

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

SUMMER 2022

PROCLAIM
His NAME

PREPARING, SENDING
PROCLAIMING

CALLS AND ASSIGNMENTS
SPECIAL SECTION

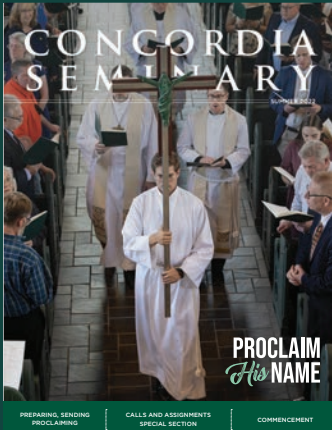
COMMENCEMENT



FIRST LOOK

Concluding Ministerial Formation students gather for a photo following the Theological Diploma Service May 20, 2022. To read more about our Commencement celebration, turn to Page 26. Photo: Harold Rau





ON THE COVER

Seminarian Daniel Bueckman, center, serves as the crucifer and leads the recessional ahead of Dr. Lucas Woodford, president of the LCMS Minnesota South District, and Dr. Thomas J. Egger, Seminary president, after the assignment of vicarages and deaconess internships service on Call Day April 26, 2022. Photo: Jill Gray

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Dr. Thomas J. Egger introduces Commencement Speaker Dr. Patrick Ferry, retired president of Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, May 20, 2022. Photo: Jill Gray



Greetings, friends, in the name of Christ!

Our Seminary Board of Regents is in the process of reviewing our mission statement, and we are finding that there are many worthwhile and engaging ways to express the important work that our Seminary carries out. The theme for this magazine issue, drawn from Is. 12:4, is “Proclaim ... His Name!” It strikes me that this little phrase captures our mission very well: Concordia Seminary exists to proclaim the saving name of Jesus Christ, and to prepare workers for the church who will make known His saving deeds!

In our culture’s celebrity-saturated media (and social media!), there are many, many “big names” vying for attention. All press is good press, the saying goes. And certainly, there is something in each one of us that longs to have our own name made great and exalted. Those who began building the Tower of Babel sought to make a great name for themselves. King Saul was tormented with jealousy because young David was gaining more renown than he: “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands” (1 Sam. 18:7 ESV).

But our calling in the church is different! We are not called to exalt our own names but rather to proclaim the Lord’s exalted name! St. Paul writes, “What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:5 ESV). And, as the Psalmist declares, with words used to close our Commencement ceremonies for the last several years: “Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!” (Ps. 115:1 ESV).

There is joy in His name. Strength. Life. Hope that will not disappoint. His is the name above every name. A name of wondrous love. His name carries with it all of the great saving deeds which our Lord has accomplished for us, culminating in His atoning death and glorious resurrection. There is no other name given among men by which we must be saved!

And so, Concordia Seminary endeavors to prepare pastors, missionaries and deaconesses who go forth with great confidence in the name of our God. Who proclaim His name. Who live to the glory of His name. Who are willing to die for His name. And who will praise His name throughout endless ages. This is pleasing to God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead “that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed IN HIS NAME to all nations” (Luke 24:47 ESV).

Blessed be the name of the Lord! And blessings to you, the dearly loved people who bear His name!

Dr. Thomas J. Egger, President



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SUMMER 2022 ISSUE



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OUR MISSION

Concordia Seminary serves church and world by providing theological education and leadership centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the formation of pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars and leaders in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

WANT TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST?

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Joseph and Emily Reineke



Alexandria and Samuel Shick

PREPARING, SENDING, PROCLAIMING

SEM EQUIPS FUTURE CHURCH WORKERS FOR SERVICE IN HIS NAME

BY DR. GLENN NIELSEN

Red paraments adorn the altar, lectern and pulpit at Concordia Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. The congregation had observed Pentecost Sunday in the morning. Now it was 3 p.m. and a red stole lay on the altar for the afternoon service. Pastors with red stoles processed in. Joining the procession was Joseph Reineke, a recent graduate from Concordia Seminary. He was not wearing a red stole — yet. However, that red stole on the altar would soon lay on his shoulders, after he had spoken his ordination vows and the pastors had placed their blessings on him.

The congregation, with a worship attendance of more than 700, a Lutheran elementary school of 400 students and much going on during the week, needed a second pastor. Through a prayer-filled placement process, Concordia Lutheran Church now calls this new graduate of Concordia Seminary Pastor Reineke. On the Tuesday following his ordination, he and his wife, Emily, closed on their first house. Then on Wednesday, they welcomed their first child into their family, Sophia Christine, and on Saturday he preached his first sermon at Concordia Lutheran

Church. What a week for the Reinekes and this congregation!

This scene plays out in congregations across The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) during the summer months after Concordia Seminary’s May graduation service and April Call Day service. While Call Day is a time of great excitement and anticipation as the candidates learn where they will serve in the ministry, the summer brings the reality of family moving, house hunting and beginning in the pastoral office. Some will be called to team ministries, while others will be sole pastors in congregations without a pastor, including dual and triple parishes.

Concordia Seminary certainly meets the needs of the church by forming men to be pastors through our Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program.

But not just in the M.Div. Program. The Seminary also serves the church by providing pastors and deaconesses through a variety of routes into the pastoral or diaconal office.

For example, Alexandria Shick was placed this spring at Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries in Sanford, Fla. Trained in the Seminary’s Deaconess Studies Program, Shick will be the director of program ministries for a Christ-centered maternity home for single, pregnant women in crisis. Redeeming Life is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, with programs designed to equip mothers with life skills for their future independence. This work will be rooted in Christ.

Shick served her deaconess internship at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Fla., and provided care to a retirement center, Lutheran Haven, and became involved with Redeeming Life on a part-time basis. Her husband, Samuel, served his vicarage at the same congregation. Samuel was called back to be an associate pastor at St. Luke’s in the same Call Day service during which Shick received her call. The two of them welcomed their first child, Simon, into their family shortly before their graduation from Concordia Seminary in May. Shick is well-prepared for this call and is eagerly looking forward to her consecration to serve in this vital position.

Once again, Concordia Seminary provides for the needs of not only the church but also those of the communities in central Florida. Shick will join with the rest of the staff at this specialized ministry, designed to bring hope-filled lives to young women and their children.

Reineke and Shick were residential students at Concordia Seminary. However, the next set of students were enrolled in distance education programs of Concordia Seminary. They took their classes online or during short intensive courses on campus, thus allowing them to continue to serve in congregations while preparing for the pastoral ministry. During their time in their respective programs, they are vicars, carrying out a variety of ministry activities.

Rev. Jawed (Jay) Dass recently graduated from Concordia Seminary’s Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). EIIT seeks to form pastors for immigrant communities with a mission emphasis, especially for first generation ethnic populations and other culture-specific contexts. Most often the graduates of this program serve at congregations in the United States. However, Pastor Dass now serves in Pakistan as Pakastani national missionary pastor of the Lutheran Confessional Church of Pakistan, working to establish the Lutheran church in that country.

Dass grew up in Pakistan and moved to Florida in 1983 for better job opportunities. He entered EIIT in 2016 and his vicarage responsibilities included evangelism among Hindu and Islamic immigrants in Georgia. When the opportunity came to plant Lutheran churches in Pakistan, the LCMS Office of International Mission worked with the Evangelical Church of Lithuania to ordain Dass into the preaching office for work in this mission setting. He has already planted three churches in Pakistan!

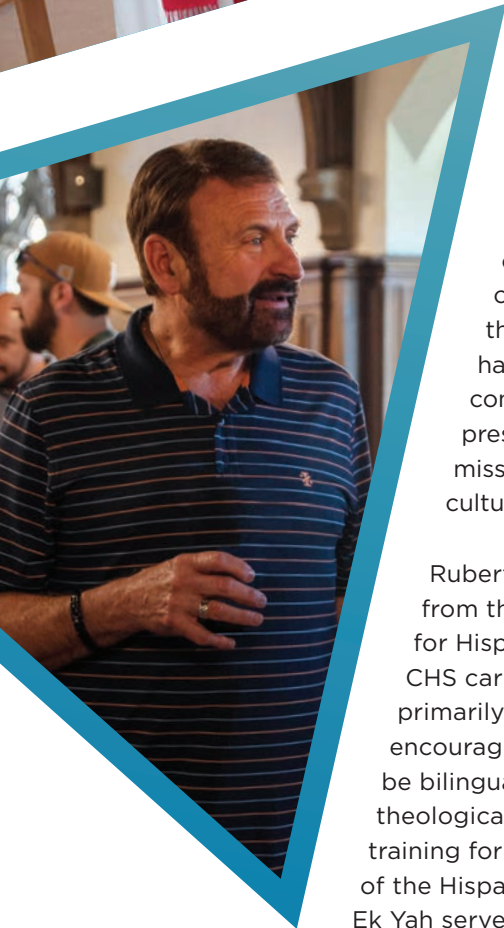
CONTINUED ON
PAGE 8 >



Julie and Jawed
(Jay) Dass



Once again, Concordia Seminary provides not only for the needs of the English-speaking populations in the LCMS, but also for those who speak other languages. Because of his training through CHS, Ek Yah has joined others who have graduated from CHS to reach the growing numbers of Hispanic/Latino people in the United States.



