Word to the Wives

Confluence

Formed in Fort Wayne, Indiana, through the confluence of the St. Mary’s and St. Joseph Rivers, the Maumee River makes its way past farms and through small towns until it reaches the city of Toledo, Ohio and empties into Lake Erie. There it joins any number of streams, creeks and rivers on their journey through the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River and into the vast Atlantic Ocean.

There is great strength and force in water. We have witnessed how it carves its paths through the land, washing away soil and rock, changing the face of the landscape. The water of Christian Baptism powerfully washes away our sins, leaving behind a changed person, a new creation. So, just as there is great power and destruction from water, there is an even greater power and life in water. “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

Twenty-five years ago my husband and I traveled up the Maumee River Valley to the city of Fort Wayne as he began his seminary studies. There we gathered with men, women and their families from all over the United States and the world at the confluence of the Baptized that is Concordia Theological Seminary. Newlyweds, we joined into this Christian community in our differing roles as student and supportive wife. Although one was in the classroom and the other in the home and workplace, we each were being formed and equipped for the

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Thank you for your contributions
Amy Rast, Kristen Gregory, Kayla Welton, Marsha Zimmerman
writers
Annette Gard
Marsha Zimmerman
advisers

Click here to join SWA on Facebook

Our group’s name is Seminary Wives Association (SWA)
unique tasks that the Lord had prepared for us.

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:4-10)

You too have made that journey to the confluence of CTS. It is here that our Lord forms us into that force that will carry “living water” to His people. Our identities as daughter, sister, wife, mother, architect, teacher, nurse, musician do not disappear but converge to serve the Lord as we go about our daily lives, caring for God’s people and His creation in all that we do.

God gathers His people through the waters of Baptism. Like the St Joseph and St Mary’s rivers converge to form the Maumee river, our lives in Christ converge here at Fort Wayne, forming a community of the faithful that flows out into the world, sharing the Good News of Salvation and sharing God’s love and mercy with a hurting world. Concordia Theological Seminary is our confluence, this gathering and joining of God’s people, and formation into a river of faithful servants that will flow out into the world, through the farms, small towns and great cities, with the Gospel of Christ.

Welcome to you as join us in the journey of teaching the faithful, reaching the lost, and caring for all. ✡

—Amy Rast
Can you tell us a little bit of background about yourself? (e.g., where you grew up, what you studied, kids’ names/ages, basic personality type, if you don’t mind sharing)

I was baptized in the Roman Catholic church, didn’t really go to church until I was about 17 when I started going to an Evangelical Free church, became Baptist in college, then Reformed baptist, then Presbyterian, then Reformed Episcopal, then almost Catholic again…and then I met Peter. :-)  

I grew up in West Branch, IA, married Peter when I was 28 (we met at Hillsdale College but didn’t date until he was more certain of where he was heading in life). We got pregnant immediately on our honeymoon, had Vivian prematurely at 7 months, spent the second half of our first year on a hospital couch at her bedside, and then buried her a month after our first anniversary. It was the most painful experience a couple could live through (that I can imagine, anyway) and we often thank God that we are still married because of the severe depression that follows such a trauma. So, Vivian would be 3, Mary is 20 months, next baby, we miscarried on Mary’s first birthday, and we are due again.
in mid-January. Quite a ride for the first four years of marriage!

I am an extrovert (ENFJ on the Myers-Briggs scale) and Peter is a very social introvert. If I could have people over every day, I would, but he needs some time with just our family. So we compromise. It is my goal (which is hard when I can hardly move!) to have a pleasant, happy home for him to come to after a long day at work. Just last week he was at two deathbeds and did two funerals. He loves those occasions to bring the gospel to people in need, but he himself needs a bright place to come to.

How did you meet your husband? Did he have plans to become a pastor before you met? How did you adjust to the idea of becoming a pastor’s wife?

Peter was in the seminary before we started dating. I had never heard of Fort Wayne, to be honest. :-) My own understanding of the pastor’s wife is that there isn’t one. My job is to be Peter’s wife; I have no other calling. The call is purely his own. I love the work he does, and I love our church. Maybe it helps that I am an extrovert and want to be with people from church/help out at church, but I don’t have any expectations for myself more than I do from anyone else at St. Paul’s—if someone has complaints about me, I am unaware of them. :-)

Tell us about Peter’s vicarage. What did you learn from it?

