It’s All About Community
By Thomas P. Zimmerman

We Are Brothers
By Lucas W. Booher

Receiving God’s Gifts on Campus
By Brittni A. Koosmann

Able to Teach
By Joshua J. Woelmer
The local paper, the television news and countless Internet sites address themselves—and thereby us—to the state of education in our country. Whether it be in public schools, private and parochial schools, from preschool to graduate level, these sources chronicle our concerns about the health of the various systems, offer assessments of current practice and generate new ideas on how to improve the educational experience.

These kinds of discussions also go on within our church. Are we teaching the faith in a clear, concise, and accessible manner? Are we equipping students to give a robust defense of this faith? Are we preparing future pastors to be faithful servants who will guard the souls of those entrusted to their care? Are we using every tool available in our formational programs? At Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, the answer to these and other questions is a resounding “Yes!” And please don’t simply take my word on this. Our students are the proof of the sound preparation that goes on here and three current ones, Lucas Booher, Brittni Koosmann and Joshua Woelmer, have shared their personal and encouraging stories of formation in this issue of For the Life of the World.

The faculty of CTSFW is deeply committed to achieving successfully the education outcomes we have established for each of our degree programs. We continually review our curriculum and participate in the assessment process with the Higher Learning Commission and Association of Theological Schools to ensure the highest quality experience for each and every student. Yet, formation doesn’t only happen in the classroom; daily worship in Kramer Chapel, impromptu study sessions in the library, coffee with a professor to discuss a point just addressed in class, choirs, sports and Friday evening Gemütlichkeit all work together to form servants of Christ for service in challenging circumstances. These interactions that take place every day and the relationships that are formed are what make the CTSFW community such a special place to learn and grow.

As you read through the magazine, you will read stories of community, dedication, friendship and faithfulness. Rev. Tom Zimmerman, our dean of students, and Dr. Charles Gieschen, academic dean, share their take on how life on this campus enhances the seminary experience. The Rev. Jacob Sutton talks about the importance of formation, especially in the vicarage year. Finally, in his Bible study, the Rev. Samuel Schuldheisz brings the discussion back to the one thing needful, our sure and certain hope in our crucified and risen Savior!

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:58, ESV)

In Christ’s service,

President
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana
4 It’s All About Community
By Thomas P. Zimmerman
There are reminders everywhere of the vocation for which they are preparing. They know they are not the first to experience these things. There are many who came before who sat in the same classrooms, sat in the same pews, walked the same halls, handled and touched the same library books. They are a part of a special group that called CTSFW home.

6 We Are Brothers
By Lucas W. Booher
It is truly a blessing to know that these brothers have my back and to know that it does not end once we graduate. When you are together for so long, living, eating, attending the same classes and often studying for hours with them, you really get to know the kind of people they are and they get to know you.

9 Receiving God’s Gifts on Campus
By Brittni A. Koosmann
We learn that there is more to our fellow Christian than meets the eye. We learn how to talk about theological issues that will present themselves in our congregations and among our pastors, deaconesses and fellow theologians. This living together in community is very important to our formation as pastors and deaconesses.

12 Able to Teach
By Joshua J. Woelmer
As I reflect on my own studies, both past and present, there is no better method for teaching future pastors than for them to come to a seminary. It is tempting to think about theology or the Scriptures as merely tools that need to be added to someone’s toolbox before he becomes a pastor, but there is much more to the formation of a pastor.
As the Church forms the next generation of pastors to serve in congregations that Jesus has established to spread His Gospel message throughout the world, it well serves those future servants of the Word to be engaged in daily prayer, reading, instruction and physical well-being. Those elements are a natural part of daily life at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The pastoral grounds of the Seminary provide a place of quiet repose, especially for those Greek and Hebrew students walking with their vocabulary flashcards during the language acquisition classes. Regardless of where one stands on the campus, eyes are drawn to Kramer Chapel. The designer of the campus, Eero Saarinen, intended it to be that way. The Chapel bell calls the community to Matins, Morning Office and Vespers. Students on campus have the in-person, daily chapel experience with other students and professors. They have the opportunity daily to pray, sing, confess and worship in Kramer Chapel. During chapel, students hear different pastors delivering the homily each day and see fellow students involved in worship. Worship is at the heart of what happens at CTSFW as we prepare men and women to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

Practical training is also an integral aspect of seminary education. While studying in Fort Wayne, future pastors are assigned to a local congregation to put theory into practice. Urban, suburban and rural training is available for the fieldwork component of the program. Many of our new students are paired up at their fieldwork congregations with second-year students. These pairings help new students to feel more confident and allow the second-year students to share what they have learned while serving at the fieldwork congregation.

Residential study allows students to be part of a community. The CTSFW campus becomes their neighborhood. This neighborhood allows them to be within walking distance of the Chapel, library, gym, dining hall and classrooms. Wherever they walk, they see fellow students, professors and members of the campus staff. As they walk through the buildings, they see religious artwork and portraits of current and former professors. As they read the names of the residence halls, they are reminded of the early church fathers. There are reminders everywhere of the vocation for which they are preparing. They know they are not the first to experience these things. There are many who came before
who sat in the same classrooms, sat in the same pews, walked the same halls, handled and touched the same library books. They are a part of a special group that called CTSFW home.

Upon completion of their studies, students receive their Call to serve a congregation or institution. In most cases the newly called pastor will be on his own, charged with the sacred duty of rightly preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments. As congregations are hospitals for sinners, including the pastors, they may feel a bit isolated at first with the heavy burden of the Office. While preparing for the Office with fellow brothers here at CTSFW, one is able to develop a solid network of brother pastors that will support them out in the field. These invaluable relationships are developed while sharing experiences over the three years on campus and one-year vicarage for the Master of Divinity Program.

Like medical or law school after college, the Master of Divinity Program is a full-time endeavor over multiple years. These preparatory years of study, practice and maturation are vital for solid service as a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As a former parish pastor and now dean of Students over the past five years, I can attest that these preparatory years of study and practical experience in fieldwork and vicarage are vital in preparing pastors to serve God’s people. But even better than listening to what I have to say, read the following articles written by CTSFW students and see what they have to say about formation at CTSFW.