Once again, Concordia Seminary provides not only for the needs of LCMS churches in the United States, but also in other countries. Because of his training through EIIT, Dass has established a confessional Lutheran presence through his mission work in a different cultural context.

Ruberto Ek Yah graduated from the Seminary's Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS). CHS carries out instruction primarily in Spanish (while encouraging students to be bilingual), and provides theological reflection and training for the rich diversity of the Hispanic/Latino culture. Ek Yah serves in the Spanish

ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church in Portland, Ore.

Ek Yah is of Mayan descent and was born in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. He learned Spanish and also is fluent in English. Besides the ministry at Trinity, he uses Facebook and other social media to communicate the Gospel in the Mayan language among immigrants in the area as well as to his Mayan homeland. He carries out this vital ministry while also working in another vocation to support himself and his family financially. Being bi-vocational highlights his strong commitment to bringing God's Word to others.

Joel Rockemann graduated this year from the Cross-cultural Ministry Center (CMC) located at Concordia University in Irvine, Calif. The CMC brings the efforts of Concordia University, Concordia Seminary and the LCMS Pacific Southwest District together to prepare men to serve in specific ethnic populations and multicultural communities.

Rockemann is the son of the former dean of student life at Concordia Seminary, Rev. Larry Rockemann. Before entering the CMC, Rockemann served two years of mission work in Haiti and then was involved as a layman at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Tracy, Calif. As part of his vicarage activities while taking his classes from Concordia Irvine, he initiated a conversational English class for the many Spanish-speaking immigrants in the area. The community deeply appreciates the classes and the shared meals that have been offered through St. Paul's under his leadership.

“CONCORDIA SEMINARY IS PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD WITH WHICH WE LIVE.”

Once again, Concordia Seminary provides not only for the needs of the traditional culture of LCMS congregations, but it also prepares men to serve in cross-cultural settings. Through his call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rockemann joins other CMC graduates who are a significant part of our church's effort to reach different ethnic communities.

Scott Magneson has received his call to serve Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Marysville, Mich., which was announced in the Seminary's Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus June 24. He is a student of Concordia Seminary's Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program. For the last two years he has served as the vicar at Light of Christ and, once ordained, will continue to

take classes for two more years to complete the program. The SMP Program prepares pastors who are already in an existing ministry or mission context to serve as pastors in that particular ministry for the duration of their pastoral ministry.

Light of Christ is a small congregation that struggled to call a full-time pastor. Magneson joined Light of Christ shortly after its founding in 2011, and, when he retired from teaching at a high school in 2015, the members of the church encouraged him to enter the SMP Program. He did, and he now serves this loving, small church family, carrying out the full range of pastoral responsibilities. Magneson and his wife, Sandy, have two grown children and twin granddaughters. He diligently seeks to carry out the church's vision of "CONNECT with God, GROW with others and SERVE the church and our community."

Once again, Concordia Seminary provides for the needs of congregations, this time for those parishes that otherwise would be unable to afford a full-time pastor. Because of his SMP training, Magneson joins others from this program who are now serving a variety of church settings from small churches to team ministries to church plants to campus ministries.

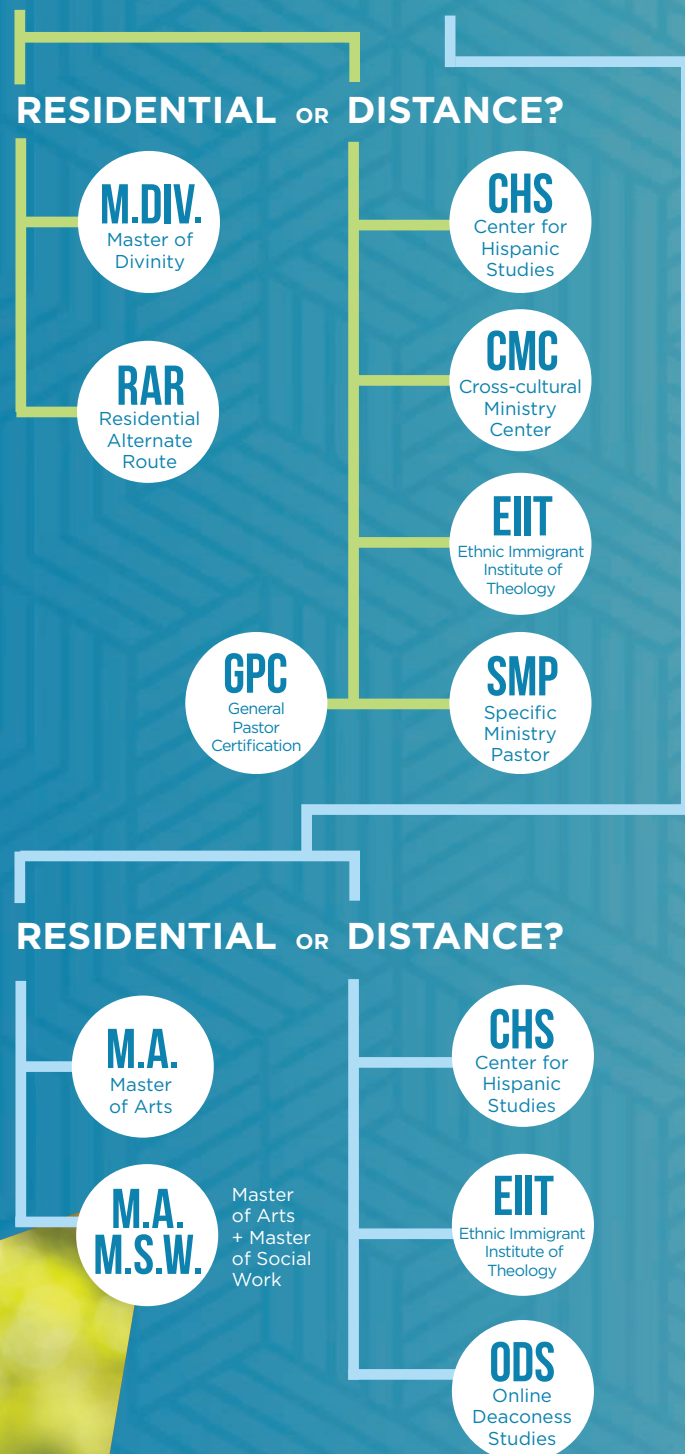
I am the director of Placement at Concordia Seminary. In that position, I am privileged to facilitate these calls into the pastoral and diaconal ministries. The residential students I know well, and the distance students are well taken care of by the various program directors. During Call Day services throughout the year, I have the distinct joy and honor of announcing the calls for our students who will be pastors and deaconesses. With each name I call out, those who are present in the chapel are hearing once again how Concordia Seminary is providing for the needs of the church and the world with which we live.

Dr. Glenn A. Nielsen is professor of Practical Theology, director of Placement, director of Vicarage and Deaconess Internships, and director of certification at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



WHAT MINISTERIAL FORMATION PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A PASTOR OR DEACONESS?



Top left, Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M. and Ruberto Ek Yah. Bottom left, Scott Magneson. Bottom right, Joel Rockemann. Photos: Courtesy Ek Yah, Magneson and Rockemann



Call Day 2022

Unless otherwise noted, all calls and assignments were in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program or Master of Arts (M.A.) plus Deaconess Certification Program and announced on Call Day, April 26, 2022.

