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Faith goes forward from places, from places like the manger and stable in that little town called Bethlehem. Unassuming by earthly standards, they have become holy places in our devotion because God acted there. “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us” (John 1:14).

Then there were other places, places the Savior used to do the saving acts upon which our faith is based. Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the cross, the empty tomb, the mount of Ascension: From earthly places faith went forward.

Today faith continues to go forward from places. Your home is adorned for the season, your faith displayed in many of the decorations, Christmas carols where the words are taken seriously, not just background music, Bible reading… From your home faith goes out into the world. That’s especially true for your congregation. The Spirit of God and of Jesus Christ is as alive and forward moving into our world today as when the Savior was first seen as one of us. Sermons, Bible classes, baptisms, communions, conversations about faith and mission make your congregation a dear place where God comes to you and sends your faith into your community and world.

Your Concordia Seminary is a place from which faith goes forward in a unique way. In majestic old buildings, young men and women are formed to be pastors, deaconesses, missionaries and leaders who will carry the Savior close to their hearts and out into the lives of others. Concordia Seminary is a sending place. “How can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:14-15). Concordia Seminary’s current campaign, How Will They Hear? includes necessary improvements and infrastructure to our 82-year-old buildings so that this can be a sending place for many years to come. Thanks to a most generous matching grant from the Charles E. Benidt Foundation we are on our way to raising $17 million for “Place,” the campus improvement portion of How Will They Hear? As you are able to help, your contribution to the “Place” component of the Campaign will help keep faith going forward from a strong Seminary.

As we slow down our busy, often hectic lives and spend time with beloved family and friends in the places we hold dear, the students, faculty, staff and Regents of Concordia Seminary pray for you the unbounded blessings that come from faith’s journey to Bethlehem.

Dale A. Meyer
President

The Spirit of God and of Jesus Christ is as alive and forward moving into our world today as when the Savior was first seen as one of us.
Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce that two students received calls to be pastors and 11 students received vicarage assignments in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Ten students in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program and one student in the Distance Education Leading to Ordination (DELT O) program are awaiting calls. In these cases, the details of calls to specific sites are being finalized and should be completed soon. 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 Oct. 22.

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 LCMS enroll. It is a four-year program, including a one-year vicarage (internship).

The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) is a specialized program leading to ordination for men engaged in pastoral

The Seminary’s spring placement is scheduled for April 22, 2009.
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.

These students join more than 12,000 graduates from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, who have been prepared to serve as pastors, missionaries and chaplains in the LCMS. The Seminary’s spring placement is scheduled for April 22, 2009.

Students who received vicarage assignments on Oct. 22 were Samuel Powell, left, and Bradley Malone, right. They are pictured with Dr. Glenn Nielsen, director of vicarage and internship.

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**Master of Divinity Degree Program**

Michael Hanel, Zion Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

**DELTO Program**

Daniel Flynn, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**EIIT Program**

Gemedo Adema, call pending
Elamin Baggor, call pending
Matthew Both, call pending
Bafel Deng, call pending
Simon Dup, call pending
Asaph James, East Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Detroit, Michigan
George Jock, call pending
Ebenezer Mallepalle, Church of the Good Shepherd, Old Bridge, New Jersey
Elijah Ndon, call pending
Lumembo Tshiswaka, call pending
Lang Yang, call pending

**Vicarage Assignments**

**Master of Divinity Degree Program**
Bradley Malone, Timothy Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa
Samuel Powell, Trinity Lutheran Church, Howards Grove, Wisconsin

**EIIT Program**
Gabriel Bol, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
Joseph Davis, Bethany Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia
John Orlando Flahn, New Hope Lutheran Church, Laurel, Maryland
Guy Kasongo, Benediction Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Will Main, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, Lawrence, Kansas
Rudy McCloud, Lutheran City Ministries, Detroit, Michigan
Vincent Paul, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
Mohan Singh, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Schenectady, New York
Isaac Williams, Grace International, Robbinsdale, Minnesota
Congregations and the Seminary thank the Lord for the new first-year class with which He has blessed the Seminary. “I rejoice personally in having been able to work with many of these students who are now first-year,” commented Rev. Kyle Castens, director of admissions, “and look forward to seeing them as pastors and deaconesses.”

A total of 96 residential students enrolled for the 2008-2009 academic year. Ninety of these students will be studying for the master of divinity degree (M.Div.) program, three for the master of arts in deaconess studies (M.A.Deac.) and three for the certificate for pastoral ministry (alternate route).

This year’s first-year class resembles last year’s in its age. “Although somewhat older on average, this year’s class is still very young,” commented Castens. “The average age is now 26 among M.Div. students as compared to 25 and 27.1 in 2007 and 2006, respectively.” The average age was 29 in 2005. A similar observation exists for the certificate students whose average age is 42.6 as compared to 43 and 48.2 in 2007 and 2006, respectively. The average age for deaconesses is now 29, in between the last two years’ averages of 28 and 33.

