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Volume Twenty-Eight, Number One

## FEATURES

### 4 **Seminex at the Half-Century** **Lawrence R. Rast Jr.**

Many—today perhaps most—of our students were not even born in 1974. What they know of the Seminex controversy is secondhand at best. But they are keenly interested in what transpired. And I strive to put it in the context of the larger narrative of American Lutheranism, neither overstating nor understating its importance.

### 7 **Confessional Subscription:** **What Does This Mean?**

**Scott R. Murray**

The first verb in the introduction to the *Book of Concord* is “we subscribe.” Remarkably, the last word in the text of the *Book of Concord* (except the signatures themselves) is “we subscribe.” What does it mean to subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions?

### 10 **Memories of Seminex**

**David P. Scaer, Dean O. Wenthe,  
Walter A. Maier III, and Christian A. Preus**

At the time of the 1974 Walkout, two of our authors were serving at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, one was a student at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, and one was a teenager living in faculty housing on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

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### **Corrections: Winter 2023 *For the Life of the World***

- Page 15: Dr. Todd Peperkorn presented at a campus ministry event at College Hill Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa, not Cedar Rapids.
  - Page 22: CTSFW student Aaron Wade, not Andrew Berg, appears in the fieldwork assignment day photo with the Rev. Andrew Yeager.
- Thank you, readers, for letting us know.



## For the Life of the World

**PUBLISHER**  
**Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.**  
President

**PUBLISHER ASSISTANT**  
**Carrie M. O'Donnell**

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
**Colleen M. Bartzsch**

**EDITOR**  
**Kristine S. Bruss**

**ART DIRECTOR**  
**Steve J. Blakey**

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

# Celebrating 25 Years of Christ Academy

A Testament to Faithfulness in Uncertain Times

Matthew J. Wietfeldt



At the heart of the recruitment effort here at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), is the synod's premier vocational discernment program, Christ Academy. The program has been instrumental in helping young people discern and consider vocations in church work for a quarter of a century. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, Christ Academy stands as a testament to the seminary's commitment to nurturing and equipping the next generation of church leaders.

Since its founding in 1999, Christ Academy has walked alongside young men and young women considering pastoral ministry or deaconess service. Originally started as an intensive summer program for high school students, Christ Academy provides a unique opportunity to delve into theological study, engage in rigorous academic coursework, and experience firsthand the life of a student at CTSFW. Over the years, Christ Academy has welcomed countless eager participants from all over the country and all over the world, each drawn by a shared passion for serving Christ and His Church.

The impact of Christ Academy extends far beyond just the two weeks during that summer. For many participants, this program serves as

a critical moment of discernment, affirming their calling to ministry and pointing them toward studying at the seminary someday. Countless alumni of Christ Academy have pursued theological studies at Concordia Theological Seminary and other Lutheran institutions, ultimately answering the call to serve as pastors, other church workers, and faithful laymen and women.

Christ Academy plays a central role in church worker recruitment, effectively building a pipeline of future church leaders. Through lectures, worship services, and fun times bonding with Lutheran peers, Christ Academy students gain invaluable insights into the joys and challenges of service in the Church, which equips them with the knowledge

and confidence to consider service in the Church and future studies at CTSFW.

Moreover, Christ Academy fosters a sense of camaraderie and fellowship among participants, who build lifelong friendships founded on a shared experience and a commitment to Christ and His bride, the Church. Our alumni continue to speak fondly of the friendships formed and the spiritual growth experienced at Christ Academy, highlighting the program's formative impact on their lives and ministries.

Since its founding, Christ Academy has continued to grow, both in the number of students served every year and in the number of programs offered. In recent years, Christ Academy High School has had record attendance numbers, and programs have been added for college-aged students, middle school students, and families. These additional programs share a singular focus on raising up future church workers and equipping those who serve alongside them.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Christ Academy, we pause to reflect on the countless lives touched and formed through this program, faithfully forging on through these uncertain times. From humble beginnings to its current stature

# Calling Christ Academy Alums!

You are cordially invited to the Christ Academy 25th Anniversary Reunion on June 27–29, 2024.

Information and registration:  
(800) 481-2155



as a cornerstone of pastoral recruitment efforts, Christ Academy continues to embody the seminary's mission of preparing faithful servants for the life of the world. We give thanks to those directors and students who paved the way for the program we have today. We give thanks to our dedicated faculty and other teachers who sustain it by imparting knowledge and faith to our students. Finally, we give thanks to our passionate alumni who carry the legacy forward.

In the words of St. Paul, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:3-5 ESV). Indeed, we give thanks for the enduring partnerships forged through Christ Academy, as together we strive to raise those who may someday proclaim the Gospel and provide acts of mercy as they serve the Church for the life of the world. [📖](#)

*The Rev. Matthew J. Wietfeldt is Assistant Vice President of Admission and Christ Academy Director at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*



## Christ Academy Family Institute

June 13–15, 2024  
June 12–14, 2025



Christ Academy Family Institute (CAFI) is perfect for parents, families, and church workers interested in growing in their care and love for one another and passing on the faith to future generations.

For more information or to register please visit [ctsfw.edu/CAFI](https://ctsfw.edu/CAFI).

## Christ Academy Confirmation Retreats

September 20–22, 2024  
February 21–23, 2025



**Confessional Catechesis**



**Liturgical Worship**



**Fun Life Together**

For more information visit [ctsfw.edu/CACR](https://ctsfw.edu/CACR).