Communion of Saints

By Rev. John M. Dreyer

While serving in the parish and talking with fellow pastors, it became obvious that we are experiencing a growing breakdown of some of the most integral units of society, namely, marriage and family. We also see an American society that is driven by gratification more than values and beliefs. Since Americans are known for compartmentalizing their lives, frequently it is hard for them to apply Christian beliefs or values to every aspect of their day because their day is so segregated. To keep a distinction between Church and State, it is drilled into us not to confuse Christianity and the secular society.

We can look at the American culture as a mosaic, starting with one piece of the mosaic at a time. One piece represents our vocation, another our home life, another our time at school and another our social life.

In our culture, it is sometimes difficult to step back from the little pieces of the mosaic and see life as a big picture, to see everything in life from a Christian world view, seeing Christ in everything we do. To magnify the problems we see in today's society even more is the growing number of Christians who are no longer going to church, former Christians adopting other religious practices mixed in with their Christian beliefs and seeing a growing amount of cults and world religions that are making their way into the mainstream of American culture.

What a way to begin my article. It appears that, thus far, this article is a bit of a downer. However I say, au contraire, we live in exciting times. It is a time where I see many Lutherans, especially young Lutherans, thinking through why we believe the way we do and learning to appreciate the faith and confession of the Lutheran Church. I know of a number young people, who have atheist or unchurched parents, who search the internet to find a belief system. Many of them tell me that when they
read part of the Lutheran Confessions they thought, “Yes, this is what I believe because it is based upon the Holy Scriptures.”

These are exciting times as we Lutherans have the opportunity to proclaim the clear Gospel to a broken and sinful world that needs to hear and receive Christ through Word and Sacrament. But also, we who have been baptized know that we are not alone to deal with life’s struggles. God is with us in Christ. We have one another, united in Holy Baptism, in one faith and in one hope. (Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

Christianity is not about individualism, but that we are brought into a proper relationship with God and thus with one another in Christ Jesus in baptism, under the forgiveness of sins. (Acts 2:38) That is why the Ten Commandments, which are the summary of the Law, don’t just speak about ourselves but our proper relationship with God and thus with one another. This is why every meaning of the commandment in Luther’s catechism begins with “We should fear and love God…”

Sin is not merely a moral problem. It is the fact that we do not love God above all things; thus we do not have true love for one another. In sin we say we are the authors of life, we are the ones who give meaning to life and not God. In the temptation in Genesis 3, the devil says to Adam and Eve that you can be like God as she determines what is good, pleasurable and wise and not what God considers good and wise.

In the same way, the devil wishes to divide us and cause us to trust in ourselves. But God wishes to unite us in His Son Jesus Christ and have our faith in Him. This is what forgiveness in Christ is all about. It unites us together as blood brothers and sisters in Christ, for we all share the same blood that takes away the sins of the world.

Christianity is about community and family in view of a broken world and family (Ephesians 3:14-21). That is why we confess, “The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints.”

Christianity is about community and family in view of a broken world and family (Ephesians 3:14-21). That is why we confess, “The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints.” At Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, community is very important to us. This is why the chapel life is center in all that we do. It centers upon the gifts received through Word and Sacrament that shape how we view theological education and seminary life.

Rev. John M. Dreyer serves as an Admission Counselor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contact him at John.Dreyer@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-3139.

Rev. Andrew T. Yeager
Editor
Andrew.Yeager@ctsfw.edu

Jayne E. Sheafer
Assistant Editor
Jayne.Sheaf er@ctsfw.edu

Trudy E. Behning
Copy Editor
Colleen M. Bartzsch
Graphic Designer

Thy Kingdom Come is published by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the editor.

