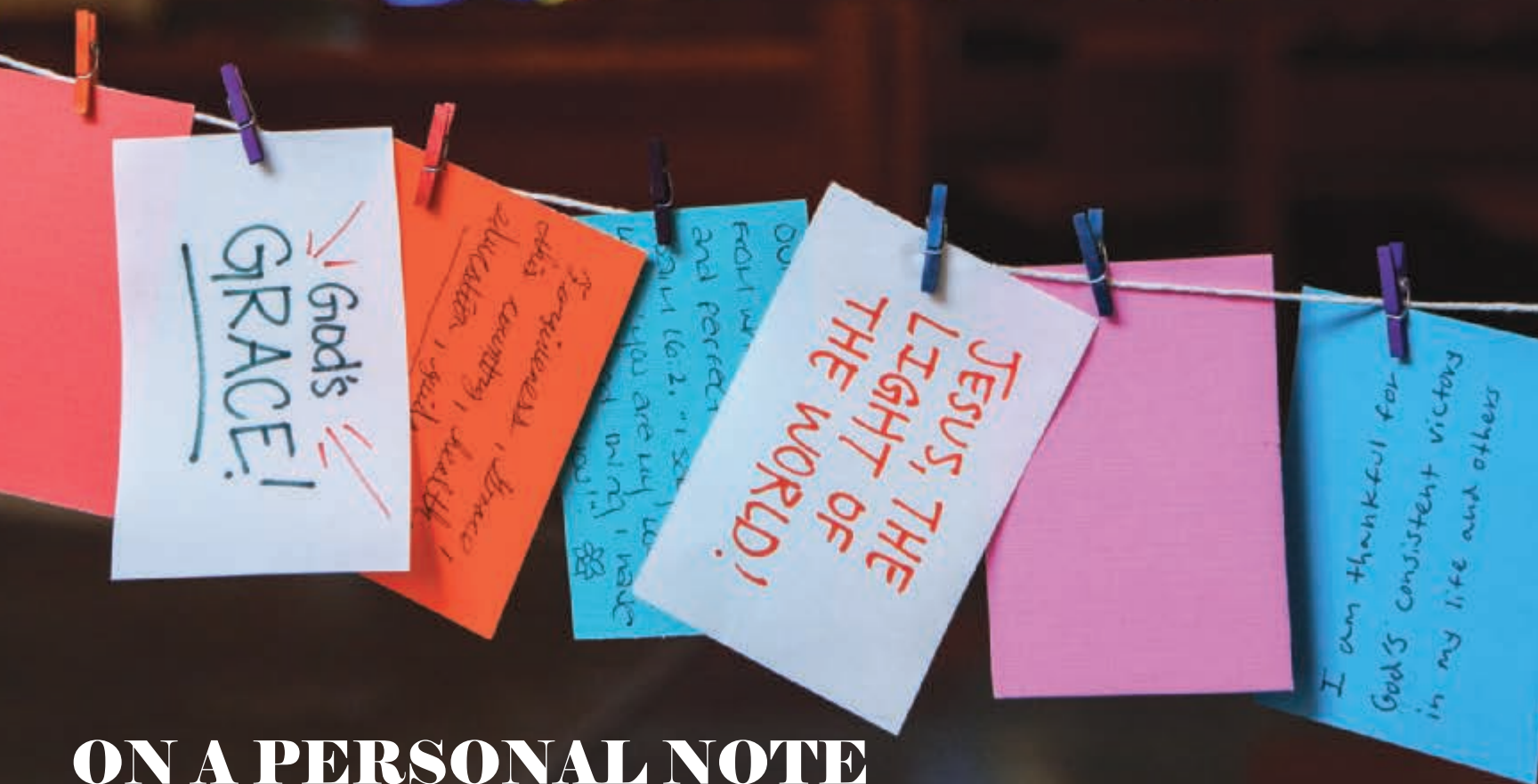


Arbor Light

The Magazine of Concordia University Ann Arbor



ON A PERSONAL NOTE

For decades, Tool Time retreat has fostered deep bonds among youth and CUAA student leaders

Arbor Light

The Magazine of Concordia University Ann Arbor

Spring/Summer
2017

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An anchor degree program equips students to strengthen families.



On the Cover: Students write notes of affirmation and encouragement that remain on display throughout Tool Time weekend retreats. Photography by: Kelly Cieslak



A FAITH-FILLED JOURNEY

Editor's note: As the conclusion of the 2016–17 academic year approaches, so, too, does Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry's 20th year at the helm of Concordia University Wisconsin, and fourth as president of Concordia University Ann Arbor. We chose to mark this milestone by having the president's address come from the person who knows him best.

Dear Concordians,

Words cannot express my feelings as I write this letter, but I'll try anyway. Deeply grateful. Incredibly honored. Proud yet humbled. Blessed by the privilege to serve as the president's wife as we prepare the next generation for service to Christ in the Church and the world! I feel all of this because of you. The support, encouragement, and love you have given Pat and me over the past four years (two decades at CUW) has sustained, uplifted, and inspired us. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

Words cannot express how we felt 20 years ago, July 2, 1997, when we received the call that Pat was chosen to be president of CUW. I'll try anyway. Shocked. Scared. Numb. Excited. At 38 years old, with no administrative experience he was an underdog. As the presidential election process winnowed, we were geared up for a cross-country move to Texas, where Pat had already accepted a new position. Our house was sold! Needless to say, that phone call put into motion a whirlwind of unexpected change that, frankly, we had no idea how to handle. We could only trust in God's plan for our lives and how He would use Pat's leadership role to fulfill His purpose.

Words cannot express how proud I am of Pat, but, again, I'll try anyway. Over the years, I've watched him solve complex problems and sticky situations with great integrity and strength. I've witnessed his tenacity, humility, and patience. He is steadfast, disciplined, and visionary. His faith is active in love! One cannot count the number of times Pat has encouraged, comforted, and inspired others through the Gospel message. He is a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandpa. Our family is his highest priority, and we feel it every day. He is our rock. He is our friend.

My words fall short of adequately describing our journey at Concordia, but that's okay because all that matters is God's Word. His Word is the foundation upon which Concordia is built, and our mission is grounded in Scripture. Over the course of the next 20 years, presidents (and spouses) will come and go, but God's Word will remain. God's Word, made flesh in Jesus Christ, is the heart and soul of everything we do!

