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Print Publications

1-6-2011

Concordia Seminary magazine | Winter 2011

Paul Devantier

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Recommended Citation

Devantier, Paul, "Concordia Seminary magazine | Winter 2011" (2011). *Concordia Seminary Magazine*. 4.
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CONCORDIA SEMINARY

WINTER 2011

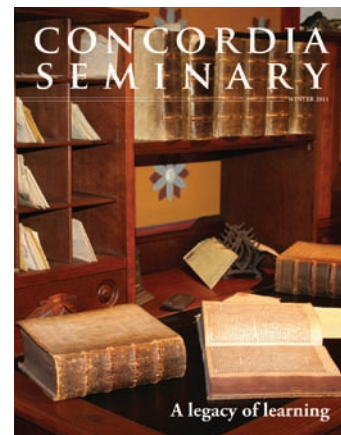
A legacy of learning

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

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Eric, Linda, Hannah, Jonathan, Hailey, and Jocelyn Ekong have truly taken advantage of the community-growth opportunities that the Seminary offers. “The community here is one that will take care of you when you are struggling and will rejoice with you during your joys,” Eric said.
- 23 **From Call Day through the first year**
The Syth family of Gary, Keri, Ellie, and Peter was called to serve in Homer, Alaska, in 2009. Keri’s letter tells of their journey, from Seminary to their road trip across America to Alaskan adventures.



Cover Photograph
C. F. W. Walther’s desk, from
an exhibit at the Concordia
Historical Institute
by Emily Boedecker

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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@csel.edu. Congregations may request that copies be sent to them in bulk for distribution within their churches.

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From the PRESIDENT



I love this photo. My daughter, Elizabeth, her husband, Darren, and my grandsons, Christian and Connor, were visiting us this past September. Because their visit coincided with the beginning of this school year, they decided to attend the Opening Service.

“Connor, you go with Opa,” Elizabeth said and Connor, afraid of nothing, took my hand and we walked to the chapel. Getting closer, Connor pointed to the cross way up on the peak of the front wall. “Cross,” he said. (Actually, it didn’t come out like that, but I have translated it into adult.) “That’s a big cross,” I said. “No, Opa, little cross.” I tried again to say it’s a big cross but Connor knows his mind. “No, Opa, little cross.”

So much in life is a matter of perspective. The size of the cross in our lives certainly changes as we get older. In youth a child learns that Jesus died on the cross for our sins; but as we grow into adulthood, the reflective Christian realizes more and more that I, *I* am the sinner for whom Christ died. Calvary grows larger. “Take up your cross and follow Me,” Jesus commands. (Mark 8:34) That cross is the sacrifice and suffering we go through because we follow Jesus and that cross also grows larger as years pass.

I often muse about what’s ahead for our Seminary students. I don’t know any more than they do but experience tells us that they’ll be

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Ministerial legacies:

continued from page 3 >

carrying some heavy crosses for Jesus. God bless them for their willingness to do so! As we get older, assuming that we continue in the Scriptures and in active fellowship with the church, we increasingly recognize cross-carrying in our lives and — here's how the Spirit works — we are increasingly glad to bear the cross for Jesus.

“Take up your cross and follow Me,” Jesus commands. (Mark 8:34)

Our partnership in the mission of Concordia Seminary is about cross-bearing for Jesus and it grows larger even as life shortens. What kind of ministry will serve my grandchildren as they grow up? Will they and, God willing, their own families join congregations that are faithful and alive? And what about their children? Will they remain loyal to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod not because that was Opa's and Oma's church but because it's where they feel welcome and hear Good News? “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” (Psalm 122:1) What legacy are you and I leaving to those who come after us? The demographics in America and in our church clearly show that we have entered a new time. Are we working now to provide a legacy of vigorous Gospel outreach so that the Savior's Kingdom will grow? Those are cross-carrying questions that loom ever larger and all of us at Concordia Seminary thank you for your willingness to partner with us toward the future.

So Connor was led into the chapel and he walked under that “little” cross. Elizabeth and Darren, please keep this picture and tell him the story as he grows up. One day when Connor and Opa are chatting in heaven, he'll say, “Opa, the cross was fascinating. It got bigger as I got older!”

Dale A. Meyer
Dale A. Meyer

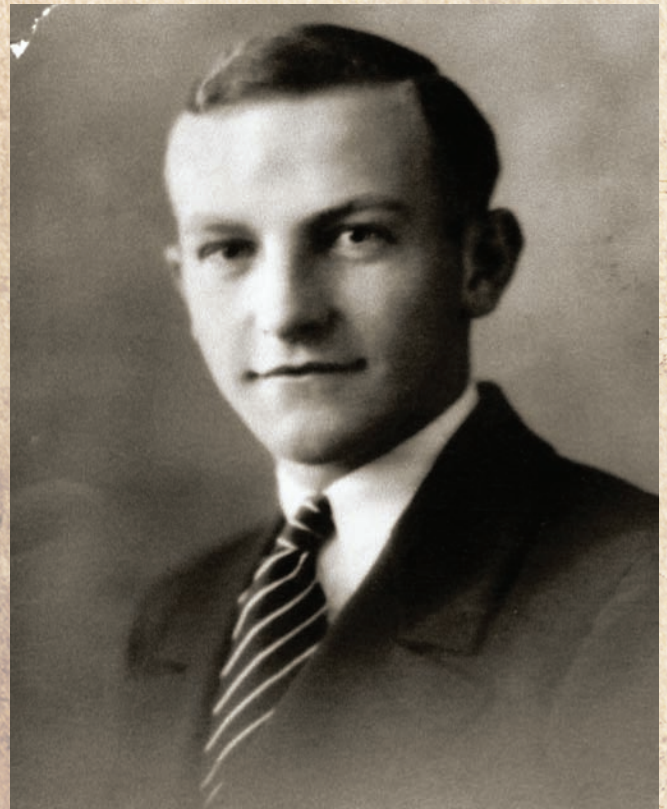
Johan Adam Schmid was a master shoemaker who immigrated to the United States from Bonfeld, Germany, in 1816. He and his wife, Rosine Katharina, had six sons and two daughters.

Perhaps the Schmid's' best legacy was their faith in Jesus Christ: their commitment was strong and they sent three sons to college and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

One of the sons was Philipp, the father of Edward, the father of Harold, the father of David — four generations of pastors who all studied at Concordia Seminary and gave their service to congregations in Indiana, Wisconsin, Louisiana, North Carolina, Michigan, Nebraska, Idaho, and Washington.

This year, Micah Schmidt, the son of David, began his first year at the Seminary.

(The immigration officials at Ellis Island heard a “t” in “Schmid,” so they added one when Johan Adam came to the United States.)



Harold V. Schmidt, b. May 22, 1910; graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1934. (Photo: 1934)

“God’s calling is specific to each individual”



Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Class of 1874. Philipp Schmidt, b. Jan. 13, 1850, sits in the first row, third from left. The great-great-grandfather to Micah, Philipp was born in Bonfeld, Germany, and emigrated with his parents in 1852. He was ordained at St. Paul's Lutheran in Liverpool, Ohio, by his brother, C.C. Schmidt, who also served the church. (Photo: 1874)

Although he represents a fifth generation to study for pastoral ministry, Schmidt insists he is not entering a “family business.” And while other branches of the family also count pastors, teachers, and directors of Christian education, Schmidt adds that God did not call the family to be church workers. “God’s calling is to each one individually and in unique ways to become pastors and that’s what makes the story so interesting,” he comments. “With generation after generation, God says, ‘You!’ He calls each person individually.”

In preparation for this story, Schmidt did his own research. By plugging family names and congregation names into Internet search engines, he

discovered his relatives. He even found information about his great-great grandfather, Philipp, from a church record — written in German. So he went to a translation website and translated the document word by word.

“I knew nothing about my great-great grandfather; I didn’t even know his name,” Schmidt says. “I also knew very little about my great grandfather. A good thing about growing up in this kind of family is that you hear all kinds of stories — fun stories, sad stories, and just plain stories.”

