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4 Reflections on the Presidency

Two weeks before he retired from the presidency of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. shared some reflections on the past thirteen years at the helm of CTSFW. “You get to meet people and develop a range of relationships that I couldn’t have imagined before I entered this role,” said Rast. “I’ll probably miss that significantly. Not the traveling—I’ve done enough of that in my life. But working with people, that’s been the best part.”

8 God’s Blessings in the Past Years

The list of improvements and blessings to the Seminary over the past thirteen years is long, touching every aspect of formation at CTSFW. The overview on these pages, mirroring a new CTSFW video, “Faithfully Forming Servants,” hits a few of the highlights.

11 Bruss to Serve as Seventeenth President of CTSFW

Dr. Jon S. Bruss, who joined the CTSFW faculty in 2022 as associate professor of systematic theology, was called on May 18, 2024, to serve as CTSFW’s new president. He accepted, asking for prayers for himself, his family, “and above all, our seminary, which has been and remains a singularly effective instrument for forming faithful servants of Christ and His Church.”

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

Bruss to Serve as Seventeenth President of CTSFW

Installation September 8, 2024



CTSFW President-Elect Dr. Jon S. Bruss, center, with the presidential electors (from left): Dr. Roger Paavola, district president representative on the CTSFW Board of Regents; Christian Preus, chair of the LCMS Board of Directors; Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and Dr. Scott Murray, chair of the CTSFW Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), called Dr. Jon S. Bruss, associate professor of systematic theology at CTSFW, to serve as the Seminary's seventeenth president after his unanimous election May 18, 2024. Dr. Scott Murray, chair of the CTSFW Board of Regents and one of the four designated electors, announced the call in a livestreamed prayer service in Kramer Chapel shortly after the election.

"As the board chair, I can say that we have elected a faithful candidate who will lead the Seminary into the future that God has mapped out for it," said Murray. "Dr. Bruss comes with superb gifts and experience for this leadership challenge."

Per the bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the president-elect has fifteen days to respond to the call, but Bruss was ready with his answer at the prayer service.

"I'm both humbled and deeply honored by the electors' action today," said Bruss. "After nearly six months of prayerful consideration as a nominee, and with the wise counsel of fellow Christians and brother pastors, I'm moved to accept this call and hereby do. God grant me a mouth and wisdom! I ask for your prayers for me, my family, and above all, our seminary, which has been and remains a singularly effective

instrument for forming faithful servants of Christ and His Church. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word!"

Bruss, 56, joined the CTSFW faculty in 2022 with extensive experience in higher education and pastoral ministry. He earned his MDiv in 1995 from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) in Mankato, Minnesota. From 1991 through 2002, Bruss taught languages, ancient history, and world literature at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, during which time he pursued an MA and PhD in classics at the University of Minnesota.

After completing his PhD in 2001, Bruss taught classics at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He colloquized into the LCMS in 2006 and took a pastoral call in 2013 to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas, where he served as assistant pastor (2013–2015), then senior pastor (2015–2022), until his call to join the faculty at CTSFW.

He and his wife, Kristine, chief communications officer at CTSFW, have one daughter, Ingrid, and a soon-to-be son-in-law, Peter Funk.

Departing Seminary President Lawrence R. Rast Jr., who will return to the CTSFW faculty full-time after a year-long sabbatical, expressed confidence in his successor. "Dr. Bruss has been a wonderful addition to our faculty, and I am delighted that he will follow me as president of CTSFW. I have every confidence in his ability to lead our seminary through the joys and challenges of the coming years."

LEARN MORE ABOUT
CTSFW PRESIDENT JON S. BRUSS



Faculty Page
[ctsfw.edu](https://www.ctsfw.edu)



Faculty Profile
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