New Beginnings

New address, new community, new schedules, new doctors, new stores, new street names, new job, new friends . . . . . . Will all of this newness ever end????

For most seminary couples and families, coming to the seminary is a new beginning. Life suddenly is divided into two parts: 1) life before seminary and 2) life at seminary and beyond.

You and your husband have discussed the plan: You are looking at four years to complete the program, vicarage year, etc. It should be doable, right? Hundreds of couples and families have done it. After all, it is four years and that is a pretty long time.

Then suddenly, panic hits – four years is only 48 months to complete and pass all of the classes and vicarage, pack and unpack all of your earthly etc., etc. Suddenly, you feel starts will be your life for the start, and then start again. Is work?

In a word, yes. As you begin your joys, experiences, memories of the past with you. They have helped to make you the person you are. Bring that person to the seminary and let others begin to know you. This is not always easy, especially if you are introverted or shy. Letting others into your life is such an important part of the seminary experience for your husband, your children and you. This is the beginning of so much of the joy, comfort and support seminary families share. Your hubby is in graduate school. The course work and papers can be quite demanding. Family members may be miles away. Old friends may be states away. Without seminary friends, the journey can be lonely. SWA is one of the avenues that provide opportunities for you to meet and connect with other wives. Our SWA Facebook page is another place to interact.

Sharing with other wives and hearing their stories allows you to grow, to see workable solutions, to learn new approaches and insights, to become aware of new opportunities, to share and care for others, to use your talents, etc. It makes the journey so much richer. Friendships don’t just happen. Making new friends isn’t always easy. You need to be active in the process. True friends are like family: they keep us sane and bring us joy. They help us through the rough times.
“Friendship has to start somewhere – look for ways to connect, network, meet, etc.”

The list goes on. Just like you, they want and need friends, real friends, and real sisters in Christ. Enjoy the new beginning. Most will say that their seminary friendships were deeper and richer within a matter of months than many of their former friendships. You are alike in more ways than you are different. Friendship has to start somewhere – look for ways to connect, network, meet, etc. When you do, you will be grateful that you did. Welcome, my dear sister in Christ, to this new chapter in your life. May it be filled with many blessings.

Marsha Zimmerman is married to Dean Tom Zimmerman. She has been a church worker’s wife for almost 40 years, fifteen of them as a pastor’s wife. She currently works for the vicarage office at CTS. Marsha can be reached at marsha.zimmerman@ctsfw.edu

The Co-op: A Blessing for Seminary Families

If you hang around with families at the seminary long enough, inevitably you will have conversations like this:

“Mmm, this dinner is delicious!”

“Thanks, it’s a Co-op recipe!”

And while any seasoned seminary wife will tell you that the Co-op is a great resource, what exactly is the Co-op?

First off, the Co-op is found in two facilities: The Food Co-op, located in the lower level of the Student Commons, and the Clothing Co-op, located in Spiegel Hall. Both are run solely on generous donations from individuals and congregations and are only used by CTS students and their immediate family. Students and their adult family members (specifically their spouse and children 16 and older) can volunteer monthly at either Co-op in order to shop at both locations.

At the Food Co-op, shoppers can find a wide assortment of food and supplies, including dry and canned goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products, toiletry items, and baby supplies. Sarah Jacobsen, a recent seminary wife whose husband was just ordained a few weeks ago, explains, “It is wonderful to get produce from the Co-op as well as our dairy needs.” “I always appreciate the pantry staples,” says Mackenzie Ross, a soon-to-be fourth year wife who has recently returned from vicarage, “Canned and baking items can really add up, so it’s nice to get them at the Co-op.”

Clothing Co-op

Hours (Shopping and Volunteer)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Questions?