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Schmidt

Philipp
1874

Edward
1907

Harold
1934

David
1966

Micah
2014



Edward H. Schmidt, b. July 12, 1884; graduated in 1907. Edward was the first head of the South Wisconsin District's mission board from 1944 until his death. (Photo: 1950)

He finds a certain pride in learning about the family of pastors: One built up a congregation that was struggling. Another was a missionary among African Americans in Louisiana during the early 1900s. Another preached a Reformation service that was reported in the local newspaper.

"I think you could say each one of these men had a real drive," Schmidt observes. His great-great grandfather suffered a collapsed lung while

preaching a sermon and died the next day. His grandfather, Harold, continued preaching until he was in his mid-80s.

As for his own story, Schmidt recalls his boyhood and regularly being asked if he was going to be a pastor like his daddy. And his regular reply was "No." He would often add that any job would be fine, but not as a pastor.

Then he went to an LCMS high school youth camp. "I saw the effects, the power, of the Gospel on



Though Harold graduated in 1934, there were not enough placements for pastors during the Depression, so he took a job as a third grade teacher in Sheboygan, Wis., for three years. (Photo: 1956)

people's lives," he recounts. From church, he knew that the Gospel has power, but he had never seen it or experienced it in that way. "I realized I wanted to be part of that: I wanted to be a part of spreading the Gospel and seeing its effects.

"So here I am today," he continues. "It was the effect of the Gospel, seeing the power of the Gospel,

Students cultivate family connection at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Two pairs of students currently studying at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, have a unique claim to fame: they're related!

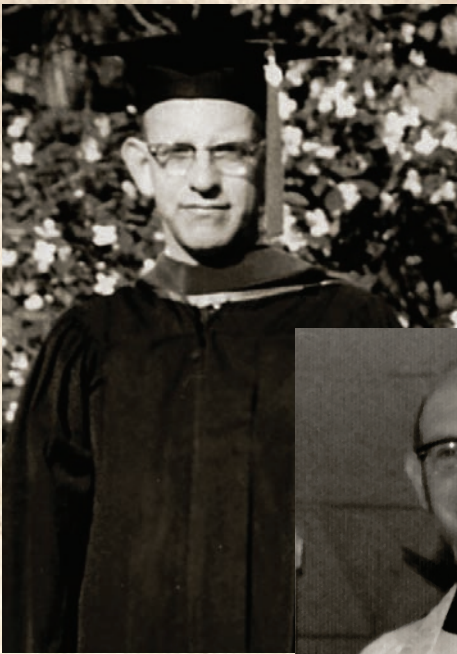
Chad Starfeldt is a second-year alternate route seminarian. His father-in-law (wife Schawn's father), Gary Schockman, is a first-year student in the same program. Gary said that Chad's attendance at the Seminary probably influenced his decision to come, as did his son, Jason's, graduation from the Seminary in 2007. (Jason is now a pastor at Prince of Peace in West Salem, Wis.)

Gary and Chad are both second-career students. Chad was a DCE for 15 years and frequently worked in adult ministry. "I really felt God was telling me that he had gifted me with leadership abilities and he

wanted me to take the step to become a pastor," he commented.

Gary and his wife, Karon, decided to retire about three months before they decided to move to St. Louis. Chad commented, "I affirm Gary for doing something constructive with his retirement. Many people spend their days traveling, playing golf or doing some other hobby, and here is Gary, spending it learning Greek, studying Pieper, and becoming a pastor."

Matthew Staneck is a second-year student in the traditional M.Div. program. His father, Michael, entered the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program in 2009. Matthew would like to take credit for his father's decision to come to the Seminary, but he admits they started thinking about the pastoral ministry around



David H. Schmidt, b. Feb. 11, 1940, graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1966. (Photo: 1966)



David was ordained by his father, Harold, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran in Fullerton, Neb. (Photo: 1968)

that got me interested in the pastoral ministry.” Like his father, Schmidt attended Concordia University in Austin, Texas. Originally considering

a major in music, he found his interest in theology began to grow at Concordia. He recalls the head of the pre-seminary department saying that any other passion has to go by the wayside if one wants to become a pastor.

“At that time it scared me because I wanted to be involved with music somehow, but it was also comforting as I learned I did not have the musical talent I wanted. I realized that maybe this was the answer to that problem the professor proposed. That was comforting.”

I want to be a part of spreading the Gospel and seeing its effects.

Schmidt admits it’s “cool” to look back on his family history, even as he learns about church history and the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. “It’s all interesting and fun,” he says. “The thing to remember is that God’s calling is to each person uniquely and specifically.”



Micah D. Schmidt, b. June 28, 1988, began his studies at Concordia Seminary in 2010. (Photo: 2010)

the same time. “I would say that our mutual desire to serve God in such a way, encouraging each other, and encouragement from others played a big part in coming to this decision,” Matthew said.



Michael (left) and Matthew Staneck

Michael agrees. “His decision did help me clear up my indecision and procrastination and move forward. I also believe that God was working in both of us at the same time.”

Michael and Matthew started at Concordia Seminary at the same time, so they also experienced the first week’s orientation together in 2009. While they are not on campus together (except during Michael’s week-long intensives for the SMP program), they enjoy being able to talk about their practical and educational experiences.

“We have had the same professors and use many of the same resources and books for our classes, which helps to keep expenses down a bit,” Michael commented. “[During an intensive] I was able to interact and forge a connection with Matt and the Seminary that I don’t think I could have done if he wasn’t there. I got the chance to walk around campus as the SMP dad of my residential son. I’m going to miss him next year when I return and he’s on vicarage.”

Concordia Seminary Legacy Society — Charter membership year

This is the charter membership year for the recently launched Concordia Seminary Legacy Society. Members are those whose love for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ includes remembering the mission of Concordia Seminary in their wills or estate plans. Many have already declared that they have provided for the Sem as part of their Christian stewardship for the time when the Lord calls them home to Heaven.

Those who become members of the Legacy Society before Reformation Day, Oct. 31, 2011, set the pace for those who will follow. They will be recognized as charter members.

All those joining the Concordia Seminary Legacy Society will, with their permission, be listed in The Book of Witness and Remembrance which will be prominently displayed here on the campus of Concordia Seminary. If estate donors prefer, their Legacy Society member-

ship may also be listed “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one or pastor who has touched their lives. Members may also remain “anonymous.”

The Book of Witness and Remembrance will serve as a testimony now, and to future generations, of those donors’ commitment to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the preparation of pastors, missionaries, and deaconesses here at Concordia Seminary.

Members will also receive a Legacy Society Charter Membership Certificate suitable for display in home or office in witness to their love for the Lord and membership in the Society.

By remembering Concordia Seminary in your will or estate plan you will be making an eternal difference. Your gift will witness to future generations your devotion to the Gospel, even as your legacy gift prepares the shepherds who will serve new generations.

Who qualifies for membership in The Concordia Seminary Legacy Society?

1. Those remembering Concordia Seminary in a will or estate plan.
2. Those donating a life insurance policy to the Seminary.
3. Those including Concordia Seminary as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA, Keogh, or 401(k).
4. Those establishing a gift annuity, pooled fund, charitable remainder trust or other life agreement, that will later benefit the Seminary, at the LCMS Foundation or any other qualified bank, investment company, or trust agency.

Concordia Seminary Legacy Society

Charter Membership Year Enrollment Form

YES! As a witness now and to future generations of my/our love for the Lord and for the proclamation of the Gospel, I/we would like to become (a) Charter Member(s) of *The Concordia Seminary Legacy Society*.

(please check one)

- I/We already qualify for membership because I/we have included Concordia Seminary in my/our will or estate plan.*
- I/We will qualify for membership because I/we intend to include Concordia Seminary in my/our will or estate plan.*

Please list my/our intention in The Book of Witness and Remembrance and prepare my Legacy Society Charter Membership Certificate in the following way:

(your name, family name, in memory of, or in honor of)

- Please do not list me/us in the **The Book of Witness and Remembrance**.

