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## Concordia Seminary magazine | Winter 2012

Paul Devantier

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# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

WINTER 2012



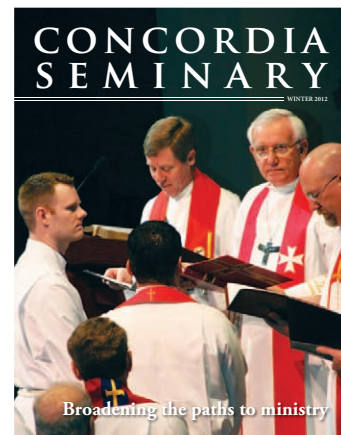
Broadening the paths to ministry

# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

THE MAGAZINE OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

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### Cover Photograph

Rev. Brian King, far left, being ordained by Rev. Joel Christiansen, Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly, and Rev. Eric Gledhill at Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens, St. Louis, Mo.  
by Emily Boedecker

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# From the PRESIDENT

Can a seminarian prepared for ministry by online classes and intensive classes on campus serve as faithfully and well as a pastor who came through the traditional residential formation program? As I watch the development of Concordia Seminary's distance programs and interact with students, my answer to the question is a strong "Yes!"



Rev. Matthew Both and Dr. Dale Meyer

Seven, that's the number of routes to ordained ministry that Concordia Seminary offers. Two are residential, the Master of Divinity and the Certificate Route programs. Students leave home for three years on campus (two years in the case of the Certificate Route) and one year of vicarage. These residential programs offer an unparalleled immersion in theological study, daily interaction with our excellent theological faculty, and life in community with other residential students and families. Mentored experiences with real-world ministry situations are less for residential students than for seminarians in our distance programs. In distance programs, seminarians are prepared for ordination while living, working, and serving in a church setting at home. These students are grouped together in cohorts, forming tight bonds as they participate together in online classes and when they come to campus each year for intensive classes. Unlike the residential program, where a student presents himself for pastoral formation, distance students are enrolled only when the local church and district say, "We want this person prepared for ordained ministry." Concordia Seminary, St. Louis prepares pastors through five distance programs: the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS), the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT), the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP), the Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT), and the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center (CMC). In every program the seminarian advances toward examination to be certified for faithful Word and Sacrament ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

This issue of the magazine explores distance/contextual programs, especially the new Specific Ministry Pastor Program mandated by the Synod in its 2007 national convention. On this page I invite you to think about pastoral formation programs from a different perspective. We all know that the world is changing at breakneck speed. So fast come the changes, so frenetic the pace of innovation, that keeping up with the latest developments is difficult in many, if not all professions. The doctrinal content of ministry doesn't change in the 21st century, the supremacy of the Word of God in the life of the church, Law and Gospel, two kingdoms, and so on. That dare not change! But how to apply bedrock truths to our rapidly changing post-church society cannot be imparted once-and-for-all in any, *in any* pastoral formation program. The haunting question that began this essay is based upon the notion that seminaries graduate finished products. We don't and can't. Therefore we try to instill in all our students the habit of life-long learning. That's why the faculty aggressively offers advanced study and theological resources to pastors who are facing the challenge of mission in a changed society.



Rev. Matthew Both is a graduate of our EIIT program. Visiting with him at Concordia University in Portland, Ore., he told me wants to further his education with Concordia Seminary. The best formation program? One that is grounded in the Word, teaches mission contexts, and instills a life-long desire to learn more about God's Word for a world that needs the Savior!

**Sudanese Kids Choir at King of Kings  
Lutheran Church, Renton, Wash.**

*Dale A. Meyer*



# Meeting the needs of the church

Distance education. Online classes. Degrees granted over the Internet. These are all realities in today's world of technological innovation and they are increasingly challenging our ideas of residential education. Theological degrees should not be excluded from this conversation. Must one attend a residential four-year program at a seminary, including three years of on-site classes and a year of off-site vicarage, in order to become ordained as a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)? Is this the only way it can be done? Is there a way to provide quality pastoral formation in response to the mission needs of the church apart from residential seminary education?

These are all questions that the innovators of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP) had in mind. SMP is one component of how Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is addressing the needs of the church.

While the program is new, it has built upon nearly 20 years of experience with distance learning. "Theological education by extension" ideas were utilized by the Hispanic Institute of Theology (now the Center for Hispanic Studies) since 1986 and the Distance Education Leading to Ordination (DELTO) program begun by Synod in conjunction with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. in 1996.

Beginning with a 1989 district convention, the question arose how to "authorize" men to perform pastoral tasks without them being properly called and ordained into the pastoral office. That's where the licensed lay deacon program came into play, and it had varying degrees of success.

"These men were serving in the pastoral office but weren't ordained," said Dr. David Wollenburg, director of the SMP program. The mandate of 'rightly called' from the Augsburg Confession continued to come up in question."

Next came the DELTO program, in response to the licensed lay deacon program. This began in 1996.

"A synodical oversight committee was formed at the 2001 convention for DELTO and we upgraded the program so that there were 10 courses at the district level, 20 courses at the Seminary level, and then the men could be ordained," commented Wollenburg. "That took six to eight years and they were still acting like pastors without the benefit of ordination because they were serving in situations where there weren't pastors."

The program morphed from DELTO into SMP, which included an arrangement for the men who started in DELTO and the program changed into SMP before they could finish. DELTO pastors will be ordained as full (unrestricted) pastors. The final DELTO group will graduate in February, thus officially ending the program.

In fact, years of discussion and hard work through the synodical DELTO committee actually led to a more clearly defined proposal that sought to promote agreement between the needs of the field and our doctrine of the ministry, including regularized certification for the pastoral office. According to Resolution 5-01B of the 2007 LCMS Convention, the SMP program was established in this fashion: "The Specific Ministry Pastor Program seeks to address the needs of the church by reinstituting a multi-track approach and by developing a program that combines a commitment to faithfulness to a Lutheran theological confession with a missionary perspective and that is tailored to the preparation of men for service in specific kinds of ministries."

