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I’ve often taken hope from 1 Kings 17. During a severe famine God promised Elijah that He would provide for him. First God sent ravens to bring Elijah food at the brook Kerith. When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath. At first she balked when Elijah asked for food but God gave her a promise: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land” (v. 14). She trusted the promise, gave Elijah the baked bread, and “there was food every day for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah” (vv. 15-16).

That’s my trust as Concordia Seminary struggles with this severe recession. We have acted to curtail spending. We have frozen salaries, stopped most hiring, severely limited the replacement of equipment and stopped working on deferred maintenance. By the time this issue of FOCUS has come from the printer to your hands, the Board of Regents will have taken further and deeper cost-cutting measures. It is what it is, but we take to heart the many promises that God will provide for His workers. God “will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished” (1 Chronicles 28:20).

Because you also trust God’s promises, my fellow faculty members, the staff, and the students, especially the students, your future pastors and deaconesses, say “THANK YOU!” You are standing with us, praying for us and encouraging us. Please know that we also have you on our mind because these are also difficult times for the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We encourage you to continue to support the Lord’s mission through your congregation. We offer prayers in chapel for our congregations, and we strive to maintain the highest quality of formation for your future pastors and deaconesses. If the recession “is what it is,” we can say that the Seminary student body “is what will be” in congregations like yours. We’re all in this together.

“Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!” That is true, eternally true. God graciously receives us just as we are but there is something more. The recession reminds us that God loves you and me too much to leave us just as we are. Through these unwelcome times, the heavenly Father is refining our faith, energizing His mission through adversity and inviting us to take Him at His word: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid” (Mark 6:50). Just as the Spirit makes us grateful for our fellowship with you in Christ, the Spirit gives us living hope through the promises.

“The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.”

Dale A. Meyer

Dr. Meyer, left, pictured with Nicholas Salifu. Some years ago, Mr. Salifu’s evangelistic work in Ghana was featured in the video “Salifu’s Harvest.” Now Mr. Salifu is a student at Concordia Seminary. When outside funding for Mr. Salifu’s education failed, the Seminary and generous donors committed to helping Nicholas finish his education and return to mission in Ghana.
Seminary Regents Trim Expenses

The Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary has taken several steps in response to the current economic situation. Meeting via conference call early in January, the Board voted to take action to ensure the continued financial health of the Seminary.

“The Board simply wants to be the best steward of the resources available to the Seminary,” said Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary. “The Seminary has been blessed with many who generously support the mission, but the current state of the economy requires close monitoring of income and expenses. The biggest single issue is the loss of adequate endowment income due to the stock market decline.”

The Board asked its Finance Committee to consult monthly to “monitor the ongoing situation and make any further recommendations it will deem necessary.” Effective immediately, the Board voted to freeze salaries for all faculty and staff, cease beginning new deferred maintenance projects during the remainder of the Seminary’s fiscal year (ending June 30, 2009) and slow down the replacement of electronic equipment. Also, the Board accepted reductions in pay voluntarily offered by President Meyer and the three vice presidents, Dr. Andrew Bartelt, Dr. Paul Devantier and Michael Louis.

“We have big plans for the future of the Seminary as it serves the cause of Jesus Christ,” said James Ralls, chairman of the Board of Regents. “The moves the Board has taken, and may take in the months to come, are designed to keep the Seminary able to meet challenges and accomplish ambitious goals. Opportunities for theological leadership and education abound. What we do now will have a direct effect upon the financial condition of the Seminary and its ability to respond to opportunities when the economy begins to recover.”

Some 58 percent of the Seminary’s expenses normally are covered through gifts from donors. Thirty-two percent are covered by tuition, fees, rent, room and board paid by Seminary students; eight percent by endowment earnings; and less than two percent by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Currently, 659 residential and non-residential students are enrolled at Concordia Seminary, making it one of the largest seminaries in the United States.

“Our students are very important to us,” said President Meyer. “We want the Seminary to be able to keep tuition costs reasonable and to maintain, and even expand, our service to them and to the church at large.”
Seminary to Host Day of Homiletical Reflection

Concordia Seminary will host its 7th Annual Day of Homiletical Reflection on Wednesday, May 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Seminary’s Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium. The event is designed for pastors, students involved in homiletical education and others interested in the proclamation of the Gospel in today’s world. The registration fee for the Day of Homiletical Reflection is $20.

Walter Wangerin, Jr., professor of writing and theology at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., will speak on “Preaching Paul.”

Wangerin joined the Valparaiso University faculty in 1991 as the Emil and Elfriede Jochum University professor. A prolific author who has written in almost every genre, Wangerin has won the National Book Award, New York Times Best Children’s Book of the Year Award and several Gold Medallions, including best fiction awards for The Book of God and Paul: A Novel. His most recent book, Father and Son: Finding Freedom, tells of the relationship between Wangerin and his adopted son, Matthew. Wangerin was speaker for the Lutheran Vespers radio program from 1994 through January 2005, and prior to joining Valparaiso’s faculty, he served as an inner-city pastor in Evansville, Ind., for 16 years.

Sectional presentations include “Jonah: The Survivor Series” by Dr. Reed Lessing, associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary; and “Preaching from Paul’s Metaphors” by Rev. Justin Rossow, a Ph.D. candidate in Theology and Culture at Concordia Seminary.

The Day of Homiletical Reflection combines the annual Wenchel Lecture that promotes critical thought about preaching and practical enhancement in this art with the Ernie and Elsie Schneider Endowment for Excellence in Preaching that fosters support for innovative 21st century proclamation.