A younger class also somewhat affects the number of students who are married. This year is one of the first in many years in which the single M.Div. students are the majority: 54 percent single and 45 percent married. All of the certificate students are married. Two deaconess students are married. This change likewise has an effect on the number of dependent children who are part of the Seminary community. In 2005-2006, the incoming class (M.Div.) brought with it 58 dependent children. This year’s class only has 22.

With the decrease in age also comes a decrease in the number of second-career students. A second-career student is one who has been engaged in an occupation other than “student” for at least two years prior to Seminary enrollment. This year 29 percent of the incoming M.Div. students are classified as second-career. This figure is the lowest in the last 11 years. Only 2006 comes close with 46 percent second-career, and 2007 with 36 percent. Also, like the M.Div. students, the number of second-career has decreased with deaconesses. In 2006, 50 percent of the first-year deaconess class was second-career. This year that number has decreased to 33 percent. It is important to note the small size of this year’s incoming class.

The number of students graduating from a Concordia University/College also showed significant change this year. In 2007, 54 percent of the incoming class (M.Div. and certificate) came from a Concordia University System school. This year 68 percent fit into this category. One deaconess is a Concordia University graduate.

Academic performance and aptitude as measured by a student’s undergraduate GPA and the
Graduate Record Exam (GRE) also show that the students of Concordia Seminary can excel academically. This year the average undergraduate GPA for all M.Div. and certificate students is 3.25 which is about even with 2007’s 3.28. The GRE verbal score has decreased slightly to 488 (on an scale of 800) from 494 in 2007. The writing section score remained almost the same at 4.1 (on a scale of 6).

As far as academic history among the deaconesses, the average undergraduate GPA is 3.08. In the M.Div. program, the top five states of origin are Wisconsin (24), Texas (13), Illinois (8), Nebraska (8) and Michigan (7). The states represented by the certificate students are Illinois and Iowa. In Deaconess Studies, the states represented are Illinois, Oklahoma and Florida.

Everyone at Concordia Seminary is thankful to our Lord and Savior for the desire He has given these men and women to prepare for service in the church. They will be formed well into servant leaders who will bring God’s Law and Gospel to the church and world. Those who have a similar desire are encouraged to talk with their pastor and to contact the Admissions Office at Concordia Seminary.

Concordia Seminary remains one of the largest Lutheran seminaries and one of the 25 largest seminaries of any denomination in the United States. Since its inception in 1839, more than 12,000 Concordia Seminary graduates have served as pastors, missionaries, chaplains or deaconesses throughout the world. Those interested in enrollment should contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-822-9545 or admissions@csle.edu.

For additional information, contact Communications, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7374; communications@csle.edu.
Concordia Seminary will offer its 17th Annual Schola Cantorum: An Adult Choir Member Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009. The workshop will be held in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus and the Clara and Spencer Werner Auditorium on the Seminary campus.

The Schola Cantorum is open to all choir members, choir directors and ministers of music. The schedule for the day begins with registration at 8:15 a.m., Morning Prayer at 8:45 a.m. and rehearsal sessions beginning at 9:15 a.m. The day concludes at 3:30 p.m. after the Closing Prayer service, which will include some of the music learned that day.

Dr. Kurt von Kampen will serve as this year’s clinician.

Dr. Kurt E. von Kampen has been conducting choirs at Concordia University, Nebraska, since the fall of 1998, and is the fourth conductor in the 68-year history of the University A Cappella Choir. Prior to accepting the position at Concordia University, von Kampen served as head of the choral program at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Mich., and as director of music at Lutheran High School Westland and Northwest in the Detroit area. He holds a bachelor of science degree in music education from Concordia University in Seward, Neb.; a master of music degree in choral conducting from Oakland University in Rochester, Mich.; and a Ph.D. in choral music education from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.

“We hold the Schola Cantorum as a way of serving the church at large,” commented Rev. Henry Gerike, director of choirs at Concordia Seminary. “By attending, choir members and directors will learn and rehearse new choral music that can be used in their own churches. They will also learn better the art of singing. Each of our clinicians provides great insights into singing the praises of our Lord.”

This year, a Choral Reading Session will be held Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In the session, Dr. von Kampen will guide participants through an evening of choral and instrumental song in which he will preview new and current titles of music. The session is open to all, but is especially designed for choir directors. There is no charge to attend but registration is required.

The cost for the Schola Cantorum is $60 per individual or $110 per congregation ($70 or $125 after Jan. 16, 2009). For the congregation fee, a choir can send as many members as it desires. Lunch and the choral music are not included in the fee. For more information or registration forms, call 314-505-7486 or e-mail ce@csl.edu.
Hymn Competition Winner Acknowledged

Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce the 2008 winner in the Pamela Anne Prevallaret Memorial Fund Annual Hymn Competition. The competition was created in June 2000 by Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Prevallaret in remembrance of their daughter. It serves to foster the creation of new liturgical hymns of the highest caliber for the church.