CALLS INTO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

ABBREVIATION KEY

- CHS: Center for Hispanic Studies
- CMC: Cross-cultural Ministry Center
- EIIT: Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology
- ODS: Online Deaconess Studies
- RAR: Residential Alternate Route
- SMP: Specific Ministry Pastor

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Crocitto, Brian: The Life Lutheran Church, Old Westbury, NY (SMP Fall 2021)

Deberny, Peter: Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach, NY

Wilson, Jessy: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Delmar, NY (SMP Fall 2021)

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT

Garrity, Corey: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Redwood City, CA (CMC)

Rockemann, Joel: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Tracy, CA (CMC)

St. Pierre, Marvin: St. John's Lutheran Church, Bakersfield, CA (SMP March 2022)

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Heinze, Ian: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Havana, IL

ENGLISH DISTRICT

St. John, Samuel: Ascension Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

Baroi, Isaac: All Nations Society of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, (EIIT Summer 2022)

Barber, Timothy: Epiphany Lutheran Church, Tallahassee, FL

Luke, Leo Patrick: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL (SMP Fall 2021)

Martínez, Eduardo: *Iglesia Luterana Esperanza Viva*, Orlando, FL (CHS Fall 2021)

INDIANA DISTRICT

Berg, Andrew: Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Avon, IN

Fredstrom, William: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN

Morris, Alarik: Peace Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN

Reineke, Joseph: Concordia Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

IOWA DISTRICT WEST

Grabau, Ezra: Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City, IA

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Ashley, Jeremy: Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton Township, MI (SMP Spring 2022)

Gustafson, Thomas: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Pahlkötter, Henry: Peace Lutheran Ministries, Saginaw, MI (SMP Fall 2021)

Stainbrook, Michael: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Haslett, MI

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT

Seim, Carl: Lord of Glory Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN (SMP Fall 2021)

Worral, Caleb: Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Garrison, MN

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT

Asp, Andrew: Concordia Academy, Roseville, MN

Beckman, Aaron: St. Mark Lutheran Church, New Germany, MN (RAR)

Einertson, Christian: Trinity Lutheran Church, Farmington, MN

Goodwin, Alexander: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairmont, MN



From left: Deaconess students Abigail Ward and Liz Taylor share some Call Day excitement. Seminarian Joel Her, Dr. John Wille and Joel's father, Rev. Faivneng Her, are all smiles on Call Day. Concluding seminarian Benjamin Hayter, and his wife, Beth, and son, Lazarus, celebrate his call. Alicia and Caleb Wehling, center, enjoy Call Day festivities. Seminararians Daniel and Rachel Heitshusen pose for a photo with Daniel's brother, Ben. Deaconess students Janie Fisher and Jenny "Zoe" Huelsman relish the Call Day joy. Photos: Jill Gray

Ryan, Christopher M.: St. John's Lutheran Church, Buffalo, MN (SMP Spring 2022)

Schut, Jordan: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN

MISSOURI DISTRICT

Bluege, Joseph: Faith Lutheran Church, Branson, MO

Lanning, James: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Centralia, MO

Loum, Cyril: Faith Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO (SMP Fall 2021)

Schmitt, David: Trinity Lutheran Church, Park Hills, MO (SMP Fall 2021)

Schulte, Timothy: Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, MO

Smith, Alexander: Lutheran High School Association, St. Louis, MO (Summer 2022)

Thompson, Lawton: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Des Peres, MO

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

Berg, Brent: Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, NE

Eisenbacher, Joseph: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, La Vista, NE (SMP Spring 2022)

Larson, Eric: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gretna, NE

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Chen, Lesley: Grace Lutheran Church, Nashua, NH

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Harman, Corey: Trinity Lutheran Church, Covington, MI (SMP Spring 2022)

Ramthun, Benjamin: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Escanaba, MI

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Duffy, Michael: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, IL

Hart, Erik: The Lutheran Church of Saint Luke, Itasca, IL

Hayter, Benjamin: Zion Lutheran Church, Chebanse, IL

Morales, Jesús: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Winfield, IL (CHS Feb 2022)

Peterson, Kevin: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Addison, IL

Stein, Donald: St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Rockton, IL

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Adams, Shaun: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA (SMP Fall 2021)

Ek Yah, Ruberto: Trinity Lutheran Church, Portland, OR (CHS Fall 2021)

Keddington, David: Anchorage Lutheran Church, Anchorage, AK (SMP February 2022)

Watt, Rex: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bellingham, WA (SMP Fall 2021)

OHIO DISTRICT

Henry, Travis: Zion Lutheran Church, Painesville, OH

Ryan, Christopher A.: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Chesterland, OH (SMP Fall 2021)

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Hellwig, Kurt: Valley Lutheran High School, Phoenix, AZ

Karolus, John: Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ (Fall 2021)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Aarsvold, Paul "PJ": St. John's Lutheran Church, Denver, CO

Chuol, Paul: St. John's Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, UT (EIT Fall 2021)

Zandstra, Steven: Grace Lutheran Church, Cheyenne Wells, CO (SMP Fall 2021)

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S.E.L.C. DISTRICT

Shick, Samuel: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Anderson, Ray: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Leola, SD; and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD (SMP Fall 2021)

Mueller, Thomas: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Sisseton, SD; and Zion Lutheran Church, Waubay, SD (RAR)

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Howell, Colby: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI

Thompson, Andrew S.: St. John Lutheran Church, Plymouth, WI

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

Gray, Adam: King of Glory Lutheran Church, New Kent County, VA (SMP Fall 2021)

Lane, Morgan: Bethel Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC (SMP Spring 2022)

Parron, Richard: Living Water Lutheran Church, Rossville, MD (SMP Spring 2022)

Penny, Roger: Messiah Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC (SMP Fall 2021)

Rodgers, David: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Bel Air, MD (SMP Spring 2022)

Tietze, Sean: Christ Lutheran Church Norfolk, VA (SMP Summer 2022)

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Jones, Brett: Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoffman, IL

Metcalfe, Brandon: Zion Lutheran Church, Bethalto, IL

TEXAS DISTRICT

Argueta, José: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Houston, TX (CHS Spring 2022)

Bangert, David: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Rockwall, TX (SMP Spring 2022)

Bray, Mark C.: Our Savior Lutheran Church, McKinney, TX (SMP Fall 2021)

Christians, Corey: Salem Lutheran Church, Navasota, TX (RAR)

Cleland, James: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Houston, TX

Farrow, Arthur: St. James Lutheran Church, Windom, TX; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Commerce, TX (SMP Spring 2022)

Hahn, Joshua: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giddings, TX

Johnson, Gary: Zion Lutheran Church, Schulenburg, TX (SMP Spring 2022)

Lee, Matthew: Messiah Lutheran Church, Plano, TX (SMP Spring 2022)

Prohl, Benjamin: Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX

Ridley, Charles: Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, Sugar Land, TX

Santos Andrade, Jesús: Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church, LaPointe, TX (CHS Summer 2022)

Thompson, Andrew L.: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lago Vista, TX

PENDING

Morales, Luis (CMC)

Santos, David M. (SMP)

Vargas, Sergio (CHS)

DEACONESS CALLS

EASTERN DISTRICT

Huelsman, Jenny Zoë: Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Cabot, PA

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

Shick, Alexandria, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Sanford, FL

MISSOURI DISTRICT

Fisher, Janie: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville, MO

PENDING

Ramírez Contreras, Jazmín Abigail (CHS)

Ríos, María Esther (CHS)

Santoyo, Martha Alicia (CHS)

VICARAGES

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Lynch, Matthew: Resurrection Lutheran Church, Garden City, NY

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT

Smith, Chris: Bethany Lutheran Church, Vacaville, CA (CMC Spring 2022)

Suarez-Abraham, Anthony: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Soquel, CA (CMC Fall 2021)



Dean of Ministerial Formation Dr. Timothy Saleska, left, congratulates Daniel Reh on his vicarage assignment. Photo: Harold Rau

TOTAL PASTORAL
CALLS AND
VICARAGE
ASSIGNMENTS:

203

TOTAL CALLS,
VICARAGES
AND
INTERNSHIPS:

215

Stats include dual and triple parishes.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Moellenhoff, Kyle: St. John's Lutheran Church, East Moline, IL

Nelson, Nathan: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Decatur, IL

Riley, Matthew: St. James Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL (RAR)

Springer, Joel: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Springfield, IL (SMP Spring 2022)

EASTERN DISTRICT

Mroz, Vincent: Christ Lutheran Church, Forest Hills, PA (EIIT Fall 2021)

ENGLISH DISTRICT

Thiel, Grant: Grace Lutheran Church, Redford, MI

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

Duncan, Owen: Hope Lutheran Church, Plant City, FL

Estes, Kenneth: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville Beach, FL

Forbes, Conner: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner Robins, GA

Hoag, Samuel: Grace Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL

Sedotto, Anthony: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Boca Raton, FL

Jean Jacques, Rochenel: Peace Lutheran Church, Naples, FL (EIIT Fall 2021)

