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# Concordia Seminary magazine | Fall 2010

Paul Devantier

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# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

FALL 2010



Celebrating God's Blessings



# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

## FEATURES

- 5 **Seminary celebrates *How Will They Hear?* success**  
Concordia Seminary's *How Will They Hear?* Campaign wrapped on June 30, 2010, with a total of \$80 million in donations. "When you think of the more than 200,000 gifts and pledges received during the Campaign, it is a wonderful tribute to God's goodness," said Sheryl Ray, campaign director.
- 10 **Professor strives to be model learner**  
Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs smiles as he talks about 18 years of teaching exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary and notes that his teaching goals have moved from imparting information to being a "model learner."
- 15 **New deaconess students join Seminary community**  
Ashley, Sarah, Melissa, and Sylvia are four names that the campus of Concordia Seminary is about to hear a lot more often. These young women arrived in early September to become the newest cohort of deaconesses.
- 20 ***Bach at the Sem* announces 19th season**  
The American Kantorei, with Conductor Robert Bergt and Organist Dennis Bergin, began their season by performing the Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis from the *Mass in B Minor* by J. S. Bach on October 10.
- 23 **Congregation produces three pastors through Concordia Seminary**  
A large celebration at Peace Lutheran Church, Antigo, Wis., marked the entrance into ministry for sons of the congregation Michael Nielsen, Brian Krueger, and Dan Kohn. What makes this story unique is that each man followed a different route through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



**Cover Photograph**  
Some members of the  
2010 incoming class  
by Jayna Rollings

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 From the President       | 15 Student Spotlight  |
| 9 Support Your Sem         | 19 Events             |
| 10 Faculty and Staff Notes | 22 Alumni and Friends |
| 12 News Worth Noting       |                       |

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# *From the* PRESIDENT

## *Excerpts from Dr. Meyer's sermon for the Opening Service of the Academic Year*

Concordia Seminary is all about Jesus Christ. At every turn, the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ will be by you ... sometimes standing beside you to encourage and strengthen you; other times behind you, pushing you, prodding you, upsetting your conscience because you are not showing the fruits of repentance. Concordia Seminary is a place and community where the Spirit of God will work to bring you closer to Jesus Christ.

*continued on page 4 >*



< continued from page 3



## Faithfulness



## Servanthood



## Responsiveness



## Excellence

From 1530 to 1534, Michelangelo worked on four blocks of rough stone, chipping away to bring out the figures he had in mind. He never finished those statues. Today we have those unfinished pieces, four different bodies struggling to come forth to full expression of their true destiny. So it is with us. Even at our best, at theological study and preparation for 21st century ministry, we cannot free ourselves. The Spirit of Jesus Christ must draw us out from ourselves. He must sculpt us into His image.

As He sculpts us, you'll be awed by His limitless love. He loves the poor, the sick, the religiously oppressed, the urban dweller, and so many more. When you drive into some of the neighborhoods of St. Louis, you'll be tempted to think, "There but for the grace of God go I." Please don't. Instead, let His sculpting grace you for **responsiveness** to the least and the lost of our society. As Jesus Christ sculpts you, you'll learn **servanthood**. The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45) Your Sculptor wants to knock the chips off your old block to fashion servants after His being, the Suffering Servant. As Jesus Christ sculpts you, His Spirit will fill you with **faithfulness**. Oswald Chambers has pointed out that you'll surely be disappointed if you put your hopes and aspirations in any human being. Dear as they may be, they are sinners and as sinners, destined to fail you. Only Jesus Christ is worthy of your greatest devotion and His Spirit will sculpt in you faithfulness to your Savior. And finally, you'll yearn for His **excellence** in every single soul you encounter.

Lord, show us the more excellent way of love. Lord, teach us to know the wisdom from above and distinguish it from passing human wisdom. Lord, instill in us a work ethic because souls are at stake. Lord, teach us what it means to bear up under the crosses of life and ministry and do so with confidence in your resurrection and presence. We would follow you with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our minds and then love others as ourselves.

Here you will not be alone. Faculty and staff are with you. Families and friends support and pray for you. Today we especially praise God for the successful completion of our Campaign, *How Will They Hear?* Generous donors have given more than money for this successful funding campaign; they have invested with us their aspirations for a mission future for the church. **Faithfulness, Servanthood, Responsiveness, and Excellence:** the core values of Concordia Seminary. At the deepest level these core values are not as much about studying theology for ministry as they are reflections of who God is sculpting us to be, out of ourselves and more and more Christ in us, the hope of glory. Welcome to Concordia Seminary!

*Dale A. Meyer*  
Dale A. Meyer

# Seminary celebrates *How Will They Hear?* success

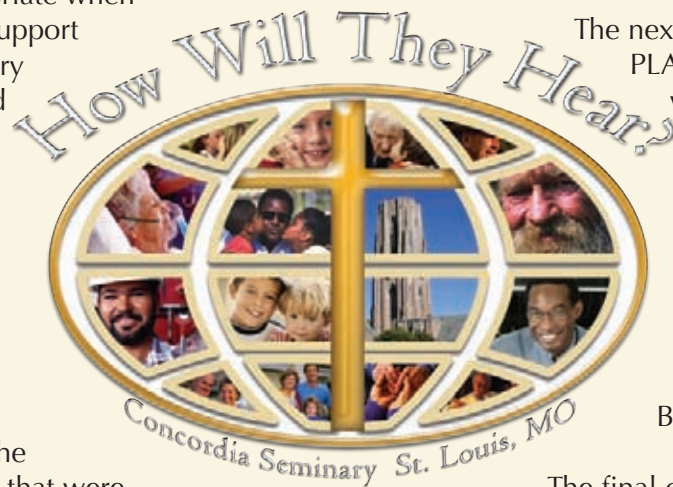
"Amazing...a major accomplishment...a great tribute to God's goodness." These are comments that have been made about Concordia Seminary's *How Will They Hear?* Campaign. "But," according to Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier, senior vice president for advancement, "they are even more appropriate when used to refer to those who support the Seminary, to the Seminary board, faculty, and staff, and to those who graduate from this place to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in so many settings."

"Amazing" is the loyalty and generosity of donors. And it is "amazing" that a campaign of this scope could finish so well, given the recent economic difficulties that were not anticipated when the goal of \$77 million was established in 2005. "When you think of the more than 200,000 gifts and pledges received during the Campaign and the \$80 million total," said Sheryl Ray, who served as campaign director, "it is a wonderful tribute to God's goodness."

