“Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”
Mark 10:45 NKJV
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“Lion Alert!”

Amos 7:14: “Amos answered Amaziah, ‘I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet.”

In its Big Cat Country, the St. Louis Zoo in Forest Park has one of the biggest lions I’ve ever seen. His name is Oba—that’s O-B-A. Now, if there is a fight, let me publicly make it as clear as possible—I’m on Oba’s side! Why, Oba weighs almost 500 pounds, boasts a huge mane and has absolutely enormous paws. While my three children just love the “Penguin Puffin’ Coast” and my wife just can’t get enough of those gentle giant giraffes, I like standing in front of this King of the Jungle… as long as he remains in his cage!

Panthera leo … for Latin lovers; the King of the Beasts … for nature lovers; behind bars … for lovers of … life!

Oh, I know, Oba should be free, roaming through Forest Park feasting upon its squirrels and rabbits. But who on this campus wants to wake up to a “Lion Alert?” Who wants an up close and personal “Fall Visitation” from this beast? Not me. This lion must remain in his cage!

And I’m not the only one who feels this way. Amaziah—the priest at Bethel—is building a career around keeping the Lion in his cage. Only this Lion’s name is … Yahweh. Amos 1:2: “Yahweh roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem!” The last thing Amaziah wants to see is a “Lion Alert!” So whatever the cost, whatever the compromise, this Lion must never, ever rumble in Israel’s jungle! Amaziah’s ecclesiastical policy means that anyone who rattles, shakes and opens cages must “get out of Dodge”… immediately!

Enter one Amos, a Judean cattleman and fig picker … from Tekoa.

“Lion alert! Lion alert! Call 911!” Amaziah must begin operation “Safe Church Policy” because it is through Amos that this Lion is saying to Israel, “For three sins of Israel and for four, I will not turn back my wrath.” “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.” “Woe to you who long for the day of Yahweh … it will be a day of darkness and not light!” “I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies.” “Woe to you who are at ease in Zion … who do not grieve over Joseph’s ruin.”

This is no “still, small voice!” This is no “Gentle Jesus meek and mild.” And this is no tame, purring little kitty cat. Amos 3:8: “The lion has roared, who will not fear? Lord Yahweh has spoken, who can but prophesy?”

Amaziah says to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.” When interpreted, Amaziah is saying, “Amos, this temple isn’t big enough for the two of us. So get out of my face you fig-pickin’, low wattage shepherd boy … prophet wannabe! My motto is tolerate, let sleeping dogs lie. I long to cooperate, to all radicals I say … ‘bye!’”

This priest is an expert in image building, marketing techniques, public relations and salesmanship. In fact, in Amos 7:11 when he reports to his boss what the prophet is preaching he conveniently avoids the sticky issues of syncretistic worship, poverty, oppression and social injustice. His king—Jeroboam ben Joash—will no doubt recommend a raise for Amaziah because at Bethel this priest is running such a smooth religious operation.

Sisters and brothers—do not be deceived—there are powerful forces in our lives, in our church and in our world shouting to us, “Be an Amaziah clone!” When interpreted they are saying, “Preach therapy, not theology—seek more members, not maturing disciples—be a Jay Leno stand-up, not a herald of Yahweh’s word — and be content with religious clichés and jargon instead of blazing burning truth!”

We live in a culture that systematically domesticates, de-fangs and de-claws the roaring Lion.

2 Tim. 3: “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days … people will have the form of godliness but deny its power.”

But living in the power Amos says, “I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet.” When interpreted Amos is saying, “I am not a religious professional, paid to make pious pronouncements on public platforms. I will not be bought, compromised, deterred, diluted or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won’t give up, back up or let up until I’ve preached up, prayed up and stayed up.”

And why should this shock us? Moses confronts Pharaoh with Yahweh’s thunderous, “Let my people go!” Nathan courageously puts his ecclesiastical career on the line when he summons David with the words,

(Continued on page 4.)
Elijah takes the heat from Ahab who calls him “the trouble in Israel!” Jeremiah daringly rewrites Yahweh’s word after king Jehoachim has sliced it, diced it and burned it. And Daniel’s dream of the night shatters Nebuchadnezzar’s illusion of the day.

