The Importance of Continuing Education for Pastors
By Ernie V. Lassman

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CTSFW Library: Resource for the Global Church
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Perhaps we’ve all been there—those times when preaching becomes a chore, when developing another Bible study appears impossible, when serving our neighbor seems to be beyond our strength. And at those points the temptation is to take an easy way out, to Google a sermon or Bible study or simply to deliver something you know to be sub par, because the well has seemed to run dry. Maybe it’s merely a case of misery loving company, but it can help to realize that even a well-known theologian like Reinhold Niebuhr has faced this problem.

Now that I have preached about a dozen sermons I find I am repeating myself. A different text simply means a different pretext for saying the same thing over again. The few ideas that I had worked into sermons at the seminary have all been used, and now what? I suppose that as the years go by life and experience will prompt some new ideas and I will find some in the Bible that I have missed so far. They say a young preacher must catch his second wind before he can really preach. I’d better catch it pretty soon or the weekly sermon will become a terrible chore.1

Okay, so now what? How do we keep preaching, teaching and serving from becoming a chore? How do you keep your preaching fresh and engaging—not only for your hearers but for yourself? As this issue of For the Life of the World demonstrates, continuing education opportunities are readily available for pastors, deaconesses and lay leaders. Beyond the occasion for continuing education, however, we also underscore its importance for growth in the Gospel of Christ. In this latter sense, it is absolutely necessary for all Christians to pursue lifelong learning, not in some legalistic sense, but because the deep wellspring that is the Holy Scripture will continue to nourish us as we “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

Pastor Ernie Lassman unpacks this verse for us and shows that continuing education is neither a matter of legalism or antinomianism, but an avenue to understand more fully and appreciatively the grace of God that is ours in Christ Jesus. Professors Peter Scaer, Naomichi Masaki, Gifford Grobien and Detlev Schulz point us to the formal educational opportunities available for continuing professional development. Finally, Pastor David McMinn leads us into the Scriptures more widely, reminding us that “private study and circuit meetings are useful tools in combating these temptations. But directed, intense study at the seminary level is an additional and needed aid in maintaining faithfulness to God’s Word and the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Continuing education opportunities surround us—there is no question about that. Using them to enhance the gifts that God has given us is something that will keep us occupied throughout our lives. As Luther put it:

Be alert, study, keep on reading! Truly you cannot read too much in the Scripture; and what you read, you cannot understand too well; and what you understand, you cannot teach too well; and what you teach well, you cannot live too well. Believe me, I know by experience! It is the devil, it is the world, it is our own flesh that storm and rage against us. Therefore dear sirs and brothers, pastors and preachers: pray, read, study, be diligent! I tell you the truth: there is no time for us to lazy around, to snore and sleep in these evil, wicked times. So bring your talents that have been entrusted to you and reveal the mystery of Christ.2

In Christ’s service,

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

1 Reinhold Niebuhr, Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic (Cleveland: Meridian, 1957), 22.
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The apostle Peter encourages us to be growing constantly in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. While this is true of all Christians, it is most especially true of pastors who nourish, guide and protect the flock of Jesus Christ. A pastor’s continuing education is not only for his own spiritual well-being but also for the spiritual well-being of the people he serves.

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The chapel and the library are two icons of the campus. Representing the life of the Spirit and the life of the mind, these two are central to the formation of servants of Jesus Christ. Not surprisingly then, worship in Kramer Chapel and the resources of the library are two elements of our life together most often missed by our alumni. Just as you can now live stream daily chapel services, there are also many library resources that are available to the church-at-large.

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For the Life of the World
PUBLISHER
Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President

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For the Life of the World is mailed to all pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the United States and Canada and to anyone interested in the work of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).
The Importance of Continuing Education for Pastors

By Ernie V. Lassman

When I graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1978, I was convinced that I was finished with formal education. After four years of study to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree and another four years to receive a Master of Divinity degree, I had no desire to continue with such formal studies. Prior to graduating from the Seminary the dean of Graduate Studies encouraged me to pursue a Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) degree. I declined, not only because I was weary of such intense study, but I was eager to get in the field and shepherd God’s people. I wanted to be a pastor.

My call was to Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Parksville, British Columbia, Canada. For the first five years, I was content to discipline myself to study. Having written a seminary paper on 2 Peter 3:18 and its implications for Christian education, I understood that the office I held demanded my very best. I studied the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, Church History and the Fathers, as well as the practical arts of preaching, teaching and counseling. Yet, something was missing. I concluded that I needed the structure of a classroom setting and someone else teaching me.

After this realization two important events followed. I enrolled in the S.T.M. Program at CTSFW (as the dean of Graduate Studies had encouraged me!). About the same time, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Alberta-British Columbia District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as the chair of Education and began to encourage others to seek continuing education.

In 1988, I was installed as the pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Seattle and received my S.T.M. degree in 1991. I had learned the hard way why the dean of Graduate Studies had encouraged me to stay for graduate study. It was a daunting task to work as a full-time pastor and complete such a degree, especially the thesis. But I learned a lot about myself, being a pastor and the value of being taught by someone else. At about the same time, the pastor who had been hosting a Fort Wayne Continuing Education site in the Seattle area no longer wished to be...
The Importance of Continuing Education for Pastors

Participants in the CTSFW continuing education course taught by Dr. Naomichi Masaki at Redeemer Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

I have given all of this background information so that I might invite and encourage all Christians, and especially pastors, to participate in continuing education. I know that there are impediments to pursuing this goal. Pastors are busy and it is difficult to find time, money must be found for the class and perhaps for transportation and lodging, and some congregations might have to be taught the value of continuing education for their pastor. But once the effort is made and the habit established,
it is hard to deny the positive effects.

The apostle Peter writes in 2 Peter 3:18, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” Peter encourages us to be growing constantly in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. While this is true of all Christians, it is most especially true of pastors who nourish, guide and protect the flock of Jesus Christ. A pastor’s continuing education is not only for his own spiritual well-being but also for the spiritual well-being of the people he serves. By emphasizing the word grace, Peter is guarding us against all forms of legalism, antinomianism and false ways to God that he warns about in both of his letters. We are saved not by what we do, but only by what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. This must also be the focus of every Christian and especially every pastor who shepherds the people for whom Christ has died. The message of God’s grace in Jesus Christ has been given in clear propositional statements that illuminate the truth of God’s grace in Jesus Christ and that result in Him being given all the glory both now and in eternity. This growth in grace and knowledge is made possible only by God’s Word, which Peter refers to six times in his two short letters.

When continuing education is seen in the light of 2 Peter 3:18, it is clear that the primary concern or goal is the salvation of God’s people. Only if the pastor is certain of his own salvation, because of the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, can he lead people to that same certainty. Continuing education is a time for the pastor to be nourished and strengthened for his own life and for his service to God’s people as Peter says in 1 Peter 5:1-4, “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

There are other advantages closely connected with the blessings that come from attending continuing education. The classes at Messiah run Monday to Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In this time, class members not only learn the truth and application of God’s Word but they establish relationships with the instructor and the other class members. Continuing education also gives an opportunity to learn from the instructor about the life and activities of the seminaries and about the church-at-large. It is a time to become acquainted with pastors and laymen from other parts of the country and to encourage one another in the faith, as our Confessions say, “…through the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren…” (Smalcald Articles, IV). This happens in the classroom setting as well as in the evening when one or two social events are organized. The next class in Seattle is June 29–July 3, 2015. The Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki, professor of Systematic Theology at CTSFW, will be teaching “Law and Gospel according to Luther’s Great Galatians Lectures.” Now, how can you pass that up? See you in Seattle? If not……then maybe at another continuing education site; the listing for the 2015 sites can be found on page 7.

