What does it mean to be a man? This is a big question for youth aspiring to become men, as it is for adult men. In our day, it has become necessary for Christian men to return to Holy Scriptures to answer this question. For most of her history, the Church has been able to rely upon the culture in which she is embedded to provide the framework for understanding masculinity and for training our boys to become men. From the Rome of the church’s beginnings, through the Middle Ages and the Reformation, Christians could often rely upon the culture to teach a Christian understanding of manhood. For much of our own nation’s history, American culture mostly adopted historical and Christian mores of manhood, marriage, sexuality and the family.

This is no longer the case. Our culture has become indifferent, scornful, even hostile toward biblical definitions and images of manhood. The evidence is overwhelming. The divorce rate is high, while the marriage rate drops. Cohabitation has become the cultural norm. Homosexuality is on the rise. Single motherhood continues to increase. Abortion rates are still high. Feminism continues to supplant male leadership in church and home, and men continue to abdicate that leadership. In short, men are in danger of becoming irrelevant in the home, in society and in the church. A consequence of this cultural shift is seen today in young men from Christian homes who are unable to take up the responsibilities and character required of men.

It is urgent, therefore, that the Church reclaim God’s gift of manhood, as it is given and taught in Holy Scriptures. Boys aiming toward manhood need formative instruction for their own aspirations and future vocations. Fathers who are
training boys to be men need guidance for this long and important labor. All men need the scriptural standard by which to measure their own vocations as men, to mark their sins and failures, as well as their successes. Maidens and other unmarried women need a description of manhood by which they can measure potential suitors. Ironically, women may have the most to gain in the recovery of true manhood, for they have a vested interest in the manhood of the many men in their lives (father, husband, son, neighbor, pastor, church elder, etc.). Above all, Christians in all vocations must receive and ponder deeply the forgiveness of sins and the help of the Gospel in their own lives.

Manhood begins with Christ and His forgiveness. Forgiveness permeates true manhood through and through. Our understanding of biblical manhood must hold fast to this central point, for the simple reason that manhood is now a fallen condition and all Christian men are failures according to the standards put forth in the Law of God. Sin and its corruption binds men, cripples them, stunts their growth, emasculates them, intimidates them and brings guilt and shame upon them. There can be no biblical manhood without the forgiveness of sin, with its corresponding removal of guilt and shame and slavery to sin, and the corresponding imputation of Christ’s righteousness and holiness to the man. All these blessings have been earned by the perfect manhood of Jesus Christ, the Second Adam, who fulfilled the will and law of God perfectly for us, and who fulfilled true manhood by dying on the cross for fallen man and rising again. With the gift of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, Christ also gives to redeemed man a new life, creating new desires and new words and new deeds in the life of the forgiven sinner. True manhood lives at the baptismal font, in the absolution, at the preacher’s feet and in the Sacrament of the Altar.

Together, fathers in the Church and fathers in the home have a divine obligation to train and form its men and boys for the vocations and mandates that God has given for manhood. This divine command is given anew in every age. King David, on his deathbed, expressed this mandate to his own son, King Solomon, “I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and be a man” (1 Kings 2:2). How many times has a father said to his adolescent or young adult son, “Be a man!” This command is given to each of us, but the fulfillment is supplied by Christ. Having been created as males, we sinners finally attain to true manhood only through Christ and His forgiveness.

Rev. John E. Hill serves as pastor at Mount Hope Lutheran Church and School, Casper, Wyoming.
When I attended the second-annual Christ Academy–High School at age 16, I had little more than a few words of encouragement from my pastor. No one in my family had chosen church work as a vocation; I had never even been to the Midwest. After my confirmation, my pastor said something like, “You have pastoral potential. Go and see if the seminary is a fit for you.” I imagine many of you reading this don’t have much more than that. Two weeks at the seminary might seem daunting, but you will be with many others in your situation and you will contemplate together. For me, it offered the clarity of direction I needed. I was going to be a pastor. For you, the experience might be different. We promise that if you join us, you will be given a clear and enduring impression of the Holy Ministry and the life of a seminary student. From personal experience, the two weeks are well worth it.

Rev. Andrew T. Yeager is an Admission Counselor and the Director for Christ Academy 2011.
Join us for Christ Academy:

Christ Academy is a two-week residential program for high-school aged men of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). It is a place where students come to study about Christ who is present in His Word and Sacraments, who died that our sins may be forgiven. While students experience the life of the seminary, Christ Academy offers these men the opportunity to explore the possibility of some day becoming a pastor.

