On Friday, September 2, at 11:00 a.m., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, began its 173rd academic year with a special worship service in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, served as preacher. Rev. Bill Wrede was installed as admissions officer during the service.

The theme for this academic year is, “Translation it is that openeth the window to let in the light” (from the preface to the King James Version of the Bible). With this year marking the 400th anniversary of the King James Version, Dr. Meyer has commented that he chose the word “translation” (in its broader sense) to reflect the need “for every one of Concordia Seminary’s future pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, and leaders to be fully prepared to translate God’s revelation in Jesus Christ so that it is readily understandable to people nurtured by cultures of whatever tongue, cultures that are not by nature receptive to the inbreaking of the Gospel.”

During the preceding week, new students completed an orientation process that included opportunities for new students and their families to become better acquainted, which included a “Field Day” consisting of sports activities, games for children, and a community-wide barbecue. Classes began on Tuesday, September 6.

The incoming class is comprised of about 150 students, including all those newly enrolled in residential and distance education programs: 74 residential M.Div. students; 4 certificate students; 1 deaconess student; 10 Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) students; 19 Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) students (a total of 134 are now enrolled in the SMP program); 1 Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) student; 7 Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) students; 20 new students in the graduate school; and 14 in the Doctor of Ministry program.

The campus community is looking forward to the completion of the new Benidt Seminary Center. Dedication is tentatively scheduled for February. A complete description of the progress of the Phase One Project (as it is called) can be found on the seminary website at www.csl.edu.

During the coming year, our faculty and staff will be busy with the “Self-Study” required by the Association of Theological Schools and the Higher Learning Commission in preparation for our 2013 accreditation visit. Dr. Meyer notes, “This will take time, effort and meetings but it’s an opportunity for our whole Concordia community to see where we’re at and where we plan to go. We’ve come a long way and have an exciting future.”

Dr. Meyer also shares this note: “This fall marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the first president of Concordia Seminary and of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, C.F.W. Walther. The church will be celebrating the anniversary in many ways, including the release of a movie about Walther, conceived, produced and distributed by Concordia Seminary. This was no small undertaking! Thank you to all for the initiative and the long and intense labor that went into this blessing for us all and for the church.”
**Day of Exegetical Reflection - September 19**

Concordia will host its Day of Exegetical Reflection on Monday, September 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Seminary’s Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium with the theme “The Bible in English: Its Present and Future.” Dr. Andrew Steinmann and Dr. David Trobisch will be the main presenters. The event is designed for pastors, students involved in exegetical education, and others interested in the proclamation of the Gospel in today’s world. The registration fee is $25.

Andrew Steinmann is professor of theology and Hebrew at Concordia University Chicago. He holds a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati, an M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan. He has served as a parish pastor, a Bible translator, a nursing home chaplain, and as a professor at several institutions of higher education. Dr. Steinmann is the author of 11 books, including three commentaries in the Concordia Commentary Series. He also served as a consultant for *The Lutheran Study Bible*. His current project is an Old Testament isagogics textbook co-authored with Dr. Reed Lessing to be published by Concordia Publishing House.

David Trobisch was born in Cameroon, West Africa, as the son of missionaries. He grew up in Austria and studied theology in Germany. He taught New Testament at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, Missouri State University, Yale Divinity School, and Bangor Theological Seminary (Maine). He now lives in Springfield, Missouri, and Nussloch, Germany. Dr. Trobisch is internationally recognized for his work on the letters of Paul, the formation of the Christian Bible, and Biblical manuscripts.

**Theological Symposium - September 20-21.**

“Rediscovering the Art of Preaching” is the title of the 22nd Annual Theological Symposium, to be held September 20-21 at Concordia Seminary. The main presenters for the event are Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Dr. Dale Meyer, Dr. David Schmitt, and Dr. Glenn Nielsen. Sectional presenters include Seminary faculty members David Maxwell, David Peter, Tony Cook, Glenn Nielsen, David Schmitt, and Jeffrey Gibbs. Additional sectional presenters include David Coe, Justin Rossow, and Ed Grimenstein.

“Rediscovering the Art of Preaching” explores recent developments in homiletics, inviting participants to rediscover the art of preaching while preserving the heart of faithful proclamation. Full registration is $130 per person ($140 after September 6) and includes program materials, Tuesday’s buffet reception, and refreshments. Other registration fees come at a la carte pricing. Registration deadline is Sept. 9. You can download either a [full-color printable brochure](#) for the 22nd Annual Theological Symposium or just the [registration form](#).

**Concert in Memory of Rev. Robert Bergt**

A special concert is being planned in memory of Rev. Robert Bergt, the late conductor and artist-in-residence at Concordia Seminary. The concert will take place on Sunday, September 25, at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus.

