



Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild

Devoted to Service through the use of Talents and Resources to
Support the Seminary and its Students, our Future Pastors

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Newsletter 2013



2013 Seminary Students: Doug Stapleton, James Prophet, Vince Moore, Keith Hoveland, Todd Guggenmos, Cody Cooper, and Mark Schultz Kneeling: Scott Gamble and Eric Moffett. Missing: Aaron Astley and Stephen Hoffman.

Take Wing

*The Take Wing program gives congregations an opportunity to host a student for a weekend visit to their congregation.



Each student is exposed to the life of a church community and ends up participating in a variety of tasks and events. Hosting congregations agree to the costs of caring for and accommodating the student while he visits their community.

Every year Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild sponsors students to participate in Take Wing. The guild covers the cost of transportation to and from the community and a small stipend for personal expenses.

This year three students participated, Aaron Astley, Keith Hoveland and Eric Moffitt. (Pictured here receiving their Take Wing pins from Guild president Patrick Moore). Here is what Keith, Eric and Aaron thought of their experiences.



* I had the opportunity to visit Osoyoos and Oliver BC. There was a small group of us that got together at the church Saturday night after I arrived, we had supper together and had time to visit and get to know each other. Sunday I took part in the service at both Osoyoos and then just up the road at Oliver. I also had an opportunity to meet with a few of the members in their homes and get to know them. Thank-you to the Guild for the opportunity to participate in Take Wing. It was great to meet and connect with these two congregations.

Keith Hoveland Seminarian

* On my Take Wing weekend I had the pleasure of visiting St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Estevan, Saskatchewan and their pastor Rev. Randy Kleemola. This was a particularly special

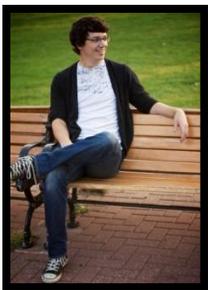
trip for me because the people of St. Peter's have been supporting me as one of my Adopt-a-Student congregations. They have been very kind to me and it was wonderful to get to meet them and visit with them.

While in Estevan I had stayed with Pastor Kleemola and his family for a few days and with some members of the congregation on the last day I was there. I also had the opportunity to participate a little bit in the life of the St. Peter's congregation. On the Saturday Pastor Kleemola gave me a tour of the church and we talked about some of the things that he is doing along with the people there. That evening I attended a youth group games night and played a number of different games with the kids. On Sunday I was given the opportunity to preach and assist with the distribution of the Lord's Supper. I greatly appreciated the chance to share God's Word with the people in Estevan and experience preaching in a new environment. The people were all very encouraging and supportive. After church there was an excellent potluck which gave me a chance to enjoy some wonderful cooking and to visit with some of the congregation's members.



All in all, my Take Wing weekend was a great experience and I would like to thank the Seminary Guild for sending me on this trip and the people of St. Peter's Estevan for welcoming me to their church. It was an encouraging experience and yet another example for me of the great support which the church and the Seminary Guild particularly have been for me in my studies. Aaron Astley

*First off thank you for the wonderful experience of Take Wing. It was a great learning experience for myself, as I know it was for the others who participated.



For the Take Wing project I was sent to Brandon/Winkler Manitoba to be mentored by Pastor Alex Klages. He leads a dual-parish which gave me my first experience in such a condition. I stayed with Vicar Jeremy Richert, whom I had known previously from East District Youth retreats. I was able to go on a visit with Pastor Klages to one of the shut-ins in Winkler; we spent a wonderful afternoon together in prayer, a hymn, and some awesome homemade muffins. Since I'm an awful baker myself homemade muffins are a big highlight for me. I was able to attend both of their monthly bible studies; they have portions of scripture they read through over a month and then get together to discuss it. I found that very interesting and put it away in my mind as something to possibly use later. Preaching in two services on Sunday morning was a great experience. My text

didn't change but I found delivery to be different in both places to accommodate the different congregations, another great learning tool for the future. Overall the Take Wing project was a great blessing to me and my future ministry. Again thank you for the wonderful opportunity to take part in it. The experience was fantastic and greatly appreciated. Eric Moffett

Seminary Wives

*The weekend of November 2nd – 3rd 2012 marked the annual Seminary Wives retreat at the Star of the North Retreat Center in St. Albert, Alberta. Sponsored and funded by the Seminary Guild, this Friday through Saturday retreat gives the wives of the Seminary students an opportunity to spend time together in fellowship and devotion, away from the duties of busy households and families.