Worship: The Center of the Experience

Students are immersed in the daily prayer life of the seminary. The four daily offices are prayed by professors and students alike.

“The worship is what makes me want to be here five years from now.”

“The chapel was beautiful, the liturgy full of life. I really enjoyed singing as a choir.”

“I have been reminded again and again how great a sinner I am, but how much greater a Savior that Christ is for me.”

Exploring the Holy Ministry

Through a uniquely Lutheran lens, Christ Academy explores the many facets of pastoral ministry and its application in the world.

“I would encourage teenage friends to come, especially if they are thinking about being pastors. Even if they aren’t, CA is a great way to learn more about Lutheran theology and the role of a pastor.”

“My life is changed because of Christ Academy. There is no doubt in my mind that I will attend this seminary.”

Life-Changing Studies

Christ Academy, like Concordia Theological Seminary, is centered on Christ crucified who dwells in His Church through the Means of Grace. Students of Christ Academy will study Exegetical, Systematic, Historical and Practical Theology. The classes are taught by professors from CTS and professors from our Concordia University System.

“The classes were fascinating and engaging. The professors made theology clear and the subjects taught were all interesting.”

Fun Activities

Lifelong friendships are made at Christ Academy. Through dorm life and activities such as trips to Cedar Point and TinCaps baseball games, flag football, capture the flag and more, students have time for fellowship with others who have similar goals and aspirations in life.

“I was most influenced by the presence of my confessional Missouri Synod Lutheran brothers.”

“I felt unified with my brothers in mind, spirit and song.”
Frequently Asked Questions

Where will I stay during Christ Academy?
You will stay in dormitory rooms on the seminary campus, two guys per room. Each room has two closets, two chairs and two beds. Bedding and towels will be provided.

Who attends Christ Academy?
LCMS high-school aged men who are interested in learning about theology and are open to the possibility of preparing for the Holy Ministry. Admission is competitive, based on seniority, ability to participate in the Academy for two full weeks and short admission essays.

What will I study at Christ Academy?
This year our professors will lecture on such topics as: Theology of the Cross, Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel, the Economy of Salvation, Ethics at the Beginning and End of Life and Catechetics. In addition, professors will host fireside chats which are an inviting discourse on a range of topics in a more informal setting.

Do I need books for Christ Academy?
Some books will be required. A list will be sent to you when you are accepted into the Academy. All of the books will be available in our bookstore upon arrival. One of the following translations of the Bible will be required: ESV, KJV, NKJV, RSV, NAS.

Will there be musical opportunities?
Students will sing in the Academy choir which serves at special worship services during the Academy. Students who play brass instruments may bring them to participate in worship services.

What about sports?
There will be opportunities for basketball, soccer and other sports depending upon the collective interest of the students. Academy-wide games take place in the evenings.

What role does worship play at Christ Academy?
A very central role! Daily word and prayer services such as Matins, Vespers and Compline as well as Holy Communion are offered each week. Students also help lead worship by participating in the Academy choir.

Might I arrive early or spend an extra night?
Yes.

How much will this cost?
$500 covers tuition, room, board and activity fees. In addition, spending money will be needed for books, some snacks and optional activities.

For more information about Christ Academy, please call us at:
1-800-481-2155

You can also find information at the seminary’s Web site:
www.ctsfw.edu/christacademy
or e-mail:
ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu

Top 10 Reasons to Come to Christ Academy:
1. Worship in Kramer Chapel
2. The professors’ knowledge and command of subject matter
3. Fellowship with peers
4. Capture the Flag
5. The food is great
6. Cedar Point
7. Ping pong, basketball and foosball in the Commons
8. Chanting
9. Learning the LSB
10. Evening activities and games
For nearly every high-schooler, summer is the most anticipated time of year. School isn’t on the horizon and there is plenty of time to hang out with friends, catch up on much-needed rest and generally relax. It is also the time for summer camps so you can meet new friends, learn valuable life lessons and have some more fun. Christ Academy—High School at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, can promise you those three things and so much more.

Christ Academy—High School is a program that was started over 10 years ago by Concordia Theological Seminary with the focus of showing young men what it means to grow into being a man of God who lives under the cross in the forgiveness of Christ. While we do want you to consider what the Office of the Holy Ministry is and what its work implies, we also stress the importance of learning how to grow as a man spiritually, mentally and physically. The upcoming Academy runs June 19-July 2, 2011.