INDIANA DISTRICT

Farney, Case: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN

Koehler, Jacob: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN (SMP Fall 2021)

Sturges, Christopher: Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Carmel, IN

IOWA DISTRICT EAST

Garrett, Morgan: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City, IA

IOWA DISTRICT WEST

Acers, Shane: Hope Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA (SMP Spring 2022)

Both, James: Sudanese Mission Lutheran Church, Ankeny, IA (EIIT Fall 2021)

Smith, Alexander: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll, IA

KANSAS DISTRICT

Hammes, Paul: Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS

Hjulberg, Avery: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS

Johnson, Frank: Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, KS (SMP Spring 2022)

Lane, William "Jeff": Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS (SMP Spring 2022)

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Britton, Joshua: Trinity Lutheran Church, Utica, MI (SMP Fall 2021)

Brooks, Patrick: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Southgate, MI (SMP Spring 2022)

Dueker, Jonathan: Messiah Lutheran Church, Clio, MI

Lewis, Richard: St. John Lutheran Church, Marion Springs, MI (SMP Fall 2021)

Marsh, Benjamin: Shepherd's Gate Lutheran Church, Shelby Township, MI (SMP Spring 2022)

Menke, Noah: Journey Lutheran Church, Oxford, MI

Schultz, David: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bay City, MI (SMP Spring 2022)

Tanney, Adam: St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth, MI

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

Moore, David "Adam": The Point Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN (SMP Fall 2021)

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT

Johnson, Brandon: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN

Maul, Bruce: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Vergas, MN (SMP Fall 2021)

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT

Aga, Kenna: LINC Twin Cities, Saint Paul, MN (EIIT Fall 2021)

Bentz, Todd: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hamburg, MN (SMP Fall 2021)

Johnson, Kyle: Samaritans Hill Lutheran Church, Albertville, MN (SMP Spring 2022)

MISSOURI DISTRICT

Aizenberg, Samuel: Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO

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Faculty Marshal Dr. Joe Biermann, center, leads deaconess students to their seats in chapel. Photo: Jill Gray

TOTAL VICARAGE
AND DEACONESS
INTERNSHIP
ASSIGNMENTS
ON CALL DAY:

124

Stats include dual and triple parishes.

Bartels, Jonathan: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saint Charles, MO

Bjorker, Alexander: St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Liberty, MO

Dille, Trey: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lake Ozark, MO

Doebler, James “Matt”: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Crestwood, MO

Groth, Jason: Salem Lutheran Church, Affton, MO

Her, Joel: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, MO

Keane, David: Calvary Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO

King, Idonis: Saint Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO

Levenhagen, Aaron: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saint Charles, MO

McClellan, Jedidiah: St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, MO

Nelson, Andrew: Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, St. Peters, MO (RAR)

Resner, Steven: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Honey Creek, MO (RAR)

Rouse, Adam: Hanover Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, MO

Saethre, Peder: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lockwood, MO

Wallis, Daniel: Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Maplewood, MO (EIIT Fall 2021)

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

Betten, Brady: GraceHill Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE (SMP Fall 2021)

Brockman, Justin: Zion Lutheran Church, Pierce, NE

Haggas, Joseph: River of Life Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE (SMP Fall 2021)

McMahan, Daniel: Faith Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE (SMP Fall 2021)

Rathke, Greg: Trinity Lutheran Church, Fremont, NE (SMP Spring 2022)

Winckler, Michael: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Odell, NE

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Kohm, Jason: Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Bauknecht, Jamie: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Crandon, WI; and St. John Lutheran Church, Laona, WI (SMP Spring 2022)

Clayton, Bryce: Peace Lutheran Church, Antigo, WI

Ngoyi, Robert: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI (EIIT Fall 2021)

Pronsati, Dante: Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Green Bay, WI

Schultz, Jonah: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Tshikala, Emmanuel: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI (EIIT Fall 2021)

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Coyne, Tyler: Crosspoint Lutheran Church, Village of Lakewood, IL (SMP Spring 2022)

Gonzalez, Luis: *Iglesia Evangelica Luterana San Pablo*, Aurora, IL (CHS Fall 2021)

Guerrero Aguilera, Cruz: *Iglesia Evangelica Luterana San Pablo*, Aurora, IL (CHS Fall 2021)

Ruger, Lawrence: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Matteson, IL (SMP Spring 2022)

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Kong, Kevin: Church of all Nations, Repulse Bay, Hong Kong (CMC Fall 2021)

Schmidt, Nathan: Christ the Vine Lutheran Church, Damascus, OR (CMC Fall 2021)

Weber, Dillon: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Everett, WA

OHIO DISTRICT

Dass, Allen: St. John Lutheran Church, Dublin, OH

Otto, Vincent: Trinity Lutheran Church, Zanesville, OH

Schultz, Josiah: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, North Canton, OH

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Abdalla, Amanuel: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ (EIIT Fall 2021)

Ashkaba, Luther: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ (EIIT Fall 2021)

Bauer, Kirk: Christ Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA (CMC Spring 2022)

Dawa, Dawa: Oromo Lutheran Christian Fellowship, San Diego, CA (EIIT Fall 2021)

Lohmeyer, Daryl: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Lake Arrowhead, CA (SMP Fall 2021)

Schaefer, Les: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Rancho Cucamonga, CA (CMC Spring 2022)

FARTHEST CALL
OR ASSIGNMENT:
**CHURCH OF ALL
NATIONS, HONG
KONG**

LCMS DISTRICT
WITH MOST
CALLS AND
ASSIGNMENTS:
**MISSOURI
(28)**



Dean of Ministerial Formation Dr. Timothy Saleska, left, congratulates Idonis King during the vicarage service. Photo: Harold Rau

Sharp, Kevin: Searchlight Lutheran Ministries, Fullerton, CA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Beck, William: Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO (SMP Spring 2022)

Kunze, Luke: Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Greeley, CO (SMP Fall 2021)

Lamont, Jeremy: Grace Lutheran Church, Sandy, UT (SMP Fall 2021)

Peterson, Drake: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO

S.E.L.C. DISTRICT

Golti, Matthew: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL

Mehl, Timothy: Faith Viera Lutheran Church, Rockledge, FL

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Friedrich, Jacob: Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Flandreau, SD; and Zion Lutheran Church, White, SD

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Jenkins, Graham: Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI

Reh, Daniel: Trinity Lutheran Church—Freistadt, Mequon, WI

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

Barnett, Ryan: Hope Lutheran Church, Wake Forest, NC

Frank, Peter: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC

Onken, Luke: Living Savior Lutheran Church, Fairfax Station, VA

Phanco, Timothy: Risen Christ Lutheran Church, Myrtle Beach, SC (SMP Spring 2022)

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Frerichs, Andrew: The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills, Birmingham, AL

TEXAS DISTRICT

Blajeski, David: Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, Franklin, TX (SMP Fall 2021)

Garrabrant, Steven: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Nassau Bay, TX (SMP Fall 2021)

Knepper, Christopher: Zion Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX

Lavender, James: Point of Grace Lutheran Church, Pflugerville, TX (SMP Fall 2021)

MacMillin, Gregory "Cody": St. Mark Lutheran Church, Houston, TX

Nasuwa, Abisalom: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX (EIIT Fall 2021)

Nery, Walker: Bethel Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX (CHS Fall 2021)

Ntagawa, Jonas: Bethel Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX (EIIT Fall 2021)

Rowland, William: Peace Lutheran Church, Hurst, TX (SMP Spring 2022)

Runezerwa, Joseph: Bethel Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX (EIIT Fall 2021)

Sanders, Randall "Craig": Zion Lutheran Church, Abilene, TX (SMP Fall 2021)

Wehling, Caleb: St. John Lutheran Church, Mansfield, TX

DEACONESS INTERNSHIPS

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Bauer, Laura: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Interlochen, MI (ODS Fall 2021)

MISSOURI DISTRICT

Dewberry, Erin: Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, MO

Heitshusen, Rachel: Lutheran Senior Services at Mason Pointe, Town and Country, MO

Hovland, Stephanie: LCMS Office of International Mission, St. Louis, MO

Ward, Abigail: Calvary Lutheran High School, Jefferson City, MO

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Moon, Naomi: Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND (ODS Fall 2021)

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Laughton, Hana: Lutheran Latino Ministry, Woodburn, OR (ODS Fall 2021)

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Bergt, Grace: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, IL

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Hovland, Stephanie: St. John's Lutheran Church, Portage, WI (ODS Fall 2021)



FIND PHOTOS, LISTS
AND MORE FROM
CALL DAY AT
CSL.EDU/CALLDAY



Laudamus choir members sing in the chapel balcony. Photo: Jill Gray

KEEPING HOLY SCRIPTURE AT THE HEART OF *Everything*



Dr. Ronald Mudge, Photo: Jill Gray

BY TIM BARKER

It was near the end of his 10-year mission in French-speaking Africa when Dr. Ronald Mudge found himself sitting on a motorcycle that had stalled and refused to start. Before Mudge could get off the motorcycle and try to push start it by himself in the sweltering heat, out of the blue, two bystanders rushed over and pushed the motorcycle until it started.

