

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

SPRING 2023



His in
COMMUNITY

BEYOND A MIRAGE:
TOWARD AUTHENTIC
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

IN PRAISE OF GOD: THE CHAPEL'S
NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

MAKING MINISTRY FORMATION
MORE AFFORDABLE:
FIVE YEARS LATER

FIRST LOOK

An Easter surprise! The daughter of Residential Alternate Route student Timothy Reicks opens one of the plastic eggs she found during an Easter egg hunt held April 1 on campus. The annual hunt is sponsored by the Seminary Women's Association and brings Seminary families together during the Easter season. Photo: Davin Alberson





ON THE COVER
Concluding seminarian Nick Palmer is cheered on by his Preachers teammates at the start of the "Hoops for Hope" alumni basketball game Feb. 10 in Pederson Field House. Photo: Michael Thomas



Seminary President Dr. Thomas J. Egger welcomes everyone to the "Hoops for Hope" alumni basketball game Feb. 10 in the Pederson Field House. Photo: Michael Thomas



Greetings, friends, in the name of Christ!

What a joy it is to be together as the people of God. Picture a student bent over a book in the library, like Martin Luther while he was cloistered away at Wartburg Castle translating the New Testament. Yes, at Concordia Seminary, some of our students' preparation for ministry takes place like this, in isolation from others. But crucial aspects of their formation happen in community, being shaped by God, by others and by one another together.

We gather as our Lord's people for chapel each morning. Together we hear the sweet Gospel of Jesus preached. Together we confess this sturdy faith. Together we turn to our gracious Lord in prayer. Together we sing His praises.

In our classrooms, students learn together from the deep knowledge and insights of the faculty and their love for Christ and His mission. They profit from the questions and insights of fellow students. The faculty grow and are enriched through interaction and collaboration with one another, and as they learn with, and from, the students.

We share life together in the dining hall, on the ball fields, in social events and servant events, in study groups. Older students together with younger students. Men with women. Faculty and staff with students. American students from all across the country with students from all around the world. Our dormitories and our married student apartments become close-knit neighborhoods. Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod officials, missionaries and pastors frequently visit our campus, forming in our students a sense of community with the wider church.

Life on the Seminary campus is rich in community, in togetherness. We believe that the sense of mutual devotion, interdependence and shared faith that springs from this shared life will serve our graduates and the church well. Beyond our campus, our students participate regularly in the life of local congregations as part of resident field education. Pastoral students serve a year-long vicarage and deaconess students a year-long internship at churches in communities throughout the country.

Our distance education students, too, form tight, lifelong bonds with the others in their learning cohort. They have great respect for and affection for one another, learn from one another and support one another. They love opportunities to be together in person for short-term intensive courses on campus. And they are deeply involved in the communities of their local ministries throughout the years of their Seminary program — and beyond.

Seminarians are not lone rangers! We are in this together, along with you, dear friends and supporters of Concordia Seminary. And our Lord is with us. Together, we are His. His in community.

Dr. Thomas J. Egger, President

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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.

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Participants of the Multiethnic Symposium take notes during a presentation May 3, 2022, in Werner Auditorium. Photo: Michael Thomas



Avery Hjulberg celebrates his vicarage assignment on Call Day April 26, 2022. Photo: Davin Alberson



From left, seminarians Abigail Deddens, Erick Quezada and Jacob Anderson help celebrate with their classmates who completed their final Greek exams Jan. 20 near the fountain on campus. Photo: Davin Alberson

BEYOND A *Mirage*

TOWARD AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

BY DR. PETER NAFZGER

The Christian life is always lived in community. When God calls people to faith in Jesus, He also gathers them together for life with other believers. Martin Luther understood this. In his explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, he would not finish his sentence about the Spirit calling individuals without insisting that the Spirit also gathers the whole Christian church on earth. As I used to tell my congregation in Minnesota, it is impossible to be a Christian alone! By faith we are members of one another (Rom. 12:5); we are baptized into one body (1 Cor. 12:13); we share one Spirit, one hope and one Lord (Eph. 4:4-5). We get a glimpse of this communal life every Sunday morning. Yet even at church, the

experience of authentic community can be hard to find. One of the paradoxes of the Christian life is that we are at the same time saints and sinners. That is, we are the people God has made us to be ... and at the same time we are not. With respect to Christian community, we are at the same time perfectly unified and yet also hopelessly separated and separating. Most of us have experienced this paradox firsthand. We have attended congregations that share spaces, songs and Sunday morning schedules. But we don't feel like we belong.

Community strategists Carrie Melissa Jones and Charles Vogl suggest that authentic community is more elusive

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WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY *Authentic?*

1 *Shared Experiences*

At the Seminary, shared experiences happen in the classrooms, chapel, intramurals, clubs and campus events. Hear from our students about how they build community on Page 16.

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than it may seem. Many groups aspire to be a community, and many groups call themselves a community, and many groups look like a community to outsiders. But beneath the surface lurks division, disengagement or indifference. Jones and Vogl call such groups “mirage communities.” The appearance is an illusion. In contrast to mirage communities, Jones and Vogl suggest that authentic community requires three fundamental characteristics: (1) members participate in shared experiences; (2) these shared experiences are grounded in shared values; and (3) these shared values and experiences are lived out through mutual love and concern for one another’s welfare.

At Concordia Seminary, St. Louis we recognize the communal nature of the Christian faith. With Luther, we believe, teach and confess that God calls and gathers us together. As Seminary Emeritus Professor Dr. Robert Kolb puts it, God is a “God of conversation and community.” He provides community as a gift and we receive it (on good days) with joy and thanksgiving. But we also understand there are centrifugal forces in our culture and in our selfish hearts that drive Christians apart and undermine our life together. For this reason Christian community cannot be taken for granted. Congregations and synods and seminaries must work hard to avoid becoming mirage communities. That is why our recently adopted strategic plan names “Commitment to Community and Collaboration” as a top priority of the Seminary.

This sounds good. But what does it look like? How does a seminary embody a “commitment to community and collaboration”? Jones and Vogl’s three characteristics are helpful.

