



learn  
grow  
serve



## Prayers Answered!

The theme of the 28th academic year is Jesus' call to prayer: "*Ask the Lord of the harvest... to send out workers into his harvest field.*" (Mat 9:38). We are happy to report your prayers are being answered at Concordia Lutheran Seminary! This year we have been blessed to receive three new students for the Masters of Divinity program who desire to serve our Lord as his workers: Aaron Astley, Keith Hoveland, and Eric Moffett. Each comes to the seminary by different paths. Aaron graduated from the University of Alberta last year with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Eric graduated from Concordia University College of Alberta in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, served one year with Crew Ministries, and more recently has been teaching guitar for the last two years. Keith is pursuing a new vocation after twenty years as Construction Project Manager for CIBC. These new students, and in fact every one of our fifteen M.Div. students, are being formed to be the answer to congregations and individual's prayers for a pastor to serve them. Five of them plan to graduate in six months and to receive their first calls.

We thank God for your prayers, but also we thank you for sending us students! The arrival of Aaron Astley marks an event that has rarely happened in the life of our seminary: along with Roland Starke who is in his second year of studies, we have two students enrolled at the same time who are both "sons" of the same congregation, First Lutheran Church in Lloydminster, Alberta. If this isn't amazing



DID YOU KNOW GIFT CARDS ARE ANOTHER WAY OF SUPPORTING THE FOOD BANK?

enough, First Lutheran has in fact sent 2 students to CLS who now serve as Pastors (Garry Heintz – Redeemer, Kakabeka Falls, ON; Randy Heide – St. John's, Warman, SK), and several students who now serve either as Directors of Parish Services or Lutheran School Teachers. How has one church sent so many? Richard Starke, elder at First Lutheran, boils it down to the encouragement of those who have the gifts for ministry: "I think it is because our pastor presented the ministry as a career option and the congregation has been very supportive of those who should consider that vocation."

In addition to the fifteen M.Div. students this year (5 of whom are on vicarage), there are two full-time and 1 part-time Open Studies students. The Open Studies program allows for qualified students to take a certain number of M.Div. courses without having been enrolled in M.Div. program. One additional student is a Colloquy student who is transitioning from working as a Director of Parish Services to the pastoral ministry.

### EDMONTON

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## A Time of Change – A Time of Hope

The year just concluded has seen many changes at our seminary, with still more to come. Most notable has been the transition in our presidency. At the end of October, Dr. Manfred Zeuch tendered his resignation after assuming his office in January 2007. During the intervening five years, he led the seminary as it completed a major curriculum review and launched new initiatives in distance education. Recent convention action by Lutheran Church—Canada, while mandating greater cooperation between our two seminaries, also offered new directives for providing theological education in the context of decreasing synodical revenue.

In response to the new realities, the position of Director of Development was discontinued, and that of librarian reduced to half time. Rev. Daniel Deyell is seeking other employment and Jane Huber has found a full-time position elsewhere.

While impacting the seminary generally, such transitions have also affected the individuals and their families in more personal ways. We thank God for what He accomplished through each of them, and pray for His blessings on their future service.

In spite of all these changes, we look forward to the days ahead with hope and confidence, not in ourselves, but in the promises of God. The task –

and privilege – of preparing pastors for the church continues. Students remain eager to learn. Faculty and staff are working closely with the Board of Regents to guide the seminary through the new challenges we face. We are grateful that professor emeritus Dr. Norman Threinen will serve as interim president until such time as we are blessed with a new full-time president.

The religious scene in Canada, and in much of the world, is not very encouraging. Even within much of Lutheranism, secular values are given priority over God's word. If ever there was a time when we need strong seminaries, in which God's word is upheld and pastors are equipped to proclaim it faithfully and lovingly, that time is now. And we are blessed with such seminaries in Lutheran Church—Canada.

As the new year unfolds, we will continue to count on the good will and support of our friends through their prayers and gifts. And, since we are invited to ask "the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest" we are also confident that He will continue to use us as His instruments for answering that prayer.

