



learn
grow
serve

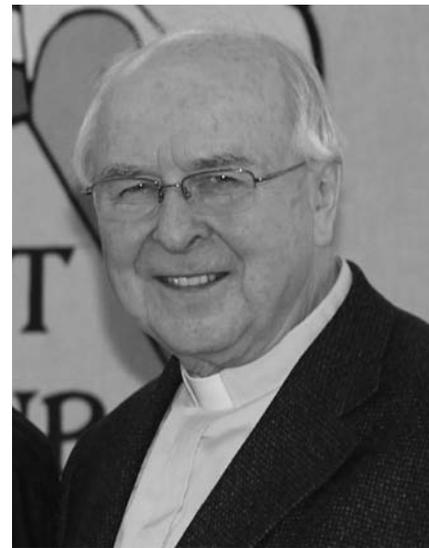


Second Career Pastors

In 1 Kings 19:19, we have an interesting account of how the Lord continues to insure that His Word remains among His people. It is the account of how Elijah calls Elisha to succeed him in the prophetic office. We are not told anything about Elisha to this point except that he was fully employed when Elijah comes along. He was working at farming. There is no indication that he was unhappy in his profession but when Elijah threw his cloak over Elisha, he left his profession to prepare for the profession of being a prophet of the Lord. We might call him a second career prophet.

The pattern I have identified in the Old Testament is continued in the approach which Jesus takes in the calling of the Apostles. They are happily involved in careers when our Lord calls them to serve Him. A number of them were fishermen. Matthew was a tax collector. Paul was a tent-maker. All of them were second career apostles.

Today we continue the pattern. While we are happy to have men at our seminary who have not yet entered another profession, we have also always welcomed men who have had successful careers in education, engineering, business, farming and other professions. Such men have contributed greatly to the mix of students who have studied at our seminary. They have served well in the ministry because of their experience "in the real world." At a time when there is a great need for pastors who have a heart for ministry and a passion for seeking the lost,



DR. NORMAN J. THREINEN

we invite you to consider preparing to serve the Lord even if you already have a career. We want you to consider being a second career pastor.

As we continue to pray for workers for the great vineyard of the Lord, is it possible that the Lord is looking for you to be the answer to this prayer? Contact us by e-mail, telephone or come by the Seminary. We will be glad to help you!

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake,

Dr. Norman J. Threinen
Interim President

EDMONTON

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The Calling of a Seminary President Continues

THE SACRED CONVOCATION

Concordia Lutheran Seminary cordially invites you to attend The Sacred Convocation for the 29th Academic Year

**Friday, May 24, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

Robert Tegler Student Centre
Concordia University
College of Alberta
Edmonton, AB



On March 5 it was announced that The Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher of Fort Wayne, Indiana had returned the call to the presidency of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. In his letter he graciously acknowledged the opportunities that would be present for him in Edmonton, while noting that after prayerful consideration he was convinced that God desired him to remain where he is.

What does this mean for CLS? It means that the process of calling a president must continue in a manner in accordance with the bylaws of Lutheran Church – Canada. The Electors, which consist of the synodical president, the chairman of LCC’s Board of Directors, the district president, and the seminary’s Board of Regents (holding a single vote), have decided to issue another call for nominations. This call for nominations must be published in *The Canadian Lutheran*, and 90 days are allowed for nominations to be submitted. Then the names of the nominees will be published in *The Canadian Lutheran*, along with the date of the election, which is to be no less than six weeks after to publication of the names of

the nominees. We thus can project that it will be another five months before the next election can be held, and then a time of waiting while the president-elect prayerfully considers the call. Since this procedure is laid out in the synod’s handbook, we are called upon to be patient as the process plays itself out.

Rev. Mark Dressler, chairman of the Board of Regents, encourages all of us to take this matter up with our local congregations so that they may discuss and actively participate in the nomination process by bringing forward at least one name.

We at the seminary certainly desire the call, acceptance, and arrival of a new president and anxiously await the completion of the process. Please pray for the seminary and for those involved in the nominating and calling of the seminary president. We pray for God’s continuing blessings upon us, and trust Him as His hand guides His church and His servants.

The Call for Nominations with a list of qualifications can be found on our website at www.concordiasem.ab.ca.

Join us as we celebrate the mercies God has showered upon us throughout this academic year. Two vicarage assignments will be announced as the church and seminary continue to work together in forming future pastors.

We rejoice with our three MDiv. graduates who will have successfully completed their studies and stand ready to offer themselves for placement in the church as called “servants for Jesus’ sake.”

Four Entrance Scholarships to be Awarded in 2013!

Do you know of someone who is planning to study at Concordia Lutheran Seminary to prepare to become a pastor? Are they ready to start but just do not have the money?

For the 2013–2014 Academic Year **only**, four scholarships of \$4,000 will be awarded to the top LCC students entering the Master of Divinity program.

