



COMMENCEMENT

*ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-THIRD YEAR
ACADEMIC EXERCISES*

THE FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER
MAY 20, 2022 · 7 p.m.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS

Carillon Recital by John Klinger (Carillonneur)

PRE-COMMENCEMENT MUSIC

The Order of the Groups in the Processional

Candidates for the Residential Alternate Route Certificate
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Divinity
Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Ministry
Candidates for the Degree of Master of Sacred Theology
Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
Faculty and Staff
Board of Regents
Recipient of the *Christus Vivit* Award
Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award
Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Divinity
Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Letters
Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Laws
Platform Officials

A Note on Academic Dress

The hoods worn by faculty members and candidates for degrees indicate the degree held, the subject in which it is held and the institution that conferred the degree. The colors of the silk lining the hood are the colors of the institution that granted the degree (e.g., the hood of Concordia Seminary is lined with myrtle green and gold). The color of the velvet edging of the hood, running forward around the throat, indicates the faculty or department in which the degree has been earned.

Scarlet: Theology
Violet: Law
White: Arts and Letters
Dark Blue: Philosophy
Light Blue: Education
Lemon: Library
Drab: Business
Pink: Music

A gold bullion tassel on the cap indicates a doctoral degree.

THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

In nomine Jesu

*As the hymn is introduced,
please stand and face the processional cross.*

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Thy Strong Word (*LSB* 578)



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!</p> | <p>6 God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!</p> |
|---|--|

THE INVOCATION

Rev. Prof. Thomas J. Egger, *M.Div., Ph.D.*

President

Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Professor of Exegetical Theology

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

THE READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44–49

THE HYMN

We Are Called to Stand Together (LSB 828)



1 We are called to stand to- geth - er With the saints of
2 Those whom Je - sus called a - pos - tles Jour - neyed with Him
3 Through the in - ter - ven - ing a - ges Round the world the
4 Now in man - y tongues and cul - tures Songs of cel - e -
5 To each com - ing gen - er - a - tion Tell the truth, per -



a - ges past, With the pa - tri - archs and proph - ets
side by side, Heard His teach - ing, felt His pow - er,
Gos - pel spread: Faith - ful her - alds took the mes - sage,
bra - tion ring; Mil - lions who con - fess our Sav - ior
suade, ex - plain, Till the time when time is end - ed,



In the faith they once held fast; Prom - is - es and
Saw the way He lived and died; Then the news of
Guid - ed where the Spir - it led; So the bod - y
Hon - or Him as Lord and King And, for cour - age,
Till the Sav - ior comes a - gain— Till the saints are



hopes they trea - sured Now we find ful - filled at last!
res - ur - rec - tion They de - liv - ered far and wide.
grew in stat - ure, Serv - ing Christ, the liv - ing head.
grace and guid - ance Ev - 'ry day their prayers they bring.
all u - nit - ed Un - der Christ's e - ter - nal reign!

THE ADDRESS

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, *M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.*
President Emeritus of Concordia University, Wisconsin, Mequon, and Ann Arbor, Mich.

THE CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES

The Presentation of the Residential Alternate Route Candidates
Rev. Prof. Timothy E. Saleska, *M.Div., M.Phil., Ph.D.*
Dean of Ministerial Formation

THE CONFERRING OF EARNED DEGREES

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*
Dean of Advanced Studies

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Master of Divinity
Rev. Prof. Timothy E. Saleska, *M.Div., M.Phil., Ph.D.*
Dean of Ministerial Formation

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Ministry
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*
Dean of Advanced Studies

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Master of Sacred Theology
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*
Dean of Advanced Studies

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
Rev. Prof. Joel C. Elowsky, *M.Div., S.T.M., M.Phil., Ph.D.*
Dean of Advanced Studies

THE CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY AWARDS

The Presentation of the Recipient of the *Christus Vivit* Award

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

Dean of Faculty

The Presentation of the Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

Dean of Faculty

THE CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY DEGREES

The Presentation of the Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Divinity

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

Dean of Faculty

The Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Letters

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

Dean of Faculty

The Presentation of the Candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Laws

