

Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild

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Newsletter: Winter 2011

Guild Representatives

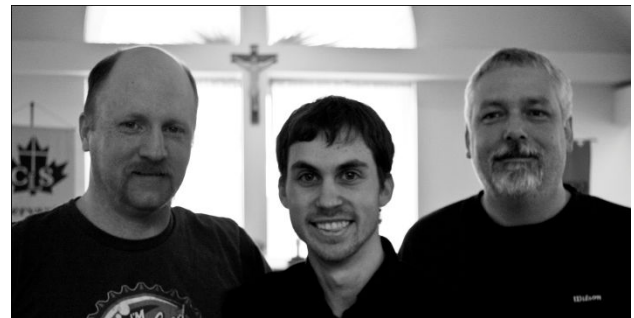
With the regular meetings of the CLS Guild always taking place at Edmonton's Seminary, there's sometimes the feeling in the church community that Guild work only take place in Edmonton. While seminarians and their life at the Sem. are the foci of Guild activities, the work of Guild members and represented goes on all over the country.

That's especially true of those people who have volunteered to be Guild representatives. You know the ones. They may already have approached you this year for membership money and then they ask you for your address, your phone number, and even your email address! CLS Guild representatives have been faithfully and persistently "niggling" people for years because they recognize the value and the struggles of seminary education. They know that the students have given up lifestyles and means of support in order to immerse themselves in four years of intensive post-graduate study and personal formation. The representatives feel the needs that the students and their families face; they want to support, and get others to help support, the students in the midst of seminary life.

CLS Guild needs Guild representatives in every LCC congregation in the country. If you are stirred by the needs of seminary students and their families, consider helping with the membership drive and being a spokesperson in your congregation. The tasks of the representative include being a liaison with the Guild Executive and the Development Department at the Seminary, collecting membership renewals once a year, and distributing Guild information periodically throughout the year. If you recognize your participation as a Guild representative (or some people in your congregation are urging you to do the job!), please consider becoming a Guild repre-

sentative. Contact the Development office (Sandra Esperanza at 780-474-1468 or sesperanza@concordiasem.ab.ca) at CLS and find to what you can do to support the CLS Guild.

Take Wing across western Canada



Take Wing students, Todd Guggenmos, Vincent Moore, Mark Schultz

For another year, three second-year seminarians* spread out from Edmonton to bring a little bit of seminary life to communities away from the campus of Concordia Lutheran Seminary. Todd Guggenmos was hosted by Walnut Grove Lutheran Church in Maple Ridge, BC, Vincent Moore by Redeemer Lutheran Church in Victoria, BC, and Mark Schultz by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Regina.

No student trip to the parish is usual and this year's trips were no exception. Todd joined his host at his arrival by attending a funeral. They followed that up with home and church visits, a men's breakfast, a visit to an addiction recovery facility, meetings with friends and church members, preaching and service assistance before returning home. Mark's trip to Regina was just as packed full of visits and meetings. His introduction to the church was through the Friday evening youth group. He, too, continued with Saturday visits and meetings before helping with Sunday service and sermon. As with the others, Vince assisted in

Sunday morning preaching and worship. In addition to similar experiences, he enjoyed the added benefit of meeting with the local “winkel,” the name given to circuit meetings of pastors who take time each month to share in collegiality, personal concerns, and events in their parishes.

Each seminarian returned to the seminary enthusiastically talking about parish life with an almost wistful anticipation for their next year in vicarage and a future when they can be immersed in parish life. Each one revealed the great opportunity they had to represent the seminary in the midst of their time as students and to speak about their jobs as seminarians. Whether during their visits with their billets, ministering at homes and institutions in the parishes or ministering in front of the assembled worshippers, they experienced first-hand what would become their roles as pastors and shared what are currently their lives in the seminary.

The Take Wing program connects currently working second-year seminarians with churches. Both the students and the church communities hear and tell each other about their respective worlds and give each other a glimpse into life in the parish and at the Sem. This year many more churches requested students than there were students available. If your congregation would like a Take Wing visitor next winter, send a note to the Development Department making your interest known. Seminarians will be assigned in late November or early December.

*A fourth student, Cody Cooper, was delayed in his trip but will be travelling outside of Edmonton in the near future.



Guild members Lorna Olson, Elsie Rodeman, Hilda Schoepp



Guild members Ellen Raaflaub & Patrick Moore

Guild activities and accomplishments

The Guild seeks to meet the needs of seminarians and their families in a number of areas of their lives. These include their studies, their community activities, and their home lives. To accomplish those goals the following are some projects the Guild has undertaken:

- Gift cards given to seminarians for groceries and household supplies
- Food pantry groceries and other consumables to all seminarians.
- Window coverings for chapel so that students can see projected programs.
- Baby change tables for the men’s and women’s washrooms.
- Student books and pectoral crosses to first year M.Div. seminarians.
- Take Wing to four communities.
- Support of student events by hosting and supplying food and refreshments throughout the year.
- Distribution Christmas cards and other correspondence to seminarians.
- Financial contributions to the CLS Guild Endowment fund to build up the fund’s principal.
- Providing volunteer help to Seminary activities and events.
- Funding of seminary wives retreats.

Guild Executive

Patrick Moore (Christ, Fort Saskatchewan)
– President

Marilyn Jansen (Bethel, Sherwood Park)
– Vice-President

Ellen Raaflaub (Christ the King, Edmonton) & Lillian Bulman (Redeemer, Edmonton) – Co-Secretaries

Hilda Schoepp (St. Matthew’s, Stony Plain)
– Treasurer

For more information, check out the Seminary’s web site at www.learngrowserve.ca