For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu; or visit the Seminary’s Web site at www.csl.edu.

Walter Wangerin, Jr., professor of writing and theology at Valparaiso University, will speak on “Preaching Paul.”

Dr. David Schmitt, associate professor of practical theology, is The Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Endowed Chair in Homiletics and Literature at Concordia Seminary.
Pastors and theologians tend not to have much formal training in science. Scientists tend not to receive much formal education in theology. Yet the two disciplines are often asked cross-disciplinary questions like: How do our understandings of the creation of the universe jive with science and Christian theology? How do scientific theories such as quantum mechanics point toward or away from God's creative hand? How should Christians take care of the world's environment? Are our brains programmed to seek and worship God? How should Christians view new technologies like in vitro fertilization or stem cell research?

In an effort to help pastors and laypeople think through such questions, Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce its 20th Annual Theological Symposium to be held Sept. 22-23 under the title “Science and Theology: New Questions, New Conversations.” While the Symposium will keep its relevance as a time for theological discussion among pastors, this year’s Symposium will also feature opportunities for high school and college science instructors, as well as other laypeople, to talk about the interplay between science and theology.

The primary plenary speakers will all be scientists from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Daniel Botkin, professor emeritus at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has been called “one of the preeminent ecologists of the 20th century,” noted for the advancement of computer simulations and satellite remote sensing in the study of forests. He has written numerous articles, software programs and books, including No Man’s Garden: Thoreau and a New Vision for Civilization and Nature. Dr. Mario Beauregard is a professor of neurobiology at the University of Montreal, most noted for his research and book, The Spiritual Brain: A Neuroscientist’s Case for the Existence of the Soul. Dr. Benjamin Schumacher is a physics professor at Kenyon College in Ohio and author of a textbook on relativity titled Physics in Spacetime. Schumacher is credited with inventing the term “qubit,” the unit of measurement in quantum information theory. Each scientist’s plenary will be followed by a response from one of Concordia Seminary’s faculty exploring the theological implications of the presentations.

Other sectional speakers include Dr. Del Ratzsch, professor of philosophy and science at Calvin College and author of the book, The Battle of Beginnings: Why Neither Side Is Winning the Creation-Evolution Debate; Dr. Angus Menuge, professor of philosophy and science at Concordia University Wisconsin; and Dr. Robert Weise, Concordia Seminary professor and The Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis Chair in Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences. Other sectionals on a wide variety of science-theology topics are also planned.

Those interested in these issues are encouraged to take part in the Seminary’s Alumni Read, which this year is renowned scientist and theologian John Polkinghorne’s book, Science and Theology: An Introduction.

Concordia Seminary hopes that this Symposium will help both pastors and scientists to engage in more meaningful and informed dialog relating to challenging and exciting new scientific frontiers.

Following the Symposium, Dr. Victor Raj, mission professor of exegetical theology and assistant director of the Institute for Mission Studies, will present the 2009 Witness Workshop. The Sept. 24-25 workshop will explore “Hybrid Spirituality.” This workshop in four sessions will address the challenge Christians face in their everyday lives and witness as they live and work among people who are looking for the best from everywhere to quench their spiritual thirst. Major issues will be identified and Christian responses will be presented within the Scriptural framework.

Parish pastors, district and synodical officials, Seminary and Concordia University students and faculty and interested laypersons are encouraged to attend. One CEU is available for attending the Symposium.

For more information and/or registration information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7486 or ce@csl.edu, or visit the Seminary’s Web site at www.csl.edu.
The absence of Adam and Eve in the formation of a new post-human species will be the troubling topic of a forum on science and theology on Thursday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m. in Concordia Seminary’s Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium. Prepared by the Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life (CLTPL), this event will be the second in a series of conferences called “Male and Female He Created Them (Genesis 1:27).” This time, participants will take a hard look at scientific schemes to bypass the Creator in the construction of man as a designer-made commodity. The presentation will be co-sponsored by LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

“Last year we discussed God’s order of creation, and specifically the role of women within the Creator’s purposes,” said CLTPL director Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto. “This year, Dr. Robert W. Weise, a theology professor and cellular biologist, will speak about the theological, social and scientific ramifications of procreation technologies without recourse to sex. The issue here is the probable emergence of a post-human species bred in test tubes without the involvement of parents. Hence the conference’s provocative title, “Will Adam Go AWOL? Will Eve?” and its tongue-in-cheek description as a “Forum on Planned Non-Parenthood.”

The Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life is an affiliate of Concordia Seminary. Dr. Weise is extraordinarily qualified to explain plans to manufacture post-humans. A minister with a doctorate in zoology, he holds The Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis Chair in Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences at Concordia Seminary.

“Already 422 fertility clinics in the U.S. are involved in the ongoing industry of removing Adam and Eve—and their sexual activity—from alarming techniques of procreation,” Dr. Weise said. “The goal is to construct ‘human tools’ shaping human embryonic commodities to be bought and sold on the open market through surrogate wombs, donor sperm and egg brokers.

“In a world that has moved from procreation to reproduction to cloning, Adam and Eve will be Absent Without Leave,” Weise warned. “The result will be an article of trade that can be fashioned to meet desired specifications, such as heterosexuality or homosexuality. If an embryo produced by the fertility industry does not meet expectations it will simply be deemed ‘defective’ and ultimately destroyed.”

This being the bicentenary of Charles Darwin’s birth, Weise will alert the audience to a “Natural Darwinian” quest to enhance society by melting the human species with the computer. This development is called “Transhumanism.” “Eventually the union of human and computer will usher in a post-human (and subsequently singular) individual who will be more computer than human being,” Weise commented. “This raises the question of whether he can then still be considered a ‘creation in the image of God.’

