

# CONTENTS

Volume Twenty-Six, Number Four

## CTSFW Wall Calendars

Now Available

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), mailed its 2023 wall calendar to CTSFW alumni and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the beginning of December. A limited number of additional copies are available to individuals and congregations.



### Special features include:

- ✦ Three-Year and One-Year Lectionary
- ✦ Church Seasonal Colors (Advent to Advent)
- ✦ Feasts and Festivals
- ✦ CTSFW Campus Events
- ✦ CTSFW Academic Calendar

To request your calendar(s), please contact Colleen Bartzsch at (260) 452-2150 or Colleen.Bartzsch@ctsfw.edu. There is an \$8.25 mailing charge for quantities of two to 10 calendars.

## For the Life of the World

### PUBLISHER

Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.  
President

### PUBLISHER ASSISTANT

Carrie M. O'Donnell

### PRODUCTION MANAGER

Colleen M. Bartzsch

### EDITOR

Kristine S. Bruss

### COPY EDITOR

Trudy E. Behning

### ART DIRECTOR

Steve J. Blakey

*For the Life of the World* is published by Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without the consent of the Editor of *For the Life of the World* by email at FLOW@ctsfw.edu or (260) 452-3153. Copyright 2022. Printed in the United States. Postage paid at Berne, Indiana.

*For the Life of the World* is mailed to all pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the United States and Canada and to anyone interested in the work of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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

## FEATURES

### 4 Forming Servants to Teach through Christ-Centered Worship

Paul J. Grime

Kramer Chapel towers above every other building on campus, but it's not just the building that towers over these 190 acres. Given that it is within these chapel walls that God comes among the students, faculty, and staff—not to mention the constant stream of visitors—to nourish them with His life-giving gifts, the worship life of the Seminary community extends well beyond the brief time it occupies in our day. Indeed, through subtle ways it shapes everything we do.

### 7 Forming Servants to Teach through Confessional Theology

Jon S. Bruss

At their ordination, our pastors subscribe—"sign on to"—the same Confessions that every single one of our LCMS congregations accepts. Our congregations, after all, are a place for proclaiming and living out the truth of God's Word, not for trying to discover or reinvent it. Our CTSFW graduates are well prepared to sign on to those Confessions, and to "teach the faithful" accordingly.

### 10 Forming Servants to Teach through Lutheran Community

Gifford Grobien

Community life at CTSFW is rich, participatory, and formative: worship and prayer together; the shared communion of Christ's body and blood; mutual conversation and learning; mentoring and material support. In all these ways the community is built up, and members of Christ's body serve one another. By this way of life students learn not just facts to be communicated, but the shared joys, support, knowledge, and love that come in life together.

### Also in this Issue:

<b>Able to Teach . . . . .</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Formed to Teach the Faithful . . . . .</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Treasures of the Reformation . . . . .</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Admission: Start the Conversation . . . . .</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Faculty Focus: Dr. David P. Scaer . . . . .</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Faculty News . . . . .</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Events Schedule . . . . .</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Seminary Guild: Touches of Home . . . . .</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>The Impact of Legacy Giving . . . . .</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Bible Study: Teaching Throughout the Bible . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>

# Forming Servants to Teach Lutheran Co



---

Christians get their understanding of community from the Greek word *koinonia*. *Koinonia* is often translated “fellowship” but includes the richer meaning of “communion” or “sharing something in common.” This *something* is no thing, but a person, the man Jesus Christ. The most fundamental way in which this manifests is in the community gathering around the Word of God and the Holy Communion in regular chapel services. Multiple times each weekday, services are held, Scripture is read, the Word is taught, hymns are sung, and people pray.

---

# through community

Gifford Grobien

Teaching is most compelling not only when the teacher informs you of something that he understands, but also when he lives and experiences what he teaches. When the teacher himself embraces the knowledge that he has, finds joy in it, and lives it out, his own passion for what he teaches is evident and brings his students along. His excitement is infectious, he experiences the benefits he talks about, and he grows even further in his understanding because of this experience. Future pastors and deaconesses at CTSFW become excellent teachers not only because of the information they learn in the classroom, but also because of the community life they share with professors, each other, and others in the Seminary community, thereby living out what they are learning and growing in the habits that they will teach and practice in their congregations.

Christians get their understanding of community from the Greek word *koinonia*. *Koinonia* is often translated “fellowship” but includes the richer meaning of “communion” or “sharing something in common.” This *something* is no thing, but a person, the man Jesus Christ. Fundamentally, Christians have a share in the man Jesus, and we are all His members (1 Cor. 12:13, 27). This fellowship extends through the catholic church throughout the world, yet also manifests itself in daily life in local Christian communities.

