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Concordia Seminary magazine | Winter 2010

Paul Devantier

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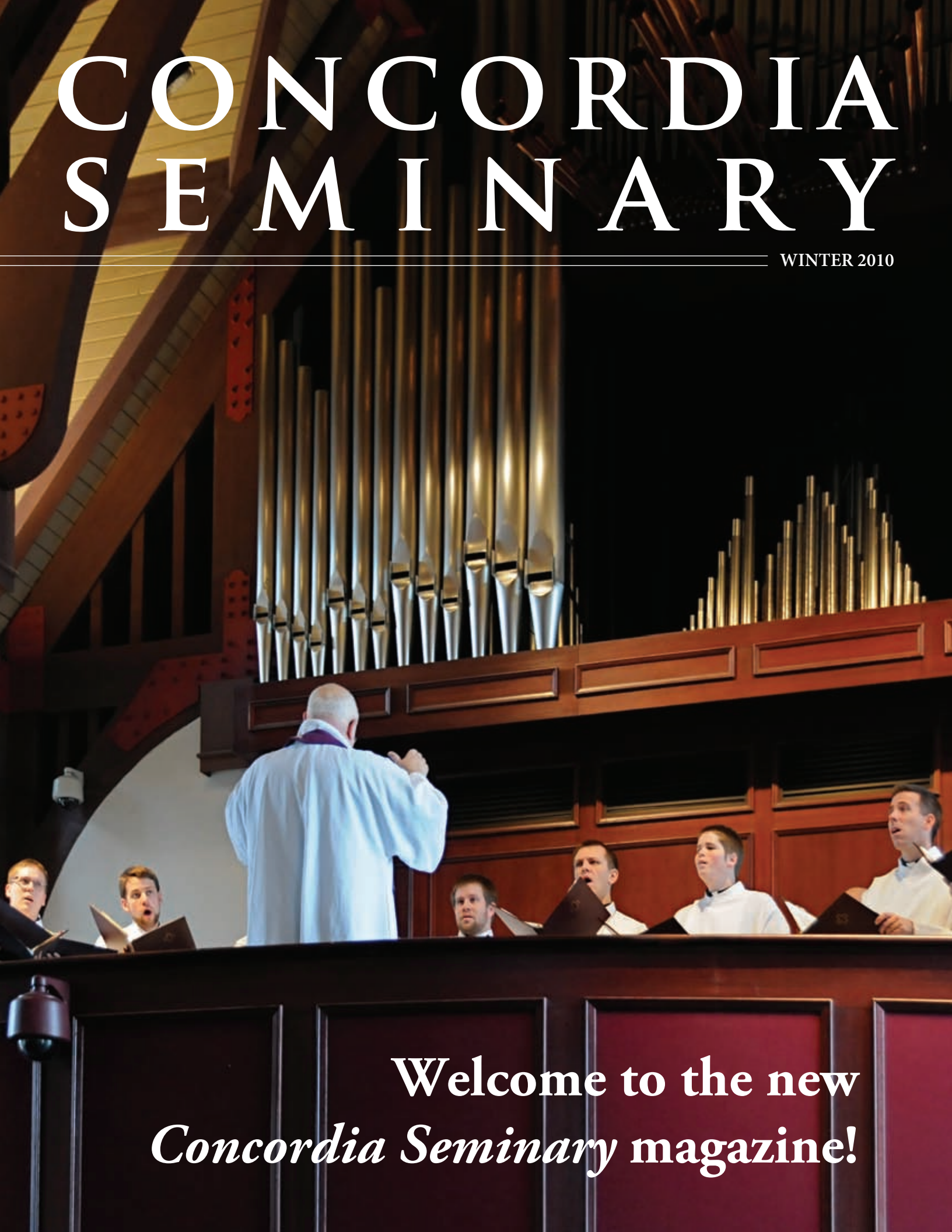
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CONCORDIA SEMINARY

WINTER 2010



Welcome to the new
Concordia Seminary magazine!

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

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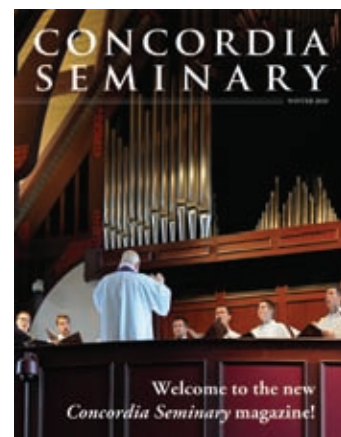
As part of the new Alumni and Friends section of *Concordia Seminary* magazine, 2008 graduate Rev. James Huenink shares his experiences from his first year in the parish and how he continues to give back to his alma mater.

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To be added to the mailing list, address correspondence to: *Concordia Seminary* magazine, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Pl., St. Louis, MO 63105; call 314-505-7362; or e-mail magazine@csleu.edu. Congregations may request that copies be sent to them in bulk for distribution within their churches.

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Cover Photograph

The 2009 Concordia Seminary Advent Chorus, directed by Rev. Henry Gerike by Nancy Olson

Executive Editor

Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier

Graphic Artist

Jayna Rollings

Assistant Editor

Emily Boedecker

Photographers

Emily Boedecker
Jennifer Griffith
Nathan Misch
Nancy Olson
Jayna Rollings
Logan Scheiwe

Proofreader

Nathan Misch

Welcome to the new Concordia Seminary magazine!

So, what's new? Well, in addition to a revised design and a new name, we have given a lot of thought to the messages included. What you and others have told us about the best characteristics of *FOCUS* magazine have been retained and expanded, and some new features have been added.

There is so much that could be included in this publication. With more than 600 students currently involved in degree programs offered by the Seminary, with so many alumni in ministry, with dedicated donors, with excellent resource offerings for congregations, and with an ambitious plan for service to the church for the future, there are many stories to tell. (Check out the cover story on "Where we are, where we're headed," page 6.)

Your stories will be regular features. For example, there are the gratifying stories of congregations that welcome graduates, encourage individuals to consider full-time church work, and support the Seminary. There are many stories related to individuals who have been, and are, wonderful partners in providing prayers, encouragement, and financial support so that there will always be pastors and other church leaders. (The story on page 13 is inspiring.) How about stories of the manifold blessings that come from God through alumni? (page 22) How about stories that could reach and influence prospective students?

Student stories will be included about men and women who look forward to their service in the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can all gain insights into the journeys that brought them to the Seminary, the challenges and joys they experience, and their plans for the future. (See page 18 for an interesting story about a young seminary family.) Students today could serve in your community in the near future. In this and in future issues, you will get to know something about them.

Faculty stories from a truly distinguished faculty will be part of this magazine. These servants are working in your stead to help form future servants. They have God-given talents, experience, expertise, and a worldwide reputation for excellence. (On page 10 you'll see an example.) And, we will never forget what they seek through their teaching to impart – a love for



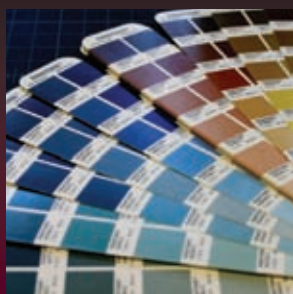
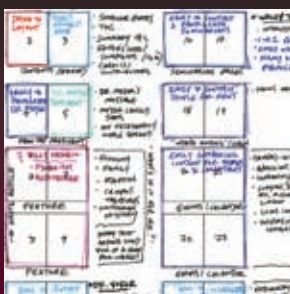
Graphic Artist Jayna Rollings, Executive Editor Paul Devantier, and Assistant Editor Emily Boedecker discuss possible cover designs for this issue of Concordia Seminary magazine.

the Lord Jesus Christ, a desire to serve, and a firm commitment to solid Lutheran theology.

Resources for individual, group, and congregational use will be highlighted in *Concordia Seminary* magazine. The Seminary offers you Bible studies, information, practical helps for ministry, and even studies in Greek, Hebrew, historical theology, and a variety of other subjects. Many of these resources are available online. (See story on page 16.)

