



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

March 2015, Volume Nineteen, Number One



The Importance of Continuing Education for Pastors

By Ernie V. Lassman

Advanced Degrees: More Options for Continuing Education

By Peter J. Scaer, Naomichi Masaki, Gifford A. Grobien, K. Detlev Schulz

CTSFW Library: Resource for the Global Church

By Robert V. Roethemeyer

CONTENTS

Volume Nineteen, Number One

FEATURES

4 The Importance of Continuing Education for Pastors

By Ernie V. Lassman

The apostle Peter encourages us to be growing constantly in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. While this is true of all Christians, it is most especially true of pastors who nourish, guide and protect the flock of Jesus Christ. A pastor's continuing education is not only for his own spiritual well-being but also for the spiritual well-being of the people he serves.

8 Advanced Degrees: More Options for Continuing Education

By Peter J. Scaer, Naomichi Masaki, Gifford A. Grobien, K. Detlev Schulz

Continuing education for pastors and laypeople is available through a variety of advanced degrees. Those offered at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, include the Master of Arts—Religion, Master of Sacred Theology, Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Philosophy—Missiology. The directors of each of the programs have provided a snapshot of their respective programs.

12 CTSFW Library: Resource for the Global Church

By Robert V. Roethemeyer

The chapel and the library are two icons of the campus. Representing the life of the Spirit and the life of the mind, these two are central to the formation of servants of Jesus Christ. Not surprisingly then, worship in Kramer Chapel and the resources of the library are two elements of our life together most often missed by our alumni. Just as you can now live stream daily chapel services, there are also many library resources that are available to the church-at-large.

Also in this issue:

What Does This Mean?	p. 15
Called to Serve	p. 16
In the Field.....	p. 18
CTSFW Faculty Coming to a Location Near You	p. 22
CTSFW Honors Maggie Karner with Doctor of Humane Letters Degree	p. 23
Seminary Guild	p. 26
Military Project	p. 27



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 2015. 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).

Advanced Degrees:

Continuing education for pastors and laypeople is available through a variety of advanced degrees. Those offered at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, include the Master of Arts—Religion, Master of Sacred Theology, Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Philosophy—Missiology. The directors of each of the programs have provided a snapshot of their respective programs. Connect with the CTSFW Graduate Studies at www.ctsfw.edu/GradStudies, via email at GraduateStudies@ctsfw.edu or phone 260-452-2203.

Master of Arts—Religion

By Peter J. Scaer

The classrooms at our Seminary are vital incubators of learning, teeming with men and women who have devoted themselves to lives of service within our church. Some men are dreaming of missions overseas, while others look to serve a rural parish. Many women are preparing for lives of service in the church here at home and abroad. But, you do not have to be a pastor to want to study theology and you do not have to be a deaconess in order to serve. Many come to the Seminary simply because they want to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of Christ. Others come because they would like to pursue further academic work, perhaps teach at a university or pursue a career in writing. Still others would like to work at the district or synodical level, or perhaps become better teachers of Religion at a high school or grade school. If you simply love to study the Bible and would like to do it in greater depth, the Master of Arts—Religion (M.A.) Program may be right for you.

It has been my privilege to be the supervisor of the M.A. Program for well over a decade. Along the way, I have met some of the most remarkable students. They have come with diverse backgrounds and very different goals. One enrolled with tremendous writing skill and a good grounding in Lutheranism, but wanted to study theology in depth. She came and studied and has moved on to a successful career in editing and writing for the church. Another entered our program with a strong background in philosophy but wanted to study theology before moving on to work on his Ph.D. Along the way, he has written a fine book in Christian apologetics. A successful businessman came to the Seminary because he wanted to pursue a career in Christian counseling and felt that a good theological education would help him become the best counselor he could be. Recently, we received into the program a man from Tanzania who is already a pastor and teacher but wants to study in depth so that he can be of better service to his people at home. Still others come into the M.A. Program unsure of their goals but eager in their desire for learning. And every now and then, an incoming student has a


change of mind and decides to become a pastor after all.

People enroll in our M.A. Program for so many different reasons, with so many different goals. But there are some commonalities, some basic goals and passions that they all share. People who study here at CTSFW want to become competent and confident in the major disciplines of Christian thinking. They desire to sharpen their academic skills as they become better writers, researchers and speakers. Along the way, they learn and study major sections of the Bible and begin to become capable interpreters with a focus on Jesus. To know who you are, you must know where you came from. And here at CTSFW, students learn the history of the church. As they

People enroll in our M.A. Program for so many different reasons, with so many different goals. But there are some commonalities, some basic goals and passions that they all share. People who study here at CTSFW want to become competent and confident in the major disciplines of Christian thinking.

become acquainted and conversant in the great church fathers, they are better equipped to navigate the tricky waters of our contemporary situation. Through rigorous and vigorous study, they gain insight in what made the Reformers so bold and how we Lutherans came to be who we are. Indeed, in a world of confusion, M.A. students receive a good primer on ethics. They learn to think through and articulate Christian positions on controversial topics ranging from abortion to euthanasia, from stem cell

research to cloning, and so much more. And all M.A. students will leave with a greater understanding of our worship life, our baptismal identity and the joys of the Lord's Supper.

