

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne For the Life of the World

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The Gift of Vicars

By John D. Reynolds

The Re-gifting of God's Gifts

By Amy C. Rast

Good and Gracious Gifts from God

By Jeffrey H. Pulse

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For the Life of the World

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

FEATURES

4 The Gift of Vicars

By John D. Reynolds

Preaching, teaching and calling on the homebound or hospitalized were certainly something I expected to do with frequency. But what I was unable to foresee was how being immersed in God's Word to prepare for these tasks of a vicar prepared me to confess the Gospel in not only these situations but also in every other aspect of my day.

7 The Re-gifting of God's Gifts

By Amy C. Rast

Eventually the deaconesses who are formed here at Concordia Theological Seminary leave this place to serve in congregations, human care ministries and missions, sharing the mercy and compassion they have first received through Christ from their church family and practiced here with us. They re-gift what God and His people have given to them by teaching the faithful, reaching the lost and caring for all.

10 Good and Gracious Gifts from God


By Jeffrey H. Pulse

Good and gracious gifts from God. They come in many sizes and shapes, they surprise us with gasps of delight and sighs of contentment, they spring up and overwhelm us at the most opportune and most unexpected moments. And, sometimes, often times they are people—and sometimes, often times they are church workers—and sometimes, often times they come from Concordia Theological Seminary!

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Good and Gracious



Good and gracious gifts from God. They come in many sizes and shapes, they surprise us with gasps of delight and sighs of contentment, they spring up and overwhelm us at the most opportune and most unexpected moments. And, sometimes, often times they are people—and sometimes, often times they are church workers—and sometimes, often times they come from Concordia Theological Seminary!

The Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, president of the LCMS Minnesota South District, participates in the ordination of the Rev. Andrew Herzberg (CTS 2014) who serves at Trinity Lutheran Church, Farmington, Minnesota.

Gifts from God

By Jeffrey H. Pulse

...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38

The imagery of a vessel filled to the brim and then pressed down and shaken together in order to fill it even more completely, and still it is overflowing, is a beautiful picture of God's way of blessing His people. Our God is a God of good and gracious gifts, and He is generous.

Good and gracious gifts from God. They come in many sizes and shapes, they surprise us with gasps of delight and sighs of contentment, they spring up and overwhelm us at the most opportune and most unexpected moments. And, sometimes, often times they are people—and sometimes, often times they are church workers—and sometimes, often times they come from Concordia Theological Seminary!

Pastors, vicars and deaconesses formed at Concordia Theological Seminary truly are God's gracious gifts to the Church. When they begin their seminary studies, that formation has not yet taken place. It comes through classroom learning; practicing what they have learned via fieldwork; and through discussions with classmates and professors. This formation and preparation certainly take place best in the residential study model. While there are times when distance education can be of benefit, the residential setting allows for a connection that can only take place in person, providing that opportunity for personal interaction over a cup of coffee in the Student Commons or during research in Walther Library.

The study at CTS is rigorous. Along with attending classes there are tests and papers to be written. Those papers will be returned with comments to rewrite and expand; students will be pushed to defend their views. Of course, there is also a lot of nurturing, too. Professors share stories from their time at seminary so students will get the point and see the goal. It is all in the process of shaping and educating good, solid theologians and dedicated, practical pastors for God's Church.

Why is it important to put students through such a rigorous course of study? It is no mystery to any of us that our world is a challenging and challenged place. There are wars and rumors of wars, corruption and evil, marriage and family under constant attack, and, as images of Revelation flash through our minds, the Church needs to know where it stands and how it stands in the midst of the chaos. What does the Gospel of Jesus Christ look like in this mess? A hammer, a torch, a lion or a dove...? The students formed at CTS learn that it is all of the above, and it must be communicated in the right amount at the proper time.

The Rev. John Shank with the Rev. Jared DeBlieck (CTS 2014) at his ordination. Both serve at Trinity Lutheran Ministries, Edwardsville, Illinois.




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The Rev. Steven Conradt and his wife, Bernadette, following his ordination at St. John Lutheran Church, Shawano, Wisconsin.



And so your Seminary shapes and prepares men and women for service to the Church. Your Seminary sends these gifts from God to you in order that, together, you might be the LORD God's city on the hill. And you, the members of congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, have an important role to fill in this process.

And so your Seminary shapes and prepares men and women for service to the Church. Your Seminary sends these gifts from God to you in order that, together, you might be the LORD God's city on the hill. And you, the members of congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, have an important role to fill in this process. This includes your role in encouraging men to consider service as a pastor! It also includes your role of providing prayerful and financial support to the Seminary and its students. The world and its darkness will not

end until our Savior returns. Until that Advent, your Seminary, with your help, will continue to form, shape and nurture good and gracious gifts. Good and gracious gifts from God. 

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If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a pastor, you can learn more at www.ctsfw.edu/Admission. You can also connect with a member of our Admission staff at Admission@ctsfw.edu or 800-481-2155.