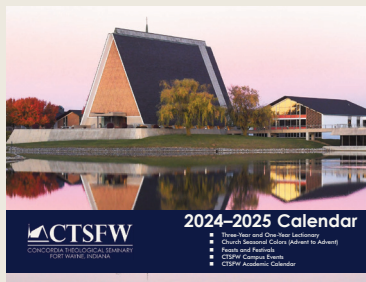




## 2024–25 CTSFW Wall Calendars Available



The annual CTSFW wall calendar was mailed in November to CTSFW alumni and synod congregations. A limited number of additional calendars are available. To request your calendar(s), please contact Colleen Bartzsch at (260) 452-2150 or [Colleen.Bartzsch@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Colleen.Bartzsch@ctsfw.edu).

### Corrections: Fall 2024 *For the Life of the World*

- Front Cover: The president’s chain of office, which was featured on the cover, includes the seminary’s motto, “Preach the Word,” in Greek, but the Greek is incorrect, with an alpha instead of a lambda in λόγον (*logon*; “word”). It’s time for a new chain of office.
- Back Cover: It’s Nicaea, not Nicea, an error that escaped our notice in the Symposia ad on the back cover.

## FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

## FEATURES

### 4 Talking to People About Jesus

James Woelmer

We plant and we water, but only the Holy Spirit causes faith to be created through the Gospel (1 Cor. 3:6; 12:3). Our job is simply to be faithful in the proclamation of God’s Word.

### 7 The Confident Confession and Pastoral Formation

Todd A. Peperkorn

One of the characteristics we instill in our future pastors is confidence in our confession of faith, which comes from knowing who you are in Christ, what you are there to do, and having the capacity to do it. Field experiences play a central role in building this confidence.

### 10 Equipping College Students to Live Confident in Christ

Jared DeBlieck

As a campus pastor at a public university, I strive to catechize my students to see the world for what it is—a place lost to itself in a spiritual nosedive, spinning out of control at an alarming rate. My aim is to encourage confidence in our doctrine and practice, to better equip their belonging in Christ here.

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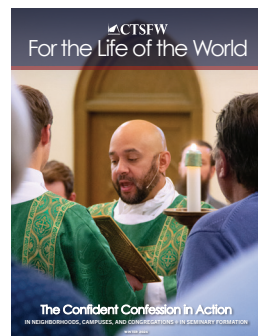
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### On the Cover

The Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, Assistant Vice President of Admission and Christ Academy Director at CTSFW, reads the Gospel lesson in a Divine Service at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

(Photo: Steve Blakey)



# ADMISSIONS

# FROM AUSTRALIA TO FORT WAYNE

*Corrie Steel's Quest for Proper Formation*

By Kristine Bruss

**W**hen Corrie Steel receives his first call to serve as a Lutheran pastor, he will have spent six and a half years in seminary. That's a long road to ordination, but it's the path Steel wants to follow. After a somewhat bumpy two and a half years of seminary education in his home country of Australia, Steel has come to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), to be "properly trained" in Lutheran theology and practice.

"When I studied Greek and Hebrew in Australia, it wasn't that intensive," Corrie said. "The lecturer did a good job with the time allocated, but it was only one semester (around forty hours), and we never used Greek again in any other classes. I thought, 'I can't read the Bible in Greek yet. I'm not really properly trained.' We had heard about Fort Wayne a lot. I had talked to some pastors who had done some training here, and they really raved about it."

So Steel and his family, including his wife, Dianne, and four daughters—Cate, Eloise, Sylvie, and Adeline—sold their house, packed up their things, and made the move to Fort Wayne this past summer, ready for a new adventure.

## Life Before Seminary

Neither Corrie nor Dianne were raised Lutheran. When Corrie was around eight years old, his family joined the Brethren Church, which he describes as similar to the Baptist Church. Dianne was raised in the Catholic faith and later made the move to the Brethren Church, where she met Corrie.

"They don't have pastors in the Brethren Church," Dianne explained. "They have elders, and Corrie used to do some preaching."