So many stories, so much information...so few pages. Still, the staff members and faculty who participated in reshaping *FOCUS* magazine into this one join me in praying that you will find this magazine engaging and helpful. It will keep you up-to-date with your Seminary and will tell how you and others are involved in its vital ministry. And it will remind all of us of God's goodness to, and blessings from, you and Concordia Seminary. WELCOME! I pray God will bless the time you spend with this new magazine!

Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier
Senior Vice President, Advancement
Executive Editor, *Concordia Seminary* magazine



Just a few steps in the creation of a magazine

From the
PRESIDENT



Maybe I was wrong to say it, but when people asked, “Are you enjoying your job?” I answered, “No.” After all, Concordia Seminary was facing, is still facing, many of the same big challenges your congregation and pastor are facing. Twenty-first century America is a different spiritual setting than the past. Last issue I shared some bad financial news with you but promised to share good news in this issue. Here it is, at least a bit of the good news that is giving me an attitude readjustment.

Individuals and congregations are responding. In a bygone time people in the pews could take their seminaries for granted but that time is gone. You’re responding by demonstrating an active interest...

...in how we’re forming pastors and deaconesses for new challenges. You want faithful servants who can relate to people where God has placed them. Our new strategic plan says, “One size doesn’t fit all,” meaning we’re increasingly offering residential and distance learning programs that will better form servants for contextual ministry.

...in asking for educational offerings for laity. Your faculty does not see itself as a factory for preachers but rather as the “go to” place for all the church to receive faithful and helpful resources for mission and ministry. Our offerings on iTunes U continue to grow and we’ll be announcing new initiatives for you in coming months.

...in encouraging us to think big. Why should Concordia Seminary be content only with service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod? Shouldn’t we offer our clear understanding of the Gospel to other churches? Shouldn’t we enable our scholars to research, write, speak, and publish in compelling ways for the truth of God’s word? Please, keep us thinking big!

...in financial support. It puts smiles on our faces to hear that many of you are encouraging your congregation to make a gift or include the Seminary in your budget. Donations of \$300, \$500, or more can make a big difference. That is in addition to your generous and sacrificial individual gifts. We treasure your trust and thank you for the encouragement of your gifts.

...in helping make the Seminary a provider of optimism and hope for our pastors and congregations. Day after day, Sunday after Sunday, it’s easy to become discouraged and lose our fire for the church. Indeed, it is tough out there but the cross was tough for Jesus who went out from the tomb in victory. Thank you for encouraging us to be, as Seminary president C.F.W. Walther put it, “Helpers of joy.”

Thank you, thank you, thank you! You’re sharing so much of yourselves with us. The best is yet to come! The heavenly Father guides us in ways of goodness only He can see. How many times I’ve prayed, “Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long” (Psalm 25:4-5). I’m often slow (aren’t we all!) to see how He refines us for deeper faith and better service. Yes, I am enjoying this job and hope you’ll enjoy the future with us!

Dale A. Meyer
Dale A. Meyer

“Indeed, it is tough out there but the cross was tough for Jesus who went out from the tomb in victory.”

Where we are, where we're

Waiting for a stoplight, I noticed the car in front of me, a Corolla I think, had the Christian fish symbol on the left side of the trunk. "Good," I thought, "one of us." As the red light lasted, my eyes noticed the sticker on the right side of the same trunk. "Don't follow me. I don't know where I'm going." A Christian, perhaps, but not one you want to follow!

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis knows where it's going. As the result of a careful process led by Executive Vice President Andrew Bartelt, the Seminary has a comprehensive strategic and operational plan for 2009 through 2011, its first such plan in many years. The plan was developed after numerous focus groups from the Seminary and the wider church discussed the present strengths and weaknesses of the Seminary and where we need

to go in the future to advance the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Board of Regents adopted the plan in July 2009.

The Strategic Plan is based upon a changed America and a changed Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For example:

- More than 1/3 of the nation's population resides in its top ten cities.
- The United States is in the midst of a 20-year migration of population from North to South.
- Theological education can and will be delivered in both residential and non-residential modes.
- The number of pre-seminary students in the Concordia University System is in decline.
- The entering (residential) classes at both LCMS

headed

by Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2011

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum will graduate well-prepared candidates for ministry to lead, serve, and develop healthy and flourishing congregations and ministries.

PARTNERSHIPS

We have developed partnerships with area institutions of higher education that enhance formation for more effective, diverse, and holistic ministries.

RESOURCES

We offer a range of continuing education and advanced study opportunities for both clergy and laity, including educational resources on iTunes U.

DIVERSITY

Through the Center for Hispanic Studies, the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, and the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University Irvine, Concordia Seminary is already on the way of increasing the diversity of our student population.

- seminaries have declined in recent years.
- We are responsible for our own funding.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis knows where it's going. Here are some highlights from the 36-page plan, quotations from the document, and my comments.

We will "assure that our curriculum will graduate well-prepared candidates for ministry to lead, serve, and develop healthy and flourishing congregations and ministries." It's not our intent to graduate students to preside over the death of congregations. Our declining denomination needs all the mission-minded pastors it can get!

We will "develop partnerships with area institutions of higher education that enhance forma-

tion for more effective, diverse, and holistic ministries." Students being formed for ministry will be able to take courses in education, business, counseling, urban work, and non-profit leadership at close-by universities like Fontbonne University, a short walk away on the border of the Seminary's campus. Students will even be able to pursue M.Ed., M.S.W., M.B.A., and other degrees while pursuing their M.Div. on our campus. These will be candidates well-qualified for 21st century ministry!

We will "offer a range of continuing education (non-degree and certificate) and advanced study (post-graduate degree) opportunities for both clergy and laity." In the past, the Seminary produced pastors, period. Today our world-class

continued on page 8 >

A diamond in the rough

Dr. Meyer did not tell us where we were going, only to follow him. We started out from campus and drove through the Central West End of St. Louis, a very trendy area. As we drove past a couple of enormous churches and cathedrals, I assumed we would be visiting one of those, to experience the history and beauty of another church body. Within a few seconds of that thought, long enough to drive no more than a half mile and take two turns, I knew we were in for something quite different. Gone was any sense of trendy: this was a part of town that most people would avoid at all costs.

We pulled in front of a very large church building, one that was noticeably historic. My thoughts changed again – “A diamond in the rough maybe?” Getting out of the car I could see that the diamond was very rough. So rough in fact, that it was hard to make out any resemblance of a diamond. We did not go into that large church building, the place I was expecting during most of the trip. Instead we were welcomed into a smaller building next door to the church by Pastor Schmidtke and led into their sanctuary, which I later learned used to be a bowling alley! I sat in awe listening to Pastor Schmidtke’s story and the wisdom he had to share with us. By worldly standards this community might not amount to much. God’s standards, though, are not worldly! He is concerned about the lost coming to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. Bethlehem Lutheran Church is just that—a beacon of light for the lost.

As we headed back to campus, I thought about how ironic it was that this rough-looking church in a rough area of town was named Bethlehem. I was reminded of another Bethlehem, that small, “rough around the edges” town in Judea where the Good News of God’s love for us was born, Jesus Christ—the truest diamond in the rough.

Matthew Hardaway,
second-year seminarian



Above: Thanks to new technological resources in the classroom, students are able to hear from theological experts “in person” via satellite from around the world.

Right: St. Louis is the 16th largest metropolitan area in the country, which lends itself to enhance students’ awareness of urban culture and ministry.

< continued from page 7

faculty is gung-ho to provide relevant, practical, and faithful theological resources to both laity and church workers who are on the front lines of our Lord’s mission. This effort is already underway. In one recent four-week period there were 8,100 downloads a day from our offerings on iTunes U. Go to www.csl.edu and check out the resources on iTunes U.