There were a total of 10 women who attended the retreat, eight Seminary Wives and their two guest presenters, Connie Barr and Janice Kraemer. After beginning the evening on Friday with a short opening service led by 4th year Seminarian Vince Moore, the group gathered in the Polaris Room to relax with a Wine & Cheese welcome for their special guests. With the pre-planned arrival of a 'traveling spa', several of the women chose to treat themselves by purchasing a foot massage and pedicure!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

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On Saturday morning, Connie Barr related her experiences both as a wife of a Seminary Student, and her recent role as Pastor's Wife; this initiated an animated group discussion and many stories and experiences were shared. Janice Kraemer led the group to explore their journey of faith, reflecting on how one's faith grows and changes through the years, and how we each need to establish and maintain a daily connection with God and remember His promises to us. During the afternoon on Saturday, 4th year Seminary Student Mark Schultz led the group through a Bible study that focused on Marriage and Relationships.

Much thanks to the Guild for once again providing such an incredible weekend for the wives. May God continue to bless the work of the Guild!

Blessed Busy-ness

*Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild has the pleasure of assisting the Seminary staff, faculty and students with many activities throughout the year. Hosting and providing refreshments at events like the President's Banquet, Sacred Convocation, BBQ for students, Love Life Conference, Quest and Timothy lectures. Supporting and providing for Take Wing, Seminary Wives Retreats, grocery gift cards and other special requests-like purchasing student resources, carpet in the seminary, kitchen supplies and the like. Guild members are secret prayer



partners, praying for students throughout the year and representatives of the Seminary in their own church body. Thanks be to God for providing Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild with so many blessings!

What does the Seminary Guild mean for us?

*A huge block of cheddar cheese! I had heard there was a guild who supported seminary students but was stunned to walk out of class and see this huge block of cheddar cheese. Not just cheese but hundreds of dollars of groceries being given to students. Chicken, beef, pasta, cereal, treats, cheese and more all to bless me and my family as I went to school and this was from a group of women I had never even met! I experienced countless blessings during my time at the seminary but this especially stood out. The prayers, the food, the cards all encouraging me as I prepared to become a pastor. As I came to meet and know some of the guild members I was repeatedly struck by their love for God and His people. I had not done anything to earn their help, or prayers, or gifts; it was all grace. These women were the hands and feet of God to me; how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! (and cheese) This group was all good news, all the time. Miranda and I continue to think of this group and remember their incredible generosity to us and pray we can show that same love to people in our own lives. Pastor Ian Wemyss



*When Dan attended seminary I constantly heard about "the guild" and it seemed at times that "they" were like the shoemakers elves from the Grimms Brothers story "The Elves and the Shoemaker". At just the right time, things would appear in the fridge or pantry. Drapes would be available to hang in the seminary chapel. Funds for textbooks or computer programs, coffee for the kitchen, a thoughtful card or a caring hug and many a prayer was said.



Just like the Grimms Brothers story, I eventually discovered who these elves were. Before long, friendships developed then changed to feel more like family. Knowing that hundreds of people across the country help you without even meeting you, call you family without even hearing your voice is extremely humbling perhaps even overwhelming. To be on the receiving side of the guild's thoughtfulness truly makes you understand what Concordia Lutheran

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Seminary Guild is.

You know the saying “you never miss what you’ve never had?” I believe saying such as these become clichés in our world but they do have some basis of truth. Since Dan’s graduation our day to day contact with the seminary community has, of course, ended. I found myself longing for the family we left behind...to me this says volumes to the value of the Seminary Guild.

Now it is our turn to join the hearts and hands across the country supporting Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild. I have the great privilege to extend to the next generation a portion of what I have received. Thank you to the guild for all they cared for me, taught me and, gave me. Connie Barr

*As the wife of a 4th year seminary student, our family of 6 has been the recipients of many wonderful gifts the seminary guild has provided.

