The Face of CTS

Who is the average M.Div. student at Concordia Theological Seminary–Fort Wayne? Chances are he is from the Michigan, Indiana or Northern Illinois District, as these are the top three districts where our students hold membership. The average age of the CTS student is 27.4 years. More often than not he is married, but many are single or engaged. Some 66 percent of our students are pursuing the vocation of pastor as their first career. Most are lifelong members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), but even if he has only been a member of the LCMS for two years, he would still be in good company with others like him. He did quite well in his undergraduate education, earning a 3.32 G.P.A. His performance on the G.R.E. entrance exam is also well above average. Graduates from all ten colleges and universities within the Concordia University System are represented, but there is also a good chance he graduated from a public, state college or university.

The average student at CTS–Fort Wayne is an avid learner, with a gracious and compassionate spirit, zealous for the mission of God, and desirous that all would come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4; Ezekiel 18:23). He is moved by God’s unmerited love toward him for the sake of Christ and is eager to take the initiative in teaching the faithful, reaching the lost and caring for all.

The Synod and Her Need for Pastors: Is There a Shortage?

On the congregational level, there seems to be some uncertainty as to the Synod’s need for pastors. Is there a shortage of pastors or is there an abundance of pastors already serving, thus lending itself to a negative impact on placements for future seminary graduates? If we look at things with an eye to our future as a Synod, recent actuarial data from synodical headquarters indicates that “300-350 seminary graduates would be needed annually in order to replace the number of pastors who are leaving the clergy roster annually due to retirement, death or other personal reasons.” But recent classes of graduating seminarians have been smaller than years before: “Down from approximately 210
[graduating seminarians] in 2004-05, projections for 2010 are (were) approximately 180.” With the current enrollment for the first year class at CTS and Concordia Seminary—St. Louis being 48 and 64 respectively, that makes only 112 seminarians graduating four years from now—a significantly lower number than the 300-350 needed to replace those who leave the clergy roster annually.

What may drastically compound this problem is that the supply chain of potential pastors is diminishing greatly. Within the Concordia University System in 2009, only 245 students were classified as pre-seminary versus 426 in 2005. The number of high-school-aged students in the LCMS has fallen to an estimated 87,817 from 109,450 in 2003. Also to be considered is the population shift that is currently 54 percent Caucasian, but will fall to 46 percent in 2050. By 2050, Hispanics, African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska natives will account for 54 percent of the population, up from one third of the population today. As the LCMS does not represent many of these ethnic groups in large quantities, its base of workers must shift in order to meet the changing tide of the American makeup. Conclusions to be drawn from all of this suggest the Synod’s need for humble yet zealous men to enter the seminaries is as great as ever.

This is why the efforts of congregations and pastors are so essential. By identifying faithful and bright men who exhibit quality character and embody the mind of Christ, you can encourage them into a holy vocation. Recruiters for the seminary work hard to counsel and direct, but we build upon the foundation of encouragement and support which pastors and congregations already give to prospective students. Through this grassroots effort of building up future servant leaders, by God’s grace, we can prepare for the Church’s future. So please visit with confirmation, high school and college students, as well as second-career men, and invite them to take a look at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Rev. Andrew T. Yeager is an Admission Counselor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Rev. Yeager would be happy to answer any questions you have concerning the admission process. You may reach him at Andrew.Yeager@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2178.

---

CTS Admission Counselor Tours

The admission counselors of Concordia Theological Seminary will be traveling throughout the United States to meet with men who are considering the vocation of pastor and women who are considering the vocation of deaconess. Please check to see when there will be a counselor in your area and contact him if you would like to set up a visit.