Edwin Lehman



### IN MEMORIAM: RAY SMITH

The seminary lost a wonderful friend and important former employee when Ray Smith died on September 9, 2011.

Ray played an important role here for a number of years, serving as Treasurer from 2006 through 2009. During that time, he not only kept the books but revamped our accounting processes, reorganized the budget, and kept things running smoothly as the seminary moved from an interim presidency to the administration of Dr. Zeuch. Special challenges came along too, for instance, when financial aid monies ran short in 2009, and when LCC's "Task Force" was examining every dimension of seminary operations (2008-2011). Ray accepted all of the extra work these and other circumstances presented, and completed everything he was asked to do with his signature blend of competent cheerfulness.

He also became a great friend. A quiet man, Ray didn't thrust himself into the spotlight or impose himself on others. Yet his gentle friendliness endeared him to the whole seminary community, staff and students alike. He came to chapel whenever he was on campus, and made a point of including both himself and his wife Bonnie in the seminary's special services and social functions. Ray did this not because he had to, as part of his job, but because he believed in the seminary's mission and wanted to support it by every possible means. Whether we studied here or worked here, we ourselves mattered to Ray, and he found ways to let us know this. A special Christian brother, he will be deeply missed.

## Quest

Nearly 50 pastors and lay people recently benefitted from having access to our Church's seminary. They came together from five provinces to participate in our Fall Quest course: "Let the Stones Speak," a series of two-hour illustrated talks. Each of the four sessions, welcomed about 20 participants in a seminary classroom and about 30 of them online. While Dr. Steve Chambers led the course, Jeff Nachtigall provided technical support, and Ellen Raaflaub brought each night's snack.

The Winter Quest course: "Where did the Bible we use today come from?" with Prof. Jonathan Kraemer, begins on January 17, 2012 (Tuesdays from 7 - 9pm).

The free Quest course, which takes place in the seminary's distance-education classroom, is supported by your donations. You are welcome to attend in person, or online. If you have a computer with a decent quality internet connection, capable of using Skype or watching YouTube videos, you are ready to participate. Join us online here: <http://ilt.adobeconnect.com/quest>

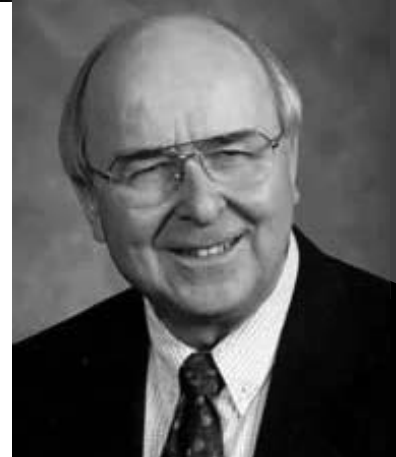


PARTICIPANTS JOINING QUEST ONLINE FROM ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON

(for more information, or to register for the free classes, contact Sandra Esperanza at [development@concordiasem.ab.ca](mailto:development@concordiasem.ab.ca) or 780-474-1468, ext. 229.

Some Bible Study groups have taken advantage of the online classes by gathering where they could project the course on a screen. It is easy to set-up and get connected to the class, contact the seminary to get your group started.

There have been many changes at the seminary over the last year; Quest has changed too, now it's better.



### NEW INTERIM PRESIDENT

The Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary has announced the appointment of Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen as Interim President, effective January 1, 2012.

Dr. Threinen's history with the seminary dates back to its inception in 1984 when he joined the faculty as an assistant professor. He became a full professor in 1993, a position he held until his retirement in 2002. Dr. Threinen also served as Interim President of CLS in 2003-2004 when Dr. Andy Bacon was engaged in military chaplain duty.