The Rev. Ernie V. Lassman serves as senior pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church (www.messiahseattle.org), Seattle, Washington.
Continuing Education Opportunities
Sponsored by Concordia Theological Seminary–Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dr. John Nordling
Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa
May 18–20, 2015
The Gospel in Philippians

Dr. Roland Ziegler
St. Cloud, Minnesota
May 27–29, 2015
Luther’s Antinomian Disputations

Dr. Peter Scaer
Rochester, Minnesota
June 1–3, 2015
The Mysteries of Mark: The Churchly Gospel

Dr. James Bushur
Guymon, Oklahoma
June 8–10, 2015
Heresies Old and New: How Ancient False Teachings Resurface in Contemporary Spirituality

Dr. Carl Fickenscher
Gallatin, Tennessee
June 8–10, 2015
Are Today’s Ears Hearing the Timeless Message?: Communicating Law and Gospel in Today’s Culture

Dr. John Nordling
Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 8–12, 2015
The Gospel in Philippians

Dr. Peter Scaer
West Bend, Wisconsin
June 15–17, 2015
Luke and the Christian Life

Dr. Detlev Schulz
Cheyenne, Wyoming
June 15–19, 2015
The Office of the Ministry

Dr. Roland Ziegler
Plano, Texas
June 16–18, 2015
The Word of God

Dr. Peter Scaer
Austin, Texas
June 22–24, 2015
The Mysteries of Mark: The Churchly Gospel

Dr. Naomichi Masaki
Seattle, Washington
June 29–July 3, 2015
Law and Gospel According to Luther’s Great Galatian Lectures

Dr. Naomichi Masaki
Shawano, Wisconsin
July 6–8, 2015
Formula of Concord in the Life of the Church

Dr. Detlev Schulz
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
July 8–10, 2015
Theological Anthropology

Dr. Reed Lessing
Cedar Falls, Iowa
July 13–15, 2015
Isaiah 1-39

Dr. Carl Fickenscher
Rogue River, Oregon
July 20–22, 2015
Are Today’s Ears Hearing the Timeless Message?: Communicating Law and Gospel in Today’s Culture

Prof. John Pless
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Hermann Sasse as Pastoral Theologian

Prof. John Pless
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
August 3–5, 2015
Toward a Pastoral Theology of Suffering

Dr. William Weinrich
Flathead Lake, Montana
August 3–7, 2015
The Gospel of John

Dr. James Bushur
Grass Valley, California
August 10–14, 2015
Second Century as a Model for the 21st Century

Dr. Charles Gieschen
Council Bluffs, Iowa
August 10–14, 2015
The Preexistence of the Son

CTSFW Sites Pending
Final Details:
- Denver, Colorado
- Jackson, Wyoming

Additional CEU Credit Opportunities with Our Partners at Doxology
- Illinois
- Kansas
- South Dakota

Registration information found at www.doxology.us

Contact Us For More Information:
- Kara J. Mertz at CE@ctsfw.edu
- Prof. Jeffrey Pulse at Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu
- Phone 260-452-2103

Please visit our website regularly to check for additional site information: www.ctsfw.edu/CE
The classrooms at our Seminary are vital incubators of learning, teeming with men and women who have devoted themselves to lives of service within our church. Some men are dreaming of missions overseas, while others look to serve a rural parish. Many women are preparing for lives of service in the church here at home and abroad. But, you do not have to be a pastor to want to study theology and you do not have to be a deaconess in order to serve. Many come to the Seminary simply because they want to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of Christ. Others come because they would like to pursue further academic work, perhaps teach at a university or pursue a career in writing. Still others would like to work at the district or synodical level, or perhaps become better teachers of Religion at a high school or grade school. If you simply love to study the Bible and would like to do it in greater depth, the Master of Arts—Religion (M.A.) Program may be right for you.

It has been my privilege to be the supervisor of the M.A. Program for well over a decade. Along the way, I have met some of the most remarkable students. They have come with diverse backgrounds and very different goals. One enrolled with tremendous writing skill and a good grounding in Lutheranism, but wanted to study theology in depth. She came and studied and has moved on to a successful career in editing and writing for the church. Another entered our program with a strong background in philosophy but wanted to study theology before moving on to work on his Ph.D. Along the way, he has written a fine book in Christian apologetics. A successful businessman came to the Seminary because he wanted to pursue a career in Christian counseling and felt that a good theological education would help him become the best counselor he could be. Recently, we received into the program a man from Tanzania who is already a pastor and teacher but wants to study in depth so that he can be of better service to his people at home. Still others come into the M.A. Program unsure of their goals but eager in their desire for learning. And every now and then, an incoming student has a change of mind and decides to become a pastor after all.

People enroll in our M.A. Program for so many different reasons, with so many different goals. But there are some commonalities, some basic goals and passions that they all share. People who study here at CTSFW want to become competent and confident in the major disciplines of Christian thinking. They desire to sharpen their academic skills as they become better writers, researchers and speakers. Along the way, they learn and study major sections of the Bible and begin to become capable interpreters with a focus on Jesus. To know who you are, you must know where you came from. And here at CTSFW, students learn the history of the church. As they become acquainted and conversant in the great church fathers, they are better equipped to navigate the tricky waters of our contemporary situation. Through rigorous and vigorous study, they gain insight in what made the Reformers so bold and how we Lutherans came to be who we are. Indeed, in a world of confusion, M.A. students receive a good primer on ethics. They learn to think through and articulate Christian positions on controversial topics ranging from abortion to euthanasia, from stem cell research to cloning, and so much more. And all M.A. students will leave with a greater understanding of our worship life, our baptismal identity and the joys of the Lord’s Supper.

There are so many reasons for entering the M.A. Program and there are so many avenues to pursue. But, no matter the reason, know that you will be equipped and enriched. If you would like to learn more about the M.A. Program, and if you are thinking about embarking on a new journey of exploration, come visit our campus, send us an email or give us a call. We would love to talk to you and see how we can help. 

The Rev. Dr. Peter J. Scaer (Peter.Scaer@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of the M.A. Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
The Master of Sacred Theology Program
By Naomichi Masaki

The place for studying good Lutheran theology. This is what our Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) Program seeks to maintain here at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). You may say that it sounds too obvious and there are numerous Lutheran seminaries everywhere. Well, what then is the uniqueness of our S.T.M. Program? Let me offer some of my thoughts for you to consider.

The first to mention is our commitment to provide a scholarly environment where confessional Lutheran theology is taken with utmost seriousness. Whether you participate in the courses in Systematic, Exegetical, Historical or Pastoral Theology, you find that your first priority is to be under the Word as Luther put it, and never depart from His living voice.

The proper distinction between Law and Gospel is still the key to the study of the Lutheran Confessions, because through it the entire Scripture is opened. We read the writings of Dr. Luther. We study the Book of Concord. These resources provide brilliant guidance when engaging in a variety of contemporary theological issues and questions facing the church and in evaluating all the secondary authors of past and present and of different traditions.

Our S.T.M. Program also distinguishes itself by having a strong pastoral emphasis. Our faculty members are not only well published scholars who participate in the wider academic discussion, but also pastors who serve the church both locally and Synod wide. They are regularly invited to travel throughout the U.S. and around the world for teaching, preaching and speaking. The combination of a high academic standard and active participation in the life of the church is another hallmark of our Seminary faculty. Our classrooms are affected by experienced faculty who guide the theological studies with the perspective from within, not from outside the church. We never lose sight of our focus on the real life of the Christian and the life and the mission of the church. An accessible faculty and a delightful community of learning among the students serve to enhance our pastoral dynamics.