Call Karen Fuelling at 452-2168 or e-mail at karen.fuelling@ctsfw.edu
The Co-Op Continued

The Food Co-op is open for shopping on Tuesdays from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This limited shopping time can be initially difficult to schedule, but most families are able to find a way to make it work. Sarah explains her old Co-op shopping habits, “My husband and I made our schedules flexible so that we could make it there within Co-op’s open hours. When I was a nanny, I was able to take the children with me during the day. This past year Adam [Sarah’s husband] had to leave for classes by 7:30 a.m., so that meant I needed to be at the Co-op shortly after it opened at 6:30 a.m.” The currency at this Co-op is Points, which are earned when you volunteer at either Co-op (1 hour of work equals 50 Points). The Food Co-op is open for volunteer work on Mondays and Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or by special arrangement on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Clothing Co-op is open for shopping and volunteering Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Everything in the Clothing Co-op is free and provides items like clothing for all ages, household items, and furniture. Since this Co-op is stocked solely by donated items, there is no guarantee that specific clothing articles or household goods will be available. Sometimes you may go to the Clothing Co-op in hopes of finding a pair of jeans but leave instead with a bookshelf for all those theology books that are rapidly accumulating in your home. Most seminary wives will agree that many treasures can be found at the Clothing Co-op. Mackenzie recalls on her Co-op finds, saying, “I found a food processor, so many nice clothes, and a silver tea set! And that’s just the stuff I can think of off the top of my head.” Sarah lists some of the items she found at the Co-op, “Brooks Brothers dress shirts for my husband, Pottery Barn headboard for our bed, Mikasa fine china dishes and many other great things.”

Both Co-ops are an enormous help for seminary families as they try to live off a very limited income. When Mackenzie reflects on the first time she shopped at the Co-op, “I couldn’t believe the selection—especially breads, fruits, and veggies! I never took a tour before we moved to Fort Wayne, so I had no idea what to expect.” Sarah finishes her thoughts on the Co-op by stating, “We are so very thankful for the Co-op’s generous donors!” God has truly blessed the seminary community with so many donors that help provide our daily bread during the seminary years!

Food Co-op

Hours

Shopping: Tuesday 6:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Volunteer: Monday and Friday 6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. or by appointment on Wednesday and Thursday

Questions? Call Bari Robinson at 260-452-2174

General Information:

1 hour of work = 50 points

Maximum number of points that can be earned in one month: 250 points

Volunteer Schedule (Based on Student’s Last Name):

A-F: 1st-7th of the month
G-L: 8th-14th of the month
M-R: 15th-21st of the month
S-Z: 22nd-31st of the month
What can SWA Do for you??

Moving to Fort Wayne so your husband can attend the seminary can be a lonely transition. After all, your husband gets to go to class all day and spend time with his fellow students. How are you going to meet new people? Thankfully, there is the Student Wives Association (SWA). Odds are if you are reading this publication, you’ve already heard of SWA, but do you know about the many opportunities SWA provides? Here is a list of FAQs about SWA:

1. What do I have to do to become a member of SWA?

All you have to do to become a member of SWA is to have a husband or fiancé studying at the seminary or to be a deaconess student. There are no dues, there are no formal meetings.

2. What types of activities does SWA have?

SWA has a wide range of activities and events. There is a SWA event from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. every other Tuesday in the summer, which can be anything from wine and cheese night to board game night. During the school year, there are informational events, Wives Classes (classes on a theological topic taught by a CTS professor), retreats, and fellowship events. These activities and events are organized by the SWA board.

3. How do I find out about these events?

The Student Wives Association Facebook Group is by far the best way to keep up with all the happenings in SWA. Likewise, you’ll be able to converse with other wives on the group’s wall. To join the group, simply ask another member to add you. If you do not know anyone in SWA, you can e-mail Marsha Zimmerman (marsha.zimmerman@ctsfw.edu) and ask her to add you to the group.

If you are not on Facebook, you can be added to the e-mail list to receive information about important dates. Likewise, you can read the Blue News in the Student Wives Association section. Again, the SWA Facebook page is the fastest way to receive updates.

4. What else does SWA provide?

Besides organizing events, SWA has several committees to help serve the seminary community. There is the Big Sis/Little Sis program (a mentoring program to help new wives transition into the sem. community), the Hospitality Committee (a program to coordinate help for families after the birth of a baby, an illness or injury, or a death), and the Student Wives Association Newsletter (a.k.a.—the SWAN).