For questions or to enroll by phone, call: 1-800-822-5287

**Concordia
Seminary**
ST. LOUIS

Wording for including Concordia Seminary in your will, estate plan

I/we wish to devise to Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, Missouri 63105 (Federal Tax Identification #43-0655869; Missouri Tax Exemption #12477052) as a beneficiary in my/our estate for the specific sum of \$ _____; or _____ percent of my/our estate designated for _____.

(List "unrestricted," wherever need is greatest, student aid, endowment, etc.)

"I invite you to build on your support of Concordia Seminary by joining me in declaring your intent to make a 'legacy' gift to the Sem. Your gift will stand as a testimony to your loved ones of your love for the Lord and for the preaching of the Good News even after the Lord has called you home to Heaven.

"The purpose of the Concordia Seminary Legacy Society is to recognize those who are thinking beyond their lives and themselves to support the mission of preparing the church's future pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, and leaders. As a member of the Concordia Seminary Legacy Society you will be proclaiming your love for the Savior now, and when you and I are gathered around the Throne of Grace in Heaven.

"We have all been inspired by those who witnessed to family, friends, and the world of their faith and stewardship by providing for loved ones and for the work of the Lord. Now is our opportunity to follow in their footsteps."

Dale A. Meyer

Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

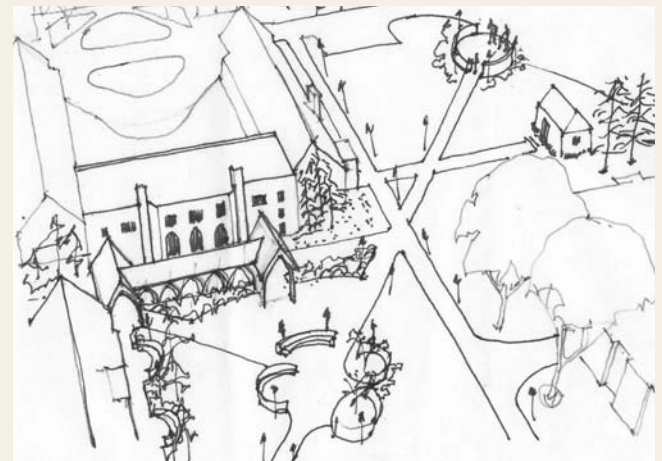


Phase 1 resumes on campus

One of the components of the successful Campaign, *How Will They Hear?*, was to raise funds to continue renovating and updating the campus community areas of the dining halls and kitchen, the Koburg-Wartburg-Stoeckhardt complex. Thanks largely to the Charles E. Benidt Foundation, which provided \$4 million of the total donated and pledged for the Place component of the Campaign, the project can resume work that began before the recession hit. President Dale A. Meyer appointed a planning committee comprised of faculty, staff, and the student body president. The Regents recently approved the committee's initial plans and authorized preparation of exploratory architectural drawings. Pending further approvals during the winter, the construction management phase would begin in spring 2011. Please watch for future updates!



Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, signs the construction contract for the Phase 1 improvements to the campus.



Proposed plan for the Koburg-Wartburg-Stoeckhardt complex.

History provides the lesson: Keep teaching

He's immersed in church history: He teaches historical theology at Concordia Seminary, where his office is lined with boxes of old materials and photographs awaiting his attention as the Seminary archivist. He is the fourth generation in a direct line of church workers and has uncles and cousins who are pastors and teachers.

"History is preparation for today and tomorrow," observes Dr. Gerhard H. Bode, Jr., as he adds a sobering thought: "We are always one generation away from losing the clear teaching of the Gospel."

It explains his sense of responsibility to his vocation as an assistant professor. He especially likes teaching the Reformation and Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) history. He believes the Lutheran reformers, and Martin Luther in particular, understood very well the urgency to teach.

"It's about the proclamation of the Gospel, and continuing that proclamation," Bode says. "If we don't do

this, we're going to lose it, and history shows us we can lose it.

"We need education, we need schools, we need to train up our children in the Christian faith," he continues.

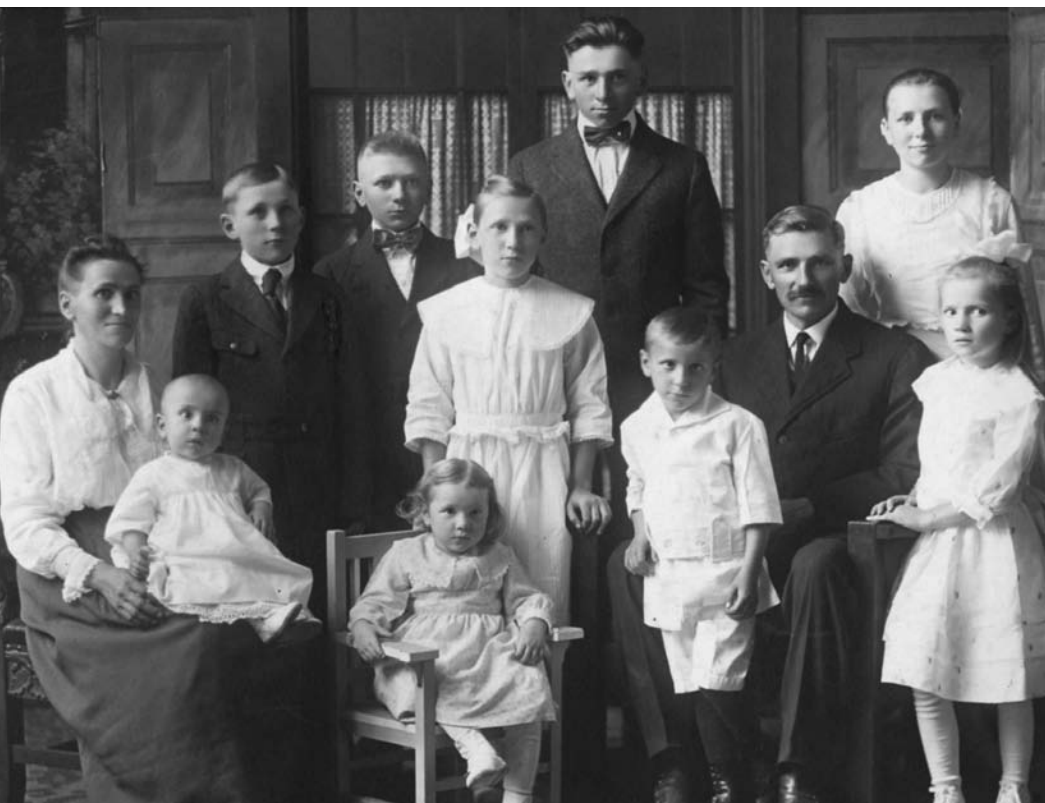
"That to me is responsibility. It's not only my own, but a responsibility of our families and our congregations and our church body to continue to do that work."



Dr. Gerhard Bode, Jr., prepares for Commencement in May 2010.

He expresses admiration for the founders of the Missouri Synod and the hardworking faithfulness of the people. "It's a family history in some ways," he says, describing the Synod as a "marvelous combination" of dedication to teaching and preaching God's Word with faithfulness to the Lutheran Confessions, while at the same time emphasizing the mission to proclaim the Word to people who need to hear it.

In his teaching, Bode likes to look at the history in context. "What would it be like to live in this particular context — to be a pastor or a teacher or a layperson?" he asks. "The students like that approach. It gives them a sense of the lay of the land."



Maria (Friedrich) Bode (seated, left) and Heinrich Bode (seated, right) with their family in 1918. Professor Bode's grandfather, Gerhard F., stands at his father's knee.

While contexts and cultures change, the Christian message remains the same, Bode says. “It’s the same Word of God, the same Gospel, the same Christ.”

Historical contexts intrigue Bode toward future research. He cites Rev. Conrad Dieterich, who was a Lutheran pastor in Germany during The Thirty Years War (1618-1648). For 20 years, Dieterich wrote a New Year’s Day sermon in which he described the state of the church and the struggles of the people at the time.