When you attend Christ Academy—High School, you will notice these three concepts as you worship daily with the seminary community, study God’s Word and its applications in various classes and participate in activities and games, such as Capture the Flag, Ultimate Frisbee and other intramurals. We will also go to Cedar Point and a TinCaps baseball game. This is no ordinary summer camp. Nowhere else will you have such an opportunity for daily worship. Nowhere else will you receive such deep and comprehensive studying of the Bible and theology. Nowhere else will you meet and enjoy time with other youth who have the same beliefs and values, forming lifetime friendships with them.

For me and many past attendees, Christ Academy has been a life-changing event, eventually leading us to the seminary. If you are interested in learning more about the Office of Pastoral Ministry, there is no better place to do it. The seminary forms pastors, and you will experience the classes and professors that you can expect if you choose to attend seminary. Even if you think you may not be interested in becoming a pastor, I would still highly recommend Christ Academy to you. It is a wonderful place to grow spiritually, learn God’s Word and meet like-minded friends from all over the nation, and even some international students.

So why spend two weeks of your summer at Christ Academy? Sure, you’ll make friends, you’ll learn important stuff and you’ll have fun, but you can do that at many other summer camps. Here the study of God’s Word and the Cross of Christ enhance and bring a fresh meaning to everything we do. Worship, study and enjoy life as young men living under the cross, in the forgiveness of Christ!

I look forward to seeing you this year!

Joshua J. Woelmer is a first-year seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Student Director of Christ Academy—High School 2011.
For more information please call: 1-800-481-2155
www.ctsfw.edu
ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu

June 19–July 2, 2011

Please type or print in ink all information. The form must be completed in every detail. Answer “N/A” for all items that do not apply to you.

You may also download an application online at www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy

Personal Information

Name ________________________________________________________________
First ___________________ Middle ___________________ Last ___________________

Permanent Address _______________________________________________________
Street, Route, Box # __________________________ City __________________________ State _______ Zip__________________

Phone ( _____ ) _______ – __________ E-mail Address ____________________________

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Year of High School Graduation ________________

T-Shirt Size__________ Musical Experience _______________________________________

Do you play an instrument?______ If yes, what instrument(s)? ______________________________

Church Membership Information

Home Congregation _________________________________________________________

Church Address ____________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _______ Zip__________________

Church Phone ( _____ ) _______ – __________ Year of Baptism ________________

Year of Confirmation ________________ Years as LCMS Member ________________

Pastor’s Name ____________________ LCMS District _________________________

“I, (Pastor):________________________________________________, give my recommendation and
approval for (Student):________________________________________ to attend the Christ Academy at
Concordia Theological Seminary. He has shown interest in the Academy and in learning more about
theology and the Holy Ministry.”

Signed: Rev.________________________________________ Date _______/_______/_______

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions:
(Please mail with application.)

1. What does the Gospel mean to you?
2. How does the Holy Spirit work in your life?
3. Why do you seek to attend Christ Academy?

Please return this form to:

Christ Academy Registration
Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825-4996

What is Christ Academy:
A two week retreat at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Who is Christ Academy for:
High-school-aged young men of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod who are (or should be) considering becoming pastors. It is open to those who have completed their freshman year through those who have completed their senior year.

What does it cost:
$500 is all inclusive (housing, meals, Christ Academy polo shirt, admission to an amusement park and other events, etc.) Limited financial aid may be available at the recommendation of your pastor.

How do I get there:
Please arrange your own transportation to and from Christ Academy. We can offer suggestions for planning air or rail travel, airport shuttles, carpooling, directions and the like.
Paul says in the third chapter of 1 Timothy, “If anyone aspires to the office of overseer [pastor], he desires a noble task.” The work that God gives pastors to do is inestimable. Pastors are called to be vessels of God’s saving Word so that souls might hear it, believe and be saved. Doctors are given to care for the body; pastors are given to care for both body and soul. Pastors are shepherds who lead God’s flock, the Church, through this valley of sin and tears into the promised land of eternal life with Christ Jesus. All of this, if you think about it, makes for a most solemn, weighty, needed vocation. The goal of Christ Academy is to give young men the chance to consider the Holy Ministry and to consider if they should begin on the road of preparation that leads to it. Experience our beautiful campus, Kramer Chapel, our classes and our fellowship for two weeks and gain clarity of direction, theological insight and friendships that last a lifetime.

Rev. Andrew T. Yeager is an Admission Counselor and the Director for Christ Academy.

A Noble Task

By Rev. Andrew T. Yeager

Experience our beautiful campus, Kramer Chapel, our classes and our fellowship for two weeks and gain clarity of direction, theological insight and friendships that last a lifetime.