Last, but not the least, our S.T.M. Program is benefited by the rich liturgical life of the campus. The classroom learning flows out of the Lord’s gifts that are delivered in daily services in Kramer Chapel. The treasure received in the chapel prompts us always to engage in theology with profound joy. Many of our graduates mention repeatedly how they miss the beauty of the Lutheran liturgy. Several Swedish graduates recently said that the liturgical life is reason enough to consider studies at CTSFW.

Concerning some hard data, the S.T.M. Program is a more advanced level academic program than the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program. It provides the opportunity to acquire specialized knowledge in a chosen field of theological study and to gain the skills necessary for scholarly research, writing and teaching. The S.T.M. Program requires 27 hours of course work (18 in the chosen major discipline, nine in each of the three remaining disciplines), proficiency exams in one of the biblical languages (Greek or Hebrew) and a research language, a comprehensive exam in the major field and a thesis (six hours of credit). The program is open for part-time studies as two-week intensive courses are offered throughout the year. The degree may also be obtained by pursuing a non-thesis route.

If you want to enrich and deepen your Lutheran theology for the sake of your ministry or if you want to prepare yourself for further studies at the doctoral level, the S.T.M. is for you!

The Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki (Naomichi.Masaki@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of the S.T.M. Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
When people hear Doctor of Ministry, they often home in on the word Doctor and may think of a scholar alone in a library or study, immersing himself in texts and writing deeply and intricately about theology. While such a vocation is important and valuable, many laypeople wonder, “If my pastor earns his Doctor of Ministry, will he be called away to teach in a university or seminary?”

The answer to this question almost 100 percent of the time is “no.” To be sure, a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) student will be immersed in theological texts and be challenged to think deeply. Yet consider the other main word in the title: Ministry. The Doctor of Ministry Program is oriented toward ministry, that is, the practice and application of theology in the everyday lives of parishioners and the community. The purpose of the program is to improve and to deepen the pastoral knowledge, skill and resources of the student. The D.Min. Program does not call pastors out of the congregation, but invigorates them for continued work in the congregation. Studying the theoretical aspects of theology to be a teacher in higher education has an important place in the church, but the program designed to prepare students for that is the Ph.D. For those who want to improve as pastors—and stay in congregational or other practical ministry—the Seminary provides the D.Min. Program.

How does the D.Min. Program deepen a pastor’s practice of ministry? Besides the study of Scripture, the Confessions and theology texts, the program uses a project framework to develop a pastor’s ability to discern and understand viewpoints, traditions, institutional structures, challenges and problems in congregations. The pastor learns comprehensive tools for understanding his congregation, such as interview techniques and analysis, observation and recording of data, case studies and documentary analysis. These tools do not determine the pastoral care to be provided, but provide the pastor with comprehensive information about the circumstances in which pastoral care is needed.

Then, through his advanced study of Scripture, the Confessions and other texts, the pastor gains knowledge for developing a project of pastoral care. Thus the program centers on this developed, comprehensive exercise of pastoral care. The results of this project of pastoral care are observed, recorded and analyzed, providing feedback on the effectiveness of the pastoral care project. This project and results are the culmination of the program, written up in a thesis. From beginning to end, the program focuses on the improvement and deepening of a student’s practice in ministry. The program is here, simply, to help men become better pastors.

As such, the program is also beneficial to congregations. The more discerning they are to diagnose challenges in the congregation, the more appropriate the care they will provide. The more knowledgeable they are of pastoral theology, the more effective the care. Congregations will reap many good fruits from pastors who go through the program, even before they graduate.

The new design of the program supports ministry in the congregation better than ever. Intensive periods are now five days (down from two weeks), so that pastors are away from their congregations for even less time than in the past. The modified course structure and ability to specialize mean that the pastor can begin working on his program project from his entrance into the program and tailor his course studies toward the project. The greatly reduced tuition means that pastors and congregations can partner to support the pastor for the benefit of all—both pastor and congregation.

There are many kinds of doctors. Some care for the body. Some study ideas, try to articulate them more clearly and teach them in the classroom. But there is also the Doctor of Ministry. This doctor does not just stay in a library or classroom with books, but is in the church, with people in their time of need and present in the community for the sake of the Gospel. This doctor is a doctor of souls. He is the caregiver in the midst of your congregation.

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**The Rev. Dr. Gifford A. Grobien**  
(Gifford.Grobien@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
North American students are not the only ones who dream of graduating from a school with the highest degree in Theology; Christians from every continent aspire for the best education. Since Ph.D.s are still hard to come by in many countries around the world, students have to travel to far away destinations where such a program exists. Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, is one of those venues. Ever since its inception in the mid 1990s, the Ph.D. in Missiology Program has attracted students from Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) partner and non-LCMS churches who come to enjoy a Graduate School environment in a Lutheran setting. For the most part, it is this program that lends an international flavor to our campus and it provides for all students, regardless of what program they take, an interesting and exciting exchange with other students. As with any worthwhile endeavor, some challenges must be overcome before students can sit in the chairs of one of our classrooms. For pastors within the U.S.A., the challenge is to set aside time from their busy pastoral work in the parish to attend a two-week intensive course and, perhaps, if their parish permits, take a sabbatical. Some pastors serve congregations in the area and are able to attend classes on campus at least once a week in order to meet the residency requirement for the program. International students need to obtain approval from their church leadership, submit the necessary documentation so that their visa can be processed and take a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Only then, after receiving the letter of acceptance from our school, may they set out to a country they most likely have not visited before, and they will stay away for months on end from their beloved ones. This is not easy. Moreover, all students, regardless of location, have in common the single most difficult hurdle to master and that is to secure financial resources. It takes the whole church to make a concerted effort, the seminaries, committed members in the LCMS, the LCMS Global Seminary Initiative and gracious congregations, all together help to make a student’s attendance possible. Thank you to all who have helped and continue to do so!

Are all these efforts worth it? Unequivocally, yes. Two reasons come to mind. First, in a recent renowned journal of missiology, the International Bulletin of Missionary Research (2012), our Ph.D. in Missiology was rated fifth in a long list of schools in the U.S.A. that offer a Ph.D. in Mission Studies or have dissertations written related to that topic. The Ph.D. has been recognized as a quality degree and it continues to receive world-wide recognition for being that. The students graduating return to their country and fill positions of leadership either in the area of governance or in the educational institutions such as seminaries and universities. Second, the topic of missiology is an area of study seriously needed for all churches around the world. Missiology is an academic exercise that studies the mission of the church as it encounters the non-Christian world around it. In our Western world, mission is needed to meet the steady decline of our churches, to reach the ethnic minorities and plant churches in urban contexts. Overseas, other missiological challenges need close study such as persecution of Christians, marriages between Christians and non-Christian spouses and the encounter with world religions such as Islam and Hinduism. These are all challenges that Christianity faces, and missiology provides deeper insight in their relation to our witness to the world. We pray that the Lord continues to bless the Ph.D. Program and those who participate in it.

The Rev. Dr. K. Detlev Schulz
(Detlev.Schulz@ctsfw.edu) serves as dean of Graduate Studies and director of the Ph.D. in Missiology Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
The chapel and the library are two icons of the campus. Representing the life of the Spirit and the life of the mind, these two are central to the formation of servants of Jesus Christ. Not surprisingly then, worship in Kramer Chapel and the resources of the library are two elements of our life together most often missed by our alumni. Just as you can now live stream daily chapel services, there are also many library resources that are available to the church-at-large. Read on to discover how and what!

**ATLAS for Alumni**

Begun in the year 2000 with a Lilly Endowment grant to digitize “fifty years of fifty journals,” the American Theological Library Association Serials (ATLAS) project has grown to 290 titles. On campus, students experience the fruit of this project each time they use the ATLA Religion Database as a discovery tool for journal articles and find that the delivery of the full text of many articles is only a click away. ATLAS for Alumni brings this same power of discovery and immediacy of delivery to our graduates who are away from campus.

