Gentle Encouragement
By Douglas H. Spittel

Formed for Service: The Work of Rosa Jinsey Young
By Roosevelt Gray Jr.

Your Path to the Seminary
By Matthew J. Wietfeldt
As we launch joyfully into the new academic year at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, we celebrate 171 years of service to Christ and His Church, always giving thanks to the Lord as we continue to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

Our excellent new classes of pastoral and deaconess students are even now receiving the syllabi for the Fall Quarter that will outline their lives for the next weeks. These class outlines tell our students what they must do in order to pass their classes and eventually receive their degrees.

In this context the interaction of Jesus and the unnamed rich young man in Luke 18:18–30 quickly comes to mind. The man asks: “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

It is a perfectly natural question. It is the answer that we naturally give to that question that puts us on the wrong track. And the rich young man exemplifies this. When Jesus tells him to keep the commandments, he says what comes naturally and answers: “All these I have kept from my youth.” And he means it—naturally. He simply reflects what our dogmaticians have called the opinion legis—the idea that we can save ourselves by keeping the Law.

The rich young man has fooled himself. He really thinks he has kept the Law. So Jesus lets the Law do its primary work. Jesus shows the man his sin: “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

The result is that the rich young man goes away sad—and the disciples of Jesus become very afraid. Realizing that they also cannot keep the Law, they cry out: “Then who can be saved?” The answer: no one. Unless we return to the original question and reframe it properly: “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Inheritance is gift. Inheritance is something bestowed on someone who hasn’t earned it in the classic sense—someone earned the inheritance and now gives it to another.

In the end there is only the truly rich young man—and He has a name. That name is Jesus, who saves His people from their sins. He is the one who kept the Law in every point. He is the one who sold everything and gave it to poor people like us so that we might be rich.

Our students have left familiar settings to follow Jesus. This act, in and of itself, will not save them. Their efforts in the classroom will not save them. Grades do not save—grace alone saves.

But as those who have left home and family and familiar settings to follow Christ, His promise of blessing is sure and certain. The inheritance is yours, earned by Christ for you. The call to service in His name begins anew today—“we have left our homes and followed you.” And the promise of blessing for each and every one of us at this Seminary is firm: you will “receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

In Christ’s service,

Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana
4 Gentle Encouragement
By Douglas H. Spittel
Pastor Malinsky and the congregation at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Catonsville, Maryland, set me up to become a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The setup was not an overt or manipulative one. Rather, it was their steady emphasis on Christian education, life-long catechesis and respect for the Body of Christ that our Lord used to create an environment that has produced many pastors and other church workers.

7 Formed for Service: The Work of Rosa Jinsey Young
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My journey into the Lutheran Church began 100 years ago this August through the ministry of a faith-filled and gifted young African-American woman in rural Alabama. No, I’m not that old, but I am indebted to the ministry of this woman born into the segregated South, who dedicated her life to bringing the light of the Gospel to those sitting in darkness.

10 Your Path to the Seminary
Matthew J. Wietfeldt
If you are considering service to God’s people, the best thing that you can do is to come visit CTSFW. Come and see what the possibilities are here in Fort Wayne for you and for your family. Come and experience our community. A great deal of the formation process for seminary happens through the community that is established here, through interactions and relationships with our faculty, staff and students.
The melodies wafted down the stairwell from the nave to the youth room. From the small upright piano in the dimly lit church came the familiar tunes of ancient hymns, American standards and Bach preludes. The eclectic musical mix told the youth group gathered on that Friday night in 1980 that Pastor Walt Malinsky was in the building. Whether he intentionally tickled the ivories on Friday nights in order to be around the church when the youth group met or he just happened to have some free time we never knew. The music had a way of inviting us up to the church to say “hello” and talk with our pastor—something that didn’t happen informally very often in what was a rather large congregation and school. That particular night, probably between games of ping-pong or billiards, I took some time to follow the music.
I had known Pastor Malinsky for most of my life. He had come to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Catonsville, Maryland, to serve as the parish pastor in 1970 and knew my family well. I had been his acolyte through my catechism years and after. He was easy-going, but his training as an Air Force chaplain came through in his precision and eye for detail. Our conversation that evening was mostly unremarkable small-talk. During our brief talk, I mentioned an interest in the ministry. Still playing the piano, he asked where I would like to study. I guessed Bronxville or Valparaiso. He casually said that I would be more comfortable at Ann Arbor or River Forest. I went back downstairs. That was it. That was the whole of the conversation that set me on a course beginning two years later to study at Concordia in Ann Arbor, then to Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, then ordination into the Holy Ministry, a Doctor of Ministry and now over 26 continuing years in the pastoral ministry and service in our beloved Synod.

What I did not realize until much later was that pivotal conversation was simply one small part of an encouraging culture at Emmanuel in which I grew up in the faith and began to be prepared for the Holy Ministry. It was a parish culture in which the pastor and the congregation exuded a spirit of gentleness, faithfulness and brotherliness. My whole life growing up at Emmanuel was one that was forming and leading me to the vocation of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

Walt Malinsky was a pastor who clearly preferred to come to his people “in love and a spirit of gentleness” (1 Cor. 4:21). He was a shepherd who quietly and gently led his flock. He taught and preached with conviction, but let the proclamation of God’s Word do the work rather than the force of his own personality. He embodied the work of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, as he worked among the flock, and his approach to encouraging me to study for the ministry was no different. He taught me the Catechism, allowed me to serve by his side at the altar and made himself available to me when I had questions. Never once did Pastor Malinsky tell me that I should go to seminary. It was never about what he wanted. He encouraged me not by coercion of expectation but by leading through example.

Emmanuel congregation was equally a part of encouraging me to consider the ministry. In that congregation I found people, like my family, who practiced what was preached from the pulpit. They took to heart the forgiveness that they received from Jesus in Holy Absolution and the Lord’s Supper and practiced it in their lives. The Lord knows that teenagers can be rambunctious and in need of much patience and forgiveness. The congregation at Emmanuel knew it too—and they practiced it. They put up with our shenanigans and still treated us as important members of the congregation. They were generous toward us, helping our service projects and social events with their time and money. They created a scholarship fund for ministerial students.

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named in honor of sainted, long-tenured pastor, Rudolph S. Ressmeyer. Emmanuel congregation continued this tradition by also creating the Walter G. Malinsky Seminary Students Scholarship Fund after he fell asleep in the Lord in 1990. Emmanuel congregation was a culture that lived the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, encouraged young people to live the Christian faith and inspired young men to study for the Holy Ministry.