“Given the complexity of this topic, CLTPL decided to engage Dr. Weise as the only speaker for this evening, and then give the audience sufficient time to ask questions and discuss this issue with him,” said Dr. Siemon-Netto.

Registration by March 19 is required. Admission is free. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7486; cc@csl.edu; or visit the Concordia Seminary Web site at www.csl.edu.
Winter Placement Announced

Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce that 14 students received calls to be pastors and missionaries, one student received a vicarage assignment, one student received an internship assignment in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and one M.Div. call is still pending. Great care is exercised in both the candidate call and the vicarage placement processes to ensure that the best possible match is realized between the seminarian and the ministry site. The assignments were given during the Seminary’s morning chapel service on Jan. 23.

Calls into the Pastoral Ministry

Master of Divinity Degree Program
Ronald Rieger, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Medina, Ohio
James Maxwell, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Whitefish, Mt.
Paul Basil, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, N.J.
Jonah Burakowski, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marshall, Minn.
Jonathan Schultz, Our Savior, Vernal, Utah, and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Rangley, Colo.
Kevin Hintze, Grace Lutheran Church, Arlington, Texas

Certificate (Alternate Route) Program
Gregory Pavelski, St. John, Kilkenny, and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Morristown, Minn.

Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT)
Jean Parent, Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Worth, Fla.
Lang Yang, St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Richville, Mich.
Gemede Adema, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Portland, Ore.
Ebenezer Mallepalle, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Old Bridge, N.J.
Michel Ovil, Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Worth, Fla.

Distance Education Leading To Ordination (DELO)
Douglas Francik, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Anza, Calif.

Call Pending
Robert Carter

Vicarage Assignment

Master of Divinity Degree Program
Mark McCrory, First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Internship Assignment

EIIT (Deaconess)
Saron Woldehaimanot, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Arlington, Va.

Students in the M.Div. program received calls on Jan. 23. They are, from left, front row, Jonathan Schultz, James Maxwell, Jonah Burakowski; back row: Kevin Hintze, Robert Carter, Ronald Rieger. They are pictured with Rev. Robert Hoechner, director of placement and alumni relations, far left.
The master of divinity degree (M.Div.) program is the academic degree program in which most students who desire to be pastors, missionaries or chaplains in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) enroll. It is a four-year program, including a one-year vicarage (internship). The certificate (alternate route) program closely parallels the M.Div. program. Although certificate students do not receive a degree, they study alongside those in the M.Div. program, including the study of the New Testament in Greek.

Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) is a specialized program leading to ordination for men engaged in pastoral missionary contexts in ethnic immigrant and urban cultures. Students are preferably first-generation immigrants leading immigrant-based churches. The program consists of distance education, contextual mentoring and regular on-campus (Seminary) modules.

The Distance Education Leading To Ordination (DELO) program allows students to gain the experience of a vicarage along with their academic work, rather than as an intensive one-year internship. During their formation, the students are engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry as vicars under the supervision of an ordained pastor. DELO is being superseded by the Specific Ministry Pastor program (SMP) adopted by the Synod in Convention in July of 2007.

These students join more than 12,000 graduates from Concordia Seminary who have been prepared to serve as pastors, missionaries, chaplains and deaconesses in the LCMS.

The Psalms Speak to Us Today
Seminary to Host Second Annual PsalmFest

Concordia Seminary will host the second annual PsalmFest on Sunday, March 29, at 3:00 p.m. in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. The festival will explore some of the themes involved in Psalm 130 through spoken and sung word. The public is invited to attend.

A variety of settings of Psalm 130, including those by Mozart and Richard Proulx, will be sung. Additionally, the congregation will sing hymns related to the themes of Psalm 130. Meditations and reflections on the psalm will be presented by Dr. David Schmitt, associate professor of practical theology and The Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Endowed Chair in Homiletics and Literature. Dr. Kent Burreson, interim dean of the chapel and assistant professor of systematic theology, will lead the congregation in the prayers, including a litany by Dr. O. P. Kretzmann, former president of Valparaiso University. Guest organist for the service is Chris Loemker, Collinsville, Ill.

Participating in the festival will be the Concordia Seminary Chorus and Pro Musica Sacra, under the direction of Rev. Henry V. Gerike, along with choir members from Lutheran churches in the St. Louis area.

For more information, contact Communications, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7374; communications@csl.edu.
LutherHostel ’09 - Exploring the ‘Finite and Infinite’

LutherHostel 2009 will be held Oct. 3-6 on the campus of Concordia Seminary. LutherHostel is an event designed to provide growth in biblical knowledge and understanding, fun and fellowship, and a chance to gain helpful insights for daily living. It is offered for adults age 55 and above.

The theme for the event will be “Finite and Infinite Games.”

Main Presenter
Rev. John Nunes, president of Lutheran World Relief in Baltimore, Md., will be the main presenter. A well-known and highly regarded pastor, theologian, speaker and community organizer, Rev. Nunes has served as a management consultant, pastor, teacher, youth director and parish musician. Additionally, he has provided consulting support to Wheat Ridge Ministries as a staff associate for urban ministry research. He has served as director for church resource development at Concordia Publishing House and as a research fellow for the Acton Institute. He is a Doctor of Philosophy candidate from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Ill.

