

EVER-EVOLVING LEGACY OF SEMINARY GUILD

The Seminary Guild, in its present form, has been in existence for 92 years. What a wonderful legacy of service!

The purpose of the Seminary Guild has changed through the years, to fulfill what was most needed. In the 1800s, before the Seminary Guild existed in its more present form, Mrs. C.F.W. Walther's sewing circle, as it became known, engaged in activities such as mending socks, making bedding, towels, shirts and handkerchiefs for the students, and raising \$1,000 for guest room furnishings. In the 1860s, during poverty-ridden times, they would drive a wagon to nearby farms to gather produce for the Seminary kitchen with a young son of a faculty member.

In 1932, Mrs. Walther's sewing circle expanded its activities and became the Lutheran Woman's League of Greater St. Louis. One of their groups, the student welfare committee, had the following purpose: "Arouse a deeper interest in Concordia Seminary and its students by the women of the St. Louis area and its surrounding territories." One of its notable initiatives was the annual jelly shower, where the women from the area brought homemade jams and jellies to the Seminary dining room in November. Some women traveled a great distance by bus and train, covering more than 100 miles in some cases. This successful project was held for several years, with approximately 1,100 women responding annually and an average of 2,000 jars collected.

An interesting development occurred in 1941. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was formed, being divided into smaller divisions known as Synodical districts. What had been the student welfare committee became the student welfare committee of the LWML Western District. In the 1944 LWML convention, the group name changed again to the Concordia Seminary Guild of the LWML, St. Louis Zone, and would limit its work to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Through the years, the Concordia Seminary Guild of the LWML contributed to various projects for the students, including Christmas boxes, establishing a health clinic, creating a recreation/lounge area in Wyneken Hall and providing bed linens and blankets.

Due to cost accounting and food budgets, the Seminary could no longer accept jam and jelly donations in the early 1950s. The Concordia Seminary Guild of the LWML adapted to the

changing needs and transitioned from accepting jam and jelly donations to initiating specific cash projects each year and soliciting monetary donations. One of the earliest projects was providing \$100 for a student council retreat focusing on devotions and preparing for the upcoming school year.

In January 1955, the group became a separate entity and was named Concordia Seminary Guild. The tradition of monetary support of designated projects continues to this day.

At one time, a gift was presented to each graduating student from the Seminary Guild. Once, it was a framed picture of the Luther statue on campus. Then, the thought evolved into presenting a graduating class gift to the Seminary. Now, the focus has been to gift incoming students with journaling Bibles.

There have been several projects through the years. In 1966, \$2,000 was donated to purchase bell No. 16 for the Seminary's carillon. Beautiful furniture was also provided for the lounge in Loeber Hall. The women also maintained the altar linens in the chapel and purchased a piano for Koburg Hall. Additionally, equipment was provided for the Pederson Field House.

The tradition of supplying refreshments for graduation receptions started in the 1960s and continues today. In recent years, the Seminary has consistently supported four students annually through the Adopt-A-Student program.

Our project goal this year is to raise \$21,000 through donations. This will support, in addition to the journaling Bibles, Commencement reception and Adopt-A-Student projects already mentioned, the following projects:

- Music arts (mainly *Laudamus*)
- Chapel of the Holy Apostles' renovation
- Holy Land study abroad program
- Chapel listening technology



New seminarian Isaac Conrad receiving a journaling Bible during Orientation week from Alice Kastens.

FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT



It is 11 p.m., my best time to get certain types of work done. I recently attended the June board meeting of the Seminary Guild. It was the last board meeting for Joan Schlichter, who has served as historian for the last two years. Twice she served as president for two-year terms, and then again, a couple of years later, she served another two-year term. Judi Winker has been serving as membership chair and will move into the position of historian, continuing her service on the Seminary Guild board. Mary Wolfram has been appointed as membership chair.

Our June meeting is where plans are made, particularly for the luncheon programs for the upcoming academic year. The publicity chair, who graciously serves as editor of our newsletter, reminded me that she was working on the fall issue of "Guild Lines." Material is due quite soon. I'm on it.

Each August, the Seminary Guild board has the opportunity to participate in the new student orientation. This year, plans are slightly different.

One of the Seminary Guild's projects in recent years was to provide financial support for the day that new students participate in a servant event. This opportunity will not take place this year. The Seminary Guild's financial support for that project has now been reallocated to support new listening technology in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus.

The project of providing a journaling Bible for each new student was a bit more personalized this year. Five Seminary Guild board members were present between morning chapel and the student's late morning meeting to distribute the Bibles and briefly chat with the new students. The Seminary Guild also was given time in an organized orientation meeting for new students to talk about the history of the Seminary Guild, its purpose and how it benefits Seminary students.

Did you know women and/or groups within congregations any place in the country where current students are members can be a member of the Seminary Guild? Really! You don't even have to know a current student to be a member. If you haven't already, won't you consider joining us?

Please remember the Seminary students in prayer and financially support the service projects.

Lord's blessings,

Carol Schmidt

NEWS BITS

UPCOMING DATES

Mark your calendars for the 2024-25 luncheon/brunch dates in Koburg Hall and visit us online at csl.edu/semguild for a list of all the programs:

- 11:30 a.m., Dec. 6, 2024
- 11:30 a.m., Feb. 7, 2025
- 11:30 a.m., March 7, 2025
- 11:30 a.m., May 9, 2025

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A tribute gift is a meaningful way to memorialize a loved one or to honor the impact that a special person has had on your life. Your gift will be mentioned in "Guild Lines."



