

THE SPRINGFIELDER

Vol. XXIII

December, 1959

No. 5 (Special Issue)

THE SPRINGFIELDER is published quarterly by the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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Our Common Task—

training "able ministers of the New Testament"

IT IS apparent that the Seminary in Springfield is assuming an ever larger place in the professional training program of the Church. Prior to the beginning of the current academic year we admitted 115 students and were forced to decline the applications of 116. In the past five years the enrollment has increased from 303 to 468. We believe that certain cultural, sociological, educational, and economic forces at work in our Church will increase the number of young men who—later in their educational programs—experience a God-given call to serve in the preaching ministry.

To serve those men is the task the Church has assigned to Concordia Seminary in Springfield. To aid them in their development as "able ministers of the New Testament" is the duty which God has given us.

The new buildings on the Springfield campus, those under construction, and those planned for the immediate future will not aid us substantially in achieving the objectives which the Church has set for us. Essential, however, to the performance of our task is a qualified faculty and a dedicated student body.

We are enlarging our faculty. As the student body grows, the faculty personnel will continue to increase in number. We would welcome your help in securing staff members who are dynamic teachers, academically competent, and wholly dedicated in their allegiance to the Scriptures and to the Lutheran Confessions.

Dedicated ministerial students are a gift of God, but God uses men to recruit those students. The pastors of the Synod are in a singular position to raise the vocational sights of the young men in the parishes to the preaching ministry. Their contributions in the past in this area have been outstanding. We shall continue to rely upon the clergy in the future.

Above all, we ask for your prayers for the Seminary. We do not make this request because of its pious ring, or because this type of conclusion is expected of us; rather, we make the plea in the sure knowledge that the "fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

George J. Beto