Rev. Prof. David J. Peter, *M.Div., D.Min.*

Dean of Faculty

THE CLOSING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Rev. Prof. Thomas J. Egger, *M.Div., Ph.D.*

President

Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Professor of Exegetical Theology

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION

*During the recessional hymn, please turn to face the cross as it passes you,
then face forward again when the cross reaches the back of the quadrangle.*

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

The Church's One Foundation (LSB 644)



1 The Church's one founda-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-'ry na-tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion And tu-mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre-a-tion By wa-ter and the Word.
Her char-ter of sal-va-tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a-sun-der, By her-e-sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of peace for-ev-er-more
And mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho-ly bride;
One ho-ly name she bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep-ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest,
O bless-ed heav'n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press-es With ev-'ry grace en-dued.
And soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic-to-rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be-fore us, May see You face to face.

POST-COMMENCEMENT MUSIC

Soli Deo Gloria

THE MARSHALS

Rev. Prof. Joel Biermann, *M.Div., Ph.D.*
Rev. Prof. Peter Nafzger, *M.Div., Ph.D.*
Rev. Prof. Mark Rockenbach, *M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.*

THE MUSICIANS

The Clarion Brass

Mary Weber, *Director, trumpet*
Jason Harris, *trumpet*
Christina Schempf, *French horn*
Tom Vincent, *trombone*
Toni Stanley, *tuba*

Rev. Dr. James Marriott, *Conductor*

*Everyone is invited to remain in the Main Quadrangle for a cookie reception,
sponsored by the Seminary Guild, following Commencement exercises.
(In the event of inclement weather, the reception will be held in Koburg Hall.)*

Acknowledgments

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CANDIDATES FOR THE ALTERNATE ROUTE CERTIFICATE

These students have completed academic residency and will be eligible for certification and ordination upon completion of a one-year vicarage.

* Andrew John Nelson
Steven A. Resner
Matthew Edward Riley

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

²* Joseph Okoth Abuor
John Benito Morejon
‡ Janie Beth Fisher
* Hans Aarón Gac Oliva
¹ Eric Thomas Gradberg
Eduardo Martin Martinez
§ Alexandria Mae Shick
² Tsigewengel Bekele Uddo
* Andrew Joseph Wrasman

* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

¹ Degree granted Aug. 13, 2021

² Degree granted Dec. 17, 2021

³ Degree granted Jan. 21, 2022

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY

Paul Joseph Aarsvold
Andrew Michael Asp
Timothy David Barber
Andrew G. Berg
Brent William Berg
Joseph R. Bluege
² Lesley W. Chen
James Scott Cleland
Peter James Deberny
Michael Franklin Duffy
Luke David Elowsky
William Garrett Fredstrom
Alexander A. Goodwin
Ezra George Grabau
Thomas Matthew Ellis Gustafson
Erik J. Hart
Ian Matthew Heinze
Kurt William Hellwig
Travis Marshall Henry
Colby Charles Howell
Brett Allen Jones
James Richard Lanning
*† Eric G. Larson

Benjamin T. Leeper
Jaron Patric Melin
Brandon William Metcalf
Alarik Davidsson Morris
Benjamin Thomas Prohl
Benjamin H. Ramthun
Joseph David Reineke
Charles Edward Ridley
Timothy Michael Schulte
Jordan Bruce Schut
Samuel Aaron Shick
Alexander Kendall Smith
* Samuel Marvin Kanter St. John
Michael Steven Stainbrook
Donald Carl Stein
Andrew L. Thompson
Andrew Scott Thompson
Lawton Dale Thompson
² Benjamin David Vanderhyde
Michael Ryan Wilke
³ Connor L. Wondrasch
Caleb J. Worrall

* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

¹ Degree granted Aug. 13, 2021

² Degree granted Dec. 17, 2021

³ Degree granted Jan. 21, 2022

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

* Matthew Curtiss Christensen

Major Applied Project: God's Plan for Life: Training Drill Sergeants to Better Serve their Neighbor by Developing Moral Character Utilizing the "Transformational Moral Leadership" Model