As problems go, this was hardly the worst thing Mudge — the new provost and chief academic officer at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis — and his family faced during their time in Africa. There was a civil war. They witnessed massive poverty. They fought malaria and dysentery.

But that motorcycle encounter exemplifies the kindness of the people he met there: “There’s just this attitude. Life’s tough and you need help. If I can help you, I will. And if you can help me, please do.”

Asked to look back on his missionary experiences as he transitions to his new role, Mudge said he is reminded of what’s possible when kindness is paired with God’s intimate involvement.

“I think sometimes in America, we like to create this illusion that if God’s not involved, we’ll still be okay,” he said. “But the reality is that we need God to be involved in our day-to-day lives to protect us, guide us and bless the work that we’re doing.”

Before coming to St. Louis in May, Mudge served as The Rouse Professor of Pre-Seminary Studies at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. He also was director of the pre-seminary program, where he helped boost enrollment through a variety of initiatives. During his tenure, he earned the respect and appreciation of students, administrators and faculty, said Concordia Seminary President Dr. Thomas J. Egger.

“He is energetic, wise and caring,” Egger said. “He is not someone who merely ‘puts in the time.’ He looks honestly at situations and has a track record of finding creative ways to improve them.”

In truth, the new provost’s move to St. Louis is a homecoming of sorts. Mudge earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from Concordia Seminary in 1996 and 2012, respectively.

And as he returns to campus, he sees a lot of things that are going well.

“We run a tight ship. So, there’s not really something that’s broken and needs to be fixed,” he said. “People know their jobs and are doing them well. They’re passionate about them and they’re enjoying them.”

With that in mind, he envisions success as helping the Seminary and its community become “even better.” And one of the ways to get there is through increasing enrollment.

MEET THE SEMINARY'S NEW PROVOST: *Dr. Ronald Mudge*



PAST POSITIONS

Faculty: Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, 2007-22

Missionary: Africa, 1996-2006



FAMILY

Wife: Lisa
Children: Jonah, Isaiah, Ella, Aaron, Nathan and Elijah



DEGREES

M.Div.:
Concordia Seminary, 1996

Ph.D.:
Concordia Seminary, 2012



FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Door County, Wis.



ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Biblical responses to popular culture, biblical Greek and Hebrew, missions and Old Testament prophet books

“We want to invite everybody. We recognize that the Lord has given us a world with a wide variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds and personal histories,” he said. “And as we look to success, we expect to see just more and more people in general, and a wide variety of people who are coming in answering the call from the Lord.”

Academically, Mudge is an Old Testament theologian, whose interests include prophetic books, biblical responses to popular culture, and biblical Greek and Hebrew. He’s currently researching Zephaniah for a scholarly Lutheran commentary.

His theological education values and goals are shared by Egger, who said they both are committed to keeping the Holy Scriptures at the center of student preparation.

“We want to cultivate a ‘mission heart’ in our students, a genuine concern for sharing the Gospel with the lost,” Egger said. “And we seek to treat others with kindness and care and to cultivate a campus community of hospitality and mutual service, so that students form close bonds with one another, with the faculty and with the church during their years on our campus.”

Among the Bible verses from which Mudge draws guidance is Eph. 2:8-10 ESV:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

“HE IS
ENERGETIC,
WISE AND
CARING.”

—DR. THOMAS
J. EGGER

“I love these three verses together, because they very deliberately drive home the point that we do not contribute to our salvation. We receive it entirely as a gift,” he said. “God has given us grace. And we share that grace with others. And we live in a graceful way toward others, which is pretty much the Christian life in a nutshell.”

Mudge also takes inspiration from his wife, Lisa, and their six children: Jonah, Isaiah, Ella, Aaron, Nathan and Elijah. He sees their 27 years of marriage as a wonderful teaching tool for building and maintaining relationships, which demand a willingness to serve, forgive and understand.

“That aspect of our family and the gifts the Lord has given me through Lisa and the kids is really a foundation as I approach this work,” he said. “In many ways, this is a model for the sorts of loving, serving, forgiving, grace-filled relationships that I want to have.”

Tim Barker is an Orlando, Fla.-based freelance writer.



Rev. Eduardo Martínez at Commencement exercises May 20, 2022. Photo: Davin Alberson

CONFIDENT IN *Christ*

BY REBEKAH LUKAS

Rev. Eduardo Martínez rejoices every day in the name of the Lord, no matter what each day brings, for he knows the faithfulness of God who has set him on his path, securing every step along the way.

Martínez's path began in the Dominican Republic, where he grew up in the Roman Catholic tradition. His mother was very devout in her Catholic faith, and a cousin on his father's side became an archbishop. Yet, even with these deep ties to Catholicism in his family, Martínez ended up the "protestant of the family," as God guided and formed him for ministry. It was something that neither he nor his family imagined.

Martínez became a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with encouragement from his wife, Leidy. She had been attending *Iglesia Luterana Esperanza Viva* in Orlando, Fla., and encouraged him to join her. He agreed, trying to please his wife, but in the end the Holy Spirit had his way with Martínez. He became increasingly involved in his new congregation.

GIVEN A PASSION

Involved, however, doesn't quite capture the passion that grew inside Martínez to serve God. "I had been very respectful and reverent in my participation in our Father's business," he recalls. "I didn't see myself as worthy to take responsibility in the church until one day I heard God's Word in 1 Cor. 1:26-28. I realized if God has put me on this path, I shouldn't think I am unworthy of the responsibility He has given me. He is the One directing me."

That responsibility came at a time when Martínez's congregation members found themselves without a pastor. A friend of Martínez, Rev. Adolfo Borges, stepped in to lead the Sunday worship services and noticed Martínez's leadership within the congregation. "Almost right away, I saw in him the potential to become a student of the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) at Concordia Seminary," Borges recalls. CHS is a distance, certificate program for U.S. Hispanic and Latino individuals that prepares men to become pastors and women to become deaconesses.

“I asked him to help me during worship, and little by little, I gave him more responsibilities.”

After a couple of years, Borges spoke with Martínez about enrolling at the Seminary. “We talked about what it means to study theology and become a minister of the Gospel,” Borges says. “I put him in touch with the CHS leaders, and from there, he took off!”

FOLLOWING THE CALL

And take off he did! “I felt an urgency to complete my studies so I could serve my congregation. I am so happy my pastors and friends — Adolfo Borges, Paul vonWerder, Doug Kallessen and Carlos Hernandez — encouraged me to attend the Seminary, even though I did not feel qualified.”

It was at the Seminary where Martínez developed a close relationship with friend and mentor Mark “Marcos” Kempff, assistant to the director and an instructor for CHS. “He gave me so much wisdom and advice, confirming for me over and over that I could do this, no matter how hard life gets,” Martínez says. “I am so grateful, honored and blessed that God made me a part of this enthusiastic community. My friends and professors kept me motivated and focused. God had a plan, putting the right people in my path at the right time.”

After completing four years of studies with CHS and receiving his certification and pastoral call in 2021, he immediately began the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Spanish Program at the Seminary while also serving *Iglesia Luterana Esperanza Viva*. He did this while having a full-time job outside of

in him and hope that the Lord will open ministry opportunities for him to grow in the service of Christ and His church.”

PROCLAIMING WITH CONFIDENCE

So what’s next? “This is just a beginning,” Martínez says. “I’m excited to keep increasing my pastoral knowledge and experience, serving my congregation to the best of my ability, and hopefully someday teaching and influencing others to take responsibility and leadership in the church as others have encouraged and influenced me.”

“Eduardo has always been seeking the Lord’s will and way,” Kempff says. “He has been faithful and fearful of the Lord, as he was taught in his youth. Now, he wants to serve the Lord and do so under the Lord’s terms — never his own.”

Martínez has “considered his calling,” as St. Paul encouraged the Corinthians. And he has found confidence to follow it, proclaiming the Gospel in his ministry with his people, for he is “in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord’” (1 Cor. 1:30-31 ESV).