The Rev. Thomas P. Zimmerman (Thomas.Zimmerman@ctsfw.edu) serves as dean of Students at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana.
When I consider what makes the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, community great, I don’t think of the library complex or excellent faculty or supportive staff members. Rather I think of my brothers who have made this difficult and often overwhelming task of seminary education bearable and in many cases enjoyable.

Let’s face it, if you come to seminary or even take the online courses, you will be faced with some of the greatest and hardest academic work ever. From Dr. Nordling’s 10 weeks of Greek to Dr. Coles’ History class, you will be challenged mentally, physically and in some instances emotionally. It is during these stressful situations that your friends here at CTSFW make all of the difference. It was during my first Church History class when I really started to feel the pressure of seminary and I wasn’t the only one. Many of us were struggling with the massive amounts of information that could be on the test and how each king or pope or bishop interacted with each other and in what areas they each affected the Church. It wasn’t until we spent a few nights working through a timeline that was created on 3x5 cards by the history buff among us that we began to understand. It is because of nights like these that I see the importance of my seminary education. It is because of nights like these that the bonds of brotherhood began to form.

That bond was very strong recently when I needed to leave town unexpectedly because of a family emergency. It was four days before I was scheduled to preach as a pulpit supply for an area congregation and after sending out an email asking for someone to fill in for me, within 25 minutes three of my brothers had offered to fill in.
It is truly a blessing to know that these brothers have my back and to know that it does not end once we graduate. When you are together for so long, living, eating, attending the same classes and often studying for hours with them, you really get to know the kind of people they are and they get to know you. This is doubly important for those who have a family. Throughout any given day, no less than 15 different families can be seen on campus, from those who want to worship and sing together in Kramer Chapel to those who are trying to surprise dad with lunch during a difficult week. My wife Laura has found great joy in singing in one of the choirs alongside other wives, seminary students and faculty spouses. In addition to that, all the wives are welcome to

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gather together for the Seminary Wives Association which frequently has classes, social gatherings and other various activities throughout the year.

Yet, the bonds that we share do not stop with the Seminary. I have spent countless hours with these guys and their families playing games, watching movies, attending various sporting events including watching our own basketball team, the King’s Men, in the rivalry game with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

It is in these times that we came up with my favorite weekly activity. To counter the idea that seminary students often wear clerical collars and bow ties, a select group of us have begun wearing various super hero shirts every Friday. Not all students participate in this but for those that do we have a large variety of super heroes that make regular appearances, including but not limited to Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, Shazam and the Flash.

My hope is that from this article you will understand that on this campus we have students from every walk of life. We have Marines, sailors, former teachers, factory workers, line cooks, guys who knew they wanted to be a pastor from a young age to those of us who decided to stop running from God and finally come to the Seminary. We have shared our experiences and formed lifelong bonds of friendship and brotherhood. I know that I am thankful for them.

Lucas W. Booher (Lucas.Booher@ctsfw.edu) is a fourth-year student in the Master of Divinity Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Once I had chosen to attend Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW) in Fort Wayne in order to study in the M.A. Leading to Deaconess Certification Program, I realized quickly that this meant moving across the country from Arizona to Indiana. I did not know anyone and I had never been to Indiana. I was a bit nervous. However, after attending the Prayerfully Consider Visit weekend which the Seminary hosts twice per year, I was comforted. The campus seemed like it would be a beautiful, comfortable and welcoming place to live. Upon my return to campus for the beginning of school the following year, I was a bit nervous again, but I knew that I was going to a place that was safe. I was not disappointed.

We daily receive God’s Word in this place and typically hear sermons from one of the many ordained faculty or staff on campus. This is the highlight of the school week. This helps to remind us why we are here at the Seminary. In this, we learn how to receive God’s gift of the Word properly and how best to use it to care for those who are put in front of us.

Receiving God’s Gifts on Campus

By Brittni A. Koosmann
After living here on campus for a year and a half, there are many reasons why I would encourage those who are able to live on campus. The comfortable and welcoming atmosphere I found here has continued. But more than that I have found friends. I enjoy learning at the feet of wonderful professors and a lovely deaconess who teaches us as well as guides us in our studies, and I get to attend Chapel every day.

One of the wonderful things I found when I moved to campus was that I am surrounded by my many like-minded people, a number of whom could be classified as theological nerds. Being someone who enjoys learning about and discussing the Bible, it was exciting to find other people close to my age who also enjoy learning about Scripture. Not only that, but from the beginning there was a sense of fitting in, belonging in a way that I have never found anywhere else. I have also heard this stated by a number of my fellow students.

The students come from all walks of life and levels of experience. Some people were businessmen, some already have a Ph.D. in other fields. In my previous schools some were sporty, some were popular, some were geeks, some were the quiet kids. But at CTSFW when we gather together for meals in the dining hall, we are just people who gather to eat and discuss the events of the day or the class we just came from or the theological issue we have on our minds. This is an important part of becoming future church workers. Through these interactions, we learn to care for one another even though we may have different life experiences or opinions. We learn that there is more to our fellow Christian than meets the eye. We learn how to talk about theological issues that will present themselves in our congregations and among our pastors, deaconesses and fellow theologians. This living together in community is very important to our formation as pastors and deaconesses.

