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Paul Devantier

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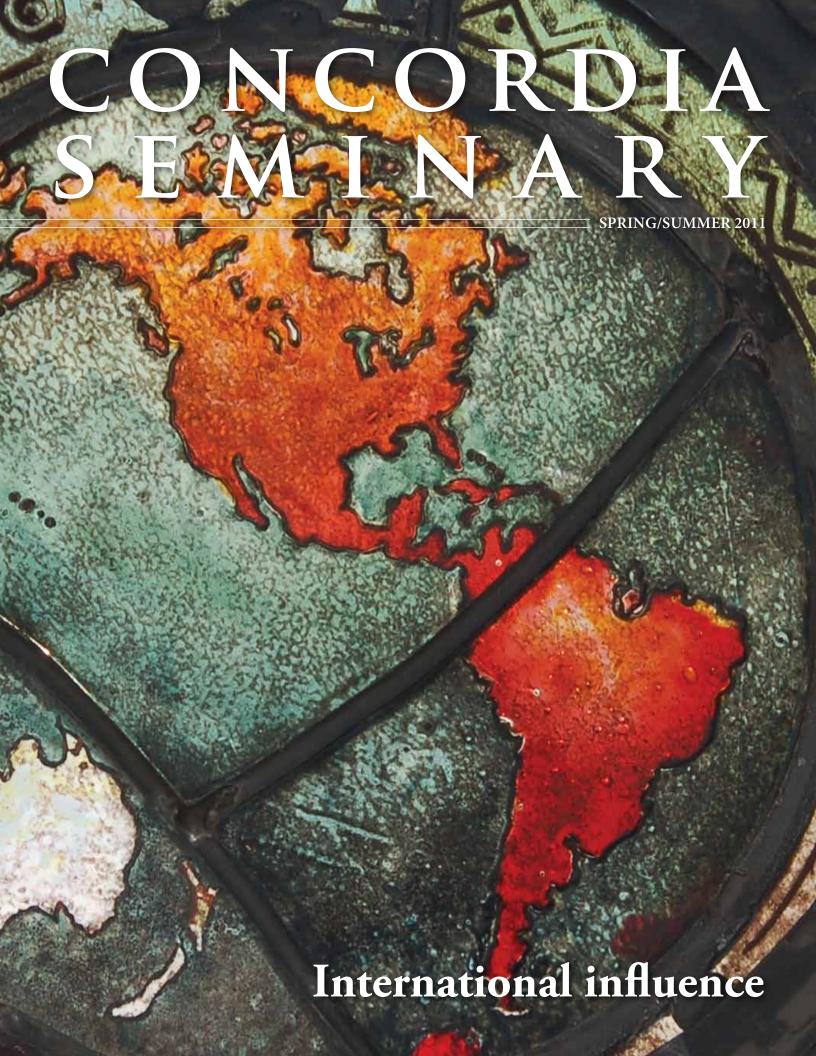


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CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

FEATURES

Educating a few; the potential to reach thousands

There are 18 international students currently enrolled in Concordia Seminary's graduate programs. "With two-thirds to three-fourths of the students, I believe that each person could be a future teacher at a seminary somewhere else in the world," Dr. Bruce Schuchard, dean of advanced studies, said.

En el nombre de Cristo

For Nelson and Perla Rodríguez, deciding to study at the Center for Hispanic Studies was fairly simple, at least in terms of wanting to take this theological journey together. "Being a busy and already fully committed family, it was hard for us not to begin and finish this portion of our journey together," they commented.

A dedicated life: Robert Bergt's journey with theology and music Dr. Robert R. Bergt has dedicated his life to studying and living two noble professions: theology and music. He intertwined his passions into a teaching career that has taken him all over the globe.

Call Day 2011

On the day that the Seminary community looks forward to all year (especially second- and fourth-year students), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, celebrated 167 calls and vicarage assignments with family and friends filling every pew and chair in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on May 4.

A different kind of ministry

Four members of the Concordia Seminary Class of 1967 attended a Clinical Pastoral Education retreat in Oct. 2010: Bruce Hartung, Leroy Joesten, Charles Pieplow, and Charles Weinrich. Hartung and Joesten were honored with the Christus in Mundo award.

IN EVERY ISSUE

21 Events

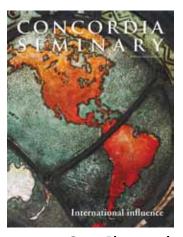
From the President Student Spotlight 24 Support Your Sem 8

26 Alumni and Friends Faculty and Staff Notes 10

News Worth Noting 12

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Cover Photograph Stained glass window in President Dale Meyer's office by Jayna Rollings

Executive Editor Rev. Dr. Paul Devantier

Editor

Emily Boedecker

Designer Jayna Rollings

Photographers Emily Boedecker Nancy Olson Harold Rau Jayna Rollings

THANKS FOR WRITING!

The last issue of *Concordia Seminary* magazine (as with earlier issues) brought some interesting and touching responses from readers. The staff at the Seminary is always delighted to hear from those who receive the magazine, and we encourage you to keep writing us. While we may not always have space for mentioning readers' comments, there are a few from the last issue that I would like to share.

The old brick oven on campus that was pictured in the winter 2011 issue brought back some wonderful memories for Carolyn Schifferdecker. She lived on the campus of the Seminary when she was a child. It was where her father worked as a maintenance man. She recalled regularly visiting the building where the oven was in full operation. "We would go there at the end of the day to meet my father and walk home with him. The smells from the



bakery were always wonderful! I can still picture the baker standing at his oven, with a large white apron, putting in large trays of bread, rolls, cookies, cakes, pies, and coffeecakes. He was always smiling and laughing. When he saw us, he always had time to talk to us and give us a treat. So, when I saw the picture of the oven, it made my day! The students during those

years truly received good home cooking and baking — a labor of love from the heart."

The tribute to families with generations of pastors and church workers was a feature that caught the attention of quite a number of readers. Some recalled generations in their own families of pastors and other servants of the Lord. Some were served by those we mentioned. Some knew

members of the youngest generations (who are now pastors or about to be pastors) when they were young infants.

"One hundred years old and still preaching" was the message shared with us by Pastor Mark Drengler, a 1991 graduate of the Seminary. He wanted us to know that his wife's grandfather, Pastor Gerhardt Gerike, a Seminary alum from the

1930s, would be preaching in Lake Wales, Fla. on the occasion of his 100th birthday on May 1 of this year. A blessed happy birthday to you, Pastor Gerike!

The photo of Connor Pittman and his grandfather, President Dale A. Meyer, brought many comments. The great candid photo and President Meyer's message captured for many the importance of passing on



the faith...and the importance of the ongoing mission of Concordia Seminary to educate and shape pastors and others for future generations.

Past generations. We thank God for their commitment to ministry. Present generations. May they honor those who have gone before and praise God for the work that has been passed on to them. Future generations. May all who come after us be blessed with the joy and hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we have been, and may there always be faithful pastors to lead them!



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

Cood's calling is specific to each individual

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From the PRESIDENT

A highlight of my spring was the visit to campus of seventh and eighth graders from St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chicago Heights, Ill. I was confirmed and graduated from St. Paul's but our class picture looked different than the photo you see on this page. We all looked very much alike. The only one "different" in our class was Helmut who had come to us from Germany via Brazil. If we thought we had a "minority," I guess Helmut was it. But as you can see, St. Paul's students look a lot different 50 years later.

"It is estimated that by 2050 one of every four Americans will be Hispanic while the white Anglo population of America will be below 50 percent. Hispanic, African American, African immigrant, and Asian congregations must be part of a growing 21st century Missouri Synod, not some backwater colonies of our predominant but rapidly aging white Anglo church. We'll have to get comfortable with churches and fellow baptized who speak Spanish, Sudanese, Mandarin, and whatever languages first generation immigrants are speaking." (*Concordia Journal*, Winter 2011)

Two summers ago the faculties of both LCMS seminaries met together. British scholar Philip Jenkins shared statistics and insights about how the face of Christianity is changing. He predicted that by the year 2050 America will still be predominantly Christian but "it will not be made up of the old stock." The face of American Christianity will be many colors, many languages, some native born and many immigrants. The faces of St. Paul's students bear that out.

The programs and students of Concordia Seminary reflect this new time in American Christianity. Through our Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, our Center for Hispanic Studies, and the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University in Irvine, Calif. and through our more traditional programs, Concordia Seminary is preparing pastors and deaconesses for 21st century service and mission.

The St. Paul's tour ended with a visit to my office. I showed them two of the very dearest books in my large personal library. The first was the Bible given to me by Uncle Bob and Aunt Joan at my confirmation, March 26, 1961. They inscribed on the first page, Be faithful unto death. The second was a little devotional book given to each confirmand by our pastor, Rev. Arthur A. Brauer. I read a paragraph from the book to the students. I am giving you this little book. Its title sums up everything I can say to you now. Remember! Remember your God, your Savior, your church! Never forget! Every time you open this book, I hope you will remember all the eternally important matters we considered while you were preparing for your great day of confirmation. And I hope too, that you will always remember that I, your pastor, who lived a while on earth with you, want to spend eternity with you. That's why with your help Concordia Seminary is striving to provide pastors and workers for the faces of the future.