Deaconess Rebekah Lukas is a communications specialist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

“HE WANTS TO SERVE THE LORD AND DO SO UNDER THE LORD’S TERMS — NEVER HIS OWN.” *—Mark ‘Marcos’ Kempff*

the church. “I am so proud of his success and the ministry he’s performing at his congregation, while at the same time, having a full-time ‘secular’ job,” Borges says. “I continue to see great potential



Rev. Eduardo Martínez, center, stands with Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M., left, and John Benito for a photo during the Advanced Studies graduate reception before Commencement May 20, 2022. Photo: Davin Albersen



Rev. Paul Klopke, right, participates in a Voice of Care-led worship service at Deer Path, an assisted living facility, in Huntley, Ill., in June 2016. Photo: Courtesy Lori Solyom and Voice of Care



From left: Indianapolis Fire Department Officer Chris Bauer and Rev. Paul Klopke grab a photo at Voice of CareFEST July 23, 2022, at St. John Lutheran Church and School in Indianapolis, Ind. Photo: Courtesy Lori Solyom and Voice of Care



Rev. Paul Klopke participates in a Voice of Care training for summer camp workers at Walcamp Outdoor Ministries in Kingston, Ill., in June 2016. Photo: Courtesy Voice of Care

FOR THE 'least OF THESE'

PASTOR'S PASSION IS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

BY MELANIE AVE

The man's name was Tom. He was about the same age as Rev. Paul Klopke, who was serving as pastor of Living Christ Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Tom had Angelman Syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes developmental disabilities and nerve-related symptoms. Tom didn't attend church but his family asked Pastor Paul to visit Tom at home weekly to do some show and tell time with him. So that's what Pastor Paul did, for 15 years.

"I would tell him, 'I want to share some songs with you on guitar,'" he remembers. "By the time we got to the songs, he was clapping and smiling. He might say one word or two words from the songs we did like 'Jesus Loves Me' and 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.' I also would do picture time. I would show him a picture of Jesus, a picture of the cross. I would show him a picture of our sin; people hurting each other, stealing from one another. I found out later that he was getting all the rudiments of the catechism through the stories, songs and the pictures I would show him. He developed a love for the Gospel."

Tom, for Pastor Paul, was the beginning of a passion for ministry to people with disabilities. Pastor Paul, 64, is now serving as ministry facilitator in Indiana for Voice of Care of Lombard, Ill., a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Voice of Care aims to equip local churches to embrace, empower and engage people who experience disabilities and their families in their discipleship walk with Christ.

Pastor Paul received the call to Voice of Care in 2013, just after preaching Tom's funeral. He says Tom died of a broken heart after the sudden death of both of his parents. "Pastor Klopke brings a passion for disability ministry and a pastoral heart together," Voice of Care Executive Director Melvin Faulkner said.

"I'm this shepherd, caring kind of pastor who intentionally works with cognitively disabled people," Pastor Paul explains. "I count Tom and any other man or woman who has cognitive disabilities who confess a faith to be a brother or sister in Christ. We are coworkers in the kingdom work. Everyone has disabilities. We are all broken, defective and sinful."

Serving as a chaplain, Pastor Paul visits group homes and day programs in the Indianapolis area. He leads devotionals, small groups and Bible studies. He even helps with proms for people with disabilities. A "Night to Remember" is what they called a recent prom. He also helps out with pulpit vacancies in area congregations from time to time. "I'm all over the place."

Born in Oak Park, Ill., Paul grew up the second oldest in a family with three girls and one boy. Their father worked in the wire industry, the son of Lutheran German immigrant parents. Paul's mother was a Catholic-turned-Lutheran. One notable tidbit: James Edward Quigley, a Canadian-born prelate of the Catholic Church and bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo in New York and archbishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago in the late 1800s and early 1900s, was a relative on his mother's side of the family. Maybe this is where the ministry tug originated, he wonders. "I remember praying and asking God, 'How do you want to use me? I want to serve,'" he says. "That was when I was just out of high school. I knew God was calling me to some sort of ministry but I didn't know what. I was scared of being a pastor."

Pastor Paul completed Director of Christian Education (DCE) training and earned a Bachelor of Arts in education from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. After graduating, he landed a job teaching second and third graders at St. John's Lutheran School in La Grange, Ill. He then served as a DCE in Montgomery, Ill. "Then I said, 'OK, God. I'm ready to be a pastor,'" he says. So he and his family of three picked up and moved to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he earned a Master of Divinity in 1991 and received a firm grounding in Scripture, Word and Sacrament ministry, and the Lutheran Confessions. "It

prepared me to know what I know and learn why I believe what I believe," he says. "The Seminary planted seeds for me to be a pastor."

His first call after Commencement was to a dual parish in southern Illinois. He was angry at God after hearing his assignment on Call Day. "I thought I deserved better," he says. "I thought I should have been called to a larger church because I had had vast experiences in larger church settings."

Professor Arthur Graudin, who recently died at the age of 95, told him at the time: "Heaven rejoices when one soul is saved."

"I said, 'OK, there must be a soul or two in southern Illinois. I'm going,'" Pastor Paul recalls. "It was probably the best thing for me and my family at the time. I learned a lot about what it was to be a dad and a parish pastor." After serving six years in southern Illinois, he also served as sole pastor at Living Christ from 1997-2013 and as associate pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church and School in Arlington Heights, Ill., from 2013-20.

**"THE
SEMINARY
PLANTED SEEDS
FOR ME TO BE
A PASTOR."**

—Rev. Paul Klopke

For those who are considering pastoral ministry, he has some words of wisdom. Not everyone should be a parish pastor, he notes. Ministry can take many different forms. "Everyone has different gifts and abilities," he says. "God can use you. You don't have to be the best preacher in the world or the best administrator. Find out what your sweet spot is and go for it. Be yourself. Don't be anyone else other than who God has wired you to be."

That's exactly what Pastor Paul has tried to do throughout his ministry and life. His wife, Julie, is principal of St. John Lutheran School in Indianapolis. They have two grown children, a son and daughter, and three grandsons. When he's not ministering, Paul enjoys gardening and sports of all kinds, particularly basketball, and playing lawn games with his neighbors.

Retirement is not on his mind. "I'm like 30-something years into being a pastor," he says. "I still want to do what I'm doing. I still like being engaged with the special needs community. I still like the one-on-one encounters that I have. There's always one more soul that needs to be won for the kingdom."

Melanie Ave is communications director at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



From left: William "Bill" Snow, Rev. Richard Snow, Rev. Gregory Snow, Deanne Snow, Curtis Snow, Rev. Scott Snow and Myrna Snow. Photos: Courtesy Snow family

SERVING WITH FAITH

ONE FAMILY'S LEGACY

BY SARAH MANEY

William "Bill" and Myrna Snow didn't just teach their five children with words.

They taught them how to live their lives. Patterns were set early on: the importance of going to church and Sunday school and being involved in the activities of the church. "And good stewardship," said Rev. Scott Snow, the oldest of five children. "They didn't do it in a way to broadcast it to us kids. But we could see their faithfulness in their stewardship of time and of their treasures. That made an enormous impact on all of us."

Could Bill and Myrna have fathomed what the Lord would have in store for their children's future? Four sons would eventually enter ministry and a daughter would become a nurse.

They faithfully parented, investing their time, talents and treasure in the church.

Due to Bill Snow's career, the family moved often, but they were always quick to find their local Lutheran church and to get involved. They led youth activities at various times. Bill was a congregational officer and both parents sang in the choir.

As Scott grew and observed his parents' involvement in the church, he saw opportunities for even greater joy in the work of ministry. He prayed earnestly about his future. Where was the Lord leading him?

His father, led by the Lord, asked if Scott had ever considered going into the ministry.

"One night, I just prayed, 'Lord, it seems like this is the way You're guiding me. If it's not right, show me,'" Scott remembered.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia College (now University) in Saint Paul, Minn. (1979), Snow began the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He especially loved the Seminary's evangelism classes and participated in dialogue evangelism and training. He graduated in 1988.

His involvement in college, then Seminary, field work and vicarage, validated Scott's call to ministry. He loved seeing God work in everyday life.

"My parents and my home congregations taught me the faith. When I got to the Seminary, they taught me how to be a theologian. The first parish I served at taught me how to be a ... pastor," he said.

Now a pastor "at heart" for almost 40 years, Scott has served in parishes, as staff for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Northern Illinois District and at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis. Today he serves as senior pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kan., a call he received in 2010.

In addition to his busy pastoral ministry, Scott appreciates the opportunity to serve — with his time and talents — on the Seminary’s Alumni Council. The regular visits to campus, the opportunity to hear about what’s happening at the Seminary and the chance to meet new faculty members gives Scott “an opportunity to be a conduit for the Seminary out into the field so that I can share in our circuit and with our district,” he said.

