

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

Inside the base of Luther Tower is the Chapel of the Holy Apostles, used for private meditation, devotions and prayer office services. Thank you to Seminary Guild for joining other donors in funding the recent renovation of this chapel.

This sacred space is devoted to prayer to God for every need and concern, but most especially for a threefold petition: That our Lord would raise up new pastors for His church; that our Lord would bless and strengthen current pastors, missionaries, deaconesses and other church workers; and that our Lord would bring those who are still in darkness into His marvelous light.



ALTAR

The granite altar at the center of the chapel focuses our attention on the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Its dark color symbolizes the sins of the world Christ took upon Himself on the “altar” of the cross. On its top, the crosses remind us of the five wounds in Christ’s hands, feet and side. Wrapping around the altar’s edge in Greek letters is an excerpt from Rom. 10:14-15 (ESV), “And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?” This passage reflects the core mission of Concordia Seminary: Preparing men for Word and Sacrament ministry and proclaiming Christ crucified through preaching.



MISSION WINDOW

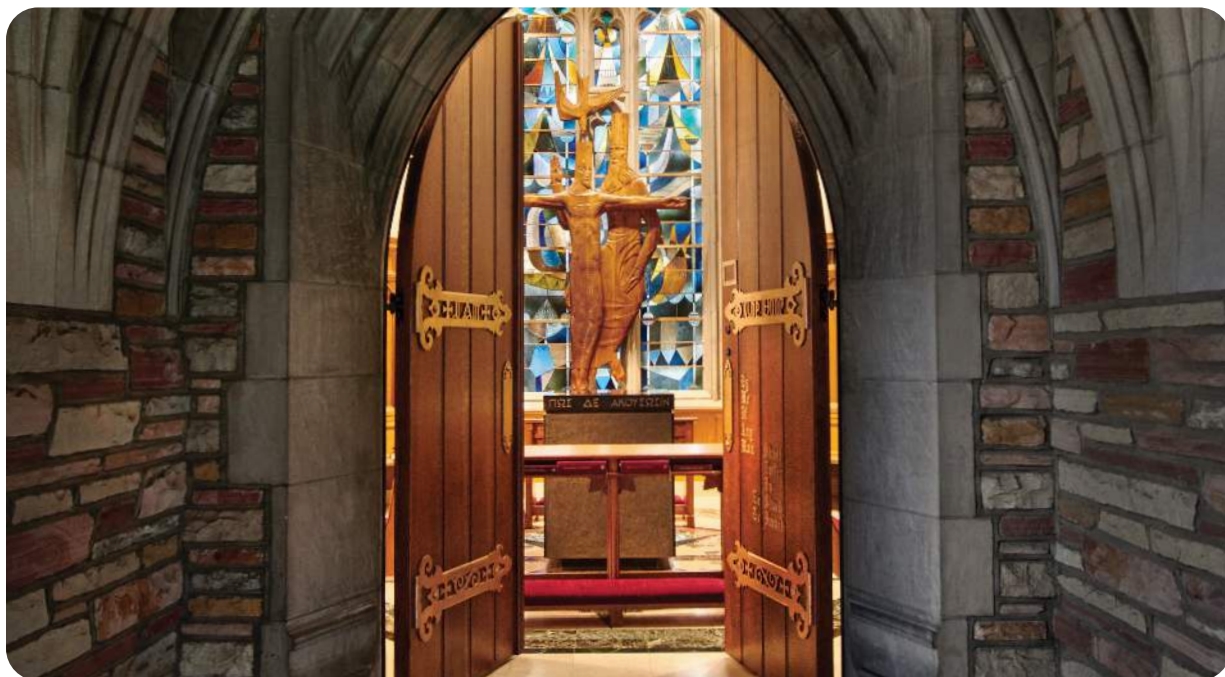
In the stained-glass window, the Lord Jesus stands at the center, with St. Paul to His left, holding the sword and St. Thomas to His right. Paul spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the Mediterranean world, while Thomas carried it eastward, to India and beyond. Together, these saints symbolize God’s mission and the Gospel’s journey to the ends of the earth.



SANCTUARY LIGHT AND MARINER’S COMPASS

Above the chapel entrance, the sanctuary light signifies the presence of Christ in His church. The Hebrew words around the candle come from Is. 11:2 (ESV): “And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

Inlaid as part of the floor at the base of the altar is a mariner’s compass. The Good News of free and full forgiveness through the blood of Jesus is to be announced to the north, south, east and west, as the Lord commanded St. Paul: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth” (Acts. 13:47 ESV).



Chapel of the Holy Apostles photography by Davin Alberson and Jad Ryherd.

