A student with a backpack is walking up a set of stone steps. In the background, there is a church building with a prominent green steeple. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE For the Life of the World

Summer 2022, Volume Twenty-Six, Number Two



## **How Are They to Learn without Someone Teaching?**

Charles A. Gieschen

## **Where Most Needed**

Michael E. Ritzman

## **Student Indebtedness**

Trena L. Merryman

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



This past year Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne successfully completed its first-ever comprehensive campaign. The funds raised in this campaign will enable the Lord's work at the Seminary in three chief ways: supporting vital day-to-day operations, providing 100% tuition coverage for our residential students, and maintaining and repairing the historic buildings of our campus, so they can continue to serve many generations to come. We have much to celebrate and much for which to be thankful.

We too often do not take adequate time to reflect on all that our Lord has given us. Eleven years ago, the CTSFW endowment stood at approximately \$20 million, our library expansion needed a boost to reach completion, and we had accumulated debt from the library project and campus repairs that had become necessary sooner than anticipated.

Today I am happy to announce that CTSFW:

- ✦ will have completely paid off all of its debts as of June 30, 2022,
- ✦ has more than tripled its endowment,
- ✦ has moved from a 50% tuition grant to a 100% tuition guarantee,
- ✦ has a completed library that serves our students here and around the world,
- ✦ and is in the process of developing a Campus Master Plan that will serve our students and church body through our Seminary's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and beyond.

One of the wonderful things about being associated with the Seminary and having the privilege to serve as president has been to invite people to support this ministry and invest in the future of their church. To see the way that people respond is simply a joy, because it shows us the impact, the real difference people are making by supporting not just an institution but, more importantly, the people of the institution—our faculty, our staff, and especially our students, who are preparing to serve as pastors, deaconesses, lay leaders, and missionaries in our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in our partner churches and missions throughout the world. This is a place that has impact here in time and through eternity.

Thank you. Thank you with all my heart.

In Christ,

Lawrence R. Rast Jr.  
President  
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

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### 10 Where Most Needed

**Michael E. Ritzman**

The general operations budget encompasses all the “unseen” work that occurs at CTSFW on a daily basis. We label donations for this purpose: “Where most needed.” Your resources, given in this way, allow us the flexibility to meet the known and unknown challenges of running this institution.

### 12 Student Indebtedness

**Trena L. Merryman**

When a student graduates from the Seminary and receives a first call or placement, it is essential to begin service to the church with the smallest amount of accumulated debt possible. At Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), we, by the grace of God and the generosity of His people, can provide full tuition coverage to each of the residential church work students to ensure that this is possible.

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## For the Life of the World

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

# How Are They without Some Funding Faculty



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There are five primary reasons for establishing an endowed faculty chair at CTSFW: 1) an endowed chair supports the annual cost of a professor's salary and benefits package, which frees up resources that are given annually for other use; 2) it gives visibility and recognition to important areas of study at the Seminary for both faculty and students; 3) it gives the Seminary more financial stability in times of fluctuation in Seminary support or student enrollment; 4) it gives recognition to deserving faculty; and 5) it can be a long-lasting tribute to the donor's love for Christ and the church.

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**T**he Apostle Paul's words in Romans 10:14 are often used for encouraging Christians to support pastoral student aid at their seminaries: "And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" One could paraphrase this question and apply it to the importance of funding Seminary faculty: "And how are they to *learn* without someone *teaching*?" Funding student aid often draws the attention of donors as a worthy cause. It is also important, however, to support financially the faithful and qualified faculty who are central to the formation process of faithful and qualified pastors and deaconesses.

One of the ways that CTSFW has worked with donors to assure the support of faculty for the future is through the establishment and funding of endowed chairs (see "Current Endowed Faculty Chairs" on page six). Over the recent comprehensive campaign, "Make Known

His Deeds!," donors generously funded two of the six endowed chairs that exist at CTSFW: the Dean O. Wenthe Chair in Old Testament Theology and the Wakefield-Kroemer Director's Chair in Library and Information Services. This means that approximately two million

# Why to Learn One Teaching? for the Future

Charles A. Gieschen



Photos: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

dollars were given for each of these chairs, to establish endowments that will support the funding of the professors appointed to these respective chairs for decades to come (see “Professors Currently Appointed to Endowed Chairs” on page six).

There are five primary reasons for establishing an endowed faculty chair at CTSFW. First, an endowed chair supports the annual cost of a professor’s salary and benefits package, which frees up resources that are given annually for other use. With so much of our Seminary income going to student tuition support, it can be a challenge to raise funds to cover the increased personnel costs for Seminary faculty. When an endowed chair provides the necessary income for a faculty member, the Seminary does not have to raise that income on an annual basis.

A second reason for establishing an

endowed faculty chair is that it gives visibility and recognition to important areas of study at the Seminary for both faculty and students. When a seminary has endowed chairs in New Testament, Old Testament, or the Lutheran Confessions, that shows that the study of the Bible, Lutheran Confessions, and the Reformation is important and valued there.

A third reason for endowed faculty chairs is that it gives the Seminary more financial stability in times of fluctuation in Seminary support or student enrollment. When changes happen in the global economy such as what happened in 2008 with the housing market, in 2020 with the pandemic, or currently with inflation, having a stable source of funding for faculty is a great blessing.

A fourth reason for an endowed chair is that it gives recognition to deserving faculty. The faculty

at CTSFW have the academic and scholarly credentials to teach at major universities at much higher salaries, but they have chosen to be dedicated servants of Christ at the Seminary. Such service is worthy of the respect and recognition of the church as well as adequate financial support and benefits.

The fifth reason for establishing an endowed chair is that it can be a long-lasting tribute to the donor’s love for Christ and the church. After that donor has been called to heaven, their name continues to be associated with the important work of Christ, forming pastors and deaconesses for future generations. If a donor or group of donors name a chair in honor of someone else such as a faculty member (e.g., the chairs at CTSFW named in honor of David P. Scaer, Robert D. Preus, and Dean O. Wenthe), then the importance of this individual is preserved for future generations.



Faculty are important for the future of forming faithful pastors and deaconesses, so the financial support of faculty is vital to the future of CTSFW. We praise God both for the faculty who have served and for the donors who have supported them in the past. We pray that the Lord will continue to move donors to support those who teach at CTSFW so that many may be formed to be servants in Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

Because there are only six endowed chairs at CTSFW, additional endowed chairs could be established in the future for any area of theological study or even for administration (e.g., the presidency of CTSFW). The four departments of theological studies where faculty teach are exegetical theology (Bible), systematic theology (doctrine), historical theology (church history), and pastoral ministry and missions. CTSFW presently has *two* chairs in systematic theology, *two* in historical theology, *one* in biblical theology, *one* in administration, and *none* in pastoral ministry and missions. CTSFW, therefore, is seeking support for future chairs in areas such as the Greek language and New Testament studies, the Hebrew language and Old Testament studies, missiology, and preaching. In the future, it will cost approximately \$2.5 million to fund an endowed chair fully so that the annual income from the endowment will cover all the salary and

benefits package of a faculty member in the future.

“And how are they to *learn* without someone *teaching*?” Faculty are important for the future of forming faithful pastors and deaconesses, so the financial support of faculty is vital to the future of CTSFW. We praise God both for the faculty who have served and for the donors who have supported them in the past. We pray that the Lord will continue to move donors to support those who teach at CTSFW so that many may be formed to be servants in Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. 📖

*The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Gieschen (Charles.Gieschen@ctsfw.edu) serves as the Professor of Exegetical Theology, the Academic Dean, and the Associate Editor of Concordia Theological Quarterly at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*



#### Current Endowed Faculty Chairs

- ✦ The Forrest E. and Frances H. Ellis Chair in German Reformation Studies
- ✦ The David P. Scaer Chair in Biblical and Systematic Theology
- ✦ The Robert D. Preus Chair in Systematic Theology and Confessional Lutheran Studies
- ✦ The Carl and Erna Weinrich Chair in New Testament and Early Church Studies
- ✦ The Wakefield-Kroemer Director’s Chair in Library and Information Services
- ✦ The Dean O. Wenthe Chair in Old Testament Theology

#### Professors Currently Appointed to Endowed Chairs

- ✦ Dr. Cameron A. MacKenzie is The Forrest E. and Frances H. Ellis Professor of German Reformation Studies
- ✦ Dr. David P. Scaer is The David P. Scaer Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology
- ✦ Dr. Roland F. Ziegler is The Robert D. Preus Professor of Systematic Theology and Confessional Lutheran Studies
- ✦ Dr. James G. Bushur is The Carl and Erna Weinrich Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Church Studies
- ✦ Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer is The Wakefield-Kroemer Director of Library and Information Services
- ✦ Dr. Jeffrey H. Pulse is The Dean O. Wenthe Professor of Old Testament Theology

To Our Generous Donors,

# We Thank You!



**Daniel Harrington, pastor-elect**

**B**efore coming to CTSFW, I found myself midway through a promising career in chemical research at a Fortune 100 company. At that time, God provided for our family of five solely through that income, and so my wife Melissa was able to stay at home and homeschool our three little ones. The decision to quit that job, move our family 210 miles away, and pursue four more years of education to become a pastor was a big one. But knowing that we would be taking on little or no additional debt while doing so made the decision that much easier to make.