The Campaign was the first conducted by the Seminary since the capital campaign to fund the construction of the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of the Seminary in the late 1980s. *How Will They Hear?* was the first campaign of its type in the 171-year history of the Seminary. As a *comprehensive* campaign, it included all facets of the Seminary's mission.

Three major categories of gifts and pledges were included in the Campaign. The PASTORS component

provided support for student aid and the ongoing operation of the Seminary. The goal established for this component in 2005 was the largest single component — \$44.25 million. The final total was \$49.5 million, exceeding the goal by some \$5 million.



The next largest component was called PLACE. Gifts and pledges to PLACE were designated for capital improvements to the St. Louis campus. While this area of giving did not meet its goal of \$17.75 million, the total was more than \$11 million. The special blessing of a \$4 million grant to PLACE was received from the Charles E. Benidt Foundation.

The final component was called PROMISE, with gifts and pledges designated for endowments. The established goal of \$15 million was exceeded by nearly 30 percent with a total of some \$19.4 million.

The Concordia Seminary community is grateful to all those who participated in the Campaign. Individual donors were generous. Congregations assisted the mission of the Seminary through a variety of Campaign activities and support. More than 50 percent of Seminary alumni, 100 percent of current Seminary faculty, and the strong majority of all Seminary staff joined in the Campaign effort with support. "Our donors have been so supportive," commented Sheryl Ray. "And I can't thank our alumni enough — especially members of the Alumni Council and those who served as district Campaign directors."

*continued on page 6 >*

## *How Will They Hear?* Campaign Timeline

Highlights from the *How Will They Hear?* Campaign, which officially began on July 1, 2005, and ended on June 30, 2010.



*How Will They Hear?* Campaign feasibility study



Board of Regents approves *How Will They Hear?* Campaign



< continued from page 5

Leading the Campaign was the National Steering Committee, comprised of individuals from around the country who worked with Seminary staff, volunteered time and effort, and provided support in a variety of ways. "Reaching the goal seemed to be an uphill challenge, but this was God's project, not ours," said Dan and Sandra Clark, who live in Colorado and served as co-chairpersons of the committee. "We can't rest now that the Campaign is over," they added. "We encourage our fellow Christians to support the work of the Seminary as a regular part of their giving to our loving Lord."



Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier addresses those assembled for the Campaign Celebration Luncheon on Sept. 3.

Beatrice Benidt, president of the Benidt Foundation that was so helpful to the Campaign, commended the

Seminary and all those who support it. "As the Benidt Foundation Board heard the Seminary presentation, we could actually hear 'opportunity knocking!' We had no choice but to open that door. Little did we know — that was the easy part! What came after was a real CHALLENGE. We could give, but would the members of the Lutheran community respond? They did — prayerfully, wholeheartedly, and cheerfully!

## PASTORS

Prepare more pastors of the highest caliber to serve people, their families, and their communities as God's people in the world; meet the needs of a demographically changing student body; equip future pastors with specialized multi-cultural and contextual-specific ministry skills; and update and enhance the skills of current pastors to help them build meaningful relationships with people who are diverse both culturally and ideologically.

Campaign goal for PASTORS . . . . . \$44,250,000  
**Actual total for PASTORS . . . . . \$49,459,379**

## PLACE

Reposition and renovate the campus for the future via high priority upgrades to buildings, technology, and infrastructure to support a variety of programs both in St. Louis and around the world. A prioritized list of projects will lay the groundwork for a Campus Master Plan. Campus improvements included renovations to Wartburg dining hall, transforming Loeber into an office suite, and underground water system improvements.

Campaign goal for PLACE . . . . . \$17,750,000  
**Actual total for PLACE . . . . . \$11,166,813**



HWTH Campaign begins with "Advanced Gift Phase" (seeking gifts of \$30,000 or more from major donors)



Lead gift received for Seminary expansion (purchase of CBC)



The first installment of what would become the largest single endowed bequest from an individual donor is received (Pietsch Endowment)



Endowed chair received for Center for Hispanic Studies

2006

2007

“Expectations were exceeded, and we all are blessed for it. Thanks be to God, to the Seminary, and to its supporters.”

Pastor Daniel Tews, a 2010 graduate of the Seminary who is now serving as pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, S.D., commented on the benefits of the Campaign. “Without the generous support of Seminary donors, I could not have afforded my seminary education. What a blessing it is to have the many who supported the Campaign. They helped make it possible for me to attend the Seminary. I know my fellow graduates would join me in saying, ‘We love our Seminary donors.’”

“I am convinced more than ever that the mission of Concordia Seminary is one our God wants to succeed,” said Seminary President, Dr. Dale A. Meyer. “His hand can be so clearly seen in the Campaign and in so many ways as He accomplishes His purposes through people involved in working for, learning at, and supporting the Seminary.”

## PROMISE

Build the Seminary’s endowment into a significant, predictable and stable source of income — an endowment less subject to fluctuations in the economy, enrollment trends and/or direct giving patterns. This endowment will sustain the formation of today’s and tomorrow’s pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, and church leaders. Endowments will fund such things as student financial aid, specific faculty functions, graduate fellowships, and innovative resources.

Campaign goal for PROMISE . . . . . \$15,000,000  
**Actual total for PROMISE. . . . . \$19,348,421**

## NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Dan and Sandra Clark (chairs), Aurora, Colo.
- Dr. Richard Alms, Ellicott City, Md.
- Rev. Mark Dankis, Round Rock, Texas
- Richard and Phyllis Duesenberg, St. Louis, Mo.
- Jim and Judy Hurst, Auburn, Ill.
- Kelly and Cheryl Keithly, Yuma, Ariz.
- Robert and Ruth Ann Rauscher, Hobson, Mt.
- Theodore and Marie Salgado, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Eugene and Mary Sukup, Hampton, Iowa
- Cheryl Taylor, Seattle, Wash.



*The Clarks*

## ASSISTING STAFF

- Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president
- Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier, senior vice president
- Tom Rehkop, executive director
- Sheryl Ray, campaign director
- Richard Engdahl, campaign consultant
- Mark Hofman, director of special projects

## ALUMNI PHASE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Dr. Richard Alms, Ellicott City, Md.



*Alms*

## CAMPUS COMMUNITY PHASE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Chad Cattoor (co-chair), Florissant, Mo.
- Dr. Timothy Saleska (co-chair), St. Louis, Mo.