² Jason D. Gudim

Major Applied Project: Adult Catechesis: Cognition and Application for the Christian Life

^{1*} Joshua H. Jones

Major Applied Project: Perfect Love Casts Out Fear: Exploring the Effectiveness of a Person-Centered Disability Awareness Seminar in a Congregational Setting

^{2*} Martin Edward Lee

Major Applied Project: Gospel Impact and Stewardship Tool (GIST): Visual Mapping to Discover Gospel Imperatives for Strategic Ministry Decisions

² Michael Jeffrey Nielsen

Major Applied Project: A Bible Study Series: The Family-Centered, Church-Supported Paradigm Shift for Raising Children in the Faith at Salem Lutheran Church

² Mitchel Eugene Schuessler

Major Applied Project: In Search of the Best Practices in Preaching on Christian Stewardship

² David Martin Arthur Schultz

Major Applied Project: Equipping Lay Elders with the Spiritual Care Skills of Active Listening, Sharing Scripture, Offering Prayer, and Providing Follow Up at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wood River, IL

* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

1 Degree granted Aug. 13, 2021

2 Degree granted Dec. 17, 2021

3 Degree granted Jan. 21, 2022

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY**

Sean Glenn Berry
Kendall A. Davis
^{2*} Markus Robert Fischer
Maxx Joseph Fisher
Joel L. Newton
^{1*} Richard Lee Tino
Joshua Steven Vanderhyde
* Jordan Robert Voges
* Luke John Watt
Austin Michael Wellhousen

* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

1 Degree granted Aug. 13, 2021

2 Degree granted Dec. 17, 2021

3 Degree granted Jan. 21, 2022

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE
OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Curran D. Bishop

*Dissertation: The Personalization of American Christianity: Subjective Assurance
and the Puritan Conversion Narrative*

Adviser: Rev. Dr. David Schmitt

James William Fickenscher

*Dissertation: A Rank-based Analysis of Word Order and Codification
in the Greek of the Pastoral Epistles*

Adviser: Rev. Dr. James W. Voelz

Noppawat Kumpeeroskul

*Dissertation: Exodus 18: Its Literary Unity and its Key Transitional Role
in the Exodus Narrative*

Adviser: Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Egger

Ernest Mahoro

*Dissertation: Socio-Political and Economic Paradigm Shift in Rwanda:
Did Colonial-era Missionary Schools Fuel Ethnic Hatred?*

Adviser: Rev. Dr. William Schumacher

* Brian M. Mosemann

Dissertation: Theology of the Laity: The Lutheran Way

Adviser: Rev. Dr. Charles Arand

Tibebu Teklu Senbetu

*Dissertation: The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church's (EOTC) Interpretation of Ἀναξίως
in 1 Cor. 11:27–29 in Relation to Worthy Admission to the Eucharist
in Light of Ritual Jewish Purity Laws Embedded in its Qeddassé and Tradition*

Adviser: Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky

* Christoph Dietrich Weber

*Dissertation: Reading the Signs of the Time: Three Voices in the Confessional Lutheran Church
as They Relate to Segregation, Racism, and Apartheid in South Africa from 1900-1978*

Adviser: Rev. Dr. Timothy Dost

Charles Winfred Westby

*Dissertation: How Speech Act Theory Can Help Address Problems in Theology
and Church Posed by Modern Philosophy*

Adviser: Rev. Dr. Joel Okamoto

* In absentia

† Pending completion of vicarage

‡ Deaconess certification pending completion of internship

§ Deaconess certification granted

1 Degree granted Aug. 13, 2021

2 Degree granted Dec. 17, 2021

3 Degree granted Jan. 21, 2022

THE CHRISTUS VIVIT AWARD

Chosen by the faculty and awarded to ordained ministers, commissioned ministers and lay persons who demonstrate faithful and fruitful service to the church in their respective calling.

Renée Gibbs

Renée Gibbs has served the Lord in many vocations during her life. She was baptized into Christ as an infant and raised in a Lutheran family. At a young age, she had thoughts of becoming a missionary after meeting a visiting missionary. She married her high school sweetheart, Jeff, who later became a pastor and a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Their life together has afforded her ample opportunities to share the love of Jesus with others.