Applicants must have completed both the Greek and Hebrew language requirements and hold a minimum grade point average of 2.5. There is no special application form necessary, simply apply for the program.

APPLY TODAY!

“Every year we hear of potential students who have great academic qualifications, but who are planning to work a year or more because they just don’t have the funds,” says Professor Jonathan Kraemer, Director of Financial Aid. *“We’re hoping these entrance scholarships will make it possible for them to begin their studies sooner than they thought possible.”*

For more information see:
www.concordiasem.ab.ca

Or contact Professor Jonathan Kraemer, Director of Financial Aid at:
jkraemer@concordiasem.ab.ca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Did You Know...

The Seminary will be closed July 1 - 31, 2013? Faculty and staff will return August 1, 2013.

May 3

Last Day of Semester II Classes

May 6 - 8

Final Exams

May 23 & 24

Board of Regents Meeting

May 24

Sacred Convocation
7:00 p.m.

July 1 - 31

Seminary Building Closed

July 15

Presidential Nominations
Deadline

August 1

Seminary Opens

August 29-30

Retreat for MDiv Students

August 30

Registration for All Students

September 2

Labour Day – Office Closed

September 3

First Day of Classes

September 3 - 6

MDiv 1 Year Orientation

September 8

Opening Service

September 10

Founders' Day

Stepping Out in Faith

Can you imagine leaving your job with all its security to spend four years preparing for a new calling which paid less? What if it meant uprooting your family and disrupting your wife's career? Many people today would call you crazy. Yet, this is exactly what many second-career seminarians are doing.

This is not a new thing for those who serve God. Elisha was plowing the fields when he was chosen. To demonstrate there was no turning back from that call he celebrated by sacrificing his team of oxen, cooking the meat over the fire built with the yoke that had harnessed them, and serving it to the people of the community (1 Kings 19:19-21). When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow him, they were fishing and mending their nets. Yet they immediately left everything and followed Him (Matthew 4:18-22). God's servants leave behind security, community and family for the sake of the ministry.

This sounds like a huge barrier to serving, and yet Concordia Lutheran Seminary has regularly had a sizable number of second-career students who have come to prepare to receive the call to ministry. It is not easy, but they and their families find that as they step out in faith, God provides for their needs, especially through the support and generosity of the Church. Donors who give regularly to Student Financial Aid or establish endowments help students cover the cost of tuition. Congregations, LWML societies and individuals "adopt" students through the Adopt-A-Student program, supporting them with financial contributions, notes of encouragement and prayer. The Seminary Guild assists the students in numerous ways including the organization of donations toward the Student Food Pantry, and even more increasingly grocery gift cards. These means do not completely cover the loss of wages for students and their families, but they do provide significant assistance and support.



PROF. JONATHAN KRAEMER

"Second-career students and wives come with a wealth of life experience," says Professor Kraemer, "I think whether they know it or not, many of them become mentors to the others who have come to us directly from university. The friendships that form certainly do cross generational barriers." Whether it is through the Seminary Wives group or the Mentor groups the students attend, or through the more informal gatherings that are organized, students and their families have opportunity to support others and be supported as they all step out in faith.

Prof. Jonathan Kraemer
Dean of Student Life

A Teacher's Perspective on Second-Career Students

Our faculty teaches a lot of second-career students. In the last five years, one-third of our on-campus students have had significant career and life experience outside of the classroom, before coming here. As you might expect, that has significant consequences for our community of learning and faith.

The life-experience bonus these men bring is wonderful. And both parts of that phrase are significant. Second-career students have seen more of life than students who come to us straight out of university. They've held full-time jobs, paid mortgages, and lived in diverse communities. Often they've been married for many years, and raised children—sometimes to the point of being empty-nesters. All of this makes a big difference in the classroom when we're talking about how to care for parishioners in all sorts of life situations, or how to preach into a wide variety of contexts. Because second-career students have seen and done so much, the examples they give don't always have to be made-up. Their memories are full of rich vignettes they can draw upon, ponder, and analyze.

And they haven't just seen more of life, they've also experienced it. The benefit here isn't just breadth, but depth. Mature students are, well, mature! They're at a point in life where they can more easily judge what will work and what won't. This doesn't make them perfect, of course. They still need to learn, both in the classroom and beyond it, pastoral wisdom. Even though they've been formed by their experience of life-as-a-whole, a pastor's perspective is sometimes different from everyone else's. The questions a pastor asks come from a different place, and the answers he gives should also ideally be seasoned with a different mix. It's a special blend of Law and Gospel, theology and practice, principles and pragmatics. And mature students often grasp this quickly and well. To them, being formed for ministry is like learning a new set of vocabulary in a language they already understand. Students who lack the same degree of life experience have to start in a different place—learning the basic language itself.



