



CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN
SEMINARY

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

learn
grow
serve



Faith and Hope to Walk with God (LSB 611:3)

*Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.*

*Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the Vine,
I am His, and He is mine. LSB 611: 2, 1*

From Ash Wednesday through Easter, the rhythms of our worship life are a meaningful reflection on the reality of the human condition (glaringly evident in the ashes and the Good Friday reproaches) as well as the amazing love of God for humanity that motivates the “Great Exchange” of Isaiah 53. Easter celebrations rejoice in the truth that though we are sinners, we are saved by God’s grace through faith and receive the promise of living eternally in glory with our Resurrected Saviour.

The pastors we prepare at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, are taught how to properly discern and apply Law and Gospel – at Lent, at Easter, and throughout the year. The work of pastors and deacons in the church revolves around Jesus, who is “all in all to me,” abundant in “grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die” (LSB 611:4, 5).



DR. JAMES GIMBEL

Your nudge for men and women to enter pastoral or diaconal ministry is an important step in helping us continue to “form servants for Jesus’ sake.” Your dollars of operations support help us keep tuition costs low enough to not be a burden on our students or saddle them with debt. Your prayers and participation as Take Wing hosts, Field Education settings, Adopt-a-Student sponsors, Seminary Guild partners, and Vicarage sites are all ways that you partner with us in our critical task.

May God bless us all along our journey of faith together, that on the Last Day we can join Mary and the angels and archangels in saying, “my soul magnifies the Lord” (Luke 1:46b, our theme verse for 2018-19).

Dr. James Gimbel,
President



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[www.concordiasem.ab.ca/
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EDMONTON

7040 Ada Boulevard NW
Edmonton, AB T5B 4E3
(780) 474-1468
admin@concordiasem.ab.ca
www.concordiasem.ab.ca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 26

Last Day of Semester II Classes

April 29 – May 1

Final Exams

May 6

First Day of Summer Short Term Classes

May 6 – 9

Pastors Sabbatical Week/ BC Church Workers

May 23 & 24

Board of Regents Meeting

May 24

Sacred Convocation

May 28 & 29

Assessment Retreat

June

Various LWMLC Conventions

July 5 – 9

LCC National Youth Gathering

August 27 & 28

Board of Regents Meeting

August 28

1st Year MDiv Student Orientation

August 28

Registration for All Students

August 28

Opening Service

August 29 & 30

MDiv Student Retreat

September 3

First Day of Short Term I Classes

September 16

First Day of Semester I Classes

Board of Regents

Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, is chartered by the Trust Act of 1984. Therein the seminary is expected to be governed by a Board of Regents responsible for overseeing curriculum and degrees, property, and all matters of finance. According to CLS bylaws, all members of the Board of Regents are to be members of an LCC congregation and appointed after receiving pastoral endorsement and approval by synod in convention or through the synod Board of Directors.

The regents meet at the beginning, midpoint, and end of each school year. At the February 5 & 6, 2019 meeting, held jointly with the regents from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines, ON, significant time was spent discussing components that will shape the Memorandum of Understanding between LCC and each of the seminaries. More information will be forthcoming as it develops.

The CLS Board of Regents are:

- **Rev. Aaron Astley, Secretary** (Hamilton, ON)
- **James Dietrich** (Saskatoon, SK), new member (welcome James!)
- **Rev. Tom Kruesel** (Campbell River, BC) LCC representative
- **Rev. Scott Lyons, Vice-chair** (Edmonton, AB)
- **Rev. Rob Mohns, Regional Pastor** (Calgary, AB)
- **Corinne Nowoczin** (Red Deer, AB)
- **Rev. Daryl Solie, Chair** (Regina, SK)
- **Gerry Steinke** (Valleyview, AB)

President Jim Gimbel, serves as executive to the board.

Please continue to pray for our regents and their role in guiding what we do on behalf of the church, the seminary, and pastoral and diaconal formation.

Did You Know...

that CLS is planning to fill the vacancy for a new full-time theological faculty member during the summer, helping our mission but also increasing our financial needs?

Thank You!

A tremendous, heart-felt, sincere **thank you** to all the congregations and individuals who have provided the financial support of our mission thus far. We hope to continue receiving regular support, even throughout the summer months. We are hoping to fill our faculty vacancy by extending a professor call for next year, so our budget needs will increase as well.



To help you provide that support, we continue to receive cheques and gifts, but have also set up **give25** so you can make regular donations from your credit card.

In addition, we can now receive donations from the convenience of your online banking account using the Interac e-Transfer of funds.



Send your donation to donation@concordiasem.ab.ca and the security answer to key@concordiasem.ab.ca.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a regular giving partner in 'forming servants for Jesus' sake': through Interac e-Transfer of funds, our online platform **www.concordiasem.ab.ca/give25** or with a monthly or annual cheque commitment.