We started dating as Peter drove to CA (Palo Alto) for his vicarage, so I wasn’t really a part of that. I lived in Cinci and we did 2 years of courting by phone mostly. It was then that I learned more about the LCMS and joined a congregation, since I knew we were headed toward marriage. The only thing I learned from his vicarage was that it is not good for man to be alone. Not good.

How long has Peter been at St. Paul’s? What approach did you take to getting involved there?

We love St. Paul’s. It has almost been three years since his call there. Like I said, I didn’t do anything different than I would have elsewhere. I don’t think it is fair to say that a pastor’s wife should not be involved or must be involved; this does not take into account her personality and gifts. Again, the call is his, not hers.

I am grateful for my church, not only because my husband is the pastor there, but because it is faithfully...
teaching God’s word and giving his good gifts. I’ve attended so many churches where “fun” is the theme and it was refreshing to find what it truly important in a church at times when we needed it most.

Do you have friends in the congregation or did you look for them elsewhere?

I have many friends there and even more outside the church. Of all ages. I have some great neighbors. I meet a lot of people through ICAN (our vaginal birth support group, which is needed in Fort Wayne since it is so hard to get a vaginal birth here after a c-section).

What are your current passions/interests?

I love reading, knitting, walking, girl time. Food is my love language.

In what ways do you find yourself setting an example for others?

Honestly, I don’t consider myself an example for anyone. Since Vivian’s death, I struggle as much as anybody to believe in God’s goodness. So, he has to answer my questions of doubt more than anyone else’s! Maybe one day I will be a pious woman; but I am just a loud bohemian who is forgiven daily and much.

What are your biggest frustrations as a pastor’s wife?

I know there are frustrations and challenges at church, but since they don’t relate to me, Peter doesn’t bring those concerns home. That is not my place to hear about those. In fact, he doesn’t tell me anything that isn’t in the newsletter or bulletin, so I am often the last to know!

What do you like best about being a pastor’s wife?

The best part about being married to Pastor Gregory is having constant access to my own questions of the faith. 😊

Maybe one day I will be a pious woman; but I am just a loud bohemian who is forgiven daily and much.
Growing up I always assumed I would live in the house right next to my parents in Wyoming, where I was raised. Imagine my surprise when my Barn-Building husband told me he wanted to “check out” Seminary. So here we are on vicarage loving every minute of it. Who knew I would be just fine 300, 500, and 1,000 miles away from “home”? God did. God has put you where He knows is best for you too.

Here are a few of my favorite Fort Wayne things; maybe you can enjoy them too!

As we left Fort Wayne for vicarage I was excited thinking about the year ahead, the big move, and coming back to Fort Wayne in a short year. It was not hard to be sad, though. Fort Wayne since the first visit has been such a treasure to us. We noticed a special welcoming attitude not only in the students and professors and staff of the seminary, but—even more amazing—in the city itself. Customer service was impeccable and everyone seemed friendly.

I specifically remember as my husband and I were meandering around campus Professor Pulse stopped in mid-stride to ask us how we were and to invite us to come to him with anything. What a magnificent and comforting gesture! The seminary of course also has a great group of ladies, SWA and they have a wonderful newsletter, the SWAN—hey you’ve heard of that! During my husband’s first year I was shy about joining in the SWA fun. I came up with too many excuses why I shouldn’t leave the house, make friends, and get support. It turns out these ladies are a pretty amazing group of Christ-centered support. It varies from year to year, but what remains the same is the home-away-from-home this group creates for transplanted seminary wives. A great treasure that I hope all wives check out are the
free SWA classes the dear professors teach on Tuesday evenings for seminary wives. Don’t forget to go out for half-price Applebees goodies afterwards! Not only are the classes very educational, it gives ladies a chance to meet and come to know the professors our husbands spend so much time with.

After moving to Fort Wayne we grew to love the Co-op for certain! God gives us all just what we need and it seemed as soon as I wrote something on my Wal-Mart list it was waiting for me at the Co-op. What a blessing!

