Improving the Economic Well-Being of Future Servants of Jesus Christ
By Robert V. Roethemeyer

By the Numbers
By Kay L. Roethemeyer

Financial Aid and the CTS Student
By Mark C. Sheafer
Over the past month I’ve spent a fair amount of time with a remarkable book; a book that I’ve come to call Concordia Theological Seminary’s “old data base.” *The Concordia Theological Seminary Record*, now more than a hundred years old, lists the names of students from 1886 to 1930, written in the hand of such great servants of Christ as August Crämer, Reinhold Pieper, R. Biedermann and H. A. Klein.

A quick glance might lead one to think that the listings are simply lifeless words on a page. But a closer reading hints at living stories. There are the names and birth dates, names of parents, matriculation dates and graduation dates. Many of the names are straightforwardly German. There are plenty of Friederichs and Johanns, Schmidts and Muellers. One would expect that in a seminary of *Die Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Synode von Missouri Ohio und Anderen Staaten* — “The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States.” But there are some surprises, too: men with English names and birthplaces; men identified as “missionaries” on their graduation; men from and going to the ends of the earth.

That said, however, I must admit that, having made my way through this book, I recognize very few of these names. Some folks have pointed out family members and acquaintances, but most of the men are simply unknown to me. But they are known to God. He remembers them all.

As I ponder this, I think about the remarkable manner in which God works—in many ways very quietly and anonymously—through His faithful undershepherds. These men were not seeking fame and fortune, they were seeking to preach the Gospel of Christ and to receive the best possible preparation for service in the Lord’s kingdom. And that was what drew them to Concordia Theological Seminary.

The stories hinted at in this record suggest another set of books—the “church books” of these pastors as they served in the Lord’s harvest field. In these books they recorded the sermons they preached, the baptism they conducted, their presiding at the Lord’s Supper, their visitation of their flock and their outreach to their communities. Here is the real work for which this seminary helped prepare these men. Here is the place where the power of the preached and administered Gospel touched people and changes lives for time and eternity.

And finally, that list of names suggests another volume—the book of all books, where the Lord Himself is the one who keeps His list of names of all His faithful, the Lamb’s Book of Life. Saint John places it before our eyes in Revelation 21:

> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life. (Rev. 21:22-27 ESV)

We also recognize there is a cost to preparing these servants. In fact, that cost has been on the rise, not just at CTS, but in institutions of higher learning all across our nation. In this issue of *For the Life of the World*, you will read about the efforts of your seminary to make the financial burden of attending seminary lighter so that more servants may be formed: men for the office of the ministry, women for diaconal service and laypeople for positions of leadership in the church. At the same time, Concordia Theological Seminary remains committed to providing the highest possible level of preparation for future servants of Jesus Christ, even while we strive to improve their economic well being.

Through the efforts of our incredibly gifted community, I am confident that 100 years from now future historians will look back and recognize these humble efforts—not for our sake, but for the sake of Christ and His Gospel so that it might be preached in its truth, purity and power.

In His service,

Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President
Concordia Theological Seminary
4 Improving the Economic Well-Being of Future Servants of Jesus Christ
By Robert V. Roethemeyer

Our proposal set forth a three year plan to research the financial well-being of our students and alumni, particularly the problem of student loan debt, as well as to gauge the awareness of donors and congregations concerning the cost of seminary education and its sources of funding, then to communicate the results to our seminary stakeholders, ultimately engaging them in imagining and implementing solutions with us that will impact this issue.

6 By the Numbers
By Kay L. Roethemeyer

The information on the pages of By the Numbers is included to help members of the church-at-large visualize the challenges and needs of today’s seminary student. This is just the first installment of findings and information that Concordia Theological Seminary will share during the three years of the study funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

9 Financial Aid and the CTS Student
By Mark C. Sheafer

Today, a seminary education comes with some significant costs, as does the pursuit of higher education at any secular institution. Most seminary students need financial assistance in paying their educational expenses. Therefore, a financial aid program is necessary to help needy students pay for their seminary education while preparing to go out into the world to preach the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Also in this issue:
What Does This Mean? ..................... p. 14
Called to Serve ........................ p. 16
In the Field .............................. p. 18
Spring Placements ....................... p. 20
Resch Retires from CTS ................ p. 22
Seminary Celebrates Close of Academic Year ... p. 24
Faculty News ............................ p. 27
Profiles in Giving ....................... p. 29
Military Project ......................... p. 30
Improving the Economic Well-Being of Future Servants of Jesus Christ

By Robert V. Roethemeyer

In 2012, the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. invited 20 theological schools to prepare proposals for a pilot initiative aimed at addressing the economic challenges facing future ministers. Concordia Theological Seminary was one of those schools.

Taking a cue from our mission statement, our proposal was entitled, “Improving the Economic Well-Being of Future Servants of Jesus Christ.” Our proposal set forth a three year plan to research the financial well-being of our students and alumni, particularly the problem of student loan debt, as well as to gauge the awareness of donors and congregations concerning the cost of seminary education and its sources of funding, then to communicate the results to our seminary stakeholders, ultimately engaging them in imagining and implementing solutions with us that will impact this issue.

In late 2012, Lilly awarded CTS a grant of $250,000 over three years to carry out the proposal.

Why Lilly? Why Now?

For more than a decade, Lilly Endowment focused its work in religion on efforts to strengthen pastoral leadership for Christian congregations. Lilly aimed to promote strong congregations by supporting the pastoral leaders who serve them. “The Endowment believes that pastors are indispensable spiritual leaders and guides, and the quality of pastoral leadership is critical to the health and vitality of congregations,” said Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment’s vice president for Religion, in a December 2013 news release. “Financial hardships can make it difficult for pastors to lead their congregations effectively.”

Already in 2005, the Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education called the educational debt of theological students the “Gathering Storm.” This past year, the Association of Theological Schools revised its Entering Student Questionnaire to include educational debt levels of “$60,000 or more” from “$40,000 or more” as the highest category. And that is for students entering seminary!

Also this past year, numerous articles pointing to the student debt crisis as the next economic bubble appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines, news feeds and blogs. While the availability of student loans at both the undergraduate and graduate levels has opened up higher education opportunities for many students or replaced diminished financial support from other sources in the
wake of the 2008 housing bubble, it is creating a crisis of its own.

The Religion Division of Lilly Endowment Inc. is not only an observer of these trends, but also an initiator of solutions. “One of the most daunting economic challenges is the increasing debt that many ministers carry into their first years of parish ministry,” noted the Endowment in its rationale for the Request for Proposals. “This initiative seeks to enable theological schools to be pro-active agents in addressing some of the economic challenges future ministers will face.”

**Year One: Research Activities**

The first year of the grant focused on the gathering of data. Four surveys were developed, piloted and administered. These four different, yet similar, surveys were directed toward four different groups: CTS graduates; CTS current students; CTS donors; and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The first survey was directed to alumni of CTS who graduated in the last 20 years. The response rate was 44 percent. This survey helped us research the impact of student debt among our own alumni as well as gain a sense of how they valued the support they received while studying at the seminary.

The second survey was directed to the current population of students who are enrolled in the three residential programs at CTS that produce pastoral and diaconal church workers for the LCMS. These include the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts Leading to Deaconess Certification and the Alternate Route programs. This captive audience provided an 86 percent response rate. This survey helped us to assess the importance to students of the variety of sources used to support them in their studies. Additionally, we were able more fully to explore the total indebtedness, educational and non-educational, of our current students as well as their level of financial literacy.

The third survey was directed toward CTS donors who had donated $100 or more, and the fourth survey was directed to a random sampling of one-third of LCMS congregations. These surveys helped us investigate the awareness of the cost of seminary education and its sources of funding as well as the student debt problem among our individual donors specifically and congregations generally. We anticipated that these surveys would be less likely to be returned. The response rates were 19 and 18 percent respectively, yet represented 742 donors and 357 congregations. Some responses indicate that there is a need for further information and education on how the funding of seminary education takes place.