Joining this “goodly fellowship” of the politically incorrect is Israel’s greatest radical. Why, he once had the courage to make a whip and then use it to cleanse his Father’s House. Another time he looked the religious leaders of his day straight in the eye and said, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones!” Climactically he stands before his high priest and confesses, “In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

But this Lion is also the Lamb ... his mighty power is made most perfect in ... weakness. Jesus allows soldiers to march him along the Via Dolorosa while he shoulders his crossbar with blood dripping from his butchered back. Jesus allows His executioners to strip him naked, shove Him to the ground and pin Him to wood with their tools of torture. And Jesus absorbs the spit and the insults without asking His Father to dispense 12 legions of angels.

Societies don’t execute Captain Kangaroo, Mr. Rogers or Sponge Bob ... but they do destroy people who shake their religious establishments to the very core. “There,” they said on that Friday afternoon, “no need to call 911. There is no more Lion alert. He’s crucified, dead and buried!”

But, but ... coming forth from the tomb the Lion rumbles in his jungle! Revelation 5:5: “See, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah ... He has triumphed!” There is nothing dead about our Jesus! His is no syrupy, sentimental love. But His fierce love for you is driven by nails, marked with scars and crowned with thorns.

Now ... what do you suppose Amaziah will say to Amos if the prophet finally gives up, gives in and goes along, just to be a good ol’ boy? What will this priest say if Amos becomes a “yes” man to Jeroboam ben Joash? Amaziah—and all those like him—will say, “Welcome to our religious club ... where our motto is ‘Come weal or woe, the status must forever remain ... quo!’”

But ... what do you think Amos will say if Amaziah confesses, “Enough is enough. I will no longer sell my soul on the altar called compromise ... it’s time to let the Lion loose”? Amos—and all those like him—will raise a hand, make the sign of the cross and announce what you hear every Sunday in the Divine Service: “I forgive you of all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the *Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
Making the Connection: Concordia Blog Cabin

Guests to Concordia Seminary sometimes seem surprised that the school they see before them started in a one-room rustic cabin in southern Perry County, Mo. The wood and mortar pale in comparison to the multicolored stone edifices that now grace the Concordia Seminary campus. However, one must never forget the first facility with which the Lord blessed the Seminary. It was here where the top-rated theological education that Concordia Seminary offers began.

Hints of this cabin can be found as one surveys this campus. An etching in the Walther entrance and a full-sized replica (actually a movie prop) are two of the regular reminders of this history. Consequently, it made sense to add one more sign of this history: Concordia Blog Cabin. Concordia Blog Cabin is not a new architectural structure or work of art, but a blog which provides the space for authors to offer their thoughts of the Seminary and the context in which it rests.

The blog serves as valuable space for several reasons. First, a medium, such as a blog, offers information that is as current as possible. For instance, an event that occurs at 10 a.m. can be blogged at 10:15 a.m.

Another beneficial aspect to the Concordia Blog Cabin is that it offers faculty, students and Admissions staff room to describe issues of and around the Seminary. Those who subscribe to the blog may be updated on the latest change in the admissions process or they may learn where they can find the least expensive groceries in town. The blog may describe the benefit of iTunes U, or it may direct people to the perfect place to get away. The guest to the Cabin also has the opportunity to leave comments or read another’s comments.

The doors to the Concordia Blog Cabin are always open. To come in, go to www.concordia blogcabin.com. The curators of this Cabin also appreciate comments to improve its usefulness. Concordia Blog Cabin will help people become and stay connected with the everyday life of Concordia Seminary and its community.

Luther on Ministry

“The Love of Christ Constraineth”

To be an upright pastor and preacher is a great thing, and if our Lord God Himself did not bring it about, nothing would come of it. A man must have a great soul to minister to the body and soul, the goods and honor, of people and yet suffer the greatest danger and ingratitude for it. This is why Christ said to Peter: “Peter, loveth thou Me? (John 21:15) and repeated it twice. Only then He said: “feed My sheep,” as if to say: If you want to be a real shepherd and keeper of souls (Seelsorger), you must love only Me and add this love of Me to your ministry; otherwise your work is impossible. For who is willing and eager to suffer ingratitude, to impair his health and possessions by studying and then put himself into the greatest danger? This is why He says: It is very necessary that you love Me.