Special Activities
Scheduled activities for LutherHostel 2009 will feature a reception and dinner with President and Mrs. Dale A. Meyer. Other activities include presentations, class visitation, student-led evening devotions, opportunities for informal interaction with faculty, a private demonstration of the organ in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, and a tour of selected St. Louis area sites. An optional tour of Lutheran historical sites in Perry County, Mo., is available on Oct. 7, immediately following LutherHostel.

The LutherHostel fee is $325 per person, which includes all meals and refreshments for the event. Housing is available on campus (on a limited basis for an additional cost) or in nearby hotels.

For more information about LutherHostel, contact the Seminary’s Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7486 or ce@csl.edu.
New Seminary Sunday Materials Available

In April, Concordia Seminary will send a packet of Concordia Seminary Sunday materials to the pastor of each Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregation. A special bulletin insert, an adult Bible study, sermon notes, a Seminary DVD and other worship resources are available to assist pastors and congregations in observing Concordia Seminary Sunday. The suggested date for Concordia Seminary Sunday is July 19, the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. Yet the materials are not dated and may be used in a variety of ways throughout the year.

The appointed Scripture reading in the new lectionary series makes Concordia Seminary Sunday an appropriate observance for the suggested Sunday. This year, Mark 6:30-44 is the Gospel lesson appointed for July 19, and “Workers for the Harvest” is the suggested sermon and Sunday theme.

Concordia Seminary offers these materials as an annual opportunity for congregations to emphasize the importance of forming men for service in the pastoral ministry and deaconesses for diaconal ministry, and to assist in the crucial process of identifying, informing and encouraging future pastors and deaconesses.

“We have received a very enthusiastic response from churches throughout the country in the past and that indicates that the people of the LCMS are aware of how important it is to have faithful, compassionate pastors who proclaim God’s Word with boldness,” commented Lois Engfehr, director of communications. The bulletin inserts offer concrete actions people can take to help in the formation of tomorrow’s pastors and deaconesses.

For more information or to order Concordia Seminary Sunday materials, contact Communications, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7374; communications@csl.edu.

Do you have an IRA?

An outstanding stewardship opportunity is back by popular demand!
You can make a direct, tax-free transfer to Concordia Seminary from your IRA, if you are 70½ or older.

And, this “IRA charitable rollover” may qualify for your yearly required minimum distribution.
For more information, call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287
Congregations’ Support of the Seminary Is Critically Important

Dr. Robert Preece, chairman of the Alumni Council and Campaign Alumni Texas District Representative, was recently asked why it is critically important for the congregations to be concerned with the future church workers’ needs of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). His response was: “Why, indeed? That generations yet unborn may hear the ‘Glad Tidings!’” Dr. Preece commented.

“I like those old and quaint sounding words for the Gospel: ‘Glad Tidings.’ It makes me glad to know that the gentle tide of the Gospel will be rolling in and among those who are still to come, before Christ returns in all His glory. Contributing now will be effective then, as pastors and deaconesses of the Church train, serve and lead in the Holy Name of Jesus, our Saviour.

“All ministers, ordained or commissioned, serve because someone encouraged, directed and supported us toward the high calling of sharing Christ. Shall we not do the same for future workers in the Kingdom?”

The Congregation Phase of the Campaign will invite the membership of the LCMS to build a better future for our church by preparing the pastors, missionaries, deaconesses and leaders who will serve God’s people now and for decades to come.

The Alumni Council has been created to serve alumni, LCMS congregations and the Seminary, in order to stay connected, informed and responsive to the needs of one another.

Dr. Robert Preece serves as chairman of the Alumni Council and has done so with distinction and grace. The Alumni Council members are appointed by the Seminary president and represent a wide range of graduation years. They meet twice per year on the Seminary campus and serve as a link between the Seminary and alumni. They work with Rev. Robert Hoehner, director of placement and alumni relations, to maintain positive relationships between the Seminary, its graduates and congregations. Referrals of students, fellowship opportunities, connection with new ministry resources and mutual support are primary benefits gained from being part of the alumni programs.

For more information on how your congregation can become involved, please call the Concordia Seminary Campaign Office at 1-800-822-5287.
‘Automatically’ Supporting the Seminary

It is unlikely Sam Duncan would fear much of anything. After all, he served eight years in the U.S. Air Force (including deployment during the Vietnam War) and is retired from 25 years as a police officer in the Miami-Dade (Florida) Sheriff’s department. So, it is no surprise that Sam was not too concerned about taking on the technology needed to pay his bills via computer.

His message is that there is nothing to fear in paying bills in this way. Sam simply says, “Trust me, once you start using bill-pay, you will never go back!”

Sam has become a strong advocate of using bill-pay to support the Lord’s work, including Concordia Seminary. It all started when Sam contacted the Seminary for Adopt-A-Student information. He has personally begun supporting the Seminary with a monthly donation “automatically” set-up through the bill-pay service offered by his local bank.

How complicated is it? “Do not be concerned with the technology,” commented Sam. “Online bill-pay is simple, safe and secure.”

When asked why he includes Concordia Seminary in his giving, Sam commented, “We are experiencing tough economic times. What better way to ensure the continuous spread of the Gospel than to support the training of future Missouri Synod clergy.”

Your local bank or investment company will assist you in establishing a bill-pay service. You can also support the Seminary in a similar way through SimplyGiving. For more information, go to www.HowWillTheyHear.org, click on the “Give Now” icon on the home page and click on the “Give Now” icon again.

Feuerhahn Honored, Endowment Fund Promoted

On the weekend of Jan. 25, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Mo., honored their son, Dr. Ronald Feuerhahn, in three worship services, three receptions and a Bible class. In addition to recognizing his service to the Lord of the church, members were given a chance to support the Ronald Feuerhahn Student Aid Endowment Fund at Concordia Seminary.