DR. STEPHEN CHAMBERS

That said, mature students also face special challenges. Often they've been out of university for a long time. Sometimes they lack it completely, though this is rare since we usually require students to have at least one year of post-secondary education. Either way, their rustiness creates practical problems, like iffy academic skills in research and writing. It's humbling, as a grown man with a lot of life-experience, to have to ask for help with your spelling or punctuation! And on top of this, mature students often feel the added pinch of knowing that their skills are rusty. Will they be able to do what's required? Can they keep up with "the young pups"? After making all of the big decisions—and sacrifices—to finally enroll in the seminary, will they have everything it takes to complete the program and graduate?

Despite the challenges, our "success rate" with mature students is excellent. It's not common for any seminarian to drop out of the program. But it's even rarer for mature students than for others. The experience, maturity, and staying-power that they bring to the classroom, and seminary community as a whole, are a real gift from God. May their numbers increase!

Dr. Stephen Chambers
Academic Dean

Did You Know...

40% of our MDiv. graduates had a career before entering Seminary?

Seminary Student in Focus

Name: Mark Schultz

Year: 4

Home District: Alberta–British Columbia District

When I recall where my seminary journey began, I would have to go back to one particular fall evening, about nine years ago. After doing some woodwork, I sat down in my lawn chair in a dark corner of my garage, and contemplated what I thought to be a call to pastoral ministry. It did not seem reasonable for me to consider this type of service, we had a house that we worked so hard to make the way we liked it, I had a job that was secure and paid well, we had great group of friends. All this we would have to leave behind. Yet, the idea was appealing, very appealing, but I had nothing but unanswered questions before me. Is it really a call? How do I know? Do I have the finances to make it through? Can I do the work? What about my kids? There seemed to be a lot of questions, yet that moment in that place seemed to be the tipping point where I stopped fighting the idea and started working towards it. With much prayer, I trusted that my questions would be answered.

I am sure many of God's saints had some questions cross their minds about their worthiness or ability to do the task they were called to. No matter who we are in the family of God, we all have been called to some special purpose and we all, at some point, had to step out of our comfortableness and simply trust that God will provide for our needs in the plan He has set for us. Many have had to leave the life they know for a life that is yet to be revealed. It may not have seemed reasonable for the neighbours of Moses that he would leave his land to go back to Egypt. Some may have not thought it reasonable for Peter to leave his fishnets for the unknown life of a disciple. It would not seem reasonable either for Luther to leave the security of the cloister to oppose a system that was corrupting the Church.



MARK AND TAMARA SCHULTZ

From the beginning, the road has been long and challenging. Yet, God did provide through encouragement and support in a multitude of ways. My trust was not misplaced but re-affirmed and strengthened. My questions were not answered right away, but over time many of them diminished in importance. Since I began my full time studies, slowly and sometimes painfully, my rough edges were chipped away, and I began to see the bigger picture a little more clearly.

If I had to sum up one experience where everything seemed all worthwhile, it was in my vicarage experience which I completed last year. It confirmed for me that my decision so many years ago, in that dark corner of my garage, was the right one. I realize now that if I had not stepped out in faith to begin with, I never would have experienced this. Vicarage, for myself and my family felt like a step back in time. We felt at home, accepted, welcome. The community we grew to love and we felt much sadness when we had to leave. Since that time, it has been a rich experience filled with many challenges and many joys. Yet, this was still just part of the process. Many challenges continue to remain in front of me, but I am sure they will be overcome in due time. I found out that God had provided everything I needed to meet this challenge.

During this time I learned what pastoral ministry involved, and I did enjoy each aspect of it. The challenges continue, growth is important in all areas of life. I discovered that, there is nobody in the world like God's people; the things I thought I had to give up were pale in comparison to what we received. I continue to grow and as I do, I look forward to the next challenge that God will place before me.

ADOPT-A-STUDENT

Have you considered "adopting" a student this year? Adopt-A-Student matches students with sponsors who want to directly support them through prayer, correspondence and/or financial gifts.

For more information check us out on the web at: www.concordiasem.ab.ca/enrolment/adopt_a_student.php

Or contact Professor Jonathan Kraemer, Director of Financial Aid at: jkraemer@concordiasem.ab.ca

Yes, I want to make a donation to Concordia Lutheran Seminary

Your Seminary exists to serve you and your congregation. Out of love for the Lord's church, we invite you to sustain your Seminary with your interest, your prayers, and your gifts.

*So let each one give
as he purposes in his
heart, not grudgingly
or of necessity; for God
loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Your Congregation (Name and City): _____

Did You Know...

CLS is currently in the process of setting up Pay Pal for an online donation option? We will also continue with Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org. Please donate today.

Enclosed is our gift given in support of: *(please specify if applicable)*

Please apply my gift where most needed

In memory of: _____

In honour of: _____

To the _____ Endowment Fund

Student Financial Aid

Please contact me about pre-authorized debits

Please make cheque payable to Concordia Lutheran Seminary.

If you require a tax receipt, please provide all contact information. Please note, as of January 1, 2012, tax receipts will be sent out once a year.

