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Volume Twenty-Eight, Number Two



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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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## For the Life of the World

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

# God's Blessings IN THE Rast Years

## 2011-2024

### MISSION

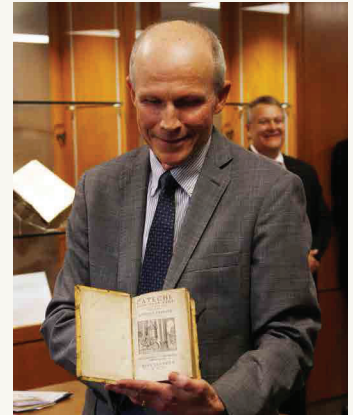
“The key verb in our mission statement is ‘form.’ We want to form servants who teach, reach, and care, but that means formation. How do we go about intentionally bringing about those characteristics? We’re very insistent on adhering to our roots as confessional Lutherans, where Scripture and the Confessions are absolutely definitional for us.”

—Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.



### Confessional Theology

“During President Rast’s second term we reviewed the curriculum, and one of the very interesting things that came up in our survey of graduates is that they actually wanted *more* study in the Lutheran Confessions. It just shows the grounding that they see is important for them to have as faithful Lutheran pastors—knowing and studying and understanding the Scriptures and proclaiming them clearly as we believe, teach, and confess in the Lutheran Confessions.”



—Dr. Charles A. Gieschen

### Strengthening Confessional Lutheranism Worldwide

“Our seminary is key and crucial for educating future leaders around the world. We have something in our possession, a theological heritage that we can export to others around the world who have never really heard about what it means to be a confessional Lutheran.”

—Dr. K. Detlev Schulz



### Ten-Year Accreditation Reaffirmed

Among the top strengths of CTSFW noted by evaluators in their 2020 report to the Association of Theological Schools: Mission, Lutheran identity, and a strong sense of community.



## Mentoring

“The mentoring program really has the same goal that the whole seminary has, and that is that the students might know Christ. And then to take the Christ that they’ve come to know and love in the various disciplines here and bring it to the people in a very clear and concise but comforting way.”



—Dr. Geoffrey R. Boyle

## Caring Beyond the Classroom

“The joy of being able to provide a minimum of 50% of students’ grocery needs through the co-ops, that’s huge. It’s everybody else caring for their future pastors, caring for their pastors’ families, caring for their future deaconesses.”

—Deac. Katherine E. Rittner



## Kroemer Library Expansion



“As students thought about what they really wanted, two foci were there: one was to have naturally lighted, quiet study spaces for their individual work and the other was to have areas where they could collaborate, where they could work together.”

—Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer

## Daily Chapel

“A decade ago we began to livestream our services. Our daily chapel service at 10 a.m. ET has always been well received, and we’re constantly hearing from people. It’s one of the number one places people go to on our website. For people scattered all around the world that becomes quite an encouragement as they can get a glimpse of their future pastors being trained.”

—Dr. Paul J. Grime



## Full Tuition Coverage

“Those first couple of years bringing students in with full tuition coverage [starting in the 2018–2019 academic year], they were just absolutely floored. We had to continue to focus them and say, ‘You know, it’s not the Seminary. It’s our donors! It’s our donors—it’s men and women, congregations—throughout our Synod who are investing into you as future pastors and deaconesses.’”



—Rev. Matthew J. Wietfeldt

For more of the story, view CTSFW’s “Faithfully Forming Servants” video. Scan the QR code or go to [ctsfw.edu/FormingServants](https://ctsfw.edu/FormingServants).