Let’s start with shared experiences. Shared experiences at Concordia Seminary come in many shapes and sizes. They happen most regularly in the classroom and in chapel. There we gather to learn about Jesus and worship in His name. But our shared experiences extend much further. They include intramurals and Life Team events, Prof ’n Steins and after chapel coffee, Friday night basketball games and annual celebrations of Bach’s birthday. Visit campus and you will find impromptu gatherings in the library and in the dining hall, at the playground for our students’ children and on faculty home patios, around the fire pit and by the grill. These shared experiences do not automatically create community. But they provide the atmosphere for community-building conversations to take place.

These shared experiences flow from shared values. At their most basic, these values could be narrowed down to two: love of God and love of neighbor. While no one at Concordia Seminary is perfect, we are all here because we love that He first loved us (1 John 4:19), and we love helping and serving others. As a professor, I get to witness students’ love for God and for others on a regular basis. For example, this semester I am teaching an elective called “Confirmation and Christian Formation.” In this course we take a close look at the history and development of confirmation as a church practice; we face with honesty the alarming statistics about the church’s struggle to retain youth in an increasingly post-Christian culture; and we discuss potential improvements that would lead to a more faithful Christian formation in the future.

Most students in this class are only months away from their first call. Their love for the young people in their

2 Shared Values

LOVE GOD LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

While no one at Concordia Seminary is perfect, we are all here because we love that He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

3 Mutual Love & Concern for One Another

Christians count others more significant than themselves (Phil. 2:3). Christians bear with one another in love (Eph. 4:2). Christians forgive as we have been forgiven (Col. 3:13).

future congregations (whom they have not yet met) is palpable. They believe the church can do better, and they eagerly engage in substantive conversations about how to make it happen.

Shared experiences and shared values are essential. But the experience of authentic community requires one more: mutual love and concern for one another's welfare. This gets to how we are with one another. And this is what makes Christian community stand out as distinctively Christian.

It is easy to care for those who think like you think, who share your perspectives and who do right in your eyes. "Even sinners do that," Jesus said (Luke 6:32-34). So does our world. But outside the church, love and concern for the welfare of others is like the morning dew that vanishes with the rising sun. Disagreements are met with displays of force. Hurt feelings are dismissed as necessary casualties. Mistakes are covered up with faux apologies.

Christians, however, do things differently. Christians count others more significant than themselves (Phil. 2:3). Christians bear with one another in love (Eph. 4:2). Christians forgive as we have been forgiven (Col. 3:13). My colleague Dr. Timothy Saleska, a professor of Exegetical Theology at the Seminary, often reminds us that we are "Gospel-centered people." Which means we are "grace-centered people." When disagreements arise, we do not become disagreeable. When we reach an impasse, we don't come to blows. We love without judging. We listen to one another with compassion. We put the best construction on everything. We are

quick to forgive, and we are eager to maintain unity in the bond of peace.

This doesn't come naturally, of course. Not to our sinful nature. So here on campus we practice these things. We have Confession and Absolution — daily. We hold one another accountable in personal formation labs — every week. We gather to laugh and share our stories at social events on campus at least once a month. We continually remind one another that we are baptized members of the risen Lord Jesus, and this means we are no longer our own. We belong to Him and we are in this life together. This is the way of Jesus. Therefore it is our way, too.

Mirage communities are easy. Authentic community is not. It requires effort, patience and humility. Like any congregation or church body, Concordia Seminary is not perfect. But we recognize the communal nature of our life in Christ. And we are committed to making it happen. So we create opportunities for shared experiences. We are dogged about naming and celebrating our shared values. We foster Christian habits that support genuine love and concern for one another's welfare.

In other words, we strive to become the community of believers that the Spirit has already made us to be. Not for our sake alone, but so that our students may do the same for the congregations they will soon be called to serve.

Dr. Peter Nafzger is associate professor of Practical Theology and director of student life at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

IN . Praise OF God

THE CHAPEL'S NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

BY REBEKAH LUKAS

Since its dedication in 1992, the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis has served as the site of thousands of daily services and numerous special events. It was intentionally constructed in the center of campus — reflecting the Seminary community's emphasis on worship as a central activity of its life and being.

Thanks to a generous gift from the Eugene E. and Nell S. Fincke Memorial Trust, established by the sainted Finckes, stained glass windows were installed throughout the entirety of the chapel between 2020 and 2022 — chancel, transept, nave and narthex. The windows were dedicated Nov. 2, 2022. Previously, the chapel had one faceted glass window, in the chancel, featuring the namesakes of the chapel, St. Timothy and St. Titus. A committee of nine faculty, staff and others worked for two years in preparation for the new leaded glass windows.

"The windows create a sense of community for those who sit in the pews as they are surrounded by the prophets, apostles, martyrs and saints," said Dr. David Schmitt, a member of the committee, chairman of the Department of Practical Theology and the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Professor of Homiletics and Literature.

"Worshippers are engaged in the same activities they see, being affirmed those activities are at the center of faith and life, and central for their ministerial formation here, and for their service in the church," said the Louis A. Fincke and Anna B. Shine Professor of Systematic Theology and former Dean of Chapel Dr. Kent Burreson, also a member of the committee.

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Resurrection

Chancel:

The Father's hand reaches down, presenting His Son. The resurrected Christ rises above the altar. The pomegranate, an ancient symbol of the Resurrection, bursts from the tomb. The crown of thorns turns from deadness to new life. The phoenix, an ancient symbol of rebirth, rises and greets the Holy Spirit, depicted as a dove. The Spirit's descent amid the fire evokes Pentecost. The sword is the Word of God.

The wheat, grapes and river represent the Sacrament of the Altar and Holy Baptism.







Creation & Patriarchs

South Rear Narthex/Balcony: The Spirit hovers over the waters of Creation in the form of a dove, capturing the Seminary's motto "Light From Above." Noah's Ark emerges from a storm, the dove representing God's reconciliation with man. God stops Abraham from sacrificing his son, Isaac, and gives Abraham the promise that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky. The 12th star surrounding the Star of David is colored green instead of clear, representing the tribe of Judah, depicted by the Lion of Judah.

Exodus & Kings

Middle South Nave: God calls Moses in the burning bush. Moses parts the Red Sea. The stone tablets of the Law are depicted at Mount Sinai. A bronze serpent on the cross echoes the serpentine cross that hangs above the chapel altar. God's plan of salvation continues through Ruth, who looks up to her great-grandson, King David. A branch from the stump of Jesse leads through David. David looks up and sees the temple his son, Solomon, will build.