## Distance Education So Near, Yet So Far

It's a 3,500 km drive, give or take a few detours, from the classroom in Edmonton to the classroom in St. Catherine's, Ontario. Yet, 6 times per week, students and instructors travel between these distant places of learning to share lectures, discussions, and civil arguments about things like Lutheran dogmatics, post-reformation history, and Christian ethics.

There would be no costs savings in sharing classes like this if students and instructors did indeed travel from seminary to seminary over and over again, but there really is no other way to effectively "form servants for Jesus' sake" without getting into the content, face to face. Right?

Prior to the recent LCC Convention, LCC's seminaries were already planning to share classes by video conference. The faculties agreed, with some hesitation, that this could be done, and planned to share courses wherever

there was appropriate overlap between the two similar programs. Using a hosted video conference plan and an online course management system, the seminaries established virtual "rooms" where the two physical classrooms would join each other for regular lectures.

Now, 2-1/2 years after CLS began testing this technology, both seminary faculties have been exposed to this hybrid environment, and some opinions have changed. One faculty member was recently heard saying, "This is working surprisingly well."

One of the fears frequently expressed regarding embarking on "distance education" was that we were all overlooking the importance of the seminary community. So far we have only enlarged the community by combining forces with CLTS, and we are building the potential for making the community stronger. Without the travel cost.

## Change – At the Library

For a while there, things looked grim. The seminary's library suffered a "triple whammy" in summer 2011, facing a 58% budget cut as a result of the LCC-brokered Memorandum of Agreement, the resignation of Jane Huber as library technician, and the breaking-in of Dr. Steve Chambers as Acting Library Director while Dr. Ed Kettner was on sabbatical. How would things go, in the face of so many challenges?

Several months later, the answer seems to be, "The library is doing very well, thanks!" The advent of so many changes all at once has actually proven to be a blessing, in several ways.

Take staffing, for instance. The smaller budget means that the seminary can no longer afford a full-time library worker. However, God has provided a wonderful three-part solution. Part one is Maria Vicente, our new half-time librarian. She holds a Master's degree in Library Science and has ten years' experience with Edmonton Public Library. Among the few tasks she wasn't already familiar with were the cataloguing of new materials and the arranging of inter-library loans, but she has mastered both areas in her first month at the seminary. "I'm really enjoying the chance to be involved in so many different kinds of library work," Maria says, "especially in a warm Christian community."

Part two of the staffing solution is "the afternoon crew" of four seminarians. Three will be graduating this year (Steve Hoffman, Rod Parker, Tim Schneider); one is in first year (Aaron Astley). Although none of them had worked in a library before, they now provide 20 hours of friendly and competent service per week. Very quickly they learned how to shelve books, issue cards, run the computerized library-management system, and provide circulation services. "It's been a great learning experience," Aaron says.

Part three involves the bookstore. The main tasks here are the ordering and selling of textbooks, which sounds simple enough but can actually become quite complicated given the proliferation of online booksellers (and off-campus students!). The solution here is first-year student Keith Hoveland, who is using his extensive management experience to set up



MARIA VICENTE, OUR NEW HALF-TIME LIBRARIAN

an entirely new bookstore system. "I didn't realize how many great theological books there are out there," he says, "or how easily accessible they are. I'm discovering all kinds of things!"

Besides staffing, the library is successfully meeting other new challenges too. The original budget for new books was tiny, but moving away from print copies of many journals to electronic subscriptions is saving big dollars, which will be re-directed toward books. Several categories of items that were formerly unavailable to most borrowers (including worship materials, Bible studies, etc.) have been moved into the regular collection. A formal agreement has been worked out with CUCA's library to provide consultation and specialized services that the seminary is not yet able to provide for itself. And the long-term project of attaching bar-coded labels to all library materials has been moved onto the fast track, again to make the entire collection more readily accessible to all users.

A final piece of good news is that the library has steadily become more useful to more people over the last few years. Its total circulation has been increasing every year since 2007-08 —between 13% and 21% annually. Some of this increase comes from seminary students, but the bulk of it is actually from other users (seminary faculty and staff, CUCA students, and patrons from the wider community).