“They were holding fast to God’s Word and God’s promises in the middle of this great chaos,” Bode comments. “I’d love to study that.”

He learned of Dieterich during his first year at the Seminary. Dieterich wrote a catechism, based on Luther’s Small Catechism, that was the basis for a catechism that the Missouri Synod adopted in 1857. Bode wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on Dieterich’s catechism.

“My grandfather grew up with that catechism,” Bode comments. “At the time it was a catechism that was three hundred years old. It says something about us, as Lutherans, and our desire to be faithful to the teachings of the Lutheran Church.”

Bode’s great grandfather, Heinrich Bode, was a Lutheran schoolteacher for 40 years. Following in that vocation was his son, Gerhard F. Bode, who taught for 31 years, before studying at the Synod’s seminary in Springfield, Ill., to become a pastor. He also served as president of



Dr. Bode’s grandfather, Gerhard F., (left) and father, Gerhard H., in 1943.

the LCMS Oklahoma District from 1978 to 1988.

He died last September. Bode’s father, Gerhard H. Bode, also served as a teacher, then became a pastor. Currently,

he serves Peace Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, Minn. Bode’s brother, Christian, graduated from the Seminary in 1996. Currently he serves as pastor to St. John’s Lutheran Church in Buffalo, Minn.

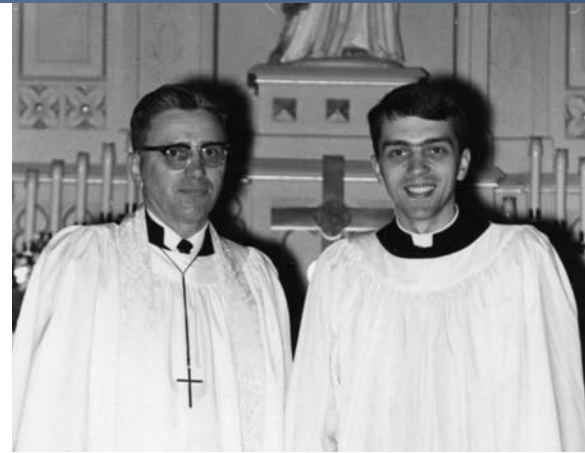
“He taught me what a pastor does,” Bode says of his father. “You’re dealing with real people who have great joys and you rejoice with them. And they have great sadness and you mourn with them during those times. You’re part of a family.”

Although his father and grandfather were pastors, Bode said he never felt pressure to follow in their footsteps. “I can honestly say the reason that I came to the Seminary was because I realized there really wasn’t anything more important in the world than the Gospel — and I wanted to be able to tell people about the Gospel.”

He served his vicarage in Fremont, Neb., and served part-time as assistant pastor at Salem Lutheran Church in Affton, Mo., while he worked on his Ph.D. Today, he fills occasional preaching requests and teaches Bible classes in area churches.

While he frequently thinks of parish ministry, Bode says, “I don’t mind telling you that I really love what I’m doing here at the Seminary.” He adds, “I don’t think I’ve ever not wanted to go to class. I want to be there and engage with students, and they make it fun.”

As for future generations, Bode and his wife, Rachel, have three children. Two boys and a girl, they range in age from 10 to five years old.



In 1966, Gerhard F. (left) participated in his son’s, Gerhard H., ordination ceremony.

Seminary celebrates “Retirement of Debt” with ceremony

On Oct. 1, 2010, Concordia Seminary held a brief ceremony outside the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus to ritually burn a mortgage document and to sing praise to God for release from debt. Over a period years leading up to this day, Concordia Seminary had rolled into one mortgage: the debt for married student housing (known as the Woods); the existing campus telephone system; and the bonds for the Christian Brother’s College (CBC), which for a brief time constituted the South Campus of Concordia Seminary.

Under the leadership and foresight of Concordia Seminary’s President, Dr. Dale A. Meyer, the Board of Regents, and other administrators, Concordia Seminary was able to pay down this debt during the recent economic recession. What is more, the way is now open to the future of Concordia Seminary’s growth, development, and training of pastors, deaconesses, and



The crowd assembles after morning chapel to pray and sing praise for the retirement of Concordia Seminary’s debt.



graduate students for service to Church and World without debt. Dr. Meyer commented on the impact of this momentous occasion, saying, “This means that we can devote every dollar to moving the mission forward, to more scholarships for students, to recruit more ministerial and graduate students, to update our magnificent but old campus, and in general to be wise and productive stewards in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Two points of significance stand out for Concordia Seminary upon this debt retirement. First, Concordia Seminary is now debt free for the first time since 1987. Second, the debt was paid within half the time of the mortgage — Concordia Seminary paid down its debt in 15, rather than 30 years. “For the Seminary community where financial affairs have been center stage for the

past two years and where we have seen our neighbors and the world economy so negatively affected by debt issues, Oct. 1 was a truly a significant day and a reason for celebration,” Michael Louis, senior vice president for financial planning and administration, commented.

Mark Hofman, director of special projects in Concordia Seminary’s advancement office, described the debt retirement as a “breath of fresh air.” Hofman pointed out that debt for any non-profit institution is always a point of friction. “It becomes a distraction from the mission,” Hofman went on to say. “Concordia Seminary is now positioned to maximize the use of every dollar that is given.”

In order to commemorate this day, a brief video was made depicting the mortgage burning ceremony and celebration, with an introduction by Dr. Meyer. It is available on Concordia Seminary’s website, www.csl.edu.

Summer/fall 2010 calls and vicarage assignments

CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

M.DIV.

- † **James Athey**, Bethany, Charlevoix, Mich.
- † **John Genter**, Messiah, Downey, Calif.
- † **Michael Podeszwa**, Prince of Peace, Freedom, Penn.
- † **Todd Zittlow**, Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Mo.

CCMC

- † **David Schmidt**, Christ, Phoenix, Ariz.
- † **Jun Tagagi**, Trinity/Japanese Mission Society, Indianapolis, Ind.

CHS

- † **Enrique Orozco**, St. Andrew, Hialeah, Fla.

DEACONESS ASSIGNMENTS

- † **Juliana Hirsch**, LCMS Board for Mission Services, St. Louis, Mo.
- † **Kristina Paul**, Salem Lutheran Church and School, Affton, Mo.

EIIT

- † **Jean Bingue**, Bethesda, Chicago, Ill.

SMP

- † **Mark Ball**, St. Paul's, Hilton, N.Y.
- † **Michael Bodkins**, Christ the King, Altoona, Iowa
- † **Joseph Casiglia**, Faith, Troy, Mich.
- † **Scott Coerber**, Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo.
- † **Mark Couser**, Water's Edge, Frisco, Texas
- † **Peter Couser**, St. Paul, Fort Worth, Texas
- † **Steven Driver**, Immanuel, Valparaiso, Ind.
- † **Thomas Gibbons**, Trinity, Roselle, Ill.
- † **Gerald Harrow**, Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo.
- † **Brian King**, LC of Webster Gardens, Webster Groves, Mo.
- † **Robert Lund**, Trinity/St. John's, Lake Crystal/Rapidan, Minn.
- † **John McElvain**, Concordia, Triangle, Va.

† **Ryan Meyer**, Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo.

† **Max Murphy**, Carmel, Carmel, Ind.

† **Richard Schlueter**, Faith, Kirksville, Mo.

† **Daniel Vines**, Calvary, Aberdeen, Wash.

† **Stephen Weems**, St. John's, Denver, Colo.

† **Stephen Woodfin**, Our Shepherd, Birmingham, Mich.

VICARAGE AND DEACONESS INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

M.DIV.

- † **Michael Knippa**, Timothy, Council Bluffs, Iowa
- † **Tyler Moore**, Faith, St. Louis, Mo.
- † **Neil Wehmas**, Lake Oconee, Eatonton, Ga.