**Year Two: Produce Results**

To this end, the focus for the second year of the Lilly grant project is to produce items that share the insights gathered from the analysis of the data collected in the surveys and harvested from other existing data sources.

This *For the Life of the World* issue is the first entry in this year-long effort to inform the church-at-large on the specific economic challenges of our students. A first sampling from the data analysis process occurs in the “By the Numbers” pages that follow.

As analysis of the data continues, two reports providing additional details about our findings will be created: one with the intended audience of CTS’ external stakeholders, namely, the donors and Synod as a whole, and the second to be used internally with faculty, staff and the Board of Regents. Additional products planned for this year include developing a financial literacy curriculum for students and producing an array of communication tools for use within the LCMS family: video(s), a brochure and a PowerPoint presentation.

**Year Three: Impact People**

In a recent philanthropic opportunity for Fort Wayne area supporters, fourth-year Master of Divinity student Jacob Swenson noted that “it takes a church to raise a seminarian.” While the patterns of funding have changed dramatically over the last two generations, the message remains clear: if we are to ensure the economic well-being of future servants of Jesus Christ, then students, parents, donors, home congregations, Districts and Synod, indeed, the entire Church must be involved in the solution.

So, in summary, our goal is to impact this issue through products produced from an analysis of the data gathered in the surveys. The surveys were conducted in 2013. These products will be created during 2014. Making this information available to the Church will allow reflection to occur and resolution to form at the District level in 2015 and at the Synod level in 2016.

We are thankful for the support of Lilly Endowment Inc. and we pray that this project will have the desired impact on the congregations, districts and administration of our church body, so that together we become more aware and involved in our common goal of “Improving the Economic Well-Being of Future Servants of Jesus Christ.”

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By the Numbers

By Kay L. Roethemeyer

Percentage of Students Arriving at Seminary With No Educational Debt

By the Numbers

Percentage of Students Leaving Seminary With No Educational Debt

By the Numbers

In one generation, the percentage of students arriving with no debt has dropped from about 72% to just under 40%.

A significant decrease in the percentage of students leaving seminary with no debt can be seen in that same time frame. Nearly half of the students left seminary with no debt a generation ago, while only 16% do today.

Amount of Educational Debt Students Have When Arriving at Seminary

Amount of Educational Debt Students Have When Leaving Seminary

Almost 20% of current CTS students arrived with at least $40,000 in educational loans. This compares to only 2% of the most recent graduates from CTS.

28% of the most recent graduates from CTS have at least $60,000 in educational debt when leaving seminary. This compares to 14% for graduates who have been ordained or commissioned for seven years and more.
For the Life of the World

By the Numbers

By Kay L. Roethemeyer

Percentage of Students Arriving at Seminary With No Educational Debt

Percentage of Students Leaving Seminary With No Educational Debt

Cost of Attendance (COA) With Average Grant Resources

This chart shows on average that all of the grant resources added together do not pay for the tuition a student is charged. This scenario places our students in a greater need to borrow money to cover living expenses in addition to a portion of the total tuition cost.

Years to Repay Educational Debt

In less than one generation, the number of graduates who were able to retire their educational debt in the first 10 years of their ministry has dropped from nearly 70% to 43%. The number of graduates expecting more than 20 years to retire their educational debt is increasing to more than 25%.
CTS students and graduates value a wide array of financial support while at seminary. Where do you see yourself in this picture?

Kay L. Roethemeyer (Kay.Roethemeyer@ctsfw.edu) serves as library assessment and business analyst at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Ideally, seminary education would be free and students would not have to worry about paying tuition bills while studying to become servants of the Church. However, there are many expenses involved in the education of pastors and the upkeep of seminary facilities, too. Today, a seminary education comes with some significant costs, as does the pursuit of higher education at any secular institution. Most seminary students need financial assistance in paying their educational expenses. Therefore, a financial aid program is necessary to help needy students pay for their seminary education while preparing to go out into the world to preach the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tuition is usually the largest component of educational costs. For the 2013-2014 academic year, the typical full-time pastoral ministry student incurred tuition charges of $25,695 before any financial aid was applied. Other educational costs include fees, books, supplies, room, board, transportation and other personal living expenses. Health insurance is also required for all full-time seminary students. On top of all this, seminarians with families face the cost of raising children who also need education, medical care, food, clothing and shelter. The 2013-2014 estimated cost of attendance for one academic year, including living expenses, for a single student was $44,130. For a married student with children, the cost would increase to $47,265 or more. When you consider that the Master of Divinity Program requires three years of academic study (plus one year of vicarage), it is no wonder that over 90% of our students need some form of financial assistance to fund their seminary education.

Financial assistance can come in the form of gift aid, work-study or student loans. The seminary offers a generous gift aid program providing a grant of...
up to 50% (increasing to 55% for the upcoming 2014-2015 year) of tuition to needy students who apply for financial aid. Based upon the financial need of the student as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which looks at a student’s income and assets to determine the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), a student could receive a seminary grant of up to $12,848 to offset the $25,695 tuition bill for the 2014-2015 academic year. About 90% of students who apply for financial aid at CTS receive the maximum seminary tuition grant based upon their need.

That still leaves a potential $31,000 or more in remaining tuition and other expenses to be covered by the student for the academic year. The typical seminary student does not have personal savings or financial resources to cover this $31,000 shortfall. Finding a work-study job can reduce this deficit somewhat. But low paying part-time employment cannot make up such a large difference, especially if a student is trying to maintain his studies while working. This is where outside funds from other resources are desperately needed. Most districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) provide financial aid to their students who are studying to become full-time church workers, including seminary students. This aid varies greatly from district to district from a few hundred dollars per year to several thousand dollars per year. The student’s home congregation is also asked to support their student who attends seminary. However, for various reasons, some churches are unable to provide much if any support for their students. The seminary also has a Student Adoption Program where students are assigned a donor who will support them with prayers and financial gifts. This program requires the student to correspond on a regular basis with the adoption supporters.

Other sources of aid for CTS students come from outside scholarships that are usually awarded on the basis of academic merit as well as financial need. The typical outside scholarship is anywhere from $2,000 or $3,000 a year. The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) and Lutheran Laymen’s League (LLL) from a variety of LCMS Districts also offer scholarships to seminary students. There is also the seminary Food & Clothing Co-op, which is generously supported by many faithful seminary donors. Students are able to receive free food and clothing in exchange for working a few hours a month at the Co-op (see page 11 for more on the Food & Clothing Co-op).

Even with all of these financial resources available to CTS students, the majority (85%) still cannot completely fund all their seminary costs (tuition, books, living expenses, health insurance and transportation needs) without relying upon student loans. For the 2013-2014 academic year, the average amount borrowed by students was $16,688 to cover their expenses for the year. If this current rate of borrowing continues, some M.Div. students would easily acquire over $50,000 in student loan debt just from their time at seminary alone, on top of what they may have incurred during their undergraduate years of study. The problem of student debt begins at the undergraduate level. Seven in 10 college seniors (71%) here in America who graduated in 2012 had student loan debt, with an average of $29,400 per borrower (projectinstudentdebt.org).

This potential loan debt of $50,000 to $80,000 or more (both seminary and undergraduate debt) may not be much for certain professions, such as doctors and lawyers, who must also spend several years in graduate school before starting their career in a field that will earn them an above average paycheck. But salaries for a beginning pastor or church worker are not very high. Supporting a student loan debt of over $50,000 would require many seminary graduates to enter into a long-term repayment plan (anywhere from 20 to 30 years) rather than the standard 10 year repayment plan in order to keep their monthly loan payments reasonably affordable. Thus a high amount of student loan debt can burden a pastor or church worker with educational debt obligations for many years to come.