The FWMoA is a pretty nice art museum. There are several different rooms and a great gift shop and even a studio for you, my fellow artists, to enjoy!

We went to the Fort Wayne Conservatory Botanical Gardens and were very impressed with it. They even have a learning area for kids. We asked an artsy friend to snap some shots of us there when they had their Candy Land exhibit up. Keep an eye on that place!

Check the SWA Facebook page often. This will keep you informed about activities on and off campus—and about people who offer cool services like ladies who want to take your picture! The Facebook page also is a resource for all of your house hunting, car repairing, and other needs.

I wasn’t expecting much out of the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo. Big mistake! It’s very thoughtfully laid out and has much to offer! If you can, buy the season pass—it’s a great place to go and pack a lunch. We had many play dates there and I’m sure we will our fourth year too. Speaking of play dates, there is a group that meets for park play dates too. The Play Date Facebook group announces where and when they’ll meet. These women are going through the same things you are and it doesn’t hurt your kids to meet others their age too! Don’t have kids? Go anyway.

We also loved the beautiful parks and the splash pad! Our son was a bit too young to enjoy this feature and we look forward to using it our fourth year as many of our friends have. We also plan to enjoy Science Central and the Ice Skating Rink when we get back to Fort Wayne. (Our son was too young for those last year too.)

I would recommend actively finding people and things to do with these people while you’re here. Enjoy the time and place that is before you. I pray that you can enjoy Fort Wayne Theological Seminary as much as my family has and that you also enjoy the extraordinary town of Fort Wayne.

May God Continue to Bless and Keep You, His Sheep. ☀

—Kayla Welton
Contentment

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to live with nothing, and I know what it is to live with everything. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4: 12–13

Often times we find ourselves in a situation where we just don’t know the answer. In a way, we are in the “in-between time.” We know the problem, we know God will solve it, but at the moment we are in between the two. For most of us, the “in-between” space is where it is the hardest to find contentment.

This “in-between” space is actually a wonderful gift from God, an opportunity to simplify, to take stock, to prioritize, and to practice contentment. It is a time to search the Scriptures, to broaden one’s prayer life, to seek support from fellow believers. Many times, we have been told that God answers prayer in one of three ways, “yes, no or wait.” Recently, I was in a Bible study where one lady shared that her pastor had always expressed it as God may answer in one of three ways, “At this moment the answer is yes, at this moment the answer is no, or I have bigger and better plans in store for you.” Whatever the answer, whatever the circumstance, God will care for you. It may not be in the way that you had it planned or in the time frame you had it planned, but He will provide. Until His answer is fully known, may we find joy, comfort and peace in His Word and in His promises.

—Marsha Zimmerman

Birth Announcements

Alexandria Julliette Richard
daughter of Andrew and Renae
born June 26
weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz.

Regina Abigail Mews
daughter of David and Maggie
born July 15

Elizabeth Evelyn Herzberg
daughter of Andy and Katie
born July 17

Lydia Rose Shupe
daughter of Bill and Alicia
born July 22nd at 8:10 PM
7 lbs. 12 oz., 20 in. long

Ian Andrew Miller
son of Mike and Becca
born July 26 at 1:33 AM
7 lbs. 11 oz., 19½ in. long

Lydia Rose Kleino
daughter of Jeremy and Katie
born August 31 at 7:19 PM
11 lbs. 4 oz., 21½ in. long

John David Manley
son of Marcus and Amy
born March 30 at 9:31 PM
4 lbs. 8 oz., 17½ in. long
baptized August 14

Henry Christopher Stout
son of Chris and Kelly
born September 9 at 11:00 AM
7 lbs., 11 oz.

Collin Jay McKinley
son of Jordan and Andrea
born September 21 at 5:10 AM
8 lbs. 10 oz., 20¾ in. long.
Campus Events

Walther movie
Tuesday, October 25
Sihler Hall at 7:00 pm.

Celebrate Dr. C.F.W. Walther’s 200th anniversary of birth by watching the movie: “Walther.” Refreshments will be served.