In His Name,

DR. TAMARA FERRY
President's Wife
Director of Institutional Research

Within Reach

The Luther Promise makes a CUA A education attainable for more students

By Rachel Ferguson, *University Affairs*

EVER SINCE THE FIFTH GRADE, ASHLEY BARRON HAS had her sights set on a Concordia University Ann Arbor education, but when it came time last year to apply to the university, she wondered if that dream would truly be achievable.

Barron, a Class of 2017 graduate of Lutheran High School North in Macomb, Michigan, knew that Concordia was the place where she could continue to grow in her faith while studying to become a Lutheran elementary school teacher, just like many of her favorite teachers had done before her. Barron and her parents also knew, however, there would be financial barriers to attending a four-year institution.

Then Barron learned about the Luther Promise. This institutionally funded financial guarantee, which Concordia announced last October, provides qualifying undergraduate students with up to \$20,000 in annual aid.

Despite initial concerns, Barron is now able to fulfill her desire of becoming a Concordian because of it.

“Concordia University has a bold vision to be the Church’s school, equipping the faithful to make an impact for Christ in ways they never imagined,” states Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D., president of Concordia. “The Luther Promise marks a significant commitment to invest even more resources in students—like Ashley—ensuring

that lifelong Lutheran education is available to more than ever before.”

To qualify, students must meet one of four criteria. He or she must be a:

- Member of a Lutheran congregation (any denomination)
- Dependent of an alumnus from any of the 10 Concordia University System schools
- Dependent of a rostered church worker within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Graduate of a Lutheran high school (any denomination)

Previously, Concordia students received on average \$13,000 of institutional aid annually. With the Luther Promise, eligible students, including transfer students, are guaranteed up to \$20,000 of aid, depending on student GPA and ACT scores.

Instituted at the hilt of the Lutheran Reformation’s 500th year celebration, the Luther Promise truly is a continuation of the Reformation’s enduring impact, enabling students like Ashley Barron to pursue, as a Concordian, excellence in Lutheran higher education.

If you are passionate about Lutheran higher education and want to donate to the Luther Promise, contact Vice President of Advancement Roy Peterson at Roy.Peterson@cuw.edu.



**CAMPUS
EVENTS**

APR. 28
A NIGHT OF SINGING
Chapel of the Holy Trinity,
8 p.m.



For a full list of campus events, please visit www.cuaa.edu/events

In Loving Memory

Dedicated professor and mentor leaves a lasting legacy

By Rachel Ferry, *University Affairs*
 Photography provided by CUAAs archives

BELOVED CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Ann Arbor science professor, basketball coach, and athletics administrator Dr. T. Alan Twietmeyer entered his heavenly home on November 7, 2016. Twietmeyer served at Concordia from 1986–97, and made a significant impact on the faith of those he lovingly taught and coached.

Twietmeyer was inducted into the CUAAs Hall of Fame in 2014 for his instrumental role in initiating CUAAs membership to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

(NAIA) and the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC), both of which CUAAs still holds membership with today. Twietmeyer gained respect from his peers for his strong demonstration of leadership and values, and was elected as the WHAC commissioner in 1998.

Alumni who personally knew Twietmeyer say that he was greatly respected and admired, and that he was a dedicated husband and father, a selfless mentor to students, and someone who loved unconditionally.



A Value Proposition

New admissions head lets students know the worth of a CUAAs education

By Kali Thiel, *University Affairs*
 Photography by Kelly Cieslak



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Ann Arbor has a new director of enrollment.

Chance Childers stepped into the admissions role on February 1, 2017. He previously served as CUAAs associate head football coach, a position he held for just over five years. In addition to his coaching responsibilities, he led recruitment efforts in Southeast Michigan.

Childers brings more than 13 years' experience in sales. Prior to Concordia, he served as regional sales manager for three

nationally known companies, managing multi-million dollar budgets and routinely surpassing his sales quotas.

In his new role, Childers places a high priority on demonstrating the value of a CUAAs education to prospective students. His passion for Lutheran higher education is infectious, and he's eager to continue the momentum of Ann Arbor's significant enrollment growth.

"I want students knowing and believing that their life is never ever going to be the same after coming to Concordia," Childers says. "We're going to make them better students, and, ultimately, I hope they leave here with a deeper resolve for their faith."

Childers obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration from Concordia University Chicago, and he credits his Concordia education for helping to develop his faith. Childers also met his wife at Concordia Chicago. The two moved to Michigan shortly after they wed and have resided in the state ever since.

"I am so thankful for my Concordia experience," Childers said. "I tell students, 'You know what? I want your experience to be better than mine, and mine is hard to beat.'"

04
 THE CONCORDIA
 WIND AND STRING
 ENSEMBLE CONCERT
*Kreft Center for the Arts,
 Black Box Theatre, 8 p.m.*

13-14
 CLASS OF 1967
 50TH REUNION
[www.CUAAs.edu/
 Classof67](http://www.CUAAs.edu/Classof67)



14
 BACCALAUREATE
Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 11 a.m.

 COMMENCEMENT
Field House, 2 p.m.

Evangelism and Apologetics Through Generations

A look at the Maier legacy and its part in Concordia's future

By Kali Thiel, *University Affairs*



Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier (pictured here, circa 1935–1940) was one of the renowned evangelists of the mid-20th century. Photo courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries



Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier, a respected and widely known author and historian, is pictured here at the Lutheran Hour Ministries headquarters in spring 2016. Photo courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries

WHEN MARTIN LUTHER NAILED his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, he started a reform that has endured for centuries. This anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation presents an opportunity to lift up others, like Luther, who have championed the Christian faith, defended the Word, and shaped the Lutheran Church in significant ways—others, like Rev. Drs. Walter A. Maier and Paul L. Maier. Their witness serves as a model for Concordia as the university prepares students to boldly go forth and do the same.

In his 20 years as speaker of “The Lutheran Hour,” founder Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier never missed a chance to preach the Word of God in its fullest and most compelling truth: Law always with the Gospel, sin with grace, death with Christ’s crucifixion for humankind’s salvation.

Clearly his messages struck a chord, because at the time of his sudden passing in 1950 “The Lutheran Hour” had secured a place as the largest regular broadcast—among secular and religious programming alike—in the history of radio. Thousands of tributes paying respect to Maier reportedly poured in from around the globe that day—including from the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, who once called Maier “the greatest combination of preacher and scholar that America has ever produced.”

Maier instilled in his children the same fervor for spreading Truth to the masses, leaving a legacy that is still powerfully

impacting the Church today. That legacy, in part, comes in the form of Maier’s son, Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier.