We will “recruit up to 25 Center for Hispanic Studies pastoral students by 2012.” The LCMS will continue to decline until we provide more pastors prepared for ethnic and metropolitan ministry. Through the Center for Hispanic Studies (which offers classes in Spanish in Texas, Florida, and California) the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, and the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University Irvine, Concordia Seminary is already on the way of this initiative.



Speaking of Concordia University, President Kieschnick of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod held a summit on the future of theological education last November. Summit participants encouraged the seminaries to draw closer to the schools of the Concordia University System. I'm pleased to say we're already moving in that direction. From the Strategic Plan: "Offer Doctor of Ministry and Continuing Education at Austin and Irvine... Identify constituencies that can be served and increased by offering Master of Divinity/Alternate Route/Master of Arts courses at regional centers... Develop a regional center plan." Our administrators know where we're at and where we're going!

We will "emphasize the benefits of Concordia Seminary's urban setting for residential pastoral formation." Located in America's 16th largest metropolitan area, all the good and all the challenges of urban life are within walking distance

or a short drive from campus. In September, for example, I took my preaching class to a city congregation that once worshiped a thousand people on Sundays, then went into the too-well-known decline, but now has a flourishing African-American congregation, operates a day care, is involved in rehabbing the neighborhood, and is working toward a charter school. My students heard how to preach to where people live.

There is so, so much more in the "Strategic Plan 2009-2011." Unlike my experience at the red light, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis is convinced God is giving us a green light to go forward with His help and hope for our terribly hurting world. We have the plan. With heart and soul, the faculty, staff, and regents are eager to serve you, the baptized in our congregations who want to realize your aspirations for the future mission of our Lord. Jesus, founder and perfecter of our faith, help us follow Your leading!

In class, out of class: Serving so everyone grows in Christ

If Dr. Jeffrey Kloha were asked about his vocation, he might say “servant.”

It’s a term he weaves into all his pursuits, whether as a New Testament scholar and seminary professor, or father and husband, or even as a bicycle racer.

“The starting point is the call of Jesus to be servants,” says the associate professor of exegetical theology. “If we are serving others, we all grow to the full stature of what we are called to in Jesus Christ,” he adds, noting that St. Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians describes it well.

“My role individually, no matter what situation, is to be used by God to help Him do His work through His people.”

With an interest in ancient manuscripts and the development of the New Testament, Kloha is keenly aware of how God uses His past and future servants. To



As part of St. Louis’ Ghisallo Racing team, Kloha competes in a March 2009 race in Forest Park.

“I see regular interaction between students and faculty and pastors working in both directions, and the goal is that we all become better servants.”

work with a manuscript, painstakingly copied by hand in the third century, is a tangible connection to those who confessed the faith centuries ago, he says.

“This connection is that God’s hand has been working through many centuries, and many people have worked to preserve God’s Word to make sure it’s brought down faithfully and taught faithfully.”

That idea also emphasizes his service as a scholar and teacher. “It’s kind of a frightening experience because you realize quickly that you are in some way influencing

many people through both writing and the classroom.” It is a great responsibility to be carried out carefully and faithfully, he adds.

Kloha’s expertise with languages and study of Scripture has been recognized by the Vetus Latina project, an international effort to reconstruct the Latin translation of the Scriptures prior to its revision in the Vulgate in the 4th century. He was invited to collaborate with scholars at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom to produce the critical edition of the text of Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, and Galatians. Begun in

1948, the project has completed the Old Testament and is nearing completion of the New Testament.

Christians began translating the New Testament from Greek into Latin during the late second and early third centuries, he explains. “It’s the first translation and gives us a

very good insight into how the New Testament developed. At a very fundamental level, it feeds into the reconstruction of the Greek text and, ultimately, our modern-day English translations.” The project involves careful review of 60 to 70 Latin manuscripts dated prior to the 10th century. The scholars also will analyze some 60,000 quotes from the writings of early church fathers in order to reconstruct the various strains of the text and produce a definitive history of the Latin text of the New Testament.

“It’s a tremendous responsibility and one you enter very carefully,” Kloha says. “It’s very detailed, painstaking, time-consuming work, but it is the Scriptures and we believe it is worthy of such careful attention.”

The Seminary has lightened Kloha’s workload to allow him to take on the project. “It speaks well of Concordia Seminary that they see the value of such work on behalf of the larger church,” he says. “President Dale Meyer has spoken very eloquently about our role in the church and it’s due to his efforts that I’m able to participate in this project.”

The project and his research also benefit students. Kloha says he cannot imagine teaching without doing research at the same time. He has read 1 Corinthians, the topic of his dissertation at the University of Leeds, “hundreds of times” in Greek and Latin, and he finds new emphases and new connections with every reading. That translates to the classroom.

Kloha leads discussion during his Pauline Epistles and Acts class in Dec. 2009.

"I'm constantly learning new things," he says. "The last thing I want to be doing is simply standing in front of students and reading the same notes again and again, year after year." Through the wider world of scholarship, he is aware of developing issues that will affect society and the church. Research enriches his teaching and helps to better prepare pastors, he adds. For example, when he began teaching Paul's epistles 10 years ago, Kloha says Christian interaction with other faiths was barely on the horizon. "We didn't have a large Muslim population where I served [as a pastor], but now it's a huge issue. It's a lengthy topic that Paul addresses in the eighth through tenth chapters of 1 Corinthians, so I've incorporated that into the course."

If he prepares students to deal with issues, it's also because pastors are dealing with those issues in the parish. Kloha appreciates opportunities to speak to pastors' conferences and gatherings of church workers and laity. "When I present something, I hear how actual pastors take it and apply it in their situations," he says. "I can come back to the classroom and help my students be better prepared." He continues: "As we help each other learn and grow, it just builds the church. I see regular interaction between students and faculty and pastors working in both directions, and the goal is that we all become better servants."

As a servant-teacher, he recognizes that students are not in the classroom for his benefit, but that he is there for the students. And in the classroom he emphasizes that one cannot treat the study of Scripture the same as one would learn how to program a computer.

"The whole purpose of the Word is to form us into Jesus Christ," Kloha observes. "I make the point that we don't study the Scriptures; it's the Scriptures that work on us. As we struggle to understand them through detailed analysis, we cannot forget that the whole purpose is for the Holy Spirit to work on us. If that doesn't happen in the classroom, then we're not using the Scriptures as they have been given to us."

At home, Kloha says his family considers service: "We find ourselves constantly needing to make decisions about what we do with our time and our energy and how to best serve each other and those around us."

He and his wife, Susan, have two daughters, ages 15 and 11. "I'm very proud of them. My job is to help them be the women that God wants them to be," he comments. Noting that Susan has her gifts and her vocation, he says that sometimes he can best serve her by washing the kitchen floor or doing other chores so she can give time to her vocation.

Kloha's approach to "servant" also spills over into his interest in cycling. He began a cycling club and competitive racing team on campus. Believing he has skills and experience to help people be better athletes, he also can help them become healthier and learn to work together in both winning and losing.

He also belongs to Ghisallo Racing, a local cycling racing team, and adds, "I have a role there as a teammate and as one of the team organizers to help all of us improve, work together better, and push ourselves to work harder. We become healthier, better athletes as we do that and, in a sense, better people."

Kloha started cycling for fitness about the time he joined the Seminary faculty in 1999. Four years ago, he began competing in local and regional races. Racing, he says, provides an outlet for his competitiveness. "With bike racing I can compete there and leave it on the course; it's just healthier in my other relationships."

Because most pastors' and professors' contacts tend to be within the church, Kloha observes that seminary life, or the life of a pastor, can be insulated. So, he finds that the cycling and racing community brings another set of healthy experiences. "I get to know people whose everyday worlds are different from mine," he remarks. "It is a healthy reminder that not everybody thinks the way I do, or approaches things in the same way, or faces the same situations. Plus, I get to be just 'Jeff' out there, another guy with a number pinned on his back working his hardest."

"I find it helpful to interact with people who are not part of your church. You can be yourself and get to know people and what they are dealing with," he continues. "How do you connect your sermons, teaching, and preaching to real people unless you get to know them?"