Making the Connection: Concordia Blog Cabin

AC VIII What is the Church

Likewise, although the Christian church is, properly speaking, nothing else than the assembly of all believers and saints, yet because in this life many false Christians, hypocrites, and even public sinners remain righteous, the sacraments— even though administered by unrighteous priests—are efficacious all the same. For as Christ himself indicates [Matthew 23:2-3]: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat…”

Condemned, therefore, are the Donatists and all others who hold a different view.

Future Shepherd of God's Flock

Where did your family and you live prior to coming to the Seminary?
We lived in Clermont, Florida, about 30 minutes from Orlando.

What was your career prior to coming to the Seminary?
My wife was an audiologist. I worked at Walt Disney World in resort operations and finance.

How were you active in the church prior to coming to the Seminary? How did this activity influence your decision to apply to the Seminary?
My involvement was mainly with the youth. I taught Sunday school with my wife, served on the Youth Board and went on a mission trip with the senior youth to help repair hurricane-damaged houses. It was exciting to watch them grow in faith and understanding over time, increasing my desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. I also took courses through the Concordia House of Studies program. Studying the richness of Scripture further ignited my interest in going to the Seminary.

Who were some of the main influences in your decision to aspire to the Holy Ministry? What were some of the helpful insights you gained from these people of influence?
My wife’s unswerving support has been the primary influence. Pastor Brian Kneser of my home congregation has been an important influence, as well as the instructors at Concordia House of Studies. Our Youth Pastor Christopher Decker and his wife, Susan, were a great source of information about Seminary life, and gave encouragement when it was sorely needed. Their love for Christ Jesus and desire to teach others have been an inspiration. Brent Hartwig, a seminarian from our church, was (and still is) a great mentor and support as well.

Korie, how did your husband and you discuss the decision to come to the Seminary?
I had always thought from early in our relationship that Eric would end up in ministry, so it was not a surprise when he first mentioned going to the Seminary. Most of the discussion was how we would accomplish this goal and make the transition.

How many children do you have? What did you do before your move to prepare your children for the changes to come?
We have one daughter, Hannah Grace, who is turning 20 months old. Since Hannah was so young, we tried to keep her on the schedule she was used to during the packing. Even during the drive we tried to keep her routine the best we could.

Eric, as a husband, how do you demonstrate your love and support of your wife amidst the rigor of academics?
Even on a busy day I make sure to spend time with Korie after Hannah goes to bed, to discuss how her day went and how she is doing.

As a father and seminarian, how do you demonstrate to your child that she is important?
I make time for Hannah whenever I can. We almost always have meals together and I come home to spend time with her before she goes to bed, even if I still have studying to do. When the weather is good we go on walks together to the many parks.

Korie, as a wife, how do you demonstrate your love and support of your husband amidst your own busy schedule and your husband’s school schedule?
I try to make sure that meals are ready and that the housework is done, so that he can have the most time to study and spend time enjoying being with the family. When he has a lot to do, Hannah and I work our schedule so that we can meet him on campus for study breaks.
Do both of you feel that you have also received support from the Seminary community?

We have felt support since the day we moved. A group of seminarians took their own time to help us unload the truck and move everything into our apartment. Even before we moved, Seminarian (now Vicar) Brent Hartwig offered me encouragement and help in preparation for the transition.

The Seminary has introduced many of its classes on iTunesUniversity. Have any of these courses been beneficial to you?

iTunes U was a tremendous benefit even before I came to Concordia Seminary. I used it to study Greek and Hebrew prior to coming. “The Lutheran Mind” classes on iTunes U were very informative.

What are some of the financial considerations that families should be aware of as they enter the Seminary?

Depending on where you were living before, you may find that being in St. Louis is more expensive for groceries, car insurance, etc. Tuition and, especially, health insurance costs are daunting. Make sure your finances are in order before you arrive, so you are not taken off guard by this. Most important, do not let money concerns be the main determining factor of whether you come to school. Although it remains a challenge, you will be surprised at how God provides for your needs once you get here!

How are you making ends meet? How have the Food Bank and Re-Sell-It Shop helped?