What can you do to help? Consider a gift or making an endowment to the seminary earmarked for student financial aid. Congregations, church groups or individuals are encouraged to sign up for the CTS Student Adoption Program where they can select a student to support or ask that one be assigned to them. Information on the adoption program, including registration, can be found on the seminary website (ctsfw.edu) under the “Support CTS” tab. Continue to pray for CTS and its students. For more information, please feel free to visit our financial aid web page on the seminary website (under the “Student Services” tab) or contact me at Mark.Sheafer@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2151.

Unfortunately, there are no fast or easy solutions. Debt is a problem that faces most graduates of any institution of higher learning. By the grace of God, and the prayers and support of faithful Christians, the training of pastors and church workers will go on. We pray that all members of our church body will seek ways to help pastors and church workers burdened with student debt, so that the work of the Lord may not suffer. May God grant us His guidance and strength for the sake of continuing faithfully to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ!

The Rev. Mark C. Sheafer
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several Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML) Districts which have funded Mission Grant Requests over the past eight years, totaling nearly $500,000. This is in addition to what individual societies and zones do on a regular basis. These dollars provide perishable food items like milk, eggs, cheese and fresh produce.

For 35 years, Brakebush Brothers Chicken of Westfield, Wisconsin, has donated chicken to the seminary. Over the years we can easily say that we have seen well over 500,000 pounds of chicken delivered to the Food Co-op.

For 28 years Lutheran Fraternities of America, led by Mr. Richard Hallgren, has delivered large truck loads of food items each summer. We lovingly call it the “Michigan Shipment.”

We have congregations and individual farmers who donate hogs or steers to us. That means frozen pork and beef on a regular basis at no cost to the students. Summertime brings many gardeners to our doors to share their bounty. This is awesome because we can reduce the amount we have to purchase to feed our students.

Thrivent chapters, Concordia Lutheran High School students, our Seminary Guild and small groups come to us to volunteer their time and some donate dollars, too. Ladies from across our beloved Synod craft quilts each year that are shared with students and family members. Additionally, we collect gift cards and share them before Christmas with all the students. In December 2013, each M.Div. and deaconess student received $200.00 in cards. What a blessing.

We thank God for the people who continue to support the students as they prepare to work for Him.

Mrs. Karen E. Fuelling (Karen.Fuelling@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of the Food & Clothing Co-op at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
A long-standing tradition at Concordia Theological Seminary is for the graduating class to contribute to a class gift. Often these donations purchase liturgical appointments for the chapel or portraits of professors that are displayed in the hallways of the classroom buildings.

However, the Class of 2002 had a different idea. They voted to use their class gift to establish the *Predigtamt* Alumni Endowment. The word *Predigtamt* is German for preaching office, and it is the word used in Article V of the Augsburg Confession. As the Rev. James Gier, president of the Class of 2002 and now pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran, Excelsior, Missouri, explains, “The idea behind the *Predigtamt* Alumni Endowment was to provide a class gift that continues to give back to the seminary through ongoing support to seminary students. Since theological books and a pastor’s library are essential to his education and ongoing growth as a minister of God’s Word, the Endowment makes annual book voucher awards to Master of Divinity students in their final year of study.”

In the 12 years since its inception, this Endowment has grown to over $93,000! To date, more than 200 book vouchers have been awarded totaling over $28,000. In the 2013-2014 academic year, all 40 final year M.Div. students received a $100 book voucher. Upon receipt of his award, Sem IV student Michael Kearney emailed this note of thanks to the Endowment Board: “Thank you so much for the *Predigtamt* gift. My classmates and I swarmed the bookstore as we all had much on our books wish list. Thank you for helping us to prepare our libraries before we begin preaching in the parish.”

Although the Class of 2002 established the *Predigtamt* Endowment, the Class of 2004 also adopted the Endowment as their class gift. In addition, many CTS graduates have designated their ordination and/or installation service offerings for the Endowment. Some congregations served by CTS alumni have designated mission support for the Endowment. Generous laity throughout the church have also contributed to the Endowment acknowledging the tremendous benefit of this fund.

One of the unique features of the *Predigtamt* Endowment is that the awards are book vouchers and not scholarships. Books are expensive, but it is essential that seminary graduates are equipped with the books and resources they need as they begin serving their first parish. As the Rev. Ryan Wendt, 2004 class president and currently pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Billings, Montana, remarked, “Most people understand that there are significant costs involved with educating and preparing men to be preachers of the Good News to this dying world. The founders of the *Predigtamt* Endowment recognize the importance of a strong theological education coupled with a devotional community life. We also know there is a genuine need for good books and a useful theological library. For 12 years now the Endowment has been helping students add resources to their library that will serve them for many years in the harvest field.”

The Endowment Board has set the ambitious goal of increasing the principal of this fund to $300,000, which would guarantee at least a $250 book voucher for every final year student at the seminary. The Board hopes other classes that are now benefiting from these vouchers will also choose the *Predigtamt* Endowment for their class gift or designate their ordination and installation offerings for this fund. Likewise, we welcome all alumni, regardless of the year they graduated, to support this fund. Congregations and laity can also contribute, giving gifts in memory of a loved one or designating gifts in honor of a pastor’s service. Although there are many worthy causes and the need is great, gifts to the *Predigtamt* Alumni Endowment immediately benefit students and will continue to do so every year. Investing through the CTS Foundation, that manages the fund, with its nominal fees has resulted in significant income every year to increase the number and amount of the book vouchers awarded. Wendt summarizes the tremendous opportunity through this Endowment: “This is a well-established and useful Endowment, and I hope many will consider making a contribution to help it grow for the sake of the men who will go out preaching the Gospel.”

If you would like more information about the *Predigtamt* Alumni Endowment, please contact Rev. James Gier at 816-769-7375 or revgier@sbcglobal.net.

The Rev. Douglas D. Bauman (CTS 2002) is a member of the *Predigtamt* Alumni Endowment Board and pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana.
Generosity Rooted in God’s Gifts

By John T. Pless

You might not think of Martin Luther as wearing the hat of an Advancement Officer in the contemporary sense of the term, but he knew that students needed money and he was not bashful about asking for it. A widow of Luther’s acquaintance, Dorothy Jörger, was encouraged by the Reformer to contribute 500 gulden to provide scholarships for students at Wittenberg. Luther suggested that the money might be profitably invested to sustain support for two students each year.

In response to the widow’s generous gift, Luther writes to her in a letter dated April 27, 1534: “I want you to know that your charitable gifts have, praise God, been very well spent and have helped and continue to help many poor [students]. I have no doubt that God who prompted you to do this excellent thing is well pleased with your thank offering, by means of which you confess and praise the grace God has provided to you in his dear Son, Jesus Christ. May God strengthen you in steadfast faith to perform the good work he has begun in you until the day of Jesus Christ” (Theodore Tappert, Luther: Letters of Spiritual Counsel, 180-181).

Luther recognizes that this woman is giving out of the abundance which God has given her, and by means of this gift she acknowledges Him as the Donor and Giver of every blessing.

Then Luther continues to tell this lady of his students and their dire need: “I myself did not know and would not have believed that in this little town and poor university there are so many godly and gifted students who live all year on bread and water, enduring frost and cold, in order that they might study the Holy Scriptures and the Word of God. Your charitable gifts have been a great boon and refreshment to them” (Tappert, 181). The difficulties of students at our seminary might not be as drastic as living on bread and water all year long, but they are deep and pressing. Like those early Lutheran students at Wittenberg, Concordia Theological Seminary has gifted students eager to immerse themselves in the Scriptures in preparation for service in the pastoral office or female diaconate of the church. Some struggle to maintain their studies while balancing family responsibilities and significant outside employment as necessary for added burden. Many will face the first decade or more of their service in the church with a debt difficult to discharge on the entry level salary of a pastor.