What lies ahead? The energetic new library staff sees the need to develop more new policies, procedures, and approaches. What a blessing this time of great change is turning out to be.

## Seminary Student in Focus

**Name:** Keith Hoveland

**Home District:** Alberta–British Columbia District

### How long have you felt the desire to serve as a pastor?

Since 2005. I was encouraged by my Pastor, Lee Loveridge, to take on the role of Elder at King of Kings. After about 2 years in that role, one evening after dinner with him and his wife, the suggestion was made that I consider the ministry. After a year of prayer and deliberation, I began the task of upgrading my education so that I could start seminary.

### How does the Seminary experience differ from what you imagined earlier?

Prior to starting Seminary I thought that it would be purely academic in nature, Professors lecturing to students, paper writing and exams, just a typical college or university experience. Once I began my studies my understanding of it soon changed. There is, of course, the academic side of the Seminary, but it is much more than that. It is a practical school as well, where one learns what it means to be a pastor.

### How would you describe life at the Seminary?

It is an extension of my family. The staff, faculty and fellow students have quickly become like family, people that I can share my successes and my struggles with. Seminary is a place where I can learn what it means to be a ‘Servant for Jesus’ sake” and also a place that builds my faith through the constant support of the people around me.

### What is your biggest challenge at the Seminary?

The biggest challenge for me is the academic side of my studies. Out of High school I choose to go to NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) to become an architectural technologist because I prefer the technical and practical side of learning. Paper writing and languages have never been my strong suit so I am challenged by the Greek and Hebrew classes, as well as the research papers that are required.

### How has your time at the Seminary impacted your view of the ministry?

I think the biggest impact has been in the understanding of what it means to be a pastor in so many different contexts. Everyone has a story,



KEITH, KRISTA, CAROLE AND ERIKA HOVELAND

a life that they have lived and the way one ministers to each of God’s people is a little different. For centuries, a pastor’s vocation has been thought of as sharing with people “the cure of souls”. Just as a doctor provides a diagnosis for his patient and provides a prescription to cure the illness, ministry is that of sharing the prescription for eternal life, the loving grace of God through his son Jesus Christ. It is not just about Sunday but about what happens Monday to Saturday as well.

### What are your feelings about the future of your ministry?

My wife Carole and I have spent many an evening discussing this, and we have come to the conclusion that we need to take the feelings that we have about our future, both the joy and the anxiety about what the future holds, and turn it all over to God. God has a plan for our future and our trust must be in the Lord. I always find it so amazing how much comfort it is coming to this realization.

### How would you describe the support you have received while attending Concordia Seminary?

The support within the seminary as well as coming from the Lutheran Church—Canada family as a whole has been tremendous. It is a real comfort knowing that there are whole congregations and Church groups, such as the LWML and the Seminary Guild all the way down to individual families, praying for and providing support to me and my family. All of this support is something that I thank God for every day and would ask that everyone continue to keep the Seminary family, the faculty, administration and students, in their prayers.

## ADOPT-A-STUDENT

Are you part of a group that has *adopted* a seminary student? If so, you should be receiving your introductory letter from your student any day now (if you haven’t already!). Your *adoptee* is thrilled that you are committed to supporting him, whether it be through prayer, or through occasional or regular gifts, and he wants to get to know your congregation or group as well. If you are in the Edmonton area and would like to meet your *adoptee*, stop by the seminary to visit! Sometimes, during the summer months, *adopted* students have had the opportunity to preach at their *adoptive* congregation – what a blessing that would be.