One of my favorite parts of being on campus is sitting in our classes and learning from brilliant theologians who are passionate about the Bible and teaching faithfully what the Scripture speaks. The professors all have their own character and they bring that to class and use it to teach the faith in a variety of ways. Because of this, the students are enabled and encouraged to ask questions in order to help them understand what the professor means. One of the great things about being on campus is that we have so many opportunities to speak with professors in and out of class. As is normal, the professors have office hours and students can schedule appointments, but because the campus is so intimate, we have several opportunities during normal community times to speak with professors, even in groups with others. During coffee hour after Chapel, on any given day, you are likely to find your professor in the Student Commons, willing to speak with you. Lunch is another good time to speak to
One of my favorite parts of being on campus is sitting in our classes and learning from brilliant theologians who are passionate about the Bible and teaching faithfully what the Scripture speaks. The professors all have their own character and they bring that to class and use it to teach the faith in a variety of ways. Because of this, the students are enabled and encouraged to ask questions in order to help them understand what the professor means.
“Able to teach” (2 Tim. 2:24). What a short phrase in the midst of Paul’s list of qualities for pastors, yet what an important one! Paul even expands the purpose for this in Titus 1:9: “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Preparing men for the Office of the Holy Ministry has been very important throughout the ages precisely because of the value that teaching and preaching has for the Church. Not only does a pastor strengthen consciences by the preaching of forgiveness, but he also protects those in his congregation by refuting false doctrine. The Augsburg Confession sees the need for pastors as it begins Article V with the following: “So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted” (AC V 1). The preparation that leads to a man being “able to teach” is vitally important and every church would do well to consider not merely what is the most expedient way to train pastors, but what is the best and most thorough.
As I reflect on my own studies, both past and present, there is no better method for teaching future pastors than for them to come to a seminary. It is tempting to think about theology or the Scriptures as merely tools that need to be added to someone’s toolbox before he becomes a pastor, but there is much more to the formation of a pastor. Luther has a phrase that is pertinent to this topic; he summarizes the study of theology into “Oratio, Meditatio, and Tentatio,” roughly translated as prayer, meditation and trial (or the German word Anfechtung). All three happen at seminary, and each one is difficult (if not impossible) to replicate elsewhere.

The first, Oratio, happens in daily devotions and chapel services. For a man to teach and preach the Word of God, he must be shaped by praying it, allowing the Scriptures to shape his speech and life. Praying to God for forgiveness, strength, humility or wisdom forms a habit that will be necessary for his work in the congregation. Seminary offers many opportunities to pray together, from daily chapel services to prayer offices. Gathering as a community to hear the Word preached or coming to receive the Lord’s Supper not only enriches us as we receive the Lord’s gifts of forgiveness and salvation, but it also prepares each one of us for when we are sent out to congregations to preach, teach and administer the Sacraments. Public prayer at seminary prepares each future pastor for wherever he may be sent to serve.

Secondly, Meditatio is also a central aspect to seminary, and it is the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks about what goes on at seminary: studying God’s Word. Since we believe that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17), we must also expect that those who proclaim this Word to us have themselves heard it, learned it and hold to it. Paul makes this clear to the young pastor Timothy when he says, “preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2), charging him by the highest authority, “in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead” (2 Tim 4:1). Paul similarly admonishes Timothy and every pastor to teach and preach according to “the pattern of sound words” (2 Tim 1:13). The instruction in this pattern happens as the seminarian learns from those who are already in the Office of the Holy Ministry and who have been (or still are) pastors. These professors, as well as fieldwork pastors and vicarage supervisors, teach him not only how to interpret God’s Word by reading it in its original languages, but also how the Church has confessed this Word throughout the ages, how the Scriptures teach a unity of doctrine and how God comforts, teaches, guides and reproofs through His Word alone. I am grateful for the dedication that each professor shows in teaching and guiding the students at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, and I have always been impressed by the pastoral focus of our professors; certainly they want to train scholars who may one day become professors as well, but their goal is to train pastors who will go out into our nation and world to serve Christ and His Church faithfully.

Theology is not a field of study that can be taught in a few weeks or months of training. Just as Jesus traveled with His disciples for three years and even sent them out on a vicarage of sorts (Matt. 10:5–42), so too should the study of theology happen deliberately and thoroughly. Residential seminary education is still vitally needed by our church today because it is the most trustworthy method for producing faithful pastors for the Church who are “able to teach.”
Furthermore, there is a collegiality at CTSFW that encourages men to exchange ideas, disagree with each other and sharpen their thinking on various theological topics. Whether it is debating who will win the Super Bowl or how one should understand John 6, there is perhaps no better setting for learning theology than residential seminary education. I’ve often reflected that I don’t know what my education would have been like if I didn’t have the opportunity to learn from those around me. We all have strengths and weaknesses, and discussing theology strengthens each of us in various ways. We all recognize too that the friendships that are made at CTSFW will continue even as we are sent out into the world to be pastors.

There is finally a Tentatio—a trial or struggle or, in German, Anfechtung. As Luther describes it, “For as soon as God’s Word takes root and grows in you, the devil will harry you, and will make a real doctor of you, and by his assaults will teach you to seek and love God’s Word.” While this is true of every Christian, it is particularly true of pastors and those training to be pastors, for there is nothing that the devil desires more than to see one of God’s servants fall. Yet God strengthens us through prayer and meditation on the Scriptures. Tentatio from the devil drives us back to where God has promised to be, and studying at CTSFW not only brings this vividly to mind but also prepares future pastors for what they may experience in a world that hates Christ and His church.

And so, as I reflect on the training that everyone at CTSFW is receiving, it becomes apparent that this instruction is more than a mere transferring of tools. Theology is not a field of study that can be taught in a few weeks or months of training. Just as Jesus traveled with His disciples for three years and even sent them out on a vicarage of sorts (Matt. 10:5–42), so too should the study of theology happen deliberately and thoroughly. Residential seminary education is still vitally needed by our church today because it is the most trustworthy method for producing faithful pastors for the Church who are “able to teach.” I am very thankful for the dedication that our professors demonstrate for training future pastors, and also to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its congregations for holding our future pastors to a high degree of education and faithfulness by sending them to our seminaries and supporting them while they study.

Joshua J. Woelmer (Joshua.Woelmer@ctsfw.edu) received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in May 2015. He is currently a Master of Sacred Theology student and graduate assistant at CTSFW.

