Plans for a New Addition to the Library Are Underway

At the opening service of this academic year, President Dean O. Wenthe announced the public phase of an eight million dollar renovation and expansion project for Walther Library. The project will provide ample study space for students in all degree programs, house several specialized instruction centers, and centralize more than 175,000 volumes. These book and periodical volumes form one of the richest theological collections in Indiana. Groundbreaking could come as early as this spring, with completion in late 2010.

Preparing for the Next ATS Visit

2010 also marks the seminary’s next comprehensive accreditation visit. Scheduled for February 1–3, a joint team of visitors will provide a peer review of all of the seminary’s programs, including those leading to the S.T.M., D.Min., and Ph.D. in Missiology graduate degrees. Concordia Theological Seminary is accredited by both the Association of Theological Schools and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central States.
Rev. Robert Bennett, Ph.D. Student and Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Benzonia, Michigan, is seen here conducting one of the more than one hundred interviews related to his dissertation topic that will study the Phenomenology of Conversion as it is found on the island of Madagascar.

The Lutheran Church of Madagascar is one of the fastest growing Lutheran churches in the world. It adds approximately twelve new congregations each month to its church body, which is approaching five million members. Pastor Bennett has spent a portion of the past two summers conducting his research into the lived experience of Malagasy Christians, many of whom describe their lives as complete darkness before the light of Christ has set them free.
Visiting Professors

Concordia Theological Seminary Graduate School has the honor of hosting Luther scholar James Nestingen for this Winter Quarter’s two-week S.T.M. intensive session (January 26–February 6, 2009). He will be teaching a course entitled “Topics in Law and Gospel.”

Dr. James Nestingen is now Professor Emeritus of Church History after teaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, for many years. He has written and spoken prolifically on Luther’s catechisms and confessional Lutheran theology. Some of his literary contributions include: *Martin Luther: His Life and His Teachings* (2004, 1982); *Manger in the Mountains* (2000); *The Faith We Hold* (1983); *Roots of Our Faith* (1978); and *Free to Be* (which he co-authored with Gerhard Forde, 1975).

In addition to Dr. James Nestingen, Dr. Victor Raj from India will be teaching a Ph.D. two week intensive course (DMS 949) on Area Study: Asia. Dr. Raj was born in India and is a member of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (1984-88). He is now Mission Professor of Exegetical Theology and Assistant Director of the Institute for Mission Studies at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. He studied at Kerala University, Trivandrum, and Gurukul College, Madras, India, and holds a doctorate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Before he went to teach at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, he served as pastor at Cochin and Trivandrum, India; as President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, India; and Professor and Chairman of the Division of Theology, Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin.

Introducing Doctor of Ministry Program Supervisor

Concordia Theological Seminary welcomes Dr. Daniel Gard as the supervisor of the Doctor of Ministry program. Dr. Gard is the successor to Dr. Harold Senkbeil.

Dr. Gard joined the faculty of CTS in 1989. He is a 1975 graduate of Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin (B.A.), a 1984 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (M.Div.), and a 1988 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana (M.A.). He holds the Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible/Judaica with minors in New Testament and Liturgics from the University of Notre Dame (1992). Presently he serves as Dean of Military Chaplaincy Programs. He also serves as a Chaplain in the U.S. Naval Reserves. From 1984 until 1989, he served as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Woodland, Indiana.
My name is John M. Mondi. I was born and raised in Kenya. I am married to Loice, and we have two sons, Samuel, who is two years old, and Josiah, who is six months old. Before coming to the United States for further theological training, I served as a minister in our denomination (Africa Inland Church Kenya—an affiliate of Africa Inland Mission) for six years.

My Christian experience came later in life through the prayers of my mother, who became the first Christian in my father's polygamous family. In my childhood, I tended my father's livestock. I was a herdsboy between ages six and thirteen. My mother became a Christian, and she began witnessing to us and praying for us every day. I came to know Christ when I was fifteen years old in a youth camp back in 1983. Later, God called me into full-time ministry as a pastor.

After my six years of pastoral ministry among the nomadic Pokot people, I realized that I needed more theological and missiological training in order to broaden my understanding of the skills that would be necessary to reach the nomadic communities of Northern Kenya. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to study at Concordia Theological Seminary in the Ph.D. program. I intend to teach when I return to Kenya after my studies. My passion is in the area of church planting and mission among the pastoral communities of Northern Kenya. I hope and pray that Northern Kenya tribes will be able to experience God's love through the saving grace of Christ.
Congratulations to the graduates who have successfully completed additional stages in their Graduate Studies program!