Copyright 2012.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list or know of someone who would be a good candidate for the Holy Ministry, please contact:

Rev. Thomas Zimmerman
Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 N. Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
(800) 481-2155

The Admission Staff at Concordia Theological Seminary is here to serve you and answer any questions you may have about becoming a pastor or deaconess. You may contact us via telephone, web, or e-mail at the following addresses:

Concordia Theological Seminary
(800) 481-2155
www.ctsfw.edu/Admission

Rev. John M. Dreyer
Admission Counselor
John.Dreyer@ctsfw.edu

Rev. Neil E. Ray
Admission Counselor
Neil.Ray@ctsfw.edu

Rev. Andrew T. Yeager
Admission Counselor
Andrew.Yeager@ctsfw.edu

Rev. Thomas P. Zimmerman
Director of Admission
Tom.Zimmerman@ctsfw.edu
On Becoming a Servant of Christ

By Rev. Andrew T. Yeager

I talk to high school guys all the time. Because of the work I do as a seminary recruiter, most of the guys I talk to have given some thought to becoming a pastor. These guys are often conflicted, “I am thinking of being a scuba-diving treasure-hunter, because that’s the work my family does, but I also want to be a pastor, because my pastor tells me I have the potential to be a good one.” To put it simply, these guys are conflicted with their own choices, their own prerogatives, “What should I do when I grow up??”

If I have any advice to give, I would guide these guys to think about things differently. For example, if you are reading this and thinking of becoming a pastor, your growth and maturation into a servant of Christ will not be your active doing. In other words, God will form you. You will not form you. Now you are thinking about choices, “Do I study Physics or Shakespeare? Do I go to school close to home or far away? Do I stay in the family business or do my own thing?” But being a good pastor isn’t about making the right choices. Being a good pastor, being a student of theology, is a matter of what God does with you.

Let me say it a different way. St. Paul once said that nothing is ours which we haven’t received and continue to receive (1 Corinthians 4:7). We don’t make our lives, we are given our lives. We believe this because we know we already have a Maker and Creator, namely, God. God has made us, in Christ God has redeemed us, by the Spirit God has sanctified us and brought us to faith in Jesus. Can you see your part in all of this? You are the one being done to. He is the Potter, you are the clay (Isaiah 64:8). The most important things about you, your life, your faith, your family, were all given to you. You did not choose any of these things.

So it is with being a pastor and being a student of theology. God crafts you into His servant and He does this in a couple of ways. First, God will enroll you in the school of life, into the university of hard knocks. As you become a student of His Word, you will be tempted by the devil. Beginning the process of meditation on God’s Word results in spiritual attacks, as satan will attempt to throw you off course, causing you to doubt God, attempting to lead you to unfaith. As you struggle with temptations, you will be driven by the Holy Spirit to pray and He will lead you to go back to His Word for comfort and rescue from the assaults of the devil. This movement from temptation to prayer to reading God’s Word is how self-sufficient people are made into beggars before God, realizing that the only help on earth comes from Him. This process is precisely how pastors are made.

So we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. As Dr. John Kleinig says, “The study of theology, then, is based on prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit turns would be masters of theology, spiritual self-promoters, into humble, life-long students of the Scriptures…in short, the Holy Spirit makes a theologian and this is a lifelong undertaking.” The Holy Spirit humbles us and shapes us into servants of Jesus Christ, into pastors.

One way to begin this journey is to participate in Christ Academy. You will be immersed in God’s Word. His Word will convict you of your sins; His Word will forgive you through the blood of Christ. You will take part in the formation process which happens at this seminary, whereby students of the Word are formed into servants of Jesus Christ. I hope to see you here this summer! *

Rev. Andrew T. Yeager serves as Admission Counselor and Director of Christ Academy at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contact him at Andrew.Yeager@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2178.

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 formed 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: Demonology; Satan’s Biography; Job: Faithful Man in the Midst of Suffering; The Theology of St. Paul for Today; Sin in the Lutheran Confessions; Luther’s Letters of Spiritual Counsel; and The Problem of Evil and A Christian Response. 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.