1 AE 34:285.
2 AE 34:287.
Life Together as Pastoral Formation
By John T. Pless

Written in 1937 and published in 1938, Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Life Together has become something of a spiritual classic. In this book, written in about four weeks, Bonhoeffer wished to preserve his reflections on the nature of Christian community as he had experienced it in the preachers’ seminary in Finkenwalde. Dr. Paul House of Beeson Divinity School has authored a book, Bonhoeffer’s Seminary Vision: A Case for Costly Discipleship and Life Together (Wheaton: Crossway, 2015), in which he brings Bonhoeffer’s insights on discipleship and community to bear on current challenges to residential theological education.

Bonhoeffer recognized that not all Christians have the privilege of living in Christian community; there are the imprisoned, missionaries serving in lonely places and Christians who live in isolation due to other circumstances. But, Bonhoeffer observes that “Before their ordination young seminarians receive the gift of a common life with their brothers for a certain length of time” (cited from Life Together in Bonhoeffer’s Seminary Vision: A Case for Costly Discipleship and Life Together, p. 107). It is within this context that servants of the Church are formed. For Bonhoeffer, Christian community is not an idea to be pursued but the concrete reality of Christians living together as this life is mediated by Christ.

In this community, there is time for common prayer, for the study of and meditation on the Scriptures, confession and absolution, the Lord’s Supper and mutual service. These require a location, a place where Christians are together not simply for their own sakes but for the good of others. House makes the case that residential seminaries, or as he prefers to call them, incarnational seminaries, are not relics of a bygone era. If pastors are to be shaped for face-to-face ministry, then they need to be formed in concrete communities.

House writes “Daily worship, prayer, and meditation were means of shaving off remaining edges of selfishness, ambition, wrongheaded individualism, and theological arrogance. When used this way, these practices helped students stop longing for a community to be a selfish psychological crutch or longing for solitude to the exclusion of others” (p. 137).

I have occasionally used Life Together as a required text for students in the first quarter of Field Education, as it helps them think with more clarity about what Christian community is and is not. It is a good purgative to the notion that seminary is a rarified spiritual existence where worldly passions and aspirations are never to be found. Bonhoeffer demonstrates correctly that Christian community is a community of forgiven sinners who live only under the word of cross and by the grace of Christ Jesus. While Life Together was not Bonhoeffer’s apologetic rational for residential seminary education, it does have much to say about these communities which we call seminaries. House has rendered us a laudable service in bringing Bonhoeffer’s insights to bear on theological education some 70 years after his experiment in Nazi Germany. He sees Bonhoeffer’s legacy as a challenge for us in a day when efficiency is often made the supreme canon in church life and mission. I will let House have the last word: “… incarnational seminaries have a future. They may be reborn in ways we do not yet know, but they will endure. They will require friends who believe in them, who fund them, who safeguard their excellence in study and formation, and who will persevere with those who serve in them. They will require faculty and students who seek to teach and learn from one another more than they desire mere credential or degree. They will require persons of biblical vision. The good news is that God has always provided these people. In the end we must do the right thing, not because it will succeed as we wish, but because it is the right thing” (p. 196).

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.
Theology is not a subject like math or English, where there are simple rules one must follow to be good at the subject. Rather, theology deals with the living, it deals with messy broken people. By including more students in the classroom, more questions and comments are raised than one student alone would have imagined.

Peruse the Internet and you can find any number of sites offering ways to become an ordained minister. Some of the sites even offer this for free. But, there is one caveat that shows up on most of the sites that offer to ordain online, becoming ordained in this manner does not qualify you to be a pastor at any church. Hmmmmmmmm…

So, even those who offer these great promises realize it takes a lot more to become a pastor than purchasing a certificate to hang on the wall. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has emphasized the importance of education for all church workers since its founding in 1847. Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, shares that commitment and vision as we form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. It’s that kind of commitment that attracts faithful, caring, members of the LCMS to become students at CTSFW.

John Koopman, a native of Milbank, South Dakota, and fourth-year seminarian at CTSFW, grew up with a great love for education. He and his four siblings were homeschooled through high school. As he began to look at colleges, he also began to think about what he would choose as his vocation. “I had no intentions on going into church work, despite having been told by my pastor during confirmation class that I should consider being a pastor,” says Koopman. But upon further reflection and study, he found that not only did he want to go into church work, he wanted to be a pastor.
Koopman chose to attend Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE). While there he was quite active in the Pre-Seminary Club and participated in choirs and plays. Also during his four years at CUNE he met his future wife, Brittany. They graduated in 2012, she with a B.A. in Music, and he with a B.A. in Psychology in addition to completing the requirements of the Pre-Seminary Program.

In the fall of 2012, Koopman began his studies at CTSFW, looking forward to the next level of academics. “The greatest rewards for me at CTSFW have certainly been the deeper understanding of the Scriptures and our Lutheran doctrine that I have gleaned from our professors. Being able to sit and discuss with professors the depths of God’s Word has been an incredible help. Since four years of seminary is such a short time to learn so much, what I believe the professors have managed to inculcate within me is a way of looking at God’s Word in a way that sees Christ for us.

“Seminary education is not merely about acquiring facts. Rather it is about acquiring a pastoral Lutheran mindset. This is something that takes place in the classroom with face-to-face learning. Professors model proper interpretative techniques which are difficult to grasp at first; just as it can be difficult to grasp the true meaning of a letter just by reading it, so too it is with books. By speaking to the professors, the students are enabled to learn not only what is said, but how it is said within the context of actually speaking it.”

Koopman notes that his fellow students also add a great deal to the learning process. “Theology is not a subject like math or English, where there are simple rules one must follow to be good at the subject. Rather, theology deals with the living, it deals with messy broken people. By including more students in the classroom, more questions and comments are raised than one student alone would have imagined.”

In addition to his academic pursuits, Koopman has found another benefit of being a student on the CTSFW campus. “Another wonderful reward of being at CTSFW has been the opportunity to sing with the Kantorei. The Kantorei has given me a much greater appreciation for music and our hymns than would have otherwise existed in me. While this appreciation for hymns benefited me while on vicarage, I realized that the true benefit of Kantorei has been for the people in my future ministry by being able to sing a hymn of comfort to those soon departing to be with their Heavenly Father or being able to sing a hymn of joy and gladness to those with things to celebrate in this life.”

