and his mother; the calling we have daily to “see Jesus” as our rescuing Savior and to “show” Him to those who do not know Him. It is our “Treasure” and privilege. May we serve with joy and fervor as the Holy Spirit leads us.

“Lord, when You look at us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heavenly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy
Warm and cheer us!
Oh draw near us!
For You teach us
God’s own love through You has reached us.

(Lutheran Service Book, 395, stanza 3)

Elfrieda Spencer
(espsalm63@gmail.com)
serves as president of the CTS Seminary Guild.

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Yes, we are interested in becoming an Affiliate Guild. Please send more information to:

Name: _________________________________________________________________
Organization: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: _______________________________ State: _______ Zip: _________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________

We are enclosing a donation payable to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, c/o Delores Scheumann, 412 Bittersweet Ln., Ossian, IN, 46777.
Organist Workshops 2013

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, presents

Who should attend?
These workshops are designed for parish keyboardists of varying ability levels to help increase their knowledge and skills on this important instrument of the Church. These workshops are for organists/pianists who are already playing, whether they are experienced veterans or new organists/pianists recently drafted into helping at their parish. Formal organ/piano lessons are not a prerequisite, but some familiarity with the instrument is important. At a minimum, participants should have proficient keyboard skills. They should be able to read and play both treble and bass clefs simultaneously, such as playing a hymn on manuals alone.

Classes Offered

Level II
June 17–21, 2013
For intermediate-level organists who have completed Level I. There will be a daily session on the Theology of Worship II. Kantor Resch’s sessions will include Church Year II and Hymnology II. Kantor Resch will also lead sessions on the playing of hymns, liturgy, intonations, chorale preludes, church’s songs for children, leading new hymns, chorale literature and the organist as choir director.

Primer Level for Organists & Service Playing for Pianists
June 24–28, 2013
This dual-track workshop is intended for novice organists as well as musicians who play pianos or electronic keyboards for worship services. Organists who have had little or no formal training, who have been drafted into playing the organ, who do not play pedals or use only one foot are ideal candidates. Pianists who play for worship will learn more about how to lead congregational singing of hymns and liturgy from the piano.

All students will have group classes in theology and hymnody with Kantor Resch. Pianists and organists will meet separately with Kantor Hildebrand and Dr. Grime to learn more about service playing on their respective instruments.

Instructors

Paul J. Grime
M.Mus., M.Div., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions; Dean of the Chapel, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Kevin J. Hildebrand
M.Mus., M.A.
Associate Kantor, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Richard C. Resch
M.Mus., M.Div.
Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions; Kantor, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Registration Deadline June 7, 2013

For further information call 260-452-2224, email OrganWorkshops@ctsfw.edu or visit www.ctsfw.edu/OrganWorkshops.
Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? Luke 12:28

Before you decided to attend seminary there was probably one significant pastor who cultivated, shaped and encouraged you toward the ministry. Mine was my father, but yours might have been an uncle, a grandfather, your childhood pastor or even a campus pastor in college. If you ask our current students who greatly influenced them to come to CTS, you will hear them attest to the significance of a pastor who personally encouraged them toward the Holy Ministry. More than ever, the need for pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is increasing as the Baby Boomer generation pastors continue to decrease.

The desire to pursue ministry still resonates with young people but there is a serious roadblock for some ... the cost. If a young person is seriously counting the cost to pursue pastoral or diaconal service, they must consider the cost of their undergraduate degree and the seminary degree. And, in some cases, there are also the costs of a spouse’s education that must be added to the equation.

As pastors, you can help by beginning the conversation about these costs and one of the best places to start is by pointing them to the CTS, Financial Aid webpage, www.ctsfw.edu/FinancialAid. You can also share how our congregations, Districts and individuals can help them along this path. A little wisdom from a pastor helps prospective students think fully and carefully about these important matters on the road toward ministry. Your willingness to guide them will make this sometimes overwhelming process much less intimidating.