A prolific author and renowned historian and public speaker, Paul Maier has devoted his life’s work to tirelessly defending the Christian faith against the fallacies, bias, and poor scholarship of a sinful and misguided culture. He has written numerous scholarly and popular works, including 16 published books in the children’s literature, and adult non-fiction and fiction genres. His theological thriller “A Skeleton in God’s Closet” became a No. 1 national bestseller in religious fiction when it released in 1994. More than five million of his books, as well as over 250 scholarly articles and reviews

in professional journals, are now in print in 20 languages.

The Maier men’s witness serves as a model for future generations, says Concordia President Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D.

“It is essential for the future of the Church that we mark the significant

contributions of those who have paved the way for Gospel proclamation,” says Ferry. “The legacy of Rev. Drs. Walter and Paul Maier is both foundational and inspirational for our students, our synod, and believers throughout the world.”

If helping to establish a tribute to the Maier legacy is important to you, contact Vice President of Advancement Rev. Dr. Roy Peterson at Roy.Peterson@cuw.edu or 262-243-4533.

“It is essential for the future of the Church that we mark the significant contributions of those who have paved the way for Gospel proclamation.”

—Concordia President Patrick T. Ferry

CAMPUS EVENTS

JUNE

01 CARDINAL HALL OF FAME GALA, Earhart Manor Tent

02 CARDINAL GOLF CLASSIC Stonebridge Golf Club, Ann Arbor



Cardinal Hall Of Fame Gala & GOLF CLASSIC

Reformation Relived: AFTER 500 YEARS

ONGOING CELEBRATION

Concordia hosts celebrations of the Reformation Quincentenary

The celebration continues!
All events are free and open
to the public. Join us!

SEPTEMBER 16

REFORMATION 500 OKTOBERFEST
German fest-themed food and fun for all ages

SEPTEMBER 19

REFORMATION ROUNDTABLE
A discussion on the impact and importance
of Luther and the Reformation in various
church denominations and contexts

OCTOBER 15

MICHIGAN DISTRICT-WIDE
REFORMATION WORSHIP SERVICE
Breslin Center at Michigan State University

OCTOBER 31

CUAA REFORMATION SERVICE

NOVEMBER 14

“WHAT THE REFORMATION IS
REALLY ABOUT”
St. Louis Seminary Professor of Systematic
Theology Dr. David Maxwell

THE REFORMATION OF THE church sparked by Martin Luther’s 95 Theses of 1517 continues to shape the world 500 years later. Concordia University Ann Arbor celebrates and explores the Reformation’s continuing relevance today through a student-focused reading plan, an expert speaker series, and university choir tour throughout Germany.

Concordia launched 500th anniversary celebrations last year, partnering with the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to provide a Reformation Reading Plan for college students through the YouVersion Bible App for smartphones and tablets. The reading plan guides readers through the entire Bible in a year, accenting a Gospel order that organizes the plan according to the books that most influenced the Reformers.

The commemoration continues with Reformation Relived: After 500 Years, a four-part speaker series featuring experts on Luther and the Reformation with topics such as “Being Human: Anthropology at the Heart of the

Reformation” and “Luther on the Six Days of Creation.” The series will continue with a Reformation Roundtable on September 19, 2017, and its final speaker, Dr. David Maxwell of Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, on November 14, 2017.

Concordia’s Choir will travel overseas in May for its Central Europe Performing Tour. The choir will visit Eisleben, Germany, where Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, and where he later died on February 18, 1546. The tour will also make stops at Lutherstadt in Wittenberg, where Luther taught for 36 years, and Castle Church, where he nailed the 95 Theses that started the Reformation and where he was later buried.

For more information on future Reformation events at CUAA, visit www.CUAA.edu/reformation500.

June-August

CARDINALS SPORTS CAMPS
FOOTBALL, BOYS AND GIRLS
BASKETBALL, GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
www.concordiacardinals.com



JULY

10-21

SUMMER INSTITUTE WORKSHOPS



ALIVE AND ACTIVE

I HAVE WRITTEN BEFORE ABOUT the wonderful culture of spirituality among our students here at Concordia University Ann Arbor, and the tremendous impact that caring culture has on the continuing growth and progress of the campus community. The writer of Hebrews says: “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword ... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Right now, we are both reflecting upon and anticipating a number of events that celebrate the word of God being alive and active on our campus.

In December, we concluded the 39th annual performance of our Boar’s Head Festival, kicking off our celebration of the Christmas season at CUAA. The performances included the beautiful voices of our Concordia Choir, preparing for a 12-day celebratory tour of Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic in late May 2017, as part of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Financial assistance to students is coming through individual donations, proceeds from domestic touring, and grants.

Our “Reformation Relived: After 500 Years” celebration on campus includes a series of lectures on issues relevant to the Reformation, as well as an old-fashioned Oktoberfest on September 16, 2017 for the campus and the Ann Arbor community. Martin Luther, in full regalia, will roam the grounds talking about the posting of his 95 Theses.

Other campus updates include: the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) awarded the CUAA football team The Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Team Award for its work in community service; the graduating Class of 1966 has provided numerous red outdoor benches around campus; outdoor Wi-Fi has been installed around the central campus to improve communications; and continued growth in all of our academic programming, with the anticipation of what we hope will be another record year of enrollment in fall 2017... God willing.

CURT GIELOW
Campus Chief Executive

**CAMPUS
EVENTS**

AUG.

22
ADMISSIONS VISIT DAY
www.CUAA.edu/visit



Lead Where You Are

CUAA raises up students ready to make a difference on campus and in the world

By Rachel Ferry, *University Affairs*
 Photography by Kelly Cieslak

EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD, UNSURE OF WHAT SHE wanted to study, and more than 700 miles from home, Sidney Bosley had no idea what plans the Lord had in store for her at Concordia University Ann Arbor as she began her freshman year in fall 2013.

Now, in the final weeks of her senior year, Bosley reflects on the God-given gifts and talents she has discovered through opportunities she may not have otherwise had if it weren't for Concordia.

"I feel grateful," said Bosley, a biology major from Canton, Georgia. "It is amazing what you can learn about yourself when you step out of your comfort zone and take advantage of trying something new."

And step out, she did. In her four years at CUAA, Bosley has taken command of student blood drives; served in numerous leadership positions on campus; and is the recipient of the prestigious NAIA Dr. LeRoy Walker Champions of Character Award, hand delivered to her in early January by the commissioner of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

By her sophomore year at CUAA, many around campus were already noticing Bosley's leadership. She was elected team captain for both cross country and track; nominated to the Student Athlete Leadership Team; and was one of 12 students in the nation selected to join the Red Cross leadership class of 2015, part of the Red Cross/NAIA Collegiate Leadership Program.