Pastor Malinsky and the congregation at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Catonsville, Maryland, set me up to become a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The setup was not an overt or manipulative one. Rather, it was their steady emphasis on Christian education, life-long catechesis and respect for the Body of Christ that our Lord used to create an environment that has produced many pastors and other church workers. Emmanuel treated the youth of the congregation as members of the congregation. Our youth are certainly inexperienced and sometimes struggle in the faith. The people at Emmanuel understood that “those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary” (1 Cor. 12:22). The adults welcomed the youth into “their” organizations. Whether it was the senior choir, the Sunday School faculty or the financial counting teams, youth were brought alongside the adults and entrusted with the things that were part of the workings of the congregation. It was a permission-giving parish culture that encouraged the young members to engage in the life of the whole congregation.

The quiet, ongoing encouragement of Pastor Malinsky and the people of Emmanuel led me and my friends to life-long service in the Church. While telling a young man that you think he would make a good pastor someday is certainly helpful, those words will carry far more weight within a congregation that fosters a culture of encouragement in the faith for all of her members. Seeing and treating those who seem to be the weakest among us as fellow saints who live by the power of Jesus Christ not only humbles each one of us before God’s mighty hand, but also builds up every member of the body of Christ.

The uplifting culture of the Church, the very body of the risen Jesus Christ, whose prayers ascend like incense before the throne of God, raises up men to move from the youth room to the nave to the seminary and out into the world proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to yet another generation.
My journey into the Lutheran Church began 100 years ago this August through the ministry of a faith-filled and gifted young African-American woman in rural Alabama. No, I’m not that old, but I am indebted to the ministry of this woman born into the segregated South, who dedicated her life to bringing the light of the Gospel to those sitting in darkness.

Rosa Jinsey Young, born in 1890 in Rosebud, Alabama, had a dream from her childhood to provide a Christian education to “her people,” who had few opportunities to go to school in the Jim Crow South. She was frail and sickly, but a lightning bolt of energy and evangelism, who convinced The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to join her in bringing Christian schools and congregations to the rural poor. Young’s book, *Light in the Dark Belt* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1950), chronicles her deep rooted faith and tireless tenacity for God’s truth. She records her earliest memories of teaching “school” to her brothers and sisters. When she graduated from teacher training as valedictorian, she summed up her life’s mission:
“He that is greatest among you shall be your servant,” is the language of the Great Teacher. To serve is regarded as a divine privilege as well as a duty by every right-minded man. Do something worthy for mankind, is the cry of the civilized world. Give light to those who are in darkness; sustain the weak and faltering; befriend and aid the poor and needy. ... There is nothing more reputable to a race or nation than Christian service. So let us not hesitate, but grasp every opportunity that will enable us to do some good for others. (pp. 40-42)

In 1916, without hesitation, the LCMS and Young together began establishing 30 schools, 35 congregations and a college in rural Alabama. Through these institutions they began educating hundreds of children and raising up pastors, teachers and devoted laypeople who have taken the Lutheran Church to cities all over the country. Young noted that some 3,200 souls were added to the membership of the LCMS and the kingdom of God by 1950. “I hunted lost souls for Jesus somewhat as I hunted for money to build and maintain my first school. … I walked in prayer all along the way from one person to another, asking the Lord to bless the message of His Word as I delivered it” (p. 162). She walked hundreds of miles every summer, from small, isolated communities to steamy-hot cotton fields to the backwoods homes of elderly ex-slaves, sharing the Good News of salvation in Christ.

Her service began in her hometown of Rosebud in 1912, where she built a school with her own money and gifts from friends and neighbors, both black and white. This school became Christ Lutheran Church and School where Young was confirmed by the Rev. Nils Bakke on Easter Sunday, April 24, 1916. From there, the glorious Gospel light spread to communities throughout the Black Belt (central Alabama named for its rich soil) that without schools and Christ-centered churches was “as dark as a thousand midnights.”

Four months after she was confirmed, Rosa traveled to a small community named Buena Vista, 30 miles away, which was begging for her help. She writes:

“I first went to Buena Vista on August 20, 1916, having been invited there by a man who wanted a Lutheran mission. I rode in an oxcart with Sister Luella McCants. ... The following evening I spoke to a large crowd. Quite a number expressed the desire to have a mission there. After making a second trip, I organized a Lutheran Sunday school and called it St. James Sunday School. (p. 129)

My own Lutheran journey took root in Buena Vista, although I didn’t know then how deeply this small church in a tiny community of rural Alabama would impact my life. The first Lutheran I ever met was a cute clarinet player in the Alabama A&M marching band, where I played tuba. I had grown up in Baptist and African Methodist Episcopal traditions, but Otelia Vanessa Stallworth, the clarinet player, was a third-generation Lutheran. Her father, Rodger Stallworth, and her grandfather, Skinner Stallworth, had both attended that one-room Lutheran church-school, St. James Lutheran, Buena Vista.

Otelia and I were married at her home church, Faith Lutheran in Mobile, Alabama, by her pastor, the Rev. James P. Marshall, who also grew up at St. James Lutheran, Buena Vista. Faith Lutheran was founded in 1920 by the Rev. R. O. L. Lynn, who had earlier served as pastor of St. James. Two years later, in 1922, Rev. Lynn would become the first president of Alabama Lutheran Academy in Selma, now Concordia College Alabama.

Soon after I joined the LCMS, while attending St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Florida, I was encouraged to go into the ministry. I prayerfully chose to attend Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne. One of my close classmates was Stephen...
Wiggins Sr. He grew up at St. James Lutheran, Buena Vista, where his father, the Rev. James Wiggins Sr., was pastor. Stephen’s earliest memories of the elderly Young were the home visits his father made to offer communion. “Every Sunday afternoon my brother (James Wiggins Jr.) and I went with him. We would greet everyone, then go outside and stay out of the way while my dad visited and gave communion. When it was time for us to leave, we’d go inside to say goodbye. When we visited Miss Young, she always offered us a word of wisdom and encouragement to be about kingdom work and kingdom building. She always told my brother and me ‘You are going to be wonderful pastors one day.’”

In fact, St. James, Buena Vista, produced 10 Lutheran pastors, many still serving today:

- Frank T. Marshall, 5th Vice-President, Florida-Georgia District
- James B. Marshall (retired)
- Ulmer Marshall, Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Mobile, Alabama
- Elder McCants, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas
- Jimmy McCants, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Mobile, Alabama
- Reholma McCants, Unity Community Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Coleman Montgomery (retired)
- Frazier Odom (retired). His daughter, Monique Nunes, serves as director of International Programs at Martin Luther School, Maspeth, New York
- James Wiggins Jr., St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida
- Stephen Wiggins Sr., Christ Lutheran, East Point, Georgia

The Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall remembers studying at the Alabama Lutheran Academy in Selma under Young, who was his eighth grade religion teacher. Memory work was a requirement. “You memorized the creeds, the catechism, the petitions to the Lord’s Prayer. She told us memorizing Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions put it into your heart and once you know it, no one will be able to take it from you.”