The breadth of theological literature covered grows yearly and sports a depth of content going back 60 to 70 years, something not found in the full-text databases for other disciplines. Both of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) seminary journals, *Concordia Theological Quarterly* and *Concordia Journal*, are available here, as are *The Springfielder* and *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Also available are *Lutheran Quarterly*, *Missio Apostolica* and many more from AFER: *African Ecclesial Review* to *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*.

Alumni are invited to send an email to Library@ctsfw.edu and request credentials to access this resource.

**Library Catalog**

In the summer of 2014, OCLC WorldShare Management Services became our next generation library automation suite. One huge advantage of this move is that WorldCat became our catalog. For those on campus, WorldCat provides a quick and easy way to discover titles available on our shelves and to discover items held by libraries.
across the United States and the world, all in one place. For those away from campus, one aspect of this new catalog is the ability to set your zip code as the center of the universe. In this way, if you find a title you would like to borrow from across the country, you can see what other libraries in the world hold that item sorted by proximity to you. The perfect resource for your sermon, Bible study or research paper may be available in a nearby library, and you can find it in our catalog.

**Extension Service**

Our seminaries remain seminaries of the church for the church. Professional church workers of LCMS in need of a resource not locally available may find our extension service of benefit. Through this service we extend our circulation and reference services to those who serve our congregations and schools. Need a book? We send books to your doorstep. You have four weeks to use them, and then simply send them back. Need an article from a journal held by us but not yet in ATLAS, an essay from a book in the collection, an entry from an encyclopedia in the reference area or commentary on a passage of Scripture? We can scan it and send a PDF to your email.

**Create Your Own Retreat**

The completion this spring of the library expansion opens up some new possibilities. Planning to travel to campus for an event such as the annual Symposia Series or the Good Shepherd Institute Conference? Build in an Advent or Lenten Preaching Workshop and stay a few extra days to enjoy some service planning and sermon writing time. Spread out at a table at lake level and immerse yourself in these quiet, naturally lighted spaces. Looking for a place to hold an elders’ retreat? Reserve one of the large group rooms in the library and punctuate your retreat with worship time in Kramer Chapel. The library has plenty of space for books, but it is also a calm, welcoming atmosphere for people.

To learn more about all of the services and resources offered go to www.ctsfw.edu/Library, email Library@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2149.

**The Rev. Robert V. Roethemeyer**

(Robert.Roethemeyer@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of Library at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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**New rooms in the library offer additional options for students and visiting groups.**
For the Life of the World

Dedication of the Wayne and Barbara Kroemer Library at CTSFW

Students, faculty and guests from all over the world filled the chapel and the library for the dedication of the Wayne and Barbara Kroemer Library on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, on January 22, 2015. The day began with prayer in Kramer Chapel and moved to the library where CTSFW President Lawrence R. Rast Jr. opened the doors and led the crowd into the completed expansion. The expanded library complex allows for all volumes owned by the Seminary to be housed in one place and opens up additional areas for group and individual study.

The guests of honor were Wayne and Barbara Kroemer of Zionsville, Indiana, who are longtime friends of the Seminary and very instrumental in the completion of the expansion. “We saw that this would be an opportunity for us to give back for the spiritual growth we feel we experience at the Seminary and to God for His many blessings. We are so pleased that many other donors felt as we do and that this beautiful and amazing library has been completed,” said the Kroemers. “There are no greater places in the Lutheran Church to support than its seminaries, as this is where the future lies. This new, first-class building is a shining star for the Fort Wayne seminary and will be an asset that keeps giving to the students and professors here in the years ahead.”

“Building a structure of this magnitude certainly requires the generous gifts of our donors, and we are most thankful for their selfless giving. Just as important, it shows their deep commitment to supporting the continued formation of servants of Christ on the CTSFW campus,” commented Rast. “The resources now available in the Wayne and Barbara Kroemer Library will serve to enhance the formation of future church workers as they prepare to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

The building, its books, meeting spaces and electronic resources are available for use by alumni, theologians and laypeople. “Professional church workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in need of a resource not locally available may find our extension service of benefit. Through this service, we extend our circulation and reference services to those who serve our congregations and schools,” explained the Rev. Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer, CTSFW director of Library. “The library can also be a destination for church groups looking for a reflective place for a retreat. Reserve one of the large group rooms in the library and punctuate your retreat with worship time in Kramer Chapel.”

To learn more about the Wayne and Barbara Kroemer Library and the resources it offers, go to www.ctsfw.edu/Library or phone 260-452-2149.
Continuing Education Is Essential: A Few Words for Pastors and Congregations
By John T. Pless

When a pastor says “I don’t have time to study,” he is confessing that he doesn’t have time for the ministry. That might seem like a harsh judgment but think of what is actually at stake. Continued study is essential for Christ’s workmen (see 2 Tim. 2:15). The pastor is responsible for bringing out of the storehouse of Holy Scriptures treasures, old and new, week in and week out in sermons, Bible classes, confirmation instruction, newsletter articles, personal conversations and presentations of various types both within and beyond the congregation. He must know the Scriptures and the Confessions and continually dig deeper within them.

One form of continuing education is work toward another degree at the Seminary. Other pastors may benefit from one of the many continuing education classes offered by Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, each summer. All pastors would do well to set in place a plan for personal study that goes beyond just preparing for preaching and teaching. Some of this study might take place with brother pastors in the area (or more distantly utilizing Skype) or it might happen in the privacy of the pastor’s study. What might the pastor read and study? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Spend significant time working through a book of the Bible exegetically.
2. Read at least one theological journal on a regular basis. In addition to our Seminary’s Concordia Theological Quarterly, journals such as Logia (www.logia.org) and Lutheran Quarterly (www.lutheranquarterly.com) offer a rich fare of scholarship on a variety of doctrinal topics that will enrich preaching and teaching.
3. Read Luther. C. F. W. Walther assumed that Lutheran pastors would be reading the writings of the Reformer and developed a guide to assist them in this undertaking. Walther’s guide is published under the title “The Fruitful Reading of the Writings of Luther” in At Home in the House of My Fathers: Presidential Sermons, Essays, Letters, and Addresses from the Missouri Synod’s Great Era of Unity and Growth, edited by Matthew C. Harrison (Lutheran Legacy Press, 2009), pp. 333-343.
5. Make it a practice to read a different book on homiletics each year. It is good for pastors to be exposed to different approaches to preaching in order to keep their own preaching fresh.
6. The newly translated five volume set Commentary on Luther’s Catechisms by Albrecht Peters (Concordia Publishing House, 2009-2013) is a theological gold mine that promises to expand the pastor’s facility as a teacher of the faith.
7. Revisit the syllabi from your seminary courses. Professors typically include books for “suggested reading.” More often than not students don’t have the time to read these books while taking the class. Select one of these books and read it as a follow up on a course which you took while a student. Congregations are encouraged to provide time and funding for their pastors to give attention to this aspect of the ministry. The time the pastor spends in study, whether it is in a degree program, summer courses or a few hours of personal study each week, does not deprive the congregation. Far from detracting from the pastor’s care of the congregation, Christ’s holy people will be enriched and edified by more thoughtful teaching and more engaging preaching.

Luther said that the Christian is an eternal pupil from infancy onward. We might paraphrase him to say that the pastor is an eternal student always growing in his knowledge of God’s Word and forever being honed to proclaim it with accuracy and clarity. For this task, continuing education is not optional.

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.
This is a decision that should not be taken lightly, because once made there is a lot of responsibility that comes with it. With that being said, there is an overwhelming joy once accepted.

