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For the Life of the World

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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 Speaking Up

By Peter J. Scaer

Now, more than ever, we must speak. As responsible citizens, we must defend our fellow Christians who want only to live according to God's will. True love means that we stand with those who suffer for Christ's sake. Jesus said to His disciples, "You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved" (Matt. 10:22).

7 Things That Matter to You

By James A. Baneck

Whether you're a delegate at the convention or not; whether you have a leadership role at the convention or are working behind the scenes; whether you're laity or clergy, watching the convention's live stream or going about your daily vocation; whether you're young or old, male or female—if you're a member of the LCMS, the Synod convention does matter to you!

10 Connecting With Your Seminary

By Ronald M. Garwood

The work and mission of this Seminary is of importance to every member of the Synod. You are encouraged to remember that CTSFW is your seminary and you should be familiar with its work and mission. We encourage you to pray for the faculty, staff and students of the Seminary so that faithful, loving pastors and deaconesses are prepared for service to the congregations of the Synod.

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CONNECTING WITH YOUR SEMINARY

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Jesus Christ—crucified, dead and buried—is risen from the dead! That fact is the substance of our faith as Christians. In the words of a Shoshone friend of mine, the resurrection gives iron to our faith. Because Jesus lives, we too shall live. As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “... thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:57). Christians have the gift of eternal life in heaven after we die to this life on account of Jesus, and for that we do give thanks to God.

The fact that we do have life in glory after this one is our motivation to be good stewards of our life here. Even though we are not of the world, we are still in this world and, as Christians, we have responsibilities in this life. Martin Luther in comments on monks withdrawing into monasteries wrote that they “... flee the burdens and labors of the world,

that is, the domestic and political ones, and enjoy life in the monastery fattening [themselves] like a pig, and favoring nobody with anything!”¹ So even though there are things of the world that we Christians must have nothing with which to do, we do have responsibilities in this life to be good neighbors, good citizens and witnesses to our Lord.



Rev. Mark Sheafer assists with Communion as the CTSFW community gathers around Word and Sacrament in Kramer Chapel.

We thank God that we live in a democracy, but democracy, by its very nature, requires citizen participation in the processes of government at every level—local, state and national. The Bible, moreover, calls explicitly for Christian citizenship. So as Christians we should engage with the civil realm by voting responsibly in elections, supporting candidates who favor Christian values and the doctrines of the Lord, taking a public stand for issues that are supported by Scripture and working for the protection of the helpless. We who have been made the children of God should be Christ’s ambassadors in this world, and especially in our nation.

St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians that for Christians, “... our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:10). Therefore, we should also

be responsible members of Christ’s Church, and specifically of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Sometimes our members may feel distant from Synod or feel that Synod is those folks down in St. Louis. But the fact is that we are Synod. As a part of the LCMS, we need to be engaged with our Synod as good and responsible members.

As you know, the LCMS was organized in order to maintain unity in doctrine and practice in our congregations, and in addition, so that all our congregations together could carry out ministry that each congregation alone would not be able to accomplish. Together we have been able to send missionaries around the world, maintain a publishing house, establish colleges and seminaries and support a Synod president and district presidents, who serve us in maintaining oversight of our

The members of our Synod congregations are invited and encouraged to engage with both of our LCMS seminaries. Martin Luther wrote, “The Gospel is the one most certain and noble mark of the church, ... since the church is conceived, fashioned, nurtured, born, reared, fed, clothed, graced, strengthened, armed and preserved solely through the Gospel. In short, the entire life and being of the church lie in the Word of God, as Christ says, ‘By every word that proceeds from the mouth of God man lives’” (Matt. 4:4).

congregations and ministries in order to maintain unity in doctrine and practice.

Our Synod, our walking together, exists to serve our congregations, and therefore, we should be engaged with Synod both as congregations and individuals. President Matthew Harrison and other leaders of our Synod use multiple media venues to keep members informed and engaged. It is good for us to take advantage of these communication venues in order to be a responsible part of the Synod, supporting our servants and ministries with our prayers and gifts of time and treasure.

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congregations of our Synod are vital to every one of us.

Therefore, the training and forming of pastors for our congregations are critically important to the life of the Church. The pastor is a servant of the Word, a servant of Christ, a servant of Christ’s Church as he serves and ministers with the Gospel. Pastors and other church workers are essential to the Church, and so it is essential to the Church that these servants be well trained and equipped for their service.

To that end, Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, is an institution of theological higher education of our LCMS, dedicated primarily to the preparation of pastors for the congregations of our Synod. The Seminary offers master’s and doctoral degrees in the training of clergy and deaconesses. In summary, our mission is the “forming of servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.”

The work and mission of this Seminary is of importance to every member of the Synod. You are encouraged to remember that CTSFW is your seminary and you should be familiar with its work and mission. We

encourage you to pray for the faculty, staff and students of the Seminary so that faithful, loving pastors and deaconesses are prepared for service to the congregations of the LCMS. Remember, too, that your financial support of CTSFW is very important to sustaining this vital service to the Church. The small and large contributions of the people and congregations of the LCMS are blessings from God and of great importance to us all.

God bless us all as Christ’s Church to live our faith and be engaged with the world and His Church, serving the Lord and our neighbors as good Christian stewards, as we await Christ’s return when He will deliver to Christians the heaven He has prepared for us with His life, death and resurrection. 🏰

The Rev. Dr. Ronald M. Garwood (drgandb@aol.com), CTSFW 1983, serves as pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cody, Wyoming, and chairman of the CTSFW Board of Regents.



- 1 Ewald M. Plass, ed., *What Luther Says* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1959), p. 967.
- 2 Plass, *What Luther Says*, p. 263.



1. Dr. David Scaer leads a convocation for students, faculty and friends from the Fort Wayne area. **2.** President Rast shares the CTSFW vision with retreat attendees. **3.** CTSFW students are formed to be faithful servants of Christ.