Dale A. Meyer



Educating a few; the potential to reach thousands

Not long ago, Dr. Bruce Schuchard, dean of advanced studies, reviewed the list of 18 international students currently enrolled in Concordia Seminary's graduate programs and considered how each might serve in the future.

"With two-thirds to three-fourths of the names, the consistent answer was that each person would be a future teacher at a seminary somewhere else in the world," Schuchard relates. "To recognize that one person returning to one seminary will train hundreds or more future pastors who then will go out to proclaim Christ to hundreds and thousands of others — to see that kind of potential in one student after another really gets a person excited."



BRAZIL



Alexandre Vieira

Theological study is very much a part of Alexandre Vieira's life these days. He finished a Master of Arts program at Concordia Seminary in January and has returned to his native Brazil where he is completing the M.Div. program at Seminário Concórdia in São Leopoldo.

In Brazil, Vieira explains, the M.Div. program takes six years. In 2009 he left for a two-year exchange program in the United States and chose to study for the M.A. degree at Concordia Seminary. He intends to return to the Seminary in St. Louis to study for a Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) in exegetical theology, specializing in the New Testament. His goal is to complete his studies by 2014.

Concordia Seminary is always considered a first option among Brazilian Lutheran theology students, according to Vieira. "Due to the good relationship between the LCMS and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brazil (IELB), a lot of pastors and professors have studied at Concordia Seminary over the years," he says.

Vieira, 25, was born and raised in Porto Alegre. His family was nominally Roman Catholic, and he recalls being seven years old when his uncle's family — Lutherans — began inviting them to church on special days like Easter, Christmas, and Mother's Day. As relationships grew with other members and the pastor, the family became Lutherans. Vieira and his wife, Celiane, have been married five years.

"No matter where I'll serve in the future, this program will certainly provide me with important tools for any kind of ministry, especially teaching in one of our Lutheran universities or seminaries," he says.

Many also go on to serve in other important leadership roles in their home church bodies. Schuchard cites the example of Rev. Amos Bolay, acting president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia.

International students who are attracted to Concordia Seminary are "almost always Lutheran" notes Dr. Reed Lessing, director of the

continued on page 6 >

< continued from page 5</p>

graduate school. He serves as advisor to students pursuing the Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. During the 2010-11 academic year, the graduate school had a total enrollment of 92 students including the 18 international students.

"The predominant reason is that we are a confessional Lutheran Seminary and we have church partners all around the world who send their brightest and best to us," Lessing says.

"Think about the ramifications when you train a man who is going to return to mainland China with evangelical Lutheran theology and teach the Bible," he says. "Or think about our two students from India. God willing, they will train generations of pastors with the theology they learned here."

The Seminary currently has a Baptist student from Myanmar (formerly Burma). A woman who recently earned a Ph.D. has returned to Thailand where she teaches and serves as an administrator at the Bangkok Institute of Theology.

Deaconess Ruth McDonnell serves as assistant director of the master of arts program. Her responsibilities include academic advising to the students pursuing M.A. degrees. She helps students stay on schedule with admission exams and policies and tracks their progress once on campus. She also writes grant requests and seeks contributions to special projects in the graduate school.

She notes that the international students also bring a dimension to the entire Seminary: "It's fascinating to learn the cultural differences from our students — to see them interact theologically with other students in classes as they bring the flavor of life from places around the world. It's seeing that worldwide picture and meeting the challenge to express the Gospel in ways that relate to cultures and people who aren't like us."







Jean-Baptiste Mberebe

Regardless of the continent, Christ's church faces new challenges brought by secularized society, and Rev. Jean-Baptist Mberebe believes his Ph.D. study at Concordia Seminary will help

strengthen his ministry as a Bible college teacher in Cameroon.

Mberebe began his Ph.D. studies last fall, hoping to complete his degree with a concentration in theology and culture by 2014. His home is Kaele, in the far north province of Cameroon, where he taught in the Bible College of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. He expects to return and take up that teaching position.

"This study program will help me personally in my grasp of the message of the Gospel and the tools to bring it to the people," he says. "Beyond that the Bible college that recommended me for this undertaking is hoping to transform into a full seminary so that it responds through the training of pastors to the challenges of globalization and secularization facing the Church today in Cameroon."

Mberebe says he sensed from an early age the Lord "leading me to himself" through the Word. He was convinced of his calling to ministry of the Word as a teenager and, after confirmation, was recommended to pursue seminary training.

For Mberebe, his family remains in Kaele while he studies. At home are his wife, Helene Kaldjakwa, and four children. And during a summer break and return to Cameroon, he intends to meet a fifth child, who was born in May.

Dr. Reed Lessing provides these examples of the responsibilities that international graduate students have taken upon returning to their home countries.

- Rev. Bulti Fayissa, instructor, Mekane Yesus Seminary, Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia
- Dr. Ingvar Floysvik, instructor, Bryne, Norway
- Rev. Anselmo Graff, instructor and dean of students, Seminário Concórdia, Igreja Evangélica Luterana do Brasil
- Dr. Guntis Kalme, instructor, Luther Academy, Riga, Latvia
- Dr. Makito Masaki, president, Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary, Japan
- Rev. Walter Obare, presiding bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenya
- Rev. Acir Raymann, academic dean, Seminário Concórdia, Sao Leopoldo, Brazil
- Dr. Jeffrey Silcock, head of theology department and vicarage coordinator, Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide, Australia



Guntars Baikovs, left, chats with Stanish Stanley at a picnic at the beginning of the academic year.





Guntars Baikovs

"To live in the Seminary community among Christians is something totally new for us," says Rev. Guntars Baikovs. For one who is passionate about God's Word, he believes the resources are almost limitless, including, "professors always ready to patiently answer your strange questions, the library, and fellow students who are burning to share their latest insights."

Baikovs, a pastor whose home is in Valmiera, Latvia, began his studies here in 2008. He started with an S.T.M. focusing on Old Testament biblical theology and was recently accepted into the Ph.D. program in doctrinal studies. He has already begun writing theological materials for his church — five short volumes gathering the best from here and arranged around the outline of Luther's Small Catechism.

Saying he wishes he could bring back a piece of the Seminary to Latvia, he says "The Beginning of Wisdom Series" is an attempt. The first volume is due to be finished this summer.

Now 39, Baikovs describes a faith journey with detours and road-blocks. The only son of non-Christian parents, he pursued a degree in psychology, spent time in the entertainment business, worked in information technology, co-founded small companies and studied management. The transformation came for him at one of Latvia's strongest Lutheran congregations. "Somehow the Lord caused me to be hungry and thirsty to understand what this faith is all about," he continues. He met almost every week with his pastor, a professor at the seminary in Latvia. Then he was invited to attend the seminary and now to continue his studies abroad.

Baikovs is married to Jana. A daughter, Agnese, 18, lives in Austria and daughter Anna, 19, is attending community college. Their younger children are Betija, 8, Davids, 7, and Daniels, 4.





Stanish Stanley

While the history of the mission in India has been told from the vantage point of the LCMS and its missionaries, the story is yet to be told from the viewpoint of the Indian people. So that becomes the subject of research and a future Ph.D. dissertation for Stanish Stanley, whose study at Concordia Seminary focuses on historical theology.

"The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) was the first mission outreach of the LCMS, begun in 1895," Stanley says. "It's basically an IELC look into the theological contributions of the Indian people, how they perceived what the missionary was doing for them and how they perceived Jesus Christ as their savior and redeemer."

Stanley cites several reasons for his decision to do his graduate work at Concordia Seminary: the 116-year relationship between the IELC and the LCMS; the fellowship between the partner churches; and the confessional Lutheran heritage that they share. "It was my church president, Rev. J. Samuel, who wanted me to come and study here more than anywhere," he says. "When I got a scholarship to study here, I took the opportunity."

Stanley began his study in 2008 and plans to finish in 2013. He earned a master's degree from the Protestant Theological University in the Netherlands and a Bachelor of Divinity degree in Bangalore, India. While he has conducted a year of work as a candidate ready for ministry in India, he has not yet been ordained.

The son of a parish pastor, his plan is to serve a parish when he completes the graduate study. If opportunities arise, he will consider teaching or serving in administration. "I definitely want to give back what I have learned and make my contribution as a witness to the church," he says.

Stanley's family includes his wife, Beena, and daughters Catherine, 5, and Riona, 20 months.



Joseph "Tom" Omolo from Kenya is studying for a Ph.D. in Doctrinal Theology.



In a meeting this spring, LCMS President Matthew Harrison discussed the current state of world Lutheranism with international students. From left are Stanish Stanley, Guntars Baikovs, and Harrison.

En el nombre de Cristo Nelson and Perla Rodríguez Center for Hispanic Studies

What makes someone decide to further their education? For many, it's the desire to gain skills in a field in which they're already involved or interested. It typically involves a lot of personal sacrifice, especially if that person has a family and a full time job. But what would make a married couple decide to further their educations at the same time, at the same institution, in the same program?