Feuerhahn was baptized and confirmed at Trinity. He attended Trinity Lutheran School and became a distinguished pastor, scholar and professor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The special recognition was the idea of two of Dr. Feuerhahn’s grade school classmates—Jerry Kasten, who is still a member of Trinity, and Robert Schuck, who currently lives in Florida. Schuck generously pledged to match contributions received for the Feuerhahn Endowment. The preacher at the services was Dr. Paul Devantier, senior vice president of Seminary Advancement at Concordia Seminary.

For more information on the Feuerhahn Endowment, contact Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287.

Ruth and Jerry Kasten, left, Dr. Ronald and Carol Feuerhahn, and Robert and Marcy Schuck at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Mo., during a weekend when Trinity honored Dr. Feuerhahn, a son of the congregation.
Call Day – An Annual Church Highlight

Concordia Seminary cordially invites the public to share in the joy of Call Day on Wednesday, April 22. Approximately 100 students who will serve as vicars (a one-year internship) next year will receive their assignments during a 3:00 p.m. worship service. In addition, six deaconess interns, six Alternate Route vicars, and three Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) vicars and four CHS deaconess interns will receive their assignments. Dr. Gerhard C. Michael, Jr., Florida-Georgia District President, will serve as preacher.

Approximately 100 candidates for the pastoral ministry will receive their first calls to serve as pastors, missionaries and chaplains in the LCMS.

Those unable to attend may listen to the services via the Seminary’s Web site (www.csl.edu). Both audio and video will be available. For more information, visit the resources section of the Seminary’s Web site one week prior to the services.

The vicarages and calls will be posted on Concordia Seminary’s Web site on April 22 at 9:00 p.m. (CST). Lists also will be e-mailed at the same time via the Seminary’s e-mail list services, CSLNEWS and CSLPRESEM. Those who desire to subscribe to CSLNEWS prior to the April 22 services in order to receive the lists may do so at www.csl.edu/AboutCSL_Subscribe.aspx. A complete listing also will be featured in the summer 2009 issue of FOCUS. Audio recordings of the sermons for both services will be available for listening on the Seminary’s Web site within 24 hours.

For information, contact Communications, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7374; communications@csl.edu.
Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce its summer 2009 series of workshops for pastors, professional church workers and interested laypersons. Eight workshops, covering a wide variety of subjects, are offered nationwide.

The cost for each summer workshop is $125, which includes 1.5 CEU credits. Payment is due 21 days prior to the beginning of each workshop, and workshops have a minimum required enrollment. Housing and meal information may be obtained from the host pastor.

To register or to receive further information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu.

**July 27-29—“Together with All Creatures”—Dr. Charles Arand**
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, West Des Moines, Iowa
*Host Pastor: Rev. Thomas Ogilvie, tom@otv-wdm.org, 515-225-1623*

**July 27-29—“Faith and Creative Writing”—Rev. Travis Scholl**
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri
Continuing Education and Parish Services, ce@csl.edu, 314-505-7486

**July 27-29—“James: The Apostle of Faith and Works”—Dr. Louis Brighton**
Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, Arizona
*Host Pastor: Dr. Jeffrey T. Schrank, christchurch@ccphoenix.org, 602-955-4830*

**August 3-5—“When Things Fall Apart”—Dr. Henry Rowold**
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, North Dakota
*Host Pastor: Rev. Clark H. Jahnke, revchjahnke@ideaone.net, 701-282-4195*

**August 3-5—“Teaching the Faith: Catechesis in the Parish”—Dr. Andrew “Andy” Bacon**
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri
Continuing Education and Parish Services, ce@csl.edu, 314-505-7486

**August 3-5—“The Book of Revelation and the End Times”—Dr. Louis Brighton**
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Cedar Crest, New Mexico
*Host Pastor: Rev. Devon Woodyard, woodyard3@gmail.com, 505-281-2430*

**August 10-12—“Isaiah: The Fifth Gospel”—Dr. Reed Lessing**
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charlottesville, Virginia
*Host Pastor: Rev. Ernest Houppert, sheprod@embarqmail.com, 434-295-4038*

**August 10-12—“The Church in the New Testament”—Dr. Jeffrey Kloha**
St. James Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio
*Host Pastor: Dr. Paul Hoffman, stjamescleve@juno.com, 216-351-6499*
Seminary Celebrates Black Lutheranism

The Concordia Seminary community and the St. Louis area participated in the Seminary’s fifth annual worship service celebrating the history of Black Lutheranism on Sunday, Jan. 25, in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus. The service, “There Is a Balm in Gilead,” was held in appreciation of the contributions of African Americans to the Lutheran church and to acknowledge The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s (LCMS) historic involvement in Black ministry.

Dr. Frazier Odom, interim executive director for the LCMS Board for Black Ministry Services, was the preacher for the service, and Rev. Quentin Poulson, mission networking director of the Board, served as liturgist. Dwight Dickenson, Jr., St. Louis area Distance Education Leading To Ordination (DELTO) vicar at Great Commission Lutheran Church assisted with the liturgy.

The service included choral music by a mass choir assembled from St. Louis area Lutheran congregations including Great Commission Lutheran Church, Transfiguration Lutheran Church, St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church and St. Peter Lutheran Church. The music was led by Debbie Mitchell. For the first time, the African Immigrant community was represented by second-year seminarian Nicholas Salifu, and an African Choir from Timothy Lutheran Church who sent the worshippers on their way.