Most importantly, SWA provides an opportunity for sem. wives to connect with one another. The seminary years are very unique: you are most likely not living close to any relatives, you will move often, your husband is a student, and money can be tight. To have the support of other women in the same situation can be an enormous comfort, as well as getting the chance to create friendships with some wonderful people.
Meet the 2013-2014 SWA Board

Brad and I have two girls. Madison is 12, and Lillie 9. We moved to Fort Wayne from Phoenix, Arizona last June for Brad to take summer Greek. Brad and I were both working in the dental field before our journey to Seminary. I am a Registered Dental Hygienist and am currently working as a teacher’s aide in the dental assisting program at Ross Medical College. I have also been blessed with the opportunity to volunteer at the Matthew 25 medical and dental clinic in downtown practicing dental hygiene. Since I recently got my job at Ross, I will be trying to volunteer a couple Fridays per month. The girls attend Ascension Lutheran School and they really like it there. Madi and Lillie really love to swim so we take them to the YMCA as often as we can. I really like it here in Fort Wayne and thoroughly enjoy experiencing actual seasons!

Dani Janke – Vice President

My name is Dani Janke. I was born and raised in Sioux City, IA. I graduated from Wayne State College with an Early Childhood degree. I am married to Ryan Janke. We just celebrated our first year of marriage in May. I currently work as a nanny for a family of two soon to be three beautiful girls. Their ages are soon to be newborn, 2, and 4. I enjoy coffee, reading, walking, swimming, and purse shopping. This will be year 2 at the seminary and I cannot wait to see what it brings.

Cassie Durkopp - Treasurer

My name is Cassie Durkopp and I am married to Jonathan Durkopp. I came to Fort Wayne in January to join my husband who started Seminary in November. We have two cats, Diego and Pepper. I am from Bellingham, Washington. I love to read, exercise, be outdoors, and work with children. I have a degree in Special Education and Elementary Education. I finished up the school year at St. John Lutheran School as an Instructional Assistant in the 6th grade and this summer I will be the Lead Teacher for the school ages at Little Praiser’s.
Meet the 2013-2014 SWA Board

Amy Schultz– Corresponding Secretary

My name is Amy Schultz and I am from Holt, MI. My husband and I met at Concordia University Ann Arbor and he is currently finishing his vicarage in Saint Joseph, MI. We have one daughter (16 months) and another due at the end of September. Before kids I worked as a Children’s Minister at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Stroh, IN but now I'm a stay at home mom and love it! We enjoy going for walks, playing at the park, and spending lots of time at the library!

Jessica Bramwell– Recording Secretary

I am originally from Wyoming and am married to my high school sweetheart, Tyrel. We have two very awesome children, Jonas (10 years old) and Bethany (7 years old). As for hobbies, I love being outdoors, hiking, biking, and traveling. I also sew and quilt. We've just finished up our vicarage year in sunny California and are looking forward to completing our seminary journey and finding out just what God has in store for us next!
Fun Things to do in Summertime Fort Wayne!

1. **The Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo:** Don’t let the name fool you—the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo is for all ages! With many breeds of animals, fun can be found for all. Tickets can be a bit pricey, so some families find it more cost effective to buy a season pass and enjoy the zoo all summer.  
   http://kidszoo.org/

2. **The Tincaps:** This local minor league team can be watched at Parkview Stadium in downtown Fort Wayne. With tickets as low as $5, a Tincaps game can be great fun for date night or a family outing.  
   http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t584

3. **Fort Wayne Parks:** Fort Wayne has an excellent selection of parks and playgrounds throughout the city. Some even have Splash Pads—a great (and free) way to beat the summer heat.  
   http://www.fortwayneparks.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17&Itemid=33

4. **Fort Wayne Trails:** Looking for a place to walk, run, or ride your bike? The Fort Wayne area has 68 miles of multiuse trails (50 miles of those are interconnected). Find a trail close to your home and check it out!  
   http://www.fortwayneparks.org/index.php?option=com_content&id=151&Itemid=34#Rivergreenway

