

For the Life of the World

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Concordia Theological Seminary:

How does the seminary achieve its mission of “forming servants in Jesus Christ who will teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all”? It is the question that we daily ask as faculty, staff, and students seek to serve the Lord and His people.

In reflecting afresh on that question, I recalled the vision of pastoral formation that was offered some twelve years ago. It remains, in my view, a proper and faithful vision for our community. I invite you to consider it as well for the essence of Christ’s servants does not change with trends and fashions but remains an authentic beacon of light calling people away from darkness and death to the light of Christ.

Christ’s Life: The Heart of the Seminary

*“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”
John 10:10b*

- ✘ Life versus death: the contest is ancient. The contest is modern. The contest involves each of us.
- ✘ We live in a culture increasingly marked by the dominance of death. The unborn innocents, the elderly frail, the youthful strong: death by violence ends their life.
- ✘ In such a culture of death, the resurrection of Christ creates a community of life. Each Sunday’s worship echoes Christ’s victory over death, so the Church rejoices in its hymnody: “Come you faithful raise the strain, Of triumphant gladness! God has brought his Israel into joy from sadness” (*LW* 141:1).
- ✘ At Concordia Theological Seminary, Christ’s victory over sin, Satan, and death is the center of our life together throughout the year.
- ✘ Christ’s life means life for us. It is the basis of our worship. It is the reason for our study. It fills us with confidence as we seek to serve the Church in faithful and fresh ways.
- ✘ At the center of our calling is the formation of confessional and compassionate pastors. Men who confess Christ’s life and compassionately carry it to a dying world in baptismal water, Eucharistic bread and wine, and the life-giving Word of Christ—the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures—they are the heart of the seminary.
- ✘ How can that heart beat with the vitality of Christ’s resurrection? In every passing age, the Church is called to this central question: how can we receive and live the abundant life that Christ has bestowed in His resurrection?
- ✘ Under God’s grace and dependent on Christ’s resurrection presence in Word and Sacrament, Concordia Theological Seminary is called to send forth servants of Christ who have been shaped by Him, to be His shepherds, through worship, study, and life together.

- ✘ What will such graduates look like? They will be very different in background and hobbies, as varied as the people whom they will serve. But under God’s grace, they will also be recognized by four traits: integrity of the spirit, clarity of mind, charity of heart, and centrality of mission.

Integrity of spirit

The future pastor must never view his calling as only a set of tasks or duties. As calendars become congested, a student, pastor, or professor can become so busy in our societal structure that his spirit is not nourished. As one pastor has written: “So many conferences are concerned with image, with statistics, with schedules that there is no time for matters of God . . . for solace for the soul.”

Worship of and devotion to the Holy Trinity nourish the penitent soul seeking mercy in the sacred blood of Christ’s cross. The undershepherds must daily receive forgiveness, strength, and guidance from the Good Shepherd. The chapel is where the life of Christ is received and confessed. Men defined by Baptism, Gospel, and Eucharist have souls that can feed and comfort.

Clarity of mind

Especially in our culture, a future pastor is called to rigorous and critical reflection. No platitudes or slogans will suffice.

The prophetic and apostolic Scriptures are his delight. The creeds and confessions display the heart of Sacred Scripture. In a word, a pastor is called to know the mind of the Church that, defined by the Scriptures, is the mind of Christ.

To bring Christ to this world also calls for a rigorous analysis of our culture’s assumptions and commitments. To lead people through the decaying structures of this age to the life of Christ is a divine calling, beholding God clearly and seeing this world as it is requires the best of our intellect.

For Those Who Serve

By Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard

Concordia Theological Seminary has always been dedicated to forming pastors with the hearts of missionaries. In this time of war, the seminary has also recognized the opportunity to specifically support our military chaplains and the troops and families that they serve.

“Good evening, sir. Got a minute?”

the young Lance Corporal asks when he sees the Battalion Chaplain. “Sure. Come on in, and have a seat,” responds the pastor in uniform. This is not like the Chaplain’s civilian parish where his wife and children await his return. This is Iraq. This is war. And this is a young Marine who has noted on his personnel file that his religious preference is “None” and who has never, right to this moment, sat down with a minister of the Gospel.


But the global war on terror has brought these two lives into contact—both far from home and loved ones, both weary and stressed, both living on the adrenalin of combat. And present with them both is the Lord who has created them, redeemed them, and embraced them with eternal love. When the young man leaves, he has received more than he thought he would. In his mind and heart is the message of Jesus, and in his hands are gifts from people he has never met but who have reached out to him through the Military Project.