Just as Luther was thankful for the generosity of Dorothy Jörger, who provided financial resources to support future pastors in the Reformation cause, so we are grateful for Christian men and women as well as congregations who know God’s generosity in Christ Jesus and with open hearts and hands give to support our students. I doubt that Dorothy Jörger could imagine the difference that her gift would make for generations to come. If we look at the big picture, standing here just a few years away from the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are recipients of her generosity for the Gospel proclaimed and taught by Luther’s Wittenberg students that has been transmitted down through the years to us. Indeed, the words of the Apostle are true: “What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Cor. 4:7). We have received because countless Dorothy Jörgers throughout the years have given of their treasures that the course of the Gospel might advance as faithful pastors preach the Word of the Lord and administer His Sacraments. Now we have an opportunity to have a hand in doing what Dorothy did. By the Lord’s mercy, we have an opportunity to give so that generations yet unborn might benefit from the teaching of God’s Word which we know, cherish and confess. Deserving students will benefit to be sure. But more than that, the Gospel will be proclaimed, Christ’s church edified and His gracious kingdom extended through your prayerful and cheerful support.

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, Indiana.

“Once, when Luther was traveling to Jessen [a little town on the Black Elster River] to recuperate, along with Dr. Jonas, Veit Dietrich, and other table companions, though he himself did not have all that much, he gave alms to the poor there. Dr. Jonas followed his example, with the explanation: “Who knows where God will provide the same for me another time! To which Luther replied with a laugh: As if your God has not provided it for you already” – Oswald Bayer, Martin Luther’s Theology: A Contemporary Interpretation, 96.
Student Academic Awards for 2013–2014

On Thursday, May 8, academic awards were presented to Concordia Theological Seminary students for excellence in their studies, writing and example to others:

**David Appold** – *Historical Theology Department Writing Award*, for his paper “Boniface VII, Unam Sanctam, and Luther.”

**David Buchs** – *Zondervan Biblical Languages Award*, given to encourage continued studies of Scripture in its original language.

**Daniel Burfiend** – *Lepper-Draves Scholarship* to provide a stipend for a student, who will be in his fourth-year of study in the coming academic year, who has excelled in the study of Dogmatics and Confessional Theology.

**Paul Ferderer** – *Exegetical Theology Department Writing Award*, for his paper “The God of Our Afflictions: An Exegetical Study of Isaiah 63:7-14.”

**Brent Horne** – *Pastoral Ministry and Missions Department Writing Award*, for his paper “How One Should Pray: Pray the Catechism.”

**James Mayland** – *The Classical Association of the Middle West and South Award for Outstanding Accomplishment*, given in recognition of excellence in Greek and assisting other students with their Greek studies.

**Christian Preus**

*St. Timothy Award*, given to encourage a second-year student in his continuing studies of the Holy Scriptures.

*Systematic Theology Department Writing Award*, for his paper “Romans 6:7 and the Happy Exchange in the Lutheran Exegetical Tradition.”

**Brandon Ross** – *Shepherd’s Staff Award*, voted on by his peers and presented to the fourth-year student who exemplifies pastoral faith and life.

**Aaron Vergin** – *Gerhard Aho Homiletics Award*, presented for the best sermon.

A WEEKEND EVENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN

*Explore the Vocation of Deaconess in the Church*

Explore God’s Word on mercy and what it means for us today. Meet deaconesses serving the Church and learn what they do and how they are trained to serve their neighbor.

For more information please contact us:

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PhoebeAcademy@ctsfw.edu

You may also register online at: www.ctsfw.edu/PhoebeAcademy.
Like many, he began to contemplate the vocation of pastor after being encouraged by his family and pastors. “God certainly worked through my family and home congregation to direct me toward the Office of the Holy Ministry. At home, at church and at school I was raised to know Christ and to love Him. This I think was the most foundational influence,” says Vergin. “However, I would also add that Mr. Brian Horvath, my religion teacher during my senior year of high school, was an important influence. He taught me to appreciate the faith I had received from childhood. Similarly, I need to mention here Pastor Dave Weber from Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran in Houghton, Michigan. I attended his congregation when studying at Michigan Tech. Through Pastor Weber and the members of Saints Peter and Paul, I was introduced to the joys of the ministry, and together they encouraged me in pursuing it.”

Once the decision was made to attend CTS, there was also the importance of assessing the financial cost. “My goal going into seminary was to acquire as
much scholarship money as possible. I applied for several outside scholarships and received significant assistance through them,” explains Vergin. “I am very grateful to the seminary, and especially to its Office of Financial Aid. In my experience, they do everything they can to help their students. Specifically for me, the seminary has helped by providing a grant of 50% of tuition, by offering a convenient list of outside scholarships, by facilitating the Student Adoption Program, by making important financial information (such as the Cost of Attendance) readily available, by dispersing extra funds when they are available and by giving a presentation on student debt and repayment. Also, the Food & Clothing Co-op has been a big help financially.”

Even with scholarships, tuition grant and both Vergin and his wife working, they have not been able to avoid student loan debt. “I am going to be very honest here. When I graduate, my wife and I will have a very large amount of student loan debt. So much so that we will almost certainly have to enroll in extended payment plans which will last for at least 25 years. We will honor our debts, but we don’t anticipate it being easy,” says Vergin. “I want to emphasize how serious an issue this is for the church. Like I said, I am going to be graduating with a very high amount of debt and will likely be living under this burden for a long time. But my story isn’t unique or uncommon. I know many (if not the majority) of my classmates are in the same position. It is not unheard of at all for a seminary student to graduate with over $100,000 in debt, especially when his spouse has also accumulated student loan debt.”

While he understands that each student bears the responsibility of planning for and paying for his education, Vergin also has some thoughts as to how the church-at-large can assist our future church workers. “I don’t believe the solution is simply to throw money at this problem. Certainly financial support will play a big part, as will the responsible operation of our seminaries and synodical colleges. But I believe what we ultimately need is a culture change. Our young men and women just out of high school, normally having completed his M.Div. degree, Vergin has some advice concerning financial issues to share with those considering enrolling at the seminary. “First of all, if you already have a large amount of debt, consider waiting a year or two to enroll so you can get your debt to a manageable level. Scour the list of outside scholarships and apply for all for which you qualify. Besides that, don’t be afraid to get a job while you study (the Blue News, the seminary’s daily newsletter, often has job postings). Also, be sure to talk to your home congregation, to your family members and to other local congregations to see if they would be willing to help. Finally, if you are still struggling, don’t hesitate to talk to the Office of Financial Aid. They are always willing to help however they can. But you must be serious about this. Student loans are a very tempting option because they provide easy access to lots of money. But working hard to keep your loan balances to a minimum will pay off in the long run!”

I am going to be very honest here. When I graduate my wife and I will have a very large amount of student loan debt. So much so that we will almost certainly have to enroll in extended payment plans which will last for at least 25 years. We will honor our debts, but we don’t anticipate it being easy. My story isn’t unique or uncommon. I know many (if not the majority) of my classmates are in the same position. It is not unheard of at all for a seminary student to graduate with over $100,000 in debt, especially when his spouse has also accumulated student loan debt.

Jayne E. Sheafer
(Jayne.Sheaf@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, Indiana.
The Rev. Thomas Winter (CTS 2007) grew up during what we lovingly call the Golden Era of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). “My parents met at Concordia River Forest, where they were both students. My mom stepped in to help teach at the school when there was a need. As you can imagine, my world was quite ‘Lutheran.’ The baby boom was still echoing, so our schools were filled and the neighborhoods sounded with children’s voices. It was a great time to grow up,” shares Winter. “We sang all the time. In school, if the class got all of its work done, we would get to sing and we loved it. We learned a lot of hymns. We learned harmonies and many of us couldn’t wait to join the adult choir. There was a great consistency between home, church, school and the homes of my friends.”