CCMC

- † **Daniel Grabowski**, Redeemer, Ontario, Calif.
- † **Stephen Heimer**, Zion, El Paso, Texas
- † **Eric Jay**, St. Luke's, Westminster, Calif.
- † **Brandon Merrick**, Christ the Life, San Jose, Calif.
- † **Kim Seungwon**, True Love, Fullerton, Calif.
- † **Mark Siegert**, Vietnamese, Garden Grove, Calif.
- † **Michael Wnorowski**, Family of Faith, Falcon, Colo.

DIT

- † **Norma Polk**, Cross and Resurrection, Ypsilanti, Mich.
- † **Dawn Polzin**, Our Savior Deaf, Madison, Wis.
- † **Loreena Stennes**, Our Savior Deaf, Madison, Wis.

EIIT

- † **Cheng Lee**, St. Paul, Merced, Calif.
- † **Moses Thao**, St. Paul, Brown Deer, Wis.
- † **Zang Yang**, St. Stephens, Hickory, N.C.

Notable graduate

On Nov. 12, 2010, Nicholas Salifu officially graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, during a commencement ceremony that took place during morning chapel. Salifu is the first M.Div. graduate of CSL to come from Ghana. Salifu returned to his home church of the Lutheran Mission in Bawku, Ghana, to serve as its pastor. Rev. Bill Carr gave him his graduate hood, and Drs. Bruce Hartung and Dale Meyer congratulated him immediately thereafter.



Salifu was congratulated with a standing ovation during chapel.



He greeted students, faculty, and special guests who attended the ceremony.

Oven shines light on Seminary's history

When Concordia Seminary's present campus began construction in 1926, the plans included two dining halls separated by a kitchen for the purpose of feeding 700 students three meals a day.

What is not commonly known is that a large, room-sized brick baking oven was built in the basement of the kitchen, used for making bread, rolls, cakes, etc. This oven, manufactured by the Duchess Stove Company of New York, is no longer in use, but remains as a beautiful example of craftsmanship and baking history.

Fronted with white glazed brick, black iron doors, and black star medallions, the



This thermometer is built into the bricks of the oven.

moved by a metal rod, allowed the baker to see the progress of his bread.

Originally the oven was heated with coal which was shoveled into the back end.

cooking area had 2 levels — upper and lower — and each was 15 to 20 feet deep and just about as wide. The bread was slid into the ovens by 15-foot long handled paddles onto fire clay tiles manufactured in St. Louis.

On the front right side of each baking level are niches holding metal canister lights which, when

Clinkers, or bits of coal which did not burn completely, fell into a container box near the front. Sometime after World War II, the heating system was converted to gas.

This baking oven is a perfect example of how bread has been made throughout history — heat circulating over dome-shaped stone walls and floors. Ironically, fire ovens made of clay tile, brick, and stone are making a comeback with professional chefs and some home cooks, not for bread but for pizzas.

What a joy to have this connection to history in the Seminary's possession.

"And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head." I Kings 19:6



The oven will be disassembled during campus construction for safe-keeping.

Logid welcomed and McDonnell installed

On Nov. 1, Chaplain Mark Logid, who was installed previously at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) International Center in St. Louis on Oct. 27, received a Seminary welcome in the form of a prayer of blessing for his work. Deaconess Ruth McDonnell was installed during the morning chapel service at Concordia Seminary. Logid was called as advisor on personal growth and leadership development, deployed to the campus of the Seminary. McDonnell was called as assistant director of the Master of Arts program.



Front row, from left: Chap. Mark Logid, Dcs. Ruth McDonnell; middle row, Dr. Glen Thomas, Dr. Bruce Hartung, Dr. Bruce Schuchard; back row, Dr. Kent Bureson, Dr. Ray Mirly, Chap. Jonathan Stein.

Logid most recently served as an LCMS-endorsed United States Navy Chaplain on active duty for 22 years. His last assignment on active duty was Naval Support Activity in Naples, Italy. Logid received the B.A. degree from Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn. (1978); the M.Div. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (1982); the M.A. degree from U.S. International University, San Diego, Calif. (1993); the M.A. degree from U.S. Naval War

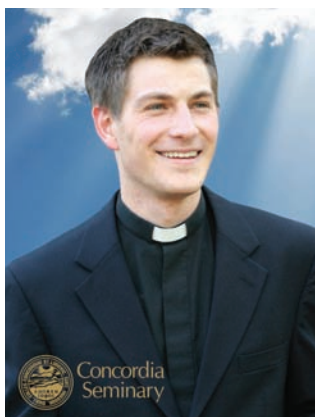
College, Newport, R.I. (2006); and the D.Min. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (2007). He and his wife, Patricia, have three adult children, one son-in-law, and one grandson.

McDonnell most recently served as metro St. Louis mission coordinator for the Missouri District of the LCMS (2008-2010). She previously served Concordia Seminary, St. Louis as a field education

supervisor for the deaconess studies program (2006-2009). She also served as guest instructor for deaconess studies (2009). McDonnell received the B.M.Ed. degree from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va. (1984); the M.A. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (2005); and deaconess certification from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (2006). She and her husband, Peter, have two sons.

Seminary Sunday — Not too late to celebrate!

Concordia Seminary Sunday materials are still available. Though July 18 held the appointed lectionary for Concordia Seminary Sunday, it is not too late to hold an observance at your church! A special bulletin insert, a poster, an adult Bible study, sermon notes, and other worship resources are available to assist



pastors and congregations in observing Concordia Seminary Sunday. The materials are not dated and may be used in a variety of ways.

“We Proclaim Him” is the suggested sermon and theme.

Concordia Seminary offers these materials as

an annual opportunity for congregations to emphasize the importance of forming men for service in the pastoral ministry and women for diaconal ministry, and to assist in the crucial process of identifying, informing, and encouraging future pastors and deaconesses.

For more information or to order Concordia Seminary Sunday materials, contact advancement, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7362; curllessj@csl.edu.

Commitment to community

This issue of *Concordia Seminary* magazine is about families. The residential campus community of Concordia Seminary can be described as one, albeit large, family, made up of a variety of groups: single students living in residence halls; married couples without children living in small apartments; or married couples with children living in large apartments in “the Woods” (the nickname for married student housing). In order to encourage this sense of a family-like community, Concordia Seminary offers countless ways for everyone to get involved.

Eric and Linda Ekong and their children are one such family who take advantage of these opportunities to contribute to the community. As second-year residents at Concordia Seminary, both their individual activities [Eric is vice president of the Student Association; Linda serves as publicity chair for the Seminary Women’s Association (SWA)] and the events they do as a family (Friday night BBQ’s in the Woods, intramural sports, regular chapel attendance) keep their calendar jam-packed. That, and the fact that they are parenting four small children: Hannah (10), Jonathan (8), Hailey (6), and Jocelyn (3) (and a fifth to arrive in June!).

While Eric is a second-career student, he says he always felt the pull to come to Seminary. “On some level I’ve always wanted to be a pastor,” Eric said, “but the call to be a pastor increased over the years leading up to seminary.” That pull may have to do with the fact that his family has a legacy of church work, too. Eric’s father, Hosea, serves Victory Lutheran Church in Youngstown, Ohio, after getting his alternate route certification from Concordia Seminary in 1999. Eric’s grandfather, Jonathan Udo Ekong, served as a missionary to his native country of Nigeria and founded the Lutheran Church of Nigeria in 1936.

“[Jonathan’s] people and those of surrounding areas chose for him to be their representative, the one

charged with finding the one true religion, and the one who would return home to spearhead these ministries,” Eric commented. “Reading my grandfather’s words is both humbling and inspiring, to see literally how the proclaimed Word of God changed him.” A biography, *Jonathan Udo Ekong, the Log-Bell Ringer: Memoirs of a Patriarch*, was published in 1997 by Concordia Publishing House. He received an honorary Ph.D. in theology from Concordia Seminary in 1971 at the age of 90.¹

Eric’s perspective on cross-cultural ministry in the LCMS is therefore influenced by his family heritage. “Sometimes the relationships are tenuous between the different ethnic communities,” Eric commented, “but there is always a common bond between each ethnic community in the LCMS: our belief in one God; the scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the writ-

ten Word of God; and our acceptance of the symbolic books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as being a *true* and unaltered exposition of the Word of God.”