Admission counselors will represent Concordia Theological Seminary at all Higher Things Conferences this summer:

- **Las Vegas, Nevada:** July 5–8, 2011 (Rev. Tim Puls)
- **Bloomington, Illinois:** July 12–15, 2011 (Rev. Tom Zimmerman)
- **Atlanta, Georgia:** July 19–22, 2011 (Rev. Andrew Yeager)

Please visit our website (www.ctsfw.edu) for more information regarding these upcoming on-campus events:

- **Prayerfully Consider Visit:** October 20–22, 2011
- **Christ Academy/Phoebe Academy College:** November 3–6, 2011
- **Good Shepherd Institute:** November 6–8, 2011

We rejoice with Rev. Steven Wagner as he has been called to serve Our Redeemer and Our Savior Lutheran Churches in Custer and Hill City, South Dakota. He will begin serving his call early summer 2011. Rev. Yeager and Rev. Zimmerman will cover his territory serving the Central U.S.

May God bless Rev. Wagner!
R elocating to a new community can bring many emotions. The thought of living in a new community can produce a special excitement. There are new attractions to see, new restaurants and eateries to experience, new libraries and museums to investigate, new teams to support, new trails to hike and bike and more. It can indeed be an exciting time as you begin dreaming about your new community.

Amid all of the excitement surrounding the new experiences awaiting you, there is the age-old issue of housing. If you are single, that is quickly resolved as you will be residing in the campus dormitories. If you are married, you will need to begin the search for suitable off-campus housing. Finding a home or rental that meets your expectations and needs may be a little worrisome at first. Fortunately, Concordia Theological Seminary is located in a wonderful town that offers many affordable options.

When looking for the right place, people often reduce their search to three words, “location, location, location.” As a seminary couple or family, location will certainly be an important factor in your selection of a home or apartment. Other considerations will be price, accessibility, security and amenities.

Fort Wayne is the second largest city in Indiana with a population of 220,000 people. Due to its size, it is large enough to offer many opportunities for housing, recreation, entertainment, shopping and medical care.

There are a variety of reasonably priced housing options located near the campus; everything from studio apartments to four bedroom homes. Some seminary couples and families prefer to rent, others have chosen to purchase a home/condo. Realtor.com states that the median asking price of a home in Fort Wayne is 55.5% less than the national average, while the median rental rates in Fort Wayne are 18.7% less than the national average.
blessed with a long and rich Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) history. Within its city limits, Fort Wayne has over 25 LCMS congregations, eight LCMS elementary schools and one LCMS high school. It is possible for your child/children to receive a Lutheran education at a school within a short distance of the campus. The Lutheran high school is about three miles from our campus. Other educational opportunities can be found at the 84 public schools and 15 post-secondary schools in the city of Fort Wayne, including the Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne campus with an enrollment of over 13,000 students. There is also a strong support system in Fort Wayne for families who desire to home school their children.

Since Fort Wayne is a mid-sized town, it is easily navigated. I-469 provides a beltway around the city for quick and easy access. There are no expressways running through the heart of downtown. This adds to the small Midwestern town atmosphere.

Downtown Fort Wayne has seen many new developments and renovations in the past decade. Some of the largest projects include the building of the main Allen County Public Library, the Grand Wayne Convention Center and Parkview Field for our minor league baseball team. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art was renovated and enlarged within the past two years. The downtown area is also the site of many summer festivals including Greek Fest, German Fest, Ribfest and the Three Rivers Festival.

Both Fort Wayne and Allen County have impressive park systems offering many programs and activities to residents. There are over 75 parks and play lots inside the city limits. Some have flower gardens, splash pads, swimming pools, etc. The Rivergreenway Project provides 23 miles of paved biking and hiking trails in Allen County, with more being developed. The Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo was ranked fifth best in the nation by Parents’ Magazine in 2009.

Fort Wayne is home to many minor league sports teams which makes attending sporting events affordable for students and their families. Our local teams include TinCaps baseball, Komets hockey and Mad Ants basketball.

Fort Wayne is a warm, caring and safe city. When outside agencies looked at the cost of living, crime index, education, employment, health and safety, transportation, weather, shopping, restaurants, attractions and sense of community, they gave Fort Wayne high marks in all of the areas. So much so, that Fort Wayne was awarded the title of “The 2009 All-America City.” If you haven’t already, please come and visit us and let us show you our wonderful campus and town.

Marsha Zimmerman serves as Relocation Coordinator at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. If you have questions for her, please contact her at Marsha.Zimmerman@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2155.