From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate
By Timothy C. J. Quill

Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation
By Don C. Wiley

A Bold Vision: Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships
By Theodore Krey
Recently the Wall Street Journal featured an article titled, “Missionaries Face a Recall.” It outlined challenges faced by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Mission Society, an organization with Methodist roots based in Norcross, Georgia. Missionaries are being recalled and offered early retirement. As one affected missionary put it: “There are seismic shifts happening in the nature of missions…. Our role is changing, and our dominance is changing.”

At the same time, our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, at its 2013 convention, overwhelmingly passed Resolution 1-11 thereby committing the Synod “to double the number of career missionaries engaged in church planting, mercy work, and theological education during the next triennium.” God has blessed that effort and there has been a significant increase in the number of Lutheran missionaries in the international field.

As this issue of For the Life of the World shows, Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, has played a key role in the implementation of that resolution. Building on expertise developed throughout the presidencies of Dr. Robert D. Preus and Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, CTSFW has continued and expanded its worldwide imprint for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your Seminary is making an impact here in the United States and throughout the world.

Next year, 2016, will mark the 20th anniversary of CTSFW’s Russian Project. Conceived in the immediate wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian Project brought talented, committed young Lutherans from the former USSR to CTSFW. These pastors are now providing the next generation of leadership for the church of Eastern Europe and are professing the scriptural Gospel as confessed by the Book of Concord (1580) with great vigor and courage. The Rev. Don Wiley outlines CTSFW’s latest efforts in Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation in North and Central America, the Caribbean and the “Southern Cone,” efforts that began in the 1970s. The Rev. Theodore Krey, regional director for Latin America of LCMS’s Office of International Mission (OIM) outlines the vibrant partnership of Concordia Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina, OIM, CTSFW and the Luther Academy in forming pastors, deaconesses and lay leaders. We hear again of the explosion of the Gospel in Tanzania through the words of Pastor Yohana Nzelu in the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese. Finally, CTSFW Academic Dean Charles Gieschen shows how the unique partnership with mission-minded congregations in California is enabling the extension of the Lord’s kingdom.

Enormous challenges continue to face the Church both in North America and throughout the world. At the same time, even greater opportunities continue to present themselves. The efforts outlined above are simply a sampling of God’s remarkable work through CTSFW as it forms servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

In Christ’s service,

Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana


From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill

In March 1991, the young man was confirmed. At the time, no one could have imagined what the Lord had in store for him—an adventure that would take him to America to study at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and eventually to Ukraine where he would be consecrated as bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (GELCU).

Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation

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A Bold Vision: Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships

By Theodore Krey

Five years ago, 23 men were studying at Concordia Seminary Argentina. Now, thanks to the additional 20 scholarships from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the joint certificate program with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, enrollment is at 65. With only 140 Spanish speaking pastors currently serving across all of Latin America, the Lord is making possible the opportunity to double the number of pastors in the coming five years.

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From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill

(l-r) Bishop Serge Maschewski, Dr. Gennadij Khonin and Dr. Timothy Quill
Serge Maschewski was born in 1975 in the remote city of Pavlodar, Kazakhstan, near the Mongolian border. At that time Kazakhstan was part of the Soviet Union, and the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in the Cold War. Kazakhstan was used by the Soviets as a place to test nuclear weapons as well as launch rockets in the Space Race with the West. Northern Kazakhstan also contained many prison camps or gulags where countless Lutherans are buried in unmarked graves.

Despite relentless persecution from the communist government, shortly after his birth the infant Serge was baptized. His father and mother were Lutheran, but it was his devout grandfather and grandmother who brought him to church. In March 1991, the young man was confirmed. At the time, no one could have imagined what the Lord had in store for him—an adventure that would take him to America to study at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, and eventually to Ukraine where he would be consecrated as bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (GELCU).

In 1989, the world watched in awe and amazement as events surrounding the dissolution of the Iron Curtain and the breakup of the Soviet Union unfolded. Serge first heard about The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 1993 when a woman in Pavlodar told him about LCMS missionaries who were holding theological seminars in Kazakhstan. He attended several seminars. The first was a homiletics course taught by CTSFW professor, the late Dr. Harold Buls.

In 1995, the Schwan Charitable Foundation gave a generous grant to CTSFW that enabled men from the former Soviet Union to study in Fort Wayne. Students were recruited from Russia, eastern European countries, the Baltics and Kazakhstan. In 1997, Bishop Moser of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan approached Dr. Gennadij Khonin who was assisting the CTSFW Russian Project with student recruitment in Kazakhstan. Moser told him that he had an excellent young man whom he would like to send to Fort Wayne. When Khonin inquired about his age, the Bishop replied, “Serge is 22.” Khonin responded that maybe he was a bit too young. Moser replied, “What do you think? Does the Church only need old men like you?” At the time, Khonin was a mere 52-years-old, however the life expectancy of Russian males had dropped to 57 years. As Maschewski recounts the story, “Bishop Moser didn’t ask me if I wanted to go to the Seminary in America. He just told me I was going. I was so shocked I didn’t answer at first. I told him that I had to think about it. Moser replied, ‘Why do you have to think? We don’t have any educated pastors, you have to go.’” Maschewski continued, “My grandmother was very happy to hear I was invited to America. She and my family said I had to go. Moser was a hard man, so I went.”

When asked about his time at CTSFW, Bishop Maschewski recalled, “It was very difficult but also a blessed time. We had to learn a huge amount of information in our classes. It was difficult working through the language barrier and thus integrating into student life and American society. We came from a different background. We grew up in a different country with a different ideology. But we had great professors and in time developed close friendships with the American seminarians. We prayed together in daily worship, and the Lord gave us the ability to pass through difficulties.

On the balcony of St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Cathedral of the GELCU in Odessa, Ukraine. From left to right: Dr. Naomichi Masaki, CTSFW associate professor of Systematic Theology, Bishop Serge Maschewski and Dr. Gennadij Khonin of Kazakhstan.
We need to build worship like this in my church in Ukraine.”

In May of 2000, Maschewski graduated from CTSFW with a M.A. degree and returned home to serve as a pastor in northern Kazakhstan in the capital city of Astana. He also served as a teacher at the church education center. In 2009, he was called by a congregation in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. The call included responsibility for four other congregations in Zaparoski, Bergensk, Mokeevka and Dontesk. The five congregations are part of the GELCU. Dontesk is located in the war zone in Eastern Ukraine and is often featured in media news reports. It is very difficult for the current pastor to reach the congregation in Dontesk. The GELCU is very involved in works of mercy and human care to those suffering from the ravages of war between Ukraine and Russia. The GELCU does its best to help both refugees and those who remain trapped in the war torn region.

In 2014, Pastor Maschewski was elected Bishop of the GELCU. He currently serves at the cathedral in Odessa. From August 29–September 4, 2015, Dr. Albert B. Colver III, LCMS director of Church Relations, and Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill, CTSFW director of International Studies and professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and director of Theological Education for the LCMS, traveled to Kiev and Odessa at the invitation of Bishop Maschewski. Extensive discussion centered on theological education for pastors and laity, unity in the church, strengthening Lutheran identity, evangelism, church planting and financial problems resulting from national disorder and inflation. Bishop Maschewski requested the initiation of official theological discussions between the GELCU and the LCMS. When Dr. Colver asked him how he viewed future relations with the LCMS, Bishop Maschewski expressed a desire for continual theological dialogue, cooperation in diaconal work and help with theological education for pastors and church leaders.