There are so many reasons for entering the M.A. Program and there are so many avenues to pursue. But, no matter the reason, know that you will be equipped and enriched. If you would like to learn more about the M.A. Program, and if you are thinking about embarking on a new journey of exploration, come visit our campus, send us an email or give us a call. We would love to talk to you and see how we can help. 

*The Rev. Dr. Peter J. Scaer
(Peter.Scaer@ctsfw.edu) serves as
director of the M.A. Program at Concordia
Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.*



More Options for Continuing Education



The Master of Sacred Theology Program

By Naomichi Masaki

The place for studying good Lutheran theology. This is what our Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) Program seeks to maintain here at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). You may say that it sounds too obvious and there are numerous Lutheran seminaries everywhere. Well, what then is the uniqueness of our S.T.M. Program? Let me offer some of my thoughts for you to consider.

The first to mention is our commitment to provide a scholarly environment where confessional Lutheran theology is taken with utmost seriousness. Whether you participate in the courses in Systematic, Exegetical, Historical or Pastoral Theology, you find that your first priority is to be under the Word as Luther put it, and never depart from His living voice. The proper distinction between Law and Gospel is still the key to the study of the Lutheran Confessions, because through it the entire Scripture is opened. We read the writings of Dr. Luther. We study the *Book of Concord*. These resources provide brilliant guidance when engaging in a variety of contemporary theological issues and questions facing the church and in evaluating all the secondary authors of past and present and of different traditions.

Our S.T.M. Program also distinguishes itself by having a strong pastoral emphasis. Our faculty members are not only well published scholars who participate in the wider academic discussion, but also pastors who serve the church both locally and Synod wide. They are regularly invited to travel throughout the U.S. and around the world for teaching, preaching and speaking. The combination of a high academic standard and active participation in the life of the church is another hallmark of our Seminary faculty. Our classrooms are affected by experienced faculty who guide the theological studies with the perspective from within, not from outside the church. We never lose sight of our focus on the real life of the Christian and the life and the mission of the church. An accessible faculty and a


delightful community of learning among the students serve to enhance our pastoral dynamics.

Last, but not the least, our S.T.M. Program is benefited by the rich liturgical life of the campus. The classroom learning flows out of the Lord's gifts that are delivered in daily services in Kramer Chapel. The treasure received in the chapel prompts us always to engage in theology with profound joy. Many of our graduates mention repeatedly how they miss the beauty of the Lutheran liturgy. Several Swedish graduates recently said that the liturgical life is reason enough to consider studies at CTSFW.

Concerning some hard data, the S.T.M. Program is a more advanced level academic program than the Master of

Divinity (M.Div.) Program. It provides the opportunity to acquire specialized knowledge in a chosen field of theological study and to gain the skills necessary for scholarly research, writing and teaching. The S.T.M. Program requires 27 hours of course work (18 in the chosen major discipline, nine in each of the three remaining disciplines), proficiency exams in one of the biblical languages (Greek or Hebrew) and a research language, a comprehensive

exam in the major field and a thesis (six hours of credit). The program is open for part-time studies as two-week intensive courses are offered throughout the year. The degree may also be obtained by pursuing a non-thesis route.

If you want to enrich and deepen your Lutheran theology for the sake of your ministry or if you want to prepare yourself for further studies at the doctoral level, the S.T.M. is for you! 

*The Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki
(Naomichi.Masaki@ctsfw.edu)
serves as director of the S.T.M.
Program at Concordia Theological
Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.*





Doctor of Ministry

By Gifford A. Grobien

When people hear Doctor of Ministry, they often home in on the word Doctor and may think of a scholar alone in a library or study, immersing himself in texts and writing deeply and intricately about theology. While such a vocation is important and valuable, many laypeople wonder, “If my pastor earns his Doctor of Ministry, will he be called away to teach in a university or seminary?”

The answer to this question almost 100 percent of the time is “no.” To be sure, a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) student will be immersed in theological texts and be challenged to think deeply. Yet consider the other main word in the title: Ministry. The Doctor of Ministry Program is oriented toward ministry, that is, the practice and application of theology in the everyday lives of parishioners and the community. The purpose of the program is to improve and to deepen the pastoral knowledge, skill and resources of the student. The D.Min. Program does not call pastors out of the congregation, but invigorates them for continued work in the congregation. Studying the theoretical aspects of theology to be a teacher in higher education has an important place in the church, but the program designed to prepare students for that is the Ph.D. For those who want to improve as pastors—and stay in congregational or other practical ministry—the Seminary provides the D.Min. Program.

How does the D.Min. Program deepen a pastor’s practice of ministry? Besides the study of Scripture, the Confessions and theology texts, the program uses a project framework to develop a pastor’s ability to discern and understand viewpoints, traditions, institutional structures, challenges and problems in congregations. The pastor learns comprehensive tools for understanding his congregation, such as interview techniques and analysis, observation and recording of data, case studies and documentary analysis. These tools do not determine the pastoral care to be provided, but provide the pastor with comprehensive information about the circumstances in which pastoral care is needed.