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 more information about Christ Academy, please call us at: 1-800-481-2155
You can also find information at the seminary’s website: www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy or e-mail: ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu
Pastor as Confessor

How Youth May Consider Pastoral Ministry

By Jared S. DeBlieck

Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of God is?” They responded, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:13-16

The task of a pastor is to confess Christ through preaching and giving the sacraments. He meets his people in worship to deliver these holy things. When they have fears or doubts he goes to them, cares for them and gives them peace through a Word of the Gospel. He confesses Christ, for this is all he can do.

Indeed, the Office of Holy Ministry is a noble task, full of challenges and joys. Pastors are responsible for baptizing, nourishing with the Holy Supper, for hearing confession and absolving sins, to be at the bed side of those dying and each week they are given to preach again the cross of Christ.

The foundation of who a pastor is began with the disciples as they were asked by Jesus, “Who do people say that the Son of God is?” The disciples told Jesus, “Some say [You are] John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” None of these descriptions describe Jesus adequately, neither do they satisfy the question of who He really is. Jesus then asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter responded, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

What Peter spoke then is just as true and bold today. As pastors proclaim the Gospel message, they are delivering a statement of faith, a confession. This world and our nation are continually becoming more pluralistic, the melting pot of yesterday is today’s salad bowl. Gone are the days where people are molded in union with the church; rather they stand together as individuals who contribute collectively what they each believe is truth. Perhaps the melting pot and the salad bowl metaphors describe the past and current culture accurately. They, however, do not responsibly describe the church, and thereby the work of a pastor. Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the living God is the blessed response. Like the people among the disciples, those among our pastors today simply do not know Jesus.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seeks to form pastors who will confess the truth of Jesus, as the crucified and risen Christ, to those who believe and all who do not know Jesus. Concordia Theological Seminary facilitates the formation of pastors to be bold confessors of who Jesus is among our congregations and all people. The seminary offers unique opportunities for those who want to be pastors. If you are a high school student who enjoys theology, we have a great program for you called Christ Academy that can help you explore that prayerful consideration!

Christ Academy is two weeks full of theological formation, pastoral exploration and tons of fun! When you come to our campus you will experience, first-hand, our world renown professors of theology, have Q&A sessions with current pastors, shadow local pastors to explore what it is they do on a daily basis and, lastly, with places like Cedar Point, cosmic bowling, TinCaps baseball and much more there is never a dull or boring moment.

At Christ Academy you can have fun while learning if the Office of Holy Ministry is something in which you could see yourself serving. Personally, I may have never considered going to seminary if my pastor and congregation hadn’t encouraged me to attend Christ Academy. From the time I arrived to its completion my experience was formative and fun. I learned from the professors, gained understanding about the truly noble task of pastoral service and formed friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. Now, six academies later, I continue to return to assist young men in their consideration of our unique program.

It is my goal to help you in any way I can. Please call or e-mail me with any questions. This year’s Christ Academy will be held June 17–30, and we’d like to see you there!

Jared S. DeBlieck is a second-year seminarian and Student Director of Christ Academy. Contact him at Jared.DeBlieck@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-3141.
For more information please call: **1-800-481-2155**

[www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy](http://www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy)

[ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu](mailto:ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu)

**June 17–30, 2012**

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](http://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 Should Attend Christ Academy?**

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.
Do you know there are lots of other guys like you? Many young men across the country are considering the Holy Ministry for their future vocation. Come to Christ Academy to worship, study and get to know others who have your same aspirations while finding direction for your future.

This year, our professors will lecture on:

- Demonology: Satan’s Biography—Rev. John Dreyer
- The Theology of St. Paul for Today—Dr. Peter Scaer
- Sin in the Lutheran Confessions—Dr. Naomichi Masaki
- Luther’s Letters of Spiritual Counsel—Prof. John Pless
- The Problem of Evil and A Christian Response—Rev. Andrew Yeager

We will also go to Cedar Point and a TinCaps Baseball game!

www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy