



learn
grow
serve



President's Message

Happy New Year! You may have heard those words on November 30, the First Sunday of Advent (and the beginning of the new Church year). You may have heard those words again in the wee hours of January 1, 2015.

In Revelation 21:5, Christ's final victory message says, "Behold, I am making all things new." From the cross, He said "It is finished"—believers walk in the newness of life. The resurrected Jesus said, "don't be afraid, it is me"—believers find new hope in bodily resurrection to a new and better life. In Holy Baptism, Jesus makes the believer a new creation—all of His children daily receive new forgiveness, new mercies, new strength.

The CLS mission to "form servants for Jesus' sake" is fulfilled when we prepare men to share this old news with you and your congregation and community in new ways.

We will face new challenges at CLS in 2015. This includes completing the massive cleanup from the November 12 fire, rebuilding the library and study areas. We face new challenges in preparing men to share the changeless Christ in a rapidly changing world. We continue the search for new faculty.

But we know we are not alone; you and other believers struggle with challenges of your own. God's mercies are new every morning to face whatever lies ahead for any of His children.



DR. JAMES GIMBEL

New changes can feel overwhelming. Yet the same God who has supported CLS throughout its 30-year history of preparing men for the Word and Sacrament ministry of the Gospel is with us today, and we know He is also with you.

Thank you for being our partners in ministry. Your faithful commitment ... made new with each prayer and word of encouragement and new donation ... support our ministry. Thank you for your gifts and support. And ... God bless you in this new year!

Dr. James Gimbel,
President

EDMONTON

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Edmonton, AB T5B 4E3
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admin@concordiasem.ab.ca
www.concordiasem.ab.ca

Christos narodivsya – Slavimo Yogo!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 5

First Day of
Short Term II Classes

January 15

Last Day of
Short Term II Classes

January 19

First Day of
Semester II Classes

January 19 & 20

Joint Board of Regents
Meeting – St. Catherines, ON

January 20, 27

& February 3, 10
Winter Quest Course

January 22

Timothy Lectures

January 28

Wetaskiwin Circuit
Meeting @ CLS

February 16

Family Day – Office Closed

March 30 - April 2

Spring Break – Office Open

April 3 - 6

Easter Break – Office Closed

April 11

Sat @ Sem
(A Recruitment Day)

May 1

Last Day of
Semester II Classes

May 4 - 6

Final Exams

May 28 & 29

Board of Regents Meeting

May 29

Sacred Convocation
7:00 pm

I want to greet you with the traditional Christmas greeting that is heard everywhere in Ukraine now: *Christos narodivsya – Slavimo Yogo!* Which means: Christ is born! Let's glorify Him!

My name is Oleksiy. For the last 9 years I have been a pastor and a missionary among students in one of the largest Ukrainian cities, Dnepropetrovsk. This fall I came to Canada together with my family and commenced intensive studies at CLS. This is our first Christmas away from home and our church. With great anticipation and excitement, we observe Canadian Christmas traditions and, of course, compare them with ours.

Probably one of the emerging innovations in Ukraine is a new tendency to celebrate Christmas two times. This trend is caused by historical and geographical factors. Ukraine is located on the invisible border between Western and Eastern churches. Most Ukrainian churches Orthodox and Greek Catholic follow the Gregorian Calendar which is also called New Style and celebrates Christmas on January 7th. On the other hand, Lutherans, Roman Catholics and Reformed churches, use the Julian Calendar which celebrates Christmas on December 25th. Lately, however, more and more Ukrainian churches participate in both Christmas celebrations.

First Christmas December 24th we celebrate together with those who are interested in Western traditions. On Christmas Eve we have a service at the big Lutheran Church located right downtown in our city. This Christmas service is oriented to people who have not heard about Christ yet, so we diligently invite friends, coworkers and strangers.

Second Christmas celebrated on January 6th has a different focus. This evening service seems like a big family gathering. After the Service, no one is in a rush to go home but rather stays for a church supper. After supper, our church youth go to the city Square to sing Christmas carols and bring the Joy of Christmas to everyone.

If you ask us if we are missing our Ukrainian Christmas? Our answer would be Yes and No. We miss Ukrainian traditions, but not the Joy of Christmas. Our Christmas Joy, our dear Lord Jesus is here with us in Canada. Even being far from home we do not feel lonely because we are being warmly accepted into the CLS family. Therefore I am confident that our Ukrainian Christmas greeting is relevant in Canada as well!
Christos narodivsya – Slavimo Yogo!