Even with that background his road to the seminary was not without its twists and turns. As a young adult, he traveled quite a bit and worked in the food service industry. His regular church attendance became spotty, and thoughts of service as a pastor didn’t emerge until he settled in Michigan in 1992. “I began attending church again. After seven years, I started thinking about church work but didn’t really consider myself a candidate for the Holy Ministry. A few years later I spoke with my pastors. They both encouraged me to consider seminary,” he explains.

In 2002 he enrolled at CTS, conquered Fall Greek and assimilated into the role of seminarian. “As much as we do a lot of academic work at seminary, the real benefit of the seminary is more than instruction. It’s formation. Our professors teach us by example, as they deal with classroom situations, as they counsel us privately and in the small conversations that take place in the halls and over meals. In times of struggle especially, the men are being formed into undershepherds who learn to bring the promises of Christ (and not their own worldly wisdom) to those who suffer. As the faculty get to know you, they challenge you to address those things that may hinder your work in the parish. I was formed by patient men, and from them I learned patience.”

In 2007 he was called to serve as pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Pearsall, Texas. He loves his flock at St. Peter and works diligently to help build up their faith. “I try to teach them to maintain their identity in Christ. What I mean is, not reducing their Christian identity to Sunday attendance but living each day in repentance and forgiveness, letting God’s Word sound in their ears and fall from their ears.”
lips. Teaching their children at home and modeling Christian confidence in the face of everyday life. Our culture takes its toll on our schedules, and these things can be lost in the press of time.” He hopes to work with other pastors to produce a series of videos and printed material to help teach family devotions.

He is also teaching how important it is to support current pastoral ministry students. He knows from his own experience the cost of a seminary education and how many struggle to make ends meet. Winter was aware of the Student Adoption Program at CTS and has found it to be a good opportunity for the members of St. Peter. “This congregation has benefitted from the work of the seminary and is able and willing to give back to it. My classmate, Dan Chambers, served his vicarage here and the people were well-served by him. Then I was called here a year later. I was able to express the needs of the students and the seminary, so we began to support students from the Texas District through Student Adoption.” It has turned out to be a positive experience for both students and the congregation. “At first, I actually knew the men we supported from the seminary. I always call them and converse a little bit. I also send them emails. Most of them contact us a few times a year. One student, from San Antonio, actually visited and preached here. The congregation truly appreciated that!”

Winter encourages more individuals and congregations to reach out with support for current seminary students. “Pastors don’t grow on trees; they are formed by prayer, meditation and study, and trial or testing. Concordia Theological Seminary teaches the truth of God’s Word very well. It educates men in the scriptural languages and in the history of the church. But the greatest thing it does is form men into pastors by teaching them and leading them in prayer and meditation, and then serving them pastorally as they encounter struggles from within and without. There is no substitute for that personal and timely application of God’s Word. There is no ‘app’ for that. Yet such education and formation have a cost, and it is your opportunity to help prepare a pastor to serve God’s people. It is a great investment that neither moth nor rust can corrupt!”

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, Indiana.
Seminary Announces Spring Placements

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, is pleased to announce its Spring 2014 vicarage assignments, deaconess internships, calls to the pastoral ministry and deaconess placements.

### Vicarages

**April 29, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Church and City</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOSEPH L. BANGERT</td>
<td>Trinity Lutheran Church Hampton, Iowa</td>
<td>Iowa District East</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREGORY D. BAUCH</td>
<td>Emmanuel Lutheran Church Fort Wayne, Indiana</td>
<td>Indiana District</td>
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<tr>
<td>TYSEN L. BIBB</td>
<td>St. Mark Lutheran Church Conroe, Texas</td>
<td>Texas District</td>
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<td>MARK J. BLAKEMAN</td>
<td>Christ Lutheran Church Jackson, Mississippi</td>
<td>Southern District</td>
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<td>LUCAS W. BOOHER</td>
<td>First Lutheran Church Missouri Valley, Iowa</td>
<td>Iowa District West</td>
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<td>NOAH E. BURGDORF</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Eastpointe, Michigan</td>
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<td>PIERCE H. CHADBURN</td>
<td>Peace Lutheran Church Sandusky, Michigan</td>
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<td>JASON K. CODY</td>
<td>Grace Lutheran Church Lamar, Colorado</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain District</td>
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<td>CHRISTOPHER M. CRAIG</td>
<td>Catalina Lutheran Church Tucson, Arizona</td>
<td>English District</td>
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<td>D. MICHAEL DANIELS</td>
<td>Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Terre Haute, Indiana</td>
<td>Indiana District</td>
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<td>JESSE L. DAVIS</td>
<td>St. John Lutheran Church Columbia City, Indiana</td>
<td>Indiana District</td>
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<td>Peace Lutheran Church Prairie Grove, Arkansas</td>
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<td>ANDREW M. FEDDER</td>
<td>Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church San Luis Obispo, California</td>
<td>California-Nevada-Hawaii District</td>
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<td>WILLIE T. GRILLS</td>
<td>The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
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<td>JASON E. GULLIDGE</td>
<td>St. John’s Lutheran Church Beardstown, Illinois</td>
<td>Central Illinois District</td>
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<tr>
<td>JESSE R. GULLION</td>
<td>Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church Fort Wayne, Indiana</td>
<td>Indiana District</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARK R. HARTSOUGH</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Arlington, Wisconsin</td>
<td>South Wisconsin District</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRIAN R. HELLER</td>
<td>Zion Lutheran Church Decatur, Indiana</td>
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<td>JACOB R. HERCAMP</td>
<td>Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Imperial, Nebraska</td>
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<td>MARTIN J. HERZBERG</td>
<td>Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>DAN HO</td>
<td>First Lutheran Church Knoxville, Tennessee</td>
<td>Mid-South District</td>
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<td>ROBERT D. HOPKINS</td>
<td>Lutheran Life Villages Fort Wayne, Indiana</td>
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<td>RYAN M. JANKE</td>
<td>St. John / Immanuel Lutheran Churches Hubbard and Iowa Falls, Iowa</td>
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<td>MATTHEW P. JUNG</td>
<td>St. Paul’s Lutheran Church / Trinity Lutheran High School Jonesville and Seymour, Indiana</td>
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<td>BRANDON W. KOBLE</td>
<td>Concordia Lutheran Church and School Fort Wayne, Indiana</td>
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<td>NICKOLAS M. KODI</td>
<td>Trinity Lutheran Church St. Joseph, Michigan</td>
<td>Michigan District</td>
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<td>JOHN H. KOOPMAN</td>
<td>Bethel / Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Churches Bismarck, North Dakota</td>
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<td>LOGAN P. LANDES</td>
<td>Trinity Lutheran Church Reese, Michigan</td>
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<td>FRANK E. LUCAS</td>
<td>Holy Cross Lutheran Church Moline, Illinois</td>
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<td>ZACHARY W. MARKLEVITZ</td>
<td>Luther Memorial Chapel Shorewood, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>LUCAS S. MILLER</td>
<td>Redeemer Lutheran Church Highland, Indiana</td>
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<td>Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Fort Wayne, Indiana</td>
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<td>CODY E. NORTON</td>
<td>Basehor, Kansas</td>
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<td>JOEL L. OSCHWALD</td>
<td>St. Michael Lutheran Church Fort Wayne, Indiana</td>
<td>English District</td>
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<td>CHRISTIAN A. PREUS</td>
<td>Good Shepherd</td>
<td>Nebraska District</td>
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<td>JEFFREY J. PROCTOR</td>
<td>Urban Ministry Center of CTS Elizabeth, New Jersey</td>
<td>New Jersey District</td>
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<td>NOAH J. RIGNNESS</td>
<td>Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Palo Alto, California</td>
<td>California-Nevada-Hawaii District</td>
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<td>JONATHAN A. SCHECK</td>
<td>St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Wheaton, Illinois</td>
<td>Illinois District</td>
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<td>DANIEL M. SHEAVER</td>
<td>Immanuel Lutheran Church Pensacola, Florida</td>
<td>Southern District</td>
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<td>REED T. SHOAFF</td>
<td>St. John Lutheran Church Napoleon, Ohio</td>
<td>Ohio District</td>
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<td>JOHN T. STEBBINS</td>
<td>Memorial Lutheran Church and School Houston, Texas</td>
<td>Texas District</td>
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<td>DANIEL P. STEEB</td>
<td>Our Savior / Bethlehem Lutheran Churches Denison and Dow City, Iowa</td>
<td>Iowa District West</td>
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<td>GLEN M. TRIPLETT</td>
<td>Zion Lutheran Church Clark, New Jersey</td>
<td>New Jersey SELC District</td>
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<td>ZACHARY M. VOSS</td>
<td>Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Brookings, South Dakota</td>
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<td>ROBERT J. WACKER</td>
<td>Holy Spirit / Christ the King Lutheran Churches Oakland and Memphis, Tennessee</td>
<td>Tennessee Mid-South District</td>
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<td>DAVID L. WITT</td>
<td>Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Ozark, Alabama</td>
<td>Southern District</td>
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<td>JOHN M. ZIMMERMAN</td>
<td>Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, Oklahoma</td>
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### Deaconess Internships