Prophets & Nativity

Third South Nave: Isaiah, with purified lips, writes upon a scroll of the coming Savior. Jeremiah's scroll features a human heart and an iron pen. Ezekiel's scroll depicts his vision of the temple with the River of Life flowing from it. The fourth scroll is Daniel's, who prays as an angel shuts a lion's mouth. In the Nativity, Isaiah's scroll again appears. The Star of David with an emerald shows Abraham's lineage through David to Christ. The scroll ends in the manger as the Word that was prophesied becomes flesh. Elijah gestures toward the windows on the other side of chapel, which depict the apostles and martyrs.

Waters of New Creation

First North Narthex/Balcony: The Spirit hovers over the baptismal waters of the New Creation, centered in Christ, figured by the *Chi Rho* (the first Greek letters of the title Christ) superimposed on a cross. John is given a vision of the seven angels and the seven churches. While their number of seven represents wholeness, each church is architecturally distinct, capturing the unity in diversity among God's people throughout the world as John sees how God's promise that Abraham would be a blessing for all nations is fulfilled in Christ.



Apostles & Martyrs

Middle North Nave: The martyrdom of John the Baptist and the confession of St. Peter, to whom Jesus has given the keys of the kingdom to the church, are depicted. The waters of the New Creation are prominent as the Ethiopian eunuch asks to be baptized by Philip. The apostle Paul falls back blinded on the road. Timothy and Titus look forward to the return of Christ. An angel provides a palm branch to an unnamed martyr, symbolizing the victory of God over death even as His people continue to pray for those who are persecuted for the faith today.

Feast of All Nations

Third North Nave: The Tree of Life emerges from the baptismal waters, bringing forth wheat and grapes, forming the eucharistic table where disciples from all nations gather with no barriers. The figures' robes change to jewel-like tones. The four evangelists, (Matthew the angel, Mark the lion, Luke the ox and John the eagle) bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In the center of the earth stands a transparent cross, reminding the faithful of the presence of Christ in the world, yesterday, today and tomorrow.



Exaltation

North Transept: Jesus is on the throne, surrounded by angels and faithful worshipers, welcoming the faithful into the New Jerusalem. The faithful come from all nations. Some are shown with clear features, while others are not — representing past, present and future believers in Christ. Flowers represent the New Creation. The River of Life flows around Christ's throne and joins the waters that flow from window to window. In the upper right, human figures are distressed as they face Christ's judgment, blocked from the New Jerusalem by shards of darkness.





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The *Te Deum Laudamus* (We Praise You, O God), a historic text of praise to God, is the thematic touchpoint and framework for the windows, which depict the humiliation, crucifixion, resurrection, exaltation and second coming of Christ.

“Designing the windows from the *Te Deum* surrounds the assembled campus community with its rationale for existence: the life of faith, worship and the Seminary’s mission, sending workers into the harvest field. The windows reflect that, belonging to the Triune God, we share a common educational life together for the sake of church and world,” Burreson said.

Lynchburg Stained Glass of Lynchburg, Va., with senior artist Rich Buswell in charge of the design, was selected for its specialty in using clear and stained glass, allowing natural light to shine and permeate the space, reflecting God’s creation.

The windows fill the hearts and minds of worshipers with images and figures from Scripture, culminating in the resurrected Christ and leading to joyous eternal praise of God.

“As you look at the windows, there is one detail that sets the front window apart from the others. Only one person is looking at the people in the pews, and that is the risen and ruling Jesus,” Schmitt said.

“Christ brings our Seminary community together. He draws near to us each day in chapel through His Word and Sacraments. He shares His life with us and calls us to labor for and with one another,” said Seminary President Dr. Thomas J. Egger. “The chapel is the center of our community together because Christ is the center of our community, and these stunning new windows exhibit this truth beautifully.”



Scan the QR code to watch a virtual tour of the beautiful chapel windows.

Crucifixion

South Transept: Jesus is on the cross, crucified. Angels hold palm branches and the grapes of wrath as Jesus drinks from the cup of wrath. The eclipse marks Christ’s death. Shards of darkness represent the sharpness of death. A pelican, an ancient symbol of the Eucharist, has pierced her breast to feed her young. They also are fed by the blood of Christ. The pelican’s nest is made of thorns and olive branches, showing that Christ’s death reconciles believers to God.

Photos: Courtney Koll, Harold Rau and Tyler Simmons

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



STUDENTS BUILDING *Community*

BY JACOB MOORE

Every day, Concordia Seminary students are planning and organizing events and activities to engage their peers and the campus community. We reached out to a handful of students to find out why fostering community and hospitality has become part of their lives while here on campus.



**NICK
WAGENKNECHT**
Intramurals

I participate in intramurals because it keeps me physically active and it is a great way to have friendly competition with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Participating in sports builds character, respect, honesty and hard work, and can bring out the best in all of us. Though it can get competitive at times, everyone comes together in prayer at the end knowing that we are all here for the same reason. The Lord has blessed us with our bodies and with the ability to show that friendly competition can bring everyone together.



**ERIC
BEAR**
Veterans Ministry

We started the Student Ministry to the Armed Forces to provide veterans a way to find personal connections and to have an opportunity to share their experiences and stories. It is also a way to better support those who may be interested in becoming military chaplains by providing an opportunity for them to experience the stories and traditions that help to define the communities in which they may eventually serve.



ZACH ROLL

Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer is an opportunity at the end of the day, after everyone has gone home from class to be with their families or roommates and to study, to come back together and commend our work and our lives to God's care. Seminary is a busy time for everyone, students and their families alike. Evening Prayer is an opportunity to receive rest in the Word of God and to receive mutual consolation by praying together with the members of the campus community.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt. 18:20 ESV). As we go through the liturgy and the prayers in these services, we are there praying for each other, singing together and, at the end of a long day, whether it was a good day or a difficult day for someone, these services build each of us up.



DEON HULL

S'mores in the Woods

When I came to the Seminary, we couldn't do anything social because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Being a former camp director, I know that fellowship works well around a campfire. So, once the restrictions were lifted, we started having outdoor campfires on Fridays in the Woods (married students) apartments in good weather. My wife, Debra, and I provide everything needed. Sometimes students don't have much spending money, or they have a hard time meeting people. This is one time where you don't need to bring anything but yourself, and you can come and go as you please. The addition of s'mores is a no-brainer! But it's really about unplugging for a while and contemplating life or getting in a great conversation. It is a way to release some of the pressure of everyday life, even if it is for just a little while.