Seminarian Matthew Priem, the winner of the competition, wrote the hymn “What Life Is This.” The winning hymn is available on the Concordia Seminary Web site at www.csl.edu.

Commenting on his hymn, Priem said, “By means of Law and Gospel, I hope to redefine death and life for both singers and hearers and lead them to confident hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. This theme is ideally associated with Lent, although parts, especially the final verses, may be borrowed for funerals throughout the year.”

The annual hymn competition is open to students of Concordia Seminary who are serving their vicarage as part of their preparation for the pastoral ministry. “It is good to foster hymn writing as a pastoral activity already when pastors are being formed,” commented Dr. James Brauer, professor and chairman of practical theology and dean of the chapel at Concordia Seminary. “It could yield some good, new resources for ministry over the years.”

The Pamela Anne Prevallaret Memorial Fund at Concordia Seminary holds the copyright to the texts of the winning hymns. The use of these hymns in congregations is encouraged.

For more information about the Pamela Anne Prevallaret Memorial Fund Annual Hymn Competition or this year’s winning hymn, contact Communications at 314-505-7374 or e-mail communications@csld.edu.

What Life Is This

What life is this that ends so soon
So quickly fades from hope to ruin?
So brief a span at such a cost,
What life is this? Life for the lost.

What life is this nailed to the tree?
Condemned to die in agony,
The Lord of Life suffers the curse
Of sin for all the universe.

What life is this that does not end?
True life in Christ on faith depends.
Alive in Him, the grave we scorn.
Death lost its pow’r on Easter morn.

What death is this that does not kill?
Though I may die, I know that still.
My soul will rest with Christ and then
On the last day I’ll rise again!

Matthew Priem

[LM (8.8.8.8), Suggested tune: LSB 355, 586]

© 2008 Pamela Anne Prevallaret Memorial Fund, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.
LutherHostel 2008 Is a Success

A n enthusiastic group of adults, age 55 and above, participated in LutherHostel 2008, held Oct. 4-7 on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Presenters
Rev. Dr. Charles Mueller, former president of the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and Dr. Mary Manz Simon were the main presenters for the event. Participants experienced Seminary class instruction and attended presentations by Seminary faculty and local experts on the theme, “Newest Oldest Generation: Still on Duty by God’s Design.”

One participant commented, “Everyone was friendly, from staff to students on campus. There was wonderful energy, faith, hope and fellowship. Thank you for hosting this LutherHostel. I will recommend it to others in my area.”

Rev. Walter Schoedel and his wife Leota were the host couple for the event. In addition, Bible studies were led by Seminary professors Thomas Egger, David Lewis and Louis Brighton.

LutherHostel 2009 October 3–6

Activities
Scheduled activities began on Saturday evening with an Oktoberfest dinner. Additional activities included a pipe organ demonstration in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, student-led evening devotions and a reception at the home of President and Mrs. Dale Meyer. Tours of various Lutheran sites (International Center, Lutheran Hour Ministries) and St. Louis sites (Cathedral Basilica, Forest Park, Missouri Botanical Garden, “The Hill”) also were offered. An optional tour of the Lutheran historical sites in Perry County, Mo., took place on Oct. 8, immediately following LutherHostel.

LutherHostel 2009 will take place on Oct. 3-6. Rev. John Nunes, president of Lutheran World Relief, will be the main presenter. For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7486, e-mail ce@csl.edu or visit the Seminary’s Web site at www.csl.edu.

LutherHostel 2008 participants.
Seminary Invites Prospective Students to Visitation Events

Three of Concordia Seminary’s most popular campus visitation events for prospective students and their guests will be offered over the next several months. Two of the events are designed for those who are college age, and one is for high school students. One of the events is designed specifically for prospective deaconess students.

Green and Gold Days
“Green and Gold Days” will be held Jan. 8, 2009 (deaconesses), and April 3, 2009 (pastors) on the Seminary campus. This event will give college students an opportunity to learn more about life in the Concordia Seminary community and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor, missionary, chaplain or deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Participants will interact with current students, attend classes, worship in chapel and speak with members of the faculty. Pastors and pre-seminary advisors are encouraged to attend to show support for their students interested in pastoral formation or deaconess studies. Registration deadlines are Jan. 1, 2009 (deaconesses) and March 27, 2009 (pastors).

Taste of the Sem
“Taste of the Sem” will take place Jan. 17-19, 2009. The event is designed to allow young men in high school the opportunity to experience Seminary life with the help of current Concordia Seminary students.

With the theme, “Thy Strong Word,” participants will study God’s Word in its original languages and understand what it means to proclaim God’s Word in its truth and purity.