5. **Crazy Pinz:** Crazy Pinz is a local favorite for kids. While the name derives from the 20 lanes of bowling, Crazy Pinz also has laser tag, bumper cars, mini-golf, and “Ballocity.”  
   http://www.crazypinz.com/

6. **YoYo Frozen Yogurt:** YoYo (or Yogurt on Your Own) is a local frozen yogurt franchise. With several locations in the Fort Wayne and 14 different flavors, YoYo is a tasty treat to help beat the summer heat.  
   http://www.yogurtonyourown.com/

7. **Roller Dome:** Roller Dome is a roller skating rink with two locations in Fort Wayne. With open skate times throughout the week, Roller Dome provides a great activity for rainy days in the summer.  
   http://www.rollerdomenorth.com/

8. **The Allen County Public Library:** The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) has numerous branches throughout Fort Wayne. Story times and other programs are available at all locations, so becoming a member of the ACPL is definitely worth your time. And don’t forget about the summer reading program that runs through July 26!  
   http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/index.html

9. **Science Central:** Science Central is an educational, child-oriented science museum. Science quickly becomes fun as you explore the numerous interactive exhibits throughout the museum.  
   http://sciencecentral.org/

10. **Georgetown Bowling:** What better activity for a rainy day than bowling? Georgetown Bowling is located about 10 minutes away from CTS’s campus and is a participant in the Kids Bowl Free program.  
12. **The Huntington Drive-in:** Seeing movies at a drive-in theater provide surprising perks—your tickets are cheaper (two movies for the price of one ticket), you get to enjoy the outdoors, and you don’t have to worry about wiggly children bothering other patrons! If you’ve never experienced a movie at a drive-in theater, the Huntington Drive-in is a good place to start! [http://www.huntingtondrivein.com/index.php](http://www.huntingtondrivein.com/index.php)

13. **Catlan Ice Sports:** What better way to beat the heat of summer than by ice skating? Catlan Ice Sports has open skate time throughout the week, as well as drop-in hockey games. [http://www.icesports.com/fortwayne/home.aspx](http://www.icesports.com/fortwayne/home.aspx)

14. **Foellinger Theater:** Foellinger Theater is an outdoor theater that provides various forms of entertainment throughout the summer and early fall. Favorite activities include the free movie showings on Wednesday nights throughout the summer. [http://www.fortwayneparks.org/images/stories/Facilities/Theatre/Theatre_web_2013.pdf](http://www.fortwayneparks.org/images/stories/Facilities/Theatre/Theatre_web_2013.pdf)

15. **Lazer X:** Lazer X is an exciting laser tag and arcade facility. With four levels and up to 42 players in the arena, Lazer X is fun for kids and adults! [http://lazerxfw.com/home.htm](http://lazerxfw.com/home.htm)

16. **Ultrazone Family Entertainment Center:** Ultrazone is another laser tag and arcade facility. Ultrazone has several discounts and special summer hours, making it another great activity to try this summer. [http://www.ultrazoneftw.com/pricing.php](http://www.ultrazoneftw.com/pricing.php)

**Festivals and Fairs in Late Summer and Early Fall**

1. **Three Rivers Festival:** July 12-20 [http://threeriversfestival.org/](http://threeriversfestival.org/)


5. **Marshall County Blueberry Festival:** August 30-September 2 [http://www.blueberryfestival.org/](http://www.blueberryfestival.org/)  Note: This festival is in Plymouth, IN, about 70 miles west of Fort Wayne.

6. **Grabill County Fair:** September 5-7 [http://www.grabillcountryfair.com/](http://www.grabillcountryfair.com/)


A Vicarage Story

Vicarage is a very unique experience. If there is one thing that I have learned, it is that every vicarage is different. Every vicarage will have its own ups and downs. Before I share our family’s story, I wanted everyone to know that vicarage is a fantastic learning experience that can teach you a lot about yourself and your family.