Young was a strict teacher, Marshall recalls. “You didn’t do anything during religion class but sit with your hands on your desk and pay attention.” Marshall learned that lesson the hard way when he was punished one day for twirling a pencil on his desk.

Like most of his classmates, Young encouraged him to become a pastor. “Once Dr. Young laid hands on you, you knew you were headed to the ministry,” Marshall said.

In 1961, Young received an honorary doctorate (LL.D.) from Concordia Theological Seminary, then in Springfield, Illinois, now in Fort Wayne, in recognition of her remarkable life of service to God, His church and His people. She was the first African American woman to receive the award.

As an Alabama native, I was thrilled to learn about this remarkable woman when I was working in Detroit and met the women who wanted to produce a film on her life. Since then, I continue to be amazed and astonished at the ministry of this woman, just one generation out of slavery, who dreamed a God-sized future for her people. I am proud to have played a small part in overseeing the production of the film, *The First Rosa*, and I encourage all my colleagues in the pulpit to share her story with your congregations. For more information on *The First Rosa*, go to www.lcms.org/TheFirstRosa.

I see in my life an extension of her dream for service, and I’m grateful to God for my calls to serve at Mt. Calvary Lutheran in Houston, to recruit students to study for the ministry at CTSFW, to serve the Church, city and district offices in Detroit, and to serve in the national office. I am grateful and humbled by my wife and my roots in Alabama and for the hundreds of African-American teachers, pastors and laypeople who are rooted in this rich soil!

As we continue our centennial celebration of Young’s work with the LCMS, I am pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity for future pastors and deaconesses: *The Rosa Young Scholarship Endowment Fund.* This fund is a collaborative effort to the glory of God between CTSFW and the LCMS Office of National Mission. The Seminary will manage this endowment fund to offer the Rosa Young Scholarship to qualifying students who wish to attend CTSFW. To learn more about the scholarship connect with Gary Nahrwold in the CTSFW Advancement Office at Gary.Nahrwold@ctsfw.edu or 877.287.4338.

I know Young would be pleased that her life is remembered with this legacy of sharing the Gospel Light and raising up pastors to tell the Good News to all. She wrote:

> As we go from university halls into the battle of life, where our work is to be done and our places among men to be decided, we should go in the spirit of service, with a determination to do all in our power to uplift humanity. ... I also asked the Holy Spirit to cause the pure Gospel message I would deliver to sink into the hearts of all to whom I would that day tell it. (pp. 40 and 161)

**CTSFW President Dr. Lawrence Rast**

with the Rev. Ulmer Marshall who received a Doctor of Divinity honoris causa from CTSFW in May 2014.

The Rev. Roosevelt Gray Jr. (Roosevelt.Gray@lcms.org), CTSFW 1988, serves as director of LCMS Black Ministry, serving predominantly black communities and ministering to African immigrants. He also serves as liaison to the churchwide Black Clergy Caucus.
The Lord speaks and we listen. The Lord calls and we follow. That’s the course of a disciple. That’s our journey through the Christian life. It’s not always a pretty journey; in fact, more times than not, the mess we make of our lives is downright ugly. Regardless, the Lord works through our sins, our shortcomings and our failures to continue to progress the Good News of the Gospel. Thanks be to God that even in the midst of this sinful world and being sinners ourselves, He still provides for our needs and cares for us beyond our own understanding.

Deciding to come to Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, to study toward pastoral ministry or for service as a deaconess is one of the most daunting decisions that one can make. The responsibility of caring for a part of the Good Shepherd’s flock can seem overwhelming. *Is this what the Lord has for me to do? Is the Lord really calling me for service to the Church? How can I be sure?* Don’t forget that you are not alone in this decision. Your family, your friends, your pastor and your brothers and sisters in Christ are there to help and give their advice and counsel in these matters. They care for you and love you. They want to see you grow into the person God is calling you to be.
If you are considering service to God’s people, the best thing that you can do is to come visit CTSFW. Come and see what the possibilities are here in Fort Wayne for you and for your family. Come and experience our community. A great deal of the formation process for seminary happens through the community that is established here, through interactions and relationships with our faculty, staff and students. Come and take in the beauty of our campus, designed by world-renowned architect Eero Saarinen. Come and worship with us in Kramer Chapel. The Chapel, like your home congregation, is the anchor for our community, our fellowship and our life together. Through our worship together we see each other as God, our Heavenly Father, sees us—as His forgiven and loved children.

Come and meet our students, the future workers in Christ’s harvest field. Come and meet our staff. They are here to guide and assist you through the application process, getting your finances in order and your eventual move to begin your studies in Fort Wayne. Whether it is for one of our scheduled visitation days, for a conference or just at your own leisure, come and visit us.

Another good resource for discerning whether or not studies toward pastoral ministry or deaconess service are what the Lord has for you is by filling out our online application. You can learn more about becoming a student and access the application at www.ctsfw.edu/future-students. Our application is simply a way that we get to know you as a future student, to help you begin your relationship with the Seminary community. Filling out an application online also ensures that you know that
we are aware of your interest in pursuing this as a possible vocation. Part of the application will ask for basic information regarding yourself, your family, your educational experiences thus far, your home congregation and your life in Christ. The receipt of your application is our first contact with you as a potential student. Our Admission staff can then help you secure an interview with your home district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are here to help and to serve you the best that we can in the progress of the kingdom of God.

Believe it or not, the application itself helps you through the discerning process. First, there are brief questions that you need to answer regarding your life experiences and whether or not studying to become a pastor or deaconess is right for you. There are also questions regarding your beliefs and where you are coming from theologically in making decisions towards beginning your studies. You will also write an autobiography detailing your life and experiences so that we can get to know you better. These are all very inward-looking and reflective questions that you need to consider prior to coming to the Seminary. The application and additional questions are here to be a resource for you and not simply just “what you need to do to get into the Seminary.” We also ask for letters of reference from individuals who know you. Your pastor writes a letter of reference and you will also ask four other friends, co-workers and fellow members of your congregation to write a letter for you. This can give tremendous insight and help from an outside perspective.

Finally, when all this has been received, your file is complete and will go before the Admission Committee. The committee’s task is to consider diligently and prayerfully all possible candidates who wish to study to become pastors or deaconesses based upon the information submitted and encounters with your admission counselor.