The event features Bible study, prayer and discussions concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry. Participants are matched with Seminary students and accompany these students to their resident field education congregations on Sunday morning and to classes and chapel service on Monday morning. High school participants also are given a tour of the campus and the opportunity for dinner and discussion with Seminary faculty members. The registration deadline is Dec. 17.

Contemplate
“Contemplate” will be held March 12-14, 2009, on the Seminary campus. Designed for those who are college age or older, this structured visitation event provides an effective means of 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. Paired with a current student, participants will attend chapel and observe classes. Breakout sessions will focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process, as well as provide opportunities for presentations on the academic program, resident field education, vicarage and internship years, financial assistance and housing. The registration deadline is March 6, 2009.

All three visitation events are free of charge. For more information, including registration forms, call Admissions at 1-800-822-9545, e-mail admissions@csl.edu or visit www.csl.edu.
Gifts to Concordia Seminary’s How Will They Hear? Campaign’s “Place” component could mean that Concordia Seminary will receive an additional $4 for every $3 given.

The “Place” component of the Campaign is for urgently needed renovations of Concordia Seminary buildings, facilities and infrastructure, and for technological transformation of the campus. In other words, “Place” gifts will result in enhanced stewardship of the campus and will help create a greatly enhanced learning environment for the Seminary’s future pastors, deaconesses, missionaries and leaders.

If Concordia Seminary’s How Will They Hear? Campaign receives $3 million in gifts and pledges for the “Place” component, the Charles E. Benidt Foundation of Elm Grove, Wis., will not only match the $3 million dollars in gifts, but will also provide an additional $1 million. Every $3 given by donors will result in a total of $7 for “Place” if total Seminary “Place” donations reach the $3 million challenge amount.

Gifts, large or small, will bring the Seminary a critically important step closer to meeting the challenge.

For more information, call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287 or visit the How Will They Hear? Web site at www.HowWillTheyHear.org.

Challenge Grant Could Mean That $3 = $7

How Will They Hear? Congregation Phase Begins

The How Will They Hear? Campaign, a three-component effort, will make sure that Concordia Seminary remains fiscally ready and able to continue its mission. How Will They Hear? is designed to secure $77 million in gifts and commitments for the three major interconnected components—“Pastors,” “Place,” and “Promise”—essential to a Christ-centered theological education in the 21st century.

The Congregation phase of the How Will They Hear? Campaign will begin on Jan. 1, 2009. As part of this phase, Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, will preach at various churches throughout the country. Check with the churches for worship times.

Upcoming Dates Where Dr. Dale Meyer Will Preach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18, 2009</td>
<td>Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Meyers, Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2009</td>
<td>Island Lutheran Church, Hilton Head, South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22, 2009</td>
<td>St. John Lutheran Church, Orange County, California</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8, 2009</td>
<td>Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury, Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22, 2009</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Schaumburg, Illinois</td>
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</tbody>
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For more information, contact Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287 or e-mail advancement@csld.edu.
The National Steering Committee of the *How Will They Hear?* Campaign is made up of dedicated people throughout the country. They meet periodically, in person and by way of telephone conference calls, to assist in guiding and leading the $77 million Campaign. Eugene and Mary Sukup from Hampton, Iowa, are two members of the National Steering Committee. Their company manufactures steel grain bins to store corn, soybeans and wheat worldwide. The following conversation with Eugene Sukup explains why this Campaign is so vitally important to the church.

**Conversation with Eugene Sukup**

We have met some wonderful people at Concordia Seminary and on the National Steering Committee. They all have the same goals in mind as we do. We want to get the message of the Gospel out to as many people as possible. Mary and I are very supportive of the *How Will They Hear?* Campaign.

In our business, we travel a lot, and we always make sure to find a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod church to go to when we are away. We have always found that there is such consistency in the different pastors we have heard preach—they all preach the Gospel! What greater service can we do than to support men going into the ministry and getting the proper training.

We’ve also had the opportunity to spend some time at Concordia Seminary. What a beautiful place it is. Once you visit, see the chapel and meet the instructors, you see that it is a fabulous place to be trained for the mission of the Gospel. We have heard the students give their practice sermons. They do a wonderful job. We have seen the final product. This Campaign is such a good cause to support.

We all have an opportunity, and we can’t rely on anyone else to keep our Seminary strong. It is our duty to support the future pastors of our churches. That’s why the Congregation Phase of the Campaign that begins in January is so important. What a great cause it is for congregations to send the Gospel message to people, and to their children and grandchildren by supporting future pastors and the *How Will They Hear?* Campaign.

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**Campaign Overview**

*How Will They Hear?* is designed to secure $77 million in gifts and commitments for the three major, interconnected components essential to Christ-centered theological education in the 21st century.

**Gifts and Commitments Received**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PASTORS</td>
<td>$33.62 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLACE</td>
<td>$8.09 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROMISE</td>
<td>$14.72 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Estate Plan Fundamentals: Bequests

Christians have a common understanding that blessings are entrusted to them from God. A last will and testament is a tool to exercise stewardship in thanks for these blessings.

