

CONTENTS

Volume Twenty One, Number Four

FEATURES

4 Christian Involvement in Public Ethical Issues

By Peter J. Scaer

Even now, Christians are suffering, losing their businesses, being subjected to fines and firing, simply for conducting their lives in accordance with the truth that every child deserves a mom and dad. While society moves towards injustice, we must speak for those who would rather not participate in that injustice.

8 Baptismal Ethics in Family and Society

By Lucas V. Woodford

This is a moment of opportunity for the Church boldly to address the challenges of our age. Many want to know how to confront the toxic moral and spiritual influences all around: how do we find hope and develop good habits of faith and life that can combat this evil and build biblical character and the family unit, not only amongst ourselves but for the next generation of Christians?

12 Standing Up for Life: The CTSFW Life Team

Jacob H. Benson and Hanna M. Hoffbeck, Contributors

Our Lutheran understanding of good works and morality frees us to love the neighbor in ways that most of Christendom lacks. To that end, to help form pastors and deaconesses who are doers and not hearers only, the Life Team at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, was formed.

Also in this issue:

What Does This Mean?	p. 11
Called to Serve	p. 16
Faculty Focus	p. 18
Faculty News	p. 21
CTSFW to Offer Ph.D. in Theological Studies Beginning Fall 2018	p. 22
Alumni	p. 24
Seminary Guild	p. 27
Profiles in Giving	p. 28
Bible Study	p. 30



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 2017. 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).

Standing Up for Life:

Jacob H. Benson and Hanna M. Hoffbeck, Contributors

Members of the CTSFW Life Team gather to pray outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Fort Wayne.



Political action, public prayer and marches for life are all necessary first steps. Talking the pro-life talk is important. It is necessary. However, also necessary is walking the pro-life walk, engaging the victims of this culture of death on a personal and intimate level. It is our hope that as the Life Team becomes more present in the Seminary community, the Seminary community will become more present in the pro-life movement in Fort Wayne and beyond.

Our attitudes toward life—whether it be the unborn or those nearing the end of their life—are reflected in the way we carry out the mission of the Church. Indeed as the Bride of Christ, the Church must constantly be meditating on what it means to be a faithful bride, and how to be a caring mother who gives birth by way of Baptism. Thus, the entire Christian life—including the mission of the Church—flows from our understanding of Christ. Yes, primarily Christ crucified, but not only Christ crucified: Christ incarnate, Christ as a child and student, Christ as teacher, Christ as example, Christ crucified, Christ resurrected, Christ ascended and Christ present in His preached Word and in His sacraments. The very concept of morality must begin with the Word made flesh in the womb of the virgin.

When we say that “life is precious,” that “children are a gift from God,” that “marriage is a blessing” we do well. But these are only true insofar as they are pregnant with the life-lived. “Marriage is a blessing” is nothing unless I myself speak highly of married couples, seek marriage for myself, and encourage young men and women to keep themselves sexually pure and seek a godly spouse. “Children are a gift from God” is nothing if I don’t smile

at every baby I see—especially a baby in the arms of an unwed mother—or if within marriage childbearing is avoided and fertility treated like a disease. “Life is precious” means nothing when I treat my own body like an empty shell by means of overindulgence, drunkenness and sloth. Claiming to be pro-life means nothing when I ignore my parents and elders and when I let my brothers and sisters despise and end their own lives.

Our Lutheran understanding of

The CTSEFW Life Team

good works and morality frees us to love the neighbor in ways that most of Christendom lacks. To that end, to help form pastors and deaconesses who are doers and not hearers only, the Life Team at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSEFW), Fort Wayne, was formed. It is our hope that by bridging the gap between the academic and the parish worlds we can equip students at CTSEFW to speak on life issues to their congregations and the broader community in which they serve.

“The faculty, staff and students of CTSEFW have historically been extremely active in the Life Movement. We participate in congregational, local and national efforts within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), partner with other Christians, provide theological education on life within the classroom and community, participate in the annual 40 Days for Life campaign and the local and national marches for life,” says Deaconess Amy C. Rast, associate director of Deaconess Formation at CTSEFW and mentor for the CTSEFW Life Team. “Creating a Life Team on campus was an intentional effort to prioritize life in our faith community by raising

up a student leadership team to organize annual opportunities for us to learn about and confess life.”

Some of the ways this takes place on campus is by inviting speakers to come and present on a topic related to the myriad of life issues. One such event will feature a speaker from Silent No More. This is a group that seeks to help women who have had abortions find healing and some even find the courage to begin speaking about their experience. We will also have a pastor from the Fort Wayne area discuss end-of-life decisions and the ethical concerns related to such a topic.

But we do not merely speak among ourselves about such things. The Life Team also encourages students to be involved in the community and seeks to give opportunities for such action. Driving through a busy intersection this fall, one may have seen, on several occasions, a group of young men dressed in black and young women in blue holding a vigil outside the only Planned Parenthood clinic in Fort Wayne. And if the passerby had a window rolled down, he would have heard the sound of hymns that recalled our Lord’s own birth being sung, the Litany being chanted or the very youngest of

people being commended to God’s care. In January, the March for Life will be held both in Fort Wayne and Washington D.C. The Seminary will be represented at both events.

Political action, public prayer and marches for life are all necessary first steps. Talking the pro-life talk is important. It is necessary. However, also necessary is walking the pro-life walk, engaging the victims of this culture of death on a personal and intimate level. It is our hope that as the Life Team becomes more present in the Seminary community, the Seminary community will become more present in the pro-life movement in Fort Wayne and beyond. 🏡

Jacob H. Benson
(Jacob.Benson@ctsefw.edu)
is a fourth-year M.Div. student
and *Hanna M. Hoffbeck*
(Hanna.Hoffbeck@ctsefw.edu)
is a second-year student in
the Deaconess Formation
Program at Concordia
Theological Seminary
(CTSEFW), Fort Wayne. Both
are active in the CTSEFW Life Team.



The CTSEFW community and area Lutheran congregations show their support for life, from conception to natural death.