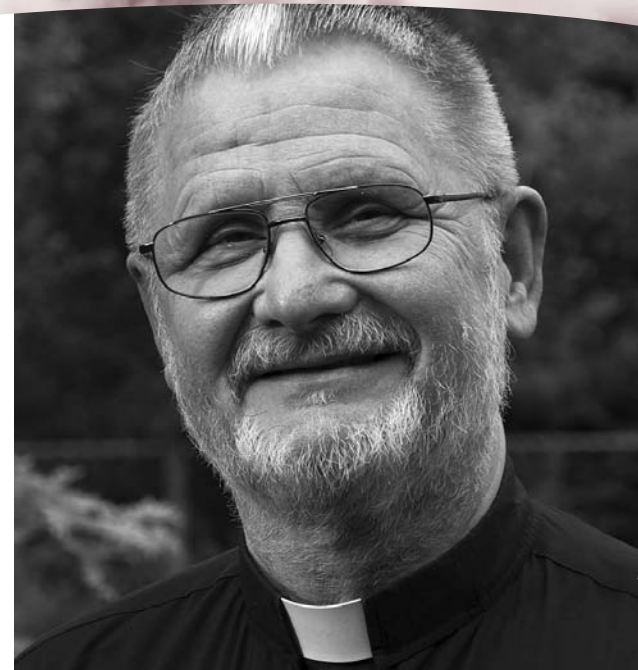
The entire seminary community extends our thanks to *all* of the groups and individuals who support our students; through the Adopt-a-Student program, the seminary pantry, or through gifts to Student Financial Aid. If you would like to get involved in supporting your next pastor now, contact Sandra Esperanza (sesperanza@concordiasem.ab.ca) to get started. Your next pastor can’t wait to meet you!

## Luther Countdown 2011

At the end of October, CLS hosted a series of events in celebration of the Reformation. Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Torgerson, from the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany, served as guest speaker at these events. Born in Germany but raised in Edmonton, Torgerson served parishes in both Canada and Germany. He is currently serving as a guest instructor at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines.

In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, CLS's "Luther Countdown" lecture series, begun in 2008, continued on Thursday, October 27. Torgerson presented "Demographics, The East-West Challenge and Germany's Christian Heritage," a lecture focused on the current state of Lutheranism in Germany.

Then, on Friday, Torgerson was the speaker at CLS's first "Missionary for Lunch" event of the year. Students and faculty, as well as local pastors, gathered for lunch to hear Torgerson speak about Islam in Europe, and the efforts SELK churches have undertaken ministering to the Muslim population of Germany.



REV. DR. WILHELM TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (SELK) GERMANY

Finally, on Saturday, Torgerson served as the guest preacher in CLS's Reformation service at Grace Lutheran Church. This Holy Communion service was officiated by Rev. Dr. Manfred Zeuch. Overall, these Reformation activities were a great success. The events were informative and uplifting as we gained a better understanding of what the Reformation means both in its historical and modern context.



### NEW TREASURER

We welcome our new treasurer, Genevieve Labrie. Genevieve, has been in the accounting field for 15 years, obtaining her diploma at Grant MacEwan. She is the owner of LaBrie Bookkeeping, a French speaking company established as a viable bookkeeping service since 2007.

## Nomination for Honorary Awards

The faculty and Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, invite individuals, congregations, and Boards of Lutheran Church—Canada to submit the names of persons to be considered for one of the seminary's honorary degrees and awards.

The purpose of these honorary degrees and awards is to acknowledge outstanding service to the church, the seminary, and the community. Available degrees are: Doctor of Laws (LL.D), Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.), Doctor of Divinity (D.D.). Available awards are: Faith in Life, Friend of the Seminary, Doulos Dia Iesoun.

All nominations must be submitted on the seminary's nomination forms, which will be provided on request. Desirable qualifications for each position are listed on each nomination form.

Completed forms must be received by March 1, 2012, for consideration. Degrees and awards will be presented at the seminary's Sacred Convocation on May 25, 2012.

#### For more information, contact:

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*A tax receipt will be issued for all gifts over \$9.00. Please note, as of January 1, 2012, tax receipts will sent out once a year.*

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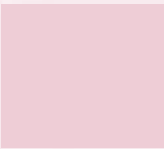
*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**2 Corinthians 9:7**





From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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