A will provides instructions to a personal representative who will determine how to distribute assets. Without a will, the laws of the deceased’s state of legal residence will determine how to distribute assets.

A current will enables expression of Christian values to family and friends, care for heirs according to their needs, and making special gifts to charitable organizations like Concordia Seminary.

When creating or updating a will, discussion is encouraged of a durable power of attorney and a health care proxy. The following is sample wording to establish a bequest for Concordia Seminary.

**Cash Bequest**

“I give $______ to:
Concordia Seminary
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63105.”

**Percentage Bequest**

“I give _____% of my estate to:
Concordia Seminary
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63105.”

For questions or to request that a bequest be used for a specific purpose, please contact Concordia Seminary toll-free at 1-800-822-5287.

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**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.
More than 175 people attended “German Days at the Sem” hosted by the Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life (CLTPL), Oct. 24-25, on the campus of Concordia Seminary. The two-day event marked the second in a series of 10 significant events, held every fall leading up to the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation on Oct. 31, 2017.

The theme of this year’s “German Days II” was “Faith and Politics in Luther’s Land - and Here” and addressed a pertinent topic in this election year—the impact of religion on public life. Scholars and prominent statesmen from both sides of the Atlantic discussed the influence of Germany’s Christian heritage on its national affairs and the political life in the European Union. They also recalled the importance of new religions and neo-paganism in Nazi ideology and the anti-Christian nature of Hitler’s regime. One topic of particular interest to Americans in light of the recent U.S. elections is the constitutional aspect of America’s and Europe’s religious roots.

Keynote speakers were Dr. Hans Apel, Germany’s former Finance and Defense Minister, and Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Barry Anderson. Other presenters included Rev. Christian Meissner, national executive secretary of the Protestant caucus of Germany’s governing Christian Democratic Union; Rev. Larry Nichols, a leading Lutheran expert in cults and Satanism in the United States; Professors Irving Hexham and Karla Poewe of the University of Calgary in Canada, both specialists on the influence of new religions on Nazi Germany; Dr. Mark Ruff, associate professor of history at Saint Louis University and a foremost specialist on the Christian and specifically Catholic youth in postwar Germany, and of the struggle of Christians under the Nazis; and Professor Michael Rutz, editor-in-chief of Rheinischer Merkur, one of Germany’s most distinguished newspapers.

Several Concordia Seminary faculty and staff members also participated. The conference featured a Winzerfest (wine festival), organized in cooperation with the town of Hermann, Mo., the heart of Missouri wine country, plus exhibitions and presentations of the Concordia Historical Institute, the German American Heritage Society and Concordia Publishing House.

“German Days at the Sem” opened with a bilingual matins service on Friday, Oct. 24, in the Seminary’s Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. The conference concluded on Saturday with a Bach at the Sem performance in the Seminary’s Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus.

“German Days II” was a stunning event in three respects,” commented Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto, director of the Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life. “Stunning was the scholarship of presenters showing the 19th-century atheist and neo-pagan roots of Nazism. Stunning were the assessments of the decline of Christianity in Germany and the chances of its revival. And stunning was the beauty of the Bach at the Sem concert which crowned this conference.”

The Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life is the successor of the Concordia Seminary Institute on Lay Vocation. CLTPL is an affiliate of the Seminary; its mission is to project Lutheran thought to the secular realm.
A new book, *Gospel Patterns in Literature*, authored by Dr. Francis Rossow, professor emeritus of practical theology at Concordia Seminary, was recently published by Lutheran University Press.

*Gospel Patterns in Literature* explores 18 literary works in which Rossow has identified common Gospel themes. His thesis states that Gospel themes have become so familiar in society that they tend to work themselves into literature. Most often these themes come in the form of good versus evil (God versus Satan).

“The central event of history called the Gospel event (the Son of God's incarnation, life, death, damnation, resurrection and salvation) has had so profound an impact on our world that it has spilled beyond the bounds chosen by God to convey it,” commented Rossow.

“This book is a perfect companion for anyone interested in reading great literature and also meditating on the heart of the Christian faith,” commented Dr. David Schmitt, associate professor of practical theology. “Rossow’s chapters offer clear and careful analysis of Gospel patterns in literature balanced with attention to literary form and style. Through his effort, Rossow helps readers appreciate the value of literature even as they contemplate matters of eternal worth.”

Rossow served as pastor of Crosby-Fortuna Lutheran Church, Wildrose, N.D. (1948-49); and pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Mich. (1949-59). He served as a professor of English (1959-76); a resident counselor (1961-75); and the acting dean (1975-76) at Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind. He also served as a professor of practical theology (1976-97) and director of worship (1976-77) at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He retired from full-time faculty in 1997. Rossow received the B.A. degree from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Ind. (1944); the M.Div. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (1948); the M.A. degree from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. (1961); and the honorary Litt.D. degree from Christ College, Irvine, Calif. (1989).