As a second-career Seminary family, we were blessed to have modest retirement savings and a small pension to help pay our rent and miscellaneous expenses, and the tuition grant (coupled with other scholarships and awards) would cover the academic expense of Seminary. This support extended to my wife, who decided to pursue deaconess studies concurrent with my MDiv. While her tuition was not covered at 100%, the significant coverage that was offered was a tremendous blessing and has allowed our family to remain

solvent throughout our stay at CTSFW.

We were fortunate to have little debt when we arrived here, but this is often not the case for other students attending Seminary, especially those coming directly from an undergraduate university where they may have already amassed six figures of student loan indebtedness. This is a potential barrier that faces current and future pastors and deaconesses, and one that we would do well as a church to address.

To the donors who have helped make the CTSFW tuition grant a reality,

our family offers its deepest gratitude and thanksgiving. Your support has allowed us to follow the call to serve in God's harvest field, as a pastor and a deaconess, and we find ourselves in a good financial position coming out of Seminary, one that will allow us to focus on God's work and not worry daily about how to deal with a tremendous load of debt. We thank God for you, for your faithful stewardship of the gifts that you have been given, and we pray that He would bless you richly for your generous spirit. 🙏

For Your Gifts and Prayers,

# We Thank You!



**Joshua and Michaela Dub, Master of Divinity and Deaconess students**

Thanks to the tuition guarantee, both of us have been able to focus on our schooling and are able to work less outside of school. We have more time to study, but also more time as a family and with our friends which has been a huge benefit while at the Seminary. In addition to tuition being covered, the Food and Clothing Co-op here has greatly benefited us in keeping our living expenses down, to graduate with the least debt possible; and many of our classmates are graduating debt-free. Keeping debt down in Seminary will pay dividends in the future as pastors enter into the field and can worry less about paying their bills.

Perhaps the largest obstacle remaining financially is housing, particularly for the married students. The Seminary is able to help a little when it comes to finding a place to live, but as is the case in many places, housing costs have risen significantly. Praise God for the wonderful donors to our Seminary who continue to support the work done here. They have contributed so much to our

education costs—including housing—so that we need not worry about the food in our bellies or the roof over our heads. To those donors, thank you. Your gifts and prayers are appreciated by everyone here at the Seminary.

Now, why did we choose CTSFW? To keep it short, the chapel life. Worship is a fact of daily life here, and we are blessed with a wonderful faculty

and local pastors who deliver the goods week in and week out. Kramer Chapel is the heartbeat of the Seminary, for it is the very reason we are here: to teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. The professors and staff are excellent. They are experts in their field. Yet it is the Word of God proclaimed daily that prepares us to be pastors and deaconesses in the Lord's church. [▲](#)

For Your Generous Support,

# We Thank You!



**Peter Preus, Master of Divinity student**

**U**ndergrad put me and my wife into a lot of debt. I'm not the only one! I thought it would have been irresponsible for me to come straight to CTSFW after college. I thought that working debt off for a year was the only way to take care of my young family. I thought that I would have to take out loans while at seminary like every young pastor I know has had to do. That's just what happens at the seminary, right? So, I thought, "Why rush into financial ruin so quickly?" I took a year off. Perhaps I made the right decision to work for a year after college. I don't know. God knows. But my reason for taking the year off was wrong. The fear of taking on more debt here at the seminary was absolutely misplaced. One hundred percent tuition coverage at CTSFW is exactly what it sounds like. It is 100%!

To our donors: I cannot thank you enough! Seeing such generosity of LCMS members across the country is immensely humbling and encouraging. God has provided for me—revealing the silliness of my fears—through you. You support me, even though you don't know me. But surely you know your pastor and you are thankful for him

and you love him. You're convinced that the church truly does need pastors. You know how important it is that God sends laborers into His harvest, and you gladly heed the call to support God's work. You have been given much, and so you have also given so much. What a beautiful picture of Christian behavior! On behalf of my family and myself:

thank you all so much! Your generosity has truly changed our lives and we thank God for you.

Again, thank you to the donors, CTSFW, and everyone who has labored to cover the cost of my tuition and the tuition of all of my seminarian brothers at CTSFW. God be praised for your love and generosity! 🙏

# Where Mo The Unsung Hero of the C Gener



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The general operations budget encompasses all the “unseen” work that occurs at CTSFW on a daily basis. We label donations for this purpose: “Where most needed.” Your resources, given in this way, allow us the flexibility to meet the known and unknown challenges of running this institution.

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**G**eneral Operations (called “General Ops” for short) never planned an invasion or led a battalion through enemy territory. Indeed, General Ops was not a real person at all, but instead, he was an expense category in a financial statement. His mission was to ensure the ongoing operations of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), to train future church workers in the Lutheran faith. His job was to allocate resources to where they were most needed.

General Ops had been through many campaigns in his 176 years at CTSFW. Each year brought a new batch of recruits who were eager to perform work for the kingdom, and each year brought financial costs to maintain the functioning of the Seminary.

The General, seated in his office, was awaiting a series of meetings from his officers, who were the budget categories that supported the Seminary. The first to arrive was Sergeant Major Student Aid, whose job it was to ensure the students had their tuition funded.

“Sergeant Major,” General Ops intoned ominously, “I trust we are still at 100% tuition levels?”

Student Aid could not help cracking a smile, despite the General’s serious tone. The Seminary had been offering 100 percent tuition assistance for many years. “Yes, sir. Once again, the donors have generously supplied our need in this vital area.”

“And we thank God for every one of them,” the General replied. “But there are many more areas where help is needed in order to run a facility such as Concordia Theological Seminary. In fact, here comes another report now.” General Ops saluted as the next officer arrived.

“Colonel Compensation reporting for duty, sir. It is my pleasure to report that we have funded all the professors and support staff.”

Though inwardly pleased, the General maintained his composure. “By support staff you mean the administrative office staff, the maintenance and grounds crew, the communications and information technology departments, the shipping and receiving clerks?”

The Colonel continued as if he were finishing the same sentence “...and food services, admission officers, relocation specialists, administrative assistants, housekeeping staff...”

# st Needed omprehensive Campaign: al Ops

Michael E. Ritzman

General Ops waved his hand to cut off the speaker. “Thank you, Colonel, you made your point. Keep up the good work.” At this time, the General allowed himself to display emotion. He thought, as he grinned, “What a blessing that so many people devote their services to this organization. I only wish our donors knew how many faithful people were working to support this mission, and how vital their donations are to keep things going.”

A shout cut off his thoughts. Another officer had arrived in a panic.

“We’re under attack, sir! Malware!! Hackers are attempting to access our database.” Lieutenant Information Technology was breathing hard, his eyes were wide, and he stood tensely, like he was about to pounce.

General Ops met his gaze and replied coolly, “Do not panic, Lieutenant IT. Deploy your firewalls and make sure the software is up-to-date. Oh, and have our employees watch more training videos.”

“It will be my pleasure, sir” Lieutenant IT replied, and instantly disappeared in a flash of pixels and light.

One after another the officers came, some giving spending reports, others asking for assistance. There were many needs, and General Ops had to make tough decision as to where he would allocate resources.

As the final officer left, General Operations turned to look at the plaque

on the wall behind him. Written on the plaque was his personal mission statement, the phrase that guided him, that gave him the direction he lived by. It said, “Give where it is most needed”

General Operations stood alone in his office. “Where most needed,” he said aloud to the empty air. He knew there would be another report, another urgent need, another request for assistance. He was not worried, however. He trusted the Lord would supply his every need, as He had always done before.

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Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne has world-class theologians, many of whom you may know by name, teaching the Lutheran faith to future church workers. However, they cannot do their job alone. At CTSFW there is a team of people working behind the scenes who are vital to the Seminary’s mission.

The general operations budget encompasses all the “unseen” work that occurs at CTSFW on a daily basis. We label donations for this purpose: “**Where most needed.**” Your resources, given in this way, allow us the flexibility to meet the known and unknown challenges of running this institution.

There are many ways you can support Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne: student tuition, general operations, the Food & Clothing Co-op . . . the list goes on and on. Whatever

way you choose to support us, know that we greatly appreciate your gifts and will put them to the best and highest use. Pray that God gives us the wisdom and strength to continue the work of forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

Thank you, and God bless you in Jesus Christ. 🙏

*Michael E. Ritzman  
(Michael.Ritzman@ctsfw.edu)  
serves as the Assistant Vice  
President of Advancement at  
Concordia Theological  
Seminary, Fort Wayne.*



# Student Indeb



When a student graduates from the Seminary and receives a first call or placement, it is essential to begin service to the church with the smallest amount of accumulated debt possible. At Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), we, by the grace of God and the generosity of His people, can provide full tuition coverage to each of the residential church work students to ensure that this is possible. The tuition grant covers the cost of all tuition charges required for a student's degree program, leaving the student to only pay for living expenses, books/supplies, and health insurance. One of the focuses of CTSFW's first comprehensive campaign was student aid and how to sustain the full tuition grant program.