Hartung

Bruce Hartung, associate professor of practical theology and dean of ministerial formation, joined **Dale Meyer**, president and professor of practical theology, at the Wellspring Summit, Silver Spring, Md., on Oct. 6, 2009. Wellspring is "A Center for Leadership and Wellness," a mission partnership of the Southeastern District, the Center for Asian Missions and Evangelism, and the Lutheran Church of Saint Andrew.



Meyer



Kolb

Robert Kolb, emeritus professor of systematic theology, had one of his books translated into Chinese, published by China Lutheran Seminary, and it became available in Oct., a year after he was there as speaker for their 42nd anniversary. *Martin Luther: Pastor of God's People* already promises to be a bestseller. A representative from CLS commented, "As a theologian of deep understanding, Robert Kolb has been a wonderful blessing to many around the world! We pray that many more of his works will be published in Chinese."



Maxwell

David Maxwell, assistant professor of systematic theology, was the plenary speaker offering four sessions at the Oklahoma District Church Workers' Conference in Enid, Okla., Oct. 12-14, 2009. His topic was "The Growth of the Church: The First 300 Years," covering demographic, sociological, and theological reflection on the church's interaction with the surrounding culture in those centuries.



Raabe

Paul Raabe, professor and chairman of exegetical theology, wrote an article, "Transforming the International Status Quo: Ezekiel's Oracles Against the Nations," that appeared in *Transforming Visions: Transformations of Text, Tradition, and Theology in Ezekiel*, edited by William A. Tooman and Michael A. Lyons (Princeton Theological Monograph Series 127, 2009).



Robinson

Paul Robinson, associate professor and chairman of historical theology, had his most recent book, *Martin Luther: A Life Reformed* (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2009) published and is available on www.amazon.com.



Rosin

Robert Rosin, professor of historical theology and executive director of the Center for Reformation Research, was in Slovakia and Hungary in Oct. 2009. He spoke on "Anchor Points for Curriculum Building," as part of a conference at the Evangelical Faculty at Comenius University, Bratislava. He also spoke on "Luther's Theology and Worship" for a conference on "Divine Worship and the Lord's Supper," held at Liptovsky Jan (John the Evangelist), one of Lutheranism's Reformation-era strongholds in the Liptovsky region.



Sánchez

Leopoldo Sánchez, assistant professor of systematic theology and director of the Center for Hispanic Studies, contributed entries on "immigration," "salsa worship," and "presentation of children" for the two-volume encyclopedia on *Hispanic American Religious Cultures* published in Sept. by ABC-CLIO Press.



Manteufel

Leopoldo Sánchez and Thomas Manteufel, emeritus professor of systematic theology, attended the third annual Friendship and Dialogue Dinner of the Turkish-American Society of Missouri (TASOM) on Oct. 1, 2009. October 1 has been declared Turkish-American Friendship Day. TASOM hosts these events to promote friendship and understanding between Muslims, Jews, and Christians, in order to identify what we have in common and to honor and respect our differences. They are called Abrahamic dinners, to signify that all three religions claim roots in Abraham.



Marrs

Richard Marrs, associate professor of practical theology, made a presentation at the American Association of Christian Counselors (a protestant evangelical organization) World Conference in Sept. in Nashville, Tenn. The title of his sectional was "Making Christian Counseling More Christ-Centered: A Law-Gospel Strategy." More than 250 people were in attendance.



Voelz

James Voelz, professor of exegetical theology and dean of the faculty, led a LutherTours expedition to Turkey from Nov. 7-19, 2009, to the area of Paul's First Missionary Journey (central Turkey and Antakya). He was assisted by career LCMS missionary David Schneider of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Nine members of the exegetical department, **David Adams, Andrew Bartelt, Thomas Egger, Jeffrey Gibbs, Jeffrey Kloha, Reed Lessing, Timothy Saleska, Bruce Schuchard, and James Voelz** attended the national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in New Orleans, La., Nov. 20-22, 2009.

Seminaries receive largest endowment bequest from individual donor

Thelma Pietsch of Texas was a quiet woman. She loved serving her church, her family, and her community. She was very close to her parents, caring for them in their declining years. Her spirit of care extended to her own ranch as well, where she developed a purebred herd of

Angus cattle. Friends said that she never let one of her cattle suffer, and none ever died for lack of veterinary care or her own efforts.

A diligent and frugal worker, Thelma put aside a portion of her earnings each year with a mind to share those blessings with her church. During her life she funded many projects at her congregation, Saint Michael Lutheran Church in Winchester, Texas. She was faithful in attending wor-

ship, teaching Sunday school, and singing in the church choir. Also, she quietly and privately helped local college students by providing cash scholarships.

This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.”

In planning her estate, Thelma expressed concern about the educational costs incurred by future LCMS

pastors. Motivated by her love for Jesus Christ, and her concern that others might know Him, Thelma decided to leave the bulk of her earthly wealth to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. In the largest bequest ever made to both seminaries by a single individual, she funded a permanent \$1.24 million student aid endowment at each Seminary - ***The Andrew, Martha H. and Thelma O. Pietsch Student Aid Endowment*** - in



Thelma Pietsch

loving memory of her parents and to the glory of God. The two endowments are invested funds that will generate two or more tuition grants annually to support men preparing for ordained ministry in the LCMS.

“Every endowment offers great hope for generations of future pastors, missionaries, and chaplains,” said Concordia Seminary President, Dr. Dale A. Meyer. “When she developed her estate plan, Thelma granted permission for us to share her stewardship story in the hope that others might consider how they, too, can personally support our seminaries and our students. We give thanks to God for her.”

Thelma Olivia Pietsch was born on Dec. 10, 1918, in Warda, Texas. She entered her eternal glory on Feb. 16, 2006, at the age of 87. Her confirmation verse was Isaiah 48:17:

This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.”



Andrew and Martha Pietsch

Your congregation is essential!

Through the *How Will They Hear?* Campaign, your congregation can help provide future pastors, deaconesses, missionaries, and other church leaders so others may hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some congregations have already begun this important endeavor by:

- Including the Seminary in their annual budgets (Some have told us it is a way to recognize the importance of their pastors and to help provide pastors for other congregations);
- Arranging special worship services and offerings to remember the Seminary's mission;
- Incorporating the Seminary's financial needs in existing congregational campaigns (to help fund the Seminary

so others may hear the Good News of Jesus Christ);

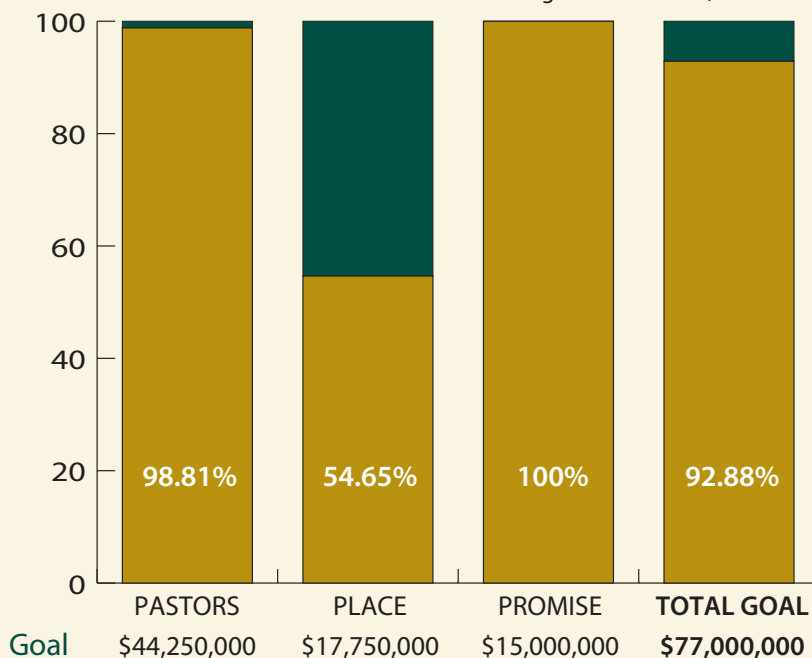
- Establishing and contributing to endowments (Some congregations and individuals have even made pledges of annual gifts or started endowments in honor of their pastors);
- Offering individual members of the congregation the opportunity to provide special support to the Seminary; (by providing information to their members through a special Sunday bulletin);
- Helping in other ways best suited to their congregations.