His brother, Rev. Richard Snow ('87), serves as president of the LCMS Nebraska District. As a result of the elder Snows sharing their faith in the home and their active roles in the church, Richard said he was motivated to enter pastoral ministry. Like Scott, Richard attended Concordia Seminary.

“THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO TRAIN FOR THIS OFFICE THAN ... CONCORDIA SEMINARY.”

—REV. RICHARD SNOW—

“There is no greater joy in vocation than sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” Richard said. “Though not always easy, it is very fulfilling and there is no better way to train for this office than under the wonderful men of faith that teach at Concordia Seminary.”

Another brother, Rev. Gregory Snow ('00), serves as the senior administrative pastor of Saint John’s Lutheran Church in Chaska, Minn.; and his brother, Curtis Snow, has served as principal and teacher at St. John Lutheran School in Berlin, Wis., for more than 30 years.

In 2017, William and Myrna Snow and their family established the Albert and Elsie Rasmussen Endowed Scholarship in honor of Myrna’s parents. This endowment helps support M.Div. students in their ministry formation by providing scholarships for their second, third or fourth years of study.

“We want to encourage young men and women to consider full-time church work,” Scott said. “What a blessing and a joy it is to serve the Lord full-time in whatever capacity He sets before us. We need to stand tall, serve, lead, witness and give so that others can look back one day and say that they are standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before them.”

Sarah Maney is a communications specialist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

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SEPT. 26, 2022

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- Designate “Pay on Death” or “Transfer on Death” beneficiaries for your investments, checking and savings accounts.
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**For more information, contact us at
800-822-5287 or plannedgiving@csl.edu.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Adams named first Ray-Rechtzigel Chair

The Board of Regents for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis recently named Dr. David Adams the W.G. Ray and Louis J. Rechtzigel Professor of Biblical Studies, a new endowed chair position established by Thomas and Linda Ray of Barnhart, Mo., to support scholarship in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Adams was selected because of his status as a senior professor of biblical studies and his extensive experience on archaeological expeditions in Israel.

*Dr. David Adams shares some wisdom with students during Prof 'n Stein Oct. 15, 2021.
Photo: Rebekah Lukas*



A 'Hopeful Church' gathers for Multiethnic Symposium

Concordia Seminary's 2022 Multiethnic Symposium, "Rise and Enter the City: The Hopeful Church in the Multiethnic City," brought together more than 350 participants from across The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and around the world. Held May 3-4, highlights of the event included two plenaries, the 16th Annual Lecture in Hispanic/Latino Theology and Missions, the Festival of Nations featuring performances by Lutheran hip-hop artist Marcus Gray (FLAME) and Mariachi San Pablo, and a roundtable on Islam.

*Mariachi San Pablo, from Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas, performs during the symposium.
Photo: Michael Thomas*



Seminary hosts Contemplate

Prospective students experienced a taste of Seminary life at the Contemplate visitation event, held May 3-4. Registration filled quickly with 20 attendees who were interested in learning more about becoming pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders. The event coincided with the 2022 Multiethnic Symposium, giving participants the added bonus of attending symposium plenaries and events.

A group of prospective students gather in the Hasse Library for a photo during their visit. Photo: Melanie Ave

Give STL Day raises record-setting \$50k

Friends and supporters of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis stepped up once again to advance the mission of the Seminary through Give STL Day, an online giving event organized by the St. Louis Community Foundation for the benefit of St. Louis-based nonprofits. The event culminated May 5 after a fruitful month of online giving. Some 293 donors participated, giving \$50,558 — more than doubling the Seminary's campaign goal of \$25,000 and breaking the previous Give STL Day record set in 2021. A generous donor matched each donation dollar-for-dollar up to the first \$12,000 raised. "We are grateful beyond measure for our donors, whose love and support for our students shines through in their awesome generosity," said Vicki Biggs, senior vice president of Seminary Advancement and chief communications officer. "Thank you to everyone for giving so generously on Give STL Day and for helping to make our mission possible." The Seminary's next annual giving day is Give Green and Gold Day, set for Sept. 26. Learn more at csl.edu/giving-days.

Staff members in Seminary Advancement show spirit on Give STL Day. Photo: Davin Alberson



Celebration of Sem authors

Faculty and staff members from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis who have written or contributed to published books during the 2021-22 academic year were honored at the annual Concordia Seminary Author Reception May 17 in the Kristine Kay Hasse Memorial Library. The event was co-hosted by Concordia Publishing House. Find the list of authors and their published works on Page 30.

A sampling of some of the published works and Seminary authors who were celebrated at the reception.

Commencement 2022 caps 183rd academic year

The 183rd academic year at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis came to a close during the 2022 Commencement exercises, which took place on a sunny Friday on the Seminary campus May 20. “We are all blessed because of the Reformation,” said Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, retired president of Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, and Ann Arbor, Mich., and this year’s Commencement speaker. “But [Martin] Luther’s moment is not ours. [Dr. C.F.W.] Walther’s moment is not our moment. Our moment is now and it’s time to go. And it might be hard and it might be risky but this is precisely what you are prepared to do, what you are called to do. Let’s do this. Let’s go.” The Seminary recognized 82 graduates and six honorees during Commencement. Of those graduates, 45 earned a Master of Divinity, nine earned a Master of Arts and 10 earned a Master of Sacred Theology. Additionally, seven graduates earned a Doctor of Ministry and eight earned a Doctor of Philosophy.

The Seminary also recognized three students who earned a pastoral certificate upon completion of the Residential Alternate Route Program.

Caleb Worrall processes into the Commencement ceremony along with fellow classmates. Photo: Jill Gray



Graduate students represent the Sem

Graduate students Hayden Lukas, Kendall Davis (S.T.M. '22) and Andrew Kneeland brought Concordia Seminary's Graduate School into the spotlight this spring. Lukas won first place in the graduate student category for the 2022 Wycliffe Centre for Scripture and Theology Essay Competition and presented his paper at the Wycliffe College colloquium in Toronto. Davis and Kneeland both had papers accepted at the University of Notre Dame's Inaugural Graduate Conference on Early Christian Studies and presented their papers at the conference held on the university's campus May 23-25.

Hayden Lukas presents his first-place paper at the Wycliffe College Scripture and Theology Colloquium. Photo: Courtesy Wycliffe College

Elowsky named first Fuerst Chair

The Concordia Seminary Board of Regents recently appointed faculty member Dr. Joel Elowsky to a new endowed chair position, which was established to support scholarship in the history of the church and Christian theology. Elowsky, a professor of Exegetical Theology and dean of Advanced Studies, is the first occupant of the Frank and Valerie Fuerst Chair of Historical Theology. He was formally installed during Opening Service Aug. 26. He was selected as the first Fuerst Chair because of his interest and expertise in early church studies and the history of exegesis, and his renowned work as an author and editor of numerous books, articles and series.

Dr. Joel Elowsky holds up one of his books during a Graduate School class in September 2016. Photo: Kendra Whittle



High school students experience the Sem

The campus was full of energy June 25-July 2, as 31 high school students participated in *Vocatio*, a visitation event especially for students considering church work vocations. With a full itinerary (and plenty of fun), students experienced Seminary life including sessions with professors, meals in the dining hall and a stay in the dorms. Participants walked through the admissions process and explored the St. Louis area. By the end of the week, attendees had spent considerable time engaging in theological conversation, discussing the Lutheran faith, and learning about God's direction and calling for their lives.

Vocatio participants gather for a group photo on the steps near Walther Archway. Photo: Rebekah Lukas



Carillon concerts go global

Music lovers of all ages enjoyed the 2022 Summer Carillon Series which was held every Tuesday evening in June. This year's four concerts featured carillonners from around the world, including the Netherlands, Poland and Illinois. The free, outdoor performances were part of the 2021-22 Concordia Seminary Concert Series.

Friends of the Seminary set up picnics and camping chairs in the Main Quadrangle June 21 to enjoy a carillon concert. Photo: Melanie Ave



Saleska named new Butterbach Chair

Faculty member Dr. Timothy Saleska was recently named the Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Chair of Exegetical Theology by the Seminary’s Board of Regents. He succeeds Dr. Thomas J. Egger who vacated the chair after becoming Seminary president. The position was established to support scholarship in the area of Old Testament studies. He was formally installed during Opening Service Aug. 26. He was selected because of his status as a senior professor of Old Testament Studies, his expertise in Hebrew and the history of exegesis, and his extensive work studying and writing on the Psalms.