That summer, Bosley spent two weeks in Washington, D.C., gaining leadership skills and putting together plans for future blood drives at CUAA, which have since doubled in units collected since she took ownership of the responsibility.

"Planning blood drives at Concordia is a way that I can bring students together from all across campus, and we can do something simple that has a huge impact," said Bosley.

In July 2016, she was chosen as the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference recipient for the Leroy Walker Champions of Character Award—one of the most prestigious awards in the NAIA—created to recognize one student from each of the 21 NAIA conferences throughout the country who demonstrates excellence in academics, athletics, and leadership.



"I love that Concordia has brought out the best in me," said Bosley. "Not only is this a place where you can try new things and find out what you're good at, but you get to do that with a supportive and kind community around you that cares about your faith."

On May 14, 2017, Bosley graduates from Concordia, prepared to take her faith and college experiences into the world. She will leave with a better understanding of her leadership capabilities, the love of Jesus Christ, and a greater sense of self. Bosley plans to pursue a career in biological product sales, seeking opportunities in six different cities among five different states.

A new adventure awaits.

28
 OPENING SERVICE
 AND FIRST DAY
 OF TRADITIONAL
 CLASSES



SEPT. 16
 REFORMATION 500
 OKTOBERFEST
 Throughout the CUAA
 campus



19
 REFORMATION ROUNDTABLE
 Krefl Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.
www.CUAA.edu/reformation500

30
 HOMECOMING

A “SCHU” IN

For new head coach, faith and football go hand in hand

By Rachel Ferry, *University Affairs*
Photography by Kelly Cieslak

JOSHUA SCHUMACHER DREAMED OF BEING A COLLEGE head football coach since he was 12 years old.

In high school, Schumacher would constantly draw plays, collect playbooks, record games on VHS tapes, and then rewind plays over and over so that he could draw them out.

“I’ve probably watched the 1997 Packers Super Bowl victory at least 100 times,” Schumacher chuckles.

Now, the Lord has led Schumacher to a new opportunity that fulfills his childhood dream. Coach “Schu” was announced as Concordia University Ann Arbor’s new head football coach on November 15, 2016.

Schumacher succeeds Lonnie Pries, who stepped down as head coach following a record-breaking 2016 football season to focus on athletic director responsibilities. Pries didn’t hesitate to endorse former CUAAs defensive coordinator Schumacher, a technical whiz known for his attention to detail, to become the third football coach in the program’s history.

The two go way back.

In 2006, Schumacher was about to begin his senior year at Concordia University Chicago and the program was searching for a new head football coach. Schumacher was on the interview committee as a player representative.

Joshua Schumacher with his wife, Laura, and their two sons, Griffin (3) and Gordon (4 months old).





Coach “Schu” celebrates on the sideline as the clock winds down, ensuring victory over Missouri Baptist University on November 5, 2016.

“Coach Pries was the first coach to connect faith and football for me, two of the most important things in my life that hadn’t, until that point, really connected,” said Schumacher, who knew within moments of meeting him that he wanted Pries to be his coach.

Six years later, Concordia Chicago football was coming off an undefeated regular season and head coach Pries accepted an offer to leave Chicago for Ann Arbor, taking the helm as athletic director and the head coach of a brand-new football program.

Schumacher, who was teaching and coaching at Faith Lutheran High School in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the time, was one of his first calls.

“I hadn’t talked to Lonnie in years,” said Schumacher. “I thought he was asking me to join him in Chicago. I remember writing, ‘Ann Arbor?!’ on a piece of paper and lifting it up to show my wife, Laura.”

Though they had never been to Ann Arbor, the Schumacher’s didn’t bat an eye. Joshua hopped in the car and left sunny Las Vegas to drive across the country, through Winter Storm Draco, to join Pries in Michigan just days after the phone call.

“I had specifically prayed about being a college coach at a Concordia. I prayed about it a lot. I’ve known that’s what I really wanted to do since I was very young,” said Schumacher.

As a kid, Schumacher went to the local high school football games, but instead of playing football behind the bleachers with the other grade school kids, his father sat right next to him and explained the rules of the game with every passing play.

Schumacher’s parents still watch every play, but instead of sitting next to their son on the bleachers, they watch him coaching on the sidelines from their computer screens in Ghana, West Africa, where they serve as career missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

“My mom will tell me after a loss, ‘You guys didn’t play very good defense that game,’” said Schumacher, with a laugh. “They love me and support me, and I appreciate it.”

Now a father to his own two sons, Schumacher takes seriously his responsibility to develop the young men on his team as both football players and men of faith.

“I’m a Concordia football coach because of our mission statement; we exist as a program to develop our members as athletes, students, men, and Christians,” said Schumacher. “We had no football field and 25 guys on the roster when I first started, and now we compete in a beautiful stadium with nationally ranked teams. Through all of that change and growth, our purpose remains the same.”

“What more can I do?” has always been a mantra of Schumacher’s as he has assisted coaches throughout his life, hoping to advance and refine his skills as a future head football coach.

Now that his prayer has been answered, Joshua Schumacher eagerly anticipates “What more will He do?” through His good and faithful servant. ✚

Hearts Together in The Holy Land

By special contributor **Kristin Rathje**,
adjunct instructor at CUAA

For 12 days, 33 Concordians from Wisconsin and Ann Arbor explored Israel, eyes wide, saying to one another, “Pinch me ... I can’t believe we are actually here!” From singing in an amphitheater in Caesarea to riding on a boat on the Sea of Galilee to exploring Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found to praying at the Western Wall, we have been astounded by the history, the beauty, and the mystery of Israel. We are students and teachers; we are aged 19 to 62; we are from two campuses in different states; we are followers of Christ. We will never be the same.

One of the greatest blessings of this trip was the strong bond that was formed among the sojourners. Strangers when we met, we became a family—laughing and crying together, looking out for one another, and being transformed by walking the very places where many biblical figures walked. Although we departed from one another to return to our respective campuses, we Concordians will remain “hearts together.”