For additional information and to request materials, please call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287.



How Will They Hear? Campaign Update

Gifts and Commitments Received through November 30, 2009



Gifts to the "Place" component of Concordia Seminary's *How Will They Hear?* Campaign will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$3 million dollars, with a bonus \$1 million to be received upon successfully raising the \$3 million dollars. The funds will be donated by the Charles E. Benidt Foundation. They would provide much needed improvements to buildings, facilities, infrastructure, and for technological transformation of the historic campus. Gifts, large or small, will bring the Seminary a critically important step closer to meeting the challenge. For more information, call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have never heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Romans 10: 14-15



Statement on seminaries

The following statement was recently released by the individuals whose names follow the statement.

In recent months, speculation concerning the possible sale of one or both of the LCMS seminary campuses has taken place in public and private forums. This speculation has proven detrimental to the mission of our seminaries.



The seminaries of our Synod are very important and highly valued institutions that cannot be closed, consolidated, relocated, or sold without action by the Synod in convention. Such convention action would most certainly not occur unless preceded by broad consensus from Synod and seminary leaders, in-

cluding the Board for Pastoral Education, Board of Directors, seminary boards of regents, and Council of Presidents.

As responsible leaders, we wish to state clearly and publicly that such consensus is not under discussion and that there is no plan or proposal being considered in any of the groups with which we are associated to sell one or both of the LCMS seminary campuses.

As the majority of the participants at the recent Pastoral Ministry Summit concluded, the two LCMS seminaries should continue to serve as the hubs for theological education in the LCMS. We desire that the speculation referenced above would end and that all in our Synod would continue to support our seminaries in Fort Wayne and St. Louis with prayer, prospective student referrals, and monetary offerings.

Gerald Kieschnick

President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Donald Muchow

Chairman, Board of Directors, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

John Behrendt

Chairman, Board for Pastoral Education, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

James Ralls

Chairman, Board of Regents, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Wayne Graumann

Chairman, Board of Regents, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Larry Stoterau

Chairman, Council of Presidents, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Glen Thomas

Executive Director, Board for Pastoral Education

Dale Meyer

President, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Dean Wenthe

President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Bach at the Sem salutes KFUO radio

One day before the anniversary date of KFUO's first broadcast, The American Kantorei, under the direction of music director and conductor Dr. Robert Bergt, performed Christmas pieces by J. S. Bach and G. F. Handel. Included in the musical program was a tribute to KFUO on the occasion of its 85th anniversary.

In the early 1920s, a Lutheran radio station was the dream of Concordia Seminary professors Dr. Walter A. Maier and Dr. John H. C. Fritz. A group of individuals and organizations was successful in making that station a reality. The first official broadcast took place on December 14, 1924. KFUO remains, today, the world's oldest, continuously operated religious radio station. KFUO-FM was added in 1948 and remains one of the oldest FM stations in the U.S.

While KFUO's ministry was transferred to the LCMS by those who founded it, KFUO has been closely associated with

the Seminary throughout its existence. The KFUO studios have always been located on the campus of Concordia Seminary. Seminary boards of control in the early decades of KFUO were responsible for management. The Seminary community has participated in several programming efforts, including the broadcasts of the *Bach at the Sem* concerts. Dr. Dale Meyer and seminary professors are regular guest speakers on KFUO, and the stations routinely notify listeners of special events and offerings at the Seminary.

Dr. Bergt offered words of commendation to KFUO and KFUO-FM for programming that helps listeners "behold the Lamb of God," and for continuing a valuable

Lutheran tradition of sacred classical music. *Bach at the Sem* is an annual series, with six concerts scheduled during this academic year. Support for the concerts has been provided for years by Richard and Phyllis Duesenberg and Robert and Lori Duesenberg.



A full house enjoys the Bach at the Sem Christmas concert, complete with a tribute on the occasion of radio station KFUO's 85th birthday.

Newly released resources

"This may be the biggest single addition of helpful educational resources ever offered to the church at one time," said Concordia Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer. "I am delighted that the Seminary can now be an even more significant resource to congregations for their continuing education, Bible Study, confirmation instruction, and other educational activities."

In an historic partnership with Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne and the Concordia University Education Network (CUEnet), Concordia Seminary is releasing a collection of more than 1,100 videos which were originally part of the Distance Education Leading To Ordination (DELTO) courses. "It is our hope that these videos will open the door to thousands of people worldwide who desire to learn more about the Bible and Lutheranism," commented Rev. Tony Cook, director of distance curricula.

While Concordia Seminary has had an extensive catalog of online resources developed in recent years that have been offered through the iTunes U section of Apple's popular iTunes Store,



access to the existing resources and the new ones is now easier than ever. The Seminary's educational audio and video podcast resources are now available for direct download onto the iPhone and iPod touch. With Apple's release of their 3.0 software update for iPhone and iPod touch, iTunes U is directly accessible over both cellular and Wi-Fi networks through the iTunes Store.

"Offering resources to congregations, organizations, and individuals is an exciting activity for Concordia Seminary," said Cook. "With Apple's latest advance, we are able to bring educationally- and theologically-sound content to students, pastors, and laity of The Lutheran

Church—Missouri Synod and others via this new technology. A Seminary podcast can be downloaded directly onto your iPhone or iPod touch and presented to a group with a simple cable and a standard television. This advance in technology helps to fulfill our goal of offering relevant confessional resources directly to Lutherans and others throughout the world."

Since the release of Apple's software update, more than 200,000 downloads of Seminary content occur every month. "While this number far exceeds our original estimates," said Cook, "we anticipate a dramatic increase in downloads with the introduction of the new titles that we are now making available." The new videos can be found on Concordia Seminary's iTunes U site under the heading "Congregational Courses." For those who are interested in downloading Concordia Seminary content directly onto an iPhone or iPod touch, the instructions can be found at the following Apple support link: <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT3570>. For questions or help, contact the Seminary's educational technology unit at 314-505-7018.

"Look Toward the Heavens"

"Look Toward the Heavens: The Art of He Qi," an exhibit of sacred art by renowned Chinese artist He Qi, is on display at Concordia Seminary, in the gallery of the Concordia Historical Institute, through February 2010. The exhibit is made up of 43 artist proof giclée prints, most of which are 30" by 30." As part of the exhibit, He Qi visited the Concordia Seminary campus on Oct. 22-23. One of China's most internationally-celebrated contemporary artists, He Qi has been committed to the creation of modern Chinese sacred art since 1983. In his works, he has blended together Chinese folk customs and painting techniques with the western art of the Middle Ages and modernism, creating original color-on-paper paintings. His paintings have also been featured on the covers of the past four issues of *Concordia Journal*.



During his visit in October, He Qi explains his print "Praying at Gethsemane" to seminary students.

Summer/fall calls into the pastoral ministry

ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (EIIT) PROGRAM

- † **Matthew Both**, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Renton, Wash.
- † **Bafel Paul Deng**, Sudanese Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ga.
- † **Simon Dup**, Sudanese Mission, Mankato, Minn.
- † **Hiruy Gebremichael**, Call Pending
- † **Jean Claude Picard**, Trinity Lutheran Church, Orlando, Fla.
- † **David Sternbeck**, Makah Lutheran Church, Neah Bay, Wash.

DISTANCE EDUCATION LEADING TO ORDINATION (DELTO) PROGRAM

- † **Dwight Dickinson**, Great Commission Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.
- † **Eugene Krueger**, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa
- † **Jason Scheler**, South Walton Hope Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa, Fla.