---

While preparing our students to serve His church, we also offer financial literacy seminars several times a year. These seminars are open to all students and required for any student who has opted into the full tuition grant program. Twice a year, students must attend a seminar based on where they are in their program. Optional one-on-one sessions allow the students to speak with a financial wellness educator from Concordia Plan Services for a focused look at their finances.

---

While preparing our students to serve His church, we also offer financial literacy seminars several times a year. These seminars are open to all students and required for any student who has opted into the full tuition grant program. Twice a year, students must attend a seminar based on where they are in their program. Optional one-on-one sessions allow the students to speak with a financial wellness educator from Concordia Plan Services for a focused look at their finances. The educator also works with students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, allowing our Synod to provide financial planning resources that will benefit our church workers for many years to come.

Seminars that start in the students' first year focus on responsible use of federal student loans, ensuring that each student understands their finances. They are encouraged to create a budget that will help them accurately anticipate

what financial challenges may be on the horizon. During the second year of training, students attend a "Vicariate/ Internship Finances" seminar that teaches them about financial expectations during this critical year in their formation. Finally, during the final year of training, students must attend a "First Call Finances" seminar where the educator talks about services offered to rostered church workers and goes over call documents with them. The information about housing allowances, retirement benefits, pensions, and death benefits is invaluable. All students who have student loan debt are also required to attend a "Student Loan Repayment" seminar to gain information that will allow them to be knowledgeable about repayment options.

The following is a snapshot of the changes that have occurred thanks to the tuition grant offered by our Seminary:

# tedness

Trena L. Merryman

Grant Percentages Over the Years		Average Overall Debt for MDiv and AR Borrowers
2011–2012	50%	\$53,576
2012–2013	50%	\$59,069
2013–2014	50%	\$55,846
2014–2015	55%	\$59,424
2015–2016	55%	\$58,853
2016–2017	60%	\$61,255
2017–2018	70%	\$51,338
2018–2019	100%	\$54,005
2019–2020	100%	\$41,065
2020–2021	100%	\$46,625

Though a tuition grant has been a staple in assisting students with their costs for many years, the percentage of tuition coverage has fluctuated. Since the 2002–2003 year, the grant has varied from as low as 50% to the full tuition coverage offered as of 2018–2019. The increase has produced a marked decrease in the percentage of students who need to request student loans and decreases the amount of debt the students incur. Having little or no student loan debt when graduating from the Seminary allows these new pastors and church workers to focus on the work that they have been called to do.

After CTSFW’s first comprehensive campaign, we are taking stock of how this financial education and the full tuition grant program have impacted our students. During the 2015–2016 academic year, 78% of our master of divinity and alternate route students graduated with a

significant debt load. The debt averaged around \$58,853 from both their graduate and undergraduate studies. This level of debt may not—as my predecessor, the Rev. Mark Sheafer pointed out in this publication in June of 2014—“... be much for certain professions, such as doctors and lawyers.” It can, however, be an overwhelming amount of debt for a new church worker. Student loan debts of this amount could lead graduates into long-term repayment plans that would see them paying off their student debt for decades or even defaulting on their loans.

By comparison, the 2020–2021 academic year saw the number of students with student loans decrease to 56%, and their average debt load was around \$46,625. This means that each of these pastors and church workers will be starting in the ministries He has called them to with an average of \$12,000 less debt. The reduction in the number

of students needing to borrow for their education—and the average debt load they carry—means that the average student debt for all CTSFW master of divinity and alternative route students has decreased from \$46,012 to \$26,055 during this same period.

Another clear benefit of the CTSFW full tuition coverage program is the reduction in the percentage of our graduates who leave the Seminary owing more than \$50,000 in student loans. To put things into perspective, this number was as high as 57% in the 2011–2012 academic year and has recently been as low as 16%. Our loan default rate for our student borrowers has dropped from slightly more than 3% in 2017 to half that number today.

As one of our comprehensive campaign projects, the support of the student aid fund has done much to ensure that we will be able to continue to offer full tuition coverage. The help of the synodical districts, home congregations, and outside scholarship partnerships contribute to our Seminary’s ability to provide this fantastic benefit to our students. The generous contributions make it that much easier for our students to go out into the world to further our mission and “Make Known His Deeds!”

*Mrs. Trena L. Merryman  
(Trena.Merryman@ctsfw.edu)  
serves as the Director of  
Financial Aid at Concordia  
Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*



# Make Known His Deeds!

Brian T. Stark



Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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For those who desire the noble task, this life of sacrifice begins not with ordination, but with the decision to come to the Seminary. It is worth noting that when St. Peter exclaimed, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you” (Matt. 19:27a), he was still a seminarian! Those who would become pastors are always men of great courage and faith, for they too leave everything and follow our Lord to the Seminary to serve His people in the office of the holy ministry.

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In 1 Timothy 3:1 St. Paul writes, “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.” This noble task is the foundation of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) and the reason it exists. From its inception, our Seminary’s mission has been to form servants of Jesus Christ to teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

It will come as no surprise then that the primary task of our admission counselors is pastoral in nature. In so many words, we are pastoring future pastors throughout the discernment process, encouraging and guiding them along the way as they navigate the road towards service in Christ’s church. In 2016, CTSFW launched the “Make

Known His Deeds!” campaign to remove as many obstacles along that road as possible. The goal of the campaign was to raise enough funds to cover the cost of tuition for all residential students, and God’s people answered the call with unparalleled generosity!

It is always interesting to hear the stories of prospective students who are

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If you are aspiring to the noble task of pastoral ministry, there has never been a better time to pursue it at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne! We invite you to contact our Office of Admission to begin the conversation about answering the Spirit's call.

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considering coming to the Seminary. Some are in the final phases of their undergraduate studies and plan to come after graduating from college. Others are married with children and well-established careers. But in every case, like many threads combining to form a rich tapestry, the Holy Spirit has worked throughout their lives in a variety of ways and through many people to lead them to consider pastoral ministry. There are common examples: a beloved pastor asking if they have ever considered Seminary, an elderly couple at church telling them they would make an excellent pastor, godly parents who brought them up in the faith, an encouraging spouse, an innate interest in theology.

What is often overlooked, however, is precisely what St. Paul identifies in 1 Timothy 3. The man who would serve in the pastoral office *aspires to* and *desires* it. In other words, the aspiration and desire to become a pastor are themselves evidence of the Spirit's call—perhaps the most important evidence of all. On the surface, this seems counterintuitive. Pastors are supposed to be humble servants who set aside their own desires for the sake of others. But in this case desire is a holy thing, for the thing desired is a life of service to, and sacrifice for, the sheep of the Shepherd.

For those who desire the noble task, this life of sacrifice begins not with ordination, but with the decision to come to the Seminary. It is worth noting that when St. Peter exclaimed, “Behold, we have left everything and followed you” (Matt. 19:27a)—he was still a seminarian! Those who would become pastors are always men of great courage and faith, for they too leave everything and follow our Lord to the Seminary to serve His people in the office of the holy ministry. That sacrifice has always been a significant part of the formation that takes place.

So the task is noble, but the decision to pursue can be a daunting one that

presents many challenges. Practically speaking, the prospective student may find more *cons* than *pros* on his list as he considers coming to the Seminary. For some it means leaving a well-established career and the loss of a lucrative income, selling a house, uprooting wife and children from familiar surroundings to those unknown, and leaving good friends and church families behind. Those completing their undergraduate degrees face the prospect of three additional years in the classroom and one year on vicarage before earning a salary to begin paying off their student loans. If this is the case, we might wonder why any man would choose to come at all! But come they do, for however many *cons* there may be, there is one *pro* that overrules them all: attaining the office by which he may preach Jesus Christ crucified for the sins of the world. For those whom the Spirit calls, nothing less will do.

Still, the obstacles men face in coming to the Seminary are very real. Chief among them is the fact that Seminary education, like all higher education, is expensive. Pursuing a degree means tuition, room and board, health insurance, books, and a host of other miscellaneous expenses. Prospective students wonder how they can possibly afford it all, especially now that they are no longer earning a full-time salary. Another complicating factor is student debt. Consider the man who intends to come to the Seminary upon completing his undergraduate degree. In 2021, the average college graduate entered the workforce with over \$30,000 in student loans. If he is married, that number may double. In either case, he enters the Seminary already with tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt. If loans for three years of residential Seminary education are then added, that newly ordained pastor could possibly enter the ministry with student loan debt exceeding \$100k.

The church needs Seminary-formed

and educated pastors, now more than ever before. When we ask a man to consider becoming a pastor, we oftentimes forget that we are asking him to “leave everything and follow You.” We often forget the cost of Seminary education and its impact on seminarians and their families. Yes, coming to the Seminary will always mean sacrifice. However, as the people of God, it is incumbent upon the church to ease the financial burden of those who aspire to the office, that they may tend to the noble task, free from the worry of excessive student debt.