For Nelson and Perla Rodríguez, deciding to study at the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was fairly simple, at least in terms of wanting to take this theological journey together. "Being a busy and already fully committed family, it was hard for us not to begin and finish this portion of our journey together," they commented. Nelson and Perla have been working together for several years at Comunidad de Gracia (Community of Grace), a Hispanic urban church plant in Houston, Texas.

The Center for Hispanic Studies offers part-time theological education through a diversity of delivery systems, including short-term residential intensive courses in St. Louis, courses taught at Seminary extension sites in Houston and Tampa, and some online courses. The Rodriguez's have taken most of their classes at Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition (LINC) in Houston. Students at extension sites come to St. Louis for weeklong intensives once a year.

Learning in community at the grassroots level and across Hispanic cultures is a huge part of the vision of CHS, according to Director Leopoldo Sánchez. "Living in community is incredibly important to Hispanics living in the U.S., who value building relationships as part of their formation process," he commented. "Therefore this educational program honors and fosters 'walking together' through creating a community in the classroom."

Classes are conducted entirely in Spanish because CHS students have a desire to work in church settings where Spanish is a critical component of the mission. "Sometimes CHS graduates are the only qualified, educated



Perla and Nelson Rodríguez, pictured here on Call Day, received calls to LINC-Houston as deaconess and pastor.

people to deliver the Gospel in their native language," continued Sánchez, "so it's imperative that they become familiar with issues affecting Hispanic communities in the U.S., and know the Lutheran confessions in Spanish."

CHS was the right choice for Nelson and Perla. Nelson is enrolled in the pastoral track program and Perla is enrolled in the deaconess track program. "The unique classes are designed to help us understand not just the Scripture but also the cultural challenges, and many other important aspects," they said. Nelson went on to say, "Without the help, commitment, love, and care from CHS, I would have not obtained the experience, skills and knowledge that I need to deal with real church life situations."

Nelson came from a Methodist background in his home country of Puerto Rico before he became a Lutheran. "Being now a member and studying in the Lutheran church, I appreciate the fact that this faith is Bible based and very historical and well built with the right resources and background to make anyone feel confident, since we as Lutherans give all the credit to God,"

Nelson said. Perla, born and raised in Houston, Texas, to native Mexican parents, has been a lifelong Lutheran.

Nelson and Perla have three children: Homero Alfonso (14), Victoria Esperanza (6), and Nelson Abraham (2). They have been a very important part of Nelson's and Perla's educational journey. "Although they are all of little age, they have supported us from the beginning with their patience and prayers," Perla commented.

"Homero has been patient and very understanding with the demand that came with seminary and the weight of the church," Perla continued. "He is very patient and helps us alleviate a lot of the everyday pressure by simply staying out of trouble and supporting his parents in this ministry." Homero is very involved with the youth activities at their home church of *Comunidad de Gracia*, like the food pantry, youth events, sport activities, and he leads devotional and Bible studies.

The youngest Rodriguez's also share in this experience with their parents. "Victoria and Abraham have assisted us with every class here in Houston. Although just six and two years of age, they have woken up early along with us to go to each class we have had for the last three years. They have not complained not once."

The Rodriguez's received their first calls as pastor and deaconess at Call Day on May 4 at Concordia Seminary. In Houston, they will continue to serve at their home church.

Nelson and Perla truly understand the importance of being theologically-formed in today's world in order to serve God and His people. "Beginning with all the pressures from life, the media, and many other influences, people do not know what to believe," Nelson said. "We need solid, educated, humble, and dedicated leaders to help God's people understand the truth. The Lutheran church offers that balanced foundation for today's overwhelmed population to be secure on their faith."

"As an ordained pastor and deaconess, we hope to bless our current congregation with the proper qualifications and knowledge that we have obtained. With this new set of skills that we have developed, we hope to make our congregation better and our programs more effective and efficient for the sake of the kingdom of Christ."

The Center for Hispanic Studies

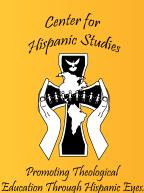
The Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) offers Seminary level pastoral and deaconess formation in the Spanish language. Prior to entering the Seminary level, students complete Entrance or Congregational level preparatory courses in Spanish through various CHS regional coordinators, theological education partners, and pastors in the field nationwide. The best students from the first level apply for admission to the Seminary level, which leads to certification for pastoral or deaconess ministry.

The Seminary level is a three year program. Six courses are taken each year, for a total of 18 courses in three years. Each academic year, five courses are delivered through short-term residential intensives given on the St. Louis campus or at extension-satellite sites (currently, CHS has satellites in Houston and Tampa). Each academic year, one course is also taught online.

"It is truly an unprecedented opportunity and great privilege to provide theological leadership in the formation of Latino/a Lutherans for pastoral and deaconess ministries in an increasingly Hispanic U.S.," commented Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez, CHS Director and The Werner R. H. Krause and Elizabeth Ringger Krause Endowed Chair for Hispanic Ministries at Concordia Seminary.

The curriculum takes serious consideration of how confessional Lutheran theology is applied in various U.S. Hispanic/Latino communities and is ideal for candidates whose goal is to serve as pastors or deaconesses in such ministry and mission contexts. As part of their requirements for pastoral or deaconess certification, CHS students must also serve a two-year concurrent vicarage or deaconess internship under the mentorship of local pastors.

In partnership with Concordia Seminary's Graduate School, qualified CHS students can now also apply during their first year to the M.A., the first Spanish-language graduate program in theology offered in a Lutheran institution in the Americas. For more information on CHS, please contact Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez or Mr. Mark Kempff at chs@csl.edu.



A dedicated life: Robert Bergt's journey with theology and music

Editor's note: The following story was adapted from an interview of Dr. Robert Bergt by Dr. James Brauer, professor emeritus and former dean of the chapel at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on the occasion of Dr. Bergt's 80th birthday in Jan. 2010.

Dr. Robert R. Bergt has dedicated his life to studying and living two noble professions: theology and music. He intertwined his passions into a conducting and teaching career that has taken him all over the globe: at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for 14 years; at Southern Illinois University Carbondale for 10; for four years at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.; and almost 10 years at Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo, Japan.

He started The American Kantorei, a music ensemble comprised of musicians who can both sing and play instruments, in 1968, and their performances continue today as part of the *Bach at the Sem* concert series.



Robert Bergt

From a young age, it was clear that his calling was in music. "It was from my parents at a very early age, three and a half or four years old," Bergt commented. "I started on a drum set, of all things, but in a serious way. The set included a bass drum with a mallet-pedal so that the strong beats of the measure received the *tactus*, a snare to keep regular time."

Bergt also played the piano and the violin. His parents were deeply dedicated to his musical studies, driving long distances on weekends so that he could take lessons from renowned teachers. When he was seven years old, his father told him that he was old enough to take the Greyhound Bus to his lessons in Omaha, Neb. "It was 80 miles one way to Omaha," Bergt said. "So Saturdays began at 5:00 a.m. in order to arrive 8:00 a.m. I took a violin lesson, two hours long! In the afternoon I went by taxi to Stanley Letovsky's home-studio for my harmony lessons. After studying two years he had me create original melodies and compose a bass line and then develop the harmonic structures."

After six years in preparatory school in Fort Wayne, Ind. (then Concordia College), Bergt had a hard choice in front of him — whether to continue studying music or theology. "I dealt with that emotionally already in prep school and during the seminary years, a curriculum which had no music history or music theory," he said. "I didn't know if I should go on to become a pastor or a musician."

Bergt struggled with this throughout his first year at Concordia Seminary, and decided to take a leave of absence his second year in order to attend the St. Louis Institute of Music full time. Two years later, he completed his studies at the Institute and decided to return to the Seminary. "I wouldn't have had stability in the symphony orchestra life but it wasn't just that," Bergt explained. "My father was a pastor and I thought I would love the pastoral ministry. However, I realized that while there was little money [financial security], there was security working with God's people."

"I felt compelled to combine music with theology the best I could and to attempt to improve relationships between teacher, organist, church musician, and pastor."

For the next couple of decades, Bergt did just that — spent his time as a pastor, teacher, and musician in many capacities in the St. Louis area. "In 1960 I became the first violinist of the Ford Foundation St. Louis Young Artist String Quartet," Bergt said. "We played 100 to 120 schools through the year, four every Monday — two in the morning, two in the afternoon at colleges, high schools and grade schools. That was a great experience. Just imagine: always on Mondays doing this and teaching at Concordia Seminary."

Bergt and his wife, Joan, were invited through the Educational Department of the Japan Diet (Japan's legislature) in 1981 to the Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo where he first conducted the freshman orchestra on a separate campus 50 kilometers to the west, in Iruma Shi. The orchestra was comprehensive, as the conservatory typically had 4,000 students at a time. "When I was there, we had 2,000 piano students, 1,200 singers who probably doubled in piano or orchestral instruments, and 800 or more voice majors," Bergt said.

The Bergts returned to Japan for a longer period, this time from summer 1988 to 1995 when Bergt served as conductor of three orchestras and professor of graduate chamber music at Musashino Academia Musicae. At the time, he was the only foreign conductor to have come from America. Bergt calls these years "the height of my musical experience."