As a teenager, Gibbs was drawn to help those in need, specifically those with disabilities. At age 21, she served for three years as founding director of Camp Cougar, a summer residential camp for children and adults with mental disabilities. She graduated from the University of Houston in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in special education and went on to teach those with learning disabilities in both public and Lutheran schools.

Gibbs' concern for the vulnerable has led her to advocate for life-affirming causes especially on behalf of unborn children. As a teacher at Lutheran High School in St. Charles, Mo., she started and advised the "Teens for Life" group. She led a group of young people to Washington, D.C., for the "March for Life" 21 times and chaperoned trips even after retiring from teaching. She served on the Lutherans for Life Board of Directors for 11 years and is now on the Board of Directors of Coalition for Life St. Louis. She and Jeff founded and served as the faculty advisers for the Concordia Seminary Life Team for many years, where they helped students see the need to address vital issues in their congregations. She often prays outside Planned Parenthood in St. Louis.

While her husband served in parish ministry in Oregon for 10 years, Gibbs' experience as a pastor's wife led her to love and cherish others in that role. Soon after her husband was called to teach at Concordia Seminary in 1992, she began her volunteer work on campus. She has been leading women's weekly Bible studies for 25 years. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Bible study group has chosen to stay online, thereby including pastors' wives and missionaries from around the United States, East Africa, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

Each year, Gibbs helps welcome new women to campus through the "After the Boxes are Unpacked" class, which she has taught 33 times. She also served as the Seminary Women's Association adviser for several years. She has valued these opportunities to know, love and encourage women during their time at the Seminary as well as after their husbands receive their calls. These connections have flowered into invitations for Gibbs to speak at numerous Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod district and regional pastors' wives' retreats across the country. This spring she led Seminary women through 1 Thessalonians at their spring retreat.

Gibbs continues to share Christ's love through missions. She has organized and helped lead 17 Seminary teams on mission trips to Guatemala. The Lord provided this chance for her to be a missionary, while not leaving her husband at home for too long!

Gibbs earned a Master of Education from Webster University in 1996, and a Master of Arts in Systematic Theology from Concordia Seminary in 2009.

Gibbs loves camping, hiking and appreciating God's creation, especially from her 1999 Mazda Miata with the top down!

The Gibbises have been married 48 years and live in St. Louis. They have four children: Abby (Mike) Soejoto, Joel, Miriam (Josh) Mengers and Jesse (Brandi). They have 14 grandchildren who all live in southern California. They are active members at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in south St. Louis.

THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Reverend Eloy González

Rev. Eloy González has served the churches and institutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for more than 20 years. In his retirement, he continues to serve on the LCMS Texas District’s care team and is the district’s liaison to the Lutheran Synod of Mexico and the LCMS Missions FORO – a coordinating body that helps identify mission support to Mexico. He also is the intentional interim pastor of El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church in McAllen, Texas, a congregation in which he previously served as a licensed deacon.

González is a second-career pastor. Previously, he served 12 years in the U.S. Navy and earned the rank of chief petty officer. He also worked as a project manager for a medical informatics consulting firm, and he taught computer technology at Texas State Technical College and was an adjunct statistics instructor at the University of Texas—Pan American.

González studied for the ministry through the Hispanic Institute of Theology, the predecessor of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis’ Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS). Upon graduating in 2001, he planted Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in San Antonio and served as its first pastor. He then became associate director of CHS at Concordia Seminary. He later returned to Texas as senior pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Irving, where he remained until his retirement in 2020.

He has served on Concordia Seminary’s Alumni Council and National Campaign Council, and he has been an adjunct instructor through the Center for Hispanic Studies. He has served as president of the LCMS National Hispanic Convention and the National Lutheran Hispanic Mission Society. He also served on the LCMS Board for Mission Services from 2004-10 and was elected vice president of Area B of the LCMS Texas District, which includes northern and eastern Texas.