For the last five years, Concordia Seminary has dedicated several weeks in January to remember and celebrate the contributions of Black Lutherans to the church. Books and photographs highlighting significant dates and milestones in Black Lutheran history were also displayed in the chapel’s narthex.

“Concordia Seminary is pleased to host this annual event and thankful for the participation and encouragement of St. Louis Lutherans for this service,” commented Dr. David Wollenburg, director of the Seminary’s Specific Ministry Pastor program. “We also wish to acknowledge Concordia Historical Institute and particularly Patrice Russo, executive assistant and museum manager, for providing attractive and extensive displays for this annual event. They have helped all involved to better appreciate and appropriate the significant role African Americans have played in Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod history.”
Focus on a Seminarian

Name: Adam Snoberger

Home District: Nebraska

How long have you known that you wanted to become a pastor? Were there some people who influenced you along the way?

I first had the inclination my junior year in college. I was heavily involved with various ministries at the University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and began to see myself doing this type of work for my vocation. I admired the pastors from my home congregation, Pastor Luke Schnake and Pastor Jeffrey Scheich of Christ Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb., as well as my campus pastor, Pastor Bill Steinbauer. I spoke with them about my thoughts and received their encouragement. My wife, Jessica, also provided me with wonderful support.

How does the Seminary experience differ from what you imagined earlier?

I knew that the Seminary would be supportive of its students, but I didn’t realize just how much the professors and staff would take an interest in us. They are genuinely intentional about getting to know us personally, and they support us academically and spiritually as they prepare us to become faithful ministers.

How would you describe life at the Seminary?

Life at the Seminary is busy, but exciting. The academics are challenging, but there’s a lot of fun to be had as well. There’s always something going on. I have enjoyed intramurals and just hanging out with friends. In addition, my wife and I have formed strong relationships with other couples from the Seminary. The St. Louis area also has a lot to offer—one of our favorite things is biking to Forest Park and eating snow cones. At the end of the day, the Seminary community is God’s children supporting each other as we all try to serve Him with the gifts He has given us.

What is the biggest challenge at the Seminary?

The biggest challenge is balancing my spiritual, family, physical and academic life. Things are busy, but it is important to be spiritually nourished, a devoted husband and physically healthy while serving God in my vocation as a student.

How has your time at the Seminary impacted your view of the ministry?

I have realized that the ministry is a gracious, undeserved call to be a servant of God’s people. With it will come great challenges and frustrations. But there is no greater joy than to be partners with God and His people in the work of His kingdom.

What are your feelings about the future of your ministry?

It is quite daunting to think that in three years I will be a shepherd of God’s flock. But it is also encouraging that He is the giver of all good things and that He will equip me. This is an exciting time to be entering the ministry because there will be so many evangelism opportunities. The religious landscape of our country is such that there will be a large harvest to gather wherever I am called.

What is your best advice to someone who might be considering Concordia Seminary?

My advice is first pray to God that He would lead you where He desires you most, and that you would be obedient to His voice. Then, talk with some people you know well, like your family and your pastor and fellow members of your congregation, to see what they think. In addition, visit the Seminary to see what it is actually like.
For the past 87 years Concordia Seminary’s Graduate School has been forming scholars and leaders for the ministry of Jesus Christ. In 1922, coursework leading to the degree of Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) began. In 1944, the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) program was added; while in 1956 graduate offerings were expanded further to include programs leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.), which was changed in 1989 to the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.). In 1998, the nomenclature for the doctorate was changed to Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.).

Ten years ago the school adopted this motto: “Addressing Contemporary Issues with the Historic Christian Faith.” Marked by a combination of academic excellence and faithfulness to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the Seminary’s Graduate School attracts students from all over the world and from many different church bodies. In addition to students from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the school currently has enrolled in it people from the Assemblies of God, the Presbyterian Church USA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, the Chinese Lutheran Brethren, the Worldwide Anglican Communion, the West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in Kenya, among others. Current enrollment stands at 55 Ph.D. students, 30 S.T.M. students and 22 M.A. students.

Since 2006, the Graduate School has awarded 39 M.A., 12 S.T.M. and 11 Ph.D. degrees. Among the Ph.D. graduates since 2006 are Jonathan Blanke (Japan Lutheran Seminary), Makito Masaki (Kobe Lutheran Seminary, Japan), Gerhard Bode (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis), Martin Conkling (Concordia University, Bronxville, N.Y.) and Carl Rockrohr (Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich.). Within the Ph.D. program, students may focus upon the fields of Biblical Studies, Doctrinal Theology, Reformation or Modern Church History, or Theology and Culture. These graduate theological degrees meet a variety of personal and professional goals. Each degree, with its unique objective, prepares graduates for leadership in the church and world.

It is anticipated that at this year’s commencement on May 22 the Graduate School will be granting 16 M.A., seven S.T.M. and seven Ph.D. degrees. Several of the Ph.D. dissertation projects that are coming to fruition this spring include InHee Cho (currently teaching at Concordia University, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada), “Beyond Appearance: Irony and the Death of Jesus in the Matthean Passion Narrative (26:1-27:66); Peter Nafzger (currently serving as pastor of New Life Lutheran Church [LCMS], Hugo, Minn.), “These are Written: Toward a Cruciform Theology of Scripture”; and Justin Rossow (currently serving on the pastoral staff at Peace Lutheran Church [LCMS], Hurst, Texas), “Preaching the Story Behind the Image: A Narrative Approach to Metaphor for Preaching.” Justin is the first graduate in the school’s Theology and Culture concentration.