NEWS BITS

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Guild board member and Recording Secretary Donna Werner made a \$5,000 contribution to the Project Fund in memory of her mother-in-law Lois Werner. Formerly a Seminary staff member, Donna is a strong supporter of the Seminary. We thank her for the generosity.

FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT



Yes, it’s 11 o’clock at night and time to share:

1. The February Guild luncheon meeting coincided with the Seminary Board of Regents meeting on campus, allowing board members to join us for lunch. With one to two board members seated at each table, both groups engaged in enjoyable and informative interactions. Additionally, the luncheon speakers offered valuable insights into the Seminary’s deaconess programs.
2. It is customary to thank board members for their service to the Guild when they complete their term on the board. The Seminary liaison for the Guild is Kim Braddy. Her official title is manager of Advancement activities and events. Fortunately for us, she has no term limits! Her continuing assistance and hard work for the Guild is invaluable and appreciated. She is both proactive and reactive and anticipates and implements our requests well. Thank you so much, Kim, for your generous, continuous help to the Guild.
3. The day before our February luncheon and meeting was exciting because the Chapel of the Holy Apostles on campus was rededicated after renovations. You will remember that this is one of the Guild’s projects this year and Guild Publicity Chair Angela Gielow and I were in attendance. Please see the article in this issue for more information. The Guild’s financial contribution and support for this project are acknowledged in the program bulletin and were recognized verbally at the program in Werner Auditorium following the onsite rededication. What a blessing to have an intimate, personal space on campus devoted to prayer specifically for church workers, present and future, for the students and faculty at the Seminary, and for spreading the Gospel.

May we, personally and in our group meetings, include the same petitions in our prayers. Prayer is such a wonderful, beautiful thing. It connects us instantly, directly to our heavenly Father, at any hour of the day or night, silently or audibly. Prayer can be long or short, spoken spontaneously, recited from memory, or read from a text authored by someone else.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16-18 ESV).

Lord’s blessings,

Carol Schmidt

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.



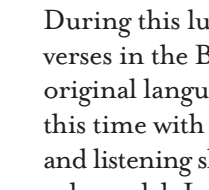
NATHANIEL PEKARI, FIRST-YEAR SEMINARIAN

I am excited about taking my first homiletics — or preaching — course this semester. Throughout the course, I will be studying a variety of methods for writing and delivering sermons. The process involves careful reading of Scripture, structuring and composing the sermon, and refining its rhetorical delivery. The core of a good sermon is always the Gospel of Jesus Christ and it is up to the preacher to tell that message in a way that speaks directly to God’s people. I already enjoy writing and I look forward to strengthening my public speaking skills so I can share the Gospel as powerfully as possible!



MATTHEW NELSON, SECOND-YEAR SEMINARIAN

Something at Concordia Seminary that inspires me currently are my professors. Their love for teaching, studying, meditating upon and explaining Scripture in class has been very valuable. One professor comes to my mind: Dr. Timothy Saleska. He is the Preachers basketball coach, dean of Ministerial Formation and a professor in many different courses (I am sure much more, but this is what comes to mind). His love for the Old Testament has rubbed off on me and my passion for the Hebrew Scriptures has grown substantially. I am new to learning Hebrew, but his encouragement has been beneficial. For the past two semesters, he has met with me and my classmates for “Hebrew Lunch.”



TIM HANDRICK, VICAR/THIRD-YEAR SEMINARIAN

The past seven months on vicarage have benefitted me and my whole family. I have had the privilege of serving the congregation of All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, Ga., where I have been in ministry and community service. Since I am a Residential Alternate Route student, this is my final year of Seminary formation and I hope to receive a call from this congregation. I have had many opportunities to teach, preach and go on visitations, and I have focused on developing relationships within the congregation and in the community. The area of ministry I am most excited about is something I started when I came out here called “Kids on a Mission.” This monthly initiative brings children together from our community to read, sing and play through a Bible story. Each time we get together, we designate one local organization to bless tangibly and then send families out with the means to do so. Watching the children connect the stories of our faith with acts of service is a wonderful sight to see. Thank you for your ongoing support and continuing to lift our family up in prayer. You are a tremendous blessing to us!



ROB CHOATE, FOURTH-YEAR SEMINARIAN

As a concluding fourth-year student, something that has inspired me recently is the thought of my brothers and sisters in Christ who I have trained with over the last four years. Being sent out across the world to witness to all people the truth of the Gospel reminds me that while often we think of the church as the people, we worship with on Sunday mornings, it is so much bigger than what we can see or know. I invite you to join me in praying for the church worldwide, both those who we see and those who are unseen. May God’s peace and blessings be with you all.



Fourth-year seminarian Rob Choate poses with Carol Schmidt and Jane Schmidt during the February 2025 luncheon.

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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

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Mary Jane Autry
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