"SMP is meeting the needs for which it was developed and connecting students not only to good theological education but, in fact, to the standardized pastoral formation programs of the seminaries of our church," commented Dr. Andrew Bartelt,



**“There are ministry situations where traditional, residential graduates won’t work as well as an SMP graduate. The church in convention asked for these specially trained workers; we’re glad we can help provide them.”**

**Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President**

executive vice president of academic affairs at Concordia Seminary. “That satisfies both the need out there, that there are special circumstances, but also the responsibility of doing it the way that we do pastoral education and certification.”

Before a prospective student can enter the SMP program, he must be recommended by his home congregation. He is then nominated for the program by his district president, who has confirmed that a special mission need exists at that site (be it a church plant, or a church that cannot afford to hire a full-time pastor, etc.). During the application process, he must pass the Entrance Level Competency Exams (ELCEs) in Old Testament, New Testament, and Christian Doctrine, the same tests that prospective M.Div. students must complete (with the exception of Greek and Hebrew competency).

He also needs to demonstrate that he can preach, teach, and give pastoral care, as a vicar in the M.Div. program would need to do before going on a vicarage (SMP students are vicars at their home churches from the very beginning of the program). Students are admitted at two different times in the academic year, and they form cohorts with the students who enroll at the same time. These are their classmates for the duration of the program.

The curriculum was developed by the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. “We invested in this,” commented Bartelt. “We saw it as a real opportunity to explore a way to meet needs of the church and explore new ways of curriculum and delivery mode. I think the reason that our program is respected and fairly-well received is a direct result of the amount of work we put into it.”

The SMP curriculum consists of 16 courses taken over four years and begins and ends with courses dealing with the pastoral ministry as a ministry of

*continued on page 6 >*







*The Chapel of Holy Apostles on the Seminary campus*

**I believe “community” is among God’s greatest gifts to us. God, Himself, lives in community and we are designed for that same type of living. This cohort, as a complete and utter gift and surprise, has been a marvelous community to me. I had anticipated a decent seminary education. I had not anticipated another group of true friends.**

**Scott Thomas  
Spring 2011; Trinity, Lisle, Ill.**

**< continued from page 5**

speaking the Gospel (“Intro to Pastoral Ministry” and “Pastor as Theologian and Leader”). In between these bookends, the courses are organized around a narrative that integrates and binds the curriculum together.

“The development of the curriculum was not an afterthought but was really designed with what we felt they needed to be able to learn for the sake of carrying out their ministries with theological integrity,” added Dr. Charles Arand, curriculum developer for the SMP program. “We tried to build the curriculum to hit the target of our pastoral formation outcomes, to meet the contextual needs of our students, and to form them, within the theological tradition of the church.”

After nine courses, SMP students are ordained at their vicarage churches. “The idea here is to do that earlier on so that they carry out their responsibilities as pastors having been properly called, but not to do it too early when they’re not prepared to take their ordination vows,” Arand said. “And following ordination, they still have two more years of coursework to deepen their formation and also to stress the importance of continuing education.”

So what are the potential downfalls of conducting a theological program through distance learning? Well, one agreed-upon response is that students who are in a distance program do not experience the same social aspects of attending a residential seminary. “The mission statement of Concordia Seminary talks about formation, not simply education, and formation is more than just classroom

## How it works

### Adobe® Connect™ software

For their weekly online sessions, SMP students and their professors use Adobe® Connect™ software. Here’s how it works. Each student has his own computer and microphone so that he can communicate with everyone in the session. A professor sets up a virtual “classroom” for his session which includes a chat window, where students can all chat by typing in the window or a student can chat with his instructor privately, a window for notes, a list of all the attendees in the classroom, and the largest window from which the instructor will teach. Every student and the professor for the class log in to that classroom from their individual locations around the globe at the same time for the class.



discussion,” Bartelt answered. “It’s daily chapel, it’s praying together, it’s eating together, knocking around the campus and playing in the gym.”

One way that Concordia Seminary tries to account for the loss of daily community is by bringing each cohort to campus once a year for a residential retreat. During the first year, each cohort visits the LCMS International Center in St. Louis. The second year, their enrichment is focused on the fact that they will be ordained in their churches by the end of the year. The third year is for congregational dynamics, since they have contextual experiences to share with each other.

“They like the distance education, but they do like coming here as well. We’re trying to incorporate more intensive residential courses because they like the face-to-face interaction with the professors and each other,” Arand said.

The bond that each cohort makes with its members is very strong, Wollenburg says. “It’s fun to see how they’ll defend each other, back each other up, within the live online session. They have developed a sense of camaraderie with each other,” Arand added.

When SMP pastors complete the program, they can only be called to specific ministry contexts. “An SMP pastor is under an intermediate level of supervision,” Bartelt explained. “All pastors are supervised by their district president; an SMP pastor is supervised by a general pastor, who’s supervised by a district president. The breadth and depth of their theological education is not the same.”



**There are a few local SMP students in the program, including Rev. Brian King. He will complete the program in summer 2012.**

“I’ve often quipped that the great strength of contextualized education is that it’s contextualized,” he continued. “You’re working in the place where you’ll be. But the greatest weakness of contextualized education is that it’s contextualized. It’s limited to one context and the church is bigger than that.”

There are still many valuable questions that need to be considered when thinking about distance education for pastoral ministry. Bartelt asks, “Is it residential or is it distance education? Yes. Are we saying there’s only one way to be a pastor? Are we saying that we don’t need pastoral education? Those answers are both ‘no.’”

“We are meeting the needs of the field and doing it with theological integrity. There’s a yes and a yes to all of this.”