On Placement Night, everyone will get a packet of information about the church they have been assigned. You can also Google the town and church to get a feel for where you’ll be living for a year as soon as you get home, because you’re pious enough keep your smartphone in your purse during the service. My husband and I were so excited about where we were placed. We thought the congregation was a great fit and the location was exactly what we were looking for.

In June, we were passing by our vicarage congregation while traveling to a family reunion. This allowed us to visit our congregation and check out where we were going to be living for the next year. Immediately, we loved the pastor and thought the church was beautiful. The pastor took us to our new home, which, unfortunately, was not ideal.

Even though the original information packet had specified a house, they had rented us a three bedroom, 900 sq. foot apartment. I was shocked! We are a family of five with two very active little boys. I cried like a baby after leaving the apartment. I wanted to be assigned to a new vicarage!

It took a lot of time for me to get over our living situation. I struggled with anger and sadness for weeks. When the time came for us to move in, I was astonished by the graciousness of our new congregation. We had about a dozen congregation members come to help us unload and set up beds. We were welcomed with supplies from a local food pantry and some “cold cash,” a bag with money and checks waiting in the freezer. Everywhere I looked there was some gift or token from someone. Our congregation even rented a storage unit for us to put the remainder of our things that couldn’t fit in the apartment. Things seemed to be falling into place.

Our congregation is small, but very welcoming and loving. I learned to love each and every one of them quickly. The hardest part about vicarage is finding a place to fit. Your husband has a place in the church, but you may need to work hard to fit.

Our church has the bare minimum of outreach or fellowship opportunities. The hardest part of the year has been the lack of fellowship. I have struggled with loneliness. There has been no one for me to talk to, no one for me to visit with, no one for me to hang out with. There aren’t any moms with small kids that want to have play dates. Your husband will be busy with his own duties which will decrease the time he may be able to spend with you and your family.

But remember, every vicarage is a bit different. Also, just because your husband is adjusting to many new responsibilities outside of a classroom, that doesn’t mean he doesn’t want to spend time with you and the kids. The Church Year is different than the School Year, but both have “finals” and “breaks.” Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter are definitely “finals.” Expect your husband to be very busy during these times. It’s important to recognize what kind of schedule he is expected to keep. Is he expected to keep office hours from x-y on certain days no matter what? Or does his supervisor prefer him to do all the work when there’s work until the work is done, but relax a bit when there’s less? Communication is very important between you two as you both adjust to the most unique year of seminary.

All in all this year has been fantastic for us. My husband has had the most amazing learning experience. The congregation has done much for our family. Everywhere we turned there was someone showing us their generosity. Even though this year has been rough on me emotionally, I would never change that. The only suggestion I would have is try to find something to do for yourself. Take some time to be alone and relax. If you find yourself struggling,
work until the work is done, but relax a bit when there’s less? Communication is very important between you two as you both adjust to the most unique year of seminary.

All in all this year has been fantastic for us. My husband has had the most amazing learning experience. The congregation has done much for our family. Everywhere we turned there was someone showing us their generosity. Even though this year has been rough on me emotionally, I would never change that. The only suggestion I would have is try to find something to do for yourself. Take some time to be alone and relax. If you find yourself struggling, seek refuge in the Lord and whoever else you need to get through. Also, make sure to let your husband know, gently. Remember, he’s probably struggling too.

In any case, you may have to remind yourself, “It’s only a year.” When struggling remember vicarage is only a year! When vicarage seems great, then it’s only one more year until seminary is over!
—Article wrote by Angela Resner

Things We Wished We’d Known before Vicarage

1. Getting to know people right away is important—try to find something you are interested in getting involved with at your church so you can start meeting members of the congregation.

2. Sometimes it is hard to make friends when people know you will be leaving in a year.

3. Accept help from church members that offer—it doesn’t have to be all the time, but it hurts their feelings if you constantly turn down offers to serve you. Nothing can make a person feel more appreciated than being able to help others.