Then, through his advanced study of Scripture, the Confessions and other texts, the pastor gains knowledge for developing a project of pastoral care. Thus the program

centers on this developed, comprehensive exercise of pastoral care. The results of this project of pastoral care are observed, recorded and analyzed, providing feedback on the effectiveness of the pastoral care project. This project and results are the culmination of the program, written up in a thesis. From beginning to end, the program focuses on the improvement and deepening of a student’s practice in ministry. The program is here, simply, to help men become better pastors.

As such, the program is also beneficial to congregations. The more discerning they are to diagnose challenges in the congregation, the more appropriate the care they will provide.

The more knowledgeable they are of pastoral theology, the more effective the care. Congregations will reap many good fruits from pastors who go through the program, even before they graduate.

The new design of the program supports ministry in the congregation better than ever. Intensive periods are now five days (down from two weeks), so that pastors are away from their congregations for even less time than in the past. The modified course structure and ability to specialize mean that the

pastor can begin working on his program project from his entrance into the program and tailor his course studies toward the project. The greatly reduced tuition means that pastors and congregations can partner to support the pastor for the benefit of all—both pastor and congregation.

There are many kinds of doctors. Some care for the body. Some study ideas, try to articulate them more clearly and teach them in the classroom. But there is also the Doctor of Ministry. This doctor does not just stay in a library or classroom with books, but is in the church, with people in their time of need and present in the community for the sake of the Gospel. This doctor is a doctor of souls. He is the caregiver in the midst of your congregation. 📖

The Rev. Dr. Gifford A. Grobein (Gifford.Grobien@ctsfw.edu) serves as director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.





The Ph.D. in Missiology Program

By K. Detlev Schulz

North American students are not the only ones who dream of graduating from a school with the highest degree in Theology; Christians from every continent aspire for the best education. Since Ph.D.s are still hard to come by in many countries around the world, students have to travel to far away destinations where such a program exists. Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, is one of those venues. Ever since its inception in the mid 1990s, the Ph.D. in Missiology Program has attracted students from Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) partner and non-LCMS churches who come to enjoy a Graduate School environment in a Lutheran setting. For the most part, it is this program that lends an international flavor to our campus and it provides for all students, regardless of what program they take, an interesting and exciting exchange with other students.

As with any worthwhile endeavor, some challenges must be overcome before students can sit in the chairs of one of our classrooms. For pastors within the U.S.A., the challenge is to set aside time from their busy pastoral work in the parish to attend a two-week intensive course and, perhaps, if their parish permits, take a sabbatical. Some pastors serve congregations in the area and are able to attend classes on campus at least once a week in order to meet the residency requirement for the program. International students need to obtain approval from their church leadership, submit the necessary documentation so that their visa can be processed and take a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Only then, after receiving the letter of acceptance from our school, may they set out to a country they most likely have not visited before, and they will stay away for months on end from their beloved ones. This is not easy. Moreover, all students, regardless of location, have in common the single most difficult hurdle to master and that is to secure financial resources. It takes the whole church to make a concerted effort, the seminaries, committed members in the LCMS, the LCMS Global Seminary Initiative and gracious congregations, all

together help to make a student's attendance possible. Thank you to all who have helped and continue to do so!

Are all these efforts worth it? Unequivocally, yes. Two reasons come to mind. First, in a recent renowned journal of missiology, the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* (2012), our Ph.D. in Missiology was rated fifth in a long list of schools in the U.S.A. that offer a Ph.D. in Mission Studies or have dissertations written related to that topic. The Ph.D. has been recognized as a quality degree and it continues to receive world-wide recognition for being that. The students graduating return to their country and fill positions of leadership either in the area of governance or in the educational institutions

In a recent renowned journal of missiology, the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* (2012), our Ph.D. in Missiology was rated fifth in a long list of schools in the U.S.A. that offer a Ph.D. in Mission Studies or have dissertations written related to that topic. The Ph.D. has been recognized as a quality degree and it continues to receive world-wide recognition for being that.

such as seminaries and universities. Second, the topic of missiology is an area of study seriously needed for all churches around the world. Missiology is an academic exercise that studies the mission of the church as it encounters the non-Christian world around it. In our Western world, mission is needed to meet the steady decline of our churches, to reach the ethnic minorities and plant churches in urban contexts. Overseas, other missiological challenges need close study such as persecution of Christians, marriages between Christians and non-Christian spouses and the encounter with world religions such as Islam and Hinduism. These are all challenges that

Christianity faces, and missiology provides deeper insight in their relation to our witness to the world. We pray that the Lord continues to bless the Ph.D. Program and those who participate in it. 🏡

The Rev. Dr. K. Detlev Schulz (Detlev.Schulz@ctsfw.edu) serves as dean of Graduate Studies and director of the Ph.D. in Missiology Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