## Blackboard

For daily instruction, an SMP student can log onto Blackboard, a website that houses all the content a student needs to access for any given class. This is where a student will find, complete, and submit his assignments. Assignments include readings, videos, discussion forums, and various exercises, all posted on Blackboard. A professor could attach a short audio clip into the assignment which explains what he wants the students to do, much like he would do if he were giving live instructions to his students in the same room. The professor will collect all the students’ assignments on his Blackboard account, grade them, and send feedback to each student.



# Childhood interests lead to lifelong vocation

When he accepted his high school classmate's invitation to move to Indianapolis, Ind., and take technology classes at ITT, Anthony "Tony" Cook seemed as far away from pastoral ministry as one could get. Moreover, technology — especially at a time when electronics and computing were becoming the next "big thing" — seemed to be in his blood. His Uncle Kenny was a railroad engineer, and Cook still fondly remembers the childhood gift his uncle gave him: an electronics kit.

Yet, "the desire to be a pastor gnawed at me," Cook says. And it didn't take long for him to pick up everything, move back home, and watch God take his life in a completely different direction. At the time, becoming a pastor had a simple goal: "It was the only way I could make sure I'd be in church on Sunday," said Cook, a sly smile on his face.

Two months later, he was enrolled at Concordia University, River Forest, Ill. (now Chicago). After



*Rev. Tony Cook*

spending a year taking classes at the Lutheran seminary in Australia with his newlywed wife Elizabeth, he was enrolled at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. After graduation, he served as pastor at St. John Lutheran Church (Granite City, Ill.), then district missionary for the LCMS Iowa West district, then senior pastor at King of Kings Lutheran Church (Mason, Ohio).

And now he is not only a pastor, he teaches future pastors as an assistant professor of practical theology at Concordia Seminary. His primary teaching areas are in pastoral leadership and theology, postmodern studies, and pastor as educator.

**"Student interaction is the high point of what I do."**

**- Rev. Tony Cook**

And now he is not only a professor, he is the associate dean of curriculum and instruction, where he is primarily responsible for the development, production, and revision of Seminary curriculum in both the residential and distance learning programs. He developed the initial educational design and plan for Concordia Seminary's Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP), which included the use of learning modules, live online instruction, and the coordination of both distance and on-campus interaction between faculty, students, and local mentors. He taught the first SMP course, "Introduction to Pastoral Ministry," as an experiment to make sure things were working the way they should.

As it turns out his background and experience in technology have become a pivotal part of his ministry as a pastor and professor. Cook first came to Concordia Seminary as the director of educational technology. In this position, he developed new ways for faculty to engage with technology, as well as found new platforms for delivering theological resources, like iTunes U ([itunes.csl.edu](http://itunes.csl.edu)).

His background in technology, his doctoral studies in educational development at Saint Louis University, and his heart for pastoral ministry have made for the “perfect storm” to work on SMP and the Seminary’s curriculum as a whole.

Yet, this work doesn’t compare to the simple joy of teaching. “Student interaction is the high point of what I do,” Cook says. “I like to be in the classroom, guiding students through the process that will culminate in their first calls, helping them integrate what they’re learning so that they leave this place as whole people.”

Such a holistic sense of ministry is also why he has worked hard to stay connected to parish life, staying active by preaching and teaching in local congregations, especially the Crave Coffeehouse ministry near Saint Louis University.

In addition, he and Elizabeth, living in one of the Seminary faculty houses with their high school age son, have used their home to start a small fellowship ministry called “The Attic.” Every week people from the



**Rev. Cook and Dr. David Wollenburg, director of SMP, explore the technology used for distance education programs.**

Seminary and surrounding community gather for fellowship, Bible study, and service. Cook says the gatherings arose after they met an unchurched young couple in a nearby neighborhood who was seeking mentorship in their marriage. Its mission is simple: to be an “intimate community to share life together.”

In the end, being a “whole” person, pastor, and professor ties Cook back to his earliest memories of the church. As a boy, he would help his pastor, Ernest Gerike, shelve books in the church office, and it was there where Pastor Gerike first encouraged him to think about pastoral ministry. Or it was his Grandmother Cook, in her apartment, getting up early and sitting in her chair in her “Sunday best” waiting for the church bus. Cook remembers his grandmother sitting in that chair, running her fingers over the words in the pages of the family Bible.

It was only much later when he found out his grandmother was illiterate. “Her simple, deep faith inspired me,” Cook says. It continues to inspire him still.



**Rev. Cook and Dr. Erik Herrmann, assistant professor of historical theology, prepare for commencement.**



# Include Concordia Seminary in your will or estate plan

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For more information please call 1-800-822-5287



## Bach at the Sem concerts return

The *Bach at the Sem* concert series will return for two concerts in the remainder of the academic year in spring 2012. The series had been put on hold due to the passing of its beloved conductor and music director, Rev. Robert Bergt, who died in July 2011.

The first concert will be held on February 12, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. It will feature organist Dennis Bergin playing works by J.S. Bach and his own composition "The Last Enemy." The American Kantorei will perform Bach's Motet III, *Jesu Meine Freude*, and motets by Heinrich Schütz.

The second concert will be held on April 22, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. The American Kantorei will present three cantatas by J.S. Bach: *Der Himmel lacht!*, *Die Erde*

*jubilieret*; and *Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden*. They will also perform *Lobe den Herren den maechtigen Koenigen der Ehren*.

Jeral Becker will serve as interim conductor and music director. Becker previously served as assistant conductor under Bergt.

Both concerts will be held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Concordia Seminary campus. They are open to the public and free of charge. Free will offerings will be taken in support of the concert series.



Future concerts will be determined and announced at a later date. For more information, please contact Marla Brewer, senior administrative assistant to the dean of the chapel, at 314-505-7009 or brewerm@csl.edu.