On April 27, 2016, Koopman, along with his fellow final-year classmates, will gather with friends and family in Kramer Chapel for the Spring Placement Service. At that time their names will be announced along with the name of the congregations they will serve. As he looks forward to that day, Koopman is thankful for the education he has received and knows it will be a solid foundation for the way he hopes to serve. “It is my goal to spend my life proclaiming God’s Word of peace faithfully to His people; whether I am standing in the pulpit, sitting in a living room, lecturing to a class or standing by a hospital bed.”

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.
The academic dean at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, works closely with students, faculty, administration and assessment agencies to make sure each student has a positive educational experience. Since 2011, Dr. Charles A. Gieschen has been serving as our academic dean. He joined the CTSFW faculty in 1996. In addition to his duties as academic dean, he continues to serve as professor of Exegetical Theology.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I was the fifth of six children, born in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. My father was a Lutheran pastor near Wausau, Wisconsin. My grandfather and great-grandfather were also Lutheran pastors. My undergraduate degree was in Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. After graduating from CTSFW with a M.Div. in 1984, I completed my Master of Theology degree in New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1985. That summer I was called and installed at Trinity, Traverse City, Michigan, where I served for 11 years. During my years in Traverse City, I began and completed a doctoral program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, commuting about 500 miles one day a week for three and a half years for my doctoral seminars.

In 1985, I was joined in marriage to Kristi Lee Kienas, whom I met on vicarage. Our son, Stephan, was born in Traverse City and daughter Lauren was born in Fort Wayne. Both are in church worker programs at Concordia University Wisconsin.

In addition to serving as a professor of Exegetical Theology and academic dean, in what other roles have you served at CTSFW?

I was the first teacher of the Russian Project students in 1996 (teaching them Greek from a Greek Grammar book written in Russian). I have served as associate editor of *Concordia Theological Quarterly* for several years. For much of my first 15 years, I served as chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology and was a member of the Certification and Placement Committee.
What has been your favorite course to teach and why?

I really enjoy teaching the Gospel of John towards the end of the student experience here. It is a unique Gospel, and fourth year students are more developed in their thinking and exegetical skills, so it is always an enjoyable experience each spring. The Book of Revelation is my favorite elective to teach each year.

How has seminary education changed in the years you have been on the faculty?

There was no campus technology when I arrived in 1996 and that, of course, has certainly changed! Also, almost all the students were M.Div. students from the U.S.A. Now there are many more academic and certificate programs and a more international character to our programs. Our student body is now comprised of younger students, more women students and more international students.

What would you say to a man that says, “I’d really like to become a pastor, but four more years of education seems like a lot.”?

As with most professions, it takes time and effort to form a faithful pastor. It is because of the high respect that we have for the pastoral office that we are committed to preparing future pastors in a very thorough manner. Also, it is only three academic years in the classroom, because the year of vicarage is 12 months of on-the-job training where you will get paid for a year of education! Always remember, there are plenty of challenges but lots of joys in serving Christ and His Church.

From your perspective as academic dean, what do you look forward to for the future of CTSFW and its mission in the States and around the world?

CTSFW has always had an unwavering commitment to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions as well as a zealous commitment to the mission of Christ to reach all nations. I look forward to our continued commitment in both of these areas in the future as challenges to Christianity continue to arise in our nation and in our world.

The theme for this issue of For the Life of the World is “The Importance of Residential Seminary Education.” Any thoughts on this from you?

Jesus taught the 12 apostles for two to three years, face-to-face on a daily basis. I think that is a pretty good example to follow!

The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Gieschen (Charles.Gieschen@ctsfw.edu) serves as professor of Exegetical Theology and academic dean at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
In addition to their many duties as professors for our student body, the faculty members from Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, are always pleased to connect with folks all around the world. Many faculty members are teaching Continuing Education courses throughout the U.S. this summer. A complete listing is found on the next page.

**President Lawrence Rast**
- **April 4-5:** Nebraska District Spring Pastors’ Conference, Younes Conference Center, Kearney, Nebraska
- **April 14:** Emmaus Conference, Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington
- **June 10-11:** Issues, Etc. “Making the Case” Conference, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois

**Dr. Charles Gieschen**
- **May 12-14:** Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) meeting, St. Louis, Missouri

**Dr. Carl Fickenscher**
- **April 5-7:** Speak and preach for Puget Sound Pastors Conference, Seattle, Washington
- **April 15-17:** Bible Study leader for Kansas District LWML Convention, Manhattan, Kansas
- **April 19-21:** Speak for Rocky Mountain District Northeast Colorado Tri-Circuit Conference, Estes Park, Colorado
- **May 12-14:** Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) meeting, St. Louis, Missouri
- **June 10-11:** Issues, Etc. “Making the Case” Conference, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois
- **June 27-July 1:** Higher Things Board Meeting and Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

**Dr. Naomichi Masaki**
- **April 2-3:** “Pastoral Office: The Instrumental Service of the Lord Jesus” for a Circuit Conference at Grace Lutheran Church, Lamar, Missouri. He will also preach at Grace Lutheran on Sunday, April 3.
- **April 8-10:** North American Luther Research Forum at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Dr. John Nordling**
- **April 4-15:** Teaching 1 Corinthians at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa

**Prof. John Pless**
- **April 8-10:** North American Luther Research Forum, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota
- **June 18-30:** Lecture at the Kobe Lutheran Seminary, Kobe, Japan
Continuing Education Opportunities
Sponsored by Concordia Theological Seminary–Fort Wayne, Indiana

May 23–25, 2016
Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa
Rev. Walter Steele
Ministry for Combat Veterans and Their Families

June 6–8, 2016
Rochester, Minnesota
Dr. William Weinrich
The Gospel of John: A Sacramental Catechesis

June 7–9, 2016
Peoria, Illinois
Dr. John Nordling
The Gospel in Philippians

June 9–11, 2016
Quartz Hill, California
Prof. John Pless
Theology of the Cross

June 13–15, 2016
Cedar Falls, Iowa
Dr. R. Reed Lessing
Isaiah 40-66

June 13–15, 2016
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Dr. K. Detlev Schulz
The Doctrine of Church and Fellowship