Concordia Theological Seminary has always been dedicated to forming pastors with the hearts of missionaries. In this time of war, the seminary has also recognized the opportunity specifically to support our military chaplains and the troops and families that they serve. In partnership with the people and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the seminary’s Military Project continues to grow and explore new ways to support the proclamation of the Gospel and to reach the world with acts of mercy in Jesus’ Name.

Please become a part of this timely and vital outreach. You can support our LCMS chaplains' mission by donating to the Military Project. Four times a year, boxes filled with items of support for the body and soul are shipped to LCMS chaplains from Fort Wayne to Iraq and Afghanistan. The chaplains in turn distribute this material to our military members and to the citizens of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hundreds of volunteer hours are given by faculty, staff, and students to make this possible. We need your help, but we also offer ours to you. November 10–12 will be a time to remember our nation's veterans and those who now serve in uniform. Please join us on campus for prayer, learning, and the extension of support to those who defend our country.

The seminary is also prepared to come to your district, circuit, or congregation to assist you in local ministry to the military. Many of our parishes are far from military bases but still experience the disruption of lives due to the global war on terror. Reserve and Guard members (both in the pulpit and in the pew) are regularly called to serve for a year or more. Left behind are families, homes, and friends. How can a parish minister to both the recalled military member and to the family he or she has left behind? What do pastors need to know about pre- and post-deployment family issues? What happens when a military member is injured or dies in the line of duty? How can the parish support not only their own member families but other families in the community?

While we pray for peace, those prayers ascend from a world filled with war. It is into the midst of a sinful, war-torn planet that the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be carried by His Church. Together we can make a difference. Will you join us? 

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard is a Professor of Exegetical Theology and currently serves as Dean of Military Chaplaincy Programs and as a Chaplain in the U.S. Naval Reserves.



CTS Military Project Is Caring for Those Who Serve

Concordia Theological Seminary supports our military by sending care packages to service men and women, and now has expanded the project by sending enough food and toiletries to LCMS Chaplains who are also serving in the war zones in order that they can share the contents.

Once those boxes are in the Chaplains' hands they are able to reach out to many in the military, not only to Lutherans, but also to those who may or may not be Christians. Many of those whom the Chaplains reach through these packages feel very alone and forgotten and very much need our support, making this a wonderful outreach mission. This seemingly little thing gives Chaplains the opportunity to bring God's Word to people in dangerous and deadly areas, and hope that when they come home they will continue to hear God's Word.

What can I donate for the care packages?

Note: For toiletries send UNSCENTED items if available. For snacks send the ones in cans (pop up only) or plastic containers so they don't get crushed and only 3-1/2" high for easier packing.

Items should be in smaller sizes for easier packing and may be used as stowed away items.

Personal Care Items:

Chap-stick/Blistex • Baby wipes • Non-medicated eye drops • Kleenex packs • Foot and body powder • Q-tips • Vitamin C drops • Zinc tablets • Cold-eezz cough drops • Toothpaste • Throat lozenges • Tooth brushes • Lens cleaners • Dental floss • Batteries (AA and AAA)

Food items: (NO PORK ALLOWED)

Beef & Turkey Jerky • Beef Slim Jim's • Beef sticks • Beef salami, or pepperoni • Cereals • Cold drink mixes • Trail mix • Individually serving sized fruits • Granola cereal • Granola bars

Food items (in individual foil packs, pop top cans):

Tuna or chicken • Chili or stews • Mac & cheese • Top ramen • Instant cup of soup • Cup of noodles • Individually wrapped cookies • Snack cakes • Flavored crackers • Chex mix • Spicy snack foods • Potato sticks • Flavored popped corn • Pretzels • Canned salsa & dips • Fiddle fiddle • Crackers & cheese spread • Cracker jacks • Cheese & crackers • Cheese nips • Peanut butter & crackers • Chips

Candy- EVERYTHING needs to be individually wrapped including:

Hard candy • Red licorice • Sweet-tarts • Mints • Jolly Ranchers • Starbursts • Life savers • Gum—lots of it • Nuts—all kinds • Dried fruit & fruit roll-ups

Miscellaneous items:

Books • magazines • devotional materials • stationery • hometown newspapers

2008-09 Military Project Shipment Dates

Nov. 8, 2008

Feb. 21, 2009

May 2, 2009

Monetary Donations should be mailed to Concordia Theological Seminary, Attention: Military Project Coordinator, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. All checks should be made payable to the CTS Military Project. For further information on how to set up a military project, e-mail militaryproject@ctsfw.edu, or call 260-452-2100.



Photo by Martin Greeson. Courtesy of U.S. Army.