Students interested in studying in The Holy Land (REL476) over Winterim 2018 should contact Rev. Dan Flynn at Daniel.Flynn@cuw.edu. ■



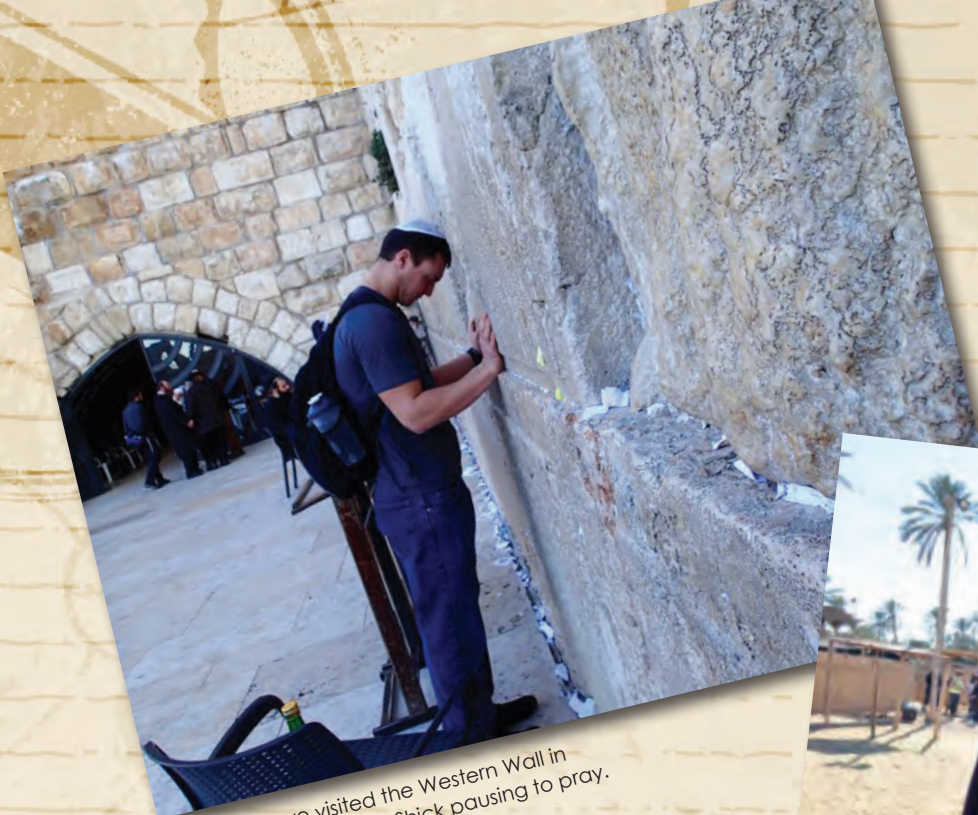
From our hotel overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, we boarded buses and went to Caesarea, where Herod the Great built a deep-sea harbor and a beachside castle. Here, Chris “Critter” Deneen can hardly contain his excitement!
Photo Credit: Monica Lee



Katherine Durkee and Nick Schlosser on a boat on the Sea of Galilee—a tour highlight! The day was overcast and threatened to storm. We imagined how frightening it must have been to be out on the waves with Jesus before he calmed the storm. Photo Credit: Katherine Durkee



On the Sabbath day (Saturday), we traveled to the Valley of Elah, where we each collected five smooth stones as David did when he slew Goliath there. Afterward, our driver took us to his moshav, or community, where a neighbor fed us the best pita, hummus, shakshuka, and salad that we had the whole trip. Notice the clean plates! Photo Credit: Monica Lee



Three times we visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Here's Sam Shick pausing to pray. Photo Credit: Rev. Daniel Flynn



From the Dead Sea to the desert. Monica Lee and Mackenzie Divine are ready for the camel caravan to move. Photo Credit: Mackenzie Drinan



While some days we huddled in winter coats, scarves, and gloves, our days by the Dead Sea required much less clothing. Here's Taylor Jacob, Jessica Kurpinski, Natalie Kurpinski, and Alana Akam enjoying a relaxing float on the mineral-rich water. Photo Credit: Taylor Jacob



Trip leaders Rev. Dan Flynn, pastor at St. Luke Lutheran in Ann Arbor, along with Rev. John Rathje, dean of students at CUAA, and his wife, Kristin Rathje, adjunct instructor at CUAA, both CUAA alumni, pause for a photo moment at Nimrod's Castle. Photo Credit: Olivia Wonsley

CONCORDIA'S STORYTELLER

President Ferry's journals demonstrate his faith that God's hand is at work

By Kali Thiel, *University Affairs*

Photography by Jeffrey Phelps

It was July 1, 1997, and Patrick Ferry was on the cusp of a monumental period of change in his life when he decided it was time to start keeping a journal.

Ferry was professor of history at Concordia University Wisconsin at the time, seeking the Lord's next calling in his life.

He was young, earnest, and humbled by the possibility that he could succeed R. John Buuck as president of the university with aptitude, vision, steadfastness, and fervent attention paid to the Gospel mission.

If not president, then he would become vice president of academics at Concordia University Texas. He had already accepted the position, contingent on being elected president. His bags were literally and, to some degree, figuratively packed for the South, as Ferry famously likes to tell. Of the five serious candidates in consideration for the presidency, Ferry by far had the least leadership experience.

His first journal entry details his reflections as he awaited the electors' decision:

"Today is the last chapter of one part of our life, and tomorrow begins a new one. By noon tomorrow I will know better if I am elected to be Concordia University's next president, or whether I will become Vice President of Academics at Concordia Austin. My feeling is that another will be chosen, though there is no clear choice.... Surely the Lord knows if I have put forth the right vision and if I am the right person."

The next day, "the underdog" was elected the 10th president of Concordia University Wisconsin, and two decades later the university is looking back on the tremendous season of growth it has experienced under his leadership.

THE NARRATIVE APPROACH

The conclusion of the 2016-17 academic year marks 20 years with Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, Ph.D. at the helm of Concordia University Wisconsin, four of them with the Ann Arbor campus also under his charge.

As the third longest-running president of CUW, Ferry has propelled the university through a number of significant changes: the remodel of CUW's bluff, the merge with the Ann Arbor campus, the acquisition of the North Building, and a 74 percent increase in total student enrollment from his first academic year to now, to name a few.

All the while he's kept a near-daily journaling routine, recording his innermost thoughts and reflections on faith, his family, and Concordia's greatest triumphs and struggles.

The routine is therapeutic for Ferry. Oftentimes, putting pen to paper turns into a sort of private prayer practice, he says.

