



# Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne For the Life of the World

Spring 2016, Volume Twenty, Number One



## **It's All About Community**

By Thomas P. Zimmerman

## **We Are Brothers**

By Lucas W. Booher

## **Receiving God's Gifts on Campus**

By Brittni A. Koosmann

## **Able to Teach**

By Joshua J. Woelmer

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## For the Life of the World

**PUBLISHER**  
Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.  
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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

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By Thomas P. Zimmerman

There are reminders everywhere of the vocation for which they are preparing. They know they are not the first to experience these things. There are many who came before who sat in the same classrooms, sat in the same pews, walked the same halls, handled and touched the same library books. They are a part of a special group that called CTSFW home.

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It is truly a blessing to know that these brothers have my back and to know that it does not end once we graduate. When you are together for so long, living, eating, attending the same classes and often studying for hours with them, you really get to know the kind of people they are and they get to know you.

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We learn that there is more to our fellow Christian than meets the eye. We learn how to talk about theological issues that will present themselves in our congregations and among our pastors, deaconesses and fellow theologians. This living together in community is very important to our formation as pastors and deaconesses.

### 12 Able to Teach

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As I reflect on my own studies, both past and present, there is no better method for teaching future pastors than for them to come to a seminary. It is tempting to think about theology or the Scriptures as merely tools that need to be added to someone's toolbox before he becomes a pastor, but there is much more to the formation of a pastor.

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# We Are Brot



When I consider what makes the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, community great, I don't think of the library complex or excellent faculty or supportive staff members. Rather I think of my brothers who have made this difficult and often overwhelming task of seminary education bearable and in many cases enjoyable.

Let's face it, if you come to seminary or even take the online courses, you will be faced with some of the greatest and hardest academic work ever. From Dr. Nordling's 10 weeks of Greek to Dr. Coles' History class, you will be challenged mentally, physically and in some instances emotionally. It is during these stressful situations that your friends here at CTSFW make all of the difference.

It was during my first Church History class when I really started to feel the pressure of seminary and I wasn't the only one. Many of us were struggling with the massive amounts of information that could be on the test and how each king or pope or bishop interacted with each

other and in what areas they each affected the Church. It wasn't until we spent a few nights working through a timeline that was created on 3x5 cards by the history buff among us that we began to understand. It is because of nights like these that I see the importance of my seminary education. It is because of nights like these that the bonds of brotherhood began to form.

That bond was very strong recently when I needed to leave town unexpectedly because of a family emergency. It was four days before I was scheduled to preach as a pulpit supply for an area congregation and after sending out an email asking for someone to fill in for me, within 25 minutes three of my brothers had offered to fill in.

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By Lucas Booher



It is truly a blessing to know that these brothers have my back and to know that it does not end once we graduate. When you are together for so long, living, eating, attending the same classes and often studying for hours with them, you really get to know the kind of people they are and they get to know you. This is doubly important for those who have a family. Throughout any given day, no less than 15 different families can be seen on campus, from those who want to worship and sing together in Kramer Chapel to those who are trying to surprise dad with lunch during a difficult week. My wife Laura has found great joy in singing in one of the choirs alongside other wives, seminary students and faculty spouses. In addition to that, all the wives are welcome to

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gather together for the Seminary Wives Association which frequently has classes, social gatherings and other various activities throughout the year.

Yet, the bonds that we share do not stop with the Seminary. I have spent countless hours with these guys and their families playing games, watching movies, attending various sporting events including watching our own basketball team, the King's Men, in the rivalry game with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

It is in these times that we came up with my favorite weekly activity. To counter the idea that seminary students often wear clerical collars and bow ties, a select group of us have begun wearing various super hero shirts every Friday. Not all students participate in this but for those that do we have a large variety of super heroes that make regular appearances, including but not limited to Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, Shazam and the Flash.

My hope is that from this article you will understand that on this campus we have students from every walk of life. We have Marines, sailors, former teachers, factory workers, line cooks, guys who knew they wanted to be a pastor from a young age to those of us who decided to stop running from God and finally come to the Seminary. We have shared our experiences and formed lifelong bonds of friendship and brotherhood. I know that I am thankful for them.. 

*Lucas W. Booher (Lucas.Booher@ctsfw.edu) is a fourth-year student in the Master of Divinity Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.*