JESSICA THOMPSON

Life Team

The Concordia Seminary Life Team is a beautiful model of how the church can affirm life in a Gospel-centered way. The Life Team creates community by equipping seminarians and their spouses to work together toward a common goal: affirming life. As a team we plan, pray, hear from God's Word, learn, celebrate and eat together regularly, which creates deep bonds.

The Life Team organizes regular community events. Some of these are educational, providing seminarians with knowledge and resources about a variety of life issues that will benefit them in ministry. Some events are more personal, such as our annual miscarriage memorial service, which provides an opportunity for our community to gather together and grieve with those whose children have gone to be with Jesus before them.



DREW OSWALD

Prof 'n Stein

Prof 'n Stein is a campus tradition that brings together students and faculty in a lighthearted environment. Professors share their funny stories and words of wisdom, and everyone enjoys free food and beer.

I love seeing people talk and laugh with each other. Sharing our lives together makes it possible for our community to grow deeper, and it also makes campus feel more like home when you can walk to class and see or say hello to people you recognize and enjoy. Long term, it binds classes together and provides opportunities for students and faculty to share in some of God's better gifts: camaraderie and friendship.

Jacob Moore is a fourth-year Master of Divinity student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

PROVIDING 'SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS'



MEET: JOHN KLINGER

BY SARAH MANEY

5 FUN FACTS:
HAS A LICENSED
THERAPY DOG
NAMED ASTI



*John Klinger and his dog, Asti.
Photo: Davin Alberson*



A sign hangs above John Klinger's office door that reads, "Service beyond expectations."

As Concordia Seminary's Chief Information Officer, he takes those words to heart. "I expect everybody who works with me to give their best service possible," Klinger says.

He started working for the Seminary in 2007 and his first order of business was to rid the campus of overpriced administrative software. "It was like driving the space shuttle to the grocery store. Overkill," he explains.

Klinger led the charge on getting the Seminary a more cost-effective hybrid blended software system, a project he also initiated while previously serving at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW).

"I started the project in Fort Wayne, and then I came here, led the project and brought a conclusion here," he said. "It's been a win-win. We now have Raiser's Edge for Seminary Advancement. We have Power Campus for Enrollment. We just added Slate for the recruitment side of things. All of these products work together on the back end so that we can connect them."

Campus technology, Klinger says, should be ubiquitous — usable wherever you are, on any device — computer, tablet, phone. "Nobody needs to know what's going on behind the scenes. It just has to work. It's kind of like driving your car. You don't need to know how an internal combustion engine works. You just want to drive it."

This concept of ubiquitous technology was especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar to other institutions of higher education, the Seminary faced daunting challenges that came with educating a student body in the midst of a pandemic.

It was a new problem that required innovative solutions.

When the COVID shutdown began in March 2020, Klinger and his team provided every employee and some students with a laptop within a two-week span of time so they could work and study from home. This was crucial to keep the Seminary operating through the pandemic.

"We had some laptops and we had purchased some more. We ordered them early because if we would have waited

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF THE SEMINARY-PRODUCED MOVIE, "WALTHER" (2011)

3 HIS FOREFATHERS STARTED KLINGERS-TOWN, PENN., IN THE 1700S, AND BUILT THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

4 WORKED FOR XEROX, IBM AND AT&T "ON THE SIDE" WHILE TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL

5 SELF-TAUGHT CARILLONNEUR

another six weeks, we would not have received a new thing tech-wise. Everything was on backorder," he remembers.

While everyone worked, taught or attended class from home, a small cadre of Klinger's department, known as Technology Services, stayed at the Seminary throughout the shelter-in-place time period to keep everything up and running smoothly. Technology Services ensured that everyone working from home was using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to securely connect to Seminary servers and protect information.

Keeping the campus connected and safe, and using technology in the best way possible are Klinger's priorities. At times, they even keep him up at night. But the Word of God brings him peace. "Psalm 46:10 says, 'Be still, and know that I am God.' That's what always settles and centers me," he says. "Because you have to stop. You have to listen to God."

Working at the Seminary is near and dear to Klinger's heart. A lifelong Lutheran, Klinger once considered becoming a pastor. He took classes at both seminaries while working in their technology departments. Before working at either seminary, he taught high school physics and chemistry. "Teaching

rhymes with preaching, and I thought it would be a great combination," he says.

But the sheer number of hours spent working created tension. Should he pursue pastoral ministry or should he work full-time in technology?

"We were so busy in Technology Services at the Seminary that there was just no way I could study the way I needed to and also do what I need to do in my job," he says. Klinger didn't become a pastor, but through his work in technology, he has ensured that seminarians have the right tools needed for the classroom so that they can prepare for ministry.

A major yearly project for Klinger and his team is providing students with access to Logos Bible Software. This software gives students access to a substantial online library, including language study tools and resources for research that helps them thrive now and in their future ministry. Once seminarians receive access to Logos, they can continue to use the tool, which is described as a "powerful Bible study and sermon prep platform."

"Our students are getting so many resources with Logos," Klinger says. "We would be lost without that program."

There's never a shortage of technology needs at the Seminary. "Now that the chapel has new stained glass windows, we are working to improve the audio and the video. We've already upgraded Werner Auditorium with surround sound and better audio. The classrooms and the dorms received a Wi-Fi upgrade after students returned to in-person learning," Klinger says. The list goes on and on.

Throughout the years, Klinger has found other ways to be involved at the Seminary, too. He was the executive producer of the Concordia Seminary film, "Walther" (2011). He also is a self-taught carillonneur and regularly plays the carillon at the Seminary.

He shares his office with his beloved dog, Asti, a feral dog rescued in Southern Illinois wine country that also is a licensed therapy dog. When he's not working at the Seminary, Klinger frequently takes Asti to nursing homes where residents are often amazed to watch the dog's many tricks. Klinger and Asti can be seen walking together through Sieck Hall, where his office is located.

Klinger calls his department the "intersection of theology and technology, because that's where they meet." Every day, he and his crew strive to provide students, staff and faculty service beyond expectations. "I'm only as good as my team," Klinger says. "And we've built a great tech team."

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

“ I BELIEVE GOD HAS GIFTED ME TO DRAW PEOPLE TOGETHER AND BUILD STRONGER FAITH COMMUNITIES.

