



SEMINARY GUILD PROJECTS 2024-25

Chapel of the Holy Apostles’ Renovation

As a special project of Concordia Seminary’s new strategic plan, the Chapel of the Holy Apostles will be dedicated specifically as a space for prayer for current pastors, deaconesses and missionaries; for more harvest workers; and for the lost. The chapel, located beneath Luther Tower, needs significant refurbishments so it can be ready to serve the Seminary community in this wonderful way. Your gifts to this project will help make the needed interior and structural renovations possible. (\$3,000)

Chapel Listening Technology

Your gift to support the installation of new listening technology in the Seminary’s Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus will serve to enhance the ability to hear the service for worshippers who suffer from a hearing disability or for those who would like to hear the service translated from English into their preferred language. This new technology can be connected directly to a worshipper’s mobile device (ear buds or other device) so that a person with a hearing disability is able to better hear the service. In addition, worshippers for whom English may not be their first language – including, for example, some of the Seminary’s Center for Hispanic Studies and Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Technology students – can take advantage of the technology’s two-channels feature and hear the service as it is instantaneously translated by the translator into their preferred language. (\$3,000)

Adopt-A-Student

Gifts for Adopt-A-Student will provide financial aid to students with demonstrated financial need. The goal is to contribute \$1,000 to four Master of Divinity students — a first-year, a second-year, a vicar (third-year) and a fourth-year. Every dollar given will go directly to the “adopted” students. (\$4,000)

Journaling Bibles

Gifts to this project will help to purchase journaling Bibles for incoming ministerial formation students. (\$5,000)

Support for Music Arts

God’s gift of music enriches not just the formative experience for our students, but it also blesses the wider campus. Your gifts to this project help support the Seminary’s many musical activities, including the annual spring tour of the *Laudamus* choir and the year-round activities of the Concordia Seminary Concert Series. (\$2,000)

Holy Land Study Abroad Program

Students who take the course “Exegesis and Teaching from a Biblical Context” are offered the opportunity to study in the Holy Land in the summer. From hiking in the Wilderness of Zin to swimming in the Dead Sea to walking where Jesus walked and taught His apostles, students will deepen their understanding of Scripture and receive a formative experience like none other. Your gifts to this project will underwrite those extra expenses (over and above tuition) and help make it possible for more students to afford to take this class. You can help the Bible come to life for future students by supporting this formative experience. (\$3,000)

Commencement Reception

The Seminary Guild has a long-standing legacy of sponsoring the on-campus reception following the annual Commencement exercises in the spring. Gifts to this project provide for the refreshments served. (\$1,000)

Total Approved Projects = \$21,000

If more than \$21,000 is received, \$1,000 will go to the Chapel of the Holy Apostles’ renovation. Any additional funds received will support the Holy Land Study Abroad Program.

From the Guild President



It’s 11 o’clock at night and I have come to realize it’s one of my favorite times of the day as it gives me an opportunity to concentrate on the things in the schedule that require either planning or focus. Hardly anyone emails, texts or calls at that hour; there is no place to go; there is nothing on the schedule. When I taught math at the junior college level, I graded tests at that hour. Since these were multiple-step problems, awarding consistent partial credit to all the students in the class required focus without interruptions.

I thought I would write this article earlier today. But I decided to order lunch for pick-up. While I was getting my lunch, I ran across a neighbor, recently released from the hospital and just finishing a therapy session. He was meeting his wife for lunch. He asked if I could join them. Of course. I accepted the opportunity to reach out.

Our community neighborhood meets periodically. This afternoon was the day. When I entered the room, I noticed a lady sitting in a row by herself. I wasn’t sure whether I knew her or had previously met her. Remembering names is a weakness of mine. I sat down on her left, gave my name and asked if we had met before. She replied, not here, but she is a member of the Seminary Guild. How wonderful! We had a great chat before the meeting started about her recent move to the neighborhood.

These incidents remind me that each day, multiple times, we make choices and priorities. Some of our decisions are planned in advance; some are decided on the spot. As a member of the Seminary Guild, you have included in your plans the support of Concordia Seminary. If you are in the St. Louis area, it can include participating in person and coming to our monthly luncheons. We also appreciate those participating from a distance, either as individual members or as a group. There are opportunities at church to share information about the Guild with nonmembers. At my congregation, when we go around the table to introduce ourselves to a new member joining the women’s group, I include a couple of sentences about the Seminary Guild. With whom will I meet today and share about the Guild? I can always do my solo work at 11 o’clock at night.

Lord’s blessings,

Carol Schmidt

News Bits

Children of Seminarians: Can You Guess How Many?

Have you ever wondered how many children there are in the Seminary community? The Seminary’s Women’s Coordinator Katie Nafzger takes care to keep good records of families. Her records show a total of 82 children of seminarians (not including the children of vicarage families).