If you were to ask me 12 yrs ago what the seminary guild was, I wouldn’t have been able to answer till days later when I was asked if I would like to be a member of the guild. With just a small yearly donation of \$5 I would help students and families of the sem with food, gifts and much need books for the men to complete their studies. My first thought was wow, just \$5, that’s all. I really didn’t think that small amount would help anyone. I told my husband (Mark Schultz) and right away he was filling out the forms and giving \$5.00.

Then, 8 yrs later our family found ourselves in the most interesting adventure of our lives to date. As Mark was preparing for seminary in the summer of 2009; it was time for me to leave my comfortable and secure place as a stay at home mom and enter the work world. With mounting bills and daily needs piling up; I began to wonder “how will we ever get through this?” Our guild membership was coming due as well, and my faithful husband continued to renew his membership. Mark’s first year in seminary is when I realized what the guild was really all about. During Mark’s time in seminary we have received many gifts such as books for Mark’s studies, gift cards for Christmas presents for the children, and for me the most important was the well-stocked seminary pantry with a good variety of food to choose from. To date, I am still very much amazed at how generous our community of Christians is and am very grateful for the donations that are received through the guild, and how far \$5 can go!

Ask me today what the seminary guild is and what they do; I can inform you first hand on the wonderful work the Lord has set each and every member of the guild aside for. We can be assured we are all in their prayers; we are feed in body and soul. Each year the seminary men are sent on a retreat and the wives have their own retreat in November, with bible study, information sessions and valued time together to grow and gain support as we prepare for the Lord’s work and the awesome journey He has placed in our paths. So in short, May God bless every guild member, your support and prayers are valued and appreciated. I’m sure I speak for every seminary family when I say “from our hearts we thank you.” Tamara Schultz, wife of fourth year seminary student Mark Schultz



Did you know?

*Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild meetings are held four times a year and are open to any member of the guild that wishes to attend. Meetings are held at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, Alberta. Meetings start at 1 pm lasting until approximately 3:30 pm which include time for fellowship, coffee and a light snack. If you are in Edmonton and would like to attend, Welcome! The door is always open!

Concordia Lutheran Seminary has recently made changes to their accounting procedures. As a result, there has been a change in receipting procedures. Receipts will still be issued for donations received, but similar to most charitable organizations, the receipts will be issued only at year end. Please pass on this information to guild members in your congregation. Thank you for your assistance!



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*What things do you do in your congregation to promote the Seminary and the Seminary Guild?

How about having a Seminary Guild member Sunday? As you pastor if members can read lessons, usher, or help with the service in some way. Include a bulletin insert explaining the Seminary Guild and what the purpose of the guild is. Perhaps the offering could be designated to the Seminary Guild.

Maybe food is more your thing-try holding a potluck with a free will offering or perhaps a bake sale-designate the funds to the Seminary Guild. Hold a movie night at the Church complete with concession stand-sell tickets and treats with proceeds going to the Seminary Guild.

Do you have a credit card that has a point's reward system? Have you considered using your points to purchase gift cards which can then be donated to the Seminary Guild to distribute to the Seminary students? Gift cards for grocery stores, gas, restaurants and the like are great as they never expire and can be used when needed.

Has your Concordia Lutheran Seminary guild representative changed in your congregation? Does your representative's information need updating? Please send all your updates, no matter what they may be, to Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild at CLSGuild@concordiasem.ab.ca or by contacting Concordia Lutheran Seminary at 780-474-1468. It is very important that our records be kept up to date; your assistance with this task is invaluable!

Would you like to represent Concordia Lutheran Seminary in your congregation by becoming a seminary guild representative? Do you have questions about what you can do? Do you know where to get your questions answered? Are there things you want to know about the Seminary or the guild but don't know who to ask Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild's email address is: CLSGuild@concordiasem.ab.ca. Send us your questions, concerns or just a note to chat and we will do our best!

The things that you do

* LWML ladies of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Kelowna, B.C. hosted a dessert auction. The ladies worked many hours preparing desserts which were then auctioned off to support Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild. A wonderful time was had by everyone in attendance and a total of \$1000 was raised to support the Seminary Food Pantry. Many thanks to everyone who participated!

If you have an event that you would like to share, please forward your information (and any pictures) to CLSGuild@concordiasem.ab.ca. We will do our best to share **The things that you do!**



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