In many respects, the challenges faced today by the GELCU and other re-emerging post-Soviet era Lutheran churches echo the biblical hermeneutics, doctrine and practices that challenged the LCMS in the 1970s. The Bishop is responding to these destructive influences with additional theological education for his pastors and church leaders. This includes regular continuing education courses for his pastors. In October, Dr. Naomichi Masaki, CTSFW associate professor of Systematic Theology, taught a week-long course in Odessa on the Liturgy and the Office of the Holy Ministry. The LCMS Office of Church Relations and Office of International Mission are considering a request for more classes. In addition to courses held in Ukraine, Bishop Maschewski is identifying gifted young men for theological study at CTSFW and when his busy schedule permits, he hopes to return to his alma mater for further graduate study.

The Global Seminary Initiative and CTSFW are thus working together to carry on the tradition of the CTSFW Russian Project initiated in 1995. The fruit of the serious theological training of the next generation often takes a decade or more to manifest itself fully, and when it does, it frequently includes unexpected and miraculous surprises. The Maschewski story is just one of many examples of how the Russian Project and similar programs have made a significant contribution to building strong Lutheran churches at home and abroad.

It has been a remarkable journey from Kazakhstan to America to Germany and now Ukraine. May our Lord bless the courageous efforts of Bishop Maschewski and the GELCU to proclaim the lifesaving Gospel and keep him faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill (Timothy.Quill@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of International Studies and professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and director of Theological Education for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
There is a wonderful equilibrium in God’s kingdom of grace. Ultimately, every good flows from the goodness of God. The Church is the blessed conduit of that goodness. God uses local congregations, as well as the institutions of the Church, where and when He pleases for dispensing His mercy and His Gospel so that the Holy Spirit may do His work of creating and sustaining believers in Jesus Christ. At some times and places there is an abundance to be shared where there is lack. While encouraging the Corinthians in their giving, St. Paul noted: “For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, ‘Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack’” (2 Cor. 8:13–15).
For decades Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW) Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been assisting in theological education around the world. Enthusiastic to share the abundant blessings of our heritage of faithful Lutheran theology, CTSFW has repeatedly provided aid in the formation of pastors and church workers when called upon by Lutheran church bodies in fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)–and even by some who were not yet in fellowship, but longed for the confessional Lutheran theology for which the LCMS and CTSFW are known worldwide. What they lacked in resources and expertise, CTSFW joyfully has supplied so that God’s grace in Christ might abound in other places as well.

In 2014, CTSFW began an exciting new phase in service to the Church with the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr. as director of Spanish Language Church Worker Formation and the development of an international Spanish language pastoral formation program. In a joint effort with the seminary of our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina, Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires (SCBA), CTSFW launched Pastoral Formation for Hispanic-America and Spain (PFH) in early 2015. This online program represents an adaptation of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program curriculum used in the LCMS since 2007. With the help of our experienced brother professors in Argentina, we have developed a course of training that is well suited to the Hispanic context while providing quality Lutheran theology and practice.

In a four-year course of theological studies coupled with ongoing local fieldwork mentoring, men are being prepared for ordination into Word and Sacrament ministry in the Lord’s Church in those places. Thirty-one students are enrolled currently—men from Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Panama, Guatemala, Mexico and Spain. Although they are separated by thousands of miles and across eight time zones, these men are learning in their native Spanish language the truths God has revealed in Holy Scripture, the correct exposition of that Word in our Lutheran Confessions and writings, and the art of faithfully teaching and proclaiming Law and Gospel to a world of people who desperately need what Christ alone can give: forgiveness, life and salvation. What was lacking in those places is being supplied by the abundant grace of God through CTSFW and SCBA.

Most recently, CTSFW has expanded its service in Spanish Language Church Worker Formation with the inauguration of the Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos (BPFL) in August 2015. This new program recognizes God’s hand in bringing Latinos to the United States where the LCMS can carry on international mission within our own communities. It also recognizes the need for continuity in handing on the faith to the saints across generations of immigrants. The Church must proclaim the Gospel not only in the language of those who have more recently arrived, but also to their children and grandchildren who are baptized into the Christian faith and who live both in the culture of their Hispanic heritage and language and in the culture and language of the United States.

Most recently, CTSFW has expanded its service in Spanish Language Church Worker Formation with the inauguration of the Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos (BPFL) in August 2015. This new program recognizes God’s hand in bringing Latinos to the United States where the LCMS can carry on international mission within our own communities. It also recognizes the need for continuity in handing on the faith to the saints across generations of immigrants.

For the Life of the World
The Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos program intends to form pastors who can build that bridge because they live it. The Church has long needed a program such as this one. That need will rise over the next decades. According to projections, those who identify as Hispanic will increase from the current 15% to nearly 30% of the U.S. population by 2060. CTSFW is excited and proud to be of service to the Church in preparing men to fill this present and future need.

I have the great privilege of aiding this effort as assistant director of BPFL while I complete my Ph.D. in Missiology studies here at CTSFW. Here we see yet another way that God provides a divine equilibrium in His one, holy, Christian and apostolic Church. I am in the unique position not only of serving the Seminary and our fellow Hispanic Lutherans while I finish my degree, but also of being the associate pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Redlands, California. The congregation has deployed me to CTSFW as their contribution to this vitally important aspect of the ministry of CTSFW to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. They provide my salary so that CTSFW is not burdened with additional cost as the programs are established.

How that came about is a story in itself. Seemingly it began out of need—a small congregation unable to continue Word and Sacrament ministry. In truth, it was born out of God’s unexpected work through our congregations to extend the Gospel beyond the communities of Redlands and Colton around the world … in Spanish. My senior pastor, the Rev. Wiley Smith, describes the story this way:

The joy that was experienced when our two congregations lighted upon a path together to expand the reach of the Gospel was truly heavenly. The strong sense of divine blessing was both pervasive and uplifting. To be able to consolidate our resources and then implement a plan that would have such far-reaching repercussions for Christ’s Church was to see God at work through His humble servants. That joy continues to this day as we maintain a mutual commitment to bringing the Gospel to bear on our respective communities.

Rev. Smith views my deployment to CTSFW as an encouragement to the church-at-large regarding the unique possibilities that exist to further Christ’s kingdom by the innovative use of resources. Moreover, it is a blessing to the congregation since this collaborative effort brings the mission of the Church out of the abstract into the concrete for the saints of Christ the King as we see our own contribution to the Seminary’s mission bear hearty fruit. Christ’s abundant goodness overcomes every lack—often in ways we would never expect. Readers can learn more about the partnership of Christ the King Lutheran Church with CTSFW in an article by Dr. Charles Gieschen on page 28.