González enjoys identifying and mentoring future pastors and church workers. He loves to create possibilities for Christians to serve God and the current and future believers in their midst. He loves to see people mature into Christian leaders who model discipleship and evangelism as they live in their communities lovingly and peaceably.

González also finds joy in reading and writing, as well as journaling, which allows him to expand his collection of fountain pens. When he is not writing notes or sending cards to people, he likely is gardening, cycling or taking a spin class. He and his wife, Sofi, live in Mission, Texas, and enjoy traveling. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

CANDIDATE FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

Reverend Doctor Patrick T. Ferry
Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry, president emeritus of Concordia University, Wisconsin, Mequon, and Ann Arbor, Mich., retired in 2021 after a 24-year presidency. He began his academic career at Concordia University as an assistant professor of European and church history in 1991. In retirement Ferry is the part-time executive director of Concordia Lutheran High School in Pflugerville, Texas.

Previously, Ferry served as campus pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center at the University of Wyoming in Laramie from 1989-91. He was assistant pastor at Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge, Colo., from 1987-89.

Ferry earned a Ph.D. in European history from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1996; an M.A. in history from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1989; an M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1987; and a B.A. from St. John's College, Winfield, Kan., in 1981.

The author of numerous articles, reviews and essays on education, religion and history, Ferry also has published a memoir, *Faith in the Freshman: A Story of Hoops and Hopes*. He has made numerous presentations at meetings, workshops and conferences and has served as a member on numerous higher education and community boards.

Recently Ferry was awarded the Christine Moritz Servant Leader Award by the Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools. In 2009, following the establishment of Concordia University's School of Pharmacy, he was awarded the Milwaukee *BizTimes* Health Care Heroes Award for advancements in health care. That same year he was recognized among "the Milwaukee area's most influential people" by the *Milwaukee Business Journal* in its first "Power Book."

Ferry and his wife, Tamara (nee Saleska), live in Leander, Texas, and have five adult children, and four (soon-to-be five) grandchildren.

CANDIDATE FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS

Doctor Joseph Herl
Doctor of Letters, honoris causa

Dr. Joseph Herl is professor of music at Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, where he has served since 2000. He earned a B.A. in music from Concordia College New York, Bronxville, where he was awarded the college's prizes in music and classics. He subsequently received a master's degree in organ performance from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) and a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he assisted his adviser, Nicholas Temperley, in producing *The Hymn Tune Index: A Census of English-Language Hymn Tunes in Printed Sources from 1535–1820* (Oxford University Press).

During his time at the University of Illinois, Herl studied in Germany on a Fulbright dissertation research grant. He is the author of *Worship Wars in Early Lutheranism: Choir, Congregation, and Three Centuries of Conflict* (Oxford University Press), which was awarded the 2005 Roland H. Bainton Prize in art and music history from the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference. While working on the book, Herl also was involved in the preparation of *Lutheran Service Book* (Concordia Publishing House [CPH]), the most recent hymnal of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. With Peter C. Reske and Dr. Jon D. Vieker, Herl edited the two-volume *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns* (CPH), which tells the story behind every hymn in the hymnal.

Herl's current research interests include Gregorian chant sung by early Lutherans, the historical roots of the contemporary worship movement and the role of children in the Lutheran service. He is especially interested in promoting church music that instills the Word of God in the hearts of children and adults so they never forget it or lose it.

Additionally, Herl is a composer of music for choir, organ and piano. His music has been published by CPH, Oxford University Press and MorningStar Music Publishers. His hymn tunes have appeared in several North American and European hymnals. *Lutheran Service Book* contains three of his original tunes, one hymn translation, a liturgical setting and 22 hymn settings.

Herl serves Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb., as organist, and he holds the associateship and choir master certifications of the American Guild of Organists. In 2018 he received the annual "Outstanding Teaching Award" from Concordia University, and in 2020 he was appointed research professor in the School of Music at the University of Illinois, succeeding Nicholas Temperley as director of the Hymn Tune Index, a position he holds concurrently with his full-time service at Concordia University.

Herl lives in Seward with his wife, Jenny, who teaches chemistry at Concordia University, and their daughters, Anna and Mary.