In Christ,

Oleksiy Navrotsky



Upcoming Quest Courses

WINTER 2015

**Tuesday nights: January 20 and 27, 2015
& February 3 and 10, 2015
@ 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm MST**

“Defending the Faith”

*Presenter: Dr. Jonathan Strand
(Principal, School of Theology, Ethics, and
Leadership, Concordia University College of Alberta)*

*Quest classes are open to pastors, lay leaders,
and all Christians as a service of CLS.
The face-to-face course at CLS is webcast
to those outside of driving distance with the
same opportunity to hear and interact online.*

REGISTRATION

Cost: No registration fee – donations welcome.
To register for the **free classes** contact
Rhonda Buck, Administrative Assistant
to the President at:
development@concordiasem.ab.ca
Tel: 780-474-1468, ext. 225

Session One:

*The Concept, Theology, and Practicalities
of Defending the Faith*

What is ‘defending the faith?’ What is the theological basis for defending the faith? And how might we defend the faith most effectively?

Session Two:

The Case for God

How an understanding of scientific reasoning, and a careful consideration of the world, provide strong evidence of the existence of God.

Session Three:

The Case for Christ and Scripture

How the concept of God, and the historical evidence, indicate that Jesus really was God-in-the-Flesh. How Jesus’ teachings then indicate that the Bible is the Word of God.

Session Four:

Dealing with Objections

How to respond to objections such as: ‘The evil in the world proves that there is no such God.’ ‘If God existed He would make his existence obvious.’ And ‘Science has shown that Christianity is not true.’



DR. JONATHAN STRAND

DISTANCE EDUCATION

This semester at CLS, once again faculty and students engage in several distance education experiences.

Professor Kraemer teaches The Pentateuch, a combined class of Edmonton and St. Catharines students; Dr. Chambers uses videoconferencing to share his Pastoral Ministry Seminar class for 4th year students with a remote colloquy student; and CLS students attend both Dr. Winger’s Pericope Seminar and Dr. Stephenson’s History III with CLTS students via videoconference.

Contact Registrar
Jeffrey Nachtigall
for more details:
Tel: (780) 474-1468 ext 227

Guild News

The function of the Seminary Guild is to support students. A simple mission; a simple goal. You are invited to join in the work of the guild as a “friend of the Guild” with your contribution.

From your gift, the Seminary Guild provides grocery gift cards for seminarians and their families. The Seminary Guild provides annual Christmas gifts to our students. The Seminary Guild sends students to unique ministries during their second year of seminary in the “Take Wing” program. Jason Legacy and his wife Amber participated in this year’s Take Wing program November 11-16, 2014 to Trinity Lutheran Church in Vancouver, BC.

The Seminary Guild also provides funding for building improvements that make the Seminary a warmer and friendlier place for students to learn and grow.

Please consider a donation through the Seminary Guild. The suggested donation for Friends of the Seminary is a minimal amount that *allows anyone on any size budget* to be part of this venture. But as a minimum, we also welcome – and often receive – significantly more from many of you. Thank you!

We welcome you to use our electronic donation process through Canada Helps. This safe, secure method allows you more easily to provide your support.

But above all, we ask for your prayers and support. Pray for Aaron, Scott, Cody, Eric, Keith, Alexey, Will, Jason, Scott, Kai, Ken, and Andrew – and their families. They face many challenges, but your support provides them with a powerful message of support as they train to become pastors of YOUR Churches throughout LCC.

The Sacred Convocation

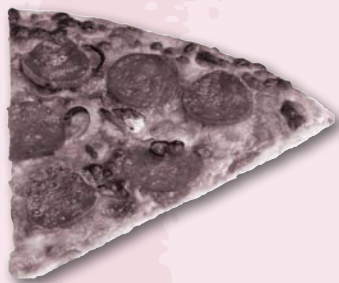
You are our precious partners in “forming servants for Jesus’ sake.” This process culminates after a student completes the academic requirements and vicarage for earning a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) and receives a theological diploma and call to serve the church as a pastor.

Please join us on **Friday, May 29, 2015 at 7:00 pm** when our newest candidates will graduate and be placed in their first congregation. This is a time for thanksgiving and celebration. Rev. Nolan Astley, father of one of our candidates, is scheduled to be our preacher.

We also anticipate the awarding of honorary degrees (and welcome your nominations).

You may join us in person at the Concordia University College of Alberta Tegler Centre, including the reception that follows, or tune in to the live online electronic feed of this significant event for the Church.

Thank you for being there with us throughout our journey and theirs. See you then!