BEING HERE IS WHAT GOD HAS CALLED ME TO DO.

— Dr. Daniel Prugh



The Prugh family, from left: first row, Aaron and Anna; back row, Daniel and Jennifer. Photo: Courtesy Patricia Larson

TAMPA PASTOR EMBODIES FELLOWSHIP, COMMUNITY

BY VICKI BIGGS

“Jelly Beans and Jesus.” “Skate, Scoot and Walk.” “Candy Cane Lane.” “Community Movie Night.” That’s what you get when you combine a paved parking lot and an active, engaged congregation: creative fellowship opportunities and awesome community outreach.

Purposely creating places for people to connect is a hallmark of Dr. Daniel Prugh’s ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Tampa, Fla. Capitalizing on a key asset of his congregation’s campus — a large parking lot in the land-cramped Sunshine State — provides a perfect setting for bringing people together in Christ.

“There is a great spirit among the people of the church and school at Holy Trinity,” Prugh said. “They like being here, and they like bringing others here, too.”

Outdoor Easter celebrations like “Jelly Beans and Jesus,” Christmas parties like “Candy Cane Lane” and other events like “Skate, Scoot and Walk” — when the parking lot is transformed into a rink for roller skating and riding scooters — or movie nights where guests enjoy a show under the stars, serve not only to bring the church and school families together but also provide a way for parishioners to invite new friends and neighbors to join in and be introduced to the vibrant ministry taking place at Holy Trinity.

Prugh has performed 50 Baptisms since November 2020 — all for individuals connected to the church and school. “We are actively seeking to connect our school families to the church and provide a clear pathway to membership,” he said.

The great sense of community among his congregation members plays a huge role. “When Jesus is at the center of community, people experience Him,” he said.

Holy Trinity’s membership has continued to grow over the past 10 years, and the school’s enrollment has doubled. Prugh

sees the school as playing a key role in the congregation's growth. From where he sits, he believes people are finding a renewed sense of value in parochial education. "The school grew significantly during the pandemic and we have more applications for school enrollment than we have space," he said.

The school's increasing need for space was met in a most providential way.

The school expansion team looked all over South Tampa for rental space. They found a suitable location. It took eight months to put the plan together, but then it fell through. So, back to the drawing board they went. A month later, a property adjacent to the church and school — right next door! — became available. Amid negotiations last fall, Hurricane Ian struck and brought down the fence between Holy Trinity and the adjacent property. The sale closed this past February.

Holy Trinity's school currently serves children ages 2 through fifth grade. With the additional space, a sixth grade will be added during the 2023-24 academic year, a seventh grade the following year and an eighth grade the year after that.

Prugh earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) at Concordia Seminary in 2008 and completed a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in March 2023. He was raised in a Lutheran family. His father was a dentist, descended from a line of medical practitioners; his mother was a homemaker whose family had a history of military service. They faithfully attended church but Prugh never thought of being a pastor until he was in college.

In his freshman year at Roanoke College in Salem, Va., Prugh met Rev. Paul Henrickson, the campus chaplain, and he quickly came to know that he wanted to do what Henrickson did. "He communicated Jesus in remarkable ways," recalled Prugh. "He set a wonderful example."

With a bachelor's degree in religion and a minor in elementary education under his belt, Prugh's sights were set on Concordia Seminary, but not just yet. He wanted a gap year. So, with the encouragement of Roanoke College Professor Dr. Paul Hinlicky, Prugh served a year-long assignment through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a missionary in Tisovec, Slovakia. His assignment included teaching religion and English to middle school and high school students, all while preparing to enter the Seminary.

"Because I had worked for a year after college, I mistakenly identified myself as 'second career' when I filled out my Seminary application," Prugh said. Thus, at the age of 23, he was placed in Metzger Hall, then home not only to second-career students but also international students. "That was a wonderful opportunity," he said. "Because of my experience in Slovakia, the world was a lot larger for me and I had seen firsthand how God is working in powerful ways around the world. I was glad to do all I could to help the students from overseas assimilate."

Today in Florida, Prugh is grateful for the path his ministry has taken and for the experiences along the way. He met his wife, Jennifer, in church as a seminarian in England. He studied at Westfield House in Cambridge as part of Concordia Seminary's International Seminary Exchange Program. Jennifer was in Cambridge as part of her own study abroad program with Valparaiso University.

Jennifer and the couple's two children, Aaron (9) and Anna (7), join in Prugh's commitment to the intentional cultivation of community as a demonstration of God's love for His people. Prugh's call to Holy Trinity was in 2020 and as they contemplated the call, Prugh said, "I trusted God and He has provided abundantly for us. My wife and children are thriving here. And I believe God has gifted me to draw people together and build stronger faith communities. Being here is what God has called me to do."

Vicki Biggs is senior vice president of Seminary Advancement and chief communications officer at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



*Dr. Daniel Prugh performs a Baptism using a seashell he collected from the beach.
Photo: Courtesy Crystal Dzierbun*

LIVING AND GIVING FOR Now AND THE Future

BY REBEKAH LUKAS



Jane and LeRoy Wilke
Photo: Courtesy Wilkes

For Dr. LeRoy and Jane Wilke of Woodbury, Minn., their life together has always been about the mission of the Gospel. “We’ve been given incredible opportunities and it’s very humbling,” LeRoy said. “Not everyone gets the chance we have of looking back and seeing how God has been preparing us for each next step in our lives,” added Jane.

It all started with business school and a banking job in Minneapolis for LeRoy. After a short time, he was drafted into the Army and served as a chaplain’s assistant in Fort Riley, Kan., where he was in charge of bookkeeping, accounting and other similar tasks. “This turned out to be a turning point in my life,” he said.

While he had a job in a bank waiting for him when he got out of the Army, LeRoy decided to go back to school. He attended Golden Valley Lutheran College and then was one of the first five students of the new Director of Christian Education (DCE) training program at Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minn. (CSP). He graduated with a bachelor’s degree and DCE certification in 1972. He served his congregation for a number of years and then received a call to serve as the first full-time director of the DCE training program at CSP. “He really is a patriarch of the DCE program,” Jane said. “He was a part of opening the door of a ministry that has had such great impact.”