After you have been accepted, you’ll begin to work with our Financial Aid Office to help keep the cost of seminary education as low as possible. Through the Seminary’s endowments and aid from your district and your congregation, the cost is manageable, with many students only paying for cost-of-living expenses. The registrar will assist you in taking the pre-seminary entrance exams as well as getting your class schedule set up for the coming year.

There are many helpful resources available as you contemplate attending seminary. Be sure to take advantage of them. As a community here at CTSFW, we care about you as an individual and the formation that you will experience as you grow into our community and are shaped by the cross of Jesus. It is an exciting and sometime challenging journey, but fear not—we’re here to help. 

The Rev. Matthew J. Wietfeldt (Matthew.Wietfeldt@ctsfw.edu) serves as admission counselor and director of the Christ Academies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
How Will They Hear?
By Naomichi Masaki

My parents had tears in their eyes the day I told them I wanted to become a pastor. My father said his mother also wept when he had told her of his desire to become a preacher. “But Naomichi,” he continued, “tears can mean different things. Then, it was tears of sadness, as your grandmother, not yet a Christian, felt that she had just lost her son. But now we weep for joy! This is an answer to our prayers!” I was no older than 13 at that time. Since I grew up in Japan, where less than 1% of the population is Christian let alone Lutheran, to be given such godly parents was a pure gift from the Lord.

I am sure that some of you who are reading this issue of For the Life of the World have been considering service as a pastor for some time. I thank God for you and the prayers and encouragement of your friends, family and pastor! Like the fervent prayers of Hanna for her son Samuel (1 Sam. 1–12), precious indeed is the love and support of the faithful on your behalf.

Yes, the pastoral office is a wonderful vocation! Concordia Publishing House’s most recent publication of Luther’s Works includes one of Dr. Luther’s ordination sermons. In it the Reformer carefully and rightfully said that the Office of the Holy Ministry belongs to Jesus, and that the man in the office serves as His instrument. (AE 57:203–11) This is exactly what the Book of Concord confesses. The pastoral office does not exist for its own sake. It is not derived either from the church or from its history. It was instituted by our Lord Jesus who, after having achieved our salvation on Calvary, saw to it that the forgiveness He earned for us gets delivered. In the post-resurrection accounts in the Gospels we observe His mandate to make disciples by preaching, teaching, absolving and baptizing. Together with the institution of the Lord’s Supper, the Lord entrusted the means of grace to the Apostles whom He had chosen and sent. Through them and through those who follow them in the apostolic office, it is the Lord Jesus who continues to preach, teach, absolve, baptize and administer His body and blood. The pastoral office does not have special honor or rank or certain powers. Nor is the office defined by skills and talents that the corporate world might demand. Rather, it is a gift from the Lord for the sake of the delivery of the Gospel.

So why have a seminary? The only answers which finally hold true are those which our Lord gives us, the mandating words of the Office of the Holy Ministry. The only worth of a seminary is what He uses it for. In classrooms and in daily chapel, Jesus prepares men for His service so that Jesus may call them and send them into the field.

The young boy Samuel grew up. He worked hard at his studies and training. Then came the day when he started his service as a priest, preaching and sacrificing at the tabernacle. Was his mother there? We are not told but can only imagine how happy she would have been. We pray that a day may come when we see you, too, as a pastor, preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. The pastoral ministry brings you both joy and disappointments. There are ups and downs, just like in any Christian’s life. Jesus’ apostles were vulnerable even at the point of His sending them, and that’s our comfort. The source of strength for a pastor does not lie in himself. He is God’s man who speaks God’s Word to the people. Jesus had need of men to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments after the original Twelve had died. He still has need of men today.

So come to CTSFW for a visit. Pray as His words prompt you. Do you want to serve the Lord as His instrument? If so, there will be tears of joy, not only in your family and congregation but also “in heaven over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:7). What a privilege!

The Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki (Naomichi.Masaki@ctsfw.edu) serves as associate professor of Systematic Theology and director of the S.T.M. Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
What’s your background?
I’m a Fort Wayne native, born and raised in the nearby, small city of Woodburn. I’m proud to be a lifelong member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Both my late father, the Rev. Samuel Schlie, and late mother, Linda Schlie, were church workers at the local Lutheran church and school in Woodburn. As the youngest of four brothers, and as an identical twin, I learned how to talk loudly and eat quickly. After becoming involved in the campus ministry at University Lutheran Church at Indiana University, Bloomington, where I earned a degree in History, I applied to attend CTSFW. Upon acceptance I moved back to Fort Wayne with my twin brother, Joseph, who also is attending the Seminary. We keep our professors on their toes.

Who influenced you to study for the Holy Ministry?
Although many people have influenced me to study for the ministry, perhaps my greatest influence was my mother. She was a woman of faith who, by the grace of God, continually communicated to her four sons the hope of the Resurrection even amidst her many sufferings. Likewise, my three brothers and my confessional campus pastor, the Rev. Richard Woelmer, from Indiana University all played a huge role in my pursuit of the Office of Holy Ministry.

Why did you choose CTSFW?
I chose CTSFW because I wanted to learn how to shepherd the flock of Christ from men who understand the importance of Christ centered, cross focused theology as it is carried out in both doctrine and practice.

What have been your greatest challenges and rewards in your seminary experience?
The academic component of seminary life is rather rigorous. So for me the greatest challenge is always retaining everything that I want to retain. There’s so much good stuff to remember! Although, I must admit that sitting down to write a sermon for the first time was equally challenging.

With respect to rewards, it’s always fulfilling to interact with others and communicate to them the sound doctrine in which I’m being formed at CTSFW—whether that interaction is through preaching or teaching at my fieldwork congregation or just sharing an insight to a scriptural text with a friend.
What would laypeople find most surprising about the seminary experience?

Most people I encounter are surprised by how extensive the education is for seminarians—three years in the classroom and a full year of vicarage. Lutheran pastors are very well educated. They might also be surprised to learn we have a basketball team. Go King’s Men!

How would you encourage someone who is considering studying for the ministry?

I would tell them that the best place to go for someone thinking about being a pastor is the actual place where Christ trains His future under shepherds, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Come visit the Seminary, check things out, talk to your pastor and pray that the Lord sends harvesters into the harvest.

The theme for this issue of For the Life of the World is “Formed for Service.” Any thoughts on how this relates to your time at CTSFW?

The Apostles spent three years with Christ while He formed them for service in His Church. During that time they studied the Word of God as it came from the very mouth of God. At CTSFW Christ continues to form servants as He opens the Scriptures to those aspiring to become pastors.

What are your personal goals for your service as a pastor?

