

CONTENTS

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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 Gentle Encouragement

By Douglas H. Spittel

Pastor Malinsky and the congregation at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Catonsville, Maryland, set me up to become a pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The setup was not an overt or manipulative one. Rather, it was their steady emphasis on Christian education, life-long catechesis and respect for the Body of Christ that our Lord used to create an environment that has produced many pastors and other church workers.

7 Formed for Service: The Work of Rosa Jinsey Young

By Roosevelt Gray Jr.

My journey into the Lutheran Church began 100 years ago this August through the ministry of a faith-filled and gifted young African-American woman in rural Alabama. No, I'm not that old, but I am indebted to the ministry of this woman born into the segregated South, who dedicated her life to bringing the light of the Gospel to those sitting in darkness.

10 Your Path to the Seminary

Matthew J. Wietfeldt

If you are considering service to God's people, the best thing that you can do is to come visit CTSFW. Come and see what the possibilities are here in Fort Wayne for you and for your family. Come and experience our community. A great deal of the formation process for seminary happens through the community that is established here, through interactions and relationships with our faculty, staff and students.

Also in this issue:

What Does This Mean?	p. 13
Called to Serve	p. 14
Faculty Focus	p. 16
CTSFW Begins 171st Academic Year	p. 18
Alumni	p. 24
Seminary Guild	p. 26
Profiles in Giving	p. 28
Bible Study	p. 30
Calendar of Events	p. 31



Your Path to the SEM

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The Lord speaks and we listen. The Lord calls and we follow. That's the course of a disciple. That's our journey through the Christian life. It's not always a pretty journey; in fact, more times than not, the mess we make of our lives is downright ugly. Regardless, the Lord works through our sins, our shortcomings and our failures to continue to progress the Good News of the Gospel. Thanks be to God that even in the midst of this sinful world and being sinners ourselves, He still provides for our needs and cares for us beyond our own understanding.

Deciding to come to Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, to study toward pastoral ministry or for service as a deaconess is one of the most daunting decisions that one can make. The responsibility of caring for a part of the Good Shepherd's flock can seem overwhelming. *Is this what the Lord has for me to do? Is the Lord really*

calling me for service to the Church? How can I be sure? Don't forget that you are not alone in this decision. Your family, your friends, your pastor and your brothers and sisters in Christ are there to help and give their advice and counsel in these matters. They care for you and love you. They want to see you grow into the person God is calling you to be.



MINIARY

By Matthew J. Wietfeldt

If you are considering service to God's people, the best thing that you can do is to come visit CTSFW. Come and see what the possibilities are here in Fort Wayne for you and for your family. Come and experience our community. A great deal of the formation process for seminary happens through the community that is established here, through interactions and relationships with our faculty, staff and students. Come and take in the beauty of our campus, designed by world-renowned architect Eero Saarinen. Come and worship with us in Kramer Chapel. The Chapel, like your home congregation, is the anchor for our community, our fellowship and our life together. Through our worship together we see each other as God, our Heavenly Father, sees us—as His forgiven and loved children. Come and meet those who will be forming you in the classroom and out of the classroom.

Come and meet our students, the future workers in Christ's harvest field. Come and meet our staff. They are here to guide and assist you through the application process, getting your finances in order and your eventual move to begin your studies in Fort Wayne. Whether it is for one of our scheduled visitation days, for a conference or just at your own leisure, come and visit us.

Another good resource for discerning whether or not studies toward pastoral ministry or deaconess service are what the Lord has for you is by filling out our online application. You can learn more about becoming a student and access the application at www.ctsfw.edu/future-students. Our application is simply a way that we get to know you as a future student, to help you begin your relationship with the Seminary community. Filling out an application online also ensures that you know that

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Left: Access www.ctsfw.edu/future-students for a wealth of information about the admission process. Right: Dr. Gifford Grobien leads discussion with future pastors and deaconesses.

we are aware of your interest in pursuing this as a possible vocation. Part of the application will ask for basic information regarding yourself, your family, your educational experiences thus far, your home congregation and your life in Christ. The receipt of your application is our first contact with you as a potential student. Our Admission staff can then help you secure an interview with your home district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are here to help and to serve you the best that we can in the progress of the kingdom of God.

Believe it or not, the application itself helps you through the discerning process. First, there are brief questions that you need to answer regarding your life experiences and whether or not studying to become a pastor or deaconess is right for you. There are also questions regarding your beliefs and where you are coming from theologically in making decisions towards beginning your studies. You will also write an autobiography detailing your life and experiences so that we can get to know you better. These are all very inward-looking and reflective questions that you need to consider prior to coming to the Seminary. The application and additional questions are here to be a resource for you and not simply just “what you need to do to get into the Seminary.” We also ask for letters of reference from individuals who know you. Your pastor writes a letter of reference and you will also ask four other friends, co-workers and fellow members of your congregation to write a letter for you. This can give tremendous insight and help from an outside perspective.

Finally, when all this has been received, your file is complete and will go before the Admission Committee. The committee’s task is to consider diligently and prayerfully all possible candidates who wish to study to become pastors or deaconesses based upon the information submitted and encounters with your admission counselor.

After you have been accepted, you’ll begin to work with our Financial Aid Office to help keep the cost of seminary education as low as possible. Through the Seminary’s endowments and aid from your district and your congregation, the cost is manageable, with many students only paying for cost-of-living expenses. The registrar will assist you in taking the pre-seminary entrance exams as well as getting your class schedule set up for the coming year.

There are many helpful resources available as you contemplate attending seminary. Be sure to take advantage of them. As a community here at CTSFW, we care about you as an individual and the formation that you will experience as you grow into our community and are shaped by the cross of Jesus. It is an exciting and sometime challenging journey, but fear not—we’re here to help. 🏡

The Rev. Matthew J. Wietfeldt (Matthew.Wietfeldt@ctsfw.edu) serves as admission counselor and director of the Christ Academies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