As a fellow CTS alumnus, I hope you have had or will have an intentional conversation with a young man about the ministry or a young woman about diaconal service. Is there someone with unique gifts who attends your confirmation class, youth group, young adult group or who is a congregational leader who might be an excellent candidate for service in the Lord’s Church? Then consider talking with them and encouraging them. Remember, your words of encouragement may be just what someone in your congregation needs to hear to prompt them to consider becoming a pastor or deaconess. Help us build a bridge toward future ministry; encourage just one person right now! 

The Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Puls (Timothy.Puls@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of Alumni and Church Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
## Continuing Education Opportunities

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<td><strong>Dr. Adam Francisco</strong></td>
<td>Jackson, Wyo.</td>
<td>June 3–5, 2013</td>
<td>“Why Should I Believe You?” Christian Apologetics for Today</td>
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<td><strong>Prof. John Pless</strong></td>
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<td>Toward a Pastoral Theology of Suffering: Responding to the “Why” Questions</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. K. Detlev Schulz</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dr. James Bushur</strong></td>
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<td>Christianity in Conflict: 2nd Century Faith as a Model for the 21st Century Church</td>
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<td>Sioux Falls, S.D.</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Peter Scaer</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Adam Francisco</strong></td>
<td>Fort Wayne, Ind.</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Cameron MacKenzie</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr.</strong></td>
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<td>History of the Seminex</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. James Bushur</strong></td>
<td>Mechanicsburg, Penn.</td>
<td>August 5–7, 2013</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. K. Detlev Schulz</strong></td>
<td>Charleston, S.C.</td>
<td>August 5–7, 2013</td>
<td>The Doctrine of Church and Fellowship</td>
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<td><strong>Prof. Roland Ziegler</strong></td>
<td>Flathead Lake, Mont.</td>
<td>August 5–9, 2013</td>
<td>Faith and Reason</td>
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He Will Guide You on the Path

By Gary L. Nahrwold

In Psalm 16:11 (ESV) we read:

You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

This verse has special meaning for Joyce Stauss, who knows firsthand that God guides each of us on a path and that true joy is found only in Him.

Joyce’s path in life began at Trinity Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) in Menasha, Wisc. Her husband John’s path began at St. John Lutheran Church (The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), Racine.

Joyce always knew she wanted to be a nurse. A high school nurse who mentored her suggested she enroll in the Cadet Nurse Program, an accelerated program to nurture young nurses as older nurses were called to the war. Eventually God led her to Racine with the Cadet Nurse Corp. It was while in Racine that God converged her path with that of John Stauss; a friend set them up on a blind date to a baseball game.

John had just returned from military service and was attending engineering school in Madison, working as a cook to help pay for college. They met in September of 1947, were married in July of 1948 and moved to Madison so John could continue his education. Engineering jobs were scarce so John finished his master’s degree. After graduation Joyce got a surgical nursing job at Methodist Hospital. God led John down a path that eventually led him to start his own engineering firm.

Pausing to reflect upon that time in their life, Joyce noted that God has a path for us and He will lead you down that path if you will allow Him. Too often though people want to “help” God.

John had always wanted to live on Lake Michigan. Eventually he found three acres on the lake, but Joyce was less than enthused with the location. They agreed not to build until the kids were through college, but as with most dreams, work began before that. John modified a plan he found in House Beautiful; every room but one had a view of the lake. Joyce noted they had the beauty of God’s creation in full view in their backyard all the time.

Joyce again took a break from relating her story to reflect back upon her life. She says the only things that last forever are God’s promises. The peace that surpasses all understanding comes from reliance on the Lord and a willingness to give back as you are able.

She glanced around the lunch room at her retirement home and said everyone in the room worries whether they will have enough money to be able to stay and pay their bills, will their savings last until they pass away.

Joyce said she was like many of these people; she liked nice things, liked to travel, wanted the best for her family. Both she and John grew up poor and were very poor during their early years together. Both had a strong work ethic and a clear understanding of the importance of saving for the things you want. Still, the material things did not bring lasting joy.