4. People (mostly) love to hear your kids in church, even if you think they’re being too loud.

5. People don’t really understand what a vicar is most of the time—you’ll be explaining that a lot.

6. If at all possible, try to align your day off with your husband’s day off. His schedule will be packed the rest of the week with Bible studies, meetings, visits, and sermon preparation, so having consistent quality time together can help with stress.

7. Try to take trips or get away to places you have never been—make it an adventure!

8. Attending weddings, graduation and confirmation parties, and especially funerals means a lot to members.

9. Be honest but be nice about it.

10. Try to connect with the other pastors’ wives in the area. They understand the pressures of your husband’s job; they can usually give helpful advice and a sympathetic ear.

“Everywhere we turned there was someone showing us their generosity.”
11. Remember that moving to a new town is extremely stressful for most people and being on vicarage doesn’t make you immune from this stress. If you feel frustrated, if you feel out of place, or if you feel anxious, that’s okay. Find peace in that God is still with you during the difficulties and that His Word and Sacraments don’t change. Also know that things will get easier as the months progress.

12. In general, most people really want to love their vicar and his family. Allow them to share a part of your life with you for this short time.

—Article wrote by Mackenzie Ross and Katy Peperkorn

1. What do you wish someone would have told you before your family moved to seminary/vicarage?

“That the seminary has a awesome playscape.”
-Lucas, 4

“That we were going to really miss the people who we knew.” -Leah, 6

“It would be really fun if you stayed at seminary for a long time.” Conner, 7

“Wish I had known it would not be so bad living away from family. It’s more fun to go home & visit when you haven’t seen them in a while.” Colin, 8

“I wish someone would have told me where we were going!” Sam, 8

“With vicarage, that I would need to attend a new school and try to make new friends...again.” Aidan, 9

“That I would make lots of friends here.” Ethan, 10

“That we would be at Seminary for a LONG time and that you are going to be with your mom A LOT because Dad has tons of work to do.” Anna, 10

“Wish someone would have told me how easy it would be to make friends. I was really nervous about moving.” Mitchell, 10

”How much time I would be away from my dad.” Tyler, 12

”There are seven splash pads here” Caitlin 15; Ethan 10

”There are lots of fun festivals.” Caitlin, 15;

”I wish someone would have explained how much of an emotional toll it would take on me.” Summer, 17

”Indiana Tech offers discounted classes for high schoolers to get dual credit.” Summer, 17
2. What words of advice would you give other children first entering into the seminary/vicarage life (what was something you found helped you to adjust)?

“Invite friends over.” Lucas, 4

“Ask the new kids you meet if they want to play and be friends.” Leah, 6

“Try to get out and make friends.” Colin, 8

“Do not be afraid to tell your parents your feelings while going through it all. That over seminary mom and dads and their kids become your seminary family.” Aidan, 9

“There are a lot of kids here.” Lauren, 9

“You think that you are going to be at seminary for a long time, but it goes very fast.” Anna, 10

“Have fun by getting to know people.” Mitchell, 10

“You just adjust to your new space. It’s only a year after all.” Cedric, 11

“Get a GPS!” Tyler, 12

“Only unpack what you really need because you have to pack it all back up again.” Caitlin, 15

“CHAT is a group for homeschooled teens and a great place to get to know people from the area. Make as many friends as you possibly can, people are really nice here.” Summer, 17

3. What was the hardest part about moving away from what you called "home?"

“I missed my friends A LOT!” Leah, 6

“Seeing grandparents.” Lucas, 4; Aidan, 9

“When we left Fort Wayne for vicarage, the hardest part was making new friends.” Connor, 7

“Moving so far from friends.” (moved from NC to IN) Colin, 8

“Losing all of our friends. That’s always the hardest part.”

-Cedric, 11; Eliah, 9

Leaving our friends.” Ethan, 10

“I missed all of my friends from back home.” Anna, 10

“I didn’t know where anything was and couldn’t walk to the library or the park or anything anymore.” Tyler, 12

“Being far away from family.” Caitlin, 15

“Not feeling like we had a church home.”