June 20–23, 2016
Austin, Texas
Dr. Naomichi Masaki
Luther’s Catechetical Instruction According to His Lectures on Genesis

June 20–24, 2016
Seattle, Washington
Dr. Dean Wenthe
1 & 2 Peter

June 21–23, 2016
Plano, Texas
Dr. Gifford Grobien
Theological Ethics

June 27–29, 2016
Shawano, Wisconsin
Dr. James Bushur
“Let Us Die That We Might Live”: Confessing Christ with the Noble Army of Martyrs

July 18–22, 2016
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Dr. Charles Gieschen
Confronting Confusion About the End-Times

July 25–27, 2016
Rogue River, Oregon
Dr. Cameron MacKenzie
Luther’s Theology in Today’s World

August 1–5, 2016
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Dr. Thomas Winger
Clothed in Christ: Paul’s Letter to the Church in Ephesus

August 1–5, 2016
Flathead Lake, Montana
Dr. Jeffrey Oschwald
Office of the Ministry

August 8–12, 2016
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Dr. Timothy Saleska
Influenced by a Cloud of Witnesses: Reading the Psalms for Spiritual Strength

September 12–14, 2016
Hickory, North Carolina
Dr. Dean Wenthe
Judaica and the Jewish Context of the New Testament

October 3–7, 2016
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Dr. John Kleinig
Preaching From Hebrews

Additional Information

Coming Soon!

- Denver, Colorado
- Elgin, Illinois
- Gallatin, Tennessee
- Knowles, Oklahoma
- Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
- Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- St. Cloud, Minnesota
- Twin Cities Metro Area, Minnesota
- Wray, Colorado

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 or 260-452-2103

Prof. Jeffrey Pulse at Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu

Visit our website regularly to check for additional site information: www.ctsfw.edu/CE.
Over the last 18 years, nearly 500 young men and women have attended Christ Academy High School (CAHS) and Phoebe Academy High School (PAHS) at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana. Here they have had the opportunity to learn and grow as young Christians participating in classes, worship, recreation and so much more. In this our 19th year, our CAHS and PAHS programs have seen tremendous growth, and we are excited to announce significant modifications in order to better meet the needs of the youth of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

This past fall we hosted our first Christ Academy Confirmation Retreat. Roughly 50 young confirmation students came with their classmates, pastors, youth leaders and parents for a weekend at CTSFW. With a theme of “The Lutheran Solas,” students enjoyed classes taught by CTSFW ordained staff members, worship, team building activities and games. This event will be offered each fall and spring and is open to all confirmands of the LCMS. The next event will be April 8–10, 2016.

This year we look forward to another change to the growing PAHS. The event will be extended to one full week, running from June 19–25. Another exciting change this year’s PAHS is the overlap with CAHS. The Seminary and the church-at-large have seen great benefits from pastors and deaconesses working and learning side by side, yet distinctively. The academies will seek to strengthen this effort at a younger age. The two events will remain distinct and focused on unique objectives. Both events will worship, eat and attend recreation events together. However, most classes, discussion and devotion time will remain separate.

New options have been added to this summer’s CAHS. Now young men can sign up for either our Alpha Week, June 19–25, or our Beta Week, June 26–July 2. Of course, it is still encouraged and available to attend the full two week academy. These options are to make Christ Academy accessible to families who may have a scheduling conflict with vacation, church events, etc.

Recently reviewing the rosters of all those who have attended Academy events in the past, I realized I am humbled to be a part of something God has richly blessed for a generation here at CTSFW. Of those nearly 500 former “acadamists,” as we like to call them, nearly 40% are serving the Church or are in school intending to do so. Counting myself as a former acadamist, I am thankful for the formative opportunity I was given and excited for the future of Christ Academy and Phoebe Academy events here at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

For the Life of the World
Christ Academy and Phoebe Academy High School events are great opportunities for young men and women to dig deeper into the theology and practice of the Church, from confirmation age through high school.

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

Phoebe Academy
June 19–25, 2016

Christ Academy: Two Weeks
June 19–July 2, 2016

Christ Academy: Alpha Week
June 19–25, 2016

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

Contact: Rev. Lannon Martin
ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu
www.ctsfw.edu/PAHS or www.ctsfw.edu/CA
800-481-2155

REGISTER TODAY!
I am privileged to be the pastor of a congregation with a long-standing tradition of receiving vicars from Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana. It is a joy, even while it is a lot of work, to supervise, mentor, coach, encourage and discuss theology with men through their vicarage year, doing a small part to prepare them for that (as yet unknown) place the Lord has for them to serve as one of His undershepherds.

Part of what can be a real struggle (if we let it!) of residential seminary education and the Master of Divinity Program is that men and their families are brought out of their comfort zone. They have to part with other paths, other plans, old friends, old ways of life—and do the hard thing—move on and forward, open up, meet new people, sit humbly and learn, as they seek to serve people with the counter-cultural Gospel of our Lord. This means learning to teach, and speak confidently the truth of God’s Word. Desiring to be an overseer in the Church is a noble task, and yet, is never going to be an easy task, never totally going to be a “comfort zone.”

I remind the vicar that there is comfort for them in God’s Word in the midst of not being so comfortable for two years on campus, at vicarage, then back on campus. The Lord of the harvest asks His people to pray that He raises up more workers for His harvest (Matt. 9:38). He promises to raise up shepherds for His people after His own heart (Jer. 3:15, 23:4).

The journey undertaken through the Seminary is therefore the right thing to do and worth all the time spent in class and on vicarage. Our gracious Lord is at work through it all, blessing His Church, answering those many prayers and fulfilling His promises through humble and faithful students and professors, and through generous congregations that make sacrifices in order to host vicars and provide a caring place for the vicar to learn and grow.