I work part-time in the Admissions Office. We also rely financially on congregations and friends who lovingly support us. The Food Bank and Re-Sell It Shop are a tremendous benefit. Groceries have become more expensive this year and the Food Bank really helps to keep that bill low. The Re-Sell It Shop has been a blessing, especially for clothing for Hannah since she grows out of them so fast.

Outside of the Seminary, and in your free time, what are some things you have enjoyed in St. Louis?

We really enjoy walking through the many parks that are near the Seminary. The zoo and museum in Forest Park are great for families, and also free! We have not had to spend much on gas since everything we need is within a short distance.

What is the one piece of advice you would give to those who are thinking about coming to the Seminary?

Trust in God, and pray about this life-changing decision. It is extremely important to have support from your wife and family. It is a huge commitment, so make use of the resources available through iTunes U to confirm your interest academically. Make sure you are involved in the church and look for external confirmation of your gifts through your pastor and other Christians.

Christ Life

How does a seminarian continue to grow in Christ amidst the rigors of Seminary study? How does the study itself contribute toward this growth?

On top of our studies, seminarians also have field work, jobs, families to care for and additional institutional and cross-cultural modules. In the midst of this hectic schedule, I am constantly driven to prayer and reliance on God. Through our studies, we are challenged in our beliefs and driven back to Scripture as our foundation.

What are some ways you keep accountable to a consistent devotional life?

It is easy to get caught up in studies and lay aside your devotional life. No matter what my academic deadlines are, I make sure that I attend chapel regularly. I also set aside time before bed to read devotional material for personal growth.

What opportunities are present on campus to be fed by the Lord’s Word and Sacrament?

The most important opportunity available is chapel service which is offered daily. There are also the Greek and Hebrew clubs available during lunch.

How does the fact that Concordia Seminary is a Christ-centered campus affect what you see happening on campus?

The atmosphere on campus is very friendly. People introduce themselves and start discussions between classes. I meet new people and make new friends all the time. As a new student, I sensed a willingness to help and that people were looking out for me.

Eric Carlson is a second-year seminarian at Concordia Seminary.
Sacrifice

For many Seminary students, considerable sacrifices have been made in order to be able to come to the Seminary. One such sacrifice most noticeable in daily life is the “scaling back” one must do to prepare financially for the time spent at the Seminary. Some students may have more financial resources available than others. Yet it is important for everyone, single or married, to think about and discuss how income and spending habits will change over the years at the Seminary, and the years beyond in full-time ministry. What can students do to save now that will help later?

A simple answer to that question is: Take advantage of the affordable services/ministries available to students on the Seminary campus! The Concordia Seminary Food Bank and Re-Sell It Shop are two resources on campus which help to stretch Seminary families’ budgets.

Twice a month, students and their families are allowed to shop free of charge at the Food Bank. This service of ministry is designed to supplement regular grocery shopping and helps supply students and their families with items that are important to daily life. The Food Bank provides a variety of essential staple and household items. In addition, when the Food Bank has donations of perishable food, the food gets stored in refrigerators and/or freezers for shoppers’ selection. Shoppers are asked to write thank-you notes to the generous donors who make this ministry possible.

Through generous donations, the Re-Sell It Shop offers Seminary students and their families new and used clothing, household items, clerical supplies and furniture at greatly reduced prices. The Re-Sell It Shop is open twice a week, and encourages Seminary students and their families to volunteer. Without the generous support of donors and volunteers, this ministry would not be possible.

Just as the Lord provided a sacrifice for Abraham on the mountain, so He also continues to provide for those Seminary families who are willing to sacrifice much for Him.

Laura Moehlman is the Director of Life Transitions at Concordia Seminary.

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Prospective Seminary Student Referral Form

I would like to share with you the name of a person who I feel would be a good candidate for ministerial formation at Concordia Seminary. Please send information concerning Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Name ____________________________________________________ Approximate Age _________________________

Phone Number ( ______ )___________________________________ Marital Status____________________________

Address __________________________________________________ State __________________ Zip_______________

Church Membership

(congregation) (city) (state)

_____ I have discussed with him the possibility of studying to be a pastor, and he is interested.

_____ I have discussed with her the possibility of studying to be a deaconess, and she is interested.

_____ I have not discussed this possibility with him, but I feel that he has been blessed with the necessary gifts to serve as a pastor.