Dr. Timothy Saleska greets participants of the Theological Symposium in September 2019. Photo: Harold Rau

Schumacher named Mission Publishing’s new CEO

Dr. William Schumacher, mission professor of Historical Theology, director of the Institute for Mission Studies and the Buehner-Duesenberg Professor of Missions at Concordia Seminary, has been named the new chief executive officer (CEO) of Mission Nation Publishing (MNP), succeeding Dr. Robert Scudieri. Established in 2016, MNP is a communications ministry that produces missionary biographies, curriculum materials, interviews and podcasts that equip churches to reach new ethnic groups in America with the Gospel of Jesus. Schumacher will continue to serve on the Seminary faculty while taking on the new role at MNP.

Dr. William Schumacher teaches a Graduate School class in January 2020. Photo: Bridgette Sharp

Seminary celebrates faculty, staff authors

Concordia Seminary recognizes with honor the following faculty and staff members who wrote or contributed to published works during the 2021-22 academic year:

FACULTY RECOGNITIONS:

Dr. Abjar Bahkou, associate professor of Practical Theology, *Shining the Gospel Light on the Quran: Understanding and Engaging Muslims*. (Concordia Publishing House, 2021).

David Berger, professor emeritus, *Seminex in Print: A Comprehensive Bibliography of Published Material and Selected Archival Resources for Historical Research*. Compiled by David O. Berger with Daniel N. Harmelink. (Concordia Publishing House, 2022).

Dr. Joel Elowsky, Frank and Valerie Fuerst Professor of Historical Theology:

- Angelo DiBerardino. *Ancient Christianity: The Development of Its Institutions and Practices*. Forward and edited by Joel Elowsky. (ICCPress, 2022).
- *Creo en el Espíritu Santo in El Credo Comentado por Los Padres de la Iglesia*, ed. Joel Elowsky. (Madrid: Ciudad Nueva, 2021).

Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs, professor emeritus: “Jesus as Prophet in the Gospel Narratives” in *A Handbook on the Jewish Roots of the Gospels*, Craig Evans and David Mishkin, eds. (Hendrickson, 2021).

Dr. Robert Kolb, professor emeritus, international research:

- “The Reformer as Reader: Luther’s Habitus of Reading,” in *Gottes Wort und Gottes Dienst. Festschrift für Jorg Salzmann*, Christoph Barnbrock and Achim Behrens, eds. (Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2022).
- “Foreword” [an analysis of the scholarly work of Irene Dingel] in *Vielfalt—Ordnung—Einheit. Kirchengeschichtliche Studien zur Frühen Neuzeit aus den Jahren 1997 bis 2015*, Henning P. Jürgens, Christopher Voigt-Goy and Christian V. Witt, eds. (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2021).
- “Gerhard Forde and the North American Reception of the Theologia crucis,” in *Anstoß des Kreuzes. Kreuzestheologische Aufbrüche im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert*, Michael Basse and Christian Neddens, eds. (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2021).
- “Heinrich Bünting’s 1581 Biblical Itinerary,” *Lutheran Quarterly*, 35 (2021).
- “Martin Luther’s Reception in Nordamerika,” in *The Global Luther: Confessional Lutheran Perspectives on Martin Luther’s Continued Influence Through 500 Years and on Five Continents*, Werner Klän and Gilberto da Silva, eds. (Ruprecht, 2021).
- “The Wittenberg Impact on University Education and the Christian Liberal Arts,” in *My Savior’s Guest. A Festschrift in Honor of Erling Teigen*, ed. Thomas Rank. (Lulu Press, 2021).

Dr. David Peter, professor of Practical Theology: *In View of God’s Mercy: Lenten Series Kit* and *In View of God’s Mercy: Holy Week Series Kit*. (Creative Communications for the Parish, 2021).

Dr. Paul Raabe, professor emeritus:

- “Listen to What the Lord Has to Say: Sermon Study on Amos 7:7-15.” *Concordia Pulpit Resources* 31/3. (Concordia Publishing House, 2021).
- “A Righteous Shepherd-King: Sermon Study on Jeremiah 23:1-6.” *Concordia Pulpit Resources* 31/3. (Concordia Publishing House, 2021).
- Review of Brandon D. Crowe, “The Hope of Israel: The Resurrection of Christ in the Acts of the Apostles.” *Journal of Biblical and Theological Studies*. Oct. 2021.

Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M., Werner R.H. Krause and Elizabeth Ringger Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries:

- *T&T Clark Introduction to Spirit Christology*. (T&T Clark, 2021).
- “Theological Approaches to Migration: Their Impact on Missional Thinking and Action,” ed. Kirsteen Kim. *Migration, Transnationalism, and Faith in Missiological Perspective: Los Angeles as a Global Crossroads*. (Lexington Books, 2022).
- “Is It Time for Another Reformation Sola? Luther’s Two Kinds of Love and the Immigrant Other,” M. Daniel Carroll R., and Vincent E. Bacote, eds. *Global Migration and Christian Faith: Implications for Identity and Mission*. (Cascade Books, 2021).
- “Pneumatology of the Cross: The Promise of Spirit Christology for a Theology of the Cross,” Michael Basse and Christian Neddens, eds., *Anstoß des Kreuzes. Kreuzestheologische Aufbrüche im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert*. LThG Bd. 3. (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2021).
- “Immigration and Theology of Vocation,” *Dialog* (2021): 1-8. DOI: 10.1111/dial.12688
- “What Sanctification Looks Like,” *Christianity Today*. CTPastors.com (Spring 2021), 14-15. Published in print as: “What Sanctification Looks Like: The Bible’s diverse narratives help us disciple those entrusted to our care.”

Dr. David Schmitt, Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Professor of Homiletics and Literature: Dean Nadasdy. *The Beautiful Sermon: Image & the Aesthetics of Preaching. Conversations in Preaching Series*, ed. David Schmitt. (Concordia Seminary Press, 2021).

WORKS WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MULTIPLE FACULTY:

Dr. Joel Elowsky, Frank and Valerie Fuerst Professor of Historical Theology, and **Dr. David Maxwell**, Louis A. Fincke and Anna B. Shine Professor of Systematic Theology: *Cyril of Alexandria: Commentaries on Romans, 1&2 Corinthians and Hebrews*, Ancient Christian Text Series, ed. Joel Elowsky, trans. David Maxwell. (InterVarsity Press, 2022).

Simul: Inquiries into Luther’s Experience of the Christian Life, Torbjörn Johansson, Daniel Johansson, Robert Kolb, eds. (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, June 2021).

- **Dr. Erik Herrmann**, professor of Historical Theology: “Luther and the Importance of the Hebrew Heritage for His World of Thought”
- **Dr. Robert Kolb**, professor emeritus, international research: “Old Adam, New Martin. The Fatal and Resurrecting Consequences of Baptism in Luther’s Use of Romans 7”
- **Dr. Timothy Saleska**, Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Professor of Exegetical Theology, “The Clarity of Paradox. A Meditation on Exodus 34:6-7”

One of the Holy Trinity Suffered for Us: Essays in Honor of William C. Weinrich, ed. James Bushur. (Luther Academy, 2021).

- **Dr. Bruce Schuchard**, professor of Exegetical Theology: “The Chronology of the Passion in the Gospel According to John”
- **Dr. James W. Voelz**, Dr. Jack Dean Kingsbury Professor of New Testament Theology: “A Deep Sounding of the Greek of John’s Gospel: Critical Features of John’s Language in John 1-6 and 18-21”

Teaching the Reformation: Essays in Honor of Timothy J. Wengert, Martin Lohrmann and Luka Ilic, eds. (Fortress, 2021).

- **Dr. Erik Herrmann**, professor of Historical Theology: “Evangelical Grammar: Luther, the Genitive, and the Gospel”
- **Dr. Robert Kolb**, professor emeritus, international research: “Joachim Mörlin, Architect of Concordist Theology”

CONTINUING EDUCATION

UPCOMING EVENTS



Theological Symposium 2022

Search the Scriptures:
Finding Christ and Ourselves in the History of Exegesis

📍 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
🌐 csl.edu/symposium

SEPT

20-21



Lay Bible Institute

How the Early Church Read the Bible

👤 Dr. David Maxwell
📍 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
🌐 csl.edu/lbi

Register by: Sept. 23, 2022 • Fee: \$20

OCT

8



Faith and Film Festival

📍 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
🌐 csl.edu/faith-and-film

Register by: Jan. 12, 2023

JAN

26-28



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