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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

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The seminaries of our Synod do well in preparing future pastors when they teach and model for their students a distinctly Lutheran approach to worship. It begins with a faculty that fully and passionately understands and embraces what it is to be distinctly Lutheran in a 21st century context. It is reinforced by a vibrant and healthy worship life that regularly and consistently trumpets a full-throated Gospel proclamation into the ears of seminarians and their families.

7 Distinctively Lutheran Teaching By Charles A. Gieschen

Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, has become known internationally as a bastion of faithful biblical teaching that is boldly Lutheran. We even have been referred to as the Wittenberg of the 21st century! The reason for such a reputation is the distinctly Lutheran teaching and learning that happens in our pastoral and deaconess formation programs.

10 Distinctively Lutheran in Word and Practice By Lawrence R. Rast Jr.

A seminary is more than an academic institution. It is a community that brings together uniquely gifted individuals—future pastors and deaconesses eager to serve in works of mercy, and lay leaders committed to Christ’s mission—who will go forth in dedicated service with the Gospel of Christ for the life of the world.

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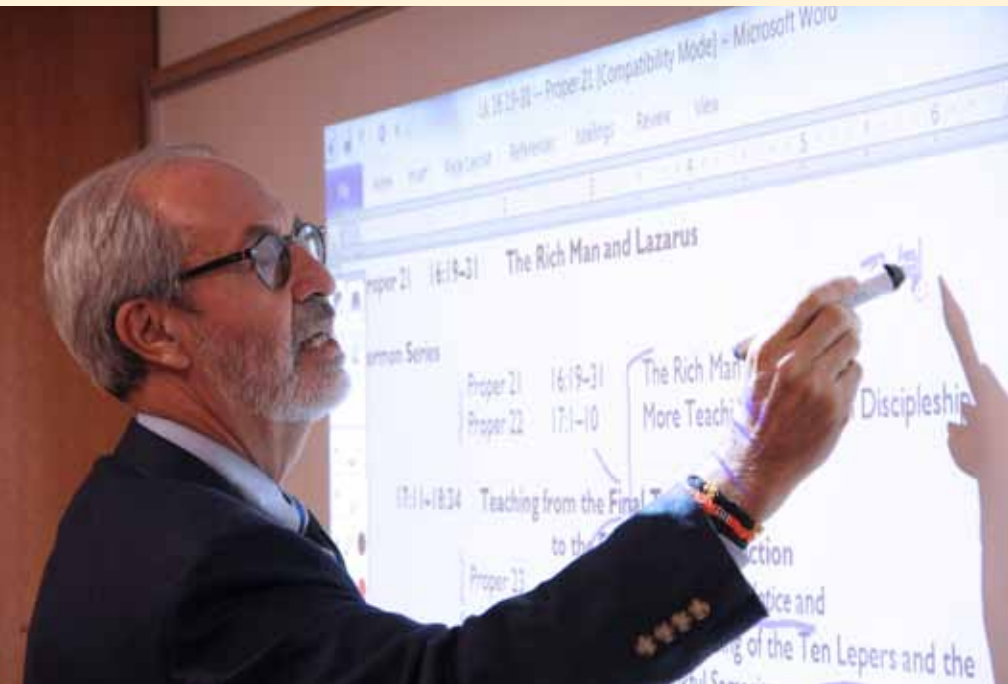
Distinctively Lutheran Teaching

By Charles A. Gieschen



Dr. Gieschen discusses the readings with a small group.

Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, has become known internationally as a bastion of faithful biblical teaching that is boldly Lutheran. We even have been referred to as the Wittenberg of the 21st century! The reason for such a reputation is the distinctively Lutheran teaching and learning that happens in our pastoral and deaconess formation programs. So what shapes this strong and unabashedly Lutheran teaching?



Dr. Arthur Just Jr., chairman and professor of Exegetical Theology at CTSFW



As with our Lutheran forefathers, we approach the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God that reveal God's Son as well as salvation through Christ alone, by grace alone and received by faith alone. This distinctively Lutheran teaching of the Scriptures permeates all our courses, especially the many that are devoted exclusively to the study of the Scriptures.



Dr. Carl Fickenscher with Rev. Christopher Yeager (CTSFW 2017).

At the ordination and installation of a pastor and the commissioning of a deaconess, a sacred vow is taken to be faithful to the Scriptures as the only source and norm of Christian faith and life and to the Lutheran Confessions as a correct exposition of the teaching of the Scriptures. This vow sets the tone for the distinctively Lutheran teaching that takes place at CTSFW. First and foremost, as it was with Luther and our Reformation fathers, the focus of this formation is on the study of the Scriptures. As at Wittenberg, we go back to the sources, namely, to the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Old and New Testaments. As with our Lutheran forefathers, we approach the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God that reveal God's Son as well as salvation through Christ alone, by grace alone and received by faith alone. This Lutheran focus on Christ's atoning death as the source of salvation is vividly displayed on campus with the presence of a crucifix in each of our classrooms. This distinctively Lutheran teaching of the Scriptures permeates all our courses, especially the many that are devoted exclusively to the study of the Scriptures.

Second, as Luther and our Reformation fathers confessed what the Scriptures taught by affirming the ecumenical creeds and writing foundational documents for the Lutheran

Church that make up the *Book of Concord*, so our students thoroughly study these Lutheran Confessions so that they are each brought to the personal conviction that these writings are a faithful and correct exposition of the Scriptures. In times where the faithfulness of Lutheran Church bodies has waned or wavered, so has the diligent study of the Lutheran Confessions. These Confessions are not studied at CTSFW as dusty, historical documents of a bygone Church or the basis for the name of our seminary, but are studied as the living confession of our Church and all of its pastors and deaconesses. The thorough study and unconditional commitment to the Lutheran Confessions at CTSFW is an important factor that shapes the distinctively Lutheran teaching and learning that happens here.

This Lutheran teaching is also present and confessed in the worship and preaching that takes place daily on campus. The theology of the Scriptures and Confessions is practiced in liturgy and hymnody as well as preaching that reflects the Lutheran emphasis on the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, with Gospel predominating. Luther and our Lutheran forefathers had a deep appreciation for the historic liturgy, but purified it from false teaching

of the Roman church that had come into the service. They restored preaching to a central prominence in the service. They also brought congregational singing of hymnody back into the service. These are all practiced in the daily chapel life of CTSFW and are a vital part of the Lutheran teaching that takes place here.

Another important basis for the Lutheran teaching that happens here is the fact that it is embodied and taught by learned faculty members who are totally committed to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions. Each faculty member is an ordained Lutheran pastor who takes his ordination vows very seriously. In addition to their undergraduate degree and Master of Divinity degree, most faculty members have done advanced studies in fields like Biblical Studies or the Lutheran Confessions that has resulted in a doctoral degree. All of them have at least five years of parish experience and some have over 20 years. All of them have a strong Lutheran identity that they seek to impart to the next generation of pastors and

deaconesses whom they teach and mentor at the seminary.

One of the most striking impressions that I took away from a visit to Wittenberg in 2016 was how God had used a few faculty members studying the Scriptures at a new and very small university in an insignificant German town to impact the whole world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Wittenberg of the 16th century became a vibrant center for Lutheran teaching and publication. It reminded me that a similar thing can happen at a seminary like ours, with a faculty like ours, in a city like ours. And, by God's grace, it is happening with each pastor and deaconess who is formed here and sent forth in the 21st century.

How is this Lutheran teaching that happens in the classrooms and chapel at Fort Wayne seen in the church today? It is seen in the worship services of our LCMS where pastors formed at this seminary are committed to Lutheran liturgy and hymnody that confess the teaching of the Scriptures as has been

expressed in the Lutheran Confessions. It is heard in the preaching of the Word of God where people are convicted of their sin and comforted by the forgiveness won by Christ's death and resurrection. It is seen in the sacrificial service of pastors and deaconesses ministering to spiritual and physical needs at hospitals, nursing care facilities, homes and soup kitchens. It is seen in congregations blessed by the faithful proclamation of the Word of God and faithful administration of the Sacraments. In these actions, we see that the teaching that was trumpeted out by Luther and our Reformation fathers some 500 years ago continues to be taught and practiced today by faculty at CTSFW and by our graduates throughout the LCMS and world! 🏰

The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Gieschen (Charles.Gieschen@ctsfw.edu) serves as academic dean and professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Lutheranism & the Classics V



Arguing with the Philosophers

September 27–28, 2018
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana

CALL FOR PAPERS: The Wittenberg Reformation held the classical languages in high esteem and fostered the study of ancient Greek and Latin literature, including philosophy. While Martin Luther distrusted meretricious reason if it supplanted faith, nonetheless he and other reformers regarded Plato and Aristotle highly. The conference organizers seek individual papers (or panels with at least three participants) on such topics as follow:

- Reformation-era Perspectives on Ancient Latin/Greek Philosophers
- Early Christian Philosophers (Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Origen, etc.)
- Cicero: Stoicism, Epicureanism, the Middle Way
- 500th Anniversary of Luther's Heidelberg Disputation
- Luther's Supposed Hatred of Philosophy: Real or Imagined?
- The Relationship Between Rhetoric and Dialectic
- The Logic of the Liturgy
- Does Philosophy Contribute to Lutheran Hymnody?
- How Might Christian Children Learn Logic?

Our subject is broadly conceived and considerable latitude will be given to cogent abstracts. Proposals should exemplify philological excellence, contribute to the conference theme however broadly and avoid overspecialization. Individual presenters should plan for their papers to be 18 minutes in length. Selected papers from this conference may be published.

WHO: Keynote addresses by Dr. Roland Ziegler (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne), Dr. Angus Menuge (Concordia University Mequon), Dr. Sarah Byers (Boston College) and E. Christian Kopff (University of Colorado)

WHEN: Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by electronic attachment to Carl P. E. Springer, Professor, SunTrust Chair of Excellence in the Humanities, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, at springercarl@gmail.com by November 1, 2017.