Perhaps it's the history professor in him, but Concordia's president loves a good story, and sometimes his journals are the sounding board for his public addresses. Seldom does a sermon, letter, or

speech go by without a memorable anecdote in its midst—often told with his head cocked slightly to the side and his trademark bowtie in place.

"There's something about the narrative approach," says Ferry. "Sometimes you can get caught up in metrics, but in the end we live our lives in kind of a narrative framework."

BEYOND STORYTELLING

But it's not all talk where Ferry is concerned. His friends, colleagues, and employees know that his ability to seek out feedback, and his capacity for genuine care and concern are equally extraordinary.

One longtime colleague described his observations of the president during the countless meetings they sat in together: "Sometimes these discussions get heated. President Ferry doesn't participate much in that, but he listens, and you can see the wheels turning. And then, at the end of the meeting he's able to say, 'Okay, here's what we're going to do.'"

In other words, Ferry listens, synthesizes, and comes to a decision and then is able to compellingly translate what's important for the university to those who need to hear it. And always at the top of his list of most vital messages is Christ's crucifixion and resurrection for us all.

When Ferry reflects on his first days as president of CUW, and more recently of CUAA, he notes that much has changed. However, one thing is sure, he says—any success that is to be attributed to his time at Concordia University is the result of the Lord at work in him for the sake of His Kingdom.

Or, as Ferry put it on July 1, 1997:

"My confidence rests in God's will being done, and that He knows Concordia's needs better than I do." +



President Ferry has kept a handwritten journal for 20 years, the entire span of his Concordia University presidency. His journaling takes place at home, either at his desk in his study or, in more recent years, in his favorite chair in the family room.

He Leadeth Me

A Concordia student's remarkable journey home

By Lisa Liljegren, *University Affairs*
Photography by Kelly Cieslak



CUAA student Joe Conner's siblings Augustus (7) and Penelope (4) attend as many home games as possible to cheer on their brother. *Photo provided by Joe Conner*

WHEN JOE CONNER WAS A CHILD AND THINGS GOT really bad, he learned to close his eyes and pray.

"My mom and I said Psalm 23 every night before I went to sleep," said Conner. "It helped both of us remember to trust in the Lord, and He will take care of us during our times of struggle."

Growing up, it was just Conner and his mother, Kimberly. They strained to make ends meet and spent stretches living in their car when resources were completely depleted. While their home life was uncertain, Conner's mother always made sure he went to school and participated in team sports so that he could stay busy and create a better, more stable life.

By his junior year in high school, in 2008, things had been looking up. Conner and his mother made a home in Flat Rock, Michigan. He was doing well in school and had become a standout athlete. Upon his return from a basketball tournament, Conner noticed that his mother wasn't right and clearly in pain. When she finally allowed him to take her to the hospital for tests, the two of them learned devastating news: She had dementia.

Her condition was so advanced that she was declared legally incapacitated and could no longer care for her son. She was moved to a care facility and Conner, a minor, was facing homelessness again.

As Psalm 23 reminds us, when we put our trust in the Lord we are never alone. Conner's high school coaches and teammates went into remarkable action. They created a school family that would care for him and provide a new foundation for Conner so that he could continue the path that he and his mother imagined. Arrangements were made for him to live first with one coach and then permanently with another—Coach Stapleton.

"I'd known the Stapletons for awhile, but when Mrs. Stapleton asked if I would want to live with them I was thrown off," said Conner. "I had no idea that they were interested in me."

While they never officially adopted Conner, Joel and Beth Stapleton and their two children are his forever family. He calls them "Mom" and "Dad."

Upon graduation from high school, Conner joined the National Guard so that he could pay for college, and provide health insurance for himself and his biological mother, who remained in a care facility.

After serving his time, Conner attended a local community college to figure out his next path. By chance, he attended a Concordia





Top: At one point in his life, Joe Conner was homeless. He now calls Concordia home.
Bottom: Joe Conner celebrates with his team after a home victory at Cardinal Stadium.

University Ann Arbor Cardinals football game, and was impressed with the coaches and struck by the faith expression of the players. Right then he knew that he wanted to be a part of it.

“It’s no accident that I’m here,” reflected Conner. “All the things that happened in my life led me to this place and back to Him.”

In his debut season as running back for the Cardinals last fall, Conner set numerous records and helped the team to its first winning season. Off the field, Conner set his sights on a degree in athletic training. He says he wants to be a positive role model to young athletes. He credits his professors and coaches at CUA for helping him find his niche.

Conner has not forgotten where he came from. Each week he makes the half-hour trip to visit Kimberly Conner at her care facility. She no longer recognizes her son, but he shares his triumphs and stories with her anyway because all of those years ago they put their trust in the Lord and prayed together for this day. ✚



Enduring Outreach

Beloved Tool Time youth retreat continues its longtime legacy

By Rachel Ferguson, *University Affairs*
Photography by Kelly Cieslak



A group from this year's crew of "Men in White Shirts," including (from left) Alarik Morris, Brandon Bettcher, James Allen Haugen III, Joel Werner, and Conner Forbes, bring energy and charisma to their skits.

IN THE SPRING OF 2009, SIXTH GRADER JOEL Werner was on Concordia Ann Arbor's campus when he was startled by a nearby commotion. A group of college students, dressed in white T-shirts, arched their arms together to form the shape of a toaster. Another student jumped over them, pretending to be a piece of toast popping out of the human machine. Meanwhile, surrounding middle schoolers excitedly shouted out what they thought the college students were pretending to be. A frog? A runner jumping over a hurdle? A toaster?

The scene in front of Werner almost 10 years ago is still a beloved part of a time-honored CUAA tradition: Tool Time. For nearly two decades, this student-led retreat has biannually attracted some 200

youth to the CUAA campus for a weekend of powerful worship, small group devotions, service projects, and wacky games.

With a large grin on his face, Werner recalls those toaster days.

"Tool Time is one of the reasons I decided to come to Concordia," said Werner, now a sophomore pre-seminary major at CUAA. "It helped me discover what I wanted to do with my life."

Tool Time is held as a weekend retreat for high schoolers each fall and as an overnight event for junior high students in the spring. CUAA students share their personal testimonies, spend time reflecting with youth, carry out collective service endeavors, engage



Top Left: Students take time to reflect on God’s promises after worship, hanging notes that remain on display throughout the weekend.
Top Right: Student volunteers and CUA A freshmen Rebecca Johnstone and Alison Rein lead their group to the next session during High School Tool Time weekend, November 2016. *Photo courtesy of New Crew Youth Ministries*

in worship, and host youth in their dorm rooms overnight. They laugh. They cry. They sing. They feel.