Take Wing 2019



LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. JAMES GIMBEL, PAT MOORE (CLS GUILD PRESIDENT), SN. WENDEL RITZ, SN. DARCY ALBERS, AND SN. JOSHUA TIMM

Each year the Seminary Guild partners with congregations across Canada to provide our second-year students with a ministry experience that is unique to them. This Spring Break weekend, we sent three students to parishes where they participated and engaged in a weekend of ministry.

These are the four goals for the Take Wing program:

1. to give a Concordia Lutheran Seminary student exposure and experience in the broader Church, beyond past experience;
2. to give congregations exposure and experience with our students and their gifts and graces, being formed as servants for Jesus' sake;
3. to allow pastoral shadowing and mentoring to happen, as a part of formation and ministry; and
4. to observe, not interfere with parish ministry, allowing the church to provide a meaningful opportunity for our students to be involved in sharing and proclaiming God's Word and the Gospel of Christ.

The weekend schedule is fairly open to the creative ideas and negotiation of congregation/pastor and student. Students often arrive on Friday night or

Saturday morning ... they may meet the pastor and/or a congregational leader(s) for a tour of the community and church, shadow the pastor if there is some normal or unique kind of ministry, and ... mostly ... connect with the regular weekend worship and educational schedule. Students are licensed to lead worship and preach, and are able to lead a Bible study. Some congregations have a pot luck or gathering for members, which can include a presentation about the seminary (or the life of a seminarian).

This year our Take Wing participants are:

- **Sn. Darcy Albers (NALC)** (home: Wetaskiwin, AB) to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, MB working with Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt (NALC)
- **Sn. Wendel Ritz** (home: Drumheller, AB) to Bethany Lutheran Church, Campbell River, BC working with Pastor Tom Kruesel
- **Sn. Josh Timm** (home: Regina, SK) to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Stratford, ON working with Vacancy Pastor Bill Ney

Take Wing requests for Spring 2020 should be submitted by January 15, 2020 (see the form on our website). Contact Dr. Gimbel with questions at: Tel: (780) 474-1468 ext. 224 or email: jgimbel@concordiasem.ab.ca

Did You Know...

that in the 2018-19 academic year CLS provided 90% of all projected living costs (including tuition) for our students from the Financial Aid fund and other sources like Guild and Adopt-a-student support (keeping student debt to a minimum)? Thank you for your support.

The Sacred Convocation

Concordia Lutheran Seminary warmly invites you to attend The Sacred Convocation for the 35th Academic Year:

Friday, May 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Bethel Lutheran Church
298 Bethel Drive, Sherwood Park, AB
Guest Preacher: Rev. Roland Kubke

Along with celebrating the placement of four pastoral graduates, the graduation of one Pastor with Alternative Training, and the placement of one vicar, we will also be recognizing the recipients of this year's honorary "Fath in Life" award.

The seminary is deeply thankful to our partners in ministry at Bethel Lutheran Church for hosting this year's Convocation. A reception follows immediately after the service. Please come and rejoice with us in God's gifts to his people!



Did You Know...

at press time, there are at least 12 LCC congregations requesting pastors or vicars?

CLS will be sending out four new pastors, CLTS will be sending one, and each seminary will be sending one new vicar for 2019-20.

TYPICAL COSTS OF SEMINARY EDUCATION

- \$1,200 per course (3 credits)
- \$6,355 for a typical semester's tuition and fees
- \$40,640 for the entire four year degree (tuition and fees)

- \$800-\$1050 per month for rent (1 bedroom apartment)

Source: study.alberta.ca/plan-your-stay/cost-of-living-in-alberta

- \$1089+ per month for food (family of four)

Source: Southeast Edmonton Early Childhood Community Coalitions Sept 2017

Adopt-A-Student ENCOURAGING FUTURE PASTORS

As Lutherans, we are thankful for the work of Martin Luther and the reformers in returning the focus of the Church to the pure Gospel of Christ. Another key thing that came from the Reformation, that is often overlooked, is the blessing of having educated pastors. Luther understood that a pastor could not faithfully proclaim the Gospel if he had not been instructed in it. A pastor cannot preach the Scriptures if he has not delved deeply into them, including in Greek and Hebrew. A pastor cannot rightly administer the Sacraments and care for the hurting if he has not been trained to do so. Therefore, Luther insisted that pastors need to be properly trained.

The Church has developed seminaries for this express purpose. However, it is still a hard path full of sacrifices for a man to attend a seminary. There are financial challenges beyond tuition and books that need to be met. He must uproot and transplant himself, and often a family as well. There are times of discouragement and frustrations also. As a result, the men who pursue a seminary education need the support of the Church at large.

One way that several groups and individuals in Lutheran Church—Canada help to provide spiritual, moral, and financial support of Ministry students is by becoming an Adopt-a-Student sponsor. I regularly hear, and read on their faces, just how much sponsors mean to our students. If you have sponsored one or more students, on behalf of the Seminary community, I thank you. If you have not yet sponsored a student, please prayerfully consider it.