When their daughter Cate came along, Corrie, then a high school teacher, felt a responsibility to teach her the faith, but he realized he didn't know the Bible that well. He started reading, and questions emerged.

"Every time I tried to read my Bible, it really didn't agree with what I was being taught," Corrie said. He started searching and found a few podcasts, including *Fighting for the Faith* and *Issues, Etc.*

"I just realized that Lutherans had it right. This is what the Bible teaches." He and Dianne joined the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) in 2015.

Corrie continued to read his Bible and began teaching a Bible study over lunch at the Christian school where he was teaching. "I really wanted to focus on being saved by grace through faith, because all the students were getting there was a lot of Law. You know, 'Do these five things to live this way.'"

Eventually, his Bible study was shut down, but he had discovered his passion; he loved being in God's Word and teaching the faith. He applied to the LCA seminary, Australian Lutheran College, in Adelaide.

"We had been talking about going to the seminary for a while, and teaching those kids was what I really enjoyed at the time."

## Seminary, Part 1: Australia

Corrie completed the first year of seminary online, which he was allowed to do because of his distance from the seminary, but he planned to move south to Adelaide for his remaining three years. "You do need to be around other people," said Corrie.

The first year went well, especially with the confessional lecturers at the seminary, and the whole family was looking forward to the move. Just before the Steels were going to put their house on the market, though, Corrie found out that the confessional lecturers had been put on a half call, and lectures would all be online. (At this point in time, the LCA was embroiled in a debate over women's ordination, a practice that was approved in 2024).

"The confessional lecturers basically all left," said Corrie. "The seminary started farming us out to other denominations, and they were really liberal. So we were doing subjects through the Anglicans or through the United Church."

Corrie started thinking about going overseas to study. He toughed it out for another year and a half, during which time he heard talk of starting an alternative church body, Lutheran Mission-Australia (LM-A).

"They said, 'Eventually we'll want a seminary, but in the interim, we can send you guys overseas.' It wasn't a definite plan then, but when we did get the definite word that the plan was a go, we had just a few months to tie up all our affairs," Corrie said.

"We didn't feel settled in our house, anyway," Dianne added. "We had been thinking about moving to Adelaide, then didn't. We were ready to do something."





*Clockwise from top right: A family photo in Australia, taken in Maleny, Sunshine Coast, Queensland; a family Christmas photo at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Corrie Steel with fellow field worker Andrew Berg at Emmaus; the Steel family at Christkindlmarkt in Carmel, Indiana.*

## Seminary, Part 2: Fort Wayne

The move to Fort Wayne, both Steels say, has been very smooth. Everyone has been welcoming, and they’ve been thrilled with the Lutheran school options, which didn’t exist in Australia. Cate is enrolled at Concordia Lutheran High School, Eloise and Sylvie are at Ascension Lutheran School, and Adeline is at home (but says she’s ready for preschool).

Corrie has been assigned to Emmaus Lutheran Church and School for his two years of field education, which he’ll complete along with his coursework. After that, he’ll have a vicarage year, then one more year of classes. He could have gone to St. Catherines in Canada and transferred credits, he says, but he wanted to start from scratch.

“The LCA isn’t in altar-and-pulpit fellowship with the LCMS, and I just wasn’t confident in my previous seminary studies. So I said, ‘Give me the full program.’”

The workload here, Corrie says, is a lot heavier. He’s

enjoying it, but it’s hard. “I’m from North Queensland, and North Queensland is very laid back,” he said with a laugh. “In the last semester in Australia, when I knew I might be leaving, I still managed to work three days a week and get everything done and pass everything. That’s not flying here.” He only wishes he had more time to take things in a bit more.

When he finishes his MDiv program, Corrie and his family plan to return to Australia, where, God willing, he’ll serve a congregation, confident in his theological knowledge and well-equipped to teach others the faith.

“This was a big move,” Dianne said, “but it’s just what we needed to settle us all—in where we had to be and where we were meant to be.” 🏡



Dr. Kristine Bruss is Chief Communications Officer at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.