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Volume Twenty-Six, Number Four

## CTSFW Wall Calendars

Now Available

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), mailed its 2023 wall calendar to CTSFW alumni and congregations of The Lutheran Church—



Missouri Synod at the beginning of December. A limited number of additional copies are available to individuals and congregations.

### Special features include:

- ✦ Three-Year and One-Year Lectionary
- ✦ Church Seasonal Colors (Advent to Advent)
- ✦ Feasts and Festivals
- ✦ CTSFW Campus Events
- ✦ CTSFW Academic Calendar

To request your calendar(s), please contact Colleen Bartzsch at (260) 452-2150 or Colleen.Bartzsch@ctsfw.edu. There is an \$8.25 mailing charge for quantities of two to 10 calendars.

## 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 Forming Servants to Teach through Christ-Centered Worship

Paul J. Grime

Kramer Chapel towers above every other building on campus, but it's not just the building that towers over these 190 acres. Given that it is within these chapel walls that God comes among the students, faculty, and staff—not to mention the constant stream of visitors—to nourish them with His life-giving gifts, the worship life of the Seminary community extends well beyond the brief time it occupies in our day. Indeed, through subtle ways it shapes everything we do.

### 7 Forming Servants to Teach through Confessional Theology

Jon S. Bruss

At their ordination, our pastors subscribe—"sign on to"—the same Confessions that every single one of our LCMS congregations accepts. Our congregations, after all, are a place for proclaiming and living out the truth of God's Word, not for trying to discover or reinvent it. Our CTSFW graduates are well prepared to sign on to those Confessions, and to "teach the faithful" accordingly.

### 10 Forming Servants to Teach through Lutheran Community

Gifford Grobien

Community life at CTSFW is rich, participatory, and formative: worship and prayer together; the shared communion of Christ's body and blood; mutual conversation and learning; mentoring and material support. In all these ways the community is built up, and members of Christ's body serve one another. By this way of life students learn not just facts to be communicated, but the shared joys, support, knowledge, and love that come in life together.

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# Forming Servants to Teach Christ-Cente



Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**Date:** September 21, 2022

**Time:** Approximately 9:25 a.m. (EDT)

**Location:** Kramer Chapel on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

**“...for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Matthew, and with all the company of heaven...”**

So it was that the Seminary community gathered in the one place on campus for which no one ever has to ask directions in order to commemorate St. Matthew, an apostle and evangelist of the Lord Jesus. In many ways, it was no different than any other chapel service, except for the fact that the majority of those in attendance, the 120 or so pastoral formation students on campus this past fall, desire to do precisely that which St. Matthew did so long ago: proclaim God’s “divine and saving Gospel.”

# through red Worship

Paul J. Grime

Any visitor to the campus of CTSFW knows that Kramer Chapel is located at the center of the campus and towers above every other building. But it's not just the building that towers over these 190 acres. Given that it is within these chapel walls that God comes among the students, faculty, and staff—not to mention the constant stream of visitors—to nourish them with His life-giving gifts, the worship life of the Seminary community extends well beyond the brief time that it occupies in our day. Indeed, through subtle ways it shapes everything we do.

Consider, for example, our regular praying of Morning Prayer and Matins each week or our constant use of Responsive Prayer. Seldom do we need to open the hymnal to any of these services; over weeks and months of repeated use, the texts and melodies become a part of us. Actually, it's we who become a part of these services, as the words, which come quickly to mind, gently "school" us in the deeper truths

of God's saving deeds. When we sing week after week, for example, that God has "visited and redeemed His people," as we do in the Benedictus, we are led to remember and hold fast to the central truth of the Church's proclamation. Or when we are invited to join in the Sanctus in the Divine Service with that familiar close to the Preface—"therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven"—we take up ancient words of the Church that confess a reality that our mortal eyes cannot see. Without even realizing it, our hearts and minds are formed to see that time and eternity are joined together and that in this moment our voices are one with that grand company of heaven.

The formation of our students extends beyond the normal participation in the services. All Master of Divinity and Alternate Route students are encouraged to lead a service from time to time, not only at the main service each morning, but at 10 other services that are held in the early morning or evening hours.

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Photo: Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





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These opportunities, coupled with even more frequent experiences in the students’ fieldwork and vicarage congregations, help to mold our future pastors as confident worship leaders.

There’s still more! We encourage all of our students to participate in the special music-making in Kramer Chapel in order to bring about what J. S. Bach called centuries ago a “well-regulated” church music. For some, that comes in the form of instrumental music—everything from trumpets and trombones to flute and saxophone, to violins and timpani, and even, on occasion, the marimba!

But not everyone comes to Seminary with such abilities. They can, however, sing! And so they receive the encouragement—sometimes a gentle nudge—to participate in one of our choirs. Beyond the opportunity to become acquainted with and carry on the rich musical tradition of the Church, they also gain helpful insights into the complexity of what church musicians deal with all the time: the planning, the rehearsals, even the unexpected surprises. They probably don’t realize that such experiences are also formational. What better way might there be, however, to give them a little insight into the effort the musicians in their future parishes go through week after week as they work hard to enrich the services in those congregations than to experience it for themselves?

A few weeks after that September 21 celebration of the apostle and evangelist

St. Matthew, we gathered again around the altar to return our thanks and praise for the Lord’s abundant blessings with another familiar phrase that took us to “school” on that day: “It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.” The Holy Gospel for that occasion was the account of the Samaritan leper who returned to Jesus to give Him thanks for his healing (Luke 17:11–17). We know that story well, but how often does it occur to us that week after week as the pastor invites us with the words, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” that it is we who are actually taking up the thanksgiving of that leper? Having been made whole by the words of the Absolution and washed clean with the precious Gospel in the preaching of Christ, we, like that leper, cannot help but give our Lord thanks. It is, after all, the fitting and right thing to do. And all that with words and phrases that we know like the back of our hand.

Thus it is that our students—the Church’s future servants—are formed for a life of service in Christ’s name. 🙏

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