Not surprisingly many a pastor’s son has chosen to follow in his father’s footsteps and pursue the Office of the Holy Ministry. Not often do we hear that a man was so influenced by his father-in-law. For Jacob Deal, a third-year seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, it was not only his father-in-law, but his grandfather-in-law, too. He and his wife, Ana, met at Trinity Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio, where her father, the Rev. Timothy Carr, served as senior pastor.

Deal attended the University of Toledo and graduated in May of 2012 with a B.A. in Communications. Shortly thereafter he and Ana were married and moved to Fort Wayne, where he began his studies. While his undergraduate studies were not in pre-seminary studies, Deal somehow knew he would one day become a pastor. “It seems like I always wanted God to use me in the Holy Ministry. Before coming to the Seminary I found...”
March 2015

a letter that I wrote in second grade, responding to the question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” My answer: a missionary pilot. My reason: I wanted to fly to places where the Gospel had not been heard,” shares Deal. “I have the blessing of being born into a Lutheran family. My parents influenced and encouraged me to follow this desire and pray for God’s will to be done.”

After much prayer, Deal did make the decision to attend seminary. He recommends that same prayerful process to any man considering service as a pastor. “First, anyone considering studying for the ministry should not be pressured into starting too early. This is a decision that should not be taken lightly, because once made there is a lot of responsibility that comes with it. With that being said, there is an overwhelming joy once accepted,” says Deal. “For me, it was a great comfort to know I am here with my fellow brethren who will be my friends and support and potentially be fellow pastors in the service of the Lord. There is peace in the decision knowing that we will not be alone in our triumphs or in our failures.”

Deciding which seminary to attend turned out to be a fairly easy process. “I loved the proximity to both our families who were, at the time, near Toledo, Ohio. Second, my father-in-law and grandfather-in-law both went to this institution (grandfather-in-law when it was in Springfield). Third, the professors are second to none. Fourth, this campus is wonderful and the students are great.”

While he was confident in his decision to attend seminary and had the support of his family, there was still a period of adjustment. “My greatest challenge was balancing family life (being newly married when we started), school and work,” says Deal. In June of 2014 the family expanded with the birth of Isaiah. “These may seem like typical challenges, but I believe there is an added stress when students realize they’re learning for the purpose of training people in the way of righteousness. This handling of the Word of God takes precedence in our lives.”

Taking the responsibility of serving Christ’s people so seriously has allowed Deal to treasure some of the tasks afforded him during his time in seminary. “The greatest reward is preaching and teaching the Holy Scriptures. I have enjoyed preaching so much at my home congregation. It is a great honor to be entrusted with this task.” In addition to the joy of beginning service in the church, there is also the joy of the relationships that are formed with members of the church-at-large. “Ana and I both agree that we were so pleasantly surprised at the amount of support you receive from congregations all over our country. Their generosity makes it possible for us to attend this fine institution with less financial stress.”

Deal will find out where he will serve his vicarage year during the Vicarage Assignment Service on April 27, 2015. Vicarage is a special year of formation when a seminarian serves in a congregation under the supervision of a pastor. It is a time to learn what it means to serve as an undershepherd and allows the opportunity for the vicar to see how he will best serve God’s people. “My personal goals are centered on first being a faithful and devout father and husband. Family is very important in the ministry because they are with you each day. Second, I see myself as a forewer student of the Word. The day I think I know it all, let me be humbled. Third, by the grace of God I hope to live long, baptizing and forgiving sins in the stead and by the command of Christ wherever He calls, faithfully teaching and preaching the Word to the glory of His name.”

Jayne E. Sheafer
(SeminaryRelations@ctsfw.edu) serves as managing editor of For the Life of the World and director of Seminary Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
A thirst for knowledge about God’s Word and His promises has driven the Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, a 2005 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, throughout his journey from student to pastor. As a college student at the University of New Mexico (UNM), he began to realize he was not well versed in his Christian faith and began an intentional effort to find the answers he needed. “It was at this point that my passion for theology was developed. I had a hunger for God’s Word. I wanted to know what I believed and why I believed it,” explains Kachelmeier. He changed his major to Religious Studies, which brought some of his questions and concerns into better focus. “My conscience was held captive to the Word of God regarding the doctrines of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. I was drawn to the Reformation and the writings of Martin Luther. Each Sunday, we would visit a different Protestant congregation. After the service, I would diligently ask the pastor about the unique doctrines held by that church body,” shares Kachelmeier.
“In 1995, I graduated with a B.A. in Religious Studies. After intentionally deciding to become Lutheran, I purchased a copy of the Book of Concord and continued to grow in my new found identity.”

It took several years before Kachelmeier and his wife, Andi, would become members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). “I met with a nearby LCMS pastor by the name of Randy Golter. Randy later became the District president of the LCMS Rocky Mountain District. He had convinced me that he saw a bright future for the LCMS due to the recent graduates from CTS in Fort Wayne. He also spoke very highly of the Seminary,” says Kachelmeier. “My entrance into the LCMS was through Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. I served as the director of Parish Education for that congregation before attending the Seminary in Fort Wayne.”

Kachelmeier completed his studies at CTSFW in May 2005 and received his Call to serve as associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, New Mexico, specifically tasked with planting a church in Los Alamos, New Mexico. In 2008 the mission plant, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, became a member congregation of the LCMS and Kachelmeier was called as pastor.

Los Alamos is a well-educated, scientific community and home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory where the Manhattan Project conducted research toward the development of the first atomic bomb. “Because we live in a scientific community, the challenges we face revolve around rationalism and rejection of the biblical perspective of the world from co-workers. Most wage earners in the community work at the national nuclear research laboratory.” Keeping that in mind, Kachelmeier faithfully and gently shepherds the congregation along so they may mature in their faith and continue to grow in their understanding of salvation as revealed in the sacred Scriptures.

That reaching and teaching continues for the congregation, local community and beyond with use of some innovative ideas. “We have been able to utilize the Internet as we live in the local setting and realize our connection to the larger global setting. I began this process with the Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission. This is a unique outreach program in the Rocky Mountain District in which we teach the Christian faith on the Internet in the Arabic language. The students in our chat rooms are from all over the world,” explains Kachelmeier.

The congregation also offers two different weekly radio programs that can be heard on the Internet. “First, we produce the Redeemer Theological Academy (www.redeemerteachingacademy.org) which airs on KRSN here in Los Alamos and on KNGN in Nebraska. Episodes cover a variety of topics such as the Trinity, Christology, Vocation, the book of Isaiah, etc. Second, we work with Lutheran Public Radio to produce a weekly program on Issues, Etc. (issuesetc.org) called ‘Christ in the Old Testament.’ Episodes focus on finding the person and work of Christ in the three year lectionary readings.”

In addition to helping provide continuing education opportunities for others, Kachelmeier notes that as he experienced the challenges of providing pastoral care while living in a fallen world, his need for continued growth and development became evident. “For years I have been attending the annual CTSFW continuing education course offering in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2013, President Rast taught the class and encouraged the participants to look at the new and improved Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Program offered at CTSFW. It just so happened that I had been looking for further training on pastoral care, but was unable to find course work that the Board of Elders in our congregation felt would be substantial. I discussed the new program with the elders, and they figured that the offered courses would be beneficial. Next, the congregation as a whole became completely supportive of the program.

“The D.Min. Program is intentionally designed to help further the skill sets of a pastor in the context of providing care for the souls of his current congregation. The program allows for a pastor to serve the parish full time while attending the Seminary part time through online course work and residential class time. In the D.Min. Program there are three different options for emphasis. I have chosen to focus on pastoral care and leadership. As I grow in my understanding and abilities for spiritual care, the members of my congregation will benefit. The new program intentionally targets the development of the pastor in his current setting. This is a vocational degree tied to the pastor’s call. The goal is to become the best pastor that I can be.”