Dr. Reed Lessing became director of the Graduate School in 2007 when the previous director, Dr. Bruce Schuchard, became dean of Advanced Studies. Lessing believes that the strengths of the school include its distinguished faculty, library resources, international flavor and long history.

“People who want to be challenged to do high-level graduate research, carried out within the context of the historic Christian faith, will find their experience at Concordia Seminary to be richly rewarding,” commented Lessing. “Those who graduate from our programs often find themselves in positions of teaching and leadership throughout the world.”

Since 1986 the Graduate School has benefited from an LCMS scholarship program called CRISP (Committee Responsible for International Scholarship Program) that assists partner church-
es in the theological formation of their future leaders. For example, the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya, Rev. Walter Ohare, is a 1998 graduate of the School’s M.A. program. In all, over 50 students from all over the world have benefited from this partnership between the LCMS and her two seminaries. But now, with the downturn of the economy, this fund cannot be used to support such work.

Dr. Bruce Schuchard, dean of Advanced Studies, reflected upon these financial challenges. “The recent downturn in the economy is challenging us mightily, but the Graduate School’s work of serving church and world, especially its work of assisting our partner churches in their desire to build toward a next generation of those who will teach and lead, goes on.”

Until the LCMS scholarship program rebounds from the current recession, the administration of Concordia Seminary has decided to do everything it can to provide financial resources for the following students who have lost their CRISP scholarships. These students include, in the M.A. program, Kebede Yigezu (Ethiopia) and Karathikan Sibanyanam (Malaysia); and in the Ph.D. program, Michael Lockwood (Australia), Gerson Linden and Paulo Weirich (Brazil) and Olav Panchu (Russia). Interested churches and individuals are invited to support these future church leaders by contacting the Graduate School.

By providing a greater awareness of Christian theology and serving as a theological research center for the LCMS, the Graduate School believes that within worldwide confessional Lutheranism it is uniquely positioned to develop effective church leaders for the 21st century.

For additional information, contact the Graduate School at

**Brazil Seminary President, Rev. Gerson Linden, a Graduate Student at Concordia Seminary**

I have been a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (Igreja Evangélica Luterana do Brasil – IELB) for 24 years, 14 of them being a professor at the Seminary (Seminário Concórdia). Currently, I am also serving as the president of the Seminary.

IELB has had a long relationship with Concordia Seminary, as a school to prepare her pastors in master and doctoral programs in theology. At the present time, most of the Seminary professors have their degrees from Concordia Seminary’s Graduate School.

To be enrolled in a graduate program at Concordia Seminary is a unique opportunity and a blessing. The combination of high theological scholarship with Lutheran confessional integrity applied to the contemporary context makes Concordia Seminary’s Graduate School a very special place to develop graduate studies. The faculty is outstanding and combines these three characteristics that I consider particularly important.

First to be noted is the academic level, which gives students the opportunity of being conducted in theological reflection by highly prepared theologians. It is also to be observed the Lutheran confessional stance embraced by the institution as a whole and by each professor. That makes Concordia Seminary a reference for those who understand it is necessary to maintain integrity to Scripture as the infallible Word of God and to the doctrine of the justification by grace through faith in Christ’s atoning work as the main characteristics of good theology. A third distinction of the faculty is its contemporary vision of theology applied to the needs of the church facing her God-given mission in the world.

In addition to the faculty, it is important to mention the whole physical structure of Concordia Seminary, particularly the library, as a helpful and necessary support to the development of excellence in graduate theological education.

For those reasons I gladly recommend the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary to other students, as is already happening with other pastors and professors of the Lutheran Church in Brazil.

Rev. Gerson Luis Linden is a Ph.D. student in the Graduate School and president of the Seminary in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil. He and his wife, Denise, a school counselor, have three children—Lucas (21), Tobias (18) and Gabriele (14).

801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7102; gradschool@csl.edu.

Dr. Reed Lessing is director of the Graduate School.
Concordia Seminary will host a visitation event in June for high school youth. On June 27-July 2, the 11th annual Vocatio (formerly called Exploring Church Careers Event) will be held on the Seminary campus. The event is designed to identify, inform and encourage youth with respect to church work vocations.

Vocatio provides a unique opportunity for high school youth to participate in Bible study, worship, prayer and discussion and to visit with those who are currently serving in a variety of church work vocations.

Activities during Vocatio will focus on the Bible verse, “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). The high school participants will delve into this theme through the four disciplines of the formation of ministry: exegetical, systematic, historical and practical. Seminary professors will lead Bible studies and discussions about vocation throughout the week. Participants will travel to the Saxon Lutheran Memorial to learn about the historical aspects of vocation.

While at the memorial, participants will take part in a Servant Event. Other activities during Vocatio will include seeing a play at The Muny, exploring St. Louis area attractions, having social time in the evening and interacting with current Seminary students. On Sunday morning, participants will attend a special worship service in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus.

Registration Fee
A $50 registration fee to attend Vocatio is the only charge for youth, in addition to travel costs. All activities, meals during the event and on-campus lodging are provided at no cost to participants. Scholarships are available to ensure that travel costs do not prevent youth from attending. Vocatio registration is limited to 80 high school youth entering 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade.

Vocatio is made possible by a grant Concordia Seminary received to assist in the process of identifying, informing and encouraging high school youth toward service in church work careers. The grant is from the Lilly Endowment Inc., headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind.