**April 29, 2014**

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<tr>
<td>MICHELLE E. DOMIN</td>
<td>Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church Haslet, Texas</td>
<td>Texas District</td>
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</table>
Pastoral Calls
April 30, 2014

PETER C. AHLERSMEYER
Christ Lutheran Church
(associate pastor)
Niantic, Connecticut
New England District

DAVID R. APPOLD
St. Paul Lutheran Church
(associate pastor)
Paducah, Kentucky
Mid-South District

KYLE L. BACKHAUS
Abiding Word / Vineyard of
Christ Lutheran Churches
Gonzales and Rosanky, Texas
Texas District

PHILIP J. BEYERSDORF
St. John's / Trinity
Lutheran Churches
Villard and Grove Lake,
Minnesota
Minnesota North District

CHRISTOPHER D. BECK
Faith Lutheran Church
California-Nevada-Greenville,
California
Texas District

JASON D. SCHINBECKLER
Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church
Sandusky, Michigan
English District

AARON M. WEST
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Greensburg, Indiana
Indiana District

DEaconess Placements
May 22, 2014

CHERIE L. AUGER
The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod
Office of International Mission
Nicaragua, Honduras and
Costa Rica (Pending)
Missouri District

LISA A. BRAND
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Mankato, Minnesota
Minnesota South District

JENNETTE E. A. HELLER
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Indiana District

JILLIAN E. HOBUS
Lamb of God Lutheran Church
and Academy
Papillion, Nebraska
Nebraska District

CHRISTINE A. SCHOTTE
Shepherd of the City
Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Indiana District

FAITH E. SWENSON
St. John Lutheran Church
Hillsboro, North Dakota
North Dakota District

June 2014
When Concordia Theological Seminary moved to the Fort Wayne campus in 1976, the prominence of Kramer Chapel led the seminary administration to conclude that worship life in such a magnificent space required a person whose calling it would be to lead music-making for the seminary community. And so, the following year Richard C. Resch began his 37-year tenure at CTS, first as Director of Chapel Music and then later as Kantor and Professor.

Upon arriving at CTS, Kantor Resch could hardly have imagined the many and varied opportunities that God would place before him. Armed with degrees in organ performance and church music from Valparaiso University and the Eastman School of Music, his gifts were quickly noticed, for example, through his vigorous and inspiring service playing at daily chapel as well as at the special choral services offered by the seminary throughout the academic year. Anyone who has ever attended a service in Kramer Chapel has experienced firsthand the vitality of congregational song in that place, due in part to the superb acoustics and magnificent organ, but even more so to the confident and creative hymn-playing of Kantor Resch.

During his first year at CTS, Resch began to lay the groundwork for the formation of a touring choir composed of men studying for the pastoral ministry. Initially an eight-voice choir that began singing in 1978, the Seminary Kantorei would soon expand, eventually to 16 voices. Since its formation, the Kantorei has toured nearly every part of the country through its annual Epiphany and Easter tours, singing in hundreds of churches for thousands of people. One byproduct of all those tours was the production of eight CDs of the Kantorei.

In the late 1990s, conversations on the CTS campus began to turn toward the development of an organization that would be devoted to the promotion of a comprehensive understanding of pastoral care. These conversations came to fruition in the year 2000 with the launching of The Good Shepherd Institute of Pastoral Theology and Sacred Music for the Church, with Kantor Resch and Dr. Arthur Just Jr. serving as co-directors. Through its annual conference in early November as well as its numerous publications, the Good Shepherd Institute has become an integral part of the seminary’s ongoing service to the church, leading both pastors and church musicians to an ever richer appreciation of the gifts of God as they are delivered to His holy people in the Divine Service.

Kantor Resch’s service to the Synod has been ongoing and extensive. Among his many assignments, he served three terms on the LCMS Commission on...
In a twist on this theme of going out into the church, Kantor Resch has also brought the church to the seminary through the annual organist workshops held on campus during the last two weeks of June. For nearly a quarter-century, some 30 organists have come to the campus every year for practical training designed to help them in their leadership of the church’s song. From its inception, Kantor Resch structured the workshops to provide not only practical instruction in keyboard skills but also comprehensive training in topics such as the theology of worship, hymnody and the church year. Consistently, responses from participants confirmed that this is exactly what they were seeking: guidance and encouragement to improve their skills and also to broaden their understanding of how and why the church worships as she does.

Among the many special projects that Kantor Resch has guided over the years, two stand out in particular. The first was a DVD that he produced in 2008, *Singing the Faith: Living the Lutheran Musical Heritage*. Believing that the musical heritage of the Lutheran Church is a story worth telling, Kantor Resch brought together scholars and performers to provide an aural and visual feast that highlights these treasures through a compelling narrative.

The second project of import was not connected with the seminary but instead with his work as Kantor at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne. There he joined forces with his wife, Barbara, a music educator who served for two decades as the children’s choir director at St. Paul’s, to produce four CD recordings of hymns sung by the children’s choir. Consistent with the theme of promoting the church’s rich heritage of hymnody, these recordings hold up these treasures in a simple yet elegant way and remain a wonderful model for how children’s choirs can enrich the worship life of the congregation.

Commenting on Resch’s retirement, CTS President Lawrence Rast remarked, “God has blessed Kantor Resch with an abundance of creative genius in the realm of music for the church. Our seminary has been blessed to have him share his incredible knowledge concerning sacred music and liturgy with our students, community and the church-at-large. We are most thankful for his faithful service and pray God’s continued blessing on him and his family.”

The Seminary Kantorei and St. Paul’s Children’s Choir CDs as well as the *Singing the Faith* DVD are available for purchase from the CTS Bookstore. For more information, please call 260-452-2160.

In light of Kantor Resch’s retirement, Dr. Rast has appointed Associate Kantor Kevin Hildebrand as the new Kantor at CTS. In addition, Hildebrand will serve as co-director of the Good Shepherd Institute along with Dr. Paul Grime, dean of the Chapel, who will assume the co-directorship held by Dr. Arthur Just Jr. since the inception of the Institute.