*Cattoor*



*Saleska*



Revision of PLACE emphasis begins with sale of CBC



National Steering Committee (NSC) formed



Campus Community Phase begins; 100% of faculty and 84% of staff participated



Alumni Steering Committee forms; some 55% of alumni participated



Awarded \$3,000,000 PLACE Challenge Grant from Charles E. Benidt Foundation



Public launch of HWTH Campaign begins with kickoff gala following Opening Worship Service



# Concordia Seminary receives CASE award

Concordia Seminary has been selected to receive a top award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). It recognizes the exemplary support of donors and friends of the Seminary, including major donors, board members, alumni, faculty, staff, congregations, organizations, and other individuals and entities around the world who contribute to the mission of the Seminary.

CASE is a widely recognized and respected entity that provides development information to both public and private educational institutions. It annually grants awards to those institutions that have had notable accomplishments. The awards are granted independently by CASE based upon a review of financial and other information that CASE can access (including number of supporters, levels of support,

numbers of gifts, extent of board, faculty, staff, and alumni involvement, breadth of advancement program, etc.). Institutions do not submit applications for the awards. Concordia Seminary was selected to receive a top honor from CASE for "Overall Performance" in 2009. Based upon its information, CASE chose 253 colleges, universities and seminaries to consider for the 2009 awards. From these 253, CASE chose only 20 to receive the top overall performance awards. Concordia Seminary was one of the 20, and the only seminary.

Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer said, "We have a dedicated and talented staff and the award is a tribute to their efforts as well. We thank God for them and for all those who further the cause of the Seminary with their gifts. CASE has simply given us another indication of God's great goodness to the Seminary."



*Some of the members of the advancement division celebrate the CASE award: (seated, from left) Tom Rehkop, President Dale A. Meyer, Sheryl Ray, Paul Devantier; back row, Robert Hoehner, Mark Hofman, Valerie Sommer, and Blake Wolf.*



Campaign activities held in various regional areas of U.S.



Congregation Phase begins and continues until Campaign's completion



Concordia Seminary receives top award from CASE for "Overall Performance"



HWTH Campaign concludes, raising upwards of \$80,000,000

# Adopt-A-Student welcomes new seminarians and international students

Would you like to support the preparation of a future pastor while enjoying the blessing of receiving personal communications from him? Through the Adopt-A-Student (AAS) program, Concordia Seminary will select a seminarian for you to sponsor as you stand together in prayer and encouragement sharing his progress, challenges, and joys.



**Omolo**



**Thompson**

The first international graduate school students to be available for adoption in the Adopt-A-Student program are Rev. Sam Thompson from India and Rev. Joseph Tom Omolo from Kenya. Rev. Thompson, upon completion of his studies, will return to our LCMS partner church, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC), and train future pastors and church leaders there. Rev. Omolo, when his studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, are concluded, will teach and equip more pastors at the only seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, our LCMS partner church. In this way, their preparations in St. Louis will bless many future pastors and church leaders in their respective countries.

In faith, 62 new residential M.Div. seminarians have come to Concordia Seminary this summer and fall to begin their preparations for the Holy Ministry. They join the other residential M.Div. and deaconess students, along with the distance education students, for a total of nearly 600 students at Concordia Seminary. Now, you can encourage them with your prayers and make their preparation financially possible.

Standing together, students and sponsors overcome the single greatest obstacle

to coming to the Seminary — affording it! By overcoming this challenge you are making an eternal difference as the students you prepare now will proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ today and for decades to come.

Adopt-A-Student gifts are used to prepare future pastors and missionaries, or you may also designate your gift for the preparation of deaconess, international, Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS), or Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) students.

For more information on Concordia Seminary's Adopt-A-Student program, call seminary advancement toll free at 1-800-822-5287 or e-mail us at [adoptastudent@csel.edu](mailto:adoptastudent@csel.edu).

## Meet an Adopt-A-Student sponsor

In the previous issue of *Concordia Seminary* magazine, the article about Adopt-A-Student sponsors Jerry and Ginny Stone prompted this unsolicited response from a fellow sponsor, Gin Kuske. (To read the Stones' article, go to the publication archives at [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).)

*"I just received the spring/summer copy of Concordia Seminary magazine. I read the article on the couple [the Stones] who had adopted a student and are now enjoying having him as their pastor. I have had two students graduate and have one more returning to St. Louis for his final year. I must agree with the Stones on the joy, blessings, and appreciation of having one of these adoptees.*

*"Each student has been special. My first student was from Owatonna, Minn., which is 23 miles from me, so I was able to see him often on vacations, meet his*

*parents, and attend his ordination. Another was from Norfolk, Neb.*

*My granddaughter takes horse riding lessons from his mom, so I get updated on what he is doing, which recently included becoming a father for the second time. I was also able to attend his ordination.*

*"My current adopted student and his wife are both from the Twin City area and I'm hoping to meet them soon. It has been such*

*fun writing, sharing photos, celebrating birthdays and Christmas, and reading*

*his letters on what has happened at his church. I feel that I have gained equally by having these students become a part of my 'family.' I can't imagine these past years without my 'boys.'*

*"May God continue to bless the Adopt-A-Student program and families who are involved in it. I pray for many more years of participation."*

*In His Name,  
Virginia "Gin" Kuske*



**Virginia Kuske and "Buttons"**  
Photo courtesy Akorn Creations





*Jeff and Renee Gibbs hiked to Cracker Lake in Glacier National Park in summer 2010.*



# Professor strives to be model learner

"I'm an old guy here."

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs smiles as he talks about 18 years of teaching exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary and notes that his teaching goals have moved from imparting information (although that's important) to being a model learner.



**Dr. Gibbs greets President Meyer at Commencement in May 2010.**

"I want the students to be better thinkers and better readers," says the professor, who has taught courses from beginning Greek to the Ph.D. level. "If I can model how to read the Bible in a careful, self-aware, disciplined way, that skill is one of the most important for a pastor or for any Christian."

He observes that students are asking different questions than 18 years ago. He sees a desire to talk about fundamental things, illustrated by their interest in examining aspects of American culture such as consumerism, materialism, or the American dream. They pose questions like, "Is it our patriotic duty to spend money and buy stuff?"

Gibbs suggests that God calls His people to a different kind of life and different ways of thinking in Christ. He adds, "The Christian message never changes. But our life in this present time invites us to re-appropriate the fundamental story of God and the world and how He has acted to reclaim it through Jesus and about the day when He will completely reclaim it.

