



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

CONTENTS

Volume Twenty, Number One



For the Life of the World

PUBLISHER
Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President

MANAGING EDITOR
Jayne E. Sheaffer

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Colleen M. Bartzsch

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 Managing Editor of *For the Life of the World* by email at SeminaryRelations@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2250. Copyright 2016. 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 It's All About Community

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.

6 We Are Brothers

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.

9 Receiving God's Gifts on Campus

By Brittini A. Koosmann

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

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.

Also in this issue:

What Does This Mean?	p. 15
Called to Serve	p. 16
Faculty Focus	p. 18
Christ Academy Events Continue to Grow	p. 22
Profiles in Giving	p. 28
Bible Study	p. 30
Calendar of Events	p. 31

It's All About Com

CTSFW is uniquely equipped with over 20 full-time professors working to help form students with specialized knowledge of Holy Scriptures and the Confessions, while preparing them for teaching, preaching and counseling. This is not accomplished in a vacuum.



Residential education allows for “full-contact” theology. Students live, converse, interact, study, learn and worship with others, including professors who become part of their CTSFW family. There is the sharing of meals, life experiences, theology, hobbies, thoughts on world events and more with a diverse group of persons who share the same Christ and faith.

As the Church forms the next generation of pastors to serve in congregations that Jesus has established to spread His Gospel message throughout the world, it well serves those future servants of the Word to be engaged in daily prayer, reading, instruction and physical well-being. Those elements are a natural part of daily life at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The pastoral grounds of the Seminary provide a place of quiet repose, especially for those Greek and Hebrew students walking with their vocabulary flashcards during the language acquisition classes. Regardless of where one stands on the campus, eyes are drawn to Kramer Chapel. The designer of the campus, Eero Saarinen, intended it to be that way. The Chapel bell calls the community to Matins, Morning Office and Vespers. Students on campus have the in-person, daily chapel experience with other students and professors. They have the opportunity daily to pray, sing, confess and worship in Kramer Chapel. During chapel, students hear different pastors delivering the homily each day and see fellow students involved in worship. Worship is at the heart of what happens at CTSFW as we prepare men and women to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

Practical training is also an integral aspect of seminary education. While studying in Fort Wayne, future pastors are assigned to a local congregation to put theory into practice. Urban, suburban and rural training is available for the fieldwork component of the program. Many of our new students are paired up at their fieldwork congregations with second-year students. These pairings help new students to feel more confident and allow the second-year students to share what they have learned while

serving at the fieldwork congregation.

CTSFW is uniquely equipped with over 20 full-time professors working to help form students with specialized knowledge of Holy Scriptures and the Confessions, while preparing them for teaching, preaching and counseling. This is not accomplished in a vacuum. Residential education allows for “full-contact” theology. Students live, converse, interact, study, learn and worship with others, including professors who become part of their CTSFW family. There is the sharing of meals, life experiences, theology, hobbies, thoughts on world events and more with a diverse group of persons who share the same Christ and faith.

Residential study allows students to be part of a community. The CTSFW campus becomes their neighborhood. This neighborhood allows them to be within walking distance of the Chapel, library, gym, dining hall and classrooms. Wherever they walk, they see fellow students, professors and members of the campus staff. As they walk through the buildings, they see religious artwork and portraits of current and former professors. As they read the names of the residence halls, they are reminded of the early church fathers. 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

community

By Thomas P. Zimmerman



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.

Upon completion of their studies, students receive their Call to serve a congregation or institution. In most cases the newly called pastor will be on his own, charged with the sacred duty of rightly preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments. As congregations are hospitals for sinners, including the pastors, they may feel a bit isolated at first with the heavy burden of the Office. While preparing for the Office

with fellow brothers here at CTSFW, one is able to develop a solid network of brother pastors that will support them out in the field. These invaluable relationships are developed while sharing experiences over the three years on campus and one-year vicarage for the Master of Divinity Program.

Like medical or law school after college, the Master of Divinity Program is a full-time endeavor over multiple years. These preparatory years of study, practice and maturation are vital for solid service as a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As a former parish pastor and now dean of Students

over the past five years, I can attest that these preparatory years of study and practical experience in fieldwork and vicarage are vital in preparing pastors to serve God's people. But even better than listening to what I have to say, read the following articles written by CTSFW students and see what they have to say about formation at CTSFW. [▲](#)

The Rev. Thomas P. Zimmerman (Thomas. Zimmerman@ctsfw.edu) serves as dean of Students at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana.