Ph.D. Dissertation Defenses:

- **Yared Halche**
  “A Socio-Cultural Analysis of Leadership Approaches in Ethiopian Immigrant Churches in the United States: Leadership Styles and Implications for Missions”—October 17, 2008

- **Josef Howard**
  “A Case Study of Challenges Non-Westerners Face in Establishing Multicultural Churches in the United States: Bethel World Outreach Ministries, USA”—October 17, 2008

Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal Hearings:

- **Michael Adoga**, October 22, 2008
- **Berhanu Arsse**, July 14, 2008
- **Berhanu Ofgaa**, July 8, 2008

Ph.D. Oral Comprehensive Examinations:

- **Elliot Sithole**, October 28, 2008
- **James Vermilya**, October 21, 2008
- **Aluu Williams Nnali**, October 20, 2008
- **Min Koo Park**, September 25, 2008
- **Solomon Yadessa**, September 5, 2008
- **James Tino**, July 9, 2008
- **Jong Pil Yoo**, April 11, 2008
- **Michael Adoga**, April 4, 2008

D.Min. Thesis Successfully Defended:

- **Jon Anderson**

S.T.M.:

- **Isaac Omaano-Gyampadu**, November 10, 2008
  Non-thesis, Missiology
D.Min. Winter Courses (Fort Wayne): January 26–February 6, 2009

PMMP 879 Christian Outreach: Organizing the Congregation Dr. Philip Bickel
MTWRF TBA

PMMP 874 Communicating Christ: Culture and Context Dr. Douglas Rutt
MTWRF TBA

PMMP 891 Advanced Pastoral Theology Prof. John Pless
MTWRF 1:00–4:10 p.m.

SYTS 890 Systematic Theology Today Dr. David Scaer
MTWRF 8:00–11:30 a.m.

D.Min. Winter Courses (Concordia St. Paul): January 26–February 6, 2009

PMMP 879 Christian Outreach: Organizing the Congregation Dr. Philip Bickel
MTWRF TBA

PMMP 874 Communicating Christ: Culture and Context Dr. Douglas Rutt
MTWRF TBA

PMMP 891 Advanced Pastoral Theology Prof. John Pless
MTWRF 1:00–4:10 p.m.

SYTS 890 Systematic Theology Today Dr. David Scaer
MTWRF 8:00–11:30 a.m.
### S.T.M. Winter Courses: December 1, 2008–February 27, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXTE 786*</td>
<td>Hebrews</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>1:00–4:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Wyneken 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT 520</td>
<td>Seminar: The Qur’an</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>8:00–8:55 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIT 520</td>
<td>Seminar: Historical Text</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>2:00–2:55 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HITH 537</td>
<td>Reading Scripture with the Fathers</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>3:00–3:55 p.m.</td>
<td>Loehe 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HITH 545</td>
<td>Modern Atheism</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>1:00–1:55 p.m.</td>
<td>Loehe 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>HITH 724</td>
<td>Theology of Thomas Aquinas</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>1:00–2:25 p.m.</td>
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<td>PMMP 535</td>
<td>Contemporary Views Pastoral Theology</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>8:00–8:55 a.m.</td>
<td>Loehe 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMMP 563</td>
<td>Marital and Family Pastoral Care</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.–12:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Loehe 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMMP 568</td>
<td>Ministry to the Sick and Dying</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>8:30–9:55 a.m.</td>
<td>Loehe 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMMP 791*</td>
<td>Topics in Law and Gospel</td>
<td>MTWF</td>
<td>8:00–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Wyneken 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYT 540</td>
<td>Seminar: Luther Text</td>
<td>MF</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.–12:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Wyneken 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYTS 712</td>
<td>Baptism and the Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.–12:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Wyneken 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYTS 790</td>
<td>Systematic Seminar</td>
<td>MF</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.–12:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Wyneken 4</td>
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</table>

*Intensive January 26–February 6, 2009*
Sola

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For additional copies of this newsletter, please contact the CTS Graduate Studies Office at: (260) 452-2203.

Any comments, questions, articles, or ideas can be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office by mail or by e-mail at: graduatestudies@ctsfw.edu.