"As faculty, we can also re-examine things that we may have overlooked because we've grown up in a particular time and place in our culture," he continues. "And, yes, that's good."

As a scholar, Gibbs always finds something new to learn in the Scriptures. "I'm 58," he comments. "My fears, my joys, my whatevers, are noticeably different than when I was 40 and started teaching here." Life experiences change people and add new perspectives, but Gibbs recalls Hebrews 13: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

For 14 years he was advisor to first-year students, a role he turned over to a younger colleague this fall. Through those years, Gibbs emphasized that the first year is academically

intensive, and for men who have made sacrifices to attend the Seminary, it can test how they see their own spiritual life.

The contact with the first-year class is one reason Gibbs likes to teach elementary Greek. "Many students have never studied a language," he comments. "It's a high pressure, intensive course, so I actually enjoy the role where you are a teacher and guide and encourager."

The process of learning and pastoral formation in the Seminary involves helping students to think, talk, and ask questions in a "Lutheran way," Gibbs says, and he has come to believe deeply in Concordia Seminary. "I have immensely gifted colleagues, we have wonderfully motivated students, and I think

God can continue to use what we do here for the blessing not only of the Missouri Synod but of the world.

"If you go back to the 16th century, for us to be church is to confess the same doctrine, the same truth, and that common confession has to be formed," he comments. "That's how Lutherans do church: we do it by what we say together with our mouths about Christ, about the Father, the Spirit, and about the world. That doesn't come naturally, especially in a diverse world where everybody does his own thing.

"If pastors are transformed by that confession, they can share it with their people, and the people can be transformed as well."

Away from the classroom, Gibbs says the most important thing is "I'm a husband," as he talks about Renee, his Walther League sweetheart and wife of 37 years. They have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

**"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."** Hebrews 13

"Whether it was pastoral ministry when I was a parish pastor or a graduate student or teaching here, she actually likes what I do and believes in it," he says. "That is a gift with a value beyond telling.

"We made this commitment to stay healthy for each other. So we exercise and run and do those kinds of things. We've taken up marathons in our 50s. The goal is to finish vertical, as opposed to being carried across the finish line."

Renee, a retired educator, now invests herself in the Seminary community, especially encouraging students' wives and actively leading pro-life groups. Gibbs serves as faculty sponsor for the campus pro-life group.





## Installation of LCMS President Matthew Harrison



*On Sept. 11, more than 1,100 worshippers attended the installation service of President Matthew Harrison and other elected and appointed Synod officials at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*



*Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly, Missouri District President (left), conducted the rite of installation for the newly elected praesidium of the Synod. Here, Dr. Kent Bureson, dean of Concordia Seminary's chapel, places a pectoral cross on newly-installed president of the Synod, Rev. Matthew Harrison.*

# Calls into the pastoral ministry

## WINTER 2010 MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.) CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

- † **Eric Andersen**, Faith, Johnstown, Colo.
- † **Paul Elliott**, St. John, Aurora, Ind.
- † **Joshua Heimbuck**, St. John's and Trinity, Villard and Grove Lake, Minn.
- † **Willis McCall**, Resurrection, Fredericksburg, Texas
- † **Mark McCrory**, First, Chattanooga, Tenn.

## FALL 2010 SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR PROGRAM (SMP) VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS

- † **Bret Bierman**, Trinity, Mansfield, S.D.
- † **Christopher Bruskwicz**, St. John's, West Bend, Wis.
- † **Jay De Beir**, LCEF, St. Louis, Mo.
- † **Daniel Fenco**, Somerset Hills, Basking Ridge, N.J.
- † **David Forke**, Peace, Eau Claire, Wis.
- † **Scott Gary**, Grace, Escondido, Calif.
- † **Kevin Guynn**, Faith, Mentor, Ohio
- † **Jeffrey Hesse**, St. John's, West Bend, Wis.

- † **Bradford Hildebrandt**, Somerset Hills, Basking Ridge, N.J.
- † **Leon Jameson**, Immanuel, St. Charles, Mo.
- † **John Karay**, Good Shepherd by the Lake, Stoughton, Wis.
- † **David Kellerman**, St. John's, West Bend, Wis.
- † **Keith Kinslow**, Chatham Fields, Chicago, Ill.
- † **Kyle Kirk**, Trinity, Tyler, Texas
- † **Jeffrey Klade**, St. John's, Okarche, Okla.
- † **James Moore**, Grace, Holiday Island, Ark.
- † **Britt Nelson**, St. John's Rural, Aberdeen, S.D.
- † **Michael Nesbit**, Zion, McHenry, Ill.
- † **Benjamin Scheck**, Crown of Life, Colleyville, Texas
- † **Timothy Stein**, Peace, Eau Claire, Wis.
- † **William Stevenson**, Trinity, Dyersburg, Tenn.
- † **Jason Toman**, St. Michael, Portage, Mich.
- † **Douglas Widger**, St. Paul, Fort Worth, Texas
- † **Theodore Wurster**, Zion, Clark, N.J.

# Student wins sermon contest

Andrew Sorenson, a distance education student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, recently won the 2009 Lowndes Sermon Competition, sponsored by the Lord's Day Alliance. Sorenson's sermon, "Dens of Iniquity: Sabbath and a Society of Greed," won first place. It can be read on Concordia Seminary's website, [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).

The competition's requirements were as follows: "In challenging economic times like the world faces in our day, the Lord's Day Alliance seeks to uncover scriptural truths regarding how the Tenth Commandment, combined with Jesus' teaching about money, can provide guidance for Christians in daily living. Using both texts from the Old Testament (Exodus 20:17) and the New Testament (Matthew 6:19-24), sermons presented

should consider the topic: Sunday/Sabbath and a Society of Greed or Abundance and Jesus' Teaching about Money."

Sorenson is part of the DTEP (Distance Theological Education Program) Cohort, a transition group who will be ordained according to modified DELTO rules after four years of classes. The DTEP cohort's coursework has helped to form the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP) courses. Sorenson is an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard who will retire in time to become the pastor of a congregation.

For more information on distance education programs through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, call 314-505-7764 or visit [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).

# New classes welcomed at opening service

On Friday, Sept. 3, at 10:00 a.m., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, began its 172nd academic year with a special worship service in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, served as preacher. The incoming class is comprised of nearly 130 students, including all those newly enrolled in residential and distance programs: 62 residential M.Div. students; seven certificate students; four deaconess students; nine EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology) students; 24 SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor Program) students; eight CHS (Center for Hispanic Studies) students; and 20 graduate students, for a total of nearly 600 students enrolled at Concordia Seminary.