Continuing education has been a constant in Kachelmeier’s life and it appears that theme will remain as he continues to serve God’s people. “My goal is to be a perpetual student who is always in the state of learning and growing in my own knowledge of salvation as revealed in the sacred Scriptures. As I learn and grow, I have more to give to others so that they too will continue as students, that is, disciples.”

Jayne E. Sheafer (SeminaryRelations@ctsfw.edu) serves as managing editor of For the Life of the World and director of Seminary Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Interest in High School Academies Increases Each Year
By Kristin J. Hodge and Lannon R. Martin

Last summer, Christ Academy–High School, in its 16th year, welcomed 48 young men who were exploring the possibility of pursuing the Office of the Holy Ministry. In an age where fewer and fewer young men look to this calling, we were blessed to have one of our largest groups ever.

Christ Academy–High School offers young men an opportunity to spend two weeks in the shoes of a seminary student. Classes with our professors and pastors in the field set the tone for theological reflection. Recreation activities and dorm life facilitate lasting friendships. These young men continue learning and grow as church men into college and often seminary and ministry!

Some of our recent participants shared their thoughts about their experience at Christ Academy–High School:

- “Christ Academy is a (life) changing experience. For myself, it solidified a career choice that was only a thought in the back of my head. The fellowship I received in my four years was absolutely irreplaceable, and the friendships I made will last for my entire life, God willing. I’d recommend the Academy to any Lutheran young man with even an inkling of desire for the ministry.”

- “Christ Academy provided me and all students a life of worship and excellent education. This is a place where I grew as a theologian, a young man and a Christian with my fellow brothers in Christ.”

The Rev. Lannon R. Martin (Lannon.Martin@ctsfw.edu) serves as admission counselor and director of Christ Academy–High School at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Phoebe Academy–High School is starting its third year and is growing steadily! In 2014, Phoebe Academy–High School nearly doubled in size. For 2015, Phoebe Academy will be extended by one day. The expansion of this program has been exciting and evidences a growing need for, and interest in, diaconal ministry in our church.

One of the strong draws for the program is studying the Scriptures with our world renown faculty. It is through these studies we first start to uncover what diaconal formation is and also identify the needs of people in the world, as well as those in the church pews. In order to begin to identify and meet mercy needs, the participants take part in a service project in the community during their time at the Academy.

Participants in Phoebe Academy–High School have positive comments to share:

- “I really enjoyed learning how all of the deaconesses figured out they wanted to become a deaconess.”
- “I can’t wait to share about the opportunities that a deaconess degree can open up; the variety of work they can do!”
- “I loved coming with my mom to help me sort through and think and have some girl time. Everyone was so thoughtful, welcoming, friendly and hospitable—could not ask for better.”

Deaconess Kristin J. Hodge (Kristin.Hodge@ctsfw.edu) serves as deaconess admission counselor and director of Phoebe Academy–High School at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
This event is for high school men who are considering the vocation of pastoral ministry. Those attending this two week retreat will explore the pastoral ministry, participate in theological studies and form lasting friendships with Lutheran peers.

Register at: www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy
Email: ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu

This event is for high school women who are seeking clarity of direction for a better understanding of the role of a deaconess in the church and forming long lasting friendships with Lutheran peers.

This four-day retreat helps students explore God’s Word on Mercy, meet deaconesses and develop new lifelong friendships.

Register at: www.ctsfw.edu/PAHS
Email: PhoebeAcademy@ctsfw.edu
Dr. David Scaer
April 15, 2015
Women’s Ordination: More Than Bible Passages
Congress on the Lutheran Confessions
Ramada Mall of America
Bloomington, Minnesota

April 27, 2015
Five Views on Infants and Children in the Church
Hardin Student Center at New Orleans
Baptist Theological Seminary
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Dr. Carl Fickenscher**
April 14, 2015
Iowa District West Kapfer Symposium
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
West Des Moines, Iowa

**Dr. Gifford Grobien**
April 16–18
Association of Doctor of Ministry Educators
Beeson Divinity School
Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama

**Prof. John Pless**
April 4, 2015
Handling the Word of Truth: Law and Gospel in the Church Today
Sports Fan International Outreach
Camp Camby Conference
and Retreat Center
Camby, Indiana

April 12–14, 2015
Eastern District Pastors’ Retreat
Camp Pioneer
Angola, New York

May 7, 2015
Luther as Pastoral Theologian
Pastoral Conference for the San Antonio Region of the Texas District
Seguin, Texas

**Dr. David Scaer**
April 15, 2015
Women’s Ordination: More Than Bible Passages
Congress on the Lutheran Confessions
Ramada Mall of America
Bloomington, Minnesota

April 27, 2015
Five Views on Infants and Children in the Church
Hardin Student Center at New Orleans
Baptist Theological Seminary
New Orleans, Louisiana

**President Lawrence Rast**
March 9-13, 2015
Teaching Reformation History
Shinyanga, Tanzania.

March 22, 2015
Preacher for 50th Anniversary.
Faith Lutheran Church
Plano, Texas

May 5-7, 2015
Second International Conference on Confessional Leadership
in the 21st Century
Wittenberg, Germany.

*See page 7 for continuing education opportunities led by CTSFW faculty.*
It was a poignant moment when Maggie Karner, outgoing director of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s (LCMS) Life and Health Ministries, was surprised with the presentation of the Doctor of Humane Letters Honoris Causa from Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana. The conferral took place during the LCMS Life Ministries banquet in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 23, 2015. The award comes in the midst of a battle Karner is fighting against brain cancer.

“As president of CTSFW I have had the opportunity to serve with many faithful servants of Christ, and Maggie stands prominently among them as a selfless hero of the faith,” commented CTSFW President Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. “What a joy and privilege it is to present this honor in recognition of a life well-lived and to acknowledge that Maggie, indeed, is a teacher of the Church.” The decision to confer the honor was approved unanimously by the CTSFW faculty and Board of Regents.

During her decade-long tenure as director of LCMS Life and Health Ministries, Karner addressed many life issues, including embryonic stem cell research, adoption and end-of-life issues. In an October 10, 2014, post in the Reporter Online, Karner spoke with grace and courage about her battle with brain cancer. “I feel blessed that my tumor came later in my life (I’m 51) and I have had the gift of raising three lovely daughters. I want my girls to learn servanthood and selflessness as they care for me. And I also want them to know that, for Christians, our death is not the end. … Christ’s resurrection from that borrowed grave confirms that death could not hold Him, and it cannot hold me either—a baptized child of God!” (Reporter Online, http://blogs.lcms.org/reporter, is the Web version of Reporter, the official newspaper of the LCMS.)

Karner is married to the Rev. Kevin A. Karner (CTSFW 1989), pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bristol, Connecticut. The CTSFW community continues to pray for the entire Karner family, asking that God comfort and protect them in the days ahead.

Serving the Church Through Music
Musician Workshops

June 15–19, 2015
Basic Level Organists and Service Playing for Pianists

June 22–26, 2015
Intermediate Level Organists

For more information please contact: OrganWorkshops@ctsfw.edu
CTSFW Website Offers Resources to Support Future Servants

In December 2012, Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, was awarded a three-year grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., Indianapolis, to raise financial awareness concerning the challenge of increased educational debt among seminary students. Under the theme of “Improving the Economic Well-Being of Future Servants of Jesus Christ,” the Seminary has been working on resources to address this issue among its students, faculty, staff and donors, as well as the congregations and districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The most recent resource is a new website, www.ctsfw.edu/SupportFutureServants. The resources offered on the website shed light on the economic challenges facing seminary students, as well as offering tangible ways groups and individuals can support our future servants. Included on the website is a video, featuring current students and recent alumni, a downloadable brochure, a special issue of the CTSFW magazine For the Life of the World and a “How Can You Help?” section.