A 1975 graduate of CSP herself, Jane began her career as an admissions counselor there. “When LeRoy and I got married in 1979, I went into teaching. My mom had been a

kindergarten teacher in a Lutheran school, and that was my desire all along.”

Jane spent about 20 years in Lutheran schools as an early childhood educator, first in Minnesota, then Missouri. In 1985, LeRoy accepted a call to serve in the Department of Youth Ministry for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). He had been involved as a volunteer with the LCMS Youth Gathering while in Minnesota, work that was to continue for the next 15 years in a leadership role.

“AS WE SUPPORT THE SEMINARY THROUGH OUR GIFTS NOW AND TOMORROW ... THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL, WILL CONTINUE EVEN AFTER WE’RE GONE.”

—JANE WILKE

“LeRoy was part of those two really huge ministries, the DCE program and the LCMS Youth Gathering, almost from the inception, building that legacy,” Jane said.

In 1990, LeRoy became the executive director of the LCMS Youth Ministry office, and then in 2000, became executive director for LCMS District and Congregational Services. He retired in 2005. During that time in St. Louis, Jane also served in a variety of ways beyond the classroom: as an editor for Concordia Publishing House, working in creative services at Lutheran Hour Ministries and as director of communications at Lutheran Senior Services.

LeRoy and Jane moved back to Minnesota in 2009 where for several years he became involved in training and supervising colloquy DCE students at CSP and traditional DCE students at Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, and she works part-time as director of church relations for CSP. “It came full circle for me,” Jane said. “I’m ending where I started!”

As part of their life of service in the church, LeRoy and Jane also spent significant time involved in the ministry of Concordia Seminary. In 2007, LeRoy was elected to the Seminary's Board of Regents and served two six-year terms, totaling 12 years. During those years, he really came to understand the academic and financial expectations of a Seminary education. "It was a time of transition for all of higher education," he said. "Institutions weren't receiving the direct support they needed anymore and had to find and source the dollars to help students and fund the institution itself." The Seminary wasn't immune to these industry changes.

LeRoy's banking background gave him an interest in the Seminary budget, the audit committee and the day-to-day budget operation. "I also took a particular interest in the endowment aspect of funding," reflected LeRoy. "It goes back to when I was on staff at Concordia Saint Paul and working with students, understanding their financial obligations and obstacles. I really have a heart for students. Being on the Board of Regents put me back in that sphere."

The need for church workers is great, yet Jane and LeRoy understand that the financial obstacles also are great. "We want to break down some of those obstacles, and allow more men and women to walk through the Seminary doors to be trained and sent," Jane said.

The couple gives to the Seminary annually, helping to meet the financial needs of students and the daily operations of the Seminary today, and they have made provisions in their estate plan for meeting needs for the future.

"LeRoy and Jane's understanding of and love for the Seminary is inspiring. They have great joy in sharing their financial blessings, which will touch the lives of Seminary students for generations to come," said Michael Flynn, director of principal gifts at the Seminary.

"Giving is a part of our life, our DNA," LeRoy said. "It's who we are," added Jane. "It's not, 'We'll give annually and stop when we're no longer living.' Nor is it, 'We don't need to do annual giving because we have deferred gifts in our will.' It's both."

"We sing the song 'I Love to Tell the Story.' We want it to be 'We Live to Tell the Story,'" smiled Jane. "And, we want to live in a way that the story goes on. As we support the Seminary through our gifts now and tomorrow, it's our way of living so the story, the mission of the Gospel, will continue even after we're gone."

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



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- RESIDENTIAL DEACONESS STUDIES

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Nick and Vanessa Palmer of Belle Plaine, Iowa, were scraping a plan together for a move to St. Louis four years ago. He would be starting his pastoral formation studies in Concordia Seminary's Master of Divinity Program.

It had been a long journey to get to this point. After graduating from college, Nick and Vanessa had returned to their roots in Belle Plaine to live and raise a family. For 15 years he worked in the family business his grandfather started decades earlier.

During that time, the couple was deeply involved in their church. Palmer was head elder, helping with Bible studies, participating on various boards and attending conventions. Members began to comment that perhaps he had missed his calling, words which hearkened to those of his childhood pastor who had encouraged him toward parish ministry. The Holy Spirit nurtured this encouragement in his heart, and Palmer began to ask, "Why not me?"

When Palmer said "yes" to coming to the Seminary, he did not know how all the details would work out. Where would his family live? Would his wife be able to find work? Where would his children — then 11 and 9 years old — go to school?

There also was another matter: tuition. How would the family of four afford it? Then they discovered just how beautifully the Lord provides. "When we found out my tuition would be covered by scholarships made available by donors, a huge burden was lifted," said Palmer, who will graduate from the Seminary this spring and will begin serving his first pastoral call this summer. He also currently serves as Student Association president.

Concordia Seminary — thanks to the ongoing support of generous donors — began offering guaranteed tuition to residential pastoral and diaconal students in the 2018-

19 academic year. At a time when many graduate school students can face more than \$100,000 in debt on average at the end of their studies, the Seminary stepped in with significant financial aid for its residential ministerial formation students.

That means students in the Seminary's Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Residential Alternate Route (RAR) and residential Deaconess Studies (DCS) programs pay nothing out-of-pocket for tuition.

The guaranteed tuition policy requires students to sign a "Partnership Covenant" with the Seminary, agreeing to the policy and committing to maintain satisfactory academic performance, to apply for scholarships, to disclose all sources of financial aid and to communicate regularly with Adopt-A-Student donors.

"Our students are so fortunate to be able to receive a post-graduate education without paying out-of-pocket for tuition," said Laura Hemmer, the Seminary's director of Financial Aid. "With so many people entering the work force with looming debt, it is refreshing to see the Seminary's commitment to preparing men and women to enter church work without the added burden of loans when beginning their ministry."

In the five years since the Seminary's guaranteed tuition program began, the number of students needing to take out loans has dropped significantly.

In the 2017-18 academic year, about 20% of residential pastoral students took on Seminary debt compared to only 12% in the 2021-22 academic year. That means about 1 out of every 5 students took out loans during their time at the Seminary before the tuition guarantee program compared to 1 out of 8 now.