My goal is the following: to be the vessel that carries the gifts of God to His people—to be as out of the way as possible that the people of God might see Jesus only.

Jesse is spending his second year of seminary study at Westfield House in Cambridge, England. He will return to the States for his vicarage year in 2017–18, complete his final year at the Seminary in 2018–19 and look forward to his call into the Holy Ministry in Spring 2019.
The Rev. Prof. John T. Pless joined the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, faculty in 2000 as assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions. Like many members of the CTSFW faculty, he contributes to the formation of future pastors and deaconesses, not just here in the United States but in all corners of the world. During quarter breaks in the academic year, it’s not unusual to find Pless preaching and teaching in Madagascar, South Africa, Japan, the Philippines, Sweden and many other international locations.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born and grew up near Conover, North Carolina. I was blessed with Christian parents and a loving family. Active in my home congregation, I started thinking about the ministry when I was in confirmation class. During my high school years, the desire to be a pastor solidified. From North Carolina, I went on to complete my pre-seminary studies at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas. After graduation, I enrolled in Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, finishing up there with a M.Div. degree in 1979. That same year, I started what would turn out to be a four-year period of service at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University as an assistant to Dr. Norman Nagel. It was during that time that I decided to enter the ministerium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) by colloquy through CTSFW.

How did you serve before becoming a CTSFW faculty member?

In 1983 I was called to serve as campus pastor at University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The mission executive of the Minnesota South District said “We’re calling you to an empty building.” When I arrived in Minneapolis, I found out he was telling the truth! So my call there was basically to restart an LCMS campus ministry. It was a challenging adventure but it brought me a lot of joy.

In addition to serving as an assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, in what other roles have you served at CTSFW?

I am director of Field Education. That means I get to work with all of our first and second-year students as they are placed in local congregations both
to learn and to serve. Field education is an integral part of pastoral formation as it is an opportunity to embody Luther’s *oratio, meditatio, tentatio* in a living congregation so that the study of theology is never divorced from the heartbeat of a living congregation gathered around Word and Sacrament.

I’ve also had the privilege of many overseas teaching assignments. Since 2009, I’ve been teaching twice each year at our sister seminary, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa. I was sent by CTSFW to help the West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church kick off their 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Through CTSFW’s study abroad program, I taught a two week course in Neuendettelsau, Germany, on Wilhelm Loehe, one of the founders of our Seminary. This past November I taught a course on Baptism and Catechesis in Gothenburg, Sweden. In cooperation with Luther Academy housed on our campus, I’m regularly teaching at conferences in Madagascar and the Philippines.

I especially enjoy and appreciate these opportunities for global involvement as this is a prime moment for confessional Lutheran theology throughout the world. I also believe that it deepens and enriches my teaching here in Fort Wayne.

**What has been the most rewarding to you as a professor?**

The most rewarding moment was three years ago when a group of my former students presented me with a *Festschrift, Theology Is Eminently Practical: Essays in Honor of John T. Pless*. I was completely surprised but profoundly moved by this honor. It was a wonderful signal to me that the work of teaching does matter as it shapes the lives, thinking and ministry of students.

When I move around our church preaching, teaching or speaking at conferences, I’m delighted to see pastors and deaconesses doing just what we trained them to do! That’s extremely rewarding.

**This issue of *For the Life of the World* has a theme of “Formed for Service.” Any thoughts on this from you?**

Teaching at CTSFW these past 16 years has been a great privilege. I had a great deal of joy in serving as a campus pastor in Minneapolis. It’s been one of my goals as a professor to equip future pastors to have as much joy as I did in those years.

Teaching at CTSFW has also prompted me to write, which is something I enjoy doing. Writing is one way of extending teaching beyond the classroom. Several of my books have grown out of the classes I teach:

- *Handling the Word of Truth: Law and Gospel in the Church Today*
- *A Small Catechism on Human Life*
- *Martin Luther: Preacher of the Cross*
- *Didache*
- *Word: God Speaks to Us*
- *Confession: God Gives Us Truth*
- *Praying Luther’s Small Catechism*

(If you’re interested in any of these books, connect with the CTSFW Bookstore at www.ctsfw.edu/Bookstore, CTSBookstore@ctsfw.edu or 260.452.2160.)
CTSFW Begins 171st
On Tuesday, September 6, 2016, the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, community gathered to celebrate the opening of the 171st academic year. CTSFW President Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. had words of encouragement for all in attendance, most especially for those just beginning their studies. “You will be blessed in the instruction you will receive from your professors, the fellowship you will develop with one another and the experiences you will have in your fieldwork. Blessed by living and studying in the deep, deep community that characterizes this place that has Christ at its center.”

In addition to welcoming returning and first-year students, several new faculty and staff members were installed for service. “God keeps His promises and sends us incredible blessings, two new professors, wonderfully committed Advancement officers, deaconess students, students preparing to be pastors, unbelievable blessings! How can you not be fired up on a day like this?” commented Rast.

The Rev. Dr. Daniel P. May, president, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Indiana District, presided over the installation of:

- **Rev. James K. Fundum**, Advancement Officer
- **Mr. Lance C. Hoffman**, Advancement Officer
- **The Rev. Dr. Benjamin T. G. Mayes**, Assistant Professor
  Historical Theology
- **Rev. Mark H. Steiner**, Advancement Officer
- **The Rev. Dr. Gary W. Zieroth**, Assistant Professor
  Pastoral Ministry and Missions
  Dean of Students
  Director of Vicarage

More information about the new members of our faculty and staff can be found on pages 20 and 21.

“We are incredibly grateful to God for the sacrifices made by each man and woman who is entering or continuing in our pastoral, deaconess and graduate programs,” commented the Rev. Dr. Charles Gieschen, CTSFW academic dean. “The faculty considers it a great privilege and responsibility to be used by the Lord in the formation of these men and women to be servants in Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

1. Incoming pastoral ministry and deaconess students for the 2016–2017 academic year. 2. CTSFW President Dr. Lawrence Rast served as preacher for Opening Service of the 171st academic year. 3. Members of the CTSFW faculty. 4. CTSFW professor Dr. Arthur Just talks with new students before Opening Service. 5. Local clergy, ordained staff and faculty process into Kramer Chapel. 6. CTSFW Kantor Kevin Hildebrand leads the choir.
Welcoming New Members

The Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, community is expanding to better serve our students, alumni and laypeople all across the world. “We are delighted to welcome these faithful servants of Christ to the CTSFW community,” commented CTSFW President Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. “Their rich experience in service to the Church will be a wonderful blessing as they work with us to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

Faculty

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin T. G. Mayes
Assistant Professor
Historical Theology

Dr. Mayes holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Concordia University Nebraska (1997); a M.Div. from CTSFW (2003); and a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan (2009). While working on his doctorate he served as assistant pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids. He has taught as an adjunct professor at CTSFW since 2011. Most recently, he has worked as an editor for Concordia Publishing House (CPH), St. Louis, Missouri. He will continue to serve CPH as managing editor and co-general editor of Luther’s Works: American Edition. He and his wife, Rebecca, have two sons, Caleb and Jonathan.