(l-r) Allison Breininger, Kantor Resch, Dr. Barbara Resch, Matthew Resch, Brenda Resch
Seminary Celebrates Close

1. Mr. Jeffrey Schwarz, Miles Christi recipient, with President Rast.
2. Kramer Chapel filled to capacity for Commencement on May 23, 2014.
3. (l-r) Rev. David Rohde, Alumnus of the Year; President Rast; Rev. Ulmer Marshall Jr., Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa recipient.
5. Rev. Dr. Ronald Garwood (right), chairman of CTS Board of Regents, congratulates Peter Eckardt upon receiving his degree.
The 168th academic year at Concordia Theological Seminary came to a close on May 23, 2014, with students, families, honored guests, alumni, faculty and staff on hand to celebrate. “As we conclude another academic year, I am profoundly grateful for all that our dedicated and talented faculty and staff have done for the students that God has entrusted to us. Through their efforts, more servants have been formed in Jesus Christ who will teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all,” commented the Rev. Dr. Charles Gieschen, CTS academic dean.

The Baccalaureate Service began the day with the Rev. Kantor Richard Resch as preacher. Resch retired at the end of this academic year. (See related article pg. 22)

The Commencement Ceremony, with the Rev. Ulmer Marshall Jr. serving as speaker, brought the distribution of academic degrees and the presentation of several honors:

Alumnus of the Year:
Rev. David W. Rohde (CTS 1984), St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wilson, Texas
This award had been established by the CTS Board of Regents to honor a graduate who has distinguished himself by faithfully shepherding the people of God with excellence in preaching, teaching the faithful and reaching the lost while also strengthening his alma mater by recruiting, publicizing and supporting the seminary’s mission.

Rev. Rohde has served as pastor of St. Paul since 1984. He has served as Texas District South Plains Zone LWML Pastoral Counselor (1984-1990); Texas District LWML Pastoral Counselor (1990-1994); Texas District Circuit 3 Counselor (1992-2000); Texas District Third Vice President (2000-2001); Texas District Second Vice President (2001-2003); Texas District Second Vice President (2003-2006); and Texas District Board of Directors (2000-2006). He is a proponent of continuing education for pastors, and for the past 10 years has participated in a CTS continuing education course at Grace Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. One of his greatest joys in the parish is when he has been able to baptize the infant of a couple whom he had also baptized as infants.

Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa:
Rev. Ulmer Marshall Jr., Trinity Lutheran Church, Mobile, Alabama, and Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Point Clear, Alabama
In addition to serving as a faithful pastor for over 40 years, Rev. Marshall has been a tireless worker for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), offering his assistance in many areas, including the Recruitment Committee, Commission on Worship, Board of Directors and Board for Black Ministry Service. He has been very active within the LCMS Southern District with service as second vice president, Board of Directors, Evangelism Board, president of the District’s Pastoral Conference and president of the Black Mission Task Force. He was also a member of the Board of Regents at Concordia College, Selma, Alabama, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

Miles Christi (Soldier of Christ) Awards:
The Miles Christi Award has been created by the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary in order to recognize and honor each year Lutheran laymen or laywomen who have glorified God through a real contribution in some field of human endeavor and who have displayed the characteristics of good soldiers of Christ (2 Timothy 2:3).

The 2014 recipients are:

Mr. Herman Meinders of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mr. Meinders is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City. He strongly believes in and supports higher education and has shared his success through endowments to numerous colleges and universities. He and his wife, LaDonna, have been faithful supporters of CTS.

Mr. Jeffrey Schwarz of Edwardsville, Illinois
Mr. Schwarz is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamel, Illinois. For the last 20 years he has produced the theological, radio talk show Issues, Etc. The guests on Issues, Etc. come from around The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its seminaries and universities, as well as many experts in theology, history, culture and politics outside the LCMS. In addition to his work in broadcasting, he has also served the LCMS as a lay member of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations since 2010.

The opening of the 2014-15 academic year will be September 7. “As we look to September, we are very excited to have additional faithful servants formed as we bear witness to Christ in our classrooms and chapel,” said Gieschen.
Lutherans have always been fascinated by history, and the third Lutheranism & the Classics Conference will offer many thought-provoking papers on the topic: three plenary papers, a banquet address, a workshop for homeschoolers and 30 sectional papers in 12 separate sessions. Latin will be used in three worship settings, and convivial opportunities abound. For paper abstracts and to register please check our website, www.ctsfw.edu/Classics.

Sectional Papers 1
History and the Bible
- The Authorial Intent of an Israelite Historian
- Luther’s Exegesis of Micah 7 and Its Early Reception Among the Lutheran Fathers
- The Mirror Image of God in the Lutheran Exegesis of James 1:16-27

Patristics Scholarship
- The Lutheran Reformers on Authentic and Apocryphal Works from the Early Church
- The Influence of Patristic Literature Upon the Reformation
- Franz Theodor Förster (1839-1898): Chrysostom Scholar and Lutheran Pedagogue

Luther and the Past
- A Hardening of the Arteries: Pharaoh’s Heart in the Exegesis of the Fathers and Luther’s De servo arbitrio
- Reading Secular History with Luther in His Genesis Commentary
- The Hebrews Drink from the Source, the Greeks from the Rivulets and the Latin People from the Puddle

Sectional Papers 2
Josephus
- History and Fate in Josephus Bellum Judaicam 3.399-408
- Roman Power and Divine Decree: Impression Management in the Masada Narrative, Bellum Judaicum 7

Lutheran Lyricism
- “Before Our Time”: Latin and Lay Latinity in Early Lutheran Hymnals
- A Lutheran Contribution Towards Understanding Mozart

Sectional Papers 3
Law and Canon Law
- Fit for the Fire? Medieval Canon Law as Historical-Theological Witness
- Greek and Roman Sources in Niels Hemmingsen’s De lege naturae apodictica methodus (1562)

Barnes and the Lutheran Complaint
- A “Lutheran” Historiography? Robert Barnes’ Vitae Romanorum Pontificum as Case Study
- At semel o utinam sperata luce coiret: Recollections of Ovid in Poetry of the Reformation

Metrics and Hymnody
- Trochees, Dactyls and Correpta: Making Sense of the Gregorian Psalm Tones by Understanding Metric Feet
- Lutherani, Laudemus Latine

Sectional Papers 4
Melanchthon and Pedagogy
- Philip Melanchthon and Loci Communes
- History 101: The Role of History in Lutheran Pedagogy
- The Runes Revisited

Post-Reformation
- The History of Scripture in the Age of Lutheran Orthodoxy
- Matthias Flacius Illyricus In Statu Confinitionis with the History of the Church as His Witness (1548-1552)
- The German Historiographic Tradition and Its Effects on Protestant Theology and the Classical Educational Tradition

The Wauwatosa Way
- The Historical Weltanschaung of Professor John P. Kohler
- Kultur und Kirche: J. P. Kohler’s Sacred Historiography
- J. P. Kohler and World War I

Register today by visiting www.ctsfw.edu/Classics
Dr. Gifford A. Grobien, assistant professor of Systematic Theology and director of the D.Min. Program, attended the Association for Doctor of Ministry Education (ADME) annual conference April 3-5, 2014, at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. About 30 D.Min. directors from across the U.S. and Canada gathered to hear plenary sessions on the role of D.Min. education for congregational revitalization, workshops on school-congregation relations for supporting D.Min. students, projects in rural contexts and other topics, and to discuss accreditation issues.

“I discussed the recent redesign of the D.Min. Program at CTS. The changes were well-received, especially the reduced cost, the collegial, cohort-like structure which still allows flexible scheduling, and the renewed focus on developing pastoral research skills in the thesis,” said Grobien.

Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr., CTS professor of Exegetical Theology, has been appointed director of Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation at CTS. When Just joined the faculty in 1984, he taught homiletics and pastoral theology in Spanish, and his passion for Spanish ministry has never waned. “During my time in Spain in 2012, I developed a curriculum for the Lutheran Church in Spain as well as a strategic plan. Having served on the curriculum committee for the new M.Div. curriculum, SMP curriculum and authoring deaconess curricula at CTS, it seemed like the right time to develop a curriculum for Spanish-speaking pastoral formation internationally as well as in the U.S., returning to one of the reasons that I was originally called to the seminary,” explains Just.