MASTER OF DIVINITY/RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATE ROUTE STUDENTS TAKING OUT LOANS



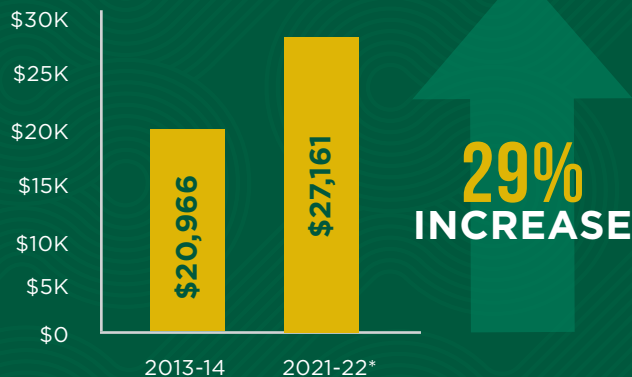
2017-18: 1 OUT OF EVERY 5



2021-22*: 1 OUT OF EVERY 8

*Most current academic year for which statistics are available.

AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID FOR PASTORAL STUDENTS:



The average debt for residential pastoral students dropped by 31% between 2017-18 and 2021-22, and residential deaconess students saw their average debt decrease by 35% during the same time frame.

“Many in our Synod’s beloved congregations know about the shortage of pastors, deaconesses and other church workers,” said Associate Provost Dr. Benjamin Haupt. “As St. Paul writes, ‘How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?’ (Rom. 10:14 ESV). The guaranteed tuition financial aid program has come from the overwhelming support of donors who love the Word of God and want it taught in all its truth and purity. We are beginning to see enrollment in our programs grow because of the commitment of the entire Seminary community and the good work of the Synod’s Set Apart to Serve church worker recruitment initiative in getting the word out about the need for church workers.”

“WHEN WE FOUND OUT MY TUITION WOULD BE COVERED BY SCHOLARSHIPS MADE AVAILABLE BY DONORS, A HUGE BURDEN WAS *lifted*.”
—NICK PALMER

In 2011-12, the average residential pastoral student graduated with a combined debt of \$28,902 from their undergraduate and graduate studies. By 2021-22, their average total debt at graduation had decreased to \$5,475.

Again, looking back 10 years, the total amount of loans taken out by students during their Seminary years for all M.Div. and RAR students combined was \$1,759,491. By the 2021-22 academic year, that number had decreased by 94% to \$103,906.

Less debt and fewer student loans means by the time students graduate and begin their church service, they are on a much better footing financially. Debt can distract church workers, causing their congregations and ministries to suffer.

“I believe one especially important factor in the growth of enrollment is that applicants can enroll in the Seminary without committing to a lifelong vow of crippling debt,” Haupt said. “I pray that this means more lost are found and that more people hear the forgiving, saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The Seminary’s substantial financial aid doesn’t stop with guaranteed, or zero, tuition. Students also can receive financial aid and additional scholarships to help with their other education-related expenses through such competitive scholarships as the Regent Awards, which include two grants that provide an annual cash stipend of \$4,500.

Financial aid offered to residential students has increased in the last decade.

Five years before the guaranteed tuition program, during the 2013-14 academic year, the average pastoral student received \$20,966 in aid. During the 2021-22 academic year, in comparison, the amount of total financial aid received was \$27,161, an increase of 29%.

The Seminary is taking extra steps to help ensure that the church’s future workers are largely debt-free when they graduate but also financially literate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 >

In addition to guaranteed tuition, the Seminary provides additional budget-saving resources that include the Food Bank, which offers grocery and household staples at no charge to full-time residential students and their families, and the Re-Sell It Shop, which stocks new and used household goods and clothing for students and their families at greatly reduced prices. Student employment opportunities also are available that include federal work-study and numerous other on-campus employment opportunities.

Financial planning services also are provided to students at no charge. Through a partnership with Concordia Plans, the church's worker benefits provider, all students (and their spouses if applicable) may meet with a financial educator on campus to discuss their financial well-being. The financial educator helps students with budgeting, debt management, financial risk protection, retirement planning and clergy taxation.

"While the Seminary is able to offer guaranteed tuition, that benefit would not be possible without the generosity of Seminary supporters," said Vicki Biggs, the senior vice president of Seminary Advancement.

Individual congregation members, churches and districts continue to show their overwhelming support for helping to form church workers by providing additional aid to seminarians.

As an example, Adopt-A-Student support has increased by 83% since 2013, increasing from \$5,350 on average to \$9,805 per student. Adopt-A-Student sponsors commit to an annual gift, and every dollar of Adopt-A-Student support goes to their "adopted" seminarian.

"It is a privilege to express our thanks to our amazing donors on behalf of the students and everyone else at the

Seminary — look what they have accomplished!" Biggs said. "But it is vital to note that this wonderful promise of support for our church's future workers can only continue so long as the donor support is there. It is our donors who will continue to make guaranteed tuition possible. By God's grace, and in partnership with these wonderful friends of the Seminary, we will continue to provide this financial aid, and ease one of the greatest hurdles future seminarians face as they consider their decision to matriculate."

Not having to carry the burden of Seminary tuition helped encourage concluding seminarian Joshua Kintz of Collinsville, Ill., to enroll four years ago in the M.Div. Program and leave behind a career in banking and sales for a life devoted to serving God and His Gospel mission. Kintz is awaiting his first pastoral call on Call Day this year and will graduate this May, like Nick Palmer.

"Dropping one source of income and taking on a substantial amount of debt just wasn't an option," said Kintz, whose wife, Rachel, is a teacher. The couple has two children. "The knowledge that donor giving would guarantee my tuition was definitely the 'tipping point.' The financial aid I received was the encouragement I needed to enroll."

Both students give thanks to the Seminary's supporters who have helped clear the way for them to become pastors.

"We are very, very grateful to all donors," Palmer said. "It's been amazing to see God open doors through them."

To learn more about Concordia Seminary admissions or to apply, visit csl.edu/admissions. To learn more about supporting the mission of Concordia Seminary, visit csl.edu/support.



"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW; THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST."

(MATT. 9:37-38 ESV)

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Laudamus spring tour

Laudamus, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' premier choir, performed at 11 churches, schools and universities in Illinois and Wisconsin during the Spring 2023 Concert Tour March 18-26. "We cherish the connections made with the schools, universities, churches and communities we visited, which reinforces the partnership in ministry that Concordia Seminary shares with the church in the world," said Greg Gastler, interim choral director at the Seminary. The choir's theme was "Light," based on Jesus' words in John 9:5b ESV, "I am the light of the world." The choir performed pieces by Mark Bender, Dietrich Buxtehude, Samuel Eatherton and others.