"Joan and I loved life in Japan," Bergt commented. "The quaint local shops in Nerima-ku to the 'Radio City' of the Ginza; their temple worship as Buddhists to Shinto New Year's Day celebrations; their manner of burial, all were experiences in which we learned to know their culture and spiritual life.

"At St. Paul ILC [International Lutheran Church] Christian visitors, short term and long term, worshiped at the ILC in Chiyoda-ku, which was stimulating," he continued.

"We longed for Sundays to arrive and we could sit together in pews. I assisted Rev.

Carl Westby on many
Sundays. Often

Musashino Academia students were involved in Sunday worship with their stringed and wind instruments. An experience never to be forgotten — not ever!"

Before the Bergts returned from Japan full time, Dr. Bergt began to conduct the *Bach at Sem* concerts at Concordia Seminary. The concert series began in 1993 and continues today, performing an average of four to six concerts per year on the Seminary campus. Bergt continues to serve as music director and conductor.



Bergt's illustrious conducting career took him to Japan where he conducted for the Musashino Academia Musicae shown here.

Sem Press intiates new Bible study series

In the Word Bible Studies from Concordia Seminary is a unique, complete electronic Bible study-in-a-box. All the materials you need to facilitate the Bible Study topic are downloadable – the student study sheets, the leader guides, and four video presentations. The "Who is the Greatest? (It's Not Who You Think)" series is presented in four separate video vignettes discussed by Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs with Dr. Jeffrey Kloha in a casual, fun setting. The leader guides and handouts for this Matthew 18 series were written by Rev. Gary Ellul. The flexible format

allows the facilitator to complete this study in as little as one meeting or up to four.

There are a number of ways to access *In the Word Bible Studies*:

For more information about the Seminary's iTunes U offerings, or how to install iTunes, please visit http://iTunes.csl.edu.

For a quick preview of the materials, visit http://concordiatheology.org/2010/12/who-is-the-greatest.



To receive a DVD copy, please send a \$10 check, payable to Concordia Seminary (to cover materials and shipping), to Concordia Seminary Press, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. Or, for credit card payment, please call 314-505-7117.

Seminary Chorus toured Texas and Arkansas

The Concordia Seminary Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Greg Gastler, visited Lutheran churches in Texas and Arkansas during its 2011 Spring Tour. The Chorus provided services of word and music in the form of choral Evening Prayer that



Graduating seminarians Aaron Roggow (left) and Dustin Beck went on their last tour with the Chorus this spring.

included prayer, Scripture readings, and congregational singing.

The Chorus kicked off their tour with a preview concert held on the Seminary campus on Feb. 18. Twelve students in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program and three students in the deaconess studies program traveled for one week during the Seminary's winter quarter break. The deaconess students — Sylvia White, Ashley Effken, and Melissa LeFevre — served as guest musicians, playing the violin, trumpet, and flute, respectively.

The Concordia Seminary Chorus, which includes the Spring Tour Group, numbers about 30 seminarians, who commit to balancing full course loads



Deaconess students Ashley Effken (left), Melissa LeFevre, and Sylvia White sang with the Seminary Chorus tour.

with weekly rehearsals and special tour rehearsals. The Chorus has performed in more than 30 states and provinces in North America during the last 23 years. The seminarians are preparing for full-time service as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Counseling and Confession reprinted by Concordia Seminary Press

Concordia Seminary Press has released their newest book, a reprint of Walter Koehler's *Counseling and Confession: The Role of Confession and Absolution in Pastoral Counseling.* This new edition includes an introduction by Dr. Richard Marrs which updates the book within the present context of pastoral care. It also includes a foreword by Dr. Harold Senkbeil. The printing costs were graciously covered by the Biblical Charity Continuing Education program, funded by the Biblical Charity Institute.

Counseling and Confession: The Role of Confession and Absolution in Pastoral Counseling costs \$19.95. It is available for purchase at the Concordia Seminary bookstore, www.amazon.com, and by contacting theological research and publication at sempress@csl.edu or 314-505-7117. It can also be purchased online at http://store.csl.edu.



Calls into the pastoral ministry

WINTER 2011 MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.) CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

- † **Aaron Bell**, Holy Cross, St. Cloud, Minn.
- † William Brath, Trinity Evangelical, Orlando, Fla.
- † **Karl Gibbs**, Our Savior Evangelical, Milford, Ill.
- † **Bradley Malone**, Lamb of God Evangelical, Seattle, Wash.
- † **Jonathan Rusnak**, Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison, Minn.
- † **Kyle Schwan**, Trinity Evangelical, Hartford, S.D.



Call assignments, front row, from left: Aaron Bell, Jonathan Rusnak, Bradley Malone, Karl Gibbs, Kyle Schwan, Dr. Timothy Saleska; back row, Dr. Dale Meyer, Rev. Robert Hoehner, and Dr. Bruce Hartung.

WINTER 2011 SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR (SMP) PROGRAM CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

† **Jeffrey Kunsman**, The Church of St. Luke, North York, Ontario, Canada

WINTER 2011 SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR PROGRAM (SMP) VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS

- † **Mark Doede**, Our Shepherd, Birmingham, Mich.
- † William Hood, Seattle Lutheran High School, Seattle, Wash.
- † Paul Koehler, St. John's, Motley, Minn.
- † Daniel Schultz, Zion, Hopkins, Minn.
- † **Raleigh Sims**, Ascension, Casselberry, Fla.
- † **John Suguitan**, Prince of Peace, Cincinnati, Ohio
- † Scott Thomas, Trinity, Lisle, Ill.



- † **Lewis Upchurch**, Hope, Wake Forest, N.C.
- † **Jason Weber**, Fellowship of Faith, McHenry, Ill.
- † **Matthew Wipperman**, Christ Memorial, Fitchburg, Wis.

SMP vicarage assignments, front row, from left: Dr. Dale Meyer, Mark Doede, William Hood, Raleigh Sims, Scott Thomas, Paul Koehler, Dr. Bruce Hartung; back row, from left: Dr. Glenn Nielsen, Daniel Schultz, John Suguitan, Lewis Upchurch, Jason Weber, Matthew Wipperman, and Dr. David Wollenburg.



A group of 30 Scandinavian (mostly Swedish) Lutheran pastors, with seven wives and two daughters in tow, visited the Seminary campus May 4-7. They toured Swedish and Lutheran sites while in the U.S. for 12 days, including three days in St. Louis. While here, they attended the call service, met with **SWEDEN** professors about pastoral formation in the U.S., and toured the LCMS International Center.

CALL DAY 2011



This image depicts all calls and vicarage/internship assignments that were announced on May 4, 2011. Calls are shown as gold pins. Vicarage and internship assignments are shown as green pins. The white lines originate from the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and extend out into world to the location where they have each been called or assigned.

CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

- † Gonzalez, Matthew Trinity Evangelical, Bronx, New York
- † **Hodges, Jonathan** St. Mark's Second Evangelical, Hudson, New York

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT

- † **Hoffman, Charles** St. Mark, Elko, Nevada
- † Merrick, Brandon (CCMC) Christ the Life, San Jose, California
- † **Ray, Donald** Faith Evangelical, Fair Oaks, California

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † **Anderson, Mark** Bethel, Morton, Illinois
- † Antor, Donald Salem, Salem, Illinois
- † **Bueltmann, Kevin** St. John's Evangelical, Sand Prairie Township, Illinois

On the day that the Seminary community looks forward to all year (especially second- and fourth-year students), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, celebrated 167 calls and vicarage assignments with family and friends filling every pew and chair in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. Rev. Russell Sommerfeld, Nebraska District president, preached at the vicarage service, and Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, preached at the call service.

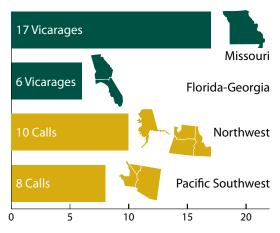
90 TOTAL CALLS

- 81 M.Div. Calls
- 2 CHS Calls
- 1 DELTO Calls
- 2 CCMC Calls
- 4 CHS Deaconess Calls
- 7 Calls Pending (2 M.Div., 4 CCMC, 1 CHS)
- Deaconess Calls Pending(1 Deaconess, 1 CHS Deaconess)

81 TOTAL VICARAGES

- 76 M.Div./Alt.Rte. Vicarage Assignments
 - 5 CHS Vicarage Assignments

DISTRICTS WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF CALLS AND VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS



ENGLISH DISTRICT

- † Carlson, Eric Our Savior, Chicago, Illinois
- † **Koschmann, Mark** Chapel of the Cross, St. Louis, Missouri

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

† **Brown, Joshua** - Messiah, Valdosta, Georgia

INDIANA DISTRICT

- † Luna, Juan Diego (CHS) St. Paul Evangelical, Columbus, Indiana
- † **Smith, Sean** LC of Our Redeemer, Evansville, Indiana

IOWA EAST DISTRICT

† **Beltz, Samuel** - St. John, Oskaloosa, lowa

IOWA WEST DISTRICT

† Seifert, Joseph - Trinity, Algona, Iowa

KANSAS DISTRICT

† **Kootz, Dennis** - St. Paul LC and School, Leavenworth, Kansas

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

- † **Grenz, Greyson** Trinity, Wyandotte, Michigan
- † **Hile, John** Heart of the Shepherd, Howell, Michigan



From left, Sarah Scheiwe, Logan Scheiwe, Robyn Ritter, and Timothy Ritter escort their children into the call service.