## Laudamus to present winter 2012 tour



The Laudamus choral group of Concordia Seminary will be touring churches in February 2012. Laudamus is a men's choir of 12 voices that sings mostly unaccompanied music, directed by Kantor Stephen Rosebrock. The choir will sing Transfiguration services at each church on the tour. For specific details, please visit [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).

### Laudamus Winter 2012 Schedule

Friday, Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m.: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.  
 Saturday, Feb. 18, 5:00 p.m.: St. Peter's Lutheran, Arlington Heights, Ill.  
 Sunday, Feb. 19, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.: St. John Lutheran, Wheaton, Ill.  
 Sunday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.: Elm Grove Lutheran, Elm Grove, Wis.  
 Monday, Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m.: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Monday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.: Trinity Lutheran, Sheboygan, Wis.  
 Tuesday, Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m.: Concordia University-Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis.  
 Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012, 6:30 p.m.: St. John Lutheran, Racine, Wis.

Front row, from left: Jason Holden, William Wingfield, John Fries, Adam Thompson, Jeffrey Burgess; middle row, Raymond Holman, Nikolai Gibbons, Daniel Maske, Joshua Reifsteck, Stephan Roma; back row, Jonathan Meyer, and Rev. Stephen Rosebrock. Missing from photo: Samuel Maconachy.



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## Day of Homiletical Reflection set for May

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host its 10th Annual Day of Homiletical Reflection on Wednesday, May 9, 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.



Lose

The Rev. Dr. David Lose is the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. Previously, Lose served as a pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Princeton Junction, N.J., and as a

teaching fellow and visiting lecturer at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English and psychology from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., in 1988. He earned his Master of Divinity degree (1993) and his Master of Sacred Theology degree (1997) from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pa. In May 2000,

he earned his doctorate in homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dr. Lose is the author of *Making Sense of Scripture* and *Confessing Jesus Christ*, named one of the "Top 10 Books of 2004" by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

He is the author of numerous articles on preaching, biblical interpretation and theology, and is the editor of *New Directions in Preaching*, a collection of essays from a new generation of homiletical scholars.

This event 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.

The registration fee for the Day of Homiletical Reflection is \$25. 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 21-25 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.



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.

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

On campus housing is 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.



**Participants from the Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy workshop enjoy fellowship with one another during the event.**



## UPCOMING FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez**, teacher, "Lutheran Mind" intensive course, Santiago de Cuba, Jan. 20-24

**Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez**, plenary speaker, "Approaching Culture Theologically," Multi-Ethnic Symposium, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 30

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, "Preaching From Isaiah 40-55," Family In Faith Lutheran, Glendale Heights, Ill., Feb. 2

**Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs**, speaker, "Light from the Tomb: Resurrection in the Book of Acts," Western Michigan District Pastoral Conference, Kalamazoo, Mich., Feb. 7-8

**Dr. Bruce Hartung**, speaker, "Ministering to the Minister," Mission Summit of the N.J. District, Westfield, N.J., Feb. 11

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, Immanuel Lutheran, Greenfield & Winterset, Iowa, Feb. 12

**Dr. David Schmitt**, speaker, Tri-circuit Gathering, Austin, Texas, Feb. 21

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, "Amos: Restore the Roar," Holy Cross Lutheran, College Station, Texas, March 2-4

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, Trinity Lutheran, Nashville, Ill., March 4

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, presenter, "Isaiah 40-55," Pilgrim Lutheran, Spokane, Wash., April 14-15

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, LC of St. John, Quincy, Ill., April 15

**Dr. Bruce Hartung**, speaker, North Dakota District Pastoral Conference, Fargo, N.D., April 16-17

**Dr. Joel Biermann**, speaker, "Man and Woman in Christ," S. Ill. District spring pastor's conference, Waterloo, Ill., April 17

**Dr. David Schmitt**, speaker, "Sermon Structures," Northwest District Pastoral Conference, April 17-18

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, speaker, Lutheran Services of America, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 18

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, preacher, Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, Ariz., April 22

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, Bible study leader, LWML Convention, Hammond, La., April 27-29

**Dr. Timothy Saleska**, speaker, "Movements of the Heart: Meditations on Psalms," Circuit Pastors' Conference, Arvada, Colo., April 30-May 2

**Dr. Joel Biermann**, speaker, circuit pastors' meeting, Gaylord, Mich., May 7-9

**Dr. Dale Meyer**, commencement speaker, St. Paul's, Chicago Heights, Ill., May 25

**Dr. Reed Lessing**, essayist, Kansas District Convention, Topeka, Kan., June 7-9

**Dr. David Schmitt**, preacher, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, San Antonio, Texas, June 10

**Dr. Joel Biermann**, essayist, "Discipleship," Ohio District Convention, Columbus, Ohio, June 14-16

## Upcoming on-campus events

### JANUARY

January 25 ..... Lay Bible Institute  
January 27 ..... Green and Gold Follies  
January 28 ..... Making Abortion Unthinkable  
January 30-31 ..... Multi-Ethnic Symposium  
January 31 ..... CHS Lecture in Hispanic/Latino  
Theology and Missions

### FEBRUARY

February 1 ..... Lay Bible Institute  
February 3 ..... Seminary Guild Meeting  
February 3-4 ..... Schola Cantorum  
February 11 ..... Reaching Out Together  
February 12 ..... *Bach at the Sem* Concert  
February 17-21 ..... Laudamus Winter Tour

### MARCH

March 8-10 ..... Contemplate...  
March 12-14 ..... 3rd Annual Hispanic Theological  
Symposium  
March 16 ..... Seminary Guild Meeting  
March 16 ..... Green and Gold Days  
March 17 ..... Prepare-Enrich Training and Workshop

### APRIL

April 16-20 ..... Interim Ministry Workshop  
April 22 ..... *Bach at the Sem* Concert  
April 29 ..... Easter Lessons and Carols