Rev. Bergt, whose work and reputation are known around the world, died on July 26 at the age of 81. He founded the American Kantorei in 1968, the first group of its kind in the United States. The Kantorei is a highly skilled choral and instrumental group that has performed in a variety of settings in St. Louis and beyond. Since 1993, the American Kantorei has performed regular concerts in the *Bach at the Sem* series in the chapel at Concordia Seminary. The popular series of concerts featured the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and other sacred music composers and was open to the public at no charge. Also, many of these concerts were broadcast on KFUO-FM.
Dr. Meyer will provide both an invocation and a message during the concert. The concert will feature pieces by J. S. Bach, many of which have been performed in past concerts, including *Et Resurrexit* and *Cum Sancto Spiritu* from the *Mass in B Minor*. The congregation will join the American Kantorei in singing “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus.” A small reception is being planned directly after the concert on the chapel plaza.

The concert will be broadcast on KFUO (850 AM in St. Louis) and Classic99.com on October 2 at 1:00 p.m. CDT. For more information, please call 314-505-7362.

**LutherHostel 2011 cancelled**
LutherHostel 2011, which had been scheduled for October 1-4, has been cancelled. The next LutherHostel is planned for October 6-9, 2012. For more information, contact continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486 or ce@csl.edu.

**Fall Lay Bible Institute**
The Seminary will host its fall Lay Bible Institute from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings October 5, 12, 19, and 26 in Sieck Hall 202 on the Seminary campus. “From Sea to Shining Sea: A Christian’s Perspective on America and Its Politics” will be presented by Dr. Joel Biermann, associate professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary.

While polite conversation carefully avoids discussions of religion or politics, both will be center stage as we explore the complexities of being Christian in America. There is much to consider: What’s the proper relation and separation of “church and state?” Can any political party (Democrat, Republican, or Tea) claim a Christian mantle? How involved should a Christian be in the political system? Is America God’s chosen nation? What does God really think of politics? Participants are urged to come with questions and will return to their lives better equipped for the work of living faithfully as Christian citizens of America.

**Contemplate - October 6-8**
The Seminary is pleased to invite prospective students and their guests to attend *Contemplate* to be held October 6-8, 2011 on campus. Designed for those who are college age or older, this visitation event is an opportunity for learning more about life in the Concordia Seminary community and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor, missionary, chaplain, or deaconess in the LCMS.

The second *Contemplate* event of the academic year will take place on March 8-10, 2012. There is no charge to attend *Contemplate*, and all meals and lodging are provided free of charge. Round-trip transportation to Concordia Seminary from the airport is provided.

**Alumni Reunion - June 5-7, 2012**
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, alumni, spouses, and widows are cordially invited to attend the annual Alumni Reunion, which will be held June 5-7, 2012, on the Seminary campus. The event is open to graduating classes from years ending in a “2” or “7.”

Invitations to the 2012 alumni reunion will be sent in February, including a registration form and information concerning area accommodations. Registration forms will also be available for download from the Seminary’s website.
Graduate School International Adopt-A-Student
The Graduate School is pleased to introduce its International Adopt-A-Student (IAAS) students for the 2011-12 academic year. It is also pleased to report that a special opportunity to support these students is now presenting itself through a “match challenge” coming from one of its IAAS donors. For each dollar contributed by a new IAAS friend, an anonymous donor has pledged to match this up to $4,000. Those currently serving in the advanced studies division have themselves joyfully pledged $1,000 in response to this match challenge. They now invite the rest of the Seminary community to consider helping to meet or to exceed this match challenge. Your contribution supports the work of the partner churches of the LCMS through its present and future teachers and leaders. To make a donation, contact the division of seminary advancement at 800-822-5287. Consider donating available Thrivent charitable funds. Also consider checking to see if your spouse can apply for additional matching funds through his or her employer. A congregational half-page bulletin insert is available to your congregation should it be interested in sharing this effort with others.

Joseph "Tom" Omolo is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya and a professor of Systematic Theology at Matongo Lutheran Theological College. Tom is beginning his second year of study in the Doctrinal Theology concentration of the Ph.D. Tom’s studies have been made possible with the generous support of many sponsors.

Gordon Alex is also a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya. Gordon is beginning his studies in Concordia’s Master of Arts program. He will major in Practical Theology and minor in Systematic Theology. He is part of the Kenyan church’s faculty development interest at Matongo Lutheran Theological College and will return there to teach when he completes his degree.

Roberto Bustamante is a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires. Roberto is beginning his studies in the Doctrinal Theology concentration of the Ph.D.

Antonio Schimpf is also a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia. Antonio will study in the Master of Sacred Theology program. He will major in Exegetical Theology and minor in Practical Theology.

Thank you for your support of the good work of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in all that you do!

Rev. Robert Hoehner
Director of Placement and Alumni Relations