She does not remember fully how their association with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, began. Looking back she sees it as God continuing to lead them down the path He had chosen for them. In the fall of the year after John retired they attended a Bible study led by Rev. Timothy Mech at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. Rev. Mech was using Dr. Arthur Just’s video...
March 2013

series on the liturgy entitled *Liturgy: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*. She remembers vividly learning about the erosion in traditional worship, liturgy and use of hymns in worship. They were very concerned and asked Rev. Mech what they could do to help promote faithful use of the liturgy. Joyce remembers he told them to “Go,” and God continued to lead them down a path that eventually led to a trip to the annual Symposia Series at CTS.

That trip was a major step along the path. They met then President Dean Wenthe and talked over their concerns and their interest in being part of a project that would help. Dr. Wenthe told them of a new project that was in the planning stages, led by Kantor Richard Resch and Dr. Arthur Just. John and Joyce were then introduced to Rev. Dean Wachholz, who served as Vice President for Advancement at that time, and gave them more information on the new project.

John and Joyce had been looking to donate part of the proceeds from the sale of their beautiful lake home. While not completely sure, they felt God was leading them down a path to give to Concordia Theological Seminary and this project that had been described to them. Time was of the essence! John and Joyce were heading to Florida that spring and wanted to move quickly. Rev. Wachholz arranged a meeting in Fort Wayne as they traveled south.

At their breakfast meeting God brought the final convergence of paths to fruition. Joyce recalls she was so excited she could not eat more than oatmeal. Kantor Resch and Dr. Just laid out the details for the idea they had for a Good Shepherd Institute, which was aimed at furthering and upholding traditional worship, the liturgy and the use of hymns in worship. Joyce said that midway through the conversation, without consulting each other, she and John had heard enough and knew they wanted to make the gift. They knew this was the path God had been leading them down for many years. Very quickly they agreed to a “seed gift,” an endowment for the Good Shepherd Institute.

Several years later God led Joyce also to start a student aid endowment in memory of her husband John.

Again, Joyce reflects, you never know whom you are going to meet on your path or know the impact they or you will have. But through a Bible study or even over a simple bowl of oatmeal, God brings people together to accomplish His good and gracious will. Now, 13 years later, many people, people Joyce will never know, have attended the Good Shepherd Institute and will take what they have learned back to their congregations, beginning the convergence of many new paths.

Joyce remembers fondly her first visit to the Good Shepherd Institute conference after John died. Kantor Resch came up to her and simply said, “Welcome,” a greeting she knows that she will hear when she, too, is called to her Heavenly home.

Joyce encourages everyone to plan their giving early, don’t delay. Concordia Theological Seminary stands ready to assist you in giving to support our shared mission to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

Mr. Gary L. Nahrwold serves as assistant vice president for Institutional Advancement at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. For more information on supporting the seminary, please contact him by phone at 877-287-4338, ext. 2277, or by email at Gary.Nahrwold@ctsfw.edu.
When I was asked to write a Bible study on recruitment, the old gray matter immediately flashed back to a gray wintry day in early December of 1976. My father, being the head of the household, answered the phone when it rang – “Hello, Scudders.” Then silence as he listened to the reply. “Yes, sergeant, he’s right here. Just a moment, please.” The gears were in overdrive. I hadn’t driven the car in four or five days and I hadn’t witnessed any crimes that I was aware of, so I knew it wasn’t a police sergeant. I was a senior in high school and had been getting a number of “invitations” from the various armed services to explore their many opportunities. So I figured this must be another “recruitment” call. It was. It was the area recruiter for the U.S. Air Force. Within a week he was in our living room, with my parents, signing me up to be an Automatic Flight Control Systems Specialist.

After eight years of traveling the world fixing airplanes, it became quite apparent that it was time to move on to the next stage in my life. I can’t put a dot on a map or a pin on a calendar, but all I know is that our gracious Triune God made it abundantly clear that all that Air Force training and experience was about to be put to work in some place bigger than the “wild blue yonder.”