“The Support Future Servants materials on the Seminary website will help congregations and individuals understand many of the financial challenges that students are facing. These students need our prayers and support as they commit their lives to the mission of the Gospel and prepare for the important work ahead of them,” explained the Rev. Mark C. Sheafer, CTSFW director of Financial Aid. “We encourage congregations and individuals to watch the video and distribute the downloadable brochure for additional information. The video is just over 10 minutes long and would make a great introduction to this topic for interested groups.”

More resources will be included on the website as they are developed. For additional information on this effort email Info@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2250.

Online Application and Scholarships Enhance CTSFW Admission

Streamlining the admission process and offering additional scholarships are two ways Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, is supporting students choosing to enroll in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Deaconess Studies Programs.

The new, online application makes submitting an application quicker and easier. The process begins at www.ctsfw.edu/cwf/apply. In addition to the time savings of applying online, applicants will no longer be charged an application fee. Links for information about all Churchworker Formation Programs are also available at this site.

To further assist on the financial side, CTSFW is offering Presidential Scholarships. All Concordia University System (CUS) and Valparaiso University students who submit their CTSFW application and are accepted for admittance to the M.Div. or Deaconess Studies Programs are automatically considered for the Presidential Scholarships. Deadline for fall application is March 31, 2015.

“Given the significant role our church’s institutions of higher learning play in preparing students for service in the church, the Seminary desires to recognize students who have attended one of these schools and successfully completed their degrees,” commented the Rev. John Dreyer, director of Admission at CTSFW.

Two forms of Presidential Scholarships are available:
1. A general scholarship of $500 is available for all students who have graduated with a bachelor’s degree from a CUS school or Valparaiso University and who have been admitted to the M.Div. or M.A. in Deaconess Studies Programs at CTSFW. This applies to current students as well as those who graduated within the last two years, so long as they attended at least four semesters at the qualifying institution. The M.Div. applicants do not necessarily have to have been enrolled in a Pre-Seminary Program.
2. Merit-based scholarships are also available to students who have demonstrated high levels of competency in such areas as academic performance, leadership capabilities and servant attitude. Based upon data gathered from the student’s application, letters of recommendation and the recommendation of the admission counselor, a total of 21 awards will be given, seven (7) each at the levels of $2,000, $1,500 and $1,000.

Also beginning in the 2015–2016 academic year, each full-time residential student will receive an additional $1,000 in aid. This will be awarded in addition to the tuition grant. Students can qualify for a tuition grant that can reduce their tuition by as much as 55%.

Want to learn more about service as a pastor or deaconess? Begin by going to www.ctsfw.edu/Admission, then connect with the CTSFW Admission staff by email at Admission@ctsfw.edu or phone 800-481-2155.
How often do you reflect critically? A pastor learns to do this much more than he ever first considered after departing seminary to begin ministry. The more one matures in ministry, the more one is seasoned; acquiring the ability to balance prudently and weigh received knowledge gained throughout earlier life, scriptural reflection and study at seminary with more hands-on learning as he is familiarized with the crises, conflicts and experiences of people in his vocation.

Jack Mezirow, an expert in the field of adult transformative learning, mentions that the trigger points for critical reflection occur through challenging experiences and crises. This experience involves those actually going through varied points of life (marriage, vocational changes, relational breaks, death of a loved one, etc.) as well as those working with them through those experiences. Pastors gain some of this knowledge through the practical incidents of fieldwork and vicarage, but this is not felt at the same level as it is for a pastor who is fully responsible and accountable.

Mezirow suggests that there are three kinds of critical reflection: content reflection, process reflection and premise reflection. Content reflection is to consider or to think about an actual pivotal experience or event. Process reflection is thinking about how to handle or cope with that same experience and, finally, premise reflection involves contemplating and evaluating beliefs, values and long held assumptions. For further reading on this subject, please see Learning in Adulthood: A Comprehensive Guide referred to below.

Critical reflection is shaped and developed in every pastor over time as new experiences, events and changes occur (content reflection). In turn, such events urge pastors to talk, meet and chat regularly with brothers in the ministry about those events and how best to handle and/or manage these (process reflection). Finally, Synod, congregations, laity, pastors, districts, circuits and seminaries provide all of us opportunities to stay sharp and prepared (premise reflection) in every situation. It is similar to what King Solomon writes: “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another” (Prov. 27:17).

At Concordia Theological Seminary, we offer our alumni and pastors opportunities to complement their additional reflection, growth and development. To this end, the annual Symposia Series, the Good Shepherd Institute Conference and the D. Min., S.T.M. or Ph.D. Programs are all avenues to contribute toward your continued critical reflection. They offer all of us the opportunity to learn and grow with one another and to broaden our understanding of God’s Word in all its fullness. I pray that we may continue to stimulate and challenge one another toward further learning and growth.

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

References


Education is something that is ongoing in life. How often one hears “you learn something new every day” and that seems to be true. This type of education refers to things learned from experiences and trial and error in daily living.

Formal education, however, is different. In formal education, there is focus on particular areas of learning and a desire to be taught as much as possible about a certain subject, sometimes enough to become an expert in the subject and then have the ability to teach others.

God’s Word, contained in the Bible, is the basis for the formal education at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne. While the Seminary educates men to become pastors and women to become deaconesses, there are many other educational offerings. The Seminary offers a Symposia Series, a Confirmation Retreat, Phoebe Academy—High School, Christ Academy—High School and Luther Hostel to mention a few. Pastors are also offered opportunities to refresh and further their education. Information concerning all offerings can be found on the Seminary website www.ctsfw.edu.

The Seminary Guild even offers opportunities for continuing education. At the meeting in September 2014, Prof. Jeffrey Pulse gave an update on the inner city work at Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church; in October 2014, our Donation Day speaker was Cynthia Kahn from Troy, Michigan, who gave a presentation about the work being done with Muslim refugees in the Detroit area; at the meeting in November 2014, the Guild heard from Retired Command Army Sgt. Major Fritz Bultemeyer concerning the impact of his faith in God on his military career. Our upcoming meetings include:

March 10  Missions to Sudan
Deaconess Patricia Nuffer
In Luther Hall at 1:00 p.m.

April 14  Spring Luncheon
Report on the Deaconess Program at the Seminary
In Luther Hall at 12:00 p.m.

Consider becoming a member of the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, where we associate for the mutual aid and promotion of the Seminary students and staff. Joyce West (joyciew43@gmail.com) serves as president of the Seminary Guild at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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

Name: 
Organization: 
Address: 
City: __________ State: ______ Zip: __________ Email: 

☐ 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.
An envelope recently arrived in my mailbox from Lutheran South Unity School, Fort Wayne, Indiana, containing a gift of their chapel offerings. Included were small pieces of paper with children’s prayers for chaplains. Principal Krista F. Nagy explained that the students who did not have monetary resources were encouraged to write prayers and put them in their offering envelopes. They were sent to Ch. David Schleusener, stationed in Djibouti, who responded, “The children’s notes made me smile. Keep the prayers coming. All is going well but can always use prayers for sustained strength.” What a beautiful offering from these children and reminder to us all to pray for our deployed chaplains of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as they are the presence of Christ through His Word and Sacraments to those who protect our freedoms.

Ch. Schleusener also writes, “Your reputation for support is out there. The first LCMS chaplain I met, while at Djibouti, spoke highly of you. His name is Charles Mallie. I was able to tell him that I had already received a care package from you. Thank you for your prayers, the work you organized to make this (and many other care packages to many other chaplains) possible, the personal touch with the gifts you sent and the generous offer for future support. It is greatly valued and a welcome sign of support from home. I find my work challenging and rewarding, at times elements are discouraging (so many to reach, so many don’t seem receptive), but even when the labor seems in vain, the Holy Spirit revives me for serving in Christ by His Word and Supper and your prayers of support. Thank you for the prayers and all you do. I am blessed and happy to be the presence of Christ to those serving here in Djibouti, Africa, with me. Yours in Christ.”