Dr. John G. Nordling, CTS associate professor of Exegetical Theology, and Prof. John T. Pless, CTS assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, spent their Spring Break teaching and preaching at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa. Nordling taught a course on the Gospel of Matthew, while Pless taught a course in Catechetics based on his new book, Didache. In addition to their teaching, the CTS professors preached several times, met with students and faculty from the University of Pretoria as well as local Lutheran pastors and brought books for the seminary library.

Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, president emeritus and professor of Exegetical Theology at CTS, has announced he has accepted the call to serve as president of the Concordia University System (CUS) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He has been serving as its interim president since last fall. Wenthe will continue teaching at CTS while serving in his new capacity.

“What a great decision by our Synod,” said CTS President Dr. Lawrence Rast. “Dr. Wenthe’s skills in leadership and communication, his rich understanding of Lutheran identity and his deep dedication to our Lord and His Church will foster growth and support for our Concordia University System.”

Dr. Roland F. Ziegler has been named the holder of The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Preus Chair in Systematic Theology/Confessional Lutheran Studies. The Chair is endowed to honor the faithful service of Dr. Preus to this seminary and the church-at-large.

“I am honored and humbled by this appointment,” said Ziegler. “I take it as a call to me and to all of us to honor Dr. Preus by following his example in our vocations: to be faithful to the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to join joyously in the confession of our Fathers as we find it in the Book of Concord, to honor the Fathers of the 17th century by reading and engaging them, to engage and confess the faith in the theological confusion of our time, to be a debtor of the Gospel to those among whom we live and to those abroad and, thus, to heed the admonition of the apostle and honor the motto of Concordia Theological Seminary: Preach the Word.”

Dr. Lawrence Rast, Mrs. Robert (Donna) Preus, Dr. Roland Ziegler
The Art of Influence and Encouragement
By Timothy R. Puls

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)

When I lead Seminary Sundays at various congregations around The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, pastors often tell me that one of their fondest memories of attending CTS was when they received a gift of outside support for their educational goals. These gifts came from God’s people from all over the United States whom they had never met. It was not the amount of the gift that mattered as much as the encouragement that the student received. How wonderfully encouraging such a gift is to students who are stretched thin financially.

As alumni, you realize from your own experience how hard students must strive to balance study, work, fieldwork and time to serve their families while attending seminary. However, depending upon your personal situation now, you also recognize that you may be paying back your own student loans or have existing family expenses which do not give you the financial capacity to assist students now. St. Paul instructs that each of us has gifts, and there is something meaningful you can do. You interact and serve people who have the financial capacity to give very generously to the needs of those studying for ministry. Have you encouraged anyone to consider giving to CTS? There are many ways to accomplish this. Perhaps you will suggest that your congregation make an annual mission pledge to CTS or encourage the ladies or men’s group or a small weekly Bible Study group to think about adopting a seminarian with mission dollars. Finally, talk individually with certain members of your congregation who deeply value our seminaries because of your faithful ministry to them. Such encouragement, as I have witnessed, goes a very long way to moving God’s people to action. If people do not know there is a need, then they will not know to give. Your encouraging and asking, however, provide them a meaningful opportunity to give and find fruitful joy and lasting fulfillment in serving the needs of others.

The Rev. Timothy R. Puls
(Timothy.Puls@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of Alumni and Church Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Profiles in Giving

Financial Challenges and the Pastor
By Robert F. Shonholz

It is a day looked forward to with great anticipation and nervousness—Call Night at the seminary. Where am I going? Who will I be serving? Will I be worthy of the calling to be a servant of Christ and His flock, leading as an undershepherd to the Great Shepherd? The announcement is made, cell phones go in search mode to research the state, town and congregation where the real work of being a pastor or deaconess is to begin in short order. There are boxes to pack, often schools to find, new friends to be made as four years of intense pastoral theological education are suddenly going to be put to the test in the “real” world of community, both in the context of the congregation and the town or city in which it is located.

Before that call is received there is the time of formation at CTS. That includes a move to Fort Wayne for a time, then once again for internship or vicarage and once again back to the seminary to finish a comprehensive education that forms the man or woman as a servant of Jesus Christ to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. And, of course, that education does not come without cost. The investment in seminary education is high with many students incurring substantial debt. This can be a great burden for the pastor and his family to bear!

Through their time at the seminary students are not left on their own to sort out a financial plan. The staff in the Financial Aid Office assist each student, and for the 2014-15 academic year students are eligible for a tuition grant of up to 55%, and a great portion of that is made possible because of the generosity of you, God’s people. But even with the tuition grant, scholarships, gifts and the like there can still be a considerable shortfall in covering student expenses. Your seminary recognizes these struggles and is studying this challenge extensively thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Foundation, as you have read in the preceding articles of this issue of For the Life of the World.

The question is what can you do to help your current and future pastors NOW? Certainly prayers are needed both for the pastors and to open hearts and minds for action today by power of the Holy Spirit. You can consider TODAY how you can help. Please, prayerfully contemplate how your financial assistance might ease this burden: it is a problem that can be solved! Imagine if all of our Synod’s 2,300,000 members provided just $2 per week above and beyond their support for their congregations what a difference that would make.

The Rev. Robert F. Shonholz (Robert.Shonholz@ctsfw.edu) serves as an advancement officer at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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

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Please detach and mail to Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825.

June 2014
Military Project: Beautiful Combat Boots

By Carolyn S. Brinkley

And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Rom. 10:14b-15

Beautiful combat boots? Really? Yes! Amidst all the chaos, violence and hostility in the world we have faithful pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who put on the Armed Forces uniform in order to bring the Good News of sins forgiven through Word and Sacraments to those who protect America’s freedoms. These courageous chaplains leave their home, family, church and country to be the presence of Christ to distraught, suffering military personnel in dangerous and difficult circumstances far from home.

Chaplain Curt Cizek wrote during his recent deployment, “Thanks so much for your support! I’m currently outside of Herat, Afghanistan, at a little outpost near the Iranian border. Recent opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of peace have included: bringing comfort and stability to a young female officer who was being sexually harassed by a co-worker; helping a young man grieve over the death of his father; and encouraging a young woman returning home to reconnect with her “tweenager” kids. This morning I had an interesting conversation with some soldiers about the importance of faith in their lives and encouraged a young man to go back to church after a bad experience. There is never a shortage of work to be done in God’s harvest fields.”

Many thanks to all who partner with the CTS Military Project enabling us to support our chaplains with such things as The Lutheran Study Bible, Lutheran Service Book (LSB), a lending library of the Concordia Organist (31-CD set of LSB organ accompaniments of liturgies and hymns), devotional books, CDs of sacred music and other resources as needed and requested by deployed chaplains. Your help is especially appreciated during this time of government cutbacks on funding available for chaplains. Your kind and loving gifts are the backbone of this work of mercy.

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 St., Fort Wayne, IN 46825

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

Calendar of Events

JUNE

June 15–28  Christ Academy High School
June 16–20  Organist Workshop: Primer Level for Organists
June 23–27  Organist Workshop: Level II for Organists and Choral Track

August

August 1–3  Phoebe Academy High School

September

September 7  Opening Service for the 169th Academic Year, Kramer Chapel, 3:00 p.m.
September 9  Seminary Guild, Luther Hall, 1:00 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

October 9–11  Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit
October 10–12  Confirmation Retreat
October 14  Seminary Guild Donation Day
October 29–31  Luther Hostel
October 30–November 2  Christ Academy & Phoebe Academy College

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

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For more information contact CTSTours@ctsfw.edu or (877) 287-4338 or (260) 452-2212.
ON CAMPUS VISITATION EVENTS
Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne, Indiana
Visitation events for future pastors or deaconesses

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

Prayerfully Consider Visit
October 9–11, 2014
www.ctsfw.edu/PCV

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

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