GREETINGS FROM OUR ADOPT-A-STUDENT SEMINARIANS

The Seminary Guild supports four students annually throughout their time at the Seminary. Here is the latest from this year's students.



NATHANIEL PEKARI, FIRST-YEAR SEMINARIAN

I am a first-year Master of Divinity (M.Div) student from Peabody, Mass. I recently graduated from Hillsdale College in Michigan with a major in English literature and a minor in French. I am excited to live and study at the Seminary, and I plan to join the soccer and basketball teams. I am passionate about worshiping God through art, especially literature and music. I like to read and write poetry and short stories, and I have played the violin for over 10 years, and I am working on training my vocal abilities and teaching myself to play guitar. Thank you all for your kindness, generosity and prayers as I learn and grow in faith.



MATTHEW NELSON, SECOND-YEAR SEMINARIAN

I have been growing a lot this past year in my preparation toward becoming a pastor, more than I can express in this note. Being at the Seminary brings many blessings and challenges, but God graciously reminds me this is where He wants me to be. God has been teaching me to focus on Him while letting the Word of Christ dwell in me richly (Col. 3:16). That is where true joy is found. He is teaching me to rejoice in suffering because God is the King of all creation, in our good and bad days. God also has been teaching me to do my absolute best and leave the results up to Him because He is sovereign. Thank you for your prayers and support; your help is



TIM HANDRICK, VICAR/THIRD-YEAR SEMINARIAN

What an exciting time for my family and me! In May, we welcomed our fourth child, Everett, into our family. I also graduated with a Master of Arts (M.A.) in theology and received my vicarage assignment to All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, Ga. In June, we said goodbye to friends and family in Missouri, moved to our new home and began vicarage. As a Residential Alternate Route (RAR) student, my on-campus formation has ended. This year of vicarage will be an opportunity to walk alongside another pastor as I prepare for ordination and installation at All Saints next summer. Since I began, this congregation has been reminding me of the importance of intentionally resting. Even Jesus stepped away from the crowds to rest and pray. In Matt. 11:28 He says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." The rest He offers is a peace that passes all understanding. Our sins are forgiven and the burden of guilt has been lifted off our shoulders by His gracious hand. The Seminary Guild is such a blessing to our family. You not only support our financial needs but also lift our family up in prayer. We are so grateful for the ways in which you help us carry our burdens!



ROB CHOATE, FOURTH-YEAR SEMINARIAN

Hello, Seminary Guild! I completed my vicarage year and visited some family before beginning my fourth year in August. I have many things to look forward to as I return to school, including seeing my buddies back from vicarage, enjoying our beautiful campus and growing in my skills to preach and teach God's Word. But the thing I am most looking forward to is the birth of my son in December. My wife, Alyssa, is pregnant and will be completing her master's thesis to finish her training as a deaconess. She is a warrior and a trouper to be able to do both at the same time, and all of her many other jobs and vocations. Our vicarage and internship year was a tremendous year of growth for us as we learned many new skills. We were blessed to be at a large church that offered us a wide array of opportunities to preach, teach, counsel and even grieve with the saints at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Fla. We thank you for your continued support as we finish our Seminary studies this year. God's blessings to you all!

“THE SEMINARY GUILD IS SUCH A BLESSING TO OUR FAMILY.”

- TIM HANDRICK

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
Permit No. 1058

CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-25

PRESIDENT Carol Schmidt <i>Village, Ladue, Mo.</i>	HOSPITALITY Eileen Smith <i>Peace, Lemay, Mo.</i>
VICE PRESIDENT Jane Schmidt <i>Christ Memorial, St. Louis, Mo.</i>	MEMBERSHIP Mary Wolfram <i>Salem, Affton, Mo.</i>
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Di Egberts <i>Immanuel, Olivette, Mo.</i>	PROJECTS Alice Kastens <i>Peace, Lemay, Mo.</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY Donna Werner <i>Salem, Affton, Mo.</i>	HISTORIAN Judi Winker <i>Peace, Lemay, Mo.</i>
TREASURER Mary Jane Autry <i>Reformation, St. Louis, Mo.</i>	PUBLICITY Angela Gielow <i>Zion, St. Charles, Mo.</i>
ASSISTANT TO THE TREASURER Marie Springer <i>Resurrection, St. Louis, Mo.</i>	ADVISORY MEMBER Tori Egger <i>Hope, St. Louis, Mo.</i>
BYLAWS Margot Loebbs <i>Immanuel, Olivette, Mo.</i>	SEMINARY LIASON Kim Braddy

CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD SERVICE PROJECTS 2024-25

Journaling Bibles for incoming students*	\$ 5,000
Adopt-A-Student*	4,000
Musical arts	2,000
Chapel listening technology	3,000
Commencement reception	1,000
Chapel of the Holy Apostles' renovation*	3,000
Holy Land study abroad program	3,000
Total	\$21,000

*Completed

FOR DONATIONS OR DUES, MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD AND SEND TO:

Mary Jane Autry
2076 Henley Woods Drive,
Arnold, MO 63010-1878

Want to donate, learn more or become a member?

Visit us online at csl.edu/semguild, on Facebook
by searching Concordia Seminary Guild or call
Mary Jane Autry at 314-578-9158.

Concordia Seminary
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, MO 63105