- † **Mullen, Nicholas** St. Matthew, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- † Ross, Daniel Good Shepherd, Saginaw, Michigan
- † **Schmidt, Erik** Community, Flat Rock, Michigan
- † **Vogel, Benjamin** Shepherd of the Lakes LC and School, Brighton, Michigan

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

- † **Bell, Justin** Grace, Knoxville, Tennessee
- † **Escher, Christopher** Faith, Bentonville, Arkansas
- † **Ficken, David** LakePointe, Hot Springs, Arkansas
- † Ondracka, William Christus Victor, Knoxville, Tennessee

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT

† **Hutchison, Eric** - St. John's, Norwood Young America, Minnesota

MISSOURI DISTRICT

- † **Hagerman, Nicholas** Trinity, Springfield, Missouri
- † **Herald, David** Trinity, Appleton City, Missouri
- † **Liefer, Todd** Immanuel, Wentzville, Missouri
- † Meissner, Duane Immanuel, Barnhart, Missouri
- † Tanney, Michael St. John's, St. Louis, Missouri
- † **Tessone, Andrew** Our Savior, Sedalia, Missouri
- † **Wood, Matthew** Concordia, Maplewood, Missouri

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

- † **Coe, David** Trinity, Fremont, Nebraska
- † **Feldmann, Michael** Grace, Wayne, Nebraska



Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, preached at the call service.



From left, Michael Feldmann, David Coe, David Ficken, Quintin Cundiff, and Joshua Hayes sing the opening hymn.

† **Wagner, Aaron** - Zion Evangelical, Alva, Oklahoma

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

- † **Breitbarth, Marcus** Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes, California
- † Flick, Seth Immanuel LC and School, Riverside, California
- † **Harris, James** Ascension, Apple Valley, California
- † **Kaelberer, Erich** Shepherd of the Hills, Rancho Cucamonga, California
- † **Keinath, Joshua** Shepherd of the Hills, Fortuna Foothills (Yuma), Arizona
- † **LaFeve, Joshua** Atonement, Spring Valley, California
- † **Nava, Jaime** Good Shepherd, Yucaipa, California
- † **Spelbring, Christopher** First, Venice, California

- † **Hayes, Joshua** St. John, Crete, Nebraska
- † Lutz, Elliott 1C, a Mission Church of the LCMS, Columbus, Nebraska
- † **Ripke, Jonathan** Immanuel, Hooper, Nebraska

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

† **Buescher, Jonathan** - Immanuel, Grand Forks, North Dakota

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

- † **Errer, Joshua** Faith, Green Bay, Wisconsin
- † Ritter, Timothy Immanuel Evangelical, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
- † Weden, Andrew Peace Lutheran Campus Center/NW District, Wausau (Stevens Point), Wisconsin

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † Millard, Ronald St. Paul Evangelical, Matteson, Illinois
- † **Roggow, Aaron** St. Peter, Arlington Heights, Illinois

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

- † Adrian, Mark Community of Christ at Memorial, Bremerton, Washington
- † Allstaedt, Jacob Community of Christ - St. Luke's, Federal Way, Washington

- † Cundiff, Quintin Beautiful Savior and Christ, Reedsport/Coos Bay, Oregon
- † **Dubke, Dallas** Faith, Monmouth, Oregon
- † Mantey, Matthew Resurrection, Des Moines, Washington
- † **Matthews, James** Grace, Tacoma, Washington
- † **Neider, Shawn** Zion and Bethel, Grand Coulee/Coulee City, Washington
- † **Rooney, Patrick** Trinity Evangelical, Bend, Oregon
- † **Scott, Jacob** Zion, Klamath Falls, Oregon
- † **Suelzle, Daniel** Grace, Eugene, Oregon

OHIO DISTRICT

- † **Davidson, Anders** Royal Redeemer, Liberty Township, Ohio
- † **Eldridge, Christopher** Prince of Peace, Columbus, Ohio

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT

- † **Harrison, Todd** First, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
- † McCoy, Sean Oklahoma District Board of Directors, Edmond (Skiatook), Oklahoma
- † **Scherbarth, Chet** St. John's, Granite, Oklahoma



Seth Flick waits to hear his call to the Pacific Southwest District.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

† **Heimer, Stephen** (CCMC) - Zion, El Paso, Texas

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

- † Koch, Timothy Concordia and Immanuel, Cresbard and Wecota, South Dakota
- † Nies, Jared St. John, Gregory, South Dakota

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

- † **DeArmond, Zachary** Redeemer, Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- † **Kuehn, Aaron** Grace Evangelical, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin
- † Liermann, Brian Lutheran Chapel of the Cross, Racine, Wisconsin

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

- † **Korte, Seth** Redeemer, Richmond, Virginia
- † **Wood, Mark** Trinity Evangelical LC of Prince George's County, Bowie, Maryland

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

- † **Kern, Jonathan** St. James, Gonzales, Louisiana
- † **Leigeber, Joshua** Atonement, Metairie, Louisiana

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

† **Stallworth, Willie** (DELTO) - Unity, East St. Louis, Illinois

TEXAS DISTRICT

- † **Albers, Grayson** Immanuel, Temple, Texas
- † **Beck, Dustin** Trinity, Corpus Christi, Texas
- † **Rodríguez, Nelson** (CHS) LINC, Houston, Texas
- † **Scheiwe, Logan** Our Redeemer, Irving, Texas
- † **Zank, Steven** Texas District Board of Mission Administration, Austin, Texas

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT -AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

† **Yount, Scott** - Ascension, Waterloo, lowa

CALLS PENDING

- † Grabowski, Daniel (CCMC)
- † Jay, Eric (CCMC)
- † Mumme, Jonathan
- † Newell, William
- † Piñeros, Armenio (CHS)
- † Seung, Won Kim (Sam) (CCMC)
- † Siegert, Mark (CCMC)

DEACONESS ASSIGNMENTS

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

† Luna, Marta (CHS) - Lutheran Latino Ministries, Mount Angel, Oregon

TEXAS DISTRICT

- † Casillas, Marisela (CHS) LINC, Houston, Texas
- † **Gaytán, Senaida Lorena** (CHS) LINC, Houston, Texas
- † **Gil de Rodríguez**, Perla (CHS) LINC, Houston, Texas

ASSIGNMENTS PENDING

- † Eckert, Olga (CHS)
- † Suelzle, Mary

CCMC: Cross-Cultural Ministry Center CHS: Center for Hispanic Studies DELTO: Distance Education Leading to Ordination



Dr. Meyer congratulates Matthew Wood on his call to Concordia Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Mo.



Marisela Casillas, left, and Senaida Lorena Gaytán received diaconal calls to LINC-Houston (Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition).

VICARAGE/INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENTS 2011

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

† **Staneck, Matthew** - True Light, New York City, New York

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT

- † Engle, Tristan Light of the Hills, Cameron Park, California
- † **Vallejo, Juan** (CHS) First Immanuel, San Jose, California

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † Krause, Matthew St. Paul, Decatur, Illinois
- † Ray, Adam St. John, Decatur, Illinois
- † **Vossler, Christopher** St. John, East Moline, Illinois

EASTERN DISTRICT

† **Grulke, Carl** - St. John's, Orchard Park, New York

ENGLISH DISTRICT

† **Holt, James** - Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, Arizona

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

- † **Anderson, Luke** Mount Calvary, Warner Robins, Georgia
- † **Barone, Timothy** Bethlehem, Jacksonville Beach, Florida



Seminarians Justin Smith (left) and Caleb Adams discuss their pending vicarage and call assignments, respectively, on the chapel plaza.

- † **Kear, Dustin** Grace, Winter Haven, Florida
- † Lane, Matthew St. Paul, Boca Raton, Florida
- † **Reynolds, Stephen** First, Gainesville, Florida
- † **Signore III, Joseph** Our Redeemer, Ocala, Florida
- † **Mesones, Artidoro** (CHS) Faith, Hialeah, Florida

INDIANA DISTRICT

† **Dressler, Martin** - Immanuel, Seymour, Indiana

IOWA WEST DISTRICT

† **Grosskopf, Sol** - Trinity, Des Moines, lowa

KANSAS DISTRICT

- † **Chittick, Aaron** Beautiful Savior, Olathe, Kansas
- † **Cranford, Hugh** Faith, Topeka, Kansas
- † **Delin, Benjamin** Ascension, Wichita, Kansas

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

- † **Greig, Nycholas** St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, Michigan
- † **Hulvey, Kirk** St. Paul, Royal Oak, Michigan
- † **Schrank, Benjamin** Messiah, Clio, Michigan

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

† **Reber Jr., David** - Faith, Tullahoma, Tennessee

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT

† **Meyer, Matthew** - Trinity Evangelical, Bemidji, Minnesota

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT

- † Kohn, Elden Trinity, Rochester, Minnesota
- † **Niebuhr, Jon** Trinity, Carver, Minnesota
- † Wait, Matthew Woodbury, Woodbury, Minnesota

MISSOURI DISTRICT

- † **Boerst, Aaron** Bethlehem, Warrensburg, Missouri
- † **Dandy, Jacob** Zion, Palmyra, Missouri



The Weber family (Aria, Christopher, and Sonja) will serve in Oviedo, Fla. next year.