PIZZA NIGHT

On Friday, October 17, CLS hosted a pizza night for potential seminary students in the Edmonton area to meet the faculty and students and enjoy a time of fellowship and foosball. Nearly a dozen students from the area attended the event, and we’re looking forward to larger class sizes in the next few years.

If you would like to attend an event like this, or know someone who would, contact Jeff Nachtigall at admissions@concordiasem.ab.ca.

The Deadline for the Entrance Scholarships is Approaching!

If you or someone you know is planning to apply to Concordia Lutheran Seminary for the 2015-16 Academic Year, now is the time! Five Entrance Scholarships of \$2,500 are available to qualified students who submit their application to the M.Div. Program **by February 1, 2015**.



Simply complete the M.Div. Application for Enrollment form and submit.

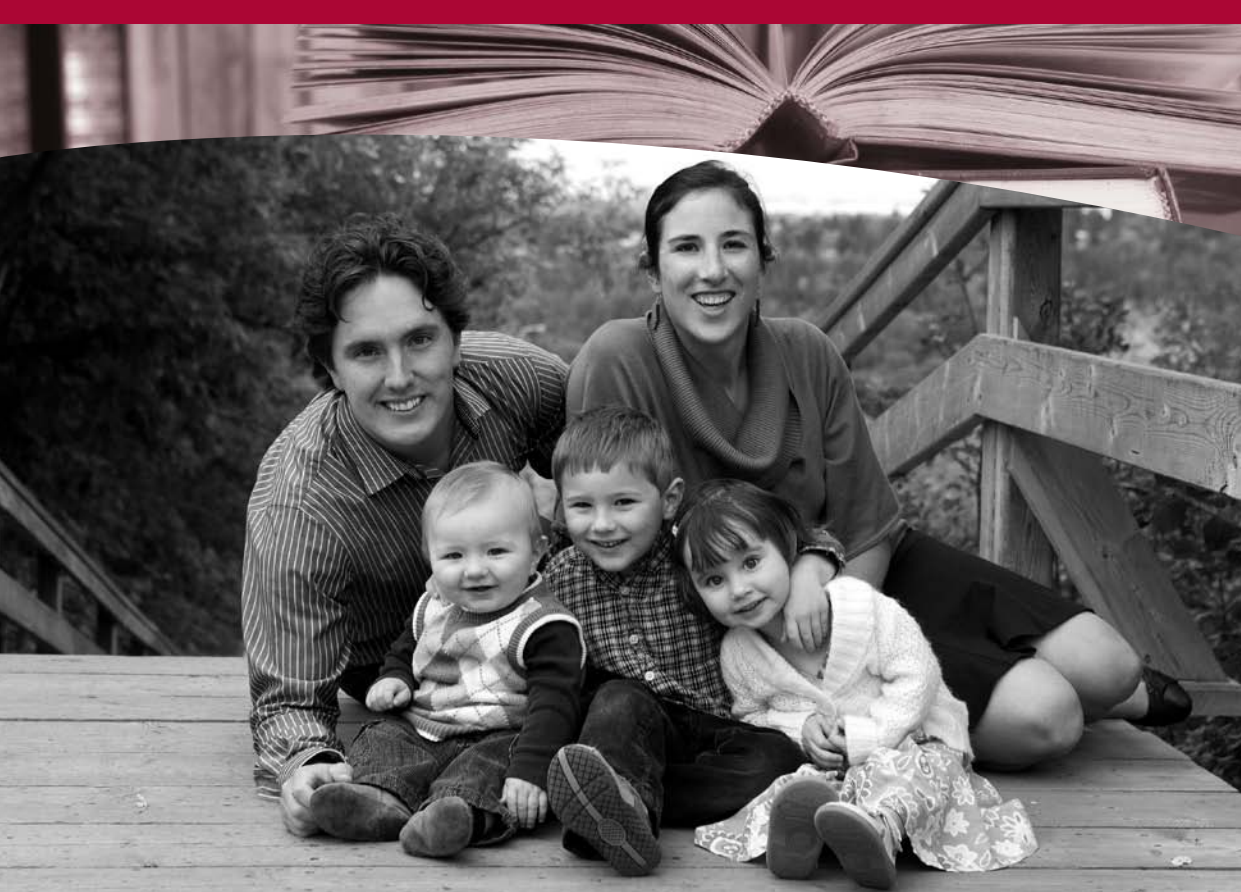
The qualifications for the Entrance Scholarship are the following:

- an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution
- earned credit in both Greek and Hebrew
- a member in good standing of a congregation of Lutheran Church—Canada

The Entrance Scholarships are sponsored in part by the Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild.