The Rev. Dr. Gary W. Zieroth
Assistant Professor
Pastoral Ministry and Missions
Dean of Students
Director of Vicarage

Dr. Zieroth earned both his M.Div. (1990) and D.Min. (2006) from CTSFW. His B.A. from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was earned with concentrations in counseling and psychology. He served as senior pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Chaska, Minnesota, 2009–2016. He also served congregations in Canada and Maryland. He has served as an adjunct professor for CTSFW for several years, leading courses regarding what the Bible teaches about marriage, families and catechesis. He and his wife, JoAnn, have four children.

Called Staff

The Rev. James K. Fundum
Advancement Officer

Rev. Fundum is a 1990 graduate of CTSFW. Prior to being called to the Seminary, he served as a pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Nipawin, Saskatchewan, Canada, and St. Mark Lutheran Church, Choiceland, Saskatchewan, Canada; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Roblin, Manitoba, Canada, and Grace Lutheran Church, Zorra, Saskatchewan, Canada; St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Laurium, Michigan, and St. John’s Lutheran Church, Hubbell, Michigan. He and his wife, Marcy, a retired pharmacist, reside in Woodburn, Indiana.

Mr. Lance C. Hoffman
Advancement Officer

Mr. Hoffman is a graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) in 1990, earning a B.A. in Education. He completed a M.S. from Indiana University in 2000. Prior to being called to the Seminary, he was called to serve as a teacher and coach at Concordia Lutheran High School (CLHS), Fort Wayne, for 26 years. Lance and his wife, Linda (also a CUW graduate), have three adult children.

The Rev. Mark H. Steiner
Advancement Officer

Rev. Steiner earned his M.Div. from CTSFW in 2009. Prior to being called to the Seminary, Mark served as pastor of two LCMS congregations in Gulfport and Columbus, Mississippi. He also worked as a hospice chaplain in Indiana. He is a graduate of Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, having earned a B.A. in Business Administration and Economics. He holds a M.B.A. and J.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Fort Wayne. He has two grown children and one grandchild.
Board of Regents

We are also pleased to announce the Rev. Dr. Ronald M. Garwood and Dr. Leo S. Mackay Jr. will be returning to the CTSFW Board of Regents. We will also be welcoming one new member:

Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke
Brookfield, Wisconsin

Dr. Yahnke is a clinical psychologist currently serving as the executive director for Christian Counsel with DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel. DOXOLOGY is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. She and her colleague, Dr. Harold Senkbeil, created DOXOLOGY to provide advanced training and care for Lutheran pastors. Her current clinical and research interests focus on compassion fatigue, emotional intelligence, depression and resilience among church workers. She and her husband, Dr. David Yahnke, are members of Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Garwood and Dr. Mackay continue their service on our Board of Regents. Their leadership and understanding of our mission is invaluable. We are also delighted to welcome Dr. Yahnke to our Board. She brings unique insight and expertise because of her years of service as a clinical psychologist and as executive director for Christian Counsel for DOXOLOGY,” said Rast. “I also want to thank outgoing Board member Bradd Stucky for his absolutely stellar service on our Board. We know that he will continue to be a blessing to our Synod.”
Lutheran Service Book at Ten Years
Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

17th Annual Conference November 6-8, 2016

Do you still occasionally catch yourself referring to Lutheran Service Book (LSB) as the “new” hymnal? It’s hard to believe that we’ve already reached the tenth year of its use in our Synod. If your congregation still uses The Lutheran Hymnal, were you aware that it first came off the press 75 years ago?! This year of anniversaries seems a perfect time to take stock of where we’ve been and where we’re going when it comes to our church’s hymnals.

This year’s conference will provide not only historical perspective but also practical ideas for making a fuller use of the treasures that our hymnal contains. Coupled with the robust singing that is the hallmark of Kramer Chapel, we will kick off the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation with Bach Cantata 80, “A Mighty Fortress.”

No matter the extent to which you’ve used LSB in the past decade, the Good Shepherd Institute conference will provide opportunities for you to learn, evaluate, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Advent Preaching Workshop

The Word Became Flesh
Advent and Christmas themes radiate powerfully from John 1:1–18. These verses introduce the Eternal Word, John the Baptist, light and life, grace and truth, and so much more. Sermon themes are as follows:

Advent 1
“You Have My Word!” (John 1:1–5)

Advent 2
“A Man Named John” (John 1:6–9, 15)

Advent 3
“Chosen Children” (John 1:10–13)

Advent 4
“The Word Dwelt Among Us” (John 1:14a)

Christmas Eve
“We Have Seen His Glory!” (John 1:14b)

November 8, 2016
1:30–5:00 p.m.
7:00–8:30 p.m.

Presenter
Dr. R. Reed Lessing

Registration
Cost for the workshop is $40.00. You may register online at www.ctsfw.edu/GSI or by calling 260.452.2224.

More information
www.ctsfw.edu/GSI
GSI@ctsfw.edu
260.452.2224

Concordia Theological Seminary–Fort Wayne, Indiana

Registration & Information
Deadline for registration is November 1, 2016.
To register online, visit www.ctsfw.edu/GSI.
For more information, please email GSI@ctsfw.edu or call 260.452.2224.
Students Receive Awards from Concordia Theological Foundation

The Concordia Theological Foundation, Santa Rosa, California, presented student aid awards to several fourth-year students at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana. The primary purpose of the Foundation is to assist in preparing men for the Office of the Holy Ministry by providing financial support to the Seminary. Foundation board member Mr. David Hawk was on hand to make the presentation. The 10 men receiving the awards on June 21, 2016, are listed below with the name of the congregation or institution they now serve:

**The Eunice L. Dissen Student Aid Award**
- Douglas Griebenaw, pastor, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, El Centro, California
- Robert Hopkins, pastor, Centennial Lutheran Church, Superior, Nebraska
- Logan Landes, assistant pastor, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Destin, Florida

**The Arnold Kemmerle Fund Student Aid Award**
- Jon Franson, pastor, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Burwell, Nebraska
- Brandon Koble, graduate assistant, CTSFW Department of Exegetical Theology
- Christian Preus, pastor, Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Casper, Wyoming

**The Priscilla Kemmerle Endowment Fund Award**
- Jonathon Durkopp, pastor, Trinity English Lutheran Church, LaMoure, North Dakota, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Adrian, North Dakota
- Ryan Janke, pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Winner, South Dakota, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hamill, South Dakota
- Jens Jenson, pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Armour, South Dakota
- Frank Lucas, pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altenburg, Missouri

Symposia Series 2017

32nd Annual Symposium on Exegetical Theology
“The Spirit of Reformation Exegesis Today”
January 17–18, 2017

40th Annual Symposium on the Lutheran Confessions
“The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: Continuing the Celebration”
January 18–20, 2017

Held every year on the Fort Wayne campus, presentations on Exegetical Theology and the Lutheran Confessions will highlight the four-day event. More information coming soon at www.ctsfw.edu/Symposia.