*Gospel Patterns in Literature* may be purchased online at www.lutheranupress.org for $16 plus shipping.
Focus on a Seminarian

Name: Donald Ray

Home District: California-Nevada-Hawaii

How long have you felt the desire to serve as a pastor?
Since late 2001, shortly after my wife, Stacye, and I were married. I was working for a publicly-traded company and serving at our church as an elder and Bible study teacher at the time. While our life was joyful and fruitful in many ways, we nonetheless began to discern that God was preparing us for this.

How does the Seminary experience differ from what you imagined earlier?
I find that trying to balance the rest of my life with schoolwork and fieldwork is more challenging than trying to balance life with work in the business world. All that said, I truly enjoy being a full-time Seminary student. It is both challenging and very rewarding at the same time.

How would you describe life at the Seminary?
The Seminary experience is an unrepeatable adventure: the academics are challenging and invigorating, the professors are encouraging, the family/community life is uplifting, and the greater St. Louis area is stimulating.

What is your biggest challenge at the Seminary?
As a married, second-career student with two young children and another child on the way, successfully balancing the competing priorities and demands of my personal devotional life, school work, congregational fieldwork, family and friends, recreation and all other aspects of life is a challenge every day.

How has your time at the Seminary impacted your view of the ministry?
By learning from my studies and serving in my fieldwork congregation, I now have a deeper respect and appreciation for what it takes to be a pastor than I did before I came here. I say that even having served both as an elder and on the staff of our home congregation prior to coming to the Seminary.

What are your feelings about the future of your ministry?
We believe God has drawn our family to this place for this course of study at this time. What He will do with this experience and with us after graduation we have no idea. We simply try to faithfully live one day at a time by God’s grace, make each day count and place our confidence and trust in Christ along the way.

How would you describe the support you have received while attending Concordia Seminary?
God has worked through our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the country, and especially those in our home congregation, to generously and lovingly support us in many ways. We continue to live with an open hand and give generously in return ourselves, yet we lack nothing materially. Praise God!

Is there any advice you would give to someone who is thinking about coming to the Seminary?
Stay in the Word. Pray. Come and visit. Seek wise counsel from people who know you and who love you enough to tell you the unadulterated truth. Receive their input with grace, tact and discernment. Then make a prayerful decision and stick with it, trusting that God’s grace is sufficient and that He will guide you along the way. For those considering the Seminary who have a spouse, fiancée or children, I also stress the importance and value of going through the aforementioned process together and in unity.
Seminary Chorus Announces Spring Tour

The Concordia Seminary Chorus, under the direction of Rev. Henry V. Gerike, will visit Lutheran churches in Missouri, California, Arizona and Nevada on its 2009 Spring Tour. The Chorus will provide sacred concerts in the form of choral Evening Prayer that includes prayer, Scripture readings and congregational singing.

In addition, the Chorus will perform the newly commissioned piece by Dr. Ralph C. Schultz, former president of Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y., a setting of “O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day.” Dr. Schultz set selected stanzas of an ancient evening hymn along with quotations of Jesus being the Light of the world and arranged them for male chorus and viola. Underwriting this commissioned work is a gift from Dr. William and Nancy Raabe of Columbus, Ohio. In two congregations, the Chorus will offer vocal selections during Sunday morning worship services.

The Concordia Seminary Chorus, which includes the Spring Tour Group, numbers about 60 seminarians, who commit to balancing full course loads with weekly rehearsals and special tour rehearsals. The seminarians are preparing for full-time service as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Pastor Gerike has conducted the Chorus since 1992 after serving as its student conductor for five years.

For more information or to order CDs of Chorus recordings, contact the Concordia Seminary Bookstore at 314-505-7315 or bookstore@csld.edu.

Seminary Chorus 2009 Spring Tour

**Sunday, February 15, 3:30 p.m.**
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
St. Louis, Missouri

**Sunday, February 22, 9:00 a.m.**
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Pomona, California

**Sunday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.**
Grace Lutheran Church
San Diego, California

**Monday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.**
Christ Lutheran Church
Yuma, Arizona

**Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.**
Christ Church Lutheran
Phoenix, Arizona

**Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.**
First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Friday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.**
Faith Lutheran Church
Capistrano Beach, California

**Saturday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.**
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
Lake Forest, California

**Sunday, March 1, 9:00 a.m.**
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Hacienda Heights, California

**Sunday, March 1, 5:00 p.m.**
First Lutheran Church
Venice, California

**Monday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.**
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Newbury Park, California

**Sunday, March 15, 4:00 p.m.**
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Perryville, Missouri
First ‘Reaching Out Together’ Conference

Concordia Seminary will hold an evangelism conference titled “Reaching Out Together” on Feb. 14, 2009, on the campus of Concordia Seminary. The conference is sponsored by the partnership of Concordia Seminary, the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and North American Missions Ablaze! of the LCMS.

