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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 How Are They to Learn without Someone Teaching?

**Charles A. Gieschen**

One could paraphrase this question and apply it to the importance of funding Seminary faculty: “And how are they to learn without someone teaching?” Funding student aid often draws the attention of donors as a worthy cause. It is also important, however, to support financially the faithful and qualified faculty who are central to the formation process of faithful and qualified pastors and deaconesses. One of the ways that CTSFW has worked with donors to assure the support of faculty for the future is through the establishment and funding of endowed chairs.

### 10 Where Most Needed

**Michael E. Ritzman**

The general operations budget encompasses all the “unseen” work that occurs at CTSFW on a daily basis. We label donations for this purpose: “Where most needed.” Your resources, given in this way, allow us the flexibility to meet the known and unknown challenges of running this institution.

### 12 Student Indebtedness

**Trena L. Merryman**

When a student graduates from the Seminary and receives a first call or placement, it is essential to begin service to the church with the smallest amount of accumulated debt possible. At Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), we, by the grace of God and the generosity of His people, can provide full tuition coverage to each of the residential church work students to ensure that this is possible.

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**G**eneral Operations (called “General Ops” for short) never planned an invasion or led a battalion through enemy territory. Indeed, General Ops was not a real person at all, but instead, he was an expense category in a financial statement. His mission was to ensure the ongoing operations of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), to train future church workers in the Lutheran faith. His job was to allocate resources to where they were most needed.

General Ops had been through many campaigns in his 176 years at CTSFW. Each year brought a new batch of recruits who were eager to perform work for the kingdom, and each year brought financial costs to maintain the functioning of the Seminary.

The General, seated in his office, was awaiting a series of meetings from his officers, who were the budget categories that supported the Seminary. The first to arrive was Sergeant Major Student Aid, whose job it was to ensure the students had their tuition funded.

“Sergeant Major,” General Ops intoned ominously, “I trust we are still at 100% tuition levels?”

Student Aid could not help cracking a smile, despite the General’s serious tone. The Seminary had been offering 100 percent tuition assistance for many years. “Yes, sir. Once again, the donors have generously supplied our need in this vital area.”

“And we thank God for every one of them,” the General replied. “But there are many more areas where help is needed in order to run a facility such as Concordia Theological Seminary. In fact, here comes another report now.” General Ops saluted as the next officer arrived.

“Colonel Compensation reporting for duty, sir. It is my pleasure to report that we have funded all the professors and support staff.”

Though inwardly pleased, the General maintained his composure. “By support staff you mean the administrative office staff, the maintenance and grounds crew, the communications and information technology departments, the shipping and receiving clerks?”

The Colonel continued as if he were finishing the same sentence “...and food services, admission officers, relocation specialists, administrative assistants, housekeeping staff...”

# st Needed omprehensive Campaign: al Ops

Michael E. Ritzman

General Ops waved his hand to cut off the speaker. “Thank you, Colonel, you made your point. Keep up the good work.” At this time, the General allowed himself to display emotion. He thought, as he grinned, “What a blessing that so many people devote their services to this organization. I only wish our donors knew how many faithful people were working to support this mission, and how vital their donations are to keep things going.”

A shout cut off his thoughts. Another officer had arrived in a panic.

“We’re under attack, sir! Malware!! Hackers are attempting to access our database.” Lieutenant Information Technology was breathing hard, his eyes were wide, and he stood tensely, like he was about to pounce.

General Ops met his gaze and replied coolly, “Do not panic, Lieutenant IT. Deploy your firewalls and make sure the software is up-to-date. Oh, and have our employees watch more training videos.”

“It will be my pleasure, sir” Lieutenant IT replied, and instantly disappeared in a flash of pixels and light.

One after another the officers came, some giving spending reports, others asking for assistance. There were many needs, and General Ops had to make tough decision as to where he would allocate resources.

As the final officer left, General Operations turned to look at the plaque

on the wall behind him. Written on the plaque was his personal mission statement, the phrase that guided him, that gave him the direction he lived by. It said, “Give where it is most needed”

General Operations stood alone in his office. “Where most needed,” he said aloud to the empty air. He knew there would be another report, another urgent need, another request for assistance. He was not worried, however. He trusted the Lord would supply his every need, as He had always done before.

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Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne has world-class theologians, many of whom you may know by name, teaching the Lutheran faith to future church workers. However, they cannot do their job alone. At CTSFW there is a team of people working behind the scenes who are vital to the Seminary’s mission.

The general operations budget encompasses all the “unseen” work that occurs at CTSFW on a daily basis. We label donations for this purpose: “**Where most needed.**” Your resources, given in this way, allow us the flexibility to meet the known and unknown challenges of running this institution.

There are many ways you can support Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne: student tuition, general operations, the Food & Clothing Co-op . . . the list goes on and on. Whatever

way you choose to support us, know that we greatly appreciate your gifts and will put them to the best and highest use. Pray that God gives us the wisdom and strength to continue the work of forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

Thank you, and God bless you in Jesus Christ. 🙏

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