(l-r) David Hawk, Douglas Griebenaw, Frank Lucas, CTSFW President Dr. Lawrence Rast
Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. This pastoral formation begins long before the first day of seminary classes; it begins in the seminarian’s home congregation. It begins at the font where our Baptism bestows a new identity in Christ and gives meaning to our daily callings. Formation occurs as Sunday School teachers, day school teachers and pastors teach the faith. Servants are formed weekly in the Divine Service through the Word and Supper our living Lord serves His people. The future seminarian is formed for service as he sees his own pastor lovingly shepherd those he has been called to serve.

Future servants are formed when the baptized take seriously our Lord’s bidding to pray for more workers for the harvest field. Future servants are raised up when pastor and people identify those in the congregation who have the aptitude to serve as a pastor, deaconess or other church work vocation and encourage them to pursue this calling. Once studies begin, the home congregation is fervent in prayer. Cognizant of the cost of seminary education, congregation leaders discuss how to provide generous financial support while their congregation’s son is studying for the pastoral ministry or daughter is preparing to serve as a deaconess.

In my 14 years as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus, Indiana, I have had the wonderful privilege of witnessing five men formed for service from our congregation, four of which are graduates of CTSFW (Arthur Schwenk, Peter Brock, Marcus Manley and Matthew Jung). What a blessing it is for us as a congregation to receive letters from our seminarians, hear them preach one of their first sermons in their home congregation, attend the call service and celebrate with them and their families at their ordination.

Jesus, Saints and Angels:
The Church with the Company of Heaven

- Presentations by CTSFW faculty
- Worship with the CTSFW community in Kramer Chapel
- Attend classes with current students

For additional information email Retreats@ctsfw.edu or phone 260.452.2204.

Online registration coming soon at www.ctsfw.edu/LutherHostel.
Encourage. Support.

If you were to ask your pastor why he enrolled at the seminary, I am confident that he would not identify an admission counselor. Likewise, he would not point to a seminary brochure, publication or website. Instead, he would name one or more pastors, fellow church members or family members who encouraged him to pursue the ministry.

The Seminary can only train pastoral and deaconess students who are enrolled. The Admission team cannot recruit perspective students without names and contact information. Pastors, church workers, congregational leaders and family members need to encourage those with the love and aptitude to serve as a pastor or a deaconess to contact the Seminary or even contact the Seminary for them.

At Call Day in April 2016, there were more than 30 congregations whose requests for a pastor went unfilled. These are congregations that were awaiting a shepherd only to be disappointed. The need is great. The fields are ready for harvest, but the laborers are few.

Pray. Identify. Encourage. Support. Pray that many would offer themselves for the Office of the Holy Ministry and other church work vocations. Identify those who are firmly grounded in the Word and have a heart for service and encourage them to pursue seminary studies. Support those at CTSFW with your prayers and generous financial gifts. By so doing, your joy will be great when the Lord of the harvest sends out His workers into the harvest field!

The Rev. Douglas D. Bauman (pastor@stpaulcolumbus.org), CTSFW 2002, serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana.

Lands of Luther & Eastern Europe
Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Hosted by Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne

November 11–21, 2017

$3389 per person from Chicago
(Air/land tour price is $2699 plus $690 government taxes/airline surcharges)

For more information contact CTSFWTours@ctsfw.edu or 260.452.2119.
Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. Proverbs 19:21

S

ynonyms for the word prepare are many, among them: anticipate, arrange, brace, compose, draw up, form, gird, make ready, plan, psych up, steel. Reflecting on these words, it would seem that each one of them aptly describes a part of what a person, being led by the Holy Spirit and then deciding to attend seminary, would experience. Prayer, of course, would and should top the list.

When one hears the students at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, relate the stories of their journeys of formation and preparation, each one is unique and each reflects the wonder of our God.

We praise and thank Him for forming and preparing the hearts of the men and women who are studying at CTSFW to lead us in doing His work. The CTSFW Guild exists to hold these students in prayer and offer comfort and encouragement while they are on campus.

The Guild stays informed of current happenings and needs at the Seminary by having staff members speak at meetings held during the academic year.

Please join the Guild at these meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from September through April (except January). If you would like to become a member, an individual membership is $10/year and the group or organization membership is $25/year.

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

Affiliate Guild Registration

□ Yes, we are interested in becoming an Affiliate Guild. Please send more information to:
Name: _________________________________________________________________
Organization: __________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: _______________________
Email: _________________________________________________________________
□ We are enclosing a donation payable to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild,
c/o Linda Scicluna, 6600 N. Clinton St., Box 8, 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.
Dear Deaconess,

Wow! You have been such a blessing to me/us. Your gracious care for us has been thankfully received. Love the icon of Jesus in the boat with His disciples. The Lutheran Witness copies have been snatched up! I taught the Marines to put the crosses that you sent above their heads on the pillow as a reminder they are baptized into Christ.

The CD “The Music of Lutheran Daily Prayer” that you sent is making the rounds. The Marines want to listen to the parts we are chanting in our Vesper Service, especially the Our Father which we added last week. By Holy Week they have asked me to teach them how to chant the Psalms.

What I am trying to say is THANK YOU! You and all at CTSFW who help have blessed us tremendously.

In Christ,
Ch. Christensen
26MEU CE Command Chaplain

The world is in great turmoil. We live in troubled times. But thanks be to God for courageous men and women who dedicate their lives to serve as God’s instruments of protection. And thanks be to God for faithful pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who don the Armed Forces uniform to be the presence of Christ to those who guard the safety of the United States.

Our chaplains not only take care of the spiritual needs of LCMS military personnel, but are also missionaries to those who have never before heard the sweet Gospel proclamation of Christ.

It is a great privilege and pleasure for the CTSFW Military Project to provide liturgical and theological resources, support and encouragement for our chaplains. Many thanks to all of you for your loving gifts making this work of mercy possible!

