



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

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It's All About Community

By Thomas P. Zimmerman

We Are Brothers

By Lucas W. Booher

Receiving God's Gifts on Campus

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Able to Teach

By Joshua J. Woelmer

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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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By Lucas W. 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.

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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.

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By Joshua J. Woelmer

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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Receiving God's Gifts on Campus

By Brittni A. Koosmann

We daily receive God's Word in this place and typically hear sermons from one of the many ordained faculty or staff on campus. This is the highlight of the school week. This helps to remind us why we are here at the Seminary. In this, we learn how to receive God's gift of the Word properly and how best to use it to care for those who are put in front of us.



Once I had chosen to attend Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW) in Fort Wayne in order to study in the M.A. Leading to Deaconess Certification Program, I realized quickly that this meant moving across the country from Arizona to Indiana. I did not know anyone and I had never been to Indiana. I was a bit nervous. However, after attending the Prayerfully Consider Visit weekend which the Seminary hosts twice per year, I was comforted. The campus seemed like it would be a beautiful, comfortable and welcoming place to live. Upon my return to campus for the beginning of school the following year, I was a bit nervous again, but I knew that I was going to a place that was safe. I was not disappointed.

After living here on campus for a year and a half, there are many reasons why I would encourage those who are able to live on campus. The comfortable and welcoming atmosphere I found here has continued. But more than that I have found friends. I enjoy learning at the feet of wonderful professors and a lovely deaconess who teaches us as well as guides us in our studies, and I get to attend Chapel every day.

One of the wonderful things I found when I moved to campus was that I am surrounded by many like-minded people, a number of whom could be classified as theological nerds. Being someone who enjoys learning about and discussing the Bible, it was exciting to find other people close to my age who also enjoy learning about Scripture. Not only that, but from the beginning there was a sense of fitting in, belonging in a way that I have never found anywhere else. I have also heard this stated by a number of my fellow students.

The students come from all walks of life and levels of experience. Some people were businessmen, some already have a Ph.D. in other fields. In my previous schools some were sporty, some were popular, some were geeks, some were the quiet kids. But at CTSFW when we gather together for meals in the dining hall, we are just people who gather to eat and discuss the events of the day or the class we just came from or the theological issue we have on our minds. This is an important part of becoming future church workers. Through these interactions, we learn to care for one another even though we may have different life experiences or opinions. 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.

One of my favorite parts of being on campus is sitting in our classes and learning from brilliant theologians who are passionate about the Bible and teaching faithfully what the Scripture speaks. The professors all have their own character and they bring that to class and use it to teach the faith in a variety of ways. Because of this, the students are enabled and encouraged to ask questions in order to help them understand what the professor means. One of the great things about being on campus is that we have so many opportunities to speak with professors in and out of class. As is normal, the professors have office hours and students can schedule appointments, but because the campus is so intimate, we have several opportunities during normal community times to speak with professors, even in groups with others. During coffee hour after Chapel, on any given day, you are likely to find your professor in the Student Commons, willing to speak with you. Lunch is another good time to speak to





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professors; often they join us for lunch and sit with the student body. This is one of the coolest things about living on campus; the professors are so easily accessible in low key and low stress settings.

As much as all of the above are great reasons to live on campus, my favorite is the Chapel. Chapel is the central part of being on campus, both literally and figuratively—the Chapel is in the center of campus and it is also the center of campus life. The students are strongly encouraged to attend chapel service on a daily basis. Campus life virtually shuts down during the 10:00 a.m. chapel service in order for students, professors and many others to attend. There are also two other opportunities for students to attend services daily; that's a potential for attending chapel three times per day. We daily receive God's Word in this place and typically hear sermons from one of the many ordained faculty or staff on campus. This is the highlight of the school week. This helps to remind us why we are here at the Seminary. In this, we learn how to receive God's gift of the Word properly and how to best use it to care for those who are put in front of us.

Kramer Chapel is also a place where men desiring to be pastors can learn how to deliver Christ crucified in varying faithful styles, which allow them to have their own character while proclaiming faithfully what the Scripture says. It also teaches us all that there is more than one way to deliver a faithful sermon in which we are receiving the gifts of God during a service. The men who stand in the pulpit to proclaim the words of the Lord preach that we are sinners who can do nothing—no good—apart from Christ and then remind us of Christ's loving service to us by His death and resurrection. This helps to re-center all of us on the One Thing that we always need to remember, Christ given for us. This is why Chapel is my favorite part of campus. At least five times per week we have a time of relaxing, taking a deep breath and receiving the good and faithful things which the Lord has provided in both the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament.

Living on campus has been a wonderful experience which has been very important in my learning—from my friendships to professors faithfully teaching to the worship services, I am grateful for the experience and time I have had living here at CTSFW, and I think it is very important in the formation and training of those desiring to enter church work. 📖

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