My relationship to this person is ________________________________________________________________
My name and address (optional) ________________________________________________________________

Please mail to Concordia Seminary, Office of Admission, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105.
It’s (Not) My Time for Him

by Kyel Sletten

The decision for me to attend the Seminary was an easy one, but isn’t any decision easy if we are not the ones making it? I have been brought up in my life to learn and know that God has a purpose for all of us whom He has called to be His children. Mine, it looks like, is to pursue a life of humility and service in His ministry.

I was very excited and thrilled to be heading up to St. Louis to start my Seminary experience. I had started the application process fairly late and thus it caused me to “be under the gun” for a lot of things like the ELCE’s, the GRE and various paperwork that had to be in by very short deadlines. Although I had completed most of these items, I still did not feel that my best effort was put forth on these things just for the fact that I did not have the proper time to do so. Also, I would be bringing with me to Seminary some debt. This would require me to work at least 30 hours a week! This obviously was not an ideal situation!

Once I realized that God was calling me into the ministry, I wanted my whole heart and effort to be into the schooling and education that I was receiving and did not want anything to jeopardize that. So, with me potentially having to work many hours during the week and trying to receive a Master’s degree, I decided that if I continued in this way that one was going to suffer. I was not going to sacrifice my time up in St. Louis because I was there for one purpose, school.

After realizing this a few weeks ago, my prayers continued but now they had a different message, “Lord, I want everything in my life to happen on your clock, not mine, but please do not forget that when You call Your people I still want to be one of them saying “Here am I Lord, send me!” It came to a point where after much prayer and seeking advice and counsel from my father, that I decided that I need to take care of a couple more things here first before I get on with the rest of my life, that being ministry. Oswald Chambers says that, “One of the greatest strains in life is the strain of waiting for God.” I want my time at the Sem to be God’s time, not mine, and if that means that He wants me to stay put for another 12 months, I will still praise Him for this time and continue to wait patiently and remain spiritually tenacious.

Kyel Sletten is an applicant to Concordia Seminary.

The feature “Compassion and Catechesis” will return in the Reformation edition of the Servant.

“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and raise up its damages; I will repair its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” says the LORD who does this thing.

Amos 9:11-12 NKJV
The official title of the Admissions office at Concordia Seminary is “The Office of Admissions and Ministerial Recruitment.” Not only is this title one of the longest office titles on campus, it is also one which evokes a significant question: who really are the “ministerial recruiters?” Although the title commonly goes to those who are called to our seminaries to “recruit” students, it would be a tremendous underestimation of the role if one focused just on the seminaries and their personnel.

First, always keep the words of our Lord before us. “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest fields!’” (Matt. 9:37-38). To most accurately answer the question of who recruits pastors, this article needs to go no farther than these words. It is the Lord and the Lord alone who recruits men to serve Him as shepherds of His flock. Ephesians 4:11 reiterates this point, “It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers.”

So what is the role for the children of God as “recruiters,” and who fills that role? Although there are many in the church who fulfill this role, the rest of this article will be dedicated to address the role of the pastor himself as recruiter. It is not a simple coincidence that over the years, 70 percent of our incoming students have identified the pastor as the one most influential in the decision to enroll in the Seminary.

The Lord certainly works through His shepherds to encourage those who are being led to consider the pastoral office. Many pastors have had the privilege to be a part of many conversations which expressed how consistent pastoral care helped with the decision to enter the Seminary. It is a tough decision and there are certainly many variables to consider when considering the pastoral ministry. Thank the Lord for those He has called who dedicate years to listen, guide and encourage.

There also is another very significant role the pastor fills in the name of recruitment: identifier. The pastor often finds himself as the first one approached by those interested in the Seminary. This tendency, of course, makes sense as the pastor would be the one member of the congregation who knows the most about the role. He also is the one who knows the most about the processes leading to this role.

The pastor, however, is not simply reactive to those who have shared an interest in being a pastor. He can also be very proactive. Pastors who have the proverbial eyes of a hawk certainly have their eyes and ears open to notice one who is well suited for the ministry. What does a pastor look for that qualifies one as “well suited?” Simply this: “Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family well, how can he take care of God’s church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into the devil’s trap” (1 Tim. 3:2-7).