The Church must proclaim the Gospel not only in the language of those who have more recently arrived, but also to their children and grandchildren who are baptized into the Christian faith and who live both in the culture of their Hispanic heritage and language and in the culture and language of the United States.
Some 73 years ago, Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded by a missionary pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to prepare pastors for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (IELA). The bulletin cover (see left) for the Seminary dedication service, printed in both Spanish and German, literally maps out the missionary’s bold vision for this little seminary. With the outline of South America, and the dedication theme from Isaiah 53 in both German, *Ein Fredensdenkmal*, and in Spanish, *Monumento de Paz*, the theme comes from the Hebrew *Yad Vesham*, meaning a tall monument of peace.
Concordia Seminary Argentina has faithfully provided pastors for the IELA, which is now the largest Spanish speaking LCMS partner church with more than 250 congregations. Yet, there is more to this story as the Lutherans of Argentina are not alone in receiving faithful pastors through Concordia Seminary Argentina. Today, the Seminary serves as a tall monument of peace for Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Panama, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico and even forms men for the pastoral office from the Dominican Republic and Spain. Each of these are countries whose Lutheran church bodies lack their own seminary and their pulpits would otherwise stand empty, as they have in many parishes of the Sinodo Luterano de Mexico where a pastor has not been ordained in a decade.

**Partnerships**

Many hands and many partners have come together to make the vision a reality. Since 2011 the LCMS, through its Office of International Mission (OIM), has partnered with Concordia Argentina by providing 20 residential scholarships for men from six different countries. The first man, Eliezer Mendoza from Venezuela, graduated in July 2015 and several more will graduate in the coming year.

In September, Concordia Seminary Argentina hosted the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of established confessional Lutheran church bodies. It was a significant moment at the conference when five Latin American church presidents publicly thanked the Seminary for being their house of studies for their future pastors.

In addition to residential studies, Concordia Argentina offers online theological education leading to pastoral formation to serve the IELA’s mission work in Spain.

**Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne**

Building on this work is a partnership begun in 2014 with CTSFW, which has resulted in a joint certificate seminary program: Formación Pastoral Hispano (FPH). FPH offers 16 courses, one per semester, focused on preaching, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Professors from both seminaries teach. Dr. Arthur Just serves as the director of Spanish Language Church Worker Formation for CTSFW, and the Rev. Antonio Schimpf oversees Pastoral Formation for Concordia Seminary Argentina. The OIM is partnering with both seminaries in placing missionary pastors who will mentor the students serving vicarages in their home countries and also raising up men in their church plants in new countries where OIM is working.

Five years ago, 23 men were studying at Concordia Seminary Argentina. Now, thanks to the additional 20 scholarships from the LCMS and the joint certificate program Formación Pastoral Hispano, enrollment is at 65. With only 140 Spanish speaking pastors currently serving across all of Latin America, the Lord is making possible the opportunity to double the number of pastors in the coming five years.
Additionally, VDMA, an online library is to be launched in November 2015 with the goal of providing curriculum resources to seminarians and boosting the average Spanish-speaking pastor’s library from five Lutheran works to more than 25 over the next five years. Lord willing, all pastors and seminarians will have access to this as it is rolled out throughout 2016.

**Luther Academy**

Almost concurrently, the OIM and Concordia Seminary Argentina began a partnership with Luther Academy which is located on the campus of CTSFW under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett.

Luther Academy is an organization promoting confessional Lutheran theology and research through conferences, scholarly exchanges and publications to offer continuing education courses for pastors in Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Guatemala and Panama. In the five years since this partnership began, Luther Academy has offered 50 courses, two courses per year in five different church bodies. Professors from Concordia Seminary Argentina teach the bulk of the classes, but when needed, professors from LCMS seminaries lend their aid.

The curriculum for the next three years will provide focus on liturgy and preaching. A partnership between the OIM and Concordia Publishing House is making it possible for pastors to receive and learn how to use the new Spanish translation of the *Lutheran Service Book Pastoral Care Companion*. Instruction in the Divine Service will utilize the new Spanish version of *Heaven on Earth*, written by Dr. Just.

The first Latin American Lutheran hymnal in 65 years is slated for release this coming year and will, with these two books, serve as the core curriculum for the emphasis on liturgy in 2016. In 2017, as the world celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, classes will seek to strengthen preaching.

**Deaconess Formation**

The rollout of deaconess formation through the new diaconal seminary in the Dominican Republic is set for May 2016. The Seminary, under the auspices of both CTSFW and Concordia Seminary Argentina, will launch its deaconess program with 10 theology courses aimed at forming deaconesses for service in five Latin American church bodies.

The five year curriculum calls for two courses per year in each church body. The Dominican seminary will teach witness and mercy through course work, and each church body will train its own students in providing merciful care in a variety of ways: for those with disabilities, the elderly and children living on the street, as the needs of their country dictate.

Seminaries continue to be *Yad Vesham*, treasured towers of Christ’s peace where learned men of God form the Church’s sons for the Office of the Holy Ministry and Her daughters learn to bear Christ’s mercy as deaconesses. In these houses of study where Scripture is taught, students learn what it is to serve in these vocations, through which our Lord Jesus offers His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation so that His people might in faith be joined to Him. Through His preached Word and the distribution of His Holy Sacraments, His Spirit extends His kingdom as new churches are planted, mercy is extended to the least of these and the fellowship of believers is added to daily.

We give thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that He has given us *Yad Veshams*, tall monuments of peace such as our seminaries whereby a new generation can hear and receive His mercy which endures forever. 

*The Rev. Theodore Krey (Ted.Krey@lcmsintl.org) serves as the regional director for the Latin American region of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*
Recently I had the opportunity to speak to a Bible study group at the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Pretoria in South Africa served by the Rev. Jacob Corzine (CTSFW 2008). My presentation was on confessional Lutheranism throughout the world. The Bible study group itself was made up of students, both black and white, not only from South Africa but from several other African countries. In many ways the group itself was a glimpse into the reality of global, confessional Lutheranism.

Luther once warned his dear Germans that the Gospel is like a summer rain shower. Therefore we are to be eager to hear Jesus’ words while they are proclaimed in our midst. The Prophet Amos warns of a famine of the Word of God when through man’s persistent rejection, God lets His Word move on to other places. There are places mentioned in the New Testament where once there were Christian congregations alive and thriving, but if you go there today you will find none. Think also of the majestic European cathedrals which today are nearly empty on a typical Sunday. Do you realize that on any given Sunday, there are more people attending Lutheran services in Africa than there are in all of North America and Europe combined? The Gospel moves on! Today the center of the Lutheran world is not in the northern hemisphere but in the global south.

Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a global seminary. In partnership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, graduate students are brought to our campus in Fort Wayne from Africa, Asia and South America. Here they will be equipped to return to their home churches to teach Lutheran theology, strengthening the confession of churches that are often under pressure, both culturally and religiously, to compromise. An increasing number of our graduates are now serving as missionaries overseas. Our faculty members are constantly on the move, going to partner churches to assist with seminary education as well as ongoing continuing education for pastors who have few opportunities for this kind of study.

With the decline of Christianity in North America, we might be tempted to despair if we judge reality simply by the statistics. But we should not be blinded by this to the work that God’s Spirit is doing through the Gospel in other places. Linked by electronic media and comparatively accessible transportation, doors are even now being opened for us to assist our brothers and sisters all over the world. Such assistance is not aimed to create dependency but capacity. Teaching the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions is what we do best. This is a gift we now have the privilege and the opportunity to share in so many places across the globe. Such teaching is preparing and equipping future pastors and deaconesses to carry out faithful ministries amidst their own people, within their own cultures.

These are exciting days—full of challenge and potential—for confessional Lutherans the world over. CTSFW is grateful for the opportunities that we now have to be part of this moment.