Adopt-A-Student matches students with sponsors who want to directly support them through prayer, correspondence or even with financial gifts. Whether the sponsor is an LWMLC group, an entire congregation, or an interested individual, the students are uplifted by knowing that the Church cares for them during their time at seminary. Sponsors likewise benefit by getting to know and caring for a student who one day may even be called to be their pastor.

In order to be a sponsor for 2019-2020, please visit our website at www.concordiasem.ab.ca/enrolment/adopt_a_student.php. Or, contact Dr. John Hellwege, Director of Financial Aid: jhellwege@concordiasem.ab.ca

Seminary Student in Focus

Name: Michael Mayer

Year: 4th

Home District: ABC District

My name is Michael Mayer, and I'm a fourth-year seminary student here at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton. I've been married for nearly 20 years to my wife, Erin, and we have four children: Ava (12), Adalia (11), Isaiah (8), and Lavinia (6). I was born and raised in northern Alberta, west of Grande Prairie, but I moved to Calgary to go to school. I worked in Calgary as an IT professional for over 20 years before feeling the nudge to offer myself as a servant for Jesus' sake.

I was reading a scripture passage from Isaiah at my grandmother's funeral when I felt a strong nudge to ministry. At first, I was not certain how to react to a calling like this, so I kept it secret. Eventually, I felt that it had to become public, and after discussing it with my wife and pastor, our family packed our belongings and moved to Edmonton so that I could attend seminary. I first went to Concordia University to learn Hebrew and Greek, and then in the fall of 2015 I entered CLS full-time.

The past few years at seminary have been truly amazing – and even with all the exams and papers, homework and late nights – I am thankful for the time I have been blessed with at CLS. The individual semesters seem to drag on forever, but the four years as a whole has gone by in a flash! The faculty of CLS have spent the last four years working hard to shape me into a servant, teaching me not only the theology of pastoral practice but the practical aspects of how to effectively care for congregations.

The entire seminary experience is designed to shape us into the pastors our Lutheran church desires us to be, and after four years I am as ready as I can be – I await the sacred convocation with anxiousness and yearning!



MICHAEL AND ERIN MAYER WITH THEIR CHILDREN
(LEFT TO RIGHT) ISAIAH (8), LAVINIA (6), ADALIA (11) AND AVA (12)

We have no idea where God will send us, but regardless of where we end up, I will do my very best to serve the congregation I am placed into, with the help of God – when the Lord asks who will go, I will answer “send me!” I thank the Lord for this wonderful journey I have been on and look forward to the adventure that this life of service will provide.

Michael will receive his first Call on May 24, 2019.

Did You Know...

that, in addition to God's nudge and prayerful consideration, local pastors and family members who encourage the ministry are the most significant reasons students give for why they chose to enter seminary and the ministry?

Who can you prayerfully encourage? (Send us their contact information as well!)

ATTENTION CHURCH SECRETARY/PASTOR

Are you receiving the correct number of CLS Newsletters? Please **contact Kathy at admin@concordiasem.ab.ca** if you would like to change the number of newsletters you receive.

Financial News

REMEMBRANCE DONATIONS – In Memory of:

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Remembered by:
Tina Keeble
William & Janet Siegle
Lylis Thompson
Bernice Zapf

Margaret Stanski
Remembered by:
Marlene Schmidt

*I thank my God every time
I remember you. In all my
prayers for all of you, I always
pray with joy because of your
partnership in the gospel
from the first day until now,
being confident of this,
that he who began a good
work in you will carry it on
to completion until the day
of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1: 3-4



**CONCORDIA
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more memorial cards?
Please **contact Kathy at**
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if you would like more.

Gifts received January to December 2018

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Jim Young

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Remembered by:
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**REMEMBRANCE
DONATIONS –
In Honour of:**

Pastor Al & Jean Borchardt

60th Wedding Anniversary
Remembered by:
Darrin & Christina Bulas

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Remembered by:
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60th Wedding Anniversary
Remembered by:
Darrin & Christina Bulas

Edna Pregizer

85th Birthday
Remembered by:
Rudolph & Edna Pregizer

Rudy Pregizer

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Remembered by:
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Rudy & Edna Pregizer

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John & Ruth Gerlinger



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Warren Steckelberg

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Clarence Weybrecht

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Did You Know...

that a significant part of our operations funding comes from bequests?

If you are including CLS in your will, please make sure that our name and address are correct in your will. You may want to be in touch with your regional Lutheran Foundation Canada representative to help expedite this gift.

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.

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

Name: _____

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*Please make cheques payable to Concordia Lutheran Seminary and send to:
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If you require a tax receipt, please provide all contact information.

*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

Did You Know...

that you can send your donations in honour of or in memory of a person or event?

Did You Know...

- that CLS accepts *Interac* e-transfers?
- that you can set up secure pre-authorized bank (PAD) withdrawal donations by sending in a VOID cheque and completing the PAD form on the CLS website at www.concordiasem.ab.ca/donate/documents/PADfillable.pdf ?