- † **Ekong, Eric** Blessed Savior, Florissant, Missouri
- † Fieberkorn, Michael Our Savior, St. Charles, Missouri
- † **Hartwig, Brett** Reformation, Affton, Missouri
- † **Hasz, Martin** Eisleben, Scott City, Missouri
- † **Hendricks, Dwayne** Hanover, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- † Koeller, Jonathan Immanuel, Lockwood, Missouri
- † May, George (Mike) St. John, Ellisville, Missouri
- † Miller, Micah Immanuel, St. Charles, Missouri
- † Nahmensen, Robert Lutheran Senior Services CPE, Webster Groves, Missouri
- † **Perkins, Benjamin** Beautiful Savior, Bridgeton, Missouri
- † Polzin, Lewis Trinity, Troy, Missouri
- † **Poppen, Tyler** Immanuel, Washington, Missouri
- † **Schultz, John W.** Lutheran Senior Services CPE, Webster Groves, Missouri
- † **Sellers, Justin (Clayton)** Lutheran Senior Services CPE, Webster Groves, Missouri
- † **Swendig, Kyle** Salem, Affton, Missouri

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

- † **Rall, Bart** Trinity, Grand Island, Nebraska
- † **Traxel, Joshua** Good Shepherd, Gretna, Nebraska

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

† **Graves, David** - St. Paul's, New Hartford, Connecticut

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

† Carnahan, Benjamin - Our Savior, Minot, North Dakota

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

- † **Stohlmann, Philip James (P.J.)** Pilgrim, Green Bay, Wisconsin
- † **Starfeldt, Chad** Shepherd of the Hills, Greenville, Wisconsin

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † Andrews Jr., Steven Immanuel, Elmhurst, Illinois
- † **Meyer, Aaron** Christ the Rock, Rockford, Illinois

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

† **Swan, Jason** - Immanuel, Everett, Washington

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT

- † **Mau, Matthew** Redeemer, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
- † **Smith, Justin** Holy Trinity, Edmond, Oklahoma

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

† **Heiden, Michael** - Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colorado

SELC DISTRICT

† **Weber, Christopher** - St. Luke's, Oviedo, Florida

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

- † **Thorson, Clint** Faith, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- † **Winckler, Paul** Zion, Rapid City, South Dakota

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

- † **Ahlersmeyer, Benjamin** Mount Olive, Madison, Wisconsin
- † **Scheil, Joshua** Trinity, Howards Grove, Wisconsin

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

- † Marque, Edward (Alex) Good Shepherd, Roanoke, Virginia
- † Miller, Stephen Concordia, Conover, North Carolina
- † **Pahl, Justin** Eternal Shepherd, Seneca, South Carolina
- † **Walker, Andrew** Redeemer, Fredericksburg, Virginia

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

- † **Gronewold, Geoffrey** Trinity, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- † McCoy, Shane Holy Cross, Mobile, Alabama
- † **Mehl, Silas** St. Mark's, Elberta, Alabama
- † Misch, Jonathan (Zach) Immanuel, Bossier City, Louisiana
- † **Ninke, John** Trinity, Scottsboro, Alabama

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

- † Crawford, Jonathan Zion, Litchfield, Illinois
- † **Douthwaite, Adam** Our Savior, Carbondale, Illinois
- † **Frazee, Joshua** Zion, Staunton, Illinois
- † Whittaker, Nathan Signal Hill, Belleville, Illinois

TEXAS DISTRICT

- † **Alzate, Ediberto** (CHS) LINC North Texas, Dallas, Texas
- † **Gruenwald, David** St. Paul, McAllen, Texas
- † **Gumz, Patrick** Cross, New Braunfels, Texas
- † Hernandez, Nelson (CHS) -LINC – Houston, Houston, Texas
- † Mercado, Antonio (CHS) LINC - Houston, Houston, Texas
- † Mull, John David Saint Peter, Fort Worth, Texas

ASSIGNMENTS PENDING

- † Corps, Rafael (CHS)
- † **De Leon, Omar** (CHS)
- † Mazariegos, Jorge (CHS)
- † Morales, Angel (CHS)
- † Ochoa Jr., Gabriel (CHS)
- † Ramirez, Walter (CHS)

Benjamin and Edie Delin will move to Wichita, Kan. this summer to serve his vicarage at Ascension Lutheran Church.

DEACONESS ASSIGNMENTS

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

- † **Bermudez, Diana** (CHS) Messiah, Tampa, Florida
- † **Cruz, Rafaela** (CHS) Messiah, Tampa, Florida
- † **Eusebio, Raquel** (CHS) Messiah, Tampa, Florida
- † Fernandez de Corps, Lisa (CHS) -Messiah, Tampa, Florida
- † **Guevara, Iris** (CHS) Messiah, Tampa, Florida
- † **Sanabria, Flor** (CHS) Messiah, Tampa, Florida
- † **Sanabria, Yolima** (CHS) Messiah, Tampa, Florida

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

† **Portillo, Panchita** (CHS) - Cristo Cordero de Dios Evangelical, Grand Island, Nebraska

TEXAS DISTRICT

- † **Jofre, Erica** (CHS) LINC Houston, Houston, Texas
- † Martinez, Rosaura (CHS) LINC Houston, Houston, Texas



Academic year culminates in 172nd Commencement exercises

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis'
Commencement exercises for the 2011
graduating class took place on Friday,
May 20. The day began with a Theological Diploma service at 10:00 a.m and
ended with Commencement at 7:00
p.m., both held in the Chapel of
St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus. Approximately 110 academic degrees were conferred upon
the graduates: 86 M.Div.; five M.A.;
one M.A. in deaconess studies; three
alternate route certificates; three D.Min.;
six S.T.M.; and 6 Ph.D. degrees.

During the morning service, all graduates who have been certified by the Concordia Seminary faculty as eligible to receive calls to serve as pastors or deaconesses in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod received theological diplomas. In the evening, academic degrees and honors were conferred.

In addition, six honorary degrees and awards were given to esteemed persons chosen by the faculty: John D. Eckrich and Gary W. Thies (Christus Vivit award); Paul M. and Wilbert H. Rosin (Distinguished Alumnus Award); and



Due to inclement weather, the Commencement ceremony was held inside this year in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus.

Carl R. Selle and Hubert H. Temme (honorary Doctor of Divinity degree).

Dr. Timothy Saleska, associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia

Seminary, delivered the sermon for the Theological Diploma service. Dr. John Eckrich, M.D., executive director of Grace Place Lutheran Retreats, delivered the Commencement address.



Commencement honorees, from left: Gary Thies, Wilbert Rosin, Carl Selle, Paul Heerboth (seated), John Eckrich, Hu Temme, Pres. Dale Meyer.



Benjamin Vogel received his Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) on May 20, 2011.

Rep. Shimkus to present at 2011 LutherHostel

LutherHostel 2011 will be held Oct. 1-4 on the campus of Concordia Seminary. LutherHostel is an event designed to provide growth in biblical knowledge and understanding, fun, and fellowship, and a chance to gain helpful insights for daily living. It is offered for adults age 55 and older.

The theme for the event will be "Public Service and My Lutheran Faith." The main presenter will be Congressman John M. Shimkus (R, Illinois-19).

Congressman Shimkus is serving his 14th year in Congress and represents the 19th District of Illinois. He serves on the



Congressman John M. Shimkus (R, Illinois-19)

House Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the Subcommittees on Communications, Technology, and the Internet; Energy and Environment; and Health. He retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of lieutenant colonel as of June 1, 2008, closing out 28 years of military service. In 2007 he was presented the *Christus Vivit* award by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Rep. Shimkus, his wife, Karen, and their three sons maintain

their residence in Collinsville, III. They are active members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Collinsville.

Scheduled activities for LutherHostel 2011 will feature a reception and dinner with President and Mrs. Dale A. Meyer.

Other activities include presentations, class visitation, student-led evening devotions, opportunities for informal interaction with faculty, a private demonstration of the organ in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, and a tour of selected St. Louis area sites. An optional tour of Lutheran historical sites in Perry County, Mo., also is available on Oct. 5, immediately following LutherHostel.

The LutherHostel fee is \$325 per person, which includes all meals and refreshments for the event. Housing is available on campus (on a limited basis for an additional cost) or in nearby hotels. The registration deadline is Sept. 15.

For more information about Luther-Hostel, contact the Seminary's office of continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486 or ce@csl.edu.