In addition, three staff members were installed: Arthur "Andy" Bacon as



**Michael Redeker, Richard Jostes, and Andy Bacon were installed on Sept. 3 by President Dale A. Meyer (second from right).**

provost; Richard Jostes as gift officer; and Michael Redeker as senior vice president for enrollment management.

Bacon previously served as professor of practical theology and director of curriculum assessment at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He retired from the Seminary in 2009. He acted as vice president for academic affairs in 2010. Bacon also served as chaplain for the

U.S. Army Reserve from 1975-2007. He and his wife, Susan, have three children.

Jostes previously worked as director of development for Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Neb. (1997-2010). He has taught and counseled in Lutheran schools throughout the Midwest. Jostes has worked for both Concordia University Nebraska and Concordia University Chicago. He and his wife, Laura, have three children.

Redeker most recently served as pastor to St. John's Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ky. He previously served as admissions counselor and director of admissions and ministerial recruitment at Concordia Seminary from 1998-2004. Redeker has served in many capacities for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, serving on several synodical committees in his career. Redeker is working toward his S.T.M. degree. He and his wife, Mary, have seven children.



**For the first time in many years, the Seminary's opening service took place on Friday instead of Sunday, in order to accommodate distance education students who were on campus the week prior for orientation.**



## New division to draw and retain students, maintain alumni relationships

Throughout summer 2010, Concordia Seminary began the process of reevaluating its divisional setup. From this process, the division of enrollment management was born. It combines all aspects of the Seminary's relationship with students, from identification of prospective students within and without the Concordia University System, to their acceptance, matriculation, time in formation programs, including student records, retention, and continuing intentional relations when they become alumni.

"I'm absolutely humbled and thrilled that God would choose to use me in this way," commented Rev. Michael Redeker, senior vice president for enrollment management. "Christ's words still ring true today: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"

(Matt. 9:37–38) Jesus is the Lord over His Church, and unless He changes His mind we are still to pray for and encourage boys and girls, men and women to consider serving the Lord in full-time ministry. The Lord still needs more pastors, chaplains, missionaries, deaconesses, Lutheran school teachers, and other full-time church workers. The lost still need to be reached with the Gospel. The hurting still need to hear God's love for them in Christ Jesus. This is what excites me about this opportunity to serve the Lord in this capacity of enrollment management."

Enrollment management can take various forms, but by establishing this division Concordia Seminary is giving the highest institutional priority to improving



**Redeker**

our enrollment marketing. The enrollment management division now encompasses the departments of student life, alumni relations, admissions and ministerial recruitment, and registrar.

Rev. Michael Redeker was called in July 2010 as senior vice president for enrollment management. Most recently, Redeker served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ky. (2004-2010). He previously worked at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as admissions counselor and director of admissions from 1998-2004. He received the B.B.A. degree in marketing from UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wis. (1985); the M.Div. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (1995); and is currently working on the S.T.M. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.



*Front row, from left: Robert Hoehner, Wally Becker, Carla Hagan, Sarah Kassel; second row, Beth Menneke, Kerry Hallahan, Laura Moehlman; third row, Michael Redeker, Paul Philp, Cathy Whitcomb, Diane Parker, Lisa Sylvester. Missing from photo: Kyle Castens.*



# *New deaconess students join Seminary community*



**Melissa LeFevre**  
Missouri District

**Sylvia White**  
Texas District

**Dr. Erik Herrmann**  
Faculty Director of  
Deaconess Studies

**Ashley Effken**  
Nebraska District

**Sarah Elliott**  
Central Ill. District

Ashley, Sarah, Melissa, and Sylvia are four names that the campus of Concordia Seminary is about to hear a lot more often. These young women arrived on campus in early September to become the newest cohort of deaconesses in the Seminary's growing program. After two years of academic coursework, including six quarters of field education and a one year internship, these women will be fully equipped to serve as deaconesses in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Ashley Effken hails from Friend, Neb. After graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2007

with her bachelor's of science degree in insect science, Ashley served with LCMS World Mission in the Czech Republic. Instead of returning to her field of study for a career, she realized she had another calling. "I got a taste of service to the church, and I really enjoyed it. I decided that I wanted to spend my life caring for people in their spiritual and physical needs rather than sitting behind a microscope," she said. She hopes to return to the mission field after she receives her degree in diaconal ministry.

You could say that Sarah Elliott, from Champaign, Ill., has Christian service in her blood, as her father and her



two brothers (CSL grads Paul, '09, and Peter, '10) are all pastors. "I was baptized into Christ as an infant and since then God has greatly blessed me through the church," Sarah commented. Sarah attended Concordia University Chicago, got her degree in secondary education with a concentration in English, and taught in Lutheran schools for two years before coming to the Seminary. "My decision to become a deaconess was not so much for new opportunities but for new training, and I hope that after growing in my understanding of God's word, I will be better able to serve others." Sarah enjoys working with youth and music and would like to work in a congregational setting.

New deaconess student Melissa LeFevre also studied education and taught 8th grade mathematics in a public school. She felt restricted in what she truly wanted to teach her students. "Public school teachers can't really talk about their faith or other spiritual matters. As educators, we often talked about the diverse needs of students — physical, mental, emotional, social — but never spiritual." Melissa, originally from Lee's Summit, Mo., studied at the University of Central Missouri and it was there where her faith life flourished. Melissa's work is propelled by this Bible verse, 1 John 4:19: "We love because he first loved us." "When I think about how Jesus has loved me, I am filled with an inexpressible joy that wants nothing more than to serve God and his church."



**During a trivia game at orientation, Sylvia White searches the handbook for answers.**

Sylvia White, originally from Michigan, most recently lived in Denton, Texas. "My interest in the deaconess program was kindled when Deaconess Asher of Concordia University Chicago made an informational visit to our congregation. I also knew of a deaconess who was placed at the local children's center." Sylvia attended college at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and the

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas. She draws some inspiration for her work from the hymns that she loves to sing. "As a singer, the words of so many of my favorite songs and hymns propel me to share my faith because there is so much comfort and encouragement to be had therein," she said.