“This event is designed for pastors, evangelism boards, church leaders and laypeople in the Missouri District and adjacent LCMS districts. “For years a group of St. Louis area congregations have been emphasizing the importance of evangelism with their ‘Saturday Outreach School,’ ” commented Rev. Rick Marrs, director of continuing education and parish services. “We are very pleased to be able to reach out together with them and with Synod’s Ablaze! program to encourage even more congregations and Christians to creatively reach out to their communities with the blessed Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, will serve as the conference keynote speaker. Other presenters will include Rev. Scott Snow, director of national outreach with LCMS World Mission; Rev. Joseph Sullivan, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.; and Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab, national director of new mission fields development with LCMS World Mission.

Registration is required. The cost is $20 per participant for the first four from a single congregation; $12.50 for each additional participant. Fees include all materials and lunch. Registration is due by Feb. 6, 2009.

For more information or to register, call 314-505-7486 or e-mail ce@csl.edu.

Seminary Receives New Liturgical Banners

Concordia Seminary received a generous donation of five liturgical banners that are placed in the Student Chapel in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Seminary campus. The banners were created by Jeanette Paulson, a liturgical fabric artist from Duluth, Minn., and were donated by Marcia Hoemann in memory of her husband Victor H. Hoemann from Florissant, Mo.

“It was our goal to commission a strong Christological design, and our artist, Jeanette Paulson, has achieved this,” commented Dr. James L. Brauer, dean of the chapel. “An additional aspect of the design has been identified in the comments of many students and colleagues, who after first seeing the banners, say, ‘They fit so well that it seems like they have always been there.’ ”

The five separate banners over the altar form a single rich and symbolic impression. The primary element is the circle representing the Light of God, Jesus Christ, and His life and teachings. Background colors of purple, red, blue and green contrast with the white of the circle, the silver and gold of the rays and the silver and gray of the pathways. The circle image contains small squares suggesting light for the “corners” of the world. Some of the textured fabrics absorb light and some reflect light. Together they create a rich repetition of colors and shapes found elsewhere in the chapel.
Reverend Michael Amegah, a native of Togo, West Africa, serves as the first pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in the capital city of Lomé in Togo. The Lutheran Church in Togo was established in 1980 by the first missionary there, Rev. Walter Demoss. A 2006 graduate of Concordia Seminary, Amegah was called to The Lutheran Church in Togo to begin an urban ministry in Lomé, with the vision of planting Lutheran churches all over the country. He is the first Togolese student to be trained at Concordia Seminary.

Grace Lutheran Church is a relatively new congregation and has seen a steady growth of new members since Rev. Amegah arrived. The entire congregation is composed of 28 families and 19 singles (mostly youth). The size of families varies between two and eight; the total number of children is 60.

About six to 10 children come to the church service without being accompanied by their parents. The church counts in its midst 138 members with regular attendance of 80 and above. Rev. Amegah has baptized 56 children and adults within a year.

“One is joy not only to be a servant of the Lord but also a good theologian.”

Rev. Michael Amegah

One of the regular practices of the church is to give out Bibles to its new members as soon as they join. “This is a way for new members to read the Word of God and use it in their family devotions at home,” commented Rev. Amegah.

Grace Lutheran Church supports several mission efforts locally under the guidance of Rev. Amegah. The young people are very involved in a sports ministry which is used for outreach. The church’s soccer team plays matches in schools and with other teams that are not Christian. During these tournaments, both teams receive Bibles and
Lutheran literature. “After the matches, we will preach the Gospel to them,” commented Rev. Amegah.

There are 37 languages spoken in Togo. Rev. Amegah knows seven languages and leads the worship service in French and Ewe, an African language. In describing the scope of his ministry, Rev. Amegah considers working with new Christians to be very rewarding.

“I thank God for making me His servant and ministering to my own people in Togo,” commented Amegah. “When new Christians hear the Gospel in their own language, they are more receptive to the message and understand it more clearly.”

Since AIDS is one of the most deadly pandemics on the African continent in general and in Togo in particular, Rev. Amegah’s congregation has formed a committee to help with this pandemic. Six of his members, including a legal expert and a sociologist, educate members and non-members alike through various programs. They include prevention, a medication program for those infected, a care program for orphans and widows, and widowers who raise awareness among the healthy. This is also an opportunity for his members to share the Gospel with unbelievers.

Rev. Amegah’s congregation supports other ministries including youth, adult and ministry for the elderly.

Thinking about how the Seminary has helped prepare him for the pastoral ministry in Togo, West Africa, Rev. Amegah humbly said, “It was a great privilege to be trained at one of the most prestigious seminaries in the United States. It is a joy not only to be a servant of the Lord but also a good theologian. I’m glad I had the opportunity to receive my theological education at Concordia Seminary.”