I am glad it was that way for me during my time at CTSFW and vicarage. To be formed and shaped for the pastoral ministry, “the old had to go, the new had to come.” It was difficult to let go of the old and face the new. It was difficult indeed to say good-bye to longtime friends, to steady paychecks and to a nice place to live. It was difficult to pack and unpack everything (four times in four years!), difficult to make new friends, difficult to live on part-time work, Food Co-op shopping and the generosity of many kind people.

But it is not impossible! “For nothing will be impossible with God,” the angel tells Mary (Luke 1:37) and all of us. Our Lord says to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9). It was sufficient, still is and must be as a minister of the Gospel. To me the joy of residential seminary education and sending men out on vicarage is that through it all, we trust and take comfort that the Lord is at work doing as He promises, preparing men to be faithful shepherds of His own flock through a process which appears to the world to be not so comfortable, not so easy. This we know is true, a real comfort through it all, for He has redeemed us all, through His justifying death and resurrection, and Jesus lives, ascended and ruling His Church in love.

The Rev. Jacob R. Sutton
(pastor.sutton@immanuelth.org),
CTSFW 2007, serves as pastor of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Terre Haute, Indiana.
Alumni Reunion
May 19–20, 2016

Celebrate Ministry, Friends and Memories

Events to enjoy during your reunion weekend include:
- Visiting with former classmates and professors
- Alumni Banquet
- Baccalaureate Matins Service
- Commencement Ceremony
- Campus tours, including the Wayne and Barbara Kroemer Library expansion
- President’s Luncheon honoring the members of the classes being recognized this year for their years of service as faithful servants of Jesus Christ

For further information contact Rev. Timothy Puls at (260) 452-2260 or Alumni@ctsfw.edu.

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

Musician Workshops

Basic Level Organists and Service Playing for Pianists
June 20–24, 2016

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June 27–July 1, 2016

Instructors:
Dr. Paul J. Grime
Kantor Kevin J. Hildebrand
Kantor Matthew A. Machemer

For more information contact:
260-452-2224, MusicWorkshops@ctsfw.edu
or visit www.ctsfw.edu/MusicWorkshops.
When I became a nursing student in the 1960s, it was a requirement that the students live in a nurses’ residence. For three years we studied nursing, practiced nursing by working in the hospital and shared our student nursing experiences along with our hopes and dreams, late into the night sometimes. After we became registered nurses, many times our experiences and discussions as students became the base of our knowing what to do in a particular medical situation.

Therefore, to me, living where one studies, enveloped in the environment of what one is striving to become, along with other students who share the endeavor, seems like the thing to do. It forms a useful, positive base to which one can mentally return as we face new life situations.

So, like a child who is given the base of Christian life in the Lord, partaking in residential seminary education to study God’s Word, discuss it, while learning to live life as pastors and deaconesses through vicarage and internship, does indeed give our future pastors and deaconesses a substantial base on which to build their careers.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Colossians 1:9-12.

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

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

Name: _________________________________________________________________
Organization: ___________________________________________________________
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City: _______________________________ State: _______ Zip: _________________
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We are enclosing a donation payable to Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, c/o Linda Scicluna, 4 Wycliffe Place, Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4496.

Please contact me with more information.

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

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

Donation Day gift.
My early recollections of attending church on the South Side of Chicago are that we were a close knit congregation with about 40 people attending. Our building was really only the basement of the proposed and never completed superstructure. We had a sanctuary none the less, because it was not the building but the presence of God in His Word and in His Sacraments that count. The chancel was partitioned by a thick velvet curtain when we had other events.

We were a dual parish, joined at the hip with one further south and not in the city limits at all. About 10 of us children were driven every day to school at Bethlehem Lutheran on the East Side across the Calumet River, probably four miles away. Our pastor, Pastor Borchers, led the eighth graders in catechism classes every Saturday morning. For my brother, Phillip, there were five in the group. Later on in life, I realized that for us to have a pastor was truly a gift. Our faithful pastor, Rev. Borchers, was our shepherd.

As time went on, we moved to a modest suburb and attended a huge church and for us younger brothers, a huge Lutheran school, but for Phillip, the eldest, the formation had already been made. He understood that in a small congregation there was no way to be carried along as in a large congregation, but that every member had a responsibility to help. He knew our tiny congregation wouldn’t have a chance without everyone being involved or without a permanent pastor.

Fast forward many years, and my brother found himself in Michigan working for Dow Chemical as a Ph.D. researcher. Along with a group of other Bible interested Lutherans, he formed a Bible study group with the means to invite seminary professors up for weekends. This gave the group the opportunity to study with the best theologians of our Church. The truth of God was always at the spear point. What was the truth, and how can we learn it and know it? For Phillip it was catechism class with Pastor Borchers, relived and extended. How much better can it get?

Putting the resources of his vocation at Dow Chemical together with the needs of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, he initiated The Dow Chemical Company Endowment Agreement. Dow was a matching funds company that doubled every donation my brother gave to CTSFW. When he determined that my wife’s employer, Macy’s, was also a matching funds donor, he worked with my wife, Maureen, and me to join in the mission.

In the early 2000s, my brother retired from Dow and became a university Chemistry professor and was able to attend summer sessions at CTSFW. He invited me to spend a two week vacation with him on campus, taking two regular courses during the Summer I session. We both had the opportunity to hear the professors teach, to learn, but most importantly and uniquely to watch the seminarians participate in classes. They probably had no idea what the two older guys were doing there. A few found out. We were learning first-hand what a seminarian does on campus and how they act. In the confines of the classroom we heard men confess their Savior faithfully as they prepared to bring His Good News to others. We saw the formation of future pastors from a perspective that few other laymen have seen.

Eventually, I also retired, and with my 18 credits from three summers at CTSFW, I was permitted to enroll. I didn’t at first match my brother’s approximate 90 credits. But through him I had learned to love this place, and I loved to watch my younger brothers prepare for a life of service to Christ and the Church.
I have experienced the Seminary, my vicarage congregation, the congregation of my call and I have seen seminarians come and work and graduate. I ask, how can I help? Christ opened the eyes of the sightless, not just physically but also spiritually. Without fully capable and trained pastors to guide us, it would soon degenerate into the blind leading the blind.