CENTER FOR HISPANIC STUDIES (CHS) PROGRAM

- † **Vicente Sánchez**, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Mo.

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY CENTER (CCMC) PROGRAM

- † **Salvador Ferrero**, First Lutheran Church, El Cajon, Calif.
- † **John Whaley**, California-Nevada-Hawaii District, Livermore, Calif.

Summer/fall vicarage assignments

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE (M.DIV.) PROGRAM

- † **Chad Boggs**, Zion/Grace Lutheran Churches, Red Cloud/Franklin, Neb.
- † **Joshua Frazee**, Timothy Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa
- † **Billy Newell**, Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, Mo.
- † **Timothy Ritter**, St. John Lutheran Church, Arnold, Mo.

EIIT PROGRAM

- † **Benjamin Adetiba**, Hope Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wis. (Pending Final Approval)
- † **Zerhun Dejane**, Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- † **Lusenie Fofana**, Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn.
- † **Justin Jean Francois**, Assignment Pending
- † **Dietrick Gladden**, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Waterford, Mich.
- † **Afam Ikanih**, Mission of Christ Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wis. (Pending Final Approval)
- † **Khai Naolue Lee**, Peace Lutheran Church, Fresno, Calif. (Pending Final Approval)
- † **Anthony Pascua**, Makah Lutheran Church, Neah Bay, Wash.
- † **Soun See**, Grace Lutheran Church, Visalia, Calif.

- † **Jordan Simon**, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- † **Park Timber**, Circle of Life Lutheran Church, Lame Deer, Mont.
- † **Moua Vang**, Benediction Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wis.
- † **Catherine Benzler** (EIIT deaconess), Makah Lutheran Church, Neah Bay, Wash.

DEAF INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (DIT) PROGRAM

- † **Greg Desrosiers**, Trinity Deaf Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC, Canada (Pending Final Approval)
- † **Linda Desrosiers** (DIT deaconess), Trinity Deaf Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC, Canada (Pending Final Approval)
- † **Patricia Hycnar** (DIT deaconess), Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Delavan, Wis.

SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR (SMP) PROGRAM

- † **James Autry**, Trinity Lutheran Church, Odem, Texas
- † **Carl Frank**, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Aurora, Colo.
- † **Aaron Goeke**, Messiah Lutheran Church, Boerne, Texas
- † **Travis Hartjen**, Water's Edge Lutheran Church, Frisco, Texas

- † **Todd Kuehn**, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Sarasota, Fla.
- † **Brandon Larson**, St. John Lutheran Church, Bullhead City, Ariz.
- † **Sam Leiter**, Messiah Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
- † **Randall Lewis**, Community of Faith Lutheran Church, Little Rock, Ark.
- † **Tim Lindeman**, Peace Lutheran Church, Arvada, Colo.
- † **Rod Lindemann**, Timothy Lutheran Church, Blue Springs, Mo.
- † **Scott Lohman**, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Downers Grove, Ill.
- † **Alan Muck**, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, Mo.
- † **Marc Nauman**, Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity, Fla.
- † **Vincent Parks III**, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas
- † **Herman Reichold**, St. John Lutheran Church, North Prairie, Wis.
- † **James Richardson**, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Montgomery, Ala.
- † **Jonathan Schultz**, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Glenpool, Okla.
- † **Steven Shank**, Messiah Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
- † **Michael Staneck**, Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip, N.Y.
- † **Richard Van Briggie**, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Eastpointe, Mich.
- † **Ron York**, Ascension Lutheran Church, Tucson, Ariz.

A future pastor

AND HIS FAMILY

Kory Janneke
S. Illinois District

❧ **What has been your favorite class?** My favorite class was Biblical Hermeneutics. This focuses on how and why we interpret Scripture in certain ways both as individual readers and as the Church.

❧ **What's the best part about living in St. Louis?** Kory would say that the best thing is being so close to Cardinals baseball! As a family, we enjoy the convenience of where the Seminary is located. From our apartment on campus we can walk to get groceries or coffee or eat out. One of our favorite parts of living here is taking Kiernan on walks in the neighborhood of Clayton between the Seminary and Washington University. Forest Park is less than a mile from our apartment. The closeness of Forest Park means that seeing Broadway-quality theatre or visiting one of the most popular zoos in America are always an option for fun.

❧ **What has been your biggest challenge thus far, and how did you face it?** Probably the most challenging part of Seminary so far has been becoming first-time parents halfway through our first year. We are overjoyed at the new and beautiful life that God has created in our family in our daughter, Kiernan Christine. At the same time, it's easy for us to wish that we had had some experience at parenting prior to Seminary. We face parenting with prayer as we also do with our marriage and future.

❧ **What kinds of responsibilities do you have at your fieldwork church?** I am a field worker at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, Mo. As a first-year field worker, it's important to do a lot of careful observation of your congregation. So far I have assisted with leading worship and I have become part of a Bible study leader rotation for a fellowship group of people in their 20s. This year I guest-led a confirmation group and volunteered for a Holy Week children's fair. The pastoral staff is open to having seminarians sit in on meetings so that we can begin to understand how the parish operates and its outlook.

❧ **How has your marriage been affected by coming to the Seminary?** We got married in between our junior and senior years at Concordia University Wisconsin in 2007. Throughout our marriage we have reminded each other to keep our relationship with God first, our family life second, and school/jobs third. Family became an even bigger priority when we learned that we were expecting our daughter Kiernan. We knew that for us to grow as a married couple and to be responsible parents, we would have to work at maintaining these priorities. Seminary has definitely been a faith-building year for us; relationship roles can be challenging. Wives have to juggle work and family. Husbands have to juggle school and family. Families have to learn to work as teams if they want to have a successful transition to the Seminary. We've faced some uncertainties on our journey to the Seminary and while we have been here but God uses them to build us up and to help make us more empathetic to others who might be going through similar things. Above all, God is teaching us to trust in Christ in all things.

❧ **How do you maintain a balanced study/social/family/faith life?** As a family we try to have dinner together every day and we try to make time to take walks or watch a movie together. We try to maintain and pursue friendships, knowing that many of the people we get to know now will be lifelong friends. We like to get together with friends, especially on weekends. (You learn how to have inexpensive dates at the Seminary!) If we don't schedule study time, devotional time, and family time, something gets left out. We try to make an active point to schedule ahead because we know we'll be busy.

❧ **What kinds of jobs are available outside of the Seminary that you, your wife, or your friends hold?** Kory does some occasional lawn work for a couple in St. Louis but he mainly works in an office on campus. Heidi stays busy being a mom. Many of our friends are nurses, teachers, or stay-at-home parents. Our advice for future Seminary families is to be flexible about employment. Be willing to look outside your area of training or expertise during these years.

⌘ **How many hours per week do you spend studying outside of class? How do you fit work into your schedule?** My studying varies with how far along I am in the quarter and what we're doing as a family. My study time has become somewhat less structured with a baby. During academically lighter weeks I try to get caught up or prepare for upcoming assignments. This year I fit work in on campus between classes. One of the things that has really sunk in as a seminarian is that learning never ends. Seminary gives men and women a foundation and a framework for pastoral and diaconal ministry but one could spend a lifetime and then some exploring the depths of God's Word and growing to understand people.

⌘ **What type of congregation (big or small, urban or rural, etc.) do you see yourself serving in when you leave?** I imagine myself in a medium-sized congregation in a larger community. Although I never imagined myself in an urban setting, my recent class, The Holy Ministry in Urban Contexts, really broadened my thinking about where God might call us.

⌘ **Reflect on your most memorable or impactful experience at the Seminary.** My most impactful experience was The Holy Ministry in Urban Contexts, a course taught "on location" in New York City by Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor. I couldn't believe how formative those two weeks were for me and how much my knowledge expanded of the pastoral office and of the details of urban settings. It helped me to appreciate the variety of people and cultures out of which Christ builds His Church. I would recommend an immersion class or cross cultural module trip like this to every seminarian.

⌘ **In one sentence, what's the most important thing that you would want someone outside the Seminary to know about life here?** Life at the Seminary is an enriching, faith-building, Christ-centered, and challenging undertaking for Seminary students and their families.



Kory & Heidi Janneke (and baby Kiernan Christine)

JANUARY

								1	2				
	3		4		5		6		7		8		9
	10	Dr. Gibbs, conference speaker	11		12	Winter Lay Bible Institute	13		14	Dr. Marrs, Camp Wartburg Men's Retreat	15	Dr. Marrs, Camp Wartburg Men's Retreat	16
	17	Dr. Lessing, sermon workshop	18	Dr. Lessing, sermon workshop	19	Winter Lay Bible Institute	20		21		22	Schola Cantorum	23
	24	Dr. Meyer, preacher in Arizona	25		26	Dr. Kolb, conference speaker	27	Winter Lay Bible Institute	28		29	Making Abortion Unthinkable	30
	31	<i>Bach at the Sem Concert</i>											

FEBRUARY

		Multi Ethnic Symposium	1	Multi Ethnic Symposium	2	Winter Lay Bible Institute	3		4		5		6
	7		8		9		10		11	Seminary Guild Meeting	12	Reaching Out Together	13
Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	14		15		16		17		18	Dr. Gibbs, conference speaker	19	Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	20
Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	21	Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	22	Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	23	Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	24	Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	25	Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	26		27
Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	28												

MARCH

		Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	1		2		3		4		5		6
Dr. Meyer, preacher in Florida	7		8		9		10	Contemplate...	11	Contemplate...	12	Contemplate...; Prepare/Enrich Workshop	13
Seminary Chorus Spring Tour	14	EIIT World Religions Seminar	15	EIIT World Religions Seminar	16	EIIT World Religions Seminar	17	EIIT World Religions Seminar	18	Green and Gold Day; Seminary Guild Meeting	19		20
<i>Bach at the Sem Concert</i>	21		22		23		24		25		26		27
Dr. Voelz, preacher in Oregon	28		29		30		31						

APRIL

									1		2		3
Easter Brunch at the Sem	4		5		6		7		8		9	Dr. Kolb, Witness Workshop	10
	11	Dr. Gibbs, conference speaker	12	Dr. Gibbs, conference speaker	13	Dr. Biermann, convocation speaker	14	Dr. Lessing, conference speaker	15		16		17
	18	Interim Ministry Workshop (NALIP)	19	Interim Ministry Workshop (NALIP)	20	Interim Ministry Workshop (NALIP)	21	Interim Ministry Workshop (NALIP)	22	Interim Ministry Workshop (NALIP)	23	Dr. Burreson, Elders' Retreat	24
	25	Dr. Raabe, circuit speaker	26	Call Day	27	Dr. Raabe, circuit speaker	28		29		30		

MAY

													1
<i>Bach at the Sem Concert</i>	2		3		4	Day of Homiletical Reflection	5		6		7		8
	9	Dr. Lessing, conference speaker	10	Dr. Biermann, conference presenter	11	Dr. Biermann, conference presenter	12		13	Seminary Guild Meeting	14		15
	16		17		18		19		20	Commencement	21		22
	23	Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop	24	Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop	25	Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop	26	Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop	27	Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop	28		29
	30		31										

UPCOMING FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, "Toward a Theology of Worship that is Scriptural and Confessional," CTCR/COW Model Theological Conference on Worship, St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 11, 2010

Dr. Richard Marrs, keynote speaker and Bible Study leader, Camp Wartburg Men's Retreat "Be Strong and of Good Courage," Waterloo, Ill., Jan. 15-16

Dr. Reed Lessing, "Jonah: The Survivor Series," Texas District Pre-Lenten Sermon Workshop, Waco, Texas, Jan. 18-19

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, Ariz., Jan. 24

Dr. Reed Lessing, "Amos: Restore the Roar," Southern District Pre-Lenten Sermon Workshop, Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 24-25

Dr. Robert Kolb, two break-out sessions, Third International Crossings Conference, "God's Promise, Our Mission: Making the Crucial Link," St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 25-27

Dr. David Schmitt, facilitator, Preacher's Retreat for the Valparaiso Institute for Liturgical Studies, Mundelein Ill., Jan. 25-27

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Zion Lutheran Church, Ottawa, Ill., Feb. 14

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, "Jesus and the Reign of God: God's Grand Story and Our Part In It," "Conference on the Bible," College Station, Texas, Feb. 19-20. Preacher, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, College Station, Texas, Feb. 21

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, Grace Lutheran Church, Henderson, Nev., Feb. 21

Dr. Dale Meyer, preacher, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lakeland, Fla., March 7

Dr. James Voelz, preacher, 75th anniversary of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Gresham, Ore., March 28

Dr. Robert Kolb, Witness Workshop, Tacoma, Wash., April 10

Dr. Dale Meyer, guest speaker, MNN/MNS District, Plymouth, Minn., April 10

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, "Narrative Criticism as a Tool for Lutheran Exegesis," Pastoral Conference for Iowa District West, South Sioux City, Neb., April 12-13

Dr. Joel Biermann, "Two Kinds of Righteousness: Looking Up and Working Out, Equipping Saints for Authentic Living," Texas District Theological Convocation, Austin, Texas, April 12-14

Dr. Reed Lessing, "Amos: Restore the Roar," Northwest District Spring Pastors' Conference, Seattle, Wash., April 13-15

Dr. Kent Burreson, speaker, Elders' Retreat for Christ Lutheran Church (Platte Woods, Mo.), St. Paul's High School, Concordia, Mo., April 23-24

Dr. Paul Raabe, professor of exegetical theology, "Isaiah's Vision and Israel's Mission," Knoxville Circuit of the Mid-South District, Knoxville, Tenn., April 26-28

Dr. Reed Lessing, "Amos: Restore the Roar," Minnesota North and South Spring Pastors' Conference, Brainerd, Minn., May 10-12

Dr. Joel Biermann, presenter, Southeast Michigan District Pastoral Conference, Ann Arbor, Mich., May 11-12

Dr. Robert Kolb, speaker, symposium on Philip Melancthon, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, May 25-27

Concordia Seminary Chorus spring tour



Sunday	February 14, 3:00 p.m.	Salem Lutheran Church, Affton, Mo.
Saturday	February 20, 7:00 p.m.	Grace Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ind.
Sunday	February 21, 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, Ind.
Sunday	February 21, 5:00 p.m.	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamilton, Ohio
Monday	February 22, 7:00 p.m.	Ascension Lutheran Church, Atlanta, Ga.
Tuesday	February 23, 7:00 p.m.	Trinity Lutheran Church, Orlando, Fla.
Wednesday	February 24, 7:00 p.m.	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Boca Raton, Fla.
Thursday	February 25, 7:00 p.m.	Grace Lutheran Church, Naples, Fla.
Friday	February 26, 7:00 p.m.	Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota, Fla.
Sunday	February 28, 10:30 a.m.	Christ the King Lutheran, Enterprise, Ala.
Sunday	February 28, 7:00 p.m.	Grace Lutheran Church, Mobile, Ala.
Monday	March 1, 7:00 p.m.	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, La.
Sunday	March 14, 4:00 p.m.	St. John Lutheran Church, Red Bud, Ill.

Upcoming on-campus events

January 13, 20, 27, February 3	Winter Lay Bible Institute
January 22	Schola Cantorum Choral Readings
January 23	Schola Cantorum: Adult Choir Member Workshop
January 30	Making Abortion Unthinkable
January 31	Bach at the Sem Concert
February 1-2	Multi Ethnic Symposium
February 12	Seminary Guild Meeting/Pantry Shower
February 13	Reaching Out Together
March 11-13	Contemplate...
March 13	Prepare/Enrich Workshop
March 15-19	EIIT World Religions Seminar
March 19	Green and Gold Day
March 19	Seminary Guild Meeting/Election of Officers
March 21	Bach at the Sem Concert
April 4	Easter Brunch at the Sem
April 19-23	Interim Ministry Workshop (NALIP)
April 27	Call Day
May 2	Bach at the Sem Concert
May 5	Day of Homiletical Reflection
May 21	Commencement
May 24-28	Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop

For more details about each of these events, please view the corresponding news releases at www.csl.edu.