The “Make Known His Deeds!” campaign exceeded its goal of \$75 million, and tuition for our residential students is now completely covered through the gifts of our generous donors. How generous, you ask? The total cost of tuition for the four-year Master of Divinity program is roughly \$100k. Our students no longer bear this burden; our donors bear it for them. The importance of 100% tuition coverage for future ministry cannot be overstated. For many students, it has made Seminary education possible. By removing one of the major obstacles men face when considering pastoral ministry, our tuition coverage is also paying dividends for Seminary recruitment. Prospective students who once thought Seminary education was out of reach are now embarking on the journey to teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

If you are aspiring to the noble task of pastoral ministry, there has never been a better time to pursue it at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne! We invite you to contact our Office of Admission to begin the conversation about answering the Spirit's call. 

*The Rev. Brian T. Stark  
([Brian.Stark@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Brian.Stark@ctsfw.edu))  
serves as an admission  
counselor at Concordia  
Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*



# Seminary Announces Spring Placements

**Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, announces its Spring 2022 deaconess internships, vicarage assignments, deaconess placements, and calls to the pastoral ministry.**

## **DEACONESS INTERNSHIPS**

**April 26, 2022**

CAMILLE L. COX  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Indianapolis, IN  
Indiana District

MICHAELA A. DUB  
Ephphatha Lutheran Mission  
Society  
Dearborn, MI  
Michigan District

SARAH R. FEDERWITZ  
Perry Lutheran Homes  
Perry, IA  
Iowa District West

MAY ITZCOVITCH  
Grace Lutheran Church and School  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Florida–Georgia District

GRACE C. RANDOLPH  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
Keller, TX  
Texas District

## **VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS**

**April 26, 2022**

JONATHAN M. ANDERSON  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Norman, OK  
Oklahoma District

JEFFERSON M. ARNOLD  
St. John Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Columbia City, IN  
Indiana District

SHAWN T. BARNETT  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Decatur, IN  
Indiana District

MATTHEW G. CARLSON  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
Danville, CA  
English District

THOMAS J. CHAMBERLAIN  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Martinsville, IN  
Indiana District

AARON B. COGGINS  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Wheaton, IL  
Northern Illinois District

PATRICK M. COX II  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Hampton, IA  
Iowa East District

JORDAN L. DEBOER  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Green Bay, WI  
North Wisconsin District

ROBERT M. DOUGHTY III  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Capistrano Beach, CA  
Pacific Southwest District

AARON J. FERGUSON  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Raleigh, NC  
Southeastern District

JOSEPH R. GOODROAD.  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Cedar Falls, IA  
Iowa East District

JESSE R. GREENHAGEN  
Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries  
Philadelphia, PA  
English District

JOSEPH R. GREENMYER  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Mitchell, SD  
South Dakota District

KEVIN D. HEMPE  
Shepherd of the City Lutheran  
Church  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Indiana District

ALEX J. KALDAHL  
Our Hope Lutheran Church &  
School  
Huntertown, IN  
Indiana District

JOHN L. KASTNER  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Topeka, KS  
Kansas District

NOAH R. KERSTEIN  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Lincoln, NE  
Nebraska District

THOMPSON MARIN  
Lutheran Life Villages  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Indiana District

JAMES S. MARTIN  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Moline, IL  
Central Illinois District

DAVID H. MATTHEWS JR.  
Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
Reese, MI  
Michigan District

KEVIN P. MCGLADDERY  
Concordia Lutheran High School  
Fort Wayne, IN

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
New Haven, IN  
Indiana District

DAKOTA S. MONDAY.  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Tullahoma, TN  
Mid-South District

LUKE H. OTTEN  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
St. Cloud, MN  
Minnesota North District

ADDISON V. POPE  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Highland, IN  
Indiana District

PETER D. PREUS  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Muncie, IN  
Indiana District

SOLOMONA J. RAKOTONIRINA  
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Longmont, CO  
Rocky Mountain District

PATRICK W. RANDOLPH  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
Keller, TX  
Texas District

JARED E. RUDOLPH.  
First Lutheran Church  
Lake Elsinore, CA  
Pacific Southwest District

ERIK D. SAUNDERS  
Christ the King Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
Billings, MT  
Montana District

JOHN H. SCHOBERT II  
Pella Lutheran Church  
Waupun, WI  
South Wisconsin District

DAVID M. SCHOTTE  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Columbus, OH  
Ohio District

JACKSON R. SCOFIELD  
St. James Lutheran Church  
& School  
Howard Lake, MN  
Minnesota South District

LUKE M. SHIRLEY  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Gresham, OR  
Northwest District

MICHAEL A. SKARDA  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Union Grove, WI  
South Wisconsin District

SAMUEL S. SMITH  
University Lutheran Chapel  
Minneapolis, MN  
Minnesota South District

RICHARD SOVITZKY IV  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
Houston, TX  
Texas District

ZACHARY A. STAEHR  
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church  
Detroit, MI  
Michigan District

GABRIEL M. STRAWN  
Catalina Lutheran Church  
Tucson, AZ  
English District

BRANDON M. SULLIVAN  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Imperial, NE  
Nebraska District

CHRISTOPHER W. WARNEKE  
Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
Winfield, KS  
Kansas District

DAVID L. WENNDT  
First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Pittsburgh, PA  
English District

JOHN LUKE WEST  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Cheyenne, WY  
Wyoming District

SCOTT A. WOODHOUSE  
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Churubusco, IN  
Indiana District

DI ANGELO R. WRAGG  
Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
Milwaukee, WI  
South Wisconsin District

KALEB J. YAEGER  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Hamilton, OH  
Ohio District

KOH M. YAMAMOTO  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Hamel, IL  
Southern Illinois District

## **PASTORAL CALLS**

**April 27, 2022**

MIGUEL R. BARCELOS  
First Lutheran Church  
Boston, MA  
New England District

EMMETT A. BARTENS  
Bethany Lutheran Church & School  
Naperville, IL  
Northern Illinois District

JOHN C. BASELEY  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Sidney, MT

St. John Lutheran Church  
Fairview, MT  
Montana District

ADAM P. BAUMANN  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
Garrison, IA

Zion Lutheran Church  
Shellsburg, IA  
Iowa East District

TIMOTHY D. BENZINGER  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
Evansville, IN  
Indiana District

JOSHUA J. BRANDMAHL  
Saint Bartholomew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
Brillion, WI  
South Wisconsin District

DANE G. BREITUNG  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Chinook, MT

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Havre, MT  
Montana District

MATTHEW J. CHRISTIAN  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Murphysboro, IL  
Southern Illinois District

BRENNICK T. CHRISTIANSEN  
Peace Lutheran Church & Academy  
Sussex, WI  
South Wisconsin District

MARK K. DE YOUNG  
St. Peter Lutheran Church  
Bowie, TX  
Texas District

JOHN M. DOLDE  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
Iowa East District

CHRISTOPHER D. DURHAM  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Lisbon, ND  
North Dakota District

MATTHEW D. GOEHRING  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Norton, KS  
Kansas District

DANIEL L. GRAY  
Martin Luther Chapel  
Pennsauken, NJ  
English District

DANIEL R. HARRINGTON  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Indiana District

BRENDAN G. HARRIS  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Fall Creek, WI

St. John Lutheran Church  
Fall Creek, WI  
North Wisconsin District

SILAS M. HASSELBROOK  
Oklahoma Avenue Lutheran Church  
Milwaukee, WI

Trinity Lutheran Church  
West Allis, WI  
South Wisconsin District

KEITH A. KETTNER  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Beardstown, IL  
Central Illinois District

NATHANIEL W. KONKEL  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Finlayson, MN

St. Pauls Lutheran Church  
Bruno, MN  
Minnesota North District

CHASE K. LEFORT  
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Oak Ridge, TN  
Mid-South District

ANTHONY B. MANDILE IV  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
New Hartford, CT  
New England District

MICHAEL A. MAPUS II  
Concordia Lutheran Church  
Toledo, OH  
Ohio District

AUSTIN D. MEIER  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Two Rivers, WI  
South Wisconsin District

JOSEF L. MUENCH  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Twin Valley, MN  
Minnesota North District

KYLE S. MULLINS  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
(of Glen Savage)  
Fairhope, PA  
Eastern District

KYLE P. NELSON  
First Lutheran Church  
Chickasha, OK  
Oklahoma District

CHARLES NEMEC  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Lubbock, TX  
Texas District

JORDAN R. PEISER  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Maywood, NJ

The Apple of His Eye Mission  
Society  
Georgetown, TX  
New Jersey District

MARK J. PETERS  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Woodburn, IN  
Indiana District

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church  
Antwerp, OH  
Ohio District

AARON ANDREW SCHULTZ  
Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Zionsville, IN  
English District

ERIC D. SOUER  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Barnesville, MN  
Minnesota North District

TIMOTHY D. STEELE II  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Bakersfield, CA  
California–Nevada–Hawaii District

ETHAN E. STOPPENHAGEN.  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
Germantown, MD  
Southeastern District

CHRISTOPHER M. WALTERS  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Bouton, IA

Zion Lutheran Church  
Ogden, IA  
Iowa West District

AARON NORMAN WENDORFF  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Osceola, IA

Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
Leon, IA  
Iowa West District

NICHOLAS K. WHITNEY  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Amherst, NE  
Nebraska District

NATHAN C. WIDENER  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Indiana District

WILLIAM JOHN WINTER  
Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Greencastle, IN  
Indiana District

JASON BARRETT ZOSKE  
St. Paul's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Indiana District

## **DEACONESS PLACEMENTS**

**May 19, 2022**

MARISSA KROENKE (NÉE MANOR)  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Florida–Georgia District

JENNIFER SIUKOLA  
Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Zionsville, IN  
English District

ASHLEY ANN WENNDT  
(NÉE ROEHRBORN)  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Port Edwards, WI  
North Wisconsin District

# Seminary Celebrates Close of Academic Year



The 176th academic year at Concordia Theological Seminary came to a close on May 20, 2022, with students, families, honored guests, alumni, faculty, and staff on hand to celebrate.