### MAY

May 1 ..... Call Day  
May 4 ..... Seminary Guild Meeting  
May 9 ..... Day of Homiletical Reflection  
May 18 ..... Commencement  
May 21-25 ..... Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

### JUNE

June 5-7 ..... Alumni Reunion  
June 23-28 ..... *Vocatio*

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**Counseling and Confession: The Role of Confession and Absolution in Pastoral Counseling**

For over 25 years, this book has provided an authentically Christian resource for enriching pastoral counseling and deepening a ministry of reconciliation. Walter Koehler weaves a multilayered account of the relationships between psychology, pastoral counseling, and the theology of individual ... [Continue reading](#)

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Be imitators of God  
Be imitators of God  
Be imitators of God  
Be imitators of God  
Be imitators of God  
Be imitators of God

find God's calling for your life

**Vocatio** is a fun opportunity for high school youth entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 to participate in Bible study, worship, and discussion about vocation. This five day retreat on Concordia Seminary's campus encourages participants to find God's calling for their lives through studying theology, learning from Seminary professors, and engaging in thoughtful conversation together. Registration deadline is June 1, 2012. Contact the admissions office at [admissions@csl.edu](mailto:admissions@csl.edu) or 1-800-822-9545 for more information, or visit [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. Ephesians 5:1



june 23-28

vocatio2012

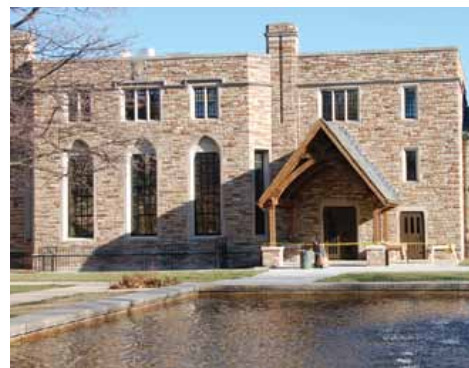
## Benidt Center update

As reported in the spring/summer 2011 issue of *Concordia Seminary* magazine, the newly-renovated dining hall complex has been named the Johann Hinrich Benidt Seminary Center. It encompasses Wartburg dining hall, Koburg dining hall, and the main kitchen, all of which existed previously in slightly different forms, as well as the upper and lower floors of the building.

Wartburg's renovations were completed in 2009. Koburg dining hall, used for formal occasions and events, has new chairs and a renovated restroom area. The main kitchen was completely gutted after commencement in May 2011 and stayed closed all summer long. New energy-efficient appliances were installed and a dish room was added in order to facilitate a better flow through the space.

The "newest" parts of the Benidt Center are the previously unused spaces in the basement and the two upper floors of the building. The basement now houses the Food Bank and the Re-Sell It Shop (see page 22 for details), as well as cold storage for the kitchen. The second floor has renovated meeting rooms for groups, as well as a craft/activity room for Seminary women's classes.

The third floor is now home to a community kitchen and smaller dining rooms. It is hoped that these will be utilized by many different groups on campus.



*Before and after shots of the Benidt Center façade, the kitchen, and the Re-Sell It Shop.*

## Chinese officials visit CSL

In October 2011, a group of Chinese officials from State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) came to visit St. Louis and toured several LCMS institutions. The tour was arranged through Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) as a familiarity visit. They had a particular interest in theological education and met with Drs. Jeffrey Oschwald, Henry Rowold, and Andy Bacon. They took a campus tour and saw demonstrations of various kinds of educational technology implemented at the Seminary.





# Fall 2011 calls and assignments

## CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

### CENTER FOR HISPANIC STUDIES (CHS)

- † **Rigoberto González**, Our Redeemer, San Diego, Calif.
- † **Juan Zamora**, Our Redeemer, Irving, Texas

### CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY CENTER (CMC)

- † **Daniel Grabowski**, Redeemer, Ontario, Calif.
- † **Sean Pica**, Redeemer, South Gate, Calif. (Call Pending)
- † **Mark Siegert**, Concordia University Irvine, Irvine, Calif.

### DISTANCE EDUCATION LEADING TO ORDINATION (DELTO)

- † **Steven Klawonn**, Christ Our Savior, Norwalk, Iowa

### ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (EIIT)

- † **Joseph Davis**, Bethany, Alexandria, Va.
- † **John Orlando Flahn**, Our Savior, Laurel, Md. (Call Pending)
- † **Mohan Singh**, Trinity, Schenectady, N.Y.

### MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)

- † **Christopher Mizel**, Lutheran High School Association, St. Louis, Mo.
- † **Jonathan Mumme**, Westfield House, Cambridge, England
- † **William Newell**, Concordia, St. Louis, Mo.



**SMP**

### SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR PROGRAM (SMP)

- † **James Autry**, Trinity, Odem, Texas
- † **Francis Cantwell**, Holy Trinity, Kingsland, Ga.
- † **Aaron Goeke**, Messiah, Boerne, Texas
- † **Travis Hartjen**, Waters Edge, Frisco/Allen, Texas
- † **Todd Kuehn**, Beautiful Savior, Sarasota, Fla.
- † **Brandon Larson**, St. John, Bullhead City, Ariz.
- † **Samuel Leiter**, Messiah, Indianapolis, Ind.
- † **Timothy Lindeman**, Peace, Arvada, Colo.
- † **Rodney Lindemann**, Timothy, Blue Springs, Mo.

- † **R. Scott Lohman**, Immanuel, Downers Grove, Ill. (Call Pending)
- † **Alan Muck**, Lord of Life, Chesterfield, Mo.
- † **Marc Nauman**, Trinity, Trinity, Fla.
- † **Collis Parham**, Epiphany, New Orleans, La.
- † **Vincent Parks**, Gloria Dei, Houston, Texas
- † **J. Steve Richardson**, St. Paul, Montgomery, Ala.
- † **Kevin Schuessler**, St. Michael's, Bloomington, Minn. (Call Pending)
- † **Jonathan Schultz**, Lord of Life, Bixby, Okla. (Call Pending)
- † **Steven Shank**, Messiah, Indianapolis, Ind.
- † **Michael Staneck**, Trinity, Islip, N.Y.