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.
Pastor Nzelu has traveled thousands of miles from the East African country of Tanzania to study at CTSFW. He serves as a district pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania—South-East of Lake Victoria Diocese (ELCT-SELVD). He has a very busy schedule as he serves the congregations and parishes (circuits) in his district. He also trains church planters, called evangelists, at the Bishop Makala Training Center in Shinyanga, Tanzania. “My work is to coordinate all church activity within my district of 24 congregations and five parishes. Tuesdays and Wednesdays I teach at the training center. Fridays I work in villages to visit new converts and meet with evangelists in their areas. On Saturdays I work in the district parishes and on Sunday I serve different parishes within my district, depending upon my schedule.”

Nzelu is studying in the M.A. in Religion Program at CTSFW. “I have chosen to study at this Seminary to help me do a better job with all my responsibilities,” says Nzelu. “I have been blessed with the education I’m getting here as it will be a tool to help me reach those who have not heard the Gospel.”

The chapel and hallways and classrooms at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, are filled with men and women being formed as servants of God’s people. Some are here to become pastors and deaconesses. Others have already been serving and are back to learn more to help them serve even more effectively. And still others have traveled half way around the world to study theology at CTSFW.
The number of those who have not been reached is vast. Nzelu estimates that in his diocese of some two million, that up to 80% have no religious affiliation at all.

Nzelu’s passion to become better equipped to serve his fellow Tanzanians has come with sacrifices on his part. While studying at CTSFW he is away from his wife, Lilian, and their five children, ages seven to 19. “Having the opportunity to Skype several times a week certainly helps while we are separated.” While adjusting to a different culture and language can also be difficult, Nzelu is thankful for the CTSFW community. “The professors are so competent and wise. I really appreciate their faithful teaching.” There is one part of living in the Midwest with which he cannot come to terms as he explains with a smile, “The winters! I have arranged my schedule so I can be back home in Tanzania for the winter months.”

When he is in Tanzania, he is still connected with CTSFW via his work at the Bishop Makala Training Center. “The Seminary has been very helpful to my diocese in training new pastors by sending CTSFW professors to teach several times a year.” In fact, CTSFW, in partnership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Global Seminary Initiative, has created a 16-course, pastor and deaconess theological education program for the ELCT-SELVD. Professors from CTSFW who have taught at the training center include President Lawrence Rast, Dr. James Bushur, Dr. Timothy Quill, Dr. Naomichi Masaki, Dr. Peter Scaer and Dr. Detlev Schulz. Deaconess Amy Rast, associate director of Deaconess Formation at CTSFW, and Deaconess Sandra Rhein (CTSFW 2010) have also traveled to Tanzania to teach the deaconess classes. While a good number of the students speak English, there are still many who need the instruction translated into Swahili. Nzelu served as translator for President Rast when he taught a course on Reformation in March 2015. “I can say that every member of that class appreciated President Rast’s lectures and were deeply touched by his strong faith.”

Nzelu sees each class he takes at CTSFW as another building block for his service in bringing his fellow countrymen out of darkness into the brilliant light of the Gospel. “My vision is to serve Jesus within my society in Tanzania. Many people still practice traditional beliefs and animism which includes the worship of deceased ancestors. Some people even trust witch doctors and seek advice from them which sometimes results in violence to women, children and people living with albinism,” explains Nzelu. “We have a high incidence of violence against albinos within the country. Traditional beliefs teach that if you get their body parts, you will be blessed or you will get rich. So albinos are in great danger of being mutilated or killed.” Nzelu knows the only hope for reversing these ancient and destructive practices is the Holy Spirit working through His faithful people. “We invite mission teams to come and join hands with us for evangelism in villages, medical services, church building, etc.”

The challenges are great, but Nzelu looks forward to an exciting future for his church and his brothers and sisters in Christ who want to be His instruments in reaching, teaching and caring for all. “The Lutheran church is the fastest growing church in our area. Our diocese is focusing on training 38 new pastors and 113 new evangelists by 2019. This will go hand in hand with continuing education led by the visiting faculty members from CTSFW. For that we are most thankful!”

Jayne E. Sheafer
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In keeping with the international theme of this issue of *For the Life of the World* we are featuring Dr. K. Detlev Schulz, who joined the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, faculty in 1998. He has a strong German heritage, grew up in South Africa and works closely with many of the international students who are studying at CTSFW.

**Tell us a little about yourself.**

I was born in South Africa in a town called Dundee and grew up on the mission station Enhlanhleni in an area called Msinga, which is part of the greater region of KwaZulu-Natal where the Zulu nation lives. There my father, who was originally from East Prussia, served as missionary, as teacher at a seminary and as bishop of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

I went to the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, where I graduated with a dual major in Classical Greek and German. I then left South Africa to begin my theological studies at the Lutherische Theologische Hochschule in Oberursel and the University of Münster, Germany. After completing my theological studies, I spent a year here at CTSFW earning my S.T.M. degree. I want to thank the late Dr. Robert Preus at this point from whom came the invitation when my father met him in Strasbourg. Had it not been for this one year, I would not be teaching at Fort Wayne today.

I returned to Germany, where I married my wife, Cornelia, and served for two years as vicar in the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany at a dual parish in Heidelberg and Mannheim, Germany. Both of our daughters, Julia and Sophie, were born in Germany. My eldest daughter, Julia, just graduated with a Master’s from the Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany, and now works in London, and Sophie is a senior at the University of Indiana, Bloomington.

I received a Th.D. in Systematic Theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1994. I then became a missionary and pastor in Serowe, Botswana, for the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. The years in Serowe were important for me, especially in furthering my interest in missions and shaping my missiological outlook.

**What has been your favorite course to teach and why?**

Every course I have taught brings me great satisfaction. *Confessing Christ in Today’s World* is a course that I find particularly rewarding since it allows me to demonstrate to the students that being a confessional Lutheran pastor also
implies that he confesses and witnesses to a broken world. I also find the weekly seminar with the Ph.D. students stimulating as we engage in research topics and debate current questions.

Has seminary education changed in the years you have been on the faculty?
Yes, it definitely has. The reality is that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is transitioning to include more urban congregations and because of that, inner city and urban ministry issues will surface in the curriculum, next to addressing comparative religions. This does not mean that theology will change but it does show how theology is embedded in time and context and with that come specific challenges. There are other demographic trends affecting the discourse in classrooms such as the immigration of Latinos, the aging white population and its low birth rate. These factors are fairly new. Thus, theological education is there not only to look into the past but to survey the current situation and alert the church and its pastors to new issues and challenges and, hopefully, provide guidance.

What has been the most rewarding to you as a professor?
I had never imagined that I would one day stand in front of students in a classroom or before an audience at a conference and they would come and listen to me. I find it truly amazing that there is someone out there reading what I have written. All this makes being a professor a privileged and rewarding task. Most rewarding of all is to see a student graduate. It’s a very special moment after having accompanied a student on his academic path from registration through to the final day of class. All the hours invested in preparing exams, advising, reading dissertations and sitting in at defenses pay off when the student walks up the stairs to receive his degree.