The Baccalaureate Service began the day with the Rev. Joel R. Baseley of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dearborn, Michigan, serving as preacher. The Commencement Ceremony, with the Rev. Juhana M. Pohjola, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, serving as speaker, brought the distribution of academic degrees and the presentation of several honors:

## Alumnus of the Year

*This award established by the CTSFW Board of Regents honors a graduate who has distinguished himself by faithfully shepherding the people of God with excellence in preaching, teaching the faithful, and reaching the lost while also strengthening his alma mater by recruiting, publicizing, and supporting the Seminary's mission.*

### Rev. Lawrence A. Lieder, CTSFW class of 1987, Tomball, Texas

Lawrence Alan Lieder was born in Houston in 1949 to Lawrence and

Mildred Lieder. In 1968, he enrolled at Concordia Junior College in Austin, then completed his BA degree in psychology in 1972 at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne. After starting Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, he returned to Houston to assist his father's business. In 1983, he returned to Seminary at CTSFW, graduating with his MDiv degree in 1987. His primary mentor was Professor George Kraus, who steered Lawrence into deaf ministry classes.

He served as pastor of St. John Deaf Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne until 1998, while also teaching sign language classes at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne and the deaf ministry courses at CTSFW. From 1998 to 2018, he pastored Holy Three-in-One Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Houston, where he still serves in retirement. God has blessed him and his wife of 51 years, Elaine, with three children—Michael, Heather, and Amber—and 15 grandchildren.

## Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa Rev. Juhana Pohjola Helsinki, Finland

Juhana Pohjola is the Bishop and the Diocesan Dean of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF). From 2000 to 2010, he was the head pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and a visiting scholar at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (Ontario) from 2011 to 2012. He holds an MTh degree from the University of Helsinki (UH, '97), an STM from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne ('98), and a ThD from the UH ('14).

Pohjola was arrested, interrogated, and found guilty of hate speech for defending Christian teaching on sexuality, sparking international concern over religious freedom in Finland.

He is supported by the International Lutheran Council who arranged for a lecture tour in November in the USA.

## Miles Christi Award

*The Miles Christi Award has been created by the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary in order to recognize and honor Lutheran laymen*



**Opposite upper left to right:**  
*Deaconess and MDiv students  
 process for Baccalaureate. The Rev.  
 Joel Basely with President Rast*

**Opposite, lower left to right:**  
*President Rast with Michael Lieder.  
 The Rev Juhana Pohjola shares the  
 commencement speech. Miles Christi  
 recipients Bob and Nadine Mann.  
 Miles Christi recipients Herbert and  
 Alvina Manz. Miles Christi recipients  
 Jon and Judy Schumacher with  
 President Rast.*

**Left:** *Graduates Austin Meier,  
 Brennick Christiansen, Kyle Mullins,  
 Nate Konkel, and Silas Hasselbrook  
 with President Rast*

*or laywomen who have glorified God through a contribution in some field of human endeavor and who have displayed the characteristics of good soldiers of Christ (2 Timothy 2:3). This year three couples were recognized for their Christian service.*

**Mr. Robert and Nadine Mann  
 Carsonville, Michigan**

The lives of Bob and Nadine, married in 1957, are defined by self-sacrificing love. Bob became a computer systems operator with General Motors (GM) in 1959 while Nadine was still attending Michigan State. He joined Chrysler in 1960, later worked for ITT Electronic Data Systems in 1968, and then, again, with GM and Chevrolet in 1970. Over his nearly 40-year career, Bob learned eight computer programming languages, co-developing a huge software project, engineering workstations to supercomputers. He worked extensively during the 1980s and 1990s when most computers were moving from mainframes to personal computers.

They are beloved members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lexington, Michigan, where Nadine is an avid

quilter, and Bob has been an elder, editor, and publisher of the monthly newsletter, and chair of the endowment committee.

**Miles Christi Award  
 Dr. Herbert and Alvina Manz  
 Simi Valley, California**

Having survived the turbulence of World War II-era Germany and Russia respectively, Dr. Herbert and Mrs. Alvina Manz were married on June 3, 1961, and have three children. Herbert was a neuropathologist at Georgetown University in Washington DC, and has written 80 peer-reviewed journal articles and 15 book chapters. Alvina worked in a biochemistry laboratory, then was a full-time mother, regular choir member, and a manager of special church meals. Together they still enjoy family, gardening, and serving in a number of ways, including visiting shut-ins and the hospitalized.

**Miles Christi Award  
 Mr. Jack and Judy Schumacher  
 Brookwood, Wisconsin**

Mr. Jon R. and Mrs. Judy A. (Weiherman) Schumacher are members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Jon currently serves on the Building Committee to develop the Campus Master Plan. Judy is the president of their congregational LWML. Jon currently serves on the boards of Concordia University Wisconsin/Ann Arbor, Concordia Wisconsin Foundation, Penfield Children's Center, and the Penfield Children's Center Foundation. In addition to her LWML work, Judy champions multiple volunteer efforts, homebound visits, meals to homebound members, and support for foster families.

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President Lawrence R. Rast Jr. officially closed the 176th academic year in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit before "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was sung as graduates filed out of the chapel and effectively into the world.

September 6 will mark the opening of the 177th academic year. 🏡

# The Third Commencement of **STM in Gothenburg**

**Naomichi Masaki**



**W**e would like to thank you for your continual prayer and support for our fully accredited international Master of Sacred Theology (STM) extension site operated jointly with the Lutheran School of Theology in Gothenburg, Sweden (FFG).

After COVID postponed our third annual commencement last year, we were able to hold it this year on March 6. We celebrated three graduates: the Rev. Otto Granlund of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF); the Rev. Vesa Pöyhtäri, a leader of the Lästadian Prayerhouse Union in Finland (LPU), and the Rev. Gints Graudins of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (ELCL). This program in Gothenburg, Sweden, has now completed its eighth year of operation, serving students and pastors from 14 countries from Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Israel.

Dr. Rune Imberg was this year's commencement speaker. Dr. Imberg has taught and lectured at CTSFW on several occasions. He is a retired rector of FFG and one of the founders of this joint extension program. He offered historical reflections and encouraging words from the Scripture. I had the privilege of bringing several greetings from CTSFW.

This year's graduates are already fulfilling our three main goals of: 1) providing opportunities for advanced theological studies in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, 2) preparing theological teachers and leaders, and 3) helping facilitate collaborations among participating students and their home church bodies. For example, the Rev. Granlund, who comes from Bishop Juhana Pohjola's church body, said, "From a Finnish standpoint, this program was a must. We do not have studies of this kind." The Rev. Graudins of ELCL echoed this, saying, "The STM-Gothenburg program is the only available confessional Lutheran education on an advanced level." In addition to his parish ministry at St. John's in Riga, Latvia, Gints has started to teach dogmatics and New Testament courses at Luther Academy, the ELCL's seminary in Riga. The Rev. Pöyhtäri sent another student from his group to the program. He is making an effort to support new students

**Photos above, left to right:**

*Dr. Naomichi Masaki teaching a class at FFG. Dr. Masaki with the recent graduates Rev. Otto Granlund (ELMDF), Rev. Gints Graudins (ELCL), and Rev. Vesa Pöyhtäri (LPU).*

from Russia financially. An invitation for the FFG faculty to teach at Vesa's church body is "a byproduct of our program," says Dr. Daniel Johansson, academic dean of FFG.