The deaconess program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is designed for Christian women who seek to further their knowledge of theology and its practical applications so they can serve as deaconesses in the LCMS. There are two basic options for degree certification: master of arts in deaconess studies, or master of arts in theology with deaconess certification. For the latter option, a deaconess studies student also takes classes through the Seminary's Graduate School and declares a major in practical, systematic, or exegetical theology.

The Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, recently approved a double degree program for deaconess students. This action will equip deaconesses to serve in LCMS Recognized Service Organizations (e.g. Lutheran Senior Services, Lutheran Child and Family Services) and other areas in the church's social ministry by combining theological preparation with social work training and licensure. Partnerships like this with area institutions and with the Concordia University System will enrich



**Ashley Effken sits in on an orientation session during the first week of classes.**

the learning experience for students and make Concordia Seminary a desired destination for prospective students. It is also an economically efficient way to obtain a varied educational experience in these fiscally tight times.

Dr. Erik Herrmann, assistant professor of historical theology, became faculty director of deaconess studies in 2009. Dr. Herrmann is excited about the new opportunities that this partnership will bring to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. “The purpose of the joint M.S.W. and M.A. in deaconess studies is to foster an ongoing collaboration between the church’s ministry and service to the community,” he commented.

“Expanding the deaconess skills, experience, and qualifications through the field of social work brings an exciting new set of opportunities for servants of the church to work toward bringing justice, caring for the poor, and relieving human suffering in the world,” Herrmann continued. “A theologically trained deaconess who is also a licensed social worker brings flexibility and marketability to her vocation, but also raises the Christian work of service to the ‘least of these’ to greater visibility within the life of the church.” While studying at Concordia Seminary, new deaconess students will strive to learn the various facets of diaconal ministry.



**Sarah Elliott fills out paperwork during orientation.**

“Given the nature of deaconess service, with the very wide range of ministry possibilities, a wide range of education and experiences will help a potential deaconess be prepared for whatever her call brings her way,” Ashley said.



**Deaconess students Melissa LeFevre and Sylvia White register for classes during orientation.**

“For instance, a church might need a female youth leader to chaperone various events and to mentor young girls in the faith,” Sarah said, “and a deaconess can connect with those girls in a different way than a pastor would.”

“Deaconesses are no more necessary to society than are forestry agents, but our green spaces do profit from their attention,” Sylvia added. “The knowledge base, desire to serve, and passion for the mission have gone a long way in serving those in need, including both the church and unchurched.”

For now, Ashley, Sarah, Melissa, and Sylvia will be charged with the tasks of studying, practicing their skills, and becoming integral parts of the Concordia Seminary community. They will, no doubt, be asked countless times, “What exactly does a deaconess do?”

“A deaconess can fulfill many roles,” Sarah said, “but because of its diversity I find myself often in the position of explaining what it means to be a deaconess. I have already found this a little challenging to encounter such a wide variety of responses and questions, but at the same time, I hope that God will use these conversations to open the door to new opportunities to share the Gospel and to serve.”

For additional information please contact the director of deaconess studies at 314-505-7389 or [herrmanne@csl.edu](mailto:herrmanne@csl.edu).



# Bach AT THE SEM

## ***Bach at the Sem* 2010-2011 Season Concert Dates**

**Sunday, October 10, 3:00 p.m.**

The American Kantorei performs the Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis from the *Mass in B Minor* of Johann Sebastian Bach.

**Sunday, December 5, 3:00 p.m.**

The American Kantorei performs the Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei from the *Mass in B Minor*.

**Sunday, February 13, 3:00 p.m.**

Organist Dennis Bergin performs Bach's transcriptions of Four Concerti by Antonio Vivaldi and Johann Ernst. The American Kantorei performs a cantata by J. S. Bach.

**Sunday, April 17, 3:00 p.m.**

The *Magnificat* and Cantata 4, *Christ lag im Todesbanden*. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson conducts the Greenville Illinois College Choir, performing Renaissance, Baroque and Modern motets.

**The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus  
Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105  
[www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu)**

**The American Kantorei  
Robert Bergt, Music Director and Conductor  
Dennis Bergin, *Bach at the Sem* Organist**

**Tickets not required. For more information, call 314-505-7362 or visit [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).**



## UPCOMING FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, preacher, Historic Trinity Lutheran, Detroit, Mich., Oct. 31

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, Zion Lutheran, Piedmont, Calif., Oct. 31

**Dr. David Schmitt**, preacher, Concordia Lutheran, Louisville, Ky., Oct. 31

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, Immanuel Lutheran, Seymour, Ind., Nov. 7

**Dr. Jeffrey Oswald**, presenter, "Reading Romans Backwards: Preaching on Romans during Advent," Advent Preaching Workshop for Circuit 36 of the Texas District, Friendswood, Texas, Nov. 8-9

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, preacher, Zion Lutheran, St. Louis, Mich., Nov. 14

**Dr. Jeff Kloha**, presenter, "400 Years of Codices, Kings, and Controversy: The Translation and Authority of the Bible Since the 1611 KJV," Wyoming District Pastors Retreat, Thermopolis, Wy., Nov. 15-17

**Dr. Bruce Hartung**, plenary speaker, Texas District Professional Church Workers' Conference, San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 21-23

**Dr. David Schmitt**, preacher, Our Shepherd Lutheran, Birmingham, Mich., Dec. 5

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, Bethlehem Lutheran, Ferrin, Ill., Dec. 12

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Pre-Lenten Sermon Workshop on Amos, Manitowoc, Wis., Jan. 10-11

**Dr. Leo Sánchez**, presenter, Lutheran Pneumatology (Holy Spirit), Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India, Jan. 10-13

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Pre-Lenten Sermon Workshop on Amos, Concordia, Mo., Jan. 17-18

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Pre-Lenten Sermon Workshop on Jonah, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Gardendale, Ala., Jan. 23-24

**Dr. David Schmitt**, facilitator, Preacher's Retreat, Mundelein, Ill., Jan. 23-27

## Upcoming on-campus events

### OCTOBER 2010

- October 15** . . . . . Green and Gold Day  
**October 15** . . . . . Oktoberfest  
**October 22** . . . . . Seminary Guild Meeting  
**October 29** . . . . . Prayer Breakfast  
**October 30-November 4** . . . . . Interim Ministry Workshop

### NOVEMBER 2010

- November 4** . . . . . Fall Placement  
**November 9** . . . . . Partners' Day  
**November 14-17** . . . . . EIIT Alumni Conference

### DECEMBER 2010

- December 3** . . . . . Seminary Guild Meeting (Advent by Candlelight)  
**December 5** . . . . . *Bach at the Sem* concert

### JANUARY 2010

- January 7** . . . . . Green and Gold Day  
**January 12, 19, 26, February 2** . . . . . Winter Lay Bible Institute  
**January 15-17** . . . . . Taste of the Sem  
**January 21-22** . . . . . Schola Cantorum  
**January 29** . . . . . Making Abortion Unthinkable

### FEBRUARY 2010

- February 11** . . . . . Seminary Guild Meeting  
**February 12** . . . . . Reaching Out Together  
**February 13** . . . . . *Bach at the Sem* Concert

### MARCH 2010

- March 10-12** . . . . . *Contemplate...*  
**March 12** . . . . . Prepare/Enrich Workshop  
**March 18** . . . . . Seminary Guild Meeting  
**March 18** . . . . . Green and Gold Day



# Bach at the Sem announces 19th season

Concordia Seminary announces the 19th season of its Sunday afternoon concert series, *Bach at the Sem*. Four concerts will be performed in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary at 3:00 p.m.

In the first concert on October 10, Artist-in-Residence and Conductor Robert Bergt led The American Kantorei, Chamber Chorus, soloists, and orchestra in J. S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, in performing the Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis. During the October 10 concert, Dr. Emily Truckenbrod (SIU-Edwardsville, Illinois, faculty member) made her debut with The American Kantorei as soprano soloist.

The Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei will be performed in the second concert on December 5. The chorus of 30 singers and orchestra of 21 musicians perform with modern concepts yet they incorporate styles and performance that are informed by the Baroque techniques.



**Brandt Klawitter, Jason Swan, and Matthew Warmbier rehearse with Conductor Robert Bergt (left) before a Bach at the Sem concert.**

On February 13, 2011, Organist Dennis Bergin will perform four of Johann Ernst's and Antonio Vivaldi's concerti as transcribed by Bach. On April 17, Palm Sunday, The American Kantorei will perform Cantata 4, Christ Jesus Lay in

Death's Strong Bands. The Magnificat will conclude the season on this day.

The American Kantorei is a choral and orchestral ensemble dedicated to the performance of church music from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Neoclassical periods. The works of J. S. Bach form the core of its repertoire. Music Director and Conductor Robert Bergt is known as a symphonic and choral conductor with a specialization in the music of Bach and other masters of the Baroque Period. *Bach at the Sem* is funded largely through the generosity of individual supporters.

For more information concerning *Bach at the Sem* or to be added to the *Bach at the Sem* mailing list, contact Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7362; bach@csl.edu; or visit the Concordia Seminary website at www.csl.edu.

## Choir Member Workshop set for January

Concordia Seminary will offer its 19th Annual Schola Cantorum: An Adult Choir Member Workshop, on Saturday, January 22, 2011. The workshop will be held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus and the Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium on the Seminary campus.



**Peter**

Dr. Peter, head of the music department and professor of music at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, received his doctorate of musical arts (D.M.A.) from the University of Arizona. He conducts the Collegiate Chorale, a 90-voice select junior/senior ensemble, and the Norsemen, a 90-voice men's choir for freshmen.

The Schola Cantorum is open to all choir members, choir directors, and ministers of music. The schedule for the day begins with registration at 8:15 a.m., Morning Prayer at 8:45 a.m., and rehearsal sessions at 9:15 a.m. The day concludes at 3:30 p.m. after the Closing Prayer service, which will include some of the music learned that day. Dr. Timothy Peter will serve as this year's clinician.

Previous to his appointment at Luther College in 1991, he was a high school choral director and church musician in Iowa and Arizona. Recently, he has been the state and divisional Repertoire and Standards chair for College and University Choirs for the American Choral Directors Association. His choirs have been selected to perform at three Divisional NC-ACDA conventions.

A Choral Reading Session will be held Friday, January 21, 2011, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In the session, Dr. Peter will guide participants through an evening of choral and instrumental song in which he will preview new and current titles of music. The session is open to all, but is especially designed for choir directors. There is no charge to attend but registration is required.

The cost for the Schola Cantorum is \$60 per individual or \$110 per congregation (\$70 or \$125 after January 7, 2011). For the congregation fee, a choir can send as many members as it desires. Lunch and the choral music are not included in the fee. For more information or registration forms, call 314-505-7486 or e-mail ce@csl.edu.

## “Reaching Out Together” set for February 2011

The third annual “Reaching Out Together” evangelism conference will take place on February 12, 2011 on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. It is designed to inspire, encourage, teach, and give opportunity for putting into practice principles for talking about Jesus to others, especially the uncommitted or unchurched.

This event is presented by the Saturday Outreach School in partnership with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and North American Missions Ablaze! “Reaching Out Together” is for pastors, evangelism boards, church leaders, and laypeople in the Missouri District and adjacent LCMS districts.

Participants from the 2nd annual “Reaching Out

Together” conference held in 2010 were very complimentary. “I was very pleased and gratified to have had the opportunity – we will use many of the ideas,” one participant commented. Another said, “I was very encouraged to ‘hone’ my skills for everyday evangelism.”



**Lessing**

The keynote speaker for “Reaching Out Together” is Dr. Reed Lessing, director of the graduate school and associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Lessing’s presentation, titled “Jonah: On a Tough Mission for a Tender God,” will take a closer look at this prophet’s ministry

and will open participants’ minds and hearts to more fervent mission and ministry.

Breakout session speakers include: Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez, “Five or More Things You Really Need to Know Before Reaching Out to Hispanics in the U.S.,” Rev. Ron Rall, “Welcoming the Stranger — Building a Multi-Ethnic Church;”

Karen Davis, “International Student Ministry — St. Louis Reaches Out!;” Rev. Dar Karsten, “Being a Witness for Jesus Christ;” Christian Friends of New Americans, “Cross-Cultural Outreach to New Americans in the St. Louis Area;” and Rev. Quentin Poulson.

Registration fee is \$20 per participant for the first four people from a single congregation, and \$15 for each additional participant. Fee includes lunch and all materials.

The registration deadline for “Reaching Out Together” is February 1, 2011. For more information, contact continuing education at 314-505-7486 or e-mail [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu).