**CHS**



**EIIT**

- † **William Vangor**, St. Luke's, Putnam Valley, N.Y. (Call Pending)  
 † **Ronald York**, Ascension, Tucson, Ariz. (Call Pending)

#### DEACONESS ASSIGNMENTS

#### CENTER FOR HISPANIC STUDIES (CHS)

- † **Alma Zamora**, Our Redeemer, Irving, Texas

#### DEACONESS STUDIES

- † **Ashley Bayless**, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

#### ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (EIT)

- † **Saron Woldehaimanot**, Our Savior, Arlington, Va.

#### VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS

#### CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY CENTER (CMC)

- † **Rick Barklage**, Zion, North Highland, Calif.  
 † **Vince Barringer**, Loving Savior of the Hills, Chino Hills, Calif.  
 † **Teo Berndt**, Mt. Olive, Pasadena, Calif.  
 † **Joel Beyer**, Community, Escondido, Calif.  
 † **Ken Chitwood**, LINC, Houston, Texas  
 † **Yacob Habtemariam**, Ethiopian Reformation, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 † **Seong Ah Jeong**, Onefaith Korean, Irvine, Calif.  
 † **Ted Smith**, Good Shepherd, Yucca Valley, Calif.

- † **Brian Thomas**, Grace Evangelical, San Diego, Calif.

#### ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (EIT)

- † **Sabir Nazir Bashir**, People of the Book Outreach, Dallas, Texas  
 † **Chera Hambisa Namera**, Lord of Life, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
 † **Wilson Irfam Mahmood**, People of the Book Outreach, Dallas, Texas

#### MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.DIV.)

- † **Justin Hannemann**, Divine Shepherd, Omaha, Neb.  
 † **Warren Lattimore**, Timothy Evangelical, Council Bluffs, Iowa



*Deaconess placement*



*M.Div. vicarage assignment*

## Walther Bicentennial draws many guests

On October 25, 2011, Concordia Seminary celebrated the 200th birthday of Dr. C.F.W. Walther, one of the founders of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its first president, and two-time president and professor at Con-



*Harrison*

cordia Seminary, St. Louis. Throughout the day, many events were scheduled to honor his legacy.

Concordia Seminary invited living descendants of C.F.W. Walther to join the celebration. The following relatives attended:

- Edna Walther Wolf (great granddaughter)  
 Terry Wolf (great great grandson)  
 Joan Hocker (great great granddaughter) and Jim (spouse)  
 Rev. Richard W. Holz (great great grandson) and Eunice (spouse)  
 Deborah Walther Aubochon (great great granddaughter)  
 Sandra Walther (great great granddaughter) and Walt E. Busch (spouse)

Approximately 25 people went on the bus tour that went to Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis and the Walther Mausoleum in Concordia Cemetery. That afternoon, 150 people viewed the "Walther" film, produced by Concordia Seminary, in Werner Auditorium.

The evening program, attended by approximately 130 people, included presentations by Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, and Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, the Concordia Seminary Chorus sang two hymns associated with Dr. Walther in German and in English.



# Studying from 6,350 miles away

Sainaa Nerguisaikhan enrolled at Concordia Seminary this past fall in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). While most EIIT students spend just one or two weeks a year at the Seminary for intensive classes, Sainaa spent the month of September 2011 in St. Louis, soaking up as much of the residential learning environment as he could before returning to Mongolia.

He started the Lutheran Church of Mongolia in 1999, which has been supported by the Finnish Lutheran Church since its inception. He serves as pastor of Good News Church, which has about 60 members, a medium-sized church in Mongolia. The Mongolian Lutheran Church currently has 11 churches. Mongolia's total population is around 2.75 million.

Just two years before in 1997, Sainaa became a Christian. He was working as a night watch at the Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Mongolia. "I sat in an empty room with only one table with a drawer in it and only one chair," he commented. "In that single drawer, there was a Bible and I was intrigued to read it. I began reading in Genesis how God created all things and continued on from there."

However, as one might imagine, reading the Bible without any context could be very difficult. "Then it became confusing, so I started reading in the back through Revelation.

"Then a friend of mine who worked another shift noticed I had been reading the Bible. He asked me

if I understood it," Sainaa said. He told his friend that he was having a hard time. "He told me to start with the New Testament, in the book of Mark, then Luke, John, and finally Matthew. He told me I will understand it much better that way."

This was not, however, the first time that he had been introduced to Christianity. "Earlier in my life, I happened to be in Russia where I saw the 'Jesus' film. Having seen that, and now reading the Gospels, I suddenly remembered having seen the movie and now I knew what it was about."

Christianity in Mongolia grew quickly after socialism, according to Sainaa. He says that thousands upon thousands of people converted. "Since then, there have been times of slower growth, and at other times, more significant growth. The government is not particularly hostile to Christianity, but Christianity is not really present or represented in government.

"One of the more significant religions in Mongolia is Shamanism," Sainaa said. "It is a very big challenge to Christianity because Shamanism is very cultural. Shamanism seems very natural and the practice of Shamanism is simply taken for granted. People experience a loss or hope for a blessing, either way they almost automatically think to call a Shaman."

Before he began the Good News Church, Sainaa served a different startup congregation. "The people in my church asked me to lead them as their pastor," Sainaa said. "It began through my association with the Norwegian Lutheran church where a friend of mine asked me to consider leading a house church. I began this house church in 1998, and in the following year, my own congregation began meeting in another place."