What’s your best advice for someone considering serving as a pastor or deaconess?
It’s a people’s job, and that means we must give a lot of our attention to others. The “me” or “I” will have to take the backseat in this ministry. Over the years, I have taught Lutheran theology in probably over 40 countries. It has been rewarding but also challenging for myself and my family, who have had to deal with schooling and other matters in my absence. At times it can be exhausting but God’s Word provides the strength for us to do so, and we must always pray to God that He may give us His Spirit, who enables us to be there for others. “Love others because you are loved first.”

The theme for this issue of For the Life of the World is “CTSFW Service Around the World.” Any thoughts on this from you?
I strongly believe that our Seminary keeps Lutheranism afloat in churches worldwide. We do that in two ways: first, we bring students here from faraway places to form them in Lutheran identity. Second, we are a traveling faculty. We spend a lot of time on the road. The demand for our theology is huge, and I am grateful for that. In the midst of current pushbacks on traditional ethics and morality, seminaries, pastors and churches come forward with lots of questions. I’d like to think of myself and the faculty walking together with such people and providing them with answers from the Scriptures and Martin Luther.

K. Detlev Schulz

The Rev. Dr. K. Detlev Schulz (Detlev.Schulz@ctsfw.edu) serves as professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, dean of Graduate Studies and director of the Ph.D. in Missiology Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will again host its annual Symposia January 19–22, 2016. Held every year on the Fort Wayne campus, presentations on Exegetical Theology and the Lutheran Confessions will highlight the four-day event.

Celebrating its 31st year, the theme for the Exegetical Theology Symposium is The Contributions of Reformation Exegesis.

The 39th annual Symposium on The Lutheran Confessions has chosen Luther and the Reformation: Beginning the Celebration as its theme.

For more information go to www.ctsfw.edu/Symposia or call 260-452-2204.

The 31st Annual Symposium on Exegetical Theology
The Contributions of Reformation Exegesis

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

8:45 a.m. Welcome
Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

8:50 a.m. “My Soul Magnifies the Lord”: Luther’s Hermeneutic of Humility
Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr., Professor of Exegetical Theology and Chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

10:00 a.m. Chapel
10:30 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. All Scripture Is Pure Christ: Luther’s Christocentric Interpretation in the Context of Reformation Exegesis
Dr. Charles A. Gieschen, Academic Dean and Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Commenting on Corinthians: Exegesis in the Age of Reformation
Dr. Scott M. Manetsch, Professor of Church History and the History of Christian Thought, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, and Associate General Editor of the Reformation Commentary on Scripture

2:15 p.m. Luther’s Contributions to Commentary Writing
Dr. John G. Nordling, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

3:15 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: Reformation Hermeneutics
Dr. Peter J. Scaer, Moderator

4:45 p.m. Vespers

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

7:45 a.m. Short Exegetical Paper Sectionals

9:00 a.m. Patterns of Interpretation Seen in Luther’s Treatment of the Old Testament
Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

10:00 a.m. Chapel

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. The Reformation’s Interpretation of the Old Testament with Special Focus on the Prophetic Corpus
Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, President Emeritus, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

12:00 p.m. Lunch
The 39th Annual Symposium on The Lutheran Confessions
Luther and the Reformation: Beginning the Celebration

Wednesday, January 20, 2016
1:15 p.m. Welcome
President Rast

1:30 p.m. Martin Luther: The First Protestant Prophet
Dr. Ronald Rittgers, Erich Markel Chair in German Reformation Studies and Professor of History and Theology, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

2:30 p.m. Luther’s Theological Aesthetics
Dr. Mark C. Mattes, Professor of Theology and Philosophy, Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. Justification: Set Up Where It Ought Not to Be
Dr. David P. Scaer, The David P. Scaer Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology and Chairman of the Department of Systematic Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

5:00 p.m. Choral Vespers

Thursday, January 21, 2016
8:45 a.m. Luther’s Lectures on Galatians as the Banner of Reformation
Dr. Naomichi Masaki, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

10:00 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Liking and Disliking Luther: A Reformed Perspective
Dr. Carl R. Trueman, Paul Wooley Chair of Church History and Professor of Church History, Westminster Theological Seminary, Glendale, Pennsylvania

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. How Luther Transformed Dying and Burying
Dr. Robert A. Kolb, International Research Emeritus Professor for Institute for Mission Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

2:30 p.m. Lutheran Orthodox Theologians as Heirs of the Reformation
Dr. Roland F. Ziegler, The Robert D. Preus Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Confessional Lutheran Studies, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. The Big Thieves Hang the Little Thieves—Luther on a Market Economy
Dr. Carter Lindberg, Professor Emeritus of Church History, Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Massachusetts

Friday, January 22, 2016
8:45 a.m. God at Play in Contrast to Medieval and Modern Anxieties about God
Dr. Christopher Boyd Brown, Associate Professor of Church History, Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Massachusetts

10:00 a.m. Panel Discussion

11:00 a.m. Chapel

Lenten Preaching Workshop
Monday, January 18, 2016
8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Preaching Christ Through Old Testament Sacrifices

This workshop will focus on the basic aspects of sacrifice in the Old Testament. Such Hebrew sacrificial rites and practices relate directly to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, Confession and Absolution and the Lord’s Supper. Relative to this central theme of sacrifice we will consider various possibilities and applications for Lenten preaching.

Presenter: The Rev. Daniel J. Brege, D.Min., pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Preble, Indiana, and first vice president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Indiana District. He is the author of Eating God’s Sacrifice.

Fee: $40.00 per person, includes lunch. You may register online at www.ctsfw.edu/Symposia.

For additional information email LeeAnna.Rondot@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2204.

Lodging Information
The following is a list of hotels near the Seminary. Be sure to ask about such discounts as AAA, AARP, Senior Citizen and Seminary.

Don Hall’s Guesthouse
1313 W. Washington Center Road .................. 260-489-2524

Hotel Fort Wayne
305 E. Washington Center Road* .................. 260-484-0411

Hyatt Place
111 W. Washington Center Road* ................. 260-471-8522
* Airport shuttle service available.
It has been happening informally for decades; in recent years, it has become more formal. It has a name—The Chemnitz Library Initiative. Aligned with the Global Seminary Initiative of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Chemnitz Library Initiative of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, seeks to reach seminary to seminary and library to library, providing textbooks for seminary students. These will become the building blocks of their libraries as pastors and books for seminary libraries that support the teaching and learning, research and writing of the faculty and students of our global partners.

Some of our partners are recognized by the LCMS, and we enjoy full altar and pulpit fellowship with them. Some of our partners are seeking to grow in their Lutheran identity and have asked the LCMS for one of the things we do well—theological education. On the African continent, Lutheran churches in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa are among the former. The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), numbering over seven million members, is one of the latter.

From late September to mid-October, Prof. Robert Roethemeyer, director of Library and Information Services at CTSFW, taught “Research Methodology and Academic Writing” to 31 first-year Master of Arts in Theology students at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, East Africa. As the central seminary of the EECMY, this “place of Jesus” (mekane Yesus) is home to an accredited Bachelor of Theology program with over 120 students and a new Master of Arts in Theology Program with over 60 students.

Proceeds from the recent book sale sponsored by the library at CTSFW helped to fund the textbook that Prof. Roethemeyer used in the class. The text, Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology, will be kept in the library for use when Roethemeyer returns to teach the course to a new class of 30 students next fall.