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

Or contact Professor Jonathan Kraemer, Director of Financial Aid at: jkraemer@concordiasem.ab.ca
Tel: 780-474-1468, ext. 223



LEFT TO RIGHT: SCOTT, LEVI, ELLIOT, MICHELLE AND KENNEDY GAMBLE

Seminary Student in Focus

Name: Scott Gamble

Year: 4

Home District: ABC District

I grew up in the small hamlet of Markerville, just outside of Red Deer, AB. I was blessed with the support of loving Christian parents and strong role models in my home congregation, Christ Lutheran Church, where I saw the love of Christ in action within the church and community. It is these relationships and examples that nurtured my faith and eventually led me to pursue the office of pastoral ministry.

I was attending Concordia University College of Edmonton when I met my wife-to-be, Michelle. I graduated in 2008 and we were married that summer. God has blessed me with an unbelievable partner, and three little 'angels' who have multiplied our blessings over the past six years. I entered Seminary part-time in 2010 while Michelle was on maternity leave with our first son, Elliot.

Seminary has rarely been easy, but it has always been rewarding, with regular and abundant blessings and support coming from God through the Church. Last year we were on vicarage in Calgary at Foothills Lutheran Church. The plethora

of lessons I learned and experiences I gained were equally matched with the incredible friendships we made with the saints at Foothills – our family in Christ is ever increasing as we are blessed to learn and grow in service. Being back in Edmonton for one final year is again a great gift – to be able to take time to grow as much as I can, those gifts God has given me to serve the Church, and to work on those weaknesses that hold back my gifts (or maybe more appropriately, to learn to see those weaknesses as points where God's strength shines through all the more).

God surpassed our expectations when moving back to Edmonton by providing a great (and reasonably priced) place to live, an incredible part-time teaching job for Michelle, a fantastic child care provider, ample financial support from the Seminary Financial Aid, and wonderful friends and family to support us. All of these gifts, from my earliest days of hearing God's Word to preparing to deliver God's Word to His people, have made me the recipient of abundant blessings. I see all this now as 'fuel' in preparation for going out, that I may be a faithful servant that delivers the abundant grace of our God to His people. Thank you to everyone throughout the Church that has played even the smallest role in helping me get here; may God continue to provide workers for the harvest, to serve His people through His people, the Church.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED A CHURCH WORK VOCATION?

Is God calling you to serve as a Pastor, a Lutheran Teacher or a Director of Parish Services (DPS)? Or do you know of someone who should consider a vocation as a full-time church-worker? We want to challenge you and assist you as you work through these questions. We have launched a website to help answer your questions. The address is: www.IsGodCallingMe.ca

Financial News – Remembrance Donations

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

IN MEMORY OF:	REMEMBERED BY:
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Violet Printz	Wilbert Printz
Rev. & Mrs. Reinhold	Gerardo & Marilyn Schmidt



IN MEMORY OF:

REMEMBERED BY:

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Carl & Melida Reutter	Eric Reutter
Eleanor Rithaler	Bruce & Karen Broughton
Chris & Bertha Ritter	Eleanor Anne Scobey
Alma Ross & Dorothea Toole	Gordon & Marilyn Toole
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William Sorobey	Shirley Sorobey
Erwin Streik	Delores Elgert
Gordon Vikse	Margaret Becker Douglas & Inge Latta
Melba Willie	Tina Keeble Jack & Linda McKellar Marvin & Marie Schole



IN HONOUR OF:

REMEMBERED BY:

Carol & Emil Bulas – 50th Anniversary	Darrin & Christina Bulas
Dr. James Gimbel	Robert & Margaret Mairs Ken & Elsie Rodeman
Norman Threinen	John & Jennifer Maxfield

**NEW TREASURER/
BOOKKEEPER TEAM**

Welcome to our new Treasurer/Bookkeeper team, Amy Thera and Janice Godbout, who began in November and are helping address the complexities of our financial profile.

Thanks to your generous support, thumbnail figures indicate that we are on track for achieving our balanced budget for the year.

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): _____

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
- "Friends of the Guild" (membership): \$10/person \$25/family other: _____
- Student Financial Aid
- Please contact me about pre-authorized debits

*Please make cheque payable to Concordia Lutheran Seminary and send to:
7040 Ada Boulevard, Edmonton, AB T5B 4E3*

If you require a tax receipt, please provide all contact information.

Did You Know...

You can now join the "Friends of the Guild" (membership) by simply checking this box?