The Lord is adding new students steadily. As Director of the STM program, I am deeply thankful for this wonderful teamwork of CTSFW and FFG in serving the Lord's church together. I ask you to continue to remember this humble program in your prayers. And, if it is possible, please consider supporting us by getting in touch with the Bo Gietz Fund through the CTSFW Advancement Office. 🏠

*Naomichi Masaki (Naomichi.Masaki@ctsfw.edu) serves as the Director of PhD in Theological Studies and the Director of STM at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*



# CTSFW Advancement Team Here to Partner with You



The Rev. Mark DeLassus



Michael Ritzman



Tom Clark



The Rev. Paul Hopkins



Veronica Krogen



Martin Lewis



Linda Muller



Gary Nahrwold



The Rev. Tim Puls



The Rev. David Witt



The Rev. Larry Wright

The “Make Known His Deeds!” campaign would not have been such a resounding success without the partnership of our donors and the tireless efforts of our advancement team. Undoubtedly, each of our officers could make more working somewhere else, but they are committed to the mission of CTSFW and have chosen this life of sacrificial service for the sake of Christ’s church.

The end of the campaign brought with it a series of retirements from our Advancement team: the Rev. Jon Scicluna, the Rev. Mark Steiner, Dcs. Joyce Ostermann, Mrs. JoAnne Farmer, and Mrs. Annette Quill. Thank you for your faithful service! Joining our team this year are several new officers and staff. Welcome the Rev. David Witt, Mr. Martin Lewis, Mr. Michael Ritzman, Mr. Tom Clark, and Mrs. Veronica Krogen! We would be remiss if we didn’t also extend our heartiest thanks to those continuing in service: the Rev. Mark DeLassus, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Puls, the Rev. Paul Hopkins, the Rev. Larry Wright, Mr. Gary Nahrwold, and Mrs. Linda Muller. Thank you.

You can learn more about our Advancement officers at [ctsfw.edu/AdvancementStaff](http://ctsfw.edu/AdvancementStaff). They come from a variety of backgrounds including business, finance, law, and law enforcement. Some are pastors who served parishes of their own. Others are laity who have served their churches as missionaries and faithful leaders. Invite them to your congregation to share what is happening at and through CTSFW. Whether you have a simple question or would like help with estate planning, they would love to talk with you about ways you can partner with the Seminary to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. 

## Good Shepherd Institute Annual Conference: November 6–8, 2022



**The Steadfast Love of the Lord  
Endures Forever; His Faithfulness  
to All Generations**

Ever since the church observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 1517, other such anniversaries have begun to present themselves. This year, for example, marks the 500th anniversary of Luther’s translation of the New Testament into German. In 2023 we’ll celebrate the 500th anniversary of Luther’s first liturgical reforms, and in 2024 we’ll remember the publication of the first Lutheran hymnal.

Remembering the past is beneficial not only in its own right but also because it is helpful in informing the decisions we make in the present. At this year’s conference of the Good Shepherd Institute we will take note of several anniversaries:

- ✧ The 175th anniversary of the LCMS’s first hymnal (presented by Jon Vieker)
- ✧ The 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council (Thomas Winger)
- ✧ The 40th anniversary of the publication of *Lutheran Worship* (William Cwirla)

In addition, Harold Senkbeil, one of the founders and executive director emeritus of DOXOLOGY, will share from his vast experience on the care of souls. Through these plenary presentations, along with a variety of sectional topics, the institute continues to carry on its mission of addressing matters of worship, church music, and pastoral theology. For more information and to register, visit [ctsfw.edu/GSI](http://ctsfw.edu/GSI) or call (260) 452-2204.



# ALUMNI

## CTSFW Hosts **Golf Outing and All Alumni Reunion**

**Graduates from Over the Years Gather for Food, Fellowship, and Fun**

- 1.** Alumni and friends prepare for the Golf Outing
- 2.** President Rast sharing the welcome at the Alumni Banquet
- 3.** Alumni classes of the 1990s
- 4.** Alumni classes of the 1980s
- 5.** Class of 1962 alumnus, the Rev. Arthur Puls with son, the Rev. Dr. Tim Puls, and wife, Elizabeth Puls.
- 6.** Golf Outing Alumnus and friends braving the wet weather.
- 7.** Alumni classes of the 2000s
- 8.** Alumni friends reconnecting during the Alumni Banquet



**D**ue to the inability to meet in recent years, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) hosted a special All Alumni Reunion May 18–20, inviting all previous classes to CTSW to retreat, relax, and reconnect.

The Director of Alumni and Church Relations, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Puls, was very happy with the CTSFW Golf Outing and all of the other reunion activities. “It was joyful to witness old classmates greet and embrace one another for an alumni reunion. Unlike the last three years, there were not many opportunities for colleagues to catch up and relax. Being able to expand the Alumni Reunion to all graduates allowed many to be encouraged

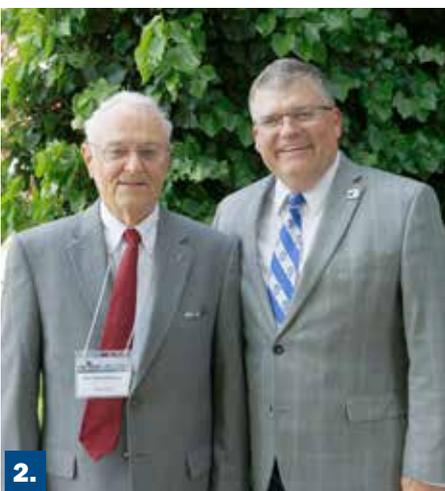
and some from the class of 2020 to be vested at graduation as well.”

It was a wonderful event and experience! We thank God for all our wonderful alumni and how they have blessed our church.

To read more about the All Alumni Reunion scan QR code on the right or visit: [ctsfw.edu/alumni2022](https://ctsfw.edu/alumni2022). 







**1.** Alumni class of 2020

**2.** The Rev. Gilbert Meseke, class of 1953, with the Rev. Dr. Tim Puls

**3.** Alumni classes of the 1970s

**4.** Alumni enjoying fellowship during Gemütlichkeit

**5.** Alumni classes of the 2010s

# Awards Given for Excellence in Academics and Service



**Front row (l-r):** President Lawrence R. Rast Jr., Aaron Wendorff, Sarah Federwitz, Jennifer Siukola, Dr. Charles Gieschen. **Second row (l-r):** Brendan Harris, Nathan Widener, Joseph Greenmyer, Charles “Vincent” Shemwell. **Third row (l-r):** Dylan Smith, Kyle Nelson, The Rev. Jakob Appell, Silas Hasselbrook. **Fourth row (l-r):** Patrick Randolph, Ethan Stoppenhagen (recipient of 2021 Draves Scholarship).

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, awards were presented to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) students in recognition of achievements in academics and service for excellence in their studies, writing, and an example to others.

**The Rev Jakob Appell:** The Concordia Publishing House Award for Graduate School Research and Writing, for his paper “Johann Gerhard and the Role of Contrition in Repentance.”

**Sarah Federwitz (Residential):** The Elizabeth Fedde Award for Outstanding Service, given to an exemplary deaconess student who demonstrates both academic excellence and exceptional virtue and practical service to those in need.

**Joseph Greenmyer:** The St. Timothy Award, given to encourage a second-year student in his continuing studies of the Holy Scripture.

**Brendan Harris:** The Concordia Publishing House Award for Systematic Theology Writing Award for his paper “An Analysis of Luther’s Usage of the *Communicatio Idiomatum* with Emphasis on The Confession Concerning Christ’s Supper of 1528.”

**Silas Hasselbrook:** The Zondervan Biblical Hebrew Award, given to encourage continued studies of Scripture in its original language.

**Andrew Hill:** The Draves Family Scholarship to provide a stipend for a student who will be in his fourth-year of study in the coming academic year and who has excelled in the study of Dogmatics and Confessional Theology.

**Kyle Nelson:** The Concordia Publishing House Award for Pastoral Ministry and Missions Writing, for his paper “The Determination of Death in Biblical Perspective.”

**Kyle Nelson:** The Zondervan Biblical Hebrew Award, given to encourage continued studies of Scripture in its original language.

**Kyle Nelson:** The Zondervan Theology Award, for his paper “The Office of the Ministry and the Church in Tractate 65–72.”

**Patrick Randolph:** The Concordia Publishing House Award for Historical Theology Writing, for his paper “Comparing John Colet and Phillip Melancthon.”

**Charles “Vincent” Shemwell:** The Concordia Publishing House Award for

Exegetical Theology Writing, for his paper “Laughing at/with(?) the Lord: An Exegetical Study of Genesis 18:10–15 —Containing a Very Brief Concluding Defense of Holy Laughter as a Proper Response to the Good News.”

**Jennifer Siukola (Distance):** The Elizabeth Fedde Award for Outstanding Service, given to an exemplary deaconess student who demonstrates both academic excellence and exceptional virtue and practical service to those in need.

**Dylan Smith:** The Classical Association of the Middle West and South Award for Outstanding Accomplishment, given in recognition of excellence in Greek and assisting other students with their Greek studies.

**Aaron Wendorff :** Gerhard Aho Homiletics Award, presented for the best sermon. His sermon, “Jesus Turns My Grumbling into Rejoicing” was based on Luke 15:1–10.

**Nathan Widener:** The Shepherd’s Staff Award, voted on by his peers and presented to the fourth-year student who exemplifies pastoral faith and life.