Alumni Council members honored for service

The Concordia Seminary Alumni Council said “goodbye” to four members at its October meeting.

Those retiring from the Council (their terms having concluded) were Rev. Dr. Robert Preece, chairman; Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor, council secretary; Rev. Joel Danner, and Rev. Scott Sailer. Alumni Relations Director Rev. Robert Hoehner expressed the Seminary’s deep gratitude for the faithful and dedicated service of each of these men at a special luncheon on campus on October 22. Each member received a John Pils print of Concordia Seminary as an expression of appreciation.

The Alumni Council is an advisory group that meets bi-yearly on the Seminary



Rev. Robert Hoehner presents Pils prints to Revs. Robert Preece, Scott Sailer, and Dien Taylor.

campus. Its members are appointed by the Seminary president and represent a wide range of graduation years as well as nine regions of the United States.

The Council serves as a link between the Seminary and its alumni, assists in planning alumni functions, and advises the president.

Watching over you wherever you go

The Hebrew word *shamar* is a fairly common verb that means to “watch over.” When Jacob fled from his brother Esau, he stopped for the night at Bethel. And as he slept under the stars, God came to him in a dream and promised: “I am with you and will (*shamar*) watch over you wherever you go” (Genesis 28:15). When the Israelites were on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land, God promised to send an angel to (*shamar*) watch over them (Exodus 23:20). In Psalm 91, God promises to send his holy angels to (*shamar*) watch over us (v. 11). In the eight short verses of Psalm 121 the Psalmist repeats the same Hebrew word six times.

The Lord has truly been watching over His mission at Concordia Seminary! He has given our administration, led by Dr. Meyer and the Board of Regents, wisdom in dealing with the significant financial challenges of these times. Their actions, along with their spiritual courage and confidence, have enabled Concordia Seminary to move forward with its mission.

The members of our faculty possess extraordinary academic and theological backgrounds, along with significant experience in pastoring congregations in the LCMS. Many are engaged within the church at large as speakers at various conventions and conferences held throughout our Synod. Others are active in our global mission, connecting with theologians, pastors, and seminary students in other places in the world. Our Seminary staff also includes gifted and extraordinary people with years of experience given in service to God’s kingdom. Our advancement department connects with more than 6,000 people who provide significant prayer and financial support to the Seminary. The same is true for the many other component departments that provide service and support to the ministry of Concordia Seminary.

The Lord continues to bless Concordia Seminary with dedicated and committed students. Those who enroll in the Master of Divinity program or the Deaconess Studies program come with some ex-

traordinary backgrounds: prior service in the church as Lutheran teachers or directors of Christian education; graduates of military academies with years of service in the military; post-graduate degrees (masters and doctorates) in a variety of fields; experience in congregational leadership, and mission/servant events. Our married students are blessed with dedicated and consecrated spouses who sacrifice a great deal so that this seminary education might be a reality. Our students eventually become our alumni, and they continue to be blessed and be blessings to the mission of our LCMS congregations, schools, and institutions.

Your prayers, gifts of time, and support are greatly appreciated. Please continue to remember the students, faculty, and staff of Concordia Seminary in your prayers, as well as their families. All glory be to Him.

A God as big as the city

"Hi Vicar...no...I mean Pastor." That's how just about everyone greeted me for my first six months at St. James Lutheran Church and School in Chicago, Ill. I had been their vicar only one year ago, and returned as their first associate pastor in many years. St. James was growing so quickly that the church was adding staff left and right: communications specialists, Web site gurus, hospitality coordinators, and of course, me.

Things changed so quickly, that even though I had lived and breathed the St. James community only nine months before, I had to get a feel for the church culture again, almost as if I had never been to the congregation. Change is the only constant in the city. It's the pulse beating beneath every street and building, pulsing through every neighborhood. Just 15 years ago, the area around St. James was known for gangs, violence, and poverty. Located in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, St. James was just north of one of the largest housing projects in the nation, Cabrini Green. After the city tore down Cabrini, the area quickly gentrified. Young, urban professionals replaced the poor, who were forced out by high rent and home prices.

This created many challenges. Now St. James serves a congregation that is young and—by most Americans' standards—wealthy. They have everything they could want: good careers, perfect families, the best education, and amazing homes, and it is difficult to convince people that they need Jesus, too. Part of working with this group is teaching them how to be good stewards. Each year we hold a clothing drive, sending box after box of gently used clothes to people in need. This year's drive is going to the Concordia Seminary Re-Sell It Shop in the hopes that the professional clothing we donate will help seminarians and their wives prepare for the working world.

At St. James, I am the director of discipleship, which means that I help to guide the discipleship programs of the



Rev. James Huenink baptizes a new member of God's family.

congregation. This means reexamining the confirmation and youth programs to update them to meet the needs of a changing community. We have started an early communion program that allows children as young as fourth grade to enter table fellowship, giving them the support of the Lord's Supper as they enter the confirmation years. We also started a developmental milestones program designed to teach parents how to teach the faith as their children grow older. We hope this will engage both parents and children in talking about their faith at home, not just in church, and strengthen the family unit as the primary place for faith education.

This is where I believe Concordia Seminary has served me best. The theological education I received gave me the tools to examine the Lutheran traditions in which I was raised, to see which ones were helpful for the people in the rapidly changing Lincoln Park neighborhood, and which ones could be modified. The speed of the city means speaking the unchanging message of Christ in ways that are both faithful and resonate with an ever-changing city. It means presenting a God who is big enough to reach beyond our German roots into the heart of a city where people of every race, ethnicity, and economic status abound.

AlumNews

1966

Rev. Laurence Meyer ('66) retired from the Northwest District Board of Directors in summer 2009 after serving 18 years as the district's Inland Empire regional vice-president.

1989



Rev. John Albers ('89) has been active over the past 14 years in Rebuilding Together, an organization that is dedicated to the preservation of affordable home

ownership by providing home repair and rehabilitation services at no cost for poor, elderly, or disabled homeowners. He now serves on the national board of Rebuilding Together, Inc.

1994



Rev. Christopher Schaar ('94) just celebrated his 15th anniversary as senior pastor of Historic First Lutheran Church in Pasadena, Calif. Schaar served as chairman

of the 2009 Pacific Southwest District Equipping Conference and Convention held in June 2009. He publishes a monthly newsletter called "Downtown."

2000



Rev. John Standley ('00) was elected to a three-year term as secretary of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District at the district's 68th convention held in Fremont,

Calif., May 17-19, 2009. Standley serves as pastor of Cordova Lutheran Church in Rancho Cordova, Calif.

2004



Rev. Jeffery Scheer ('04) was certified as an associate supervisor within the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) in Jan.

2009. He assumed the role of administrator for Clinical Pastoral Education for Lutheran Senior Services, St. Louis, Mo., on July 1, 2009.

AlumNews wants your news! Please send news of significant events, programs, achievements, etc. to: Emily Boedecker, 801 Seminary Pl., St. Louis, MO 63105; E-mail address: magazine@csl.edu; Fax: 314-505-7008. Include your name, graduation year, current location, and e-mail address.

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2010 ALUMNI REUNION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 8-10

Alumni, spouses, and widows are cordially invited to attend the annual Concordia Seminary Alumni Reunion, which will be held June 8-10, 2010, on the Seminary campus. The event is open to graduating classes from years ending in a "0" or "5."

Invitations to the 2010 Alumni Reunion will be sent in March, including a registration form and information concerning area accommodations. Registration forms will also be available for download from the Seminary's Web site at www.csl.edu. For more information, contact Alumni Relations at 314-505-7370 or alumni@csl.edu.