Upwards of 70 student volunteers work together to make these retreats happen, each year passing on to future generations of CUA A student leaders the tradition and honor of hosting Tool Time. Concordia students, many of whom attended Tool Time when they were in high school, pour their energy into planning and executing the retreat with numerous late-night meetings on top of their otherwise packed schedules. Concordia students, like Sarah Roth, would say it’s well worth the effort.

Roth, now a family life education major at CUA A, was a student at her local community college when she was told by a fellow summer camp worker that she had to get involved with “this incredible thing that CUA A does.”

Roth’s favorite part of the retreat is on Saturday night following student testament. With worship music playing in the background,

Roth gathers with her small group and one by one speaks with them about their life, their questions, and their struggles. She then prays over each of them.

“You can tell they really appreciate the opportunity to open up and ask tougher faith questions, which is a testimony to Tool Time itself,” she commented. “It has been incredible to see the stories these kids have, and to hear that this was an opportunity for them to get away and reconnect with God and the hope that He brings.”

Come fall, there will again be a buzz on campus, a familiar and tangible energy in the air. Perhaps there will be some students, Werner among them, wearing white shirts and pretending to be toast. The excitement will build as familiar faces meet once again, filling the campus with a deep sense of purpose and belonging. There will be Tool Time.

For more information about Tool Time, contact Director of Campus Ministry Randy Duncan at Randall.Duncan@cuaa.edu. †

The Tie That Binds

Concordia's family life program attracts Spirit-led servants

By Kali Thiel, *University Affairs*

ON A FRIDAY MORNING IN JANUARY, JOEL MAIER ('10) found himself at the bedside of a young girl who had been diagnosed with pneumonia.

At five years old, the child was admitted to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where Maier, 28, is employed as a certified child life specialist. The girl's condition required that doctors insert a chest tube in order to drain the fluid that was filling her right lung.

With calming, patient tones, Maier stood alongside the child's parents and explained the procedure that would soon take place. He gave the girl a chance to ask questions, and also helped her fix her eyes on things less daunting—a Katy Perry music video to watch during the procedure, and the opportunity to make a tie blanket when it was all over.

Knowing what to expect doesn't take away the unpleasantness, but it can alleviate a great deal of fear, says Maier. And that can make all the difference when it comes to hospital visits.

"We understand being in the hospital is not a fun place to be," Maier says. "My goal is to get to know the patient to teach them how to cope with the situation."

Maier is a product of Concordia University Ann Arbor's family life program, CUAA's second-most-popular major, and one of only two universities in the Concordia University System to offer a program of its kind.

There are a limited number of universities nationwide that have an equivalent degree, and even fewer that boast as comprehensive a program as CUAA's. Furthermore, Concordia offers the chance for continuing education—a Master of Science in Family Life Education—through its online program.

Within the family life undergraduate major, students have the opportunity to choose a minor, or a "field" they'd like to specialize in. There are the community services minors, who support children and families in public agencies and private, non-profit settings; the children's ministry minors, who serve in a Christian ministry setting to strengthen and support parents and those who serve young children; the youth ministry minors, who serve young people in a church or community setting; and the child life specialists, like Maier, who support children and families during a medical intervention, crisis, or hospitalization.

Of the more than 80 students in the program, about two-thirds will work in non-faith-based work environments. For that reason, professors are intentional about helping students understand how

to share their faith in secular settings, and employers have taken notice, says Family Life Program Director Dr. Steven Christopher.

"Employers know there's a difference in a Concordia student," says Christopher. "That difference is faith. I'd put money on that, because I know these students. I see their hearts, and I know that their motivation is a calling of the Spirit."

"Employers know there's a difference in a Concordia student. That difference is faith."

—Family Life Program Director
Dr. Steven Christopher

Maier says hospital policies prevent him from being able to express his faith openly with patients, unless the conversation is first initiated by them, but he sees his work as an opportunity to share Jesus' love in the way that he cares for and interacts with patients and their families.

"There's often a lot of doubt in a hospital situation. The people there, in a sense, are lost," Maier says. "When you're in my position, you're walking alongside of them through their experience and doing everything you can to show that even though this is super crappy, God has us."

Learn more at www.cuaa.edu/programs/familylife. †



Top: Joel Maier and his therapy dog, Denver, visit a child who was admitted to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where Maier works as a certified child life specialist. *Photo courtesy of C.S. Mott Children's Hospital*
Bottom Left: Kelsey Thomas ('16) graduated with a family life major and a minor in children's ministry. She now works as children's outreach coordinator at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska, where over the summer she helped lead Vacation Bible School. *Photo courtesy of King of Kings Lutheran Church*
Bottom Right: CUAA senior and family life major Blake Wright in conversation with a student. Wright studies youth ministry within the family life program and is also minoring in worship arts. *Photo by Kelly Cieslak*





YOUR TURN!

Join Melisa and other CUAA alumni for a volunteer event:

What: Park clean-up, followed by worship and pizza party on CUAA campus, 4090 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2017

Time: 8:45 a.m.

Location: Gallup Park, 3000 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor

For more information, contact director of donor and alumni relations Laura Thomas at Laura.Thomas@cuaa.edu.

COMPASSION FOR COMMUNITY

Concordia Ann Arbor alumna uses God-given talents for a corporate career dedicated to the greater good

By Rachel Ferry, *University Affairs*

Photo courtesy of Melisa Cameron

As a leader in community relations with a passion for corporate responsibility, Melisa (Abiera) Cameron ('85) shares reflections from her Concordia University Ann Arbor experience; her heart for volunteering; and details of her action-packed, influential career in business as Regional Lead for Community Engagement at AT&T.

Q: Describe a day in the life of your current position as regional lead of community engagement.

A: No two days are alike, and that's what I love about it. One day, I might be in Detroit working with volunteers from our company on a Habitat for Humanity project, and the next day I might be back in Chicago with coworkers painting murals in an inner-city school.

My role is to drive positive change and promote greater good in our world by finding, creating, and leading volunteer opportunities to increase employee engagement, and excel in corporate social responsibility. As regional lead, I oversee projects across 20 states.

Q: How did CUAA prepare you for this position?

A: The faculty gave personal attention to each student, and that was really special. I remember learning writing and verbal communication skills from Professor Adler, one of my communication professors at Concordia, that I still use to this day.