Honorably discharged in October of 1985 I headed to Winfield, Kan., and St. John’s College to become a Lutheran School teacher. January to May of 1986 was the last semester that wonderful institution was open. When it came time to leave St. John’s, a dear friend and brother in Christ and also my next-door neighbor, my chemistry lab partner and now my district president, said “Mike, I hope you go somewhere that has a good Pre-Sem program. I think the Lord is going to make a pastor out of you.” That’s not the first time that had been said to me. But it was the first time I did NOT laugh it off. Eight years later (almost to the day) in May 1994, I graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) and began the joyous journey of being a called and ordained servant of the Word.

As travels across the country began, I soon realized that I was not a “recruiter.” That is done by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I was simply a facilitator. On these travels, there were many opportunities to speak with individuals, men’s groups, ladies’ groups, youth groups and even religion classes at Lutheran high schools about being a pastor. Probably the most common question from all groups was, “How do you know?” I truly wish there was a pat answer that would cover everyone, but that’s not going to happen. There is a different story for each person.

My encouragement to all who are considering the pastoral ministry is to consider these passages from God’s Holy Word and then to view yourself and others in your life as potential pastors, in that Word which is a “Lamp unto our feet and light for our path.”

**John 21:15-17:** Is there a desire to feed? Is there a gift to feed? If you are struggling with what you know to be an obvious “yes” to the Lord’s call, then ask, “What does St. Peter confess that the Lord knows?”

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**In the WORD**

**Encouraging**

**Future Pastors**

By Michael R. Scudder
1 Corinthians 4:1-2: What are the pastoral qualities put forth here? Where do you see them?
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Matthew 5:13-16: You, or the one you encourage, have been given a gift. What are you to do with it? To your glory?
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2 Corinthians 10:17-18: Whose call is it? Who can argue?
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2 Timothy 3:14-17: Again, whose call is it? Whose gifts are brought? How important are these gifts?
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John 20:21-23: Just how important is the work that God is calling a pastor to do?
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Given these inspired, inerrant words of Holy Scripture, by the grace of God, can you see yourself; can you see that young confirmand; can you see your brother; your husband; being used by God to be the vessel pouring out His gifts?

Praise God, the Recruiter, but also thank Him for allowing you to facilitate the process! 🙏

The Rev. Michael R. Scudder serves as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (www.faithsonshine.com), Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Calendar of Events

March 2013

March 11 Seminary Guild Luncheon with the Rev. Steven Schumacher, CTS Adjunct Professor of Deaf Ministry, as guest speaker, Luther Hall, 12:00 p.m.
March 17 Passion Choral Vespers with the Seminary Schola Cantorum, Kramer Chapel 4:00 p.m.
March 21–23 Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit

April 2013

April 7 Easter Choral Evening Prayer with the Seminary Kantorei, Kramer Chapel, 4:00 p.m.
April 9 Seminary Guild, Luther Hall, 1:00 p.m.
April 12–14 Confirmation Retreat
April 29 Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignment Service, Kramer Chapel, 7:00 p.m.
April 30 Candidate Call Service, Kramer Chapel 7:00 p.m.

May 2013

May 5 Celebration Brunch, Katherine Luther Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
May 16 Deaconess Placement Service, Kramer Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
May 16–17 Alumni Reunion: 60th, 55th, 50th, 40th, 30th, 25th, 20th and 10th
May 17 Baccalaureate, Kramer Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
Organ Recital, Kramer Chapel, 3:00 p.m.
Graduation Exercises, Kramer Chapel, 6:00 p.m.

For additional information concerning any of these events, please visit www.ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2100.
### On Campus — VISITATION EVENTS

Concordia Theological Seminary — Fort Wayne, Indiana

**www.ctsfw.edu**

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<td>Christ Academy High School</td>
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<td>Phoebe Academy High School</td>
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<td>Christ Academy College &amp; Phoebe Academy College</td>
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For more information you may also call 1-800-481-2155 or email Admission@ctsfw.edu.