Please join us in praising God and praying for these award recipients and all of our students. 🏡



# EVENTS SCHEDULE

## Mark your calendars or register today!

For more information, please visit our website at [ctsfw.edu/Events](http://ctsfw.edu/Events) or call (260) 452-2100. Please check the events webpage for current information as events are subject to change.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Opening Service

Tuesday, September 6, 10:00 a.m. in Kramer Chapel



#### Seminary Guild September Tea

Tuesday, September 13, 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall

For more information contact Phyllis Thieme at (260) 485-0209 or [SemGuild@ctsfw.edu](mailto:SemGuild@ctsfw.edu).

#### Christ Academy: Confirmation Retreat

September 23–25

Information: [ctsfw.edu/Confirmation](http://ctsfw.edu/Confirmation)

Register: [ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu](mailto:ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu) or (800) 481-2155

### OCTOBER

#### Seminary Donation Day

Tuesday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. in Kramer Chapel

Information: [ctsfw.edu/SemGuild](http://ctsfw.edu/SemGuild) or (260) 485-0209

#### Prayerfully Consider Visit

October 13–15

Information and registration: [ctsfw.edu/PCV](http://ctsfw.edu/PCV)

Contact: [Admission@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Admission@ctsfw.edu) or (800) 481-2155

#### Christ Academy: College

October 28–30

Information and registration: [ctsfw.edu/CAC](http://ctsfw.edu/CAC)

Contact: [ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu](mailto:ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu) or (800) 481-2155

### NOVEMBER

#### Luther Hostel: The Faithful Reception of God's Gifts

November 2–4

Information and registration: [ctsfw.edu/LutherHostel](http://ctsfw.edu/LutherHostel)

Contact: (260) 452-2204

#### Good Shepherd Institute: The Steadfast Love of the Lord Endures Forever; His Faithfulness to All Generations

November 6–8

Information and registration: [ctsfw.edu/GSI](http://ctsfw.edu/GSI)

Phone: (260) 452-2204

See ad on page 21.

#### Organ Recital

Sunday, November 6, 4:30 p.m. in Kramer Chapel



#### All Saints' Choral Vespers

Sunday, November 6, 7:30 p.m. in Kramer Chapel



#### Choral Evening Prayer

Monday, November 7, 4:30 p.m. in Kramer Chapel



#### Hymn Festival

Monday, November 7, 7:30 p.m. in Kramer Chapel



#### Seminary Guild

Tuesday, November 8, 1:00 p.m.

Information: [ctsfw.edu/SemGuild](http://ctsfw.edu/SemGuild) or (260) 485-0209

### DECEMBER

#### Advent Candlelight Evening Prayer

Saturday, December 10, 4:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel



#### Seminary Guild

Tuesday, December 13, 1:00 p.m.

Information: [ctsfw.edu/SemGuild](http://ctsfw.edu/SemGuild) or (260) 485-0209

### JANUARY 2023

#### Lenten Preaching Workshop

Monday, January 16, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Information and registration: [ctsfw.edu/PreachingWorkshop](http://ctsfw.edu/PreachingWorkshop)

Phone: (260) 452-2204

#### Symposia Series

January 17–20

Information and registration: [ctsfw.edu/Symposia](http://ctsfw.edu/Symposia)



#### Epiphany Evening Prayer with the Kantorei

Wednesday, January 18, 5:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel



Services and lectures will be livestreamed online at [ctsfw.edu/DailyChapel](http://ctsfw.edu/DailyChapel) or [facebook.com/ctsfw](https://facebook.com/ctsfw). Please check our events website [ctsfw.edu/Events](http://ctsfw.edu/Events) for the most current information.

**ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

**June 27–29**

Dr. Gifford Grobien

Methods in Moral Theology



**DECATUR, ILLINOIS**

**July 11–13**

Dr. Reed Lessing

Genesis



**SILVER BAY, MINNESOTA**

**August 1–5**

Dr. David Petersen

An Approach to 21st Century Preaching:  
 Gleaning a Methodology from Luther,  
 Gerhard, and Walther



**ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

**June 27–29**

Dr. Paul Grime

Singing with God's Saints through the Ages



**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**July 11–13**

Dr. William Weinrich

The Gospel of John



**ELGIN, ILLINOIS**

**August 3–5**

Dr. Adam Francisco

Apologetics for the 21st Century



**GONZALES, LOUISIANA**

**JUNE 27–29**

Prof. John Pless

God's Two Kingdoms and Three Estates



**LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA**

**July 18–20**

Dr. Ryan Tietz

How Long? Wrestling with God in  
 Habakkuk, Obadiah, Nahum, and Zephaniah



**COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA**

**August 8–10**

Dr. Adam Koontz

Classical Lutheran Homiletics



**ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

**June 27–29**

Dr. Jeffrey Pulse

The Joseph Narratives: A Tale of Two Brothers  
 in Genesis 37–50



**RIVERTON, UTAH**

**July 18–20**

Dr. Roland Ziegler

Luther's "Bondage of the Will"



**AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**August 23–25**

Dr. Adam Francisco:

Apologetics for the 21st Century



**SHAWANO, WISCONSIN**

**June 27–29**

Dr. Dean Wenthe

Scripture and Sacramentality



**GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**July 18–22**

Dr. Adam Koontz

Planting Apostolic Churches



**DENVER, COLORADO**

**August 23–26**

Dr. Adam Koontz

Classical Lutheran Homiletics



**ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA**

**June 27–29**

Dr. William Weinrich

The Gospel of John:  
 A Sacramental Catechesis



**ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

**July 25–29**

Dr. Gregory Schulz

The Ministry of the Word in an After-Word World



**GARDEN CITY, KANSAS**

**August 25–27**

Prof. John Pless

Using Catechism in the Congregation



**CARLYLE, ILLINOIS**

**June 28–30**

Kantor Richard Resch

The Lutheran Giants: Luther, Gerhard,  
 and Bach



**GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

**July 25–27**

Dr. Adam Francisco

Apologetics for the 21st Century



**FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

**September 26–30**

Dr. Robert D. Macina

The Divine Service in the Old Testament



**MARYSVILLE, WASHINGTON**

**June 28–July 1**

Dr. Scott Stiegemeier

What Does It Mean to Be Human?



**DAVENPORT, IOWA**

**August 1–3**

Dr. Adam Koontz

Against the Stream: Paul's Missionary  
 Gospel in Hard Times



**ORANGE, CALIFORNIA**

**August 1–3**

Prof. John Pless

God's Two Kingdoms and Three Estates



**LAKWOOD, WASHINGTON**

**July 6–8**

Dr. Steven Mueller

C.S. Lewis: Translating Theology  
 to Reach a Skeptical World



**FLATHEAD LAKE, MONTANA**

**August 1–5**

Dr. Gerhard Bode

Controversy in The Missouri Synod  
 in the 1960s and 1970s



**TAYLORSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**July 6–8**

Dr. Gifford Grobien

Sanctification



**ADDITIONAL CLASS  
 AND REGISTRATION  
 INFORMATION**

To register by phone with credit card:  
 Call LeeAnna Rondot at (260) 452-2204.

For additional classes or to register  
 online: Visit [ctsfw.edu/CE](https://www.ctsfw.edu/CE).



## CTSFW Appreciates Donors

Rebecca S. Ahlersmeyer

*Photos, Left to Right:*

*Martin Lewis, Diane Lewis, Linda Just, Dr. Arthur Just, President Rast, and Carrie O'Donnell share a time of fellowship.*

*Sara Pulse, Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, visit with Dr. Ned Fody.*

*Lance Hoffman, the Rev. Mark DeLassus, Dr. Dean Wenthe, the Rev. Larry Wright, Jack Braun, Maureen DeLassus, Joy Braun, Dennis Eickhoff, Janice Eickhoff, and Linda Wenthe*

*Student Association President Aaron Schultz shares words of thanksgiving.*

*Lance Hoffman, the Rev. Mark DeLassus, and Dr. Michael Liebner*

*Dr. Michael Liebner visits with Beth Puls while Diana Barich and Margo Liebner listen in.*

As you may know from the "Make Known His Deeds!" article by Advancement Officer Rev. Mark DeLassus in our spring issue, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) is excited to announce the completion of a successful comprehensive campaign, thanks to the incredible generosity of faithful supporters.

The comprehensive campaign was created to address several issues with a vision for providing a strong and vibrant future for the Seminary and our Lord's church. The funds raised have and will continue to champion the Lord's work at the Seminary in three chief ways: supporting vital day-to-day operations, providing 100% tuition assistance to relieve students and their young families from incurring debt, and maintaining and repairing the historic buildings of our campus so they will stand solidly to serve many generations to come.

Then God's people showed up in a big way! As Chief Operating Officer Lance Hoffman explained, "We realized we were going to go over our goal of \$75 million and so decided to end it on the last day of the calendar year of 2021, and we ended up at \$82 million. So we went about \$7 million over and finished six months early." This was only made

possible by the people of God showing up in a big way to support the future of our church.