-Summer, 17
4. Was there anything that surprised you?
   “I was surprised that daddy wanted to be a seminarian.”
   Leah, 6

   “I was surprised by how quickly I made new friends at my new school.”
   Connor, 7

   “That other families become family. Also, that my dad is really smart for going to seminary”
   Aidan, 9

   “The seminary was bigger than I thought.”
   Anna, 10

   "How many friends we would make here and how hard it would be to leave them.”
   Ethan, 10

   “Fort Wayne was much bigger than I thought.”
   Mary, 11

   "How many kids are at Seminary.”
   Caitlin, 15

   "I didn’t know about vicarage. We got here and they said, “We’re going to send you away, just so you can come back again.”
   Summer, 17

5. What would you say has been the BEST part about seminary/vicarage life?

   “And hear my daddy preach.”
   Lucas, 4

   "The Clothing Co-op!”
   Answer given by 5 of the Johnson kids

   "We get to have doughnuts after church.”
   Jacob, 6

   “I made lots of new friends.”
   Leah, 6

   “The best part was making new friends on Vicarage. The best part of seminary is having friends come to your house to play with you.”
   Connor, 7

   “Making new friends wherever we’ve moved.”
   Colin, 8

   “That I got to meet a lot of friends and see my daddy grow on Jesus!”
   Aidan, 9

   “All the play dates and wonderful friends we’ve made.”
   Cedric 11; Eliah 9

   “The clothing co-op.”
   Lauren, 9

   “Meeting all the people in Fort Wayne and then new people in TN.”
   Mitchell, 10

   “Getting to go to the Ice Cream social, fireworks and other parties.”
   Anna, 10

   “Gemutlicheit”
   Mary, 11

   "The events at the Seminary, like pizza parties." "The music at Chapel.”
   Caitlin, 15

   "There are lots of Lutheran homeschoolers in Fort Wayne.”
   Summer, 17

Thank you to the families who participated for our first edition of, “Out of the Mouths of Babes.”

From those surveyed, the majority of the children came from a family size of at least six and most of the children attended private school. I hope you enjoyed and were enlightened by their very honest answers given “in their own words” as much as I was! May God richly bless you and your families!

~ Tina Martin

http://www.openbible.info/topics/faith_of_a_child
Three years ago in August, my husband (Troy) and I drove our packed cars from Iowa to Indiana. It was a slew of new beginnings for us. We were newlyweds moving into our new apartment and I would start my new job just a few days after moving. Troy had already completed his first year at the seminary, but he was facing a new school year as a second year seminarian.

I had hoped that starting our life together would be a happy adventure but to be honest, all the newness was overwhelming. To be slammed with so many major life changes at once was exhausting. The first seven months after our wedding were some of the most difficult months of my life, not because our marriage was in trouble but because everything was new.

However, looking back at those first seven months, I very clearly realize that not everything was new and not all had changed. Hebrews 13:8 states, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Despite living in a new town with a new husband and working a new job, I could still cling to Christ as my Savior. Despite worshiping at a new church with people I didn’t know, God’s Word and Sacraments remained the same. God was there. God did not change. Even though my faith was imperfect and I often felt that God was so very far from me, His forgiveness remained constant because He promises, “I will never leave you nor forsake you,” (Hebrews 13:5b). Thankfully, life eventually did get a little easier and God worked good into what we thought to be an impossible situation. As a result of those tumultuous seven months, Troy and I were blessed to be able to move to a better house and I was blessed to find a better job. Your new beginning for this year probably will not be exactly like my first new beginning. Perhaps you will face the newness of seminary with excitement. Perhaps you have already gone through the first year and are waiting to meet the new first year wives and wives returning from vicarage. Perhaps you are moving to a new city for vicarage. You might be a returning for fourth year wife with new insights gained from your vicarage year and realizing that your husband is beginning his last new year at the seminary. Maybe you are newly married, maybe you have a new baby, or maybe you are a new student in the deaconess program. Whatever your new beginning may be, I pray that you will be comforted by the One who is the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:13), who will never leave you nor forsake you, and is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Peace in Christ,
Katy Peperkorn, co-editor