These proceeds also funded the two volumes on Psalms from the People’s Bible Commentary series for the “Themes in Psalms” course that Dr. Harald Schoubye taught. These volumes were placed into the hands of each of the students as part of their pastoral library with encouragement to use these for devotional reading, visitation, teaching and preaching.

To deepen the Lutheran identity of the students, CTSFW is working to provide the Lutheran Study Bible and the pocket paperback edition of Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions to each of the M.A. students before they graduate. The two books will provide a beginning to an essential Lutheran library for these students.

Since the beginning of the year, 88 volumes have been added to the library collection. Numbering over 30,000 volumes, the central seminary of the EECMY boasts the largest Lutheran theological library in Africa. These new volumes help keep the collection current.

Monetary gifts and gifts of books are welcomed. These fuel the divine economy of the Chemnitz Library Initiative. If you would like more information on donating, connect with Roethemeyer at Robert.Roethemeyer@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2146.

The Rev. Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer (Robert.Roethemeyer@ctsfw.edu) serves as associate professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, director of Library and Information Services and vice president of Strategic Planning and Mission Execution at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Epiphany
CHORAL EVENING PRAYER

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

Tuesday, January 5
Trinity Lutheran Church
680 W, Walnut Street
Nashville, IL 62263
www.trinity-nashville.org
Service Time: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 9
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
100 E, Michigan Street
Evansville, IN 47711
Service Time: 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 6
Risen Savior Lutheran Church
14700 Leavenworth Road
Basehor, KS 66007
risensaviorlcms.org
Service Time: 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 10
Trinity Lutheran Church (Darmstadt)
1401 W, Boonville New Harmony Road
Evansville, IN 47725
trinitydarmstadt.org
Service Time: 9:45 a.m.

Thursday, January 7
St. John’s Lutheran Church
901 SW Fillmore Street
Topeka, KS 66606
www.stjohnclcmstopeka.org
Service Time: 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 17
Kramer Chapel
Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N, Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
www.ctsfw.edu
Service Time: 4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 8
Immanuel Lutheran Church
115 S, 6th Street
St. Charles, MO 63301
www.immanuelstcharles.org
Service Time: 7:00 p.m.

Director: Kantor Kevin J. Hildebrand
Organist: Kantor Matthew A. Machemer
Liturgist and Preacher: Prof. Jeffrey H. Pulse
Faculty News

TSFW faculty members Dr. Carl Fickenscher, Dr. Arthur Just and Prof. John Pless have chapters in a new book, *Mercy in Action: Essays on Mercy, Human Care, and Disaster Response* edited by CTSFW alumnus, the Rev. Ross Johnson. For a free copy, contact LCMS Disaster Response at 888-THE LCMS (843-5267). Those interested in receiving a copy of this resource should contact The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Disaster Response at Disaster@lcms.org.

A Spanish translation of *A Small Catechism on Human Life, Catecismo menor sobre la vida humana*, by Prof. Pless is now available from Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org). Topics examined include abortion, bioethics, end-of-life and sexuality—all through the biblical eyeglasses of Luther’s Small Catechism. Each chapter concludes with thought provoking discussion questions and key Bible references. This beautiful paperback edition features historic woodcut illustrations.

CTSFW faculty presenters for the 2016 Symposia Series on our campus January 19–22 include:

- **Dr. Charles Gieschen**
  “All Scripture Is Pure Christ: Luther’s Christocentric Interpretation in the Context of Reformation Exegesis”

- **Dr. Arthur Just**
  “My Soul Magnifies the Lord: Luther’s Hermeneutic of Humility”

- **Dr. Walter Maier III**
  “Patterns of Interpretation Seen in Luther’s Treatment of the Old Testament”

- **Dr. Naomichi Masaki**
  “Luther’s Lectures on Galatians as the Banner of Reformation”

- **Dr. John Nordling**
  “Luther’s Contributions to Commentary Writing”

- **Dr. David Scaer**
  “Justification: Set Up Where It Ought Not to Be”

- **Dr. Dean Wenthe**
  “The Reformation’s Interpretation of the Old Testament with Special Focus on the Prophetic Corpus”

- **Dr. Roland Ziegler**
  “Lutheran Orthodox Theologians as Heirs of the Reformation”

More information on Symposia Series 2016 can be found on page 18 and at www.ctsfw.edu/Symposia.

CTSFW Media Resources

Visit [Media.ctsfw.edu](http://Media.ctsfw.edu) for theological articles, course videos, chapel sermons and other CTSFW resources such as:

- Lectionary podcasts by CTSFW faculty
- Video and audio from conferences like the Symposia Series and Good Shepherd Institute
- Sermons from Kramer Chapel
- Electronic copies of *Concordia Theological Quarterly* and other periodicals
- Catalog of writings, sermons and lectures by CTSFW faculty
- Options to search in depth by author and topic
Best of Spain and Lisbon with Barcelona
Hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Cameron MacKenzie
Visit Barcelona, Granada, Lisbon, Madrid, Seville and Toledo

November 12–22, 2016
$3,279
round-trip/person from Chicago

Included:
• Accommodations at first-class/select hotels (double occupancy)
• Daily breakfast
• Seven dinners
• Sightseeing by private motorcoach with guide
• All government taxes, airline surcharges, admission fees, hotel taxes and service charges

For additional information go to www.ctsfw.edu/CTSFWTours, email CTSFWTours@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2119.

CTSFW 2016 Wall Calendars Available

The 2016 wall calendar from Concordia Theological Seminary features photos of the Seminary community, CTSFW events for 2016 and the lectionary for the year. The calendars were mailed to all CTSFW alumni and all congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in mid-November. A limited number of additional copies are available to individuals and congregations by phoning 260-452-2150 or emailing Colleen.Bartzsch@ctsfw.edu. There is a $5.00 mailing charge for quantities of one to 10 calendars.
Christ Academy and Phoebe Academy High School events are a great opportunity for young men and women to dig deeper into the theology and practice of the church from confirmation age through high school.

New Alpha and Beta week options give more flexibility for Christ Academy men to attend for just one week or both weeks, and now Phoebe Academy High School is a full-week program for young women.

**Phoebe Academy**
June 19–25, 2016

**Christ Academy: Alpha week**
June 19–25, 2016

**Christ Academy: Beta Week**
June 26–July 2, 2016

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1, 2016!**

Contact: Rev. Lannon Martin
ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu
260-452-2178


During my last year of public high school in Wisconsin, I had a plan. I would study to be a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and would serve in the Latino community. I went to Concordia University Wisconsin, where I studied theological languages and Spanish. I attended CTSFW, where I received a fieldwork assignment in a local congregation with Latino ministry. I was involved in cross-cultural outreach on vicarage in Norman, Oklahoma. When I received my call it was to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther in Chicago, which is situated directly in the middle of one of the many neighborhoods inhabited by Latino immigrants. The Lord blessed the outreach to the community. New members from the community were added. We were blessed to begin Spanish services and to receive bilingual vicars and deaconess students to help with the work load. We assisted another sister congregation to begin Latino outreach in their neighborhood. That was the fulfillment of the plan and then some. The Lord had blessed the path that I had imagined for the ministry years ago.