Seminary Playdate
Tuesdays, 1 p.m.
CTS Playscape, or Student Commons in inclement weather

Tuesday afternoons various seminary families meet at the commons on campus for fun and socialization. We would love to have you join us!

Gemütlichkeit
Fridays, 4:15-6:00 p.m.
CTS Student Commons

Spouses and supervised children are welcome.

Community Events

Fort Wayne Cloth Diapering Group Meetup
Saturday, October 22
10:00am–12:00pm
Location: 825 Barr Street, lower level

Diaper HQ consultant Kelsey Bullock will be joining us for

Upcoming SWA Events

Please see our Facebook page doc for up-to-date information on events.

Wives Class—Dr. Fickenscher: “What Goes Into a Sermon and How to Get the Most Out of Your Husband’s Fine Work.”
Oct. 18 7:00-9:00 p.m.
in Loehe 5
Dr. Fickenscher will share behind the scenes information on how your husband prepares his sermon. No fee

Wives Class—Dr. Fickenscher
Nov. 1 7:00-9:00 p.m.
in Loehe 5
No fee

Wives Class—Dr. Nordling: “Jesus in the Christ Hymn—Philippians 2:5–11”
Dec. 6 7:00-9:00 p.m.
in Loehe 5
No fee

Wives Class—Dr. Nordling
Dec. 13 7:00-9:00 p.m.
in Loehe 5
No fee

Vicarage/Placement Process Info Night
Nov. 8 7:00-9:00 p.m.
in Luther Hall

Advent Devotional Evening
Nov 29 7:00-9:00 p.m.

In Memoriam
Kaydence Jaymes Yahr
Karl and Andrea, you are in our prayers.
Meet Your SWA Board Members!

**President**
MacKenzie Ross
*Husband:* Brandon Ross  
*Class:* 2nd year  
*From:* Fort Collins, CO  
*Fun Facts:* I am a twin, one of my hobbies is weight lifting, and shopping is my favorite sport. I work at IPFW, and I love playing games and spending time with my husband, other family, and friends.

**Treasurer**
Laura Heide
*Husband:* Zelwyn Heide  
*Kids:* One on the way!  
*Class:* 2nd Year  
*From:* Robinson, ND  
*Fun Facts:* I enjoy sewing, even though I’m not very good at it yet, and my goal is to sew a bunch of stuff before my baby gets here in November.

**Vice President**
Amy Paul
*Husband:* Robert Paul  
*Class:* 4th year  
*From:* Poughkeepsie, NY  
*Fun Facts:* We just spent vicarage in Wyoming where I was a first and second grade teacher at a Classical Lutheran School. I cannot wait until we’re settled in a place so that I can teach again. Also, my husband and I would eventually like to possibly start a Classical Lutheran School together.

**Corresponding Secretary**
Katy Peperkorn
*Husband:* Troy Peperkorn  
*Class:* 2nd year  
*From:* Long Grove, IA  
*Fun Facts:* The book that means the most to me is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, but the books that I find the most entertaining are in the Thursday Next series by Jasper Fforde.

**Recording Secretary**
Amy Ingle
*Husband:* Chad Ingle  
*Class:* 3rd year (delayed vicarage)  
*Kids:* 3  
*From:* Greensboro NC.  
*Fun Facts:* I love watching classic movies with my husband, watching or playing sports with my kids, and enjoying a good book when there’s time.
Community Events (cont.)

our meetup! Kelsey will be bringing diapers sold by Diaper HQ and will also be able to help us out with cloth diapering information, questions, and advice. If you wish to purchase from her, you will be able place an order at the meeting.

Old Fort Fall Festival
Saturday, Oct 22 12:00p
Old Fort, Fort Wayne

Hear the cannons roar, listen to the soldiers as they complete their drills, talk with cooks who prepare food for those who live at the Old Fort.

Public Library Programs

Workshops (2 of many!):
Capturing Personal History & Memories
Monday, October 24, 2:00 pm
Meeting Room A

This presentation will discuss topics for personal history writing, resources for sparking memories, techniques for organizing, brainstorming and writing, and will include several audience participation writing exercises during the workshop.