My company has a mentoring program, and we do a lot of work with high school students. They ask me, "Where did you study? What was your major?" I tell them to keep an open mind because you never know where your gifts and talents are going to lead you. You might have a plan, but God's plan could lead you in a different direction. That's what happened to me.

Q: What is your fondest memory at Concordia University Ann Arbor?

A: One of my favorite memories was being a part of the Social Action Committee. Back then, we had to do all of our event promotion the grassroots way—hanging posters around campus! I'll never forget spreading out materials on the Manor Living Room floor, surrounded by pencils, markers, and crayons, drawing on a poster for an upcoming movie night. Luckily I don't have to rely on handmade posters anymore!

Q: Where did your passion for giving back to the community and volunteering begin?

A: My siblings and I were taught by our parents at a very early age to give back and care about the people around us. I remember that when my dad was going through medical school and my mother was supporting our family she would still make time to volunteer with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) or open our home to someone in need of a warm meal.

Q: What advice would you give to Concordia students?

A: Find a mentor. Whether it's through a formal mentoring program, or just a person you know and look up to. Then, look for opportunities for reverse mentoring. How can you mentor someone else?

Also, think about what it is that you can do to always be a better team member. What can you bring to study groups, classroom discussions, your team, or your community to make everyone better as a whole? When you're improving those around you, you're improving yourself.

FUTURE alumposts



Instagram @abbeydombrowski

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24 So incredibly excited to see what is in store for me at Concordia University Ann Arbor. Thank you to all of my friends and family who kept me in their thoughts and prayers. I feel so blessed to have been given such an amazing opportunity to further my education at a university that feels so much like home. Go Cardinals!



Twitter @micahmatheson Dreams really do come true. Thank you to all who's supported me! @CUAA_Football @cuaa #co2021



Instagram @cierra_woods Excited and nervous for the journey ahead but God has plans for me :)

alumn*notes*

2000s

MICHAEL BURROUGH ('09) recently graduated from the Eastern Michigan University Police Staff and Command School. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2016 and is currently assigned as the patrol division commander.



RACHEL (COUSINO) HINZ ('06) and Seth Hinz ('06,'09) celebrated the birth of their daughter, Evangeline Deanna Coliss Hinz, on January 17, 2017. The Hinz family, pictured below, currently resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



RUTH (HESSLER) MEYER ('00) recently released her new book "Grace Alone." Ruth had the book published by Concordia Publishing House.



STEPHEN MUELLER ('04) is serving his second call at Concordia Lutheran Church in Geneseo, Illinois. Stephen and his wife, Marifaith, have three children.

1980s

JANE (TREVILLIAN) GUSE ('87) currently teaches preschool at Open Arms–Belleville, Michigan. She and her husband have proudly served the Lutheran church for 25 years.

KARL OSTERLAND ('85) is the music director at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit. He recently had a group of preludes published to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



1960s

CYNTHIA BROWN ('69) wrote a book entitled "Energizing Your Children's Ministry" that was recently published by CPH. She resides in Troy, Michigan, where she serves as DCE at SALT Church, and an adjunct professor in the family life department at Concordia University Ann Arbor.



SUSAN KEENE ('69) retired after a career as a school teacher. She has been enjoying her time with her five granddaughters. She recently started working part-time for the Houston Astros.



WANT TO SHARE YOUR NEWS?

If you've had a significant life event or exciting achievement, share it with us. Email your alumni update with an accompanying photo (high-resolution if possible) to: alumni@cuaa.edu or submit online at: cuaa.edu/Alumni/whatsnewform.cfm.

WORD FROM ADVANCEMENT

CHANGE; SOME FIND IT HARD TO accept, others fear it, and still others realize that it's a necessary part of life. Imagine if a child were born and yet never changed. No matter how loved and beautiful that child may be, if it didn't change there would be great concern by the parents and family. For a newborn, change is not simply good, but it is essential. A lack of change would cause us to ask what might be wrong. For a newborn, change is a sign of health and growth.

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, much of the Christian Church celebrates the change that it represented and that followed in the decades after. Bringing the Church back to the centrality of the Scriptures and the good news of Jesus Christ was a change that was long overdue.

But while the Reformation represented a major change in the Church, it also brought us back to what did not and must not change—namely, the Word of God. That Word has not changed since inspired by the Holy Spirit and must remain unchanged today.

On the campuses of Concordia University in Wisconsin and Ann Arbor it's not hard to find change. Every year there are changes in students and some faculty, as well as in programs and degrees. These changes are vital, and are signs of health and growth (not unlike the newborn). But what has not and will not change at Concordia is our proclamation of God's Word, the same Word that was at the heart of the Reformation.

As we continue to prepare young men and women for lives of "service to Christ in the Church and the world," we're so thankful for our alumni, parents, and friends who share this commitment to both change and the changeless. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support remain vital as we fulfill our mission together.

REV. DR. ROY PETERSON
Vice President of Advancement



THE POWER OF THE WORD

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DRIVING somewhere in your car, and your favorite song unexpectedly plays on the radio? Or perhaps you've been on a run or working out, and your Pandora station plays your favorite song? Or maybe you have walked into church, and when looking at the worship bulletin you noticed that your favorite song or hymn would be sung today? Any of those scenarios can quickly give you a little boost, put an extra spring in your step, or bring a smile to your face.

For many at Concordia University, the organ prelude to "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" causes a similar response. I have loved hearing Concordia students, staff, and faculty at daily chapel or another worship service sing this beautifully written hymn by Martin Luther, filling the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. But, it's more than a sound. The deep and intentional text written by Martin Luther, sung beautifully by hundreds of people, is a reminder and affirmation of the power of The Word. After all, at Concordia we profess *Sola Scriptura*—Scripture alone.

The final stanza of this mighty hymn begins with "God's Word forever shall abide."

Amen. In a world where so much changes so quickly, there is great comfort and peace in knowing this truth. The Apostle Paul reminded Timothy of the power of this Word when he wrote, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from who you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-17, ESV).

As campus pastor and a member of the theology department, I have the unique privilege of teaching this powerful Word to students every single day—some of who have rarely heard it, studied it, or even interacted with it. Semester after semester I see students' eyes light up and their hearts open up to the life-giving power of God's Word. I see students live out this Word in their vocations, as students and friends. That is the beauty of a university that is both a mission field and a mission-sending agency.

So next time you need a pep in your step or a boost in your day, turn to the Word, in which God promises that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, ESV).

REV. RYAN PETERSON
Campus Pastor





THEN

1967: A student receives instruction from a CUAU 