The youngest generation of Ekongs has adjusted well to their new, larger family. “Having all of the children here in the Woods community definitely helped make the transition happen much faster, especially when they met children their ages within a few days of being here,” Linda said. “The kids here are all very friendly and welcoming and looking for new friends.”

Their children certainly agree. “[The kids here] are kind, friendly, fun to play with, thoughtful, and best of all, they love Jesus too! We like the BBQ’s in the Woods on Friday nights and the sports (soccer and basketball) and the playgrounds. We like going to family night — especially the ice cream!”

Linda sang in the Pro Musica Sacra chorus last year and now serves on the Chapel Worship Team. She’s also very dedicated to SWA. “As we are all going through

The community will take care of you when you are struggling and will rejoice with you during your joys.

Eric Ekong Michigan District

similar circumstances and working through the feelings and emotions that come with moving our lives and families, it's great to know that there are others who are going through it too," Linda said.

SWA's programs aim to foster community not just between the women on campus, but among the other demographics, too. BigSister/LittleSister pairs a new seminarian's wife with a second- or fourth-year wife who provides support during the transition to campus life. SonShine cooks meals for families in need and donates gifts to families when they welcome a new baby. Second Home is for single students to be "adopted" into the homes of married families to spend time together, celebrate birthdays, and get to know each other.

Eric, Linda, Hannah, Jonathan, Hailey, and Jocelyn Ekong have truly taken advantage of the community-growth opportunities that the Seminary offers, and in turn, they have been embraced by it. "The community here is one that will take care of you when you are struggling and will rejoice with you during your joys," Eric said. "These same brothers and sisters are the ones who you will lean on during rough moments of ministry and will rejoice with you during the joys. This is the lasting example of what you will want your congregation's community to be like in your ministry."

¹ Ekong, Eric. "Book Review: *Jonathan Udo Ekong – The Log-Bell Ringer.*" *Around the Tower* Sept. 2010.



The Ekong family, clockwise from top: Linda, Jocelyn, Eric, Jonathan, Hannah, and Hailey.

Explore your vocation this summer

Vocatio is a unique opportunity for high school youth entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 to participate in Bible study, worship, prayer, and discussion on the historic Concordia Seminary campus. Sessions are taught by Concordia Seminary faculty. This year's event will be held from June 18-23.

Throughout the week, *Vocatio* participants will engage in several different exciting opportunities, including: a servant event (past events have included

work at St. Louis area congregations and the Saxon Lutheran Memorial); worship through daily chapel services and Sunday morning worship in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus; a college fair where participants will learn about the Concordia University System and the programs they offer to prepare students to do Christ's work in the world; and see St. Louis attractions (events have included a St. Louis Cardinals game and the Muny outdoor musical theatre).

A \$150 registration fee to attend *Vocatio* is the only charge for youth, in addition to travel costs. All activities, meals, and on-campus lodging during the event are included in the registration fee. Scholarships are available. Check-in will begin at 2:00 p.m. on June 18 and check-out will be at 9:00 a.m. on June 23. Concordia Seminary will not be able to provide for early arrivals or late departures. For more information, contact the admissions office at 1-800-822-9545 or admissions@csl.edu.

Seminarians sing Bach on Feb. 13 and April 17

In 1992, it was the desire of St. Louisans Richard and Phyllis Duesenberg to fund a new concert series at Concordia Seminary. While in Tokyo that year they met with Robert and Joan Bergt to discuss the idea. Bergt was orchestral and oratorio conductor at Musashino Academy of Music in Tokyo at that time. Richard's twin brother, Robert, and his wife, Lori, joined in to make this happen. All involved in the creative process wanted Bach's music performed for future pastors, their families, the Seminary community, and the St. Louis region. President John Johnson placed the Duesenbergs' goals into action; since

2005, President Dale A. Meyer has continued to support these objectives.

The *Bach at the Sem* series of concerts and its objectives project beyond an afternoon's entertainment of musical excellence. Bach's more than 200 church cantatas formulate a lasting core of hymns that the Lutheran church fosters from generation to generation. The Duesenbergs' monetary gifts join the voluntary offerings of many to make possible Bach's music for the audience.

In the current academic year, eight seminarians sing in the tenor and bass

sections of the American Kantorei Chorus. Three seminarians' wives join them. Deaconess student Sylvia White sings in the soprano section.

On Sunday, Feb. 13, at 3:00 p.m., BAS Organist Dennis Bergin will perform four Bach organ concerto transcriptions originally by Johann Ernst and Antonio Vivaldi. Ernst was Bach's friend and student. Bach wished to honor him by transcribing three of his concertos for solo organ. Bach also wished to honor Vivaldi by transcribing his organ concerto with orchestra accompaniment written earlier. The Kantorei will perform motets by Johann Pachelbel and Heinrich Schütz.

On Palm Sunday, April 17, at 3:00 p.m., the Greenville College Choir (Greenville, Ill.) will be the guest performers with the American Kantorei in two major works by Bach. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson will also conduct. They will also sing music by composers who lived during Bach's time in England. Together, the College Choir and the Kantorei will perform Cantata 4 *Christ lag im Todesbanden*, and the Magnificat of Johann Sebastian Bach.

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.



Seminarians and wives who sing with the American Kantorei: front row, from left, Heather Schwan, Halle Warmbier, Miriam Anwand, Sylvia White; middle row, Benjamin Smith, Dallas Dubke, Matthew Warmbier, Martin Dressler; back row, Joshua Grote, Grayson Albers, Matthew Meyer, and Jason Swan.

CHS sponsors lecture series

Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce the 2nd Hispanic Lutheran Theological Consultation, and the 6th Annual Lecture in Hispanic/Latino Theology & Missions. The theme for the three-day event is: 2nd and 3rd Generation Hispanics in the U.S.: Questions and Implications for the Church. These will take place from Monday, March 14, through Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Dinner and Latino Movie Night will kick off the events on March 14.

The 6th Annual Lecture speaker is Dr. Victor M. Rodríguez, professor in the department of Chicano and Latino Studies at California State University, Long Beach, Calif. (CSULB), who will present on "The New Latino Generations: Caught Between Two Worlds." The lecture will take place in Werner Auditorium on March 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Rodríguez has previously taught courses in sociology, anthropology and Latino politics, and Chicano/Latino Studies at the University of California, Irvine and at Metropolitan University of

Puerto Rico. At CSULB he presently teaches courses emphasizing issues in social inequality: Wealth and Poverty in Latino Communities, Chicano/Latino Politics, and on Identity Assimilation in Chicano and Latino Life, The Ethnic Experience, and Latino Population in the United States.

As part of these events, the 2nd Hispanic Lutheran Theological Consultation will offer presentations in English and Spanish from Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning. Presenters will include: Rev. Eloy González, Rev. Aurelio Magariño, Rev. Héctor Hoppe, Prof. Mark Kempff, and Dr. Leo Sánchez, director of the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary. Presenters will share relevant cultural and demographic keynotes that aim at understanding 2nd and 3rd generation Hispanics. They will



Rodríguez

also pose critical questions based on the research and explore its implications for the church, missions, youth and family, and other areas of our life together.

All lectures are free and open to the public. CEUs are available. For more information, contact the office of continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu; or visit the Seminary's website at www.csl.edu.

Day of Homiletical Reflection features Troeger

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host its 9th Annual Day of Homiletical Reflection on Wednesday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Seminary's Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium. The event is designed for pastors, students involved in homiletical education, and others interested in the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world. The registration fee for the Day of Homiletical Reflection is \$25.



Troeger

Dr. Thomas Troeger, The J. Edward and Ruth Cox Lantz Professor of Christian Communication at Yale Divinity School, will be the featured speaker.