Seminarians and their families participate in the annual Easter egg hunt on the Seminary’s campus Saturday, March 23. Photo: Tyler Simmons

Campus Changes Coming

The Seminary’s new Campus Plan includes new student housing, refurbished historic buildings, new athletic facilities and a new welcome center.

- Phase 1 of the plan includes the construction of three 24-unit apartment buildings and nine townhomes for married students near — just to the west and north — the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. Additionally, an open-air parking structure will be constructed to the southwest of the chapel.
- Phase 2 includes the refurbishment of the historic Craemer, Graebner and Lange halls — wings of the Seminary’s historic campus buildings facing Chapel Plaza — which are currently vacant and unused.
- Phase 3 will include the construction of a 75-unit apartment building for single students close to the chapel.

The plans for a new welcome center will be finalized in a future phase. Learn more about the Campus Plan at csl.edu/campus-plan.



An aerial view of the Seminary campus.

Greetings from our Adopt-A-Student seminarians

The Seminary Guild supports four students throughout their time at the Seminary through direct-to-student aid. Here is the latest from this year’s students:

Matthew Nelson, first-year seminarian

Thank you for your prayers and financial support as the Lord carries and leads me every day and prepares me to be a servant in His church. I love St. Louis and am glad to be in this city. I enjoy Cardinals and Blues games, Forest Park, Mission Taco in Soulard and Grant’s Farm. School has been a lot of work, but God continually reminds me that He is with me and goes before me. I enjoy my classes and really appreciate having the opportunity to worship in chapel every day. We are in the classroom a lot, but going to chapel to seek and worship the Lord and receive forgiveness with my friends and professors is a very special time. God has blessed this school in so many ways. Making friendships here with people from all over the world is a gift from God. I pray that “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe” (Eph. 1:18-19 ESV). God loves you all so much.



Tim Handrick, second-year seminarian

Tim Handrick is a Residential Alternate Route (RAR) student. He will conclude his studies in May.

It is hard to realize that my time at Concordia Seminary will soon be coming to a close. Instead of looking back over the



last two years and wondering what I could have done differently, I must keep pressing on toward the goal. There are still exams to take and papers to write for class. Call Day is approaching, and we will find out then where I will be placed to serve. Commencement is right after that, and then we are expecting our fourth child (son No. 2) to join our family. I have one more class to complete in the first week of June before we pack up and move across the country somewhere. With so much going on, it can be easy to lose sight of the goal that God has called us toward. As we enjoy each moment, we wait with hopeful expectation for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Christ has triumphed over the grave and His victory gives us encouragement to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14 ESV).

Rob Choate, third-year seminarian

It is such an honor to be able to write to a group as kind and generous as yours. You have shared with me and many other young men and women over the years the joys of bringing God’s Word to His people. My wife, Alyssa, and I are in the state of Florida enjoying the waning months of my vicarage and her deaconess internship that will conclude this summer. In the short time that we have been here, we have seen our skills increase. While we have enjoyed many fun Florida activities, our greatest joy has been getting to serve the saints at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Fla. It is a wonderful church filled with God-fearing people. We worship just over 1,000 members on Sundays, and we offer seven services every weekend. Along with these weekend services and our many other classes, ministries and events, we stay busy during the



week teaching and preaching to God’s people. It is a wonderful time in our lives, and we are soaking it all in before we return to St. Louis. We thank you for your prayers and financial support of us while we continue our studies.

Luke Onken, fourth-year seminarian

Greetings once again in Christ! The Lord has blessed me richly through you, the ladies of the Seminary Guild. I thank you for your continued support of me in my Seminary studies! Call Day is fast approaching, and it is all that I as a fourth-year seminarian, along with the rest of my classmates, can think about! Since I am from Seymour, Ind., I have a strong desire to return to somewhere in the Midwest, whether that is Indiana or one of the neighboring states. However, I am more than open to be placed anywhere God has in store for me. My greatest desire is to be able to work with high school students. I went to a Lutheran high school and I found it to be incredibly formative. My high school experience was the first of many steps that led me to Concordia Seminary. If I am able to teach others half of what my teachers taught me, I would consider that ministry to be a success. But whether I am placed as a campus pastor at a Lutheran high school or as a parish pastor, I know God will guide me!



“The Lord has blessed me richly through you, the ladies of the Seminary Guild. I thank you for your continued support of me in my Seminary studies!” — Luke Onken

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Adopted service projects for the 2024-25 academic year:

Chapel of the Holy Apostles renovation	\$ 3,000
Chapel listening technology	3,000
Journaling Bibles	5,000
Adopt-A-Student	4,000
Music arts	2,000
Holy Land Study Abroad Program	3,000
Commencement reception	1,000
Total	\$21,000

For donations or dues, make checks payable to Concordia Seminary Guild and send to:

Mary Jane Autry
2076 Henley Woods
Arnold, MO 63026

Want to donate, learn more or become a member? Visit us online at csledu/semguild or on Facebook by searching Concordia Seminary Guild.

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