Every congregation, whether they realize it or not, has a stake in what CTSFW exists to do. How many times have you been in Bible class and the pastor comments on something you have read before and you say, I never thought of that in that way. You might say, I can see what a difference in perspective that is for me. Or how many times has the pastor pointed out how the secular world is so much against the Church and how it twists even faithful churchgoers into thinking that wrong is now right. A trained pastor is capable of highlighting these things.

Pastor Borchers in the 1950s was my brother’s guardian in the faith. My brother was mine. The endowment is in support of CTSFW to help prepare yours.

The Rev. Mark J. DeLassus
(Mark.DeLassus@ctsfw.edu)
serves as interim vice president of Institutional Advancement at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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How many times have you been in Bible class and the pastor comments on something you have read before and you say, I never thought of that in that way. You might say, I can see what a difference in perspective that is for me. Or how many times has the pastor pointed out how the secular world is so much against the Church and how it twists even faithful churchgoers into thinking that wrong is now right.
“F aith is nothing more than a fairytale. Christianity is a myth just like the Roman, Greek and Egyptian pantheons. Jesus’ death and resurrection is a beautiful legend but it’s not really a true story.” Perhaps you’ve heard sayings like these before. The closer we get to Holy Week and Easter, the more we read, hear and see these kinds of challenges to the Christian faith. In fact, we should expect these kinds of claims. They are annual reminders of Paul’s words that the preaching of the cross is foolishness in the eyes of the world (1 Cor. 1:18ff.). And yet, in the foolishness of the cross, God reveals His great love for us.

Jesus’ death and resurrection are both the center of our Christian faith and the center of all human history. Everything leads up to, and flows from, Jesus’ passion. Jesus’ dying and rising is both a salvation event and an historical event. Jesus was not born in a galaxy far, far away, but in time and history, in the days of Caesar Augustus. Jesus did not live, suffer, die and rise in the pages of a Greek epic poem, but was crucified under Pontius Pilate. Unlike the Roman, Greek and Egyptian gods and goddesses, God became man (John 1:14); God walked, talked, lived, suffered, died and rose again…for you! Your Christian faith is based on fact, not fiction.

How then do we answer these challenges? The following study is given to prepare you to declare and defend the Gospel whenever someone asks you for a reason for the hope that is within you (1 Peter 3:15).

Read 1 Cor. 15:1-11. According to Paul, what message is of first importance in the Christian faith? How did he receive this message? Why does he list the names of eyewitnesses and include over 500 others who saw Jesus after His resurrection?

Read 1 Cor. 15:12-22. If Christ did not rise from the dead, what does that mean for the Christian faith? If Christ did rise from the dead, what does that mean for the Christian faith? What is the conclusion of Paul’s logical argument in Chapter 15?

Read Luke 1:1-4. In his introduction, Luke tells us about the content of his Gospel. In Luke 1:2, Luke writes that many were “eyewitnesses from the beginning.” Who were some of the key eyewitnesses of Jesus’ ministry, life, death and resurrection? Why is eyewitness testimony vital for the Christian faith?

Read Acts 26:26. In Paul’s testimony before Caesar, what does he mean when he says, “These things did not happen in a corner”?
Based on the following passages, what is Jesus’ primary purpose in His ministry? Luke 9:21-22; Luke 18:31-33; Luke 24:13-35. Many people make claims and promises, but fail to deliver. What does it mean for us that Jesus is faithful to His promise to die and rise again?

______________________________

Read John 20:19-20. The disciples were no fools; they knew that dead men don’t come back to life. As Jesus appears to His disciples in the upper room, how does He reassure them that He is risen from the dead just as He promised?

______________________________

Read John 20:24-31. What does Jesus say and do that gives reassurance to Thomas and all believers?

______________________________

Read 1 John 1:1-4. Anytime an event from the past is reconstructed, evidence is necessary, such as a court case. How does John demonstrate that Jesus’ life, death and resurrection actually happened? What makes these events the most important historical events of all?

______________________________

Closing Prayer: O Lord, our Heavenly Father, You sent Your only begotten Son into our flesh to be the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and that by His dying and rising He would give us a true and living hope in His death and resurrection on our behalf. We thank you for the faithful eyewitnesses of Jesus’ life and ministry, through whom You have given us an orderly, trustworthy and life-giving account of Jesus’ salvation won for us. Grant that we, entrusted with Your Word, may always be found ready to declare and defend the Gospel, giving a reason for the hope that is within us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Rev. Samuel P. Schuldheisz (p.schuldheisz@redeemer-lutheran.net), CTSFW 2008, serves as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Huntington Beach, California.

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Calendar of Events

MARCH

March 8	Seminary Guild, Luther Hall, 1:00 p.m.
March 20	Lenten Evening Prayer with the Seminary Kanotrei, Kramer Chapel, 4:00 p.m.
March 31–April 2	Prayerfully Consider Campus Visit

APRIL

April 8–10	Christ Academy Confirmation Retreat
April 12	Seminary Guild Spring Luncheon, Luther Hall, 12:00 p.m.
April 24	Easter Choral Vespers with the Schola Cantorum, Kramer Chapel, 4:00 p.m.
April 26	Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignment Service, Kramer Chapel, 7:00 p.m.
April 27	Candidate Call Service, Kramer Chapel, 7:00 p.m.

MAY

May 19	Deaconess Placement Service, Kramer Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
May 19–20	Alumni Reunion
May 20	Baccalaureate, Kramer Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
Organ Recital, Kramer Chapel, 3:00 p.m.
Commencement, Kramer Chapel, 6:00 p.m.

For additional information concerning any of these events, please visit www.ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2100. All times are Eastern Time.
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
March 31–April 2, 2016
www.ctsfw.edu/PCV

Phoebe Academy High School
June 19–25, 2016
www.ctsfw.edu/PAHS

Christ Academy High School
June 19–25, 2016 (Alpha) and/or
June 26–July 2, 2016 (Beta)
www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy

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