## Taste of the Sem, January 15-17

Taste of the Sem is an opportunity for high school men to spend a weekend at the Seminary to study theology, pray, worship, meet, and talk with Seminary students and professors. Participants will spend time with one Seminary student at his field education congregation on Sunday morning and attend classes with him on Monday morning. The event is designed to provide a sense of Seminary life for those who think God might be directing them toward the pastoral ministry. The theme for this event is “Together With All Creatures.”

Registration is limited to 40 participants. Taste of the Sem will begin on Saturday evening, January 15, and will end on

Monday, January 17, after lunch. All meals and housing will be provided by the Seminary. Registration begins on October 15 and will take place on a first-received, first-registered basis. No registration is complete until you have received a confirmation letter from the admissions office. Do not make travel arrangements until after receiving a confirmation letter. There is no registration fee. Participants are responsible for their own transportation costs. Transportation to and from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport will be provided. For more information, call 1-800-822-9545.





# Grateful alumni attend class reunion

A gracious and grateful group of approximately 170 alumni, spouses, widows, and guests attended the Concordia Seminary Alumni Reunion, held June 8-10 on the Seminary campus. This year's reunion included graduating classes from years ending in a "5" or "0."

This year's theme was: *"The Way We Were . . . Are . . . And Will Be: Under God's Grace."* Under this theme those attending had many opportunities to celebrate and thank God for His blessing upon their past, present, and future



**Beiderwieden**

years of service in His church.

Dr. William Utech (class of 1985, associate professor of practical theology, and director of resident field education) served as preacher at the Jubilarian Service. Thirty-six members of the class of 1960 were present for their 50th graduation anniversary.

One highlight of the reunion occurred on June 9 with a reception sponsored by the Concordia Historical Institute and a banquet held in Koburg Dining Hall. The featured speakers at the banquet were Drs. Gerhard Bode (1995) and Erik Herrmann (2000), faculty members in the historical theology department, who provided a presentation on "The Way We Were," which included a movie clip of the Seminary's dedication service. At the banquet, Rev. John



**Marv Henschel (left) and Walt Schindehette, classmates from the class of 1960, celebrated their jubilarian anniversary at the Alumni Reunion.**

Beiderwieden and Richard Bock (class of 1940) were honored with the Erwin T. Koch Award, an award given to the oldest reunion attendees.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting alumni relations at 314-505-7370 or [alumni@csle.edu](mailto:alumni@csle.edu).

## 2010 alumni begin their ministries

This summer, 119 of Concordia Seminary's newest alumni left campus to begin their first official ministries. With the conclusion of Call Day and graduation, the completion of academic programs, and the sending of acceptance letters, graduates and their families proceeded with the tasks of planning for the coming year. The placement adventure usually becomes less stressful when the new pastor and family are able to finally meet the members of the congregation. Here they discover that the excitement is mutual, as is the commitment to the Gospel mission and ministry.

The adventure is further "enriched" with the need to obtain driver's licenses, license plates for the car(s), learn the layout of the local grocery store, and secure a family doctor and dentist in the new location. A little vacation time is

often spent with family and friends who have been supportive during the years of seminary study.

Immediately after installation, the new pastor becomes very involved in ministry. One graduate remarked that he had his first funeral the week immediately following his installation service. Many get to know the children and families of their congregation well from the start, as Vacation Bible School programs are usually planned to coincide with the new pastor's arrival.

Beginning at a new church (be it the first, second, or third call in one's ministry) is always quite challenging. Certainly the Lord is there to care, guide, lead, and bless, but the help and support of a caring and understanding congregation, as well as the encouragement and

friendship of area pastors and other church workers, is deeply appreciated.

May our gracious Lord continue to bless our newest alumni and their congregations. This brings to mind the words of C.F.W. Walther who wrote:

"When a place has been assigned to a Lutheran candidate of theology where he is to discharge the office of a Lutheran Minister, that place ought to be to him the dearest, most beautiful, and most precious spot on earth. He should be unwilling to exchange it for a kingdom. Whether it is in a metropolis or in a small town, on a bleak prairie or in a clearing in the forest, in a flourishing settlement or in a desert, to him it should be a miniature paradise." (*The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*, p. 207)

## Congregation produces three pastors through Concordia Seminary

A large celebration at Peace Lutheran Church, Antigo, Wis., marked the entrance into ministry for Michael Nielsen, Brian Krueger, and Dan Kohn. What makes this story unique is that each man followed a different route through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to become a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Michael Nielsen, a lifelong member of Peace, went through the “traditional route,” completing four years of college to receive a bachelor’s degree in pastoral ministry before heading off to St. Louis. On April 27, 2010, Michael received his first call to serve as pastor to a dual parish: St. James and St. Paul’s in Necedah and New Miner, Wis. He was ordained on June 13 at Peace, and installed on July 25 at St. James in Necedah. Pastor Mike is looking forward to working with the congregations to equip their youth for ministry as they reach out to the inactive and unchurched in their area.

Brian Krueger has also been a member of Peace Lutheran Church from the time of his infant baptism. Brian’s path

into the pastoral office has been a long journey. As a second-career man, he listened to the encouragement from his pastors and church friends after they had witnessed significant changes in his life. Brian first had to complete a bachelor’s degree through Concordia University Mequon before he was able to enroll in the alternate route program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2006. Brian served as a vicar for Holy Cross Church in Austin, Minn. This congregation has undergone some challenges over the past several years, and they were not sure if they could afford a full-time pastor. That opened the door for him to come to Austin and serve this



**Revs. Brian Krueger (left), Dan Kohn, and Michael Nielsen celebrated their ordinations at Peace Lutheran Church.**

church as a deferred vicar. He was very pleased to find out on February 7 that the voter’s assembly of Holy Cross Church decided to call him as their next pastor.

Dan Kohn began his long journey into the pastoral office at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Deerbrook, Wis., with his baptism in 1950. Thirty years of teaching and counseling have given Dan the opportunity to be an integral part of various LCMS congregations throughout the nation. While a member at Peace, Dan enrolled in the DELTO (Distance Education Leading To Ordination) program through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Altoona, Wis., is where Dan was ordained on June 13, 2010. Dan served as a vicar there since September 2009.

These men from Peace Lutheran Church in Antigo, Wis., are all now fulfilling Jesus’ statement, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray that the Lord sends workers into His harvest...”



**Rev. Michael Nielsen (first row, second from left) stands with the pastors who traveled to participate in his ordination on June 13, 2010.**



# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

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# GREEN AND GOLD DAYS

**CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS**

**OCTOBER 15, 2010    JANUARY 7, 2011    MARCH 18, 2011**