In honor of this momentous milestone, on April 24, just after the Easter Hymn Festival concluded, a small group of donors was invited to enjoy fellowship in the library, followed by a meal with speakers and a special donor appreciation video screening (scan QR code on the right).



The Seminary was blessed to have a chance to sit down with a few donors at the event and ask them about their connection with the Seminary's ministry. Diana Barich, a faithful supporter of both LCMS seminaries, shared, "We really think it's really important that our seminaries grow and have a place to educate good pastors."



What was something she appreciated that connected her with the ministry? “Mainly the fact that someone came and contacted us.” Donors Margo and Michael Liebner have felt connected to the mission at the heart of every effort the Seminary makes to further the Lord’s kingdom. As Margo said, “It’s important for the Word of God to get out, and what better way to have this happen than to support the ministry?” Michael agrees. “In order for the mission of the church to be accomplished, one of the things that has to occur is there has to be financial support in order to make the program viable. Each of us has certain talents and certain responsibilities, certain assets that we can contribute. Take a look at what your blessings are and what you can do to contribute to the Lord’s work in the building of His kingdom.”

Several students, advancement officers, staff, and faculty were present at the celebration as well. Advancement Database Manager Gary Nahrwold expressed joy over the unique fellowship the evening brought. “The most special/cool aspect to me was seeing donors interact with faculty. Donor interaction with students is tied with donor interaction with faculty. In both cases, donors see firsthand the impact of their financial support. I think they develop a deeper understanding of the importance of their donation when they can talk to, ask questions of, and even laugh with faculty and students.”

Reflecting on choosing to follow the Lord’s call, Seminarian Aaron Schultz said he was “thinking about tuition and

how I’m going to support my family. That’s something that weighs heavy on a person.” It’s the faithful support of donors that helps us raise up church leaders with the best education and preparation possible. “I’m able to focus on my studies and do what I’ve been called here to do because that burden isn’t on my shoulders . . . You guys providing more than just tuition it’s a peace of mind, to me and my classmates, and, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of you.”

CTSFW President Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. was touched by not only donor support of the Seminary but the fun fellowship and the strong relationships that our donors have built with the Seminary and each other over the years:

It was wonderful to see everyone as we celebrated the successful completion of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne’s first comprehensive campaign. It was a great evening, from the glorious Easter Hymn Festival in Kramer Chapel and fellowship in the Wayne and Barbara Kroemer Library to the fabulous dinner and conversation in Luther Hall.

Everyone I have spoken with found the entire event to be uplifting. It truly was a joy to be surrounded by friends who are committed to supporting the mission of our Seminary. CTSFW exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach

the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all . . . and we are able to do that because of your generous provisions.

Dr. Rast always delights in finding new ways to celebrate and thank our donors, and the video shown at the event was no exception. “The video provides a brief glimpse of the impact you have had and continue to have in the life of our Seminary and in our church.”

We praise the Lord and thank Him for how He lovingly provides for us through the generosity of our faithful donors. To everyone who has given and supported our mission to teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all: thank you.

As Dr. Rast said in conclusion, “Again, thank you for your support for CTSFW, and even more so, thank you for your continued support of our students as they prepare to go forth and proclaim Jesus Christ, crucified and risen again for the salvation of all.” 



**Scan the QR Code on the left to view a video about the event. You can also view both videos by visiting [video.ctsfw.edu/category/Newsroom](https://video.ctsfw.edu/category/Newsroom).**

*Rebecca S. Ahlersmeyer  
([Rebecca.Ahlersmeyer@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Ahlersmeyer@ctsfw.edu))  
serves as the Communications Specialist at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*





Photo: Erik M. Lundberg/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## Stewards of a Precious Treasure

Nathan M. Meador

Despite the recent economic challenges the nation has faced since the emergence of COVID and other geopolitical crises, we live in a time of almost unprecedented prosperity. In North America, even the most economically challenged American is still within the top 1% of wealth in the world. Yet, amid all this prosperity, there is a growing poverty. It is a poverty of the Word of God. No amount of earthly wealth will cover for the great treasure which has been entrusted to the church in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Gospel treasure is entrusted to us as a matter of stewardship. Stewards are not the owners of the treasure. They are to manage it for the sake of the one who has entrusted it to them. Consider the following example: a babysitter is hired by parents who wish to have a date night. The children do not become the property of the sitter. The sitter is to steward the children. It is not a matter of if they will be a steward or not. It is a matter of the faithfulness of the sitter. The sitter will either feed, bathe, and get the children in bed according to the wishes of the parents or fill them with caffeine, sugar them up, and let them stay up way past bedtime. The sitter/steward is accountable to the parents. A faithful steward/sitter only carries out the wishes of the parents. An unfaithful one disregards the parents and likely never gets hired again.

As the created and baptized children of God, we have entrusted to us a singular stewardship. We are stewards of the Gospel. This task to which the church has been called is not for us to carry out on our own. We are stewards by the direction of the Father. Created for this task, the standard of our stewardship is the same as that of the sitter: we are called and redeemed to be faithful stewards of the greatest treasure known to fallen and redeemed humanity: the Gospel. The trust of the stewardship of the Gospel carries with it *purpose*, *accountability*, and *mission*.

### The Purpose of the Steward

**Read Genesis 1:26–28.** For what purpose is man created?

How were they to carry out this stewardship of creation?

**Read Genesis 3:1–7.** How did the original stewards fare in their created purpose?

**Read Genesis 3:8–23.** What were the consequences these failed stewards—and those who came after them—were to face?

What was the “treasure” that was buried in the midst of all these consequences?

**Read John 3:16–21.** What is the very heart of the treasure God spoke of in Genesis 3:15?

Who is the ultimate actor in our stewardship of this great treasure?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:14–21.** How does Paul speak of the treasure of the Gospel in these verses?

What stewardship has been entrusted to those in Christ?

Are we owners of this treasure? If yes, how so? If not, how does this stewardship take place in the lives of stewards today?

---

### **The Accountability of the Steward**

**Read 1 Corinthians 4:1–2.** What is the standard to which the apostles, in particular, and all stewards, in general, are to be held?

---

**Read 1 Corinthians 4:3–7.** In what way does this accountability put the steward of the treasure of the Gospel in proper distinction?

---

**Read Luke 12:41–48.** How does Jesus describe the mark of the faithful steward in this parable?

---

What happens when the master finds the servant doing what he or she was tasked to do?

---

What are the marks of an unfaithful steward in this parable? What consequences befell that unfaithful steward?

---

What are the modern rewards and consequences for faithful and unfaithful stewards today?

---

Ultimately, to whom is every steward accountable?

---

### **The Mission of the Faithful Steward Today**

**Read Psalm 105:1.** How do these words of the psalmist shape our stewardship of the Gospel?

---

**Read Matthew 28:18–20.** How do these words give the church a clear sense of the stewardship of the great treasure that is the Gospel?

---

**Read Acts 1:8.** Where does this stewardship of the Gospel take place?

---

In what ways is the Lord leading you to be involved in the stewardship of the Gospel in . . .  
Jerusalem and Judea?  
Samaria?  
The ends of the earth?

---

**Read Matthew 6:19–24.** What is the connection between what we treasure and where our heart is focused?

---

Does the external focus of our treasure show our internal spiritual condition?

---

Can you serve two masters with different goals?

---

What happens if we get it wrong?

---

**Read Romans 12:1–2.** To what does faithful stewardship of the mercies of God lead?

---

How do these words connect stewardship of the treasure of the Gospel with worship?

---

To what does Paul appeal to be the measure of our labor as a faithful steward?

---

**Read Matthew 22:37–39.** In what way are we to love God?

---

How does Jesus connect love for God and love for the neighbor?

---

It is clear that we have had much entrusted to us by the Lord. Look to the list of items Luther enumerates in his explanation of the First Article and the Fourth Petition. These are trusts, not gifts. With a gift there is transfer of ownership. With a trust comes purpose, accountability, and mission. A major part of this trust comes when faithful stewards look to ensure that there are those who will provide Word and Sacrament ministry to their loved ones and neighbors in the years to come. This happens as the Lord leads faithful stewards to live out their created purpose as stewards on a mission to care for and share the greatest treasure of all with the world.

*The Rev. Dr. Nathan M. Meador (meador@swd.lcms.org) serves as the Assistant Coordinator of the LCMS Stewardship Ministry and the Mission Executive for the South Wisconsin District.*





Miguel Barcelos

Emmett Bartens

John Baseley

Adam Baumann

Timothy Benzinger

Joshua Brandmahl

Dane Breitung

Matthew Christian



Brennick Christiansen

Mark DeYoung

## Congratulations to CTSFW's Newest Pastors-Elect!



John Dolde

Christopher Durham



Matthew Goehring

Daniel Gray

Daniel Harrington

Brendan Harris

Silas Hasselbrook

Kieth Kettner

Nate Konkol

Chase Lefort

Anthony Mandile IV



Michael Mapus II

Austin Meier

Josef Muench

Kyle Mullins

Kyle Nelson

Charles Nemeck

Jordan Peiser

Mark Peters

Aaron Schultz



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