The most fundamental way in which this manifests is in the community gathering around the Word of God and Holy Communion in regular chapel services. Multiple times each weekday, services are held, Scripture is read, the Word is taught, hymns are sung, and people pray. At least weekly, the Lord’s Supper is celebrated, and the CTSFW

community shares together in eating and drinking the body and blood of Jesus. God’s Word is the heritage of the church; under it we submit ourselves, hearing it, being taught by it, our habits being formed by it. We meditate upon it, repeating it to ourselves in our hearts, contemplating Christ in the Word, and His redeeming and sanctifying work in our lives. His blood is that which forgives our sin, reconciles us to the Heavenly Father, and purifies us before Him. His body nourishes us and sustains us, such that as He died and rose again victorious over death, so we also die to sin and rise daily to walk in newness of life.

This sharing in Christ defines the rest of our community life. With Christ the source, center, and life of the CTSFW community, Christ orients, first of all, community prayer, study, and mutual learning together. Besides chapel prayer, students often gather for



The CTSFW community is a place for students to discuss material outside of class and to work together in study groups. Working through points from lectures or readings is a common occurrence at lunch tables. Faculty often join in these conversations, especially at lunch time, clarifying, directing, or simply encouraging the ongoing talk spilling over from the classroom. CTSFW is a place of community learning.

prayer in dorm lounges in the evening or pray spontaneously with each other at social events, meals, or study sessions. Although away from their hometowns and, in many cases, not living with families, student life still offers a setting for domestic support of one another, beginning with the practice of prayer. Students are never alone, and they are able to share with one another joys, thanksgivings, burdens and sorrows, and to intercede for one another.

This spiritual life nourished by Christ's body and Word, and by prayer, extends into a common life of study. Learning and studying is not an individual, independent endeavor at CTSFW. Besides discussion in class sessions, the CTSFW community is a place for students to discuss material outside of class and to work together in study groups. Working through points from lectures or readings is a common occurrence at lunch tables. Faculty often join in these conversations, especially at lunch time, clarifying, directing, or simply encouraging the ongoing talk spilling over from the classroom. CTSFW is a place of community learning.

CTSFW also has formal community institutions to serve student life. In recent years, the Seminary has expanded its faculty advising program into a mentoring program in which faculty are matched with students not only to provide academic guidance but to act as mentors in ministry. Through formal conversation groups, social events, and personal meetings, students have the opportunity to develop deeper relationships with a more intimate group of students and a professor. These relationships provide further context and opportunity for understanding what is learned in class, processing the Seminary experience, and reflecting more deeply on vocational milestones and goals.

In a related fashion, the Seminary Food and Clothing Co-op supports the student community in multi-faceted ways. Most obviously, the Co-op helps to minimize food, clothing, and household expenses faced by students.

Some students indicate that up to 80% of such needs are met by the Co-op. Beyond the financial benefits, the Co-op is intentionally a place for community interaction and support. Students are not anonymous, nameless customers, but part of a network of support. Many donors personally visit the Seminary to interact with students. Students, in turn, have opportunities to communicate with donors, to pray with them, and sometimes even visit their congregations. Students work together to sort Co-op donations, stock the stores, and keep them clean. Deaconess Katherine Rittner, Director of the Co-op, is a mother figure and mentor to many of the students, and she considers them her personal charge. In this way, economic support does not simply address a material need but serves the greater community life together. In this experience, students will be able to teach the holistic nature of community love and care for one another.

Community life at CTSFW is rich, participatory, and formative: worship and prayer together; the shared communion of Christ's body and blood; mutual conversation and learning; mentoring and material support. In all of these ways the community is built up, and members of Christ's body serve one another. By this way of life students learn not just facts to be communicated, but the shared joys, support, knowledge, and love that come in life together. This formation, these habits, in turn, inform what they bring to congregations—what they teach congregations. And this teaching, finally, is a teaching that is lived and shared with Christians throughout the country and throughout the world. Truly this is the body of Christ. Truly we are all members of it, sharers in the common life of our Lord, Jesus Christ. 📖

*The Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien (Gifford.Grobien@ctsfw.edu) is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Assistant Provost, and Director of the DMin Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*



Beyond the financial benefits, the Co-op is intentionally a place for community interaction and support. Students are not anonymous, nameless customers, but part of a network of support. Many donors personally visit the Seminary to interact with students. Students, in turn, have opportunities to communicate with donors, to pray with them, and sometimes even visit their congregations.