Then, about three years into the ministry, I got a phone call. “Do you like languages?” Yes. “Do you have experience in cross cultural ministry?” Yes. “Would you be willing to live overseas?” Um... maybe. “Would you consider taking a call in Africa?” What?? It was a phone call on behalf of the LCMS Office of International Mission. They were looking for candidates to teach theology at the seminary in Dapaong, Togo, where the francophone Lutheran partners send their students for theological training, the Centre Luthérien D’Études Théologiques (CLET). “I’ll have to give it some prayerful consideration,” was my answer. The next few months were filled with gathering information and a lot of prayer. I knew Spanish. Wouldn’t a call to Latin America be more suitable? I had lived in Germany. Wouldn’t a call in Europe be more comfortable? I had never given Africa a thought...ever. I had given up on further French studies when I finished high school. What is the use of learning a “dead” language, as I had been told. The climate in Dapaong: hot, dusty, dry. Power outages. Unsafe water. Poor education. Bad roads. Civil unrest. Abject poverty. Corruption. Why not just stay in Chicago? Where would the Lord have me serve?

Two years later I find myself in Dapaong, Togo. I do not serve a parish, but I help to train future pastors. They find their way to CLET from local parishes in Lutheran churches in West and Central Africa. I have the privilege to serve alongside a multicultural faculty that hails from Togo, Ivory Coast and Congo-Brazzaville. Other LCMS pastors have also accepted calls here: the Rev. Micah Wildauer (CTSFW 2006) and the Rev. Gary Schulte (CSL 2006). Together we teach confessional Lutheran theology and assist the students from different cultural contexts to bring this teaching into practice in the lives of their parishes and people. We serve to prepare locals to proclaim the Law of God’s will and to preach and give Christ in His gifts in Word and Sacrament. This is no small task for these future pastors who will return to their families and communities where they will be opposed by traditional animism, (militant) Islam and a flurry of buzzing sects. We teach Christ and give these students all of the tools that we can for them to serve faithfully. Some will serve where they have planned to go. Others will be displaced by civil unrest and wars. Others will be called to be great missionaries in faraway places or called to train even more future pastors and generations of Lutherans. Ultimately it is up to the Lord and His will to guide and to bless this work. The Lord has His plan. He will bring it to completion. He will prepare their ways and bless His Word in His way.

The Rev. Jacob W. Gaugert (Jacob.Gaugert@lcmsintl.org), CTSFW 2010, serves as a career missionary through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Togo.
currently, there is a television commercial that announces the exciting fact that, “Your driveway is connected not just to your street, but to the ends of the earth!” Isn’t that an intriguing thought?

With that thought in mind, it occurred to me that Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, could be compared to such a driveway. That is, a place where men and women start their journey to learn to share God’s Word as pastors and deaconesses. They will then share that Word as they “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15).

When they leave this driveway (the Seminary), some may go up the street to a local church or school; some may go down the highway or across state lines to a more distant place and some may drive to the airport and fly to faraway lands and the mission fields there. By the grace of our Lord, CTSFW equips its students to serve in any of these places.

While these students are in the driveway, getting ready for their journeys, the members of the Seminary Guild are present to pray for them and foster them during their preparation. The Seminary Guild meets during the academic year on the second Tuesday in the months of September through April, with the exception of January.

Please consider joining the Guild as an individual member for $10. Your congregation or organization can also join as an affiliate member for $25. Membership money is used to help and encourage the students with projects and events during their time of study on the CTSFW campus. To learn more about the Seminary Guild, connect with Guild President Joyce West at 419-258-2232 or joyciew43@gmail.com. 

Joyce West (joyciew43@gmail.com) serves as president of the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild.

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 Linda Scicluna, 4 Wycliffe Place, Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4496.

Please contact me with more information.

We have enclosed our yearly $25 check for our group to be an Affiliate Guild.

I have enclosed my yearly $10 check to be an individual affiliate member.

Donation Day gift.
Many thanks to all who so graciously support the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Military Project! Your gifts enable Christ’s mercy to flow around the world through courageous pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who also wear the uniform of the Armed Forces. Although unrest, turmoil and discord in themselves are evil, God uses this venue for good in spreading His Gospel internationally. What joy it is for me to be able to respond to chaplains’ needs and requests! Your kindness and generosity are the backbone of this work of mercy. You are a blessing to many as Christ is proclaimed to the ends of the earth. Thank you!

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
(MilitaryProject@ctsfw.edu)
serves as coordinator for the Military Project at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Deaconess Brinkley,

Greetings in Christ! Thank you so much for the incredible support and gifts for ministry! You could knock me over with a feather!! I am very grateful and thankful for your generosity and encouragement.

I will begin a Lutheran service this Sunday and I don’t have an organist, so the Concordia Organist is PERFECT. I’m going to test it out in the chapel later this week. Thank you also for the billfold prayer cards, the CD, the books and the soap! I am truly humbled by your care.

I’ve been here for three weeks now and I have met two Lutheran soldiers who have served in the military 25 and 30 years respectively. Neither has ever had a Lutheran chaplain! They are so excited about the prospect of the Divine Liturgy and Communion they can hardly wait for Sunday!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, thank you, thank you! Thanks be to God for our common ministry in His service.

Ch. Mark Moreno,
Guantanamo Bay

Dear Deaconess Brinkley and CTSFW Military Project,

Honestly, I was overwhelmed by the package I received today from the Military Project. It seems like a lot of love and thought went into the gift. I love the personal touch.

Gazing at the picture of Kramer Chapel in the fall made me long for home. Here there is no color. Every building looks the same, so seeing the campus picture made my day.

All the special gifts you gave me, I plan to give away except for the handmade soap. The crosses I plan to give to my fellow Unit Ministry Team partners. The Bible verse cards I plan to give to soldiers I know are very busy and need a simple way to connect with God’s Word. The music CD, Hymns of Comfort and Peace, will be playing in the office to warm my own heart and those who enter the door.

The Luther book, Christians Can Be Soldiers, really is a good idea because I just had a soldier ask me about that the other day.

In closing, I asked God to give me a word to describe this offering and it is “Kindness.” Your kindness is a display of God’s love for us and the soldiers I serve. For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...kindness.

(Gal. 5:22)

Sincerely,
Ch. Lonnie Gonzales
Qatar
For the Life of the World

A Unique Gift from a Congregation: Sending Their Pastor to Serve at the Seminary

By Charles A. Gieschen

Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, has received a very unique gift. All of us are very familiar with the process of men being trained at the Seminary to be pastors and then sent to the congregations that call them. However, the tables were turned with a very special effort by the members of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Redlands, California. They sent their associate pastor, the Rev. Don C. Wiley, to learn and serve at this Seminary in July of 2014 while they continue to pay his salary and benefits through May of 2017. How did such a generous gift come about?

This living and breathing gift is the result of the Holy Spirit’s work in two congregations over a period of years to bring a wonderful blessing out of a difficult situation. The first congregation is St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Colton, California. Due to a shrinking membership, a challenging financial situation and the lack of a pastor, the congregation was unsure if it could remain open as 1997 drew to a close. Upon returning from serving in the Panama mission field, Rev. Wiley was called by St. John to shepherd their struggling congregation. Over the next 16 years, the congregation experienced many blessings in Christ but did not grow significantly in numbers or financial viability. After closing its child care center in 2011, the congregation began to consider the difficult prospect of closing its church doors.