Sainaa is married with four children: a 17 year old son, an eight year old daughter, a four year old son, and a one year old daughter. "Before becoming Christians, my wife and I only had one child," Sainaa said. "We wanted more children, and we sought medical advice



*Sainaa baptizes a congregant in Mongolia.*

## Sainaa Nerguisaikhan Lutheran Church of Mongolia

to see if we were infertile. We were not, so we did not know why we could not have more children.

“After becoming Christians, we knew that we could pray for more children. Eventually we had two more children. Perhaps we’ll have more.”



*Sainaa and his family*

Sainaa spent some time studying pastoral theology in England and in Kazakhstan. He decided to come to Concordia Seminary because Mongolia only has one Bible school, which is non-denominational. “There is not strong theological teaching there,” he commented. “I needed to come here so that I could learn much more about Lutheran theology.”

“Some of the theology that influences the Mongolian churches comes from East Asia and is very much like the Prosperity Theology in America,” he continued. “It is always joyful and happy. But that doesn’t last. Lutheran theology is able to speak more truthfully about life. Life is always good because of the Gospel, because of Jesus and what he has done for us. But life also has the law, life also has hard times. That other theology cannot offer encouragement in those times. But Lutheran theology can.”

When he finishes the pastoral certification program, he may plant another church in Mongolia. “Since there is only one Bible school, and since the theology is not strong there, I have also been encouraged to become a teacher,” he said. “So that is a possibility.”

## The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology

The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) is a specialized program of theological education and formation for effective pastoral leadership within immigrant-based churches. Concordia Seminary accomplishes this by offering a distance theological education program that leads to certification for ordination in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The program is created for men providing 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.

The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology’s curriculum is designed to allow participants to obtain a Lutheran theological understanding of Scripture which informs their missionary and pastoral activities. The courses are inquiry based, allowing the student to explore theological issues as they pertain to his situation and to the current theological climate in North America. The curriculum is interdisciplinary, offering courses that integrate Biblical, systematic, historical, and pastoral practice studies.

The 10-week courses are offered using distance education methods, allowing participants to remain in the context of their home-ministry and local support groups. Each course uses a course manual, textbooks, a local mentor, a ministry supervisor, and Internet components that allow for student-to-instructor and student-to-student interaction.

Curricular components include: 16 ten-week distance education courses, a local mentor and ministry supervisor, active ministry work, and annual three-to-five day seminars on the campus of Concordia Seminary. A student takes four courses a year.

For more information on EIIT, please contact Rev. John Loum, director, at [eiit@csleu.edu](mailto:eiit@csleu.edu).



# Guild supports students' well-being

Each year, the Concordia Seminary Guild puts together a project list of items they want to fund to benefit the students. These items, ranging from supporting the community garden to providing textbooks for deaconess students, fall



under the category of items not ordinarily furnished by the Seminary.

For their 2011-2012 project list, the Guild added several items that they thought would directly support the health of the students. They chose to purchase a set of free weights for the Pederson Fieldhouse workout room, as well as a wall-mounted television set.

"The Seminary Guild blesses Seminary students in many ways," commented Wil Stelzer, student supervisor of the Fieldhouse. "They are not solely concerned about promoting mental and spiritual growth, but contribute to the athletics program so the students can stay physically fit as well. Their gifts of free weights, mirrors in the weight room and

*Pederson Fieldhouse*

televisions in both the weight room and cardio room have made the Fieldhouse a more welcoming and attractive environment in which to exercise and we are all most grateful."



Another item on their list was to benefit the residence halls. The Guild decided to put \$2,000 toward new furniture for the lounges of Dorms F and G. Lounges in the dormitories are often used as study areas and fellowship areas for the students. They also purchased two new microwaves for these lounges.

To support future projects in the area of student health and well-being, please use the form on this page.

# Food Bank and RSIS move to new locations

As part of the Phase One project of campus renovations, the Food Bank and the Re-Sell It Shop moved to newly renovated locations on the lower floor of the Johann Hinrich Benidt Seminary Center in November 2011. The Guild helped to support these efforts by providing new equipment.

The Re-Sell It Shop now occupies a much larger space than it did when it was housed in the basement of Wynekken Hall. In the new building, they have a dressing room and a more convenient drop-off location for donations. Thanks to the Guild, they have new shelving, hanger racks, and a dolly to move items.

The Food Bank enjoys a more open, well-lit environment in its new home as well. The Guild provided new rolling grocery carts and food storage bins. Concordia Seminary students utilize both of these services weekly and will be greatly helped by the new improvements.

"As we talk with students and their families, they tell us what a blessing it has been to have the Food Bank as a resource while they attend the Seminary," commented Laura Moehlman, operations supervisor for enrollment management. "The Food Bank offerings would not be possible without the support of donors like the Guild."

"The new location offers a nice open floor plan allowing for a better flow of traffic," added Cheryl Haugen, coordinator of the Food Bank. "There will be four wall mesh racks containing 12 pockets, each displaying a newly revised couponing system. The Concordia Seminary Guild has provided funds to purchase more shopping carts which will allow more shoppers to go through the Food Bank at one time."

If you would like to assist the Guild in reaching their goals, please consider donating to either the Food Bank or the Dorm Furnishing funds on the form on this page.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please make check payable to Concordia Seminary Guild and send to: Alice Kastens, 5101 Kings Park Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129

I would like to donate to the Seminary Guild's project goals of:

Dorm Furnishings \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Food Bank \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# It wasn't supposed to be this way...or was it?

## Rev. Michael and Dcs. Jessica Feldmann

It wasn't supposed to be this way... Jessica had been working in social services for years and Mike was on the fast track to getting his M.B.A. (Master of Business Administration). Life was good. Why change it now?

The Holy Spirit started working hard and Jessica started to feel she wasn't really doing what she needed to be, and Mike must have been feeling the same way; before long they were both attending Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Jessica began the Deaconess Program one year prior to Mike starting the Master of Divinity program.