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 ways to care for deployed military from your congregation, 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 46825-4996

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

Top & Bottom: Handwritten prayers by children from Lutheran South Unity. Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Middle: Chaplain David Schleusener holds gifts of catechisms, hymnals and the Concordia Organist CD from the CTS Military Project. “These resources will be used at the chapel in Djibouti long after my tour of duty ends.”
The Mann Family Heritage: Laying Up Treasures Where Moth and Rust Do Not Destroy
By Timothy R. Puls

While visiting with Bob and Nadine Mann in their home along the coast of Lake Huron near Carsonville, Michigan, I asked why they planned to invest so much in the future of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana. In response, Nadine cut right to the chase, “If we don’t have any more pastors, then there won’t be many more new Christians!” Nadine’s statement is visionary and profound; mindful not only of the immediate but also the future needs of both her family and the Lord’s kingdom work. If there are no well-trained, theologically-equipped pastors of solid and noble character who will pass on the treasures and salvation of Jesus Christ to generations yet to come, what will happen to the church and its quality in later times?
Bob and Nadine’s lives have been intertwined with intense love for their family, honorable service in the community and self-sacrificing service within their local congregation. They raised all four of their children in Warren, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. Bob was a computer system’s engineer for General Motors and Chrysler as well as Electronic Data Systems. Before Nadine became a stay-at-home mom, she was the first female police officer for the City of Warren in 1959.

Both of them served extensively at Hope Lutheran Church in Warren, Michigan, and continue to serve at their present congregation of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lexington, Michigan. Bob served on various committees, including the Board of Elders and also as the vice president of the congregation at Hope. He is now an elder and editor and publisher of the monthly newsletter at St. Matthew. Nadine served on various committees at Hope and could be found leading Girl Scout troops, directing and coordinating various bazaars for the congregation, as well as sewing in quilting groups for Lutheran World Relief. However, what truly invigorated them as lay leaders in their congregations was participating in Via De Christo weekends. Not only did they participate in these, but they led many of the retreats. Bob says that these classes, materials and experiences grew them and many others in spiritual maturity and faith.

Not only do Bob and Nadine enjoy their home, church, children and 16 grandchildren, but they relish occasional trips to Europe, and especially France, where Nadine was born and has family members. They celebrate all of life as God’s gift and express such thankfulness to God by being faithful stewards of the resources which the Lord has entrusted to their care. They give faithfully to support their local congregation, many of their grandchildren who are still in college and also to CTSFW.

They started giving to CTSFW several years ago when they heard that the Synod was giving less and less direct support and subsidy to the seminaries. When they made their estate plan about five years ago, they set up a Charitable Remainder Trust. The Charitable Remainder Trust will provide incremented income to their children for 20 years and then the same amount (or more) will fund a CTSFW student endowment. By conducting wise estate planning, they were able to give not only in the future but immediately as well with a significant gift to the Seminary Library Expansion Project.

God bless Bob and Nadine and many of you who plan ahead, “laying up treasures where moth and rust do not destroy.”

Want to learn more about how you can support future churchworkers? The Advancement team at CTSFW will be happy to assist; connect with them at Advancement@ctsfw.edu or 877-287-4338.

The Rev. Timothy R. Puls
(Timothy.Puls@ctsfw.edu)
serves as director of Alumni and Church Relations at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
In this life we expect that our medical doctors, attorneys, certified public accountants and other professionals will stay abreast of the latest scholarship and changes within their professions through continuing education. We want them to be able to respond to our needs with the most up-to-date information and skill possible. Even more so we should expect that our pastors, having responsibilities that meet eternity, will remain engaged in a process of continuing education in God’s Word.

While it is true that there is no new or ongoing revelation from God to be learned, it is also true that no man will ever fully master God’s written Word in this life. Dr. Martin Luther said as much in his preface to the Large Catechism: “Therefore, I appeal once more to all Christians, especially the pastors and preachers…Let them constantly read and teach, learn and meditate and ponder. Let them never stop until they have proved by experience and are certain that they have taught the devil to death and have become more learned than God himself and all his saints…Then in due time they will make the noble confession that the longer they work with the catechism, the less they know of it, and the more they have to learn. Only then, hungry and thirsty, will they for the first time truly taste what now they cannot bear to smell because they are so bloated and surfeited. To this end may God grant his grace! Amen.” 1

Pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) are greatly gifted by God to have the opportunity to continue their education in a local setting with our seminaries’ professors. These professors are one more tool God uses to serve us through His Word that His pastors may in turn serve His people with the same.

**Read Mark 12:18-27.** What is Jesus’ chief complaint against the Sadducees in this text?

It is clear from the New Testament that the Sadducees along with the Pharisees were generally considered learned men. They knew the words of the Scriptures but they did not understand what the Word meant. Being competent in the Scriptures is more than knowing words and reciting verses. There is one doctrine in Scripture that permeates the whole. Jesus is the content of Scripture and in Him alone is life and salvation, in Him alone is true understanding. See John 6:46–47.

**Read Acts 9:1-22.** Here is another learned man yet also an enemy of God. There is no doubting Saul knew the letter of Scriptures. What does it take for him to make the good confession of Christ?

The necessity of studying and understanding Scripture is not limited to the enemies of God. Those who desire to know the truth of God and study His Word need instruction.

**Read Acts 8:27-39.** What did the Ethiopian lack? How was this remedied?

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The need for study and enlightenment from the Holy Spirit is not confined to the laity. Those who are called to preach the Word are also in need of continual learning. Read Acts 18:24-28. There are those who say the only thing needful is to love Jesus. To these people doctrine is not important. From this text it is clear that Apollos rightly knew by faith the love God had for him in Christ. Apollos preached Christ to his fellow Jews and the Gentiles. However, it is also plain he did not yet know the full revelation of Christ. He still preached the baptism of repentance taught by John. Through Pricilla and Aquila the Holy Spirit furthered Apollos’ understanding of our Lord, His Word and salvation.

Read 1 Kings 19:9-18. Why is Elijah in hiding? What is it that Elijah knows but in his panic has forgotten? ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Elijah is a good reminder for pastors to avoid being isolated in the ministry. Elijah as the messenger of God knew the promises made to God’s people concerning the coming Messiah. The faithful of Israel could not perish from the earth as it was through them God would bring about His reconciliation. Yet left with only his thoughts and despair, Elijah forgot the Word and Promise of God. God had to bring to his mind once again the surety of His promises and Elijah’s redemption.

Today in the midst of parish and worldly struggles it would be easy to despair or simply to become deceived concerning the Word of God. Pastors are tempted to give up sound doctrine and substitute this remedy and that cure for the ails of the visible church. Private study and circuit meetings are useful tools in combating these temptations. But directed, intense study at the seminary level is an additional and needed aid in maintaining faithfulness to God’s Word and the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Rev. David McMinn serves as pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (www.sothlutheran.org), McMinnville, Tennessee.
ON CAMPUS VISITATION EVENTS
Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne, Indiana
Visitation events for future pastors or deaconesses.

Christ Academy High School
June 14–27, 2015
www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy

Phoebe Academy High School
July 9–12, 2015
www.ctsfw.edu/PhoebeAcademy

Prayerfully Consider Visit
October 8–10, 2015
www.ctsfw.edu/PCV

Christ Academy College & Phoebe Academy College
October 29–November 1, 2015
www.ctsfw.edu/CAC

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