In 2007, Rev. Amegah was elected president of the Confessional Lutheran Churches of French Speaking Africa Union and vice president of the Christian Council of Togo. Reflecting on his ministry, Rev. Amegah stated, “My greatest joy is in serving my own country and establishing Lutheranism in French-speaking Africa.” His vision is to train future pastors and evangelists and send them back to their own people.

“I want to spread the Word of God to as many ethnic groups as possible,” commented Rev. Amegah. Currently eight members of his church have started to receive basic theological training.
Concordia Seminary recognized significant ordination anniversaries and commissioning dates of 13 faculty and emeriti at the end of chapel service on Nov. 12. Each was recognized individually, and prayers of thanksgiving were offered for their service. A reception was held following the chapel service to allow individuals in the Seminary community the opportunity to express their gratitude.

The following Concordia Seminary faculty members were recognized:

- David Berger (commissioning) – 45 years
- William Carr – 25 years
- Jeffrey Kloha – 15 years
- David Lewis – 10 years
- David Maxwell – 5 years
- Jeffrey Oschwald – 20 years
- David Peter – 20 years
- Leopoldo Sánchez M. – 5 years
- Quentin Wesselschmidt – 45 years
- Ronald Feuerhahn (emeritus) – 45 years
- Horace Hummel (emeritus) – 55 years
- Charles Knippel (emeritus) – 55 years
- Francis Rossow (emeritus) – 60 years

“The years of faithful service to our Lord and His people given by these 13 men give strong testimony to the faithfulness of our good and gracious God, who always bestows upon His church gifts to carry out His work (Eph. 4:8, 11),” commented Dr. James Voelz, dean of the faculty at Concordia Seminary. “Together, they have given more than 400 years of service in many lands, in many languages, and in many stations and positions, and we at Concordia Seminary are glad and proud to call them our brothers in Christ.”

For more information, contact Communications, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7374; communications@cs.edu.
Seminary Honors James Brauer

Professor James L. Brauer, professor of practical theology and dean of The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus at Concordia Seminary, was honored on Nov. 12 to acknowledge his retirement from the faculty on Dec. 1. Formal recognition was given at the chapel service followed by a reception in Koburg Hall. Brauer was honored for 17 years of distinguished service at the Seminary.

“Dr. Brauer has been a key figure on this campus for over a decade and a half,” said Dr. James Voelz, dean of the faculty. “His contribution to our worship life, especially, has been exemplary and profound.”

Brauer received the A.A. degree from Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis. (1958); the B.A. degree from Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind. (1960); the M.Div. degree (1964) and the S.T.M. degree (1967) from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; the S.M.M. degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y. (1972); and the Ph.D. degree in music from City University of New York, New York, N.Y. (1983). He was ordained on July 4, 1965 at Redeemer Church in Green Bay, Wis.

Dr. Brauer served as instructor of Classical Languages and Religion (1965-68) and professor (1968-87) at Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y. He served as executive director of the Commission on Worship for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from 1987 to 1992.

Brauer has served as professor of practical theology and dean of the chapel at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, since 1991.


Karl Barth Issues New Book

A new book written by Dr. Karl Barth was recently released. In it, Dr. Barth, who served as president of Concordia Seminary from 1982 to 1990, shares stories inspired by experiences with people, places and events.

The book, titled Just a Chip Off the Old Blog, is a compilation of short essays and commentaries written by Dr. Barth through the years. Dr. Barth admits that the material is not taken from an actual “blog,” but his expressions are similar to those that may be included in current blogs.

“The subject matter is diverse,” commented Dr. Barth, “and I pray readers from all walks of life may find a few good nuggets to help them in their spiritual journey.”

Dr. Paul Zimmerman, former president of Concordia University Chicago, said, “Karl’s observations of the world and his church are both refreshing and enlightening. I think every student at our seminaries should have this book as part of their pastoral theological training.”

Thanks to a gift from a donor, a copy of Dr. Barth’s book is being given to every current student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Dr. Barth, a 1947 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has served in a variety of capacities in the Synod: parish pastor, district and Synod official and Seminary president. He and his wife Jean have been married for 61 years and currently reside in Wauwatosa, Wis.

Dr. Barth’s book may be ordered through www.justachipofftheoldblog.com. The cost is $14.95 plus shipping.
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 •

January 7, 14, 21, 28 . . Winter Lay Bible Institute
January 11 . . . . . . Epiphany Celebration
January 17-19 . . . . . Taste of the Sem
January 24 . . . . . . Adult Choir Member Workshop
January 25 . . . . . . Black History Celebration
February 14 . . . . . . “Reaching Out Together” Conference
February 22 . . . . . . Bach at the Sem Concert
March 12-14 . . . . . . “Contemplate” Visitation Event

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