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## Letter from the Chairman: Over One Hundred Years of Student Publications at Concordia Seminary

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## *Letter from the Chairman: Lift Up Your Hearts!*

*Benjamin Vanderhyde*

For hundreds of years, in various countries, through various languages, Christian pastors have exhorted their people to lift up their hearts in the liturgy of Holy Communion. Whether or not every church has always used these precise words, the exhortation is universal among Christians. We are called to put our faith and trust in the one who is above us; to set our hope firmly on the one whose second advent is on the verge of dawning; to aim all of our desires and affections toward the one who made us. In short, we lift up our hearts to the Lord in faith, hope and love.

The articles, poetry, devotional materials and the artwork in this issue invite the reader to consider how lifting our hearts to God bears fruit in our earthly life and activity in the world. In the cover art, "Bear Fruit in Keeping with Repentance," Grace Vanderhyde places our theme in the context of wealth and poverty. In their preaching, John the Baptist and Jesus both associated eschatological expectation with care for the poor (Luke 3:8–14; Luke 16:19–31; Matt 25:31–46). The poor remind us to humble ourselves before God, since whether we are rich or poor, we are all beggars before him. The artwork complements my own article which shows one way the early church viewed lifting hearts to God as inseparable from serving the neighbor, namely, in the practice of mercy work, or almsgiving.

Sebastian Grünbaum's article entitled *Sursum Corda* gives a brief history of our theme, "lift up your hearts," and examines how Chemnitz interpreted this Eucharistic dialogue as a confession of the true presence of Christ in the Supper. Futao (Gary) Liu explores how a Lutheran understanding of righteousness can be helpful for Christians in China as they navigate their responsibilities in the public square. Hayden Lukas suggests that American Christians, living in a liberal democratic state can learn from French Catholics who have devoted a great deal of attention to the role of the church in a modern context.

Finally, we are pleased once again to publish a pair of articles: one by Ben Leeper of Concordia Seminary Saint Louis, and one by Ben Janssen of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne. In the spirit of unity and collaboration, the Bens both tackled the question of the relationship between the Divine Service and everyday life. How does lifting our hearts to God play out at home or in the community or workplace? I am grateful to Ben Leeper for his enthusiasm about the topic (a passion which leaps from the pages of his article) and for his work in making this collaborative effort between the two seminaries possible. This is the second year we have worked together with the Fort Wayne seminary's student publications through the collaborative essay as well as by sharing each other's printed journals on both campuses.

We hope that the articles, poetry and devotional materials presented here encourage you in the faith and build you up in love. This Eastertide may you be filled with the hope which springs ever-new because Christ is risen.

Ben Vanderhyde  
Student Publications Chairman  
Easter 2023