Laudamus performs March 23 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Wis. Photo: Courtesy Jenny Gastler



Vocatio set for high school students

High school students interested in attending Concordia Seminary, St. Louis or who are considering vocational ministry are invited to register for *Vocatio*, set for June 24-July 1 on campus. This retreat gives prospective students the opportunity to explore God's calling and direction as they experience Seminary life. Participants engage in theological conversations, interact with Seminary professors, learn about the admissions process and the St. Louis area, and also take part in some recreational activities.

Group sessions will focus on thoughtful conversation about the Lutheran faith, aspects of vocation, and the call to pastoral and diaconal ministry. The deadline to register is May 27.

Learn more at csl.edu/vocatio.

High school students attend chapel as part of Vocatio June 27, 2022. Photo: Rebekah Lukas



Hensley accepts call to serve as associate professor

Dr. Adam Hensley, a respected scholar with expertise in the Book of Psalms and the Pentateuch, has accepted a call to serve at Concordia Seminary as an associate professor of Exegetical Theology beginning fall 2023. As an alumnus of Concordia Seminary (Ph.D. 2015), Hensley will continue to teach Old Testament studies as he did at both the Australian Lutheran College (2017-22) and Concordia University, Irvine Calif. (2012-16). His background includes service as both a parish pastor and chaplain. He is known internationally for his work on covenant theology in the Psalms and is currently working on a commentary on Psalms 101-150. He will be formally installed Aug. 25 during the Opening Service of the 2023-24 academic year.

Dr. Adam Hensley. Photo: Courtesy Hensley

C.S. Lewis topic of Lay Bible Institute

On Feb. 11, Professor of Historical Theology Dr. Erik Herrmann led Concordia Seminary’s Lay Bible Institute, meeting under the theme “Lutherans Listening to C.S. Lewis.” More than 90 participants gained new perspectives on traditional Lutheran teachings while examining the logic and writings of Lewis. Particular attention was given to what Luther refers to as the “theology of the cross.” Other themes such as faith, science and reason, and the role of beauty for belief and ethics also were examined. The next Lay Bible Institute is scheduled for Aug. 5, “Ministry to People with Special Needs,” with Associate Professor of Practical Theology Dr. Ely Prieto. Register at csl.edu/lbi.

Participants of the Feb. 11 Lay Bible Institute gather for a group photo in Werner Auditorium. Photo: Liz Taylor



Hymn writing workshop held

The second annual Prevallet Hymn Writing Workshop was held on campus Feb. 18 in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. Aspiring and published hymn writers, translators and Concordia Seminary students attended this workshop in anticipation of the annual Pamela Ann Prevallet Hymn Writing Competition. Participants learned from two published hymn writers: Lisa Clark, senior editor of curriculum resources at Concordia Publishing House, and Rev. Charles Henrickson, pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Bonne Terre, Mo., and Grace Lutheran Church in Desoto, Mo. Registrants also received a copy of *The Anatomy of Hymnody* by Austin C. Lovelace to help guide their hymn writing.

The second annual Prevallet Hymn Writing Workshop was held Feb. 18 on campus. Photos: Liz Taylor

Slatkin lectures on Bach

Leonard Slatkin, an internationally acclaimed conductor, composer and author, was the guest speaker Feb. 13 at a special lecture, “Bach and the Art of Transcription,” honoring Lutheran composer Johann Sebastian Bach on the occasion of his 338th birthday, in Werner Auditorium. Following the lecture, attendees participated in a special viewing of Bach’s annotated Bible, which has been in the Concordia Seminary library collection since the 1930s, during a reception in the Kristine Kay Hasse Memorial Library.

Leonard Slatkin begins his lecture in Werner Auditorium. Photo: Jill Gray



‘Honest Repentance’ Lenten series, workshop

How do you live a life of repentance? That question served as the main theme of the 2023 Pre-Lenten Workshop for pastors, “Honest Repentance,” held Jan. 20 on campus. That also was the focus of a new Lenten Sermon Series, available this year from Concordia Seminary Press, the publishing arm of Concordia Seminary. Series author and workshop presenter Dr. David Maxwell, the Seminary’s Louis A. Fincke and Anna B. Shine Professor of Systematic Theology, used Scripture readings traditionally read at the Easter Vigil to explore what repentance is — and what a life of repentance looks like. Learn more at csl.edu/newsroom.

Participants of the Pre-Lenten Workshop gather in the Presidents Room. Photo: Sarah Maney

Distance students celebrate calls, assignments

The Concordia Seminary, St. Louis community celebrated 26 distance program students Jan. 13 and 18 other distance students Feb. 9 in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus as the students reached a major milestone along their path to becoming pastors and deaconesses in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. On Jan. 13, 17 students in the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program received their call assignments, and eight SMP students and one Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology student concluded their programs and received pastoral calls. On Feb. 9, 16 SMP and Cross-cultural Ministry Center students received their vicarage assignments, and two Center for Hispanic Studies students received their deaconess internship assignments.

Faculty members gather with students for a celebratory photo following the chapel service Jan. 13. Photo: Rebekah Lukas

UPCOMING EVENTS



Call Day

Assignment of Vicarages and
Deaconess Internships 3 p.m. (CDT)
Assignment of Calls 7 p.m. (CDT)

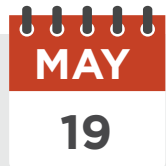
📍 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
🖥️ csl.edu/callday



Commencement

Theological Diploma Service 10 a.m. (CDT)
Commencement 7 p.m. (CDT)

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Prof Insights

Faculty-Led Workshop Series

📍 Various locations
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Register two weeks before each workshop • Fee: \$140



Lay Bible Institute

Ministry to People with Special Needs

👤 Dr. Ely Prieto
📍 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
🖥️ csl.edu/lbi

Register by: July 21, 2023 • Fee: \$20



NEW FROM
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COMMENTARY, CONVERSATION AND RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY AND LIFE TODAY

NEW: Articles on the anatomy of a sermon on Luke, recording of the 2023 Pre-Lenten Workshop on "Honest Repentance," book reviews on cultural apologetics and common callings, a memorial of James Arne Nestingen and the *Winter 2023 Concordia Journal*.



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