Attending Seminary is not always easy. The classes are hard and the amount of homework is astounding but the benefits far outweigh the negatives. Many spouses do not understand why their husband is always studying, but Jessica and Mike quickly realized that one of the many benefits of attending Seminary together was that they truly did understand why each other's time was spent on studying. Maybe this was the way it was supposed to be.

One of Jessica and Mike's favorite things about attending the Seminary together was first and foremost that their love for and dedication to the Lord was growing by leaps and bounds and they had a mutual understanding of the Scripture.

With this growth in knowledge also came growth in the desire to praise the Lord in worship. When a person attends the Seminary, they are stretched to worship in a variety of ways. Mike and Jessica now know many of the hymns in the hymnal and find great peace and joy in sharing those hymns and their messages with others.

They also found that they could encourage one another to take the classes that would boost their growth and even study together as the opportunity arose. That was something that really made their bond with the Lord and one another an even closer one.

While Mike served at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gretna, Neb., for his vicarage, Jessica served as a called deaconess in Fremont, Neb. Jessica and Mike had both begun to love their new church families. Life was so good...it just seemed like it was supposed to be this way.

Then, as Mike's fourth year at the Seminary was coming to a close and Call Day was approaching, Mike and Jessica both got a little nervous. They wanted to either stay close to family or go back to Nebraska where they served during Mike's vicarage. "If you don't go into the Seminary trusting God, you will learn to trust Him by the time you leave," Jessica



**Michael and Jessica Feldmann**

said. He had proven this to Mike and Jessica many times in the past and they knew this time would be no different. "We believe that having both attended the Seminary and trusting completely in God, this process was easier for us," the Feldmanns commented.

Mike is now serving as associate pastor at Grace Lutheran in Wayne, Neb., and Jessica works full time selling barns at Sand Creek Post and Beam. She will soon be serving Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fremont, Neb., as their Family Ministry Consultant on a part time basis. Who would have thought that God would somehow work out a way for this couple to each serve Him in their own special ways in a small town like Wayne? The thought still amazes both Mike and Jessica.



**Dr. Meyer congratulates Michael Feldmann on his first call in May 2011.**



**From left, Dennis Kootz, Andrew Tessone, Jonathan Hodges, and Michael Feldmann celebrate on Call Day.**



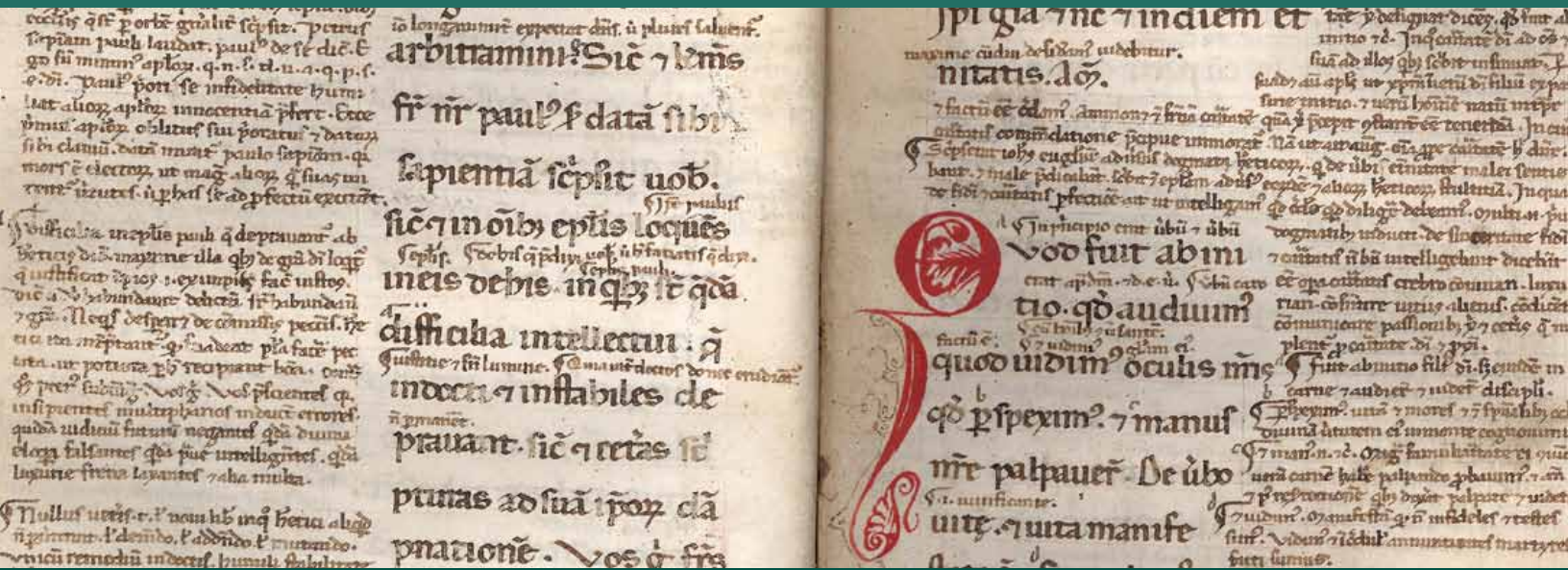
# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

801 SEMINARY PLACE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63105

## CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS 2012 ALUMNI REUNION

June 5-7, 2012

Translations: Past, Present, and Future



Concordia Seminary invites you — graduates, spouses, and widows of class years ending in “2” or “7” — to the Alumni Reunion, to be held on the Seminary campus June 5-7, 2012. Featured events include an alumni/faculty cookout, a banquet dinner, class gatherings, a Jubilarian worship service, and optional bus tours to the LCMS International Center and Lutheran Hour Ministries. Details and registration information will be mailed in late February and will also be available on [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu). To arrange a class gathering during the Reunion, contact alumni relations at 314-505-7370 or [alumni@csl.edu](mailto:alumni@csl.edu).