Basics of Adobe Elements Workshop
Friday, October 28, 9:00 am
Computer Classroom

Learn the basics of Adobe Elements. Discover how to restore old photographs using techniques similar to those in Adobe Photoshop. Participants are encouraged to bring copies of their own family photographs on a flash drive for hands-on instruction in applying what they have learned to their own photos. Space is limited. Call 260-421-1225 or email Genealogy@ACPL.Info to register.

Storytime
Allen County Public Library
900 Library Plaza (downtown)
Children’s Services, Globe Room

Babies and Books (ages 0–2)
Fridays, 10 a.m.

Toddler Time (ages 1–3)
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Smart Start (ages 3–6)
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Movie Night at the Library
Spooky Buddies
Tuesday, October 25, 2011
6:30 PM
Main Library Theater
Free admission, No ticket required!

Limited seating. First-come, first-seated. Doors open at 6 PM. Everyone is invited, but we ask that children under 13 be accompanied by an adult.

Join Disney’s irresistible talking puppies as they work together to save the world from Warlock the Magician’s dastardly deeds.
Walt Disney: Directed by Robert Vince. Rated G; 88 minutes; 2011

Farmer’s Markets

Still open:
Clinton Street Market

Open now through October, customers can check out this market from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. on Fridays and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays.

East State Village Farmer’s Market

Located at the Tecumseh Library Plaza at 1411 E. State Blvd. Saturday afternoons through Oct. 23.

Main Street Farmer’s Market

Live music and art work along with produce and baked goods. Fridays from
Community Events (cont.)

Cook’s Orchard
Pick-your-own apples, pumpkins for sale in the shop or farmstand, we also have pie pumpkins, Honey from hives on the farm, porta-potties, school tours. 8724 Huguenard Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818. Phone: 260-489-3940. Open: Monday through Friday 10 am to 6 pm Saturday 9 am to 6 pm Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Payment: Cash, only.

DeGrandchamp’s Pumpkin Patch
7722 Aboite Ctr. Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46804. Phone: 219-436-4359. Hours: 9 am to dusk. Directions: one third mile west on Aboite off U.S. 24 (Jefferson Blvd.)

Hilger Family Farm
Pumpkins, pumpkins for sale in the shop or farmstand, pumpkin patch-pick in the field, kiddie (mini) corn maze, straw or hay bale maze, child-sized haybale maze, we also have pie pumpkins, school tours. You can use the play area whenever we are open. In addition, we have hayrides and animal rides, cider popcorn and caramel apples on Saturdays and Sundays. 5534 Butt Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818. Phone: 260-625-3467. Alternate Phone: 260-438-8621. Email: joseph_hilger@yahoo.com. We are open Monday & Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 and Wednesday through Sunday from 11:00 to 6:00. Directions: We are 6 miles west of Fort Wayne just off US 30 then North on Butt Road 1/4 mile. We use natural practices, but are not seeking organic certification. Payment: Cash, Check, Debit cards, Visa/MC.

Autumn in the County
Pumpkins for sale in the shop or farmstand, pumpkin patch-pick in the field, pumpkin patch- already gathered from the field, corn maze, kiddie (mini) corn maze, child-sized haybale maze, horse-drawn hay rides, tractor-pulled hay rides, concessions, porta-potties, picnic area, farm animals, school tours

Garrett Feed Mill 0955 CR 56, Garrett, IN 46738. Phone: 260-357-4778. Alternate Phone: 260-740-0006. Email: autumninthecountry@gmail.com. Open: October 1 pm to 30th Monday - Friday: Scheduled tours only; Saturday and Sundays open to general public from 12pm to 5pm. Directions: Intersection of State Road 205 and State Road 327. Head west 1 mile on State Road 205 to Country Road 7. Turn Right (north) go 1 mile to Country Road 56. Turn right, (east) 2nd place on left. Lemper Farms on big white building. Payment: Cash only. We welcome preschools, schools, churches, organizations & more. Call to schedule a group tour.

An Invitation from the Editor
If you would like your blog address included in the next SWAN, please email the editor or send a message on Facebook.

If you have announcements or other helpful information to share with the seminary wives community, please email Kristina or post to the SWA Facebook group.

Previous issues of the SWAN are available at www.ctsfw.edu/swa.