CANDIDATE FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS

Urara Masaki

Doctor of Letters, honoris causa

Urara Masaki was born in Akashi, Japan. Although her parents were not yet Christians, they sent her to a reputable Christian kindergarten. Because of its positive influence, she attended Sunday school for several years. She came to receive faith in Jesus Christ as her Savior during her college years and was baptized at age 21. Soon after becoming a Christian, she developed a desire to read the Bible in its original languages.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in sociology from Kwansai Gakuin University in 1981, she enrolled at Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary (KLTS), where she earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in 1985. From 1990-92, she studied at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW), where she first encountered *Fundamental Greek Grammar* (FGG) written by Dr. James W. Voelz, the Dr. Jack Dean Kingsbury Professor of New Testament Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. She holds a Master of Arts (M.A.) from CTSFW (1998). She studied at Concordia Seminary from 1999-2002 and completed course work for a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in exegetical theology.

Masaki's husband, Makito, has a Ph.D. from Concordia Seminary (2008) and also has been a professor and principal of KLTS. Masaki has supported him in ensuring that the educational standards and Lutheran identity of KLTS are maintained. When Masaki was asked to teach Greek at KLTS in 1995, she translated FGG into Japanese to use privately in her classes. She has been instructing seminarians and students in Greek grammar at KLTS for 26 years and counting, and since 2013 she also has taught at Kansai Bible College.

Masaki first taught Hebrew in 2008 when the KLTS Hebrew instructor was on sabbatical. At that time, she also translated *Fundamental Biblical Hebrew* by Concordia Seminary Emeritus Professor Dr. Andrew H. Bartelt into Japanese for personal use in class. Recently, she also was part of a project to start a correspondence course in Hebrew.

Her classroom motto is, "With a Greek New Testament and a dictionary, you can live happily on a desert island for the rest of your life without electricity." Her joy is to encourage all students to reach that goal and devise different ways of teaching to achieve it. That way, their inspiration will not be diminished when they are sent to speak the Gospel in Japan, where Christians account for less than 1% of the total population.

In addition to teaching, Masaki also enjoys leading cooking and Bible clubs in churches and kindergartens, which she has done for many years. While cakes and meat bake, she has Bible classes and shares the Gospel with young mothers who are not Christians. She also has supported Christian women who want to serve the church by initiating the diaconia development committee. She is thankful that God has given her an interest in the written word and literature. Her cousin is Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro. She and her husband live in Kobe, Japan.

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Rev. Dr. Erní W. Seibert has served as the executive director of the Bible Society of Brazil (SBB) since 2018 and has 49 years of experience as a Lutheran pastor, educator, author and administrator. In addition to his role with the SBB, Seibert also is a board member of United Bible Societies and Lutheran Hour Brazil.

Seibert was born in 1952 in Novo Hamburgo, Brazil, in the southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul. He was ordained in 1974 and served two congregations in his home state over the next 12 years. He taught practical and systematic theology at the Concordia Institute in São Paulo from 1985-2002, and he also served as the academic dean and director of the Institute's Superior College of Theology. He served as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brazil (IELB) from 1988-92.

Seibert graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology from Concordia Seminary, Porto Alegre, in 1973, and a master's degree in theology from Concordia Seminary, Sao Leopoldo, in 1989. He earned a Ph.D. from the Methodist University of São Paulo in 1995. His areas of research include confessional unity, Christian communication and theological language.

Seibert is the author of four books published through Editora Concordia, the publishing arm of the IELB: *From Dating to Marriage*, *The Church Today*, *Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions* and *The Mission of God in the New Millennium*. He also has written for the SBB.

Seibert worked with the SBB for 25 years before his appointment as executive director. He is an advocate for access to biblical teaching and brings a mission-oriented, contextually aware approach to his current role, which also involves fundraising and communications for SBB social programs. In addition to these duties, he oversees SBB's Bible Museum near São Paulo.

Seibert and his wife, Lígia, live in the city of Cotia, in the metropolitan area of São Paulo, Brazil, and have four children and four grandchildren.

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