Dr. Troeger has written more than a dozen books in the fields of preaching and worship and is a frequent contributor to journals dedicated to these topics. His most recent books include *Preaching and Worship*; *Preaching While the Church is Under Reconstruction*; and *Above the Moon Earth Rises: Hymn Texts, Anthems and Poems for a New Creation*. For three years Dr. Troeger hosted the Season of Worship broadcast

for Cokesbury, and he has led conferences and lectureships in worship and preaching throughout North America, as well as in Holland, Australia, Japan, and Africa. Prior to his appointment at Yale, Dr. Troeger served as the Ralph E. and Norma E. Peck Professor of Preaching

and Communications and vice president and dean of academic affairs at Iliff School of Theology.

Sectional presenters will include Dr. David Schmitt and Dr. Reed Lessing, professors at Concordia Seminary.

The Day of Homiletical Reflection combines the annual Wenchel Lecture that promotes critical thought about preaching and practical enhancement in this art with the Ernie and Elsie Schneider Endowment for Excellence in Preaching that fosters support for innovative 21st century proclamation.

For more information, contact the office of continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu; or visit the Seminary's website at www.csl.edu.



Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

Concordia Seminary, together with Peace Officer Ministries, Inc. (POM), will host “Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy — Theology and Practice,” on May 23-27 on the Seminary campus. The workshop offers unique accredited training for chaplains, peace officers, and pastors, focusing on effective Christian ministry to and through law enforcement.

Key principles that participants can expect to take away with them after attending the workshop include: understanding law enforcement as vocation (God’s calling); distinguishing and

properly applying Law and Gospel and God’s Two Kingdoms within a law enforcement context; addressing practical, legal, historical, cultural, and missiological considerations; employing Christian stress management and officer spiritual survival strategies; and identifying characteristics of a competent Christian chaplain. The Department of Homeland Security Course Component fulfills DHS Guidelines for First Responders.

Registration cost is \$350. This includes four breakfasts, five lunches, and three dinners. CEUs will be awarded for full

participation. Limited on-campus housing is available on a first-come first-served basis. Housing is dormitory style with shared bathrooms and showers. Rooms are on the second floor and are not handicapped accessible. Rates are \$40 per night for single or couple and \$25 per night for a shared room.

Deadline for registration is May 16. No walk-ins will be accepted. For more information, contact the office of continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu; or visit the Seminary’s website at www.csl.edu.

UPCOMING FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, Immanuel Lutheran, Rolla, Mo., Jan. 30
- Dr. David Peter**, presenter, Pre-Lenten sermon workshop on "Christ Our Passover," Waco, Texas, Jan. 31-Feb. 1
- Dr. David Schmitt**, speaker, "Image-based Preaching," Richard G. Kapfer Symposium on Preaching, Carrollton, Iowa, Feb. 15
- Dr. Jeff Gibbs**, leader, Bible study on "Jesus and the Reign of God," Calvary Lutheran, Wray, Colo., Feb. 18-20
- Dr. Joel Biermann**, speaker, "Man and Woman in Christ," St. John's Lay School of Theology, Marengo, Iowa, Feb. 19
- Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Southern Illinois District Men's Retreat, Wartburg, Ill., Feb. 25-26
- Dr. Joel Biermann**, speaker, "Luther's Understanding of Vocation and Mission," Iowa District West Pastoral Conference, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, Feb. 28-March 1
- Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Book of Amos, Jonesburg, Mo., March 12
- Prof. Mark Kempff**, speaker, "Understanding 2nd and 3rd Generation Hispanics: Implications for Youth and Family Ministries," Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., March 15
- Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez**, speaker, "Understanding 2nd and 3rd Generation Hispanics: Questions and Implications for the Church," Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., March 16
- Dr. Jeff Gibbs**, leader, Bible study on "Salvation and Discipleship in the Gospel of Matthew," Pilgrim Lutheran, Spokane, Wash., April 1-3
- Dr. David Schmitt**, presenter, "Beholding the Sacred: Conversations about Devotional Life and Practice," Redeemer Lutheran, Glendale, N.Y., April 9
- Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, St. Paul Lutheran, North Tonawanda, N.Y., April 10
- Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Isaiah 40-55, Oklahoma District Spring Pastors' Conference, Oklahoma City, Okla., April 11-13
- Dr. Paul Raabe**, speaker, "Zion and the Nations: Isaiah's Vision for Today," Southern Pastors Conference of the Indiana District, Morgantown, Ind., May 2-3
- Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, "Psalm 1/Isaiah's Use of the Psalter," Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso, Ind., May 2-4
- Dr. David Schmitt**, presenter, "Preaching the Songs of Zion – Integrating Hymnody into Preaching," Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso, Ind., May 2-4
- Dr. David Schmitt**, presenter, Day of Homiletical Reflection, St. Louis, Mo., May 12
- Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Isaiah 40-55, Faith Lutheran, Capistrano Beach, Calif., June 7-12
- Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, "Walk Through the Old Testament," Trinity Lutheran, Cumberland, Md., June 18
- Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, Bible Study on the Book of Acts, International LWML Convention, Peoria, Ill., June 23-26

Upcoming on-campus events

JANUARY

January 21-22 Schola Cantorum

January 28 Green and Gold Follies

January 29 Making Abortion Unthinkable

FEBRUARY

February 11 Seminary Guild Meeting

February 12 Reaching Out Together

February 13 *Bach at the Sem* Concert

MARCH

March 10-12 *Contemplate...*

March 12 Prepare/Enrich Workshop
and Training

March 14-16 Hispanic/Latino Theology and
Missions Lectures

March 18 Seminary Guild Meeting

March 18 Green and Gold Day

APRIL

April 11-15 Interim Ministry Workshop

April 17 *Bach at the Sem* Concert

April 24 Easter Brunch

MAY

May 4 Call Day

May 8 Mother's Day Brunch

May 13 Seminary Guild Meeting

May 20 Commencement

May 23-27 Christian Law Enforcement
Chaplaincy

JUNE

June 7-9 Alumni Reunion

June 18-23 *Vocatio*

*Schola
Cantorum*



Bach
AT THE SEM



Brunch
at the Sem



Guild receives support nationwide

"Enclosed is my project contribution, to honor my husband on his 90th birthday; he graduated from Concordia Seminary 65 years ago..."



our Seminary. God bless you as you continue to be a blessing to others."

For project sponsorship information or to join the Seminary Guild, please contact Janeen Curless at 314-505-7362 or curllessj@csl.edu.

So the letter reads from one of the Guild's members and friends who correspond with us from all corners of the United States. Thanks to all of these project partners, the Guild has now completed over \$12,000 in projects for this academic year as they work toward the completion of the balance of their Adopted Projects.

One of the students writes, "We praise God for you. We know that you are a blessing to many groups associated with



2010-2011 CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD ADOPTED SERVICE PROJECTS

Pieper's <i>Christian Dogmatics, Vol. 1</i>	\$1,713.60	*
Clergy Shirts	\$2,097.00	*
<i>The Minister's Prayer Book</i>	\$1,568.00	**
Seminary Chorus	\$500.00	*
Food Bank	\$800.00	*
Library	\$1,500.00	*
Student Emergency Fund	\$1,000.00	*
Family Nights	\$600.00	*
Sustainable Gardening on Campus	\$400.00	*
Deaconess Studies	\$600.00	*
Pedersen Fieldhouse	\$1,100.00	*
EIIT	\$1,000.00 (\$750 bal.)	*
Coffee after Chapel.	\$500.00	*
Direct-to-Student Aid	\$2,000.00	*
Seminary Women's Association.	\$500.00	*
Campus "Greening"	\$400.00	*
SMP	\$1,071.00	*
Student Etiquette Dinner	\$1,500.00	*
Dorm Counselor Fund	\$1,000.00	*
Student Services	\$1,000.00	*
CHS	\$319.80	*

* Adopted project

**Project adopted but not completed

Alumni Council update

The Concordia Seminary Alumni Council held its fall meeting on campus on Sept. 17 and 18. The Alumni Council

was created to serve both alumni and the Seminary, enabling us to stay connected, informed, and responsive to the needs of one another. During the course of the meeting the Council spent time interacting with several department directors at the Seminary. In these discussions, Council members learned about the many ways that God has been blessing our community, and through the Seminary His Church. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council expressed gratitude and appreciation for the service of Rev. Kenneth Gerike, (currently

serving as pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Columbia, Mo.) who will be retiring from membership on the Council, having completed two terms of service.

Alumni Council members are appointed by the Seminary president and represent a wide range of graduation years. They meet twice per year on the Seminary campus. Referrals of students, fellowship opportunities, connection with new ministry resources, and mutual support are primary benefits gained from being part of our alumni programs.

Concordia Seminary is continuing to work on providing resources and support for its graduates. Check the website at www.csl.edu for new programs and special events that will benefit alumni and the church. Use your Council — they are there to serve both you and your alma mater.



Rev. Robert Hoehner (left) and Dr. Dale A. Meyer (right) present Rev. Kenneth Gerike with a Pils Print of the Seminary in thankfulness for his service on the Alumni Council.

From Call Day through the first year

A Christmas letter from the family of Gary Syth, a 2009 alumnus.

With our lives filled with so many unknowns over our four years at Seminary, we hung onto this verse knowing that the Lord knows our future even if we do not.

2009 brought many wonderful changes to our world. The year started in St. Louis where Gary finished up his pastoral training at Concordia Seminary and graduated in June. His parents and Gram flew out for the celebration. We had a great visit together seeing the sights in St. Louis. He received his first pastoral call to Faith Lutheran Church in Homer, Alaska, and we packed up our lives into three moving cubes and moved 4,000 miles across the continent.

Sadly, during our trek across America in June 2009, we had to dodge a tornado in Nebraska; we were fogged out of Mount Rushmore; and we were snowed out of Yellowstone; so we just beat it for home. It was amazing to be able to spend three weeks in Idaho to visit friends and family before we moved north.



Gary Syth was ordained at Faith Lutheran in Homer, Alaska, in June 2009.

Gary was called to serve a church of about 100 members in Homer. He also serves twice a month at an “over the bay” church called Prince of Peace. He commutes to work in a six-seat airplane! We have caught crab in the bay and looked at a mommy and two baby moose in our

settled. After an exhaustive search of the homes in Homer, we stopped looking; but in God’s own way and timing, he blessed us with a lovely home soon after.

Life after seminary is a strange and wonderful thing, too. It’s so amazing to look at my husband as the pastor of the church now. He’s just my guy... but now he’s so much more. God is using him in drastic, life-changing ways. People call him for advice — when loved ones die, when babies are born, when baptisms happen, when marriages begin. We are

blessed to be involved in the lives of these new friends at the best and worst of times. It is an honor to pray for their needs.

God knows the desires of your heart and the real fit for your family, and He will bless you.

front yard. God really matched Gary and our family to this new town we call home. I love it here. There are a lot of struggles, but overwhelmingly, we have a blessed life. God threw a wonderful job in my lap when we arrived. I am the P.E. teacher for the elementary schools here in town, so I get to teach my own children (and about 500 more students, too!).

When we arrived, a generous member of the church let us stay in her vacant home for four months while we got

It was so hard to look forward to the future while we were at Concordia Seminary. I didn’t know what to envision or dream for. But God knows the desires of your heart and the real fit for your family, and He will bless you. Cast all your cares upon him, and he will give you peace.

*Keri Syth, on behalf of Gary, Ellie, and Peter
Homer, Alaska*



Gary (pictured with Keri, right, Ellie and Peter) commutes on this six-seat airplane to Seldovia, Alaska, to serve a second church.



Peter Syth holds his first crab during a crabbing expedition with his family.



Gary and Keri reap the benefits of living near the ocean with its fresh seafood.

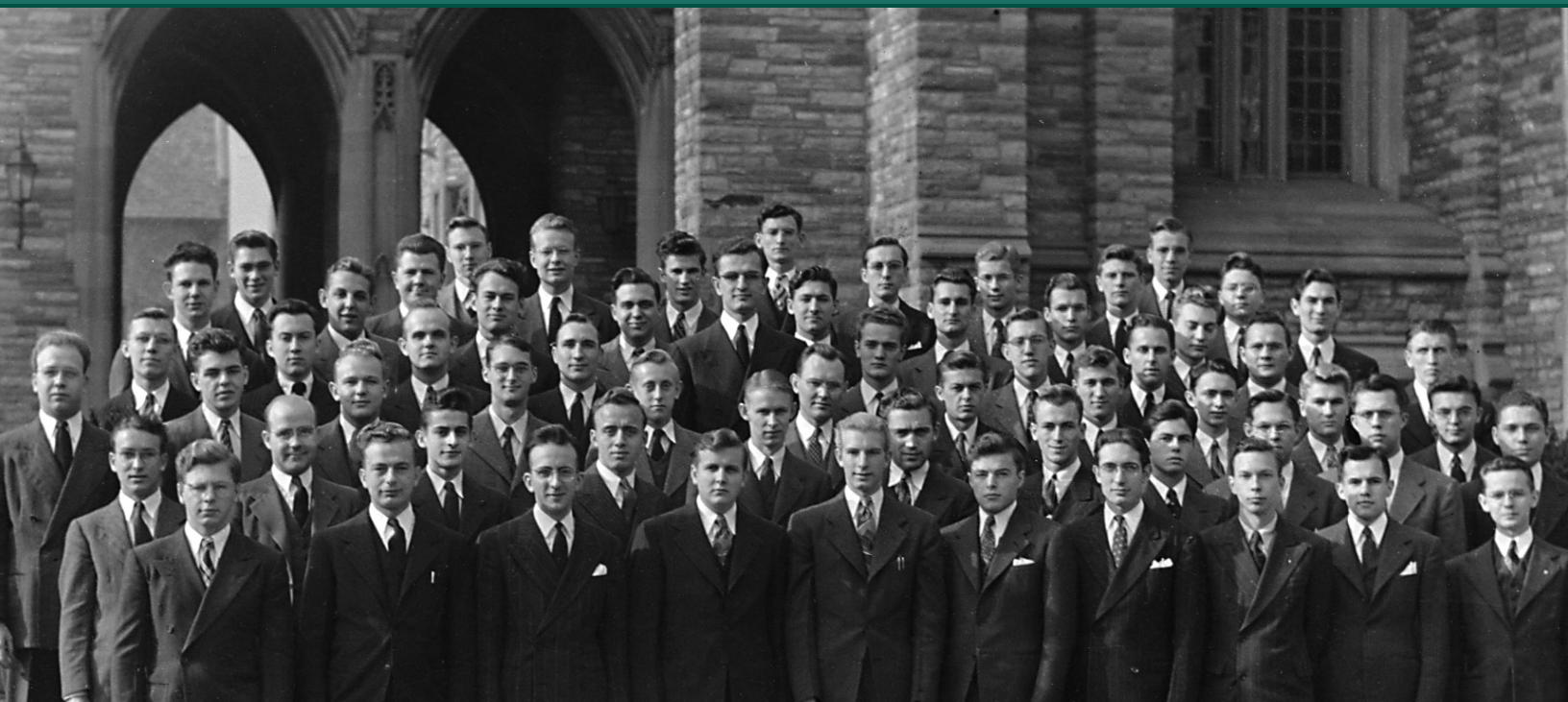
CONCORDIA SEMINARY

801 SEMINARY PLACE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS 2011 ALUMNI REUNION June 7-9, 2011

"The Way We Were... Are... and Will Be: Under God's Grace"



Concordia Seminary invites you -- graduates, spouses, and widows of class years ending in "6" or "1" -- to the Alumni Reunion, to be held on the Seminary campus June 7-9, 2011. Featured events include an alumni/faculty cookout, a formal banquet dinner, class gatherings, a Jubilarian worship service, and optional bus tours to historic LCMS or St. Louis sites. Contact alumni relations at 314-505-7370 or alumni@csl.edu for more information.