The Lord of the harvest certainly does raise up workers in His harvest fields. He does not let that promise lay dormant as the flow of workers into the harvest is visible every year. The Lord also will continue to use the harvesters He already has in the field to identify and encourage those who will bear the Good News for generations to come.

Over the years, 70 percent of our incoming students have identified the pastor as the one most influential in the decision to enroll in the Seminary.
Change. What feeling does that word evoke in you? For many change is welcome and even sought after. For others it is dreaded and thereby avoided as much as humanly possible. Change even finds itself as the subject of certain Lutheran jokes. “How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? Change??!” This well worn and overused joke certainly draws one’s attention to the fact that for some, change is not a welcome part of life.

However, change is inevitable, and sometimes it comes when we least expect it. Some desire change for the sake of change itself. Sometimes change happens simply as we grow and learn. Thus although change can be unwanted and seen as negative, it can also be a very positive thing.

There are some significant changes that have occurred in the Office of Admissions and Ministerial Recruitment, all of which I pray will be beneficial to the prospective student.

First, the utilization of “Protect My Ministry” for applicant background checks is now in place. “Protect My Ministry” is a private vendor which serves The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Concordia Seminary by making sure those who will be formed for ministry are indeed above reproach. The reason this change will be beneficial to the applicant is that it will be free and there is nothing the applicant needs to do for the check but sign a consent form. That’s it! Less work, easier process.

Another change that all prospective students and applicants need to know is a change in the entrance exam schedule. Any prospective student or applicant can take the Christian Doctrine, New Testament, and Old Testament exams from May 1 to April 30. Likewise, he can take the Greek and Hebrew exams from August 1 to July 31. What is the benefit? It is simply an enhanced window of opportunity. Before, the window only lasted eight months, now one has a full year to take and pass these exams. The opportunities to pass these exams still remains at three.

As if those changes are not enough, there are more that I am excited to tell you about. Green and Gold Day is Oct. 17. Green and Gold Day is a one-day opportunity for college students and their pastors (those who have encouraged them) to visit Concordia Seminary. This event is designed to give prospective students a “real taste” of Concordia Seminary. It will follow the academic day, and the guests will be able to participate in activities, such as classes and meals, just as they would as a student. The evening will be capped off with Oktoberfest. These events will be held once a quarter with one event devoted to those interested in the diaconate.

The last change to be announced in this article is a change of staff. The Office of Admissions and Ministerial Recruitment is happy to announce the addition of Alison Moeller to the office. Alison takes over the role of Recruitment Events Coordinator, and her responsibilities include arranging personal campus visits, and formal visitation opportunities such as Contemplate, Taste of the Sem, Green and Gold Days, and Vocatio/Vocatio Amplified.

Alison is from Rockwell, Iowa, where she grew up on a farm. She attended the University of Iowa where she earned a B.A. in journalism and health promotion. She has had opportunity to gain experience in the area of communication as she interned at University of Iowa Sports Information, the American Red Cross and USA Boxing. She also served as an intern at Fleishmann-Hillard International Communication in St. Louis, Mo. In her spare time, Alison says she runs, swims and spends time with family and friends. She also enjoys volunteering at the St. Louis Crisis Nursery.

It should be apparent now that change is all around us in the admissions office. I pray that the Lord will use us and these changes to serve you as you consider preparation for the Ministry or Diaconate. As always in the midst of change, we are here to serve you in the name of the One who stands steadfast forever, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Kyle D. Castens is director of ministerial recruitment at Concordia Seminary.
## Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
### Tentative Recruitment Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 8-12</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
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<td>September 15-19</td>
<td>Indiana, Michigan</td>
<td>Paul</td>
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<td>September 29-October 3</td>
<td>Minnesota, Nebraska</td>
<td>Paul</td>
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<td>September 29-October 3</td>
<td>Nebraska, South Dakota</td>
<td>Joel</td>
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<td>October 13-17</td>
<td>New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>October 13-17</td>
<td>Southern California</td>
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<td>October 27-31</td>
<td>Illinois, Wisconsin</td>
<td>Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3-7</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10-14</td>
<td>Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland</td>
<td>Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10-14</td>
<td>Washington, Oregon</td>
<td>Joel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17-21</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Rev. Joel Fritsche
- Rev. Kyle Castens
- Rev. Paul Philp