2011 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

- July 11-13 Formative Preaching: Sermons that Shape the Lives of God's People Dr. David Schmitt, Orange, CA
- July 11-13 Isaiah 1-12, The Holy One of Israel in Our Midst Dr. Andrew Bartelt, West Fargo, ND
- July 25-27 Paul, Justification, and New Perspectives Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, Alexandria, MN
- July 25-27 Faith and Creative Writing Travis Scholl and Peter Mead, St. Louis, MO
- August 1-3 The Uniqueness of Christ in a Pluralistic Culture: Through Lutheran Eyes Dr. Joel Okamoto,
 Overland Park, KS
- August 1-3 Two Kinds of Righteousness: A Better Paradigm than Law and Gospel Dr. Joel Biermann, Norton, KS
- August 1-3 When Things Fall Apart Dr. Henry Rowold, Cleveland, OH
- August 8-9 Why Are We So Divided? A Historical/Social Study of the Roots of Recent Tensions in Our Church Body Dr. Timothy Dost, Wichita, KS
- August 8-10 Why Some and Not Others? The Canon of the New Testament in Historical and Theological Perspective Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, Cary, NC
- August 8-10 In the Shadow of the Cross: Jesus and the Disciples in Matthew 16-20 Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, Tryon, NC
- August 8-10 Isaiah 40-55 Dr. Reed Lessing, West Des Moines, IA
- August 22-24 Psalms Dr. Reed Lessing, Santa Fe, NM

The cost for each summer workshop is \$135 (the Hispanic Studies workshops cost \$75 each), which includes 1.5 CEU credits. Payment is due 21 days prior to the beginning of each workshop, and workshops have a minimum required enrollment. Housing and meal information may be obtained from the host pastor. For more information or to register for workshops, contact continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu; or www.csl.edu.

Contemplate... October 6-8, 2011

Contemplate... is an event for collegeage or older potential students. It will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn more about life in the Concordia Seminary community and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor, missionary, chaplain, or deaconess. Campus tours will take place on Thursday afternoon. The "Welcome Reception and Dinner" Thursday evening offers a unique opportunity to meet Seminary faculty in a casual setting. At this time, visitors will also be paired with a student ambassador who can speak with them and answer questions from a student's

perspective. After dinner, there are sessions designed to give an overview of the formation for ministry.

On Friday, there will be additional sessions that will focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process, as well as provide visitors with opportunities to choose from presentations on the accordance program, resident field educated.

choose from presentations on the academic program, resident field education, vicarage or internship year, financial aid, and housing. In the afternoon visitors

will have the opportunity to sit in on Seminary classes. Further dialogue with students will take place later that evening during the "Student Panel Discussion." The structured event will conclude on Saturday morning with presentations on the admissions process, tours of the married and single student housing, and time to schedule individual appointments with admissions counselors and/or the Life

Green and Gold DaysOctober 14, 2011

Green and Gold Days are for college students thinking about becoming pastors, deaconesses, and church workers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Throughout the year, Concordia Seminary will host three of these one-day events that will provide a quick opportunity for college men and women to come and see all the Seminary offers. They will interact with current students, attend classes, worship in chapel, and speak with members of the faculty in a "Table Talk" setting. Visitors will also take a "Loop de Lou" bus tour of

St. Louis' and the Seminary's main attractions. To end the day, Concordia Seminary will treat participants to a dinner. One unique feature of Green and Gold Days is that pastors and pre-seminary advisors are encouraged to attend the event with their students. By extending this invitation, Concordia Seminary hopes to recognize their role in supporting students interested in pastoral and deaconess studies.



Transitions Office. A farewell brunch

closes the formal planned activities.

To learn more or to register for these events, please call the admissions office at 1-800-822-9545 or email admissions@csl.edu.

JOIN DR. DALE A. MEYER IN WASHINGTON D.C.

...for a stimulating and memorable educational experience. Visit members of Congress. See historic sites.

Discuss Christian citizenship and the Lutheran understanding of church and state.

Two events have been scheduled: September 25-28, 2011 and March 18-21, 2012.

For more information or to make your reservation, call 800-822-5287.



Concordia Seminary is a founding partner in the National Lutheran Alliance. Dr. Meyer will be joined at these events by Dr. Paul Devantier, senior vice president at Concordia Seminary and executive director of the National Lutheran Alliance.

UPCOMING FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Dr. Dale Meyer, camp dean, Camp Arcadia, Arcadia, Mich., July 29-Aug. 7

Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, presenter, "Are the Scriptures Reliable?" Resurrection Lutheran, Cary, N.C., Aug. 8-9

Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, speaker, "The Development of the Greek Language and the Manuscripts of Paul's Letters," 66th General Meeting of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, Annandale, N.Y., Aug. 2-5

Dr. Reed Lessing, retreat leader, the Book of Jonah, Michigan District Lutheran Layman's League Fall Retreat, Arcadia, Mich., Sept. 9-11

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter and preacher, 60th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran, Pierre, S.D., Sept. 16-18

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, the Book of Amos, Rocky Mountain District Fall Professional Church Worker's Conference, Breckenridge, Colo., Oct. 5-7

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, the Book of Jonah, Our Savior Lutheran, Cheyenne, Wy., Oct. 8-9

Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, speaker, "Theological Hermeneutics," The Lutheran Church of Australia's Theological Symposium, Tununda, Australia, Oct. 13-16

Dr. Reed Lessing, presenter, Isaiah 40-55, English District Lake Erie Regional Pastors' Conference, Sandusky, Ohio, Oct. 18-19

Dr. Dale Meyer, speaker, Christi Crux Lectures, Portland, Ore., Oct. 28-30

Dr. Reed Lessing, preacher, Redeemer Lutheran, Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 30

Upcoming on-campus events

JULY
July 25-27Faith and Creative Writing Workshop
AUGUST
August 20 Summer Lay Bible Institute
August 31
SEPTEMBER
September 1-3 New Student Orientation
September 2 Opening Worship
September 3 Field Day for Students
September 6 First Day of Classes
September 16 Seminary Guild Luncheon
September 19
September 20-21
"Rediscovering the Art of Preaching"
September 25-28 National Lutheran Alliance Event
with Dr. Dale Meyer, Washington, D.C.
September 26-28 Discernment for Interim Ministry
OCTOBER
October 1-4 LutherHostel
October 5LutherHostel Perry Country Trip
October 6-8 Contemplate
October 14 Green and Gold Day
October 17-21 EIIT Outreach to World Religions Seminar
October 18 Seminary Guild Luncheon
October 23 Bach at the Sem concert
NOVEMBER
November 4
November 7-11

For up-to-date information on Concordia Seminary's events please visit www.csl.edu/category/events.

"Unless there is a miracle..." God's timing evidenced in AAS gift

"Unless there is a miracle, it will take me an extra year to finish seminary and we will need to borrow more money to finish this academic year." These were the words of first year seminarian Andrew Bartholomew to his wife, Jennifer. The enormous financial challenge Andrew and Jennifer were facing developed even though both are working jobs to do everything they possibly can to make ends meet. Jennifer is a nanny. Andrew is a student worker in the Seminary's maintenance department. "Cleaning bathrooms, chipping ice off sidewalks, pulling weeds, whatever it takes. When I get to my first call I'll be able to do whatever the church calls on me to do, including scrubbing floors," Bartholomew said.

When it became clear that a student loan would be needed, Andrew completed paperwork at the Seminary's financial aid office to borrow several thousand dollars in student loans to pay for the next two terms of study.

Just a day later, Andrew's cell phone rang. Sarah Kassel, from the Seminary's

financial aid office, was calling with most extraordinary news. St. John's Lutheran Church in Atwater, Minn., had sent a very generous gift to Concordia Seminary's Adopt-A-Student program.

"I had to ask Ms. Kassel for a moment so I could compose myself," Bartholomew said. "As it sank in, tears filled my eyes. Soon I was crying and laughing all at the same time. I confess I had had some sleepless nights, wrestling with my growing debt. Here, while I was applying for the loans, the Lord's miraculous hand had already acted on my behalf. The words, 'Give us this day our daily bread' came to mind. Like I give my two year old daughter, Madelyn, what she needs at the right time. God was once again doing the same for me. When I called my wife I was still crying. She asked, 'What's wrong?' I told her that not only was there nothing wrong, God had provided a most extraordinary blessing!"

Pastor John Strickland, St. John's pastor, shared that, as the congregation made their decision to support Concordia Seminary's Adopt-A-Student program,

> they did not know Andrew or have any seminary student in mind. The funds had become available after the congregation, due to enrollment declines and other reasons, had closed their two-room school. They had simply hoped that their gift, if possible, might help a student from their LCMS district, Minnesota South.

When Pastor Strickland learned of the timing of the gift and the joy-filled reaction of Andrew and his family, he said, "I am thrilled how this gift has blessed them."

Andrew's student loan application? Cancelled!

"When congregations, groups and individuals support Adopt-A-Student they are supporting the person who could be their next pastor," Bartholomew said. "Their child's pastor. Their grandchild's pastor. I hope all Adopt-A-Student sponsors know what a blessing they are." Every year generous congregations, groups, schools, and individuals generously support Concordia Seminary's Adopt-A-Student program. The Seminary's Financial Aid Office carefully selects students, based on financial need, and awards these Adopt-A-Student gifts accordingly. Every penny of every Adopt-A-Student gift goes directly into the student's account.

Potential students considering coming to Concordia Seminary to prepare for the Holy Ministry say that affording their seminary preparation is their greatest concern. Adopt-A-Student sponsors are answers to the prayers of these future pastors, missionaries, and deaconesses. Donors love the Adopt-A-Student program because students write their sponsors sharing joys, challenges, and progress. Sponsors and students stand together in prayer. Some stay in touch long after seminary graduation.