For more information on Vocatio, or to request a registration form, contact the Admissions Office, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; admissions@csi.edu; 1-800-822-9545. To register online, visit the Seminary’s Web site at www.csi.edu.
Vocatio Nomination Form
June 27 – July 2, 2009

☐ I wish to nominate the following young person to attend Vocatio:

Name: ___________________________________________ Nominated by: _________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________ LCMS Congregational Membership: ________________________

City, State, Zip: ____________________________________ ______________________________________________________

Home Phone Number: ______________________________

High School Class in Fall 2009:  ☐ Fr. ☐ So. ☐ Jr. ☐ Sr.

Please do not send money with this nomination form. Upon receipt of this form, registration information will be mailed to the nominee. For more information, call 314-505-7722 or e-mail vocatio@csl.edu.

Mail to: Admissions Office, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105 or fax to 314-505-7229.
Concordia Seminary, together with Peace Officer Ministries, will host “Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy—Theology and Practice,” May 26-29, on the Seminary campus. This workshop will offer unique accredited training for chaplains, peace officers and pastors, focusing on effective Christian ministry to and through law enforcement.

The workshop will explore issues such as adopting a sound biblical theology; understanding law enforcement as a vocation (God’s calling); distinguishing and properly applying Law and Gospel and God’s Two Kingdoms within a law enforcement context; addressing practice, legal, historical, cultural and missiological considerations; employing Christian stress management and officer spiritual survival strategies; and identifying characteristics of a competent Christian chaplain. The main presenters will be Rev. Steve Lee and Mike Dahmer.

Rev. Steve Lee is executive director of Peace Officer Ministries, Inc. (POM), a national Christian non-profit 501(c)(3) law enforcement chaplaincy he founded in 1996. POM produces materials for officers and chaplains, including a special law enforcement edition Bible and a book by Lee titled Backup on the Beat. Previously, he served as a California police officer, a volunteer federal law enforcement chaplain and was part of an FBI chaplaincy advisory working group.

He worked in a variety of roles during his law enforcement career, including police officer, sheriff’s deputy and sergeant, and federal special agent. He ministered at incidents such as Columbine, Ground Zero and Hurricane Katrina, receiving commendations from Dr. James Dobson, ATF, NYPD and former President George W. Bush. Additionally, Lee has served as a pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod since 1992. He is International Conference of Police Chaplains Master Chaplain certified, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation certified, and Department of Homeland Security certified.

Mike Dahmer, BSEE, P.E., is a former law enforcement officer and current licensed professional engineer with expertise in national security, counter-terrorism and homeland security. He serves as an instructor in these areas at Idaho State University, Louisiana State University and other institutions. He also serves as president and CEO of Systems Associates, Inc., a general engineering design practice for the private sector, government and other public sectors; Jerome County (ID) Disaster Services Communications Coordinator; and serves on the U.S. Regulatory Fairness Board by presidential appointment.

The Concordia Seminary faculty presenter will be Dr. Robert Kolb, mission professor of systematic theology and director of the Institute for Mission Studies.

Other presenters include William J. Becker Jr., Esq., an attorney for Becker Law Firm, Los Angeles, Calif.; Dr. Dennis L. Conroy, police psychologist and a 30-year police veteran; William G. Jones, assistant chief, Perryville Police Department, Perryville, Mo.; Rev. Glen F. Merritt, director of disaster response, LCMS World Relief and Human Care; Dr. Tomas C. Mijares, professor of criminal justice, Texas State University, Austin, Texas; Frank Ruffatto, former detective and current chaplain for POM; and Steve Ruffatto, retired detective and adjunct professor in criminal justice, Elizabethtown College, University of Phoenix, York, Pa.

The cost to attend the workshop is $295 and includes three breakfasts, four lunches and two dinners. On-campus housing is available. A total of 2.9 CEUs are available for full participation. Scholarships are available for Seminary students and LCMS professional church workers.

For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7486, ce@csl.edu; or visit the Seminary’s Web site at www.csl.edu.

Participants at last year’s Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Workshop.
A total of 35 young men participated in the visitation event for prospective students called “Taste of the Sem,” which took place Jan. 17-19 on the campus of Concordia Seminary. The event was designed to allow young men in high school the opportunity to experience Seminary life with the help of current Concordia Seminary students.

One participant commented, “‘Taste of the Sem’ was a great first-hand look into how the Seminary works. My mentor was an excellent host, answering every question with an informative answer. I can honestly say that I love this event, and I am 100 percent looking forward to enrolling in four years.”

The theme, “Thy Strong Word,” was inspired by a hymn of the same name composed by Martin Franzmann. During the event, Seminary professors led students through studying God’s Word in its original languages and helped them understand how to proclaim the word in its truth and purity. Participants were matched one-on-one with Seminary students and accompanied these students to their resident field education congregations on Sunday morning and to classes and chapel on Monday morning. High school participants also toured the campus and had the opportunity for dinner and discussion with Seminary faculty members.

The Seminary’s next on-campus event for high school youth will be the 11th annual Vocatio (formerly called Exploring Church Careers Event) on June 27-July 2. The event is designed to identify, inform and encourage youth with respect to church work vocations. The activities will be focused around the verse, “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). Participants will take part in Bible study, discussion, worship and opportunities to gain college and Seminary information pertaining to church work vocations.

For more information concerning these events for high school youth, or the programs which lead to service in the pastoral ministry, contact the Admissions Office, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 1-800-822-9545; admissions@csl.edu.
### The Mission of Concordia Seminary

Concordia Seminary serves Church and world by providing theological education and leadership centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the formation of pastors, missionaries and leaders in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

### Coming Events

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### FOCUS Spring 2009 Vol. 26, No. 3

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