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.

This picture was taken during my last Divine Service aboard USS Kearsarge. What the picture does not show, except you can see it in my stance and hands gripping the pulpit, is that we were at the worst sea state of the deployment. I was hanging on while preaching. It is quite an experience standing at the altar—I probably looked a bit like a linebacker with my stance. In the final days now and looking forward to rejoining my family. In Christ, very respectfully, Chaplain Christensen

Since arriving at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, California, as Deputy Chaplain, the CTSFW Military Project has been a tremendous support to my ministry. Since we did not have a Protestant liturgical service when I arrived, it naturally fell to me, as a Lutheran chaplain, to start one on base as soon as possible.

CTSFW Military Project was instrumental in providing the resources that I needed, especially Lutheran Service Book and its various companion volumes. Just a few months after arriving in Lemoore, our Protestant liturgical service commenced. This simply would not have been possible without the generous support of the CTSFW Military Project.

God bless Deaconess Brinkley and the faithful servants of CTSFW Military Project!
His pastor replied wisely, “We all have doubt at times. Our old sinful nature constantly causes us to think that we never do enough good works. We may even wonder whether our faith is real. We are always saint and sinner. We cannot rely upon ourselves. Instead, rely completely in your trustworthy Savior, our Lord, Jesus Christ! John the Baptist points us to Jesus, ‘Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.’ Jesus is the One who died for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Jesus credits you with all of His righteousness. Jesus feeds the hungry, gives the thirsty to drink, invites in the stranger, clothes the naked, looks after the sick and visits the prisoners. And amazingly Jesus accomplishes this through you and me as God’s baptized children. Always fix your eyes on Jesus and find your peace in Him.”

Thank God that Tom’s pastor shared this message of life and salvation. He assured Tom of God’s love for him in Christ. The formation of such men into pastors—who bring such reassurance and riches of life to the penitent in Christ—is not possible without the love, prayers and generous financial support of the people of The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod (LCMS). The Holy Spirit continues to draw faithful men and women into pastoral and deaconess programs. First-year and returning students are beginning the 171st academic year at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, where they are formed into servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

Such formation occurs in Kramer Chapel, in the classroom, in group study and during dining hall discussions with fellow students and faculty. Formation is also acquired through practical fieldwork and vicarage experiences at LCMS congregations under the tutelage of experienced pastors. Students are taught and instructed and shaped into practicing theologians, serving God and His people. They are molded to be servants who bear Christ’s character and heart, giving counsel and aid to the troubled.

The story of Tom did not end with this comforting conversation with his pastor. Although Tom was relatively young, death came to him unexpectedly. Prior to his death, however, Tom planned his will and left a great gift, as well as an endowment for the church. By that gift, he continues to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty. Will you partner with us and give generously today as Tom did? We pray you will!

Jesus is the One who died for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Jesus credits you with all of His righteousness. Jesus feeds the hungry, gives the thirsty to drink, invites in the stranger, clothes the naked, looks after the sick and visits the prisoners. And amazingly Jesus accomplishes this through you and me as God’s baptized children. Always fix your eyes on Jesus and find your peace in Him.
As we prepare to celebrate the 499th anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded that big things happen when those who seek to be faithful to the truth of God’s Holy Word on a university campus don’t shy away from the public square. Martin Luther was, if you will, a campus pastor. The university campus today remains a place of ideas, both good and bad. We are certainly witnessing the decline of Christianity in the United States, but while our religious liberties are increasingly shrinking, the academic square is still an incubator of ideas, expression, curiosity and opportunity.

Today’s university campus is in many ways a kin to the world of Acts 17. Following his time with Silas in the synagogues in Thessalonica and Berea (vv. 1–14), the Apostle Paul found himself waiting in Athens.

Read Acts 17:16–17. Paul wasn’t content simply to bide time in Athens. What upset Paul by what he saw? How is this similar to what we face today in the public square? How does Paul respond?

Read vv. 20–21. What did the philosophers seek from Paul there? What did they want to hear and why?

A common myth today is that so-called rational, scientific people have no gods, but the university remains a very spiritual place. Everyone has gods because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of the true God (Rom. 3:23), whether they realize it or not.

Read vv. 22–23. What kind of approach does Paul take as he begins his time in the philosophical square? Does he immediately attack their false idols? Why or why not?

Read vv. 24–27. What does Paul emphasize as he describes the “unknown god”? Why might he stress these particular things to this group of listeners?

Paul quotes from both Greek philosophy and poetry in verse 28. Why do you think he does this? What implications does this have for all of us when we find ourselves holding such court in similar circumstances?
Read vv. 29–31. Paul demonstrates that building such bridges is not an end to itself but has a specific purpose, namely, to call all to repentance and faith in Christ. Why does Paul stress the Athenians being God’s offspring? What does Paul stress here about Jesus?

How did the Athenians respond in vv. 32–34? What caught the attention of the Athenians the most in v. 32? What was their response? Positive? Negative? Mixed?

We are called to be faithful, to confess the faith in and out of season and to leave the results to our “known God” (Is. 55:11). But the academic square should not be a place for us to be either timid or shy, but confident. While life at a secular university is certainly a challenge for all baptized children of God, opportunities yet remain to grow in one’s faith and to speak God’s Word winsomely and boldly in a place that is still an incubator of ideas, expression and curiosity.

Ultimately, there is something infinitely less fleeting and more important to seek than that which the Stoics or Epicureans of Paul’s day sought in life. As Jesus taught His disciples, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” (Matt. 16:26a)

Above all, in the words of St. Paul: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Phil. 4:8)

God’s Word is our great heritage.

Let us pray: Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide and govern the children and young people of your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them, that the evil foe may have no power over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Lutheran Service Book, p. 315) 🖼️

Marcus T. Zill (Marcus.Zill@lcms.org), CTSFW 1996, serves as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s director of Campus Ministry and LCMS U.
ON-CAMPUS VISITATION EVENTS
FOR FUTURE PASTORS AND DEACONESSES

For more information you may also call 800.481.2155, email Admission@ctsfw.edu or visit www.ctsfw.edu/Admission.

Prayerfully Consider Visit
October 13–15, 2016
www.ctsfw.edu/PCV

Christ Academy College
& Phoebe Academy College
October 20–23, 2016
www.ctsfw.edu/CAC

Prayerfully Consider Visit
March 30–April 1, 2017
www.ctsfw.edu/PCV

Phoebe Academy High School
June 18–25, 2017
www.ctsfw.edu/PAHS

Christ Academy High School
June 18–July 1, 2017
www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy