

For the **Life of the World**

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

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**The Seminary Library:
A Servant of Christ and His People** By Dr. Dean O. Wenthe

Forming Servants into the Future By Rev. Brian M. Mosemann

Reaching Out Via Technology By Rev. William S. Johnson

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FEATURES

6 **The Seminary Library— A Servant of Christ and His People** By Dr. Dean O. Wenthe

One need not reflect very long to embrace and to support the treasure of good, even God-given blessings that a seminary library generously provides for its students and also for the entire Church. From commentaries on Sacred Scripture to exposition of the creeds and confessions to the most practical and concrete guides for the Christian life, the seminary library is a priceless source of knowledge.

12 **Forming Servants into the Future** By Rev. Brian M. Mosemann

Hands-on experience is a key part of forming servants at CTS. During formation students have access to a diverse range of practical placements, evangelistic opportunities and church settings to develop new skills and sharpen old ones. The residential context is an environment where collaborative service and teamwork are encouraged. As adult disciples learning together, we seek to share our experiences, skills and insights with each other, all the while speaking words of our Lord of peace, comfort and joy to one another.

14 **Reaching Out Via Technology** By Rev. William S. Johnson

The rapid cultural change that comes with the dynamic nature of technology can present significant challenges to the Church, but it can offer us exciting opportunities as well. The message of the Cross is as relevant today as it has always been. By faithfully using new technologies to communicate our timeless message to address eternal needs, we can continue to reflect the light of Christ to a world in search of hope.

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Serving into the Future

By Prof. Robert V. Roethemeyer

One of the best *concrete* examples of CTS serving into the future is, in fact, now each day more of a *concrete* reality. As the pictures below illustrate, the library expansion had a visible footprint this spring. By the time you are reading these words, the erection of steel will be underway, adding a vertical dimension.

The importance of this expansion cannot be overstated at a time when some would question the future of libraries, even theological libraries. This is underscored by the lead article in the Association of Boards in Theological Education's *In Trust* magazine this month. The article challenges three common assumptions about the library of the future, noting that "some of the prognostications can't stand up to the light of scrutiny." We concur.

Assumption 1—Libraries will be largely stripped of books; resources will all be digitized.

While the Google Books Project seeks to digitize all books, over 80 percent of those books are protected by copyright. What Google does for discovery, it cannot do for delivery. Instead, it points users to libraries and bookstores for the full text! This is one of the reasons why, on average, over the last seven years we have loaned five books for every one that we have borrowed. The expansion provides the space for the continued growth of the collection.

Assumption 2—Libraries will be sparsely staffed.

The number of new materials published in religion and theology has grown exponentially in the last two decades. To carefully cultivate the strengths of a collection, such as documenting world Lutheranism, is a labor intensive process for selectors, acquirers and catalogers. To provide online resources for students studying on campus and at a distance takes librarians with a set of digital skills and the appropriate hardware and software. To request and provide delivery of documents also takes people and space for staging and shipping. The expansion provides space for staff to carry on these wide-ranging activities.

Assumption 3—Study hall + special collections = library

Our new curriculum not only increases collaboration among faculty but also among students. Enclosed rooms for small groups are planned to support this collaboration as are computer workstations apportioned with space for several people to engage an online resource together. In addition, the expansion provides soft seating for reading as well as table seating for writing along 500 feet of windows.

Will you join us in challenging these assumptions and creating all three types of space planned for the library expansion—space for stacks, for staff, and for students? If you will, call 1-877-287-4338. [📞](#)

Rev. Robert Roethemeyer serves as Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, Director of Library Services and Executive Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning.



Three views from the historic library into the expansion.