Into this serious situation entered a neighboring congregation, Christ the King Lutheran Church and the Rev. Wiley Smith. It was not a shared name that brought Rev. Wiley Smith and Rev. Don Wiley into a discussion in 2012 of a merger of the two congregations, but a shared deep commitment to faithful Lutheran confession and mission. The merger plan that was proposed included using some of the assets from the sale of St. John’s property for the deployment of Pastor Wiley, one year after the merger, to CTSFW in order to complete his Ph.D. in Missiology and, especially, to serve in the Seminary’s profile.

Profiles in Giving

A Unique Gift from a Congregation: Sending Their Pastor to Serve at the Seminary

By Charles A. Gieschen

Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, has received a very unique gift. All of us are very familiar with the process of men being trained at the Seminary to be pastors and then sent to the congregations that call them. However, the tables were turned with a very special effort by the members of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Redlands, California. They sent their associate pastor, the Rev. Don C. Wiley, to learn and serve at this Seminary in July of 2014 while they continue to pay his salary and benefits through May of 2017. How did such a generous gift come about?

This living and breathing gift is the result of the Holy Spirit’s work in two congregations over a period of years to bring a wonderful blessing out of a difficult situation. The first congregation is St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Colton, California. Due to a shrinking membership, a challenging financial situation and the lack of a pastor, the congregation was unsure if it could remain open as 1997 drew to a close. Upon returning from serving in the Panama mission field, Rev. Wiley was called by St. John to shepherd their struggling congregation. Over the next 16 years, the congregation experienced many blessings in Christ but did not grow significantly in numbers or financial viability. After closing its child care center in 2011, the congregation began to consider the difficult prospect of closing its church doors.

Into this serious situation entered a neighboring congregation, Christ the King Lutheran Church and the Rev. Wiley Smith. It was not a shared name that brought Rev. Wiley Smith and Rev. Don Wiley into a discussion in 2012 of a merger of the two congregations, but a shared deep commitment to faithful Lutheran confession and mission. The merger plan that was proposed included using some of the assets from the sale of St. John’s property for the deployment of Pastor Wiley, one year after the merger, to CTSFW in order to complete his Ph.D. in Missiology and, especially, to serve in the Seminary’s profile.

Profiles in Giving

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international Spanish Language Church Worker Formation Program. The news of this unique partnership was received very enthusiastically at CTSFW as an amazing blessing from the Lord that was coming out of a difficult situation. Both congregations discussed, studied, prayed and approved the merger of St. John in Colton with Christ the King in Redlands.

The emotional final service in the St. John’s sanctuary took place on August 18, 2013, and included members of Christ the King, other circuit congregations and the Pacific Southwest District. The sadness of that day was turned to joy just a week later as Rev. Wiley was installed as associate pastor of Christ the King and several members from St. John were welcomed into membership. The lengthy merger process was complete as two pastors and congregations were joined together at one altar. As the preacher for that service, I witnessed firsthand the wonderful unity in Christ and mission zeal that enabled this merger to be a blessing for all involved, including the Seminary!

After serving Christ the King for a year, Rev. Wiley began his deployment by moving to Fort Wayne. In addition to working on his Ph.D. Program at CTSFW, he has begun part-time duties as assistant director of Spanish Language Church Worker Formation at the Seminary (see his article on page 7). Rev. Smith expressed the purpose of this deployment in the “Agreement of Merger” signed by the two congregations: “The support Christ the King, after the merger with St. John, renders to Pastor Wiley is to be seen as support for mission endeavors and not simply Pastor Wiley’s personal academic advancement. Without embarrassment or immodesty, this arrangement can be seen as a gift to the seminary, an unqualified endorsement of our church’s mission and a faithful use of resources which arise from the merger of St. John and Christ the King. Soli Deo Gloria.”

As Rev. Wiley recently reflected on these many events that led to the incredibly generous gift of being deployed by his “new” congregation, he stated, “I continue to marvel and rejoice in God’s work in this entire process that has brought me to CTSFW once again and allows me to serve Him and the Church, both here and abroad, in the forming of servants of the Word even as I am supported in my own personal theological growth through the Ph.D. Program.” The Seminary community, too, marvels and rejoices in this new “partnership in the Gospel” (Phil. 1:5) with Christ the King and Rev. Don Wiley. We truly have received a unique gift!

The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Gieschen (Charles.Gieschen@ctsfw.edu) serves as academic dean and professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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Please detach and mail to Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825-4496.
We pray that Jesus will come. We pray Jesus will come during Advent. We pray Jesus will come in worship. Sometimes we even cry out for Jesus to come. When we are sick, we may literally beg for relief. When we are near death, we beg for it to end. And always—always—Jesus comes. He comes to us in worship, He brings relief from illness, He comes and brings resurrection even in the face of death. Jesus will always come to you.

This world belongs to Jesus. It is His. This is why Jesus comes. He comes as the only proper Lord and Master this creation should ever know and recognize. But He doesn’t come to lord that over us (although He could!). He comes to us in love, mercy, forgiveness and to give life. He comes because He loves us.

St. Paul spoke to the church in Corinth and reminded them that God is the Creator of all things and all of creation belongs to Him.

**Please read Ps. 24:1-10.**

In verse 1, what things actually belong to the Lord? ______
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

In verse 4 what four items are mentioned by David as being necessary for a person to stand in the holy place? ______
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Advent is the greatest time of year to be reminded that we RECEIVE salvation from God. **Please read Gal. 3:1-14.**

St. Paul said nothing about Abraham having a clean heart, being pure or being holy. Instead, St. Paul said that Abraham was righteous before God (clean and holy) how (see v. 6)?
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

The Scriptures tell us that we are born in sin and are not clean, pure, holy nor do we swear rightfully. But Psalm 24 offers hope for all sinners. What word is used in verse 5 to describe how it is people have blessing and righteousness from God?
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

We are made holy before God not because of anything we have done, but solely because of what Christ has done and is doing for us. Every time we worship, celebrate the Lord’s Supper, behold a baptism or hear God’s Word preached or read, we are hearing, seeing, tasting and touching our God as He works in this world by bringing salvation to us! **Please read Ps. 24:7-10.** What does David say is lifted up or opened as God enters?
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

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**O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;**
**Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,**
**And be Thyself our King of Peace.**
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**
**Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Lutheran Service Book, #357 v. 7

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**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

By Edward O. Grimenstein
When the people of Jerusalem entered the temple to worship, they would shout for the gates to be lifted so God could come to His people. In worship, God is opening His gates to us through the Word and Sacraments so we may be brought close to Him once more. God is also coming this way throughout the entire world by coming to us the same way He has always come—through Word and Sacraments. Please read Matt. 2:1-12 and Luke 2:1-18. Who was it that came to see the Christ after He was born? ____________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

The shepherds and the wise men were nobodies in their day. The shepherds were hired hands with generally questionable morals while the wise men were not even Jewish. But these first visitors to God in the flesh show us that God goes throughout the whole world to call His children back to Him so we may all have faith and believe in His name. And, as the Scriptures say, “whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16) and “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, during this Advent season we give thanks to You for reclaiming the whole world as Your own once more through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that our missionaries and their families throughout the world might be kept safe as they open the doors of Your Word and Sacraments so people might hear You, be fed by You, believe in You and, by believing, have eternal life. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Edward O. Grimenstein (Edward.Grimenstein@lcms.org), CTSFW 1999, serves as associate executive director for the Office of International Mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
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