To become an Adopt-A-Student sponsor or learn more about this opportunity to personally correspond with a future pastor or deaconess including some of the international students on pages 5-7, please call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287 or use the envelope inserted in this and every issue of the *Concordia Seminary* magazine.



Jennifer, Asa, Madelyn, and Andrew Bartholomew

Phase One renovations are under way

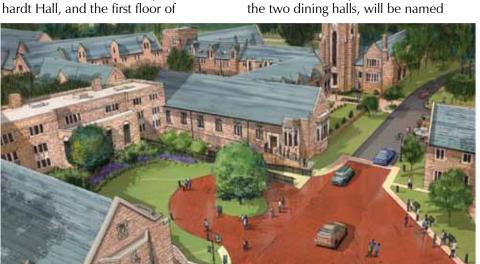
March 18 was an exciting day at Concordia Seminary. That is when the Phase One renovation project officially kicked-off. It began with a stand-off between a Seminary President behind the controls of some heavy machinery and a brick wall.

The chapel service on March 18 included a processional from the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus to the front steps of Koburg Hall. Dr. Kent Burreson, dean of the chapel, led those gathered in a brief liturgical continuation of the chapel service. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president, climbed into a track hoe and pulled down a portion of the wall enclosing the Service Drive, just outside the cafeteria complex.

The Phase One project is a major renovation of the cafeteria complex, Stoeckhardt Hall, and the first floor of

Guenther Hall. It also includes the creation of an East Courtyard between the cafeteria complex and Founders Hall (a.k.a. "Isolation" dorm), as well as various office moves. The main goal of the project is to update and create a student-centered space within the adjoined Koburg, Wartburg, and Stoeckhardt Halls. Currently, many of the offices which are central to facilitating student life are spread throughout various buildings on campus. With the renovation of the kitchen, Koburg Dining Hall, and Stoeckhardt Hall (in addition to the already renovated Wartburg Dining Hall, a.k.a. Wartburg Commons), these offices will be brought together into a single complex, each within brief walking distance from the other, all located together in the center of campus.

The cafeteria complex, which includes the two dining halls, will be named





Dr. Dale Meyer had the honor of knocking down the first portion of a wall while the campus community cheered.

The Johann Hinrich Benidt Seminary Center in honor of the Benidt family, who contributed significant funds to the "Place" component of the How Will They Hear? Campaign.

The Phase One renovation project is a sign of the vitality of Concordia Seminary. The campus is alive and flourishing. The Phase One renovations come 85 years after the first dedication of this campus. Today, by God's grace Concordia Seminary is moving confidently into the next 85 years and beyond.

The Johann Hinrich Benidt Seminary Center

In the Spring 2011 issue of *Concordia Journal*, Dr. Dale A. Meyer officially announced the new name of the Koburg/ Wartburg kitchen and dining complex – The Johann Hinrich Benidt Seminary Center. The Benidt Seminary Center will be named after the grandfather of Charles Benidt, well known for the foundation which bears his name and has been so supportive of Concordia Seminary and the Phase One Renovation. Dr. Meyer noted that, for only the

second time, one of the buildings on campus will be named after a layman. "And he's also from the 20th Century," Meyer said, "while all the other named buildings are in memory of Lutheran leaders from the 19th Century." Dr. Meyer went on to say, "To name a building after a layman from the 20th Century is certainly to highlight the fact that the church and its future does not only rest on the shoulders of pastors, but on every member of the church. And God

uses every one of them. Johann Hinrich Benidt's impact is most clearly seen in the life that he inspired his grandson Charles to lead. Johann's influence has spread beyond his wildest imaginings, and it will continue to leave its mark on the future of Concordia Seminary, and through its students, upon the church at large. We're proud to name our new world class kitchen and dining complex in honor of Johann Hinrich Benidt."

Concordia Seminary Guild

2011-2012 CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD ADOPTED SERVICE PROJECTS

Pieper's Christian Dogmatics, Vol. 1 \$2,764.00
Clergy Shirts
Seminary Chorus
Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS)\$300.00
Food Bank
Student Emergency Fund\$1,000.00
Family Nights
Deaconess Studies
Student Etiquette Dinner\$1,000.00
Seminary Women's Association\$500.00
Pedersen Fieldhouse
Dorm Appliances
Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) \$1,000.00
Life Transitions
Direct-to-Student Aid\$3,000.00
Re-Sell It Shop
International Student Fund
Dorm Furniture
Chapel
TOTAL

A Guild membership is from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.
Name (or Society)
Address
City, State, ZIP
Telephone ()
Name of Congregation
□ Individual Membership (\$8)



■ individual Membership (\$6)
☐ Society Membership (\$15)
D Project Fund Denation

☐ Project Fund Donation _

TOTAL

Please make check payable to Concordia Seminary Guild and send to:

Alice Kastens 5101 Kings Park Drive St. Louis, MO 63129

With a Guild membership, you will receive the Guildlines newsletter.

Project donations will be used for any of the Guild projects, unless they are specified for a particular project.

Thank You for Your Support!

For questions concerning the Seminary Guild, please call 314-505-7362.

Seminary Guild supports EIIT

For the second year in a row, the Seminary Guild has decided to include support for the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) in their 2011-2012 project list. The amount of \$1,000 if funded, will help in deflecting travel costs for EIIT students when they come to campus for week-long intensives.

The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology is a specialized program of theological education and formation for effective pastoral and deaconess leadership within immigrant-based churches. Concordia Seminary accomplishes this by offering a distance theological education program that leads to certification for ordination in the LCMS. The program provides pastoral leadership from within an ethnic immigrant community that is associated with the LCMS. Participants have the approval and support of their home church and the LCMS district within which they are carrying out their missionary work, not only in this country but also in their home countries like Sudan and the Congo.

For more information on funding Guild projects, please call 314-505-7362 or email curlessj@csl.edu.



A different kind of ministry

Lutheran pastors and deaconesses involved in specialized settings of counseling and institutional chaplaincy gathered in Atlanta, Ga., last Oct. Four members of the Concordia Seminary Class of 1967 were present: Bruce Hartung, Leroy Joesten, Charles Pieplow, and Charles Weinrich. Hartung and Joesten were honored with the *Christus in Mundo* award, which is the highest award for distinctive service for ministries in chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, and clinical education.

Rev. Pieplow's first call was to a small congregation in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he served until 1974 when he entered a clinical pastoral education residency at Montclair Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala. After his residency he returned to the parish for three and one half years until hospital chaplaincy again beckoned. From 1982-2006, Pieplow served several hospitals in Alabama as a chaplain and CPE supervisor.

Washington, Ill., was the site of Rev. Weinrich's first call where he served for four years. Later, he completed a residency at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wis., and a CPE Supervisor-in-Training residency at St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Ill. From 1974-1991 Weinrich was head of the department of pastoral care at Overlook Hospital,



Charles Weinrich, Leroy Joesten, Bruce Hartung, and Charles Pieplow

Summit, N.J.; from 1991-1996 he was a CPE supervisor at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee and from 1996-2005 filled a similar position at The Village at Manor Park in Milwaukee.

Joesten's first call was to a parish in Fairbank, Iowa where he served for three years and did his first half unit of CPE. He entered a year CPE residency at St. Luke's Medical Center in 1970 and a second year supervisory residency in 1971. By 1972 Joesten was called to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill., where he was asked to develop a ministry to the terminally-ill and bereaved. He remained until his retirement from full-time chaplaincy in 2009.

Hartung's first call was as a part-time assistant pastor in Waukegan, Ill., as he also began his Ph.D. program at Northwestern University/Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. Completing his Ph.D. degree in pastoral psychology and counseling, he stayed until 1983 at Lutheran General where he was the director of the Pastoral Counseling Center. In 1983 he accepted a position as the executive director of the Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center in Syracuse, N.Y.; in 1991 he was called as the first director of Ministerial Health/ Health and Healing Ministries of the LCMS. In 2003 he was called to Concordia Seminary where he still serves.





From left, Mark, Nicole, Robert, Susan, and Matthew Hoehner celebrated Rev. Hoehner's honorary Doctor of Divinity degree awarded by Concordia University Wisconsin's president, Dr. Patrick Ferry (right photo).



22ND ANNUAL

Theological Symposium AT CONCORDIA SEMINARY

September 20-21, 2011

"Rediscovering the Art of Preaching"

PLENARY PRESENTERS

Dr. Dean Nadasdy, adjunct professor at Concordia Theological Seminary and Concordia Seminary

Dr. Dale Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary

Dr. David Schmitt, associate professor of practical theology at Concordia Seminary

Dr. Glenn Nielsen, professor of practical theology at Concordia Seminary

SECTIONAL PRESENTERS

David Maxwell

David Coe

Jeffrey Gibbs

Ed Grimenstein

David Peter

Justin Rossow

Tony Cook

Glenn Nielsen

David Schmitt

Robert Weise

Registration deadline is September 6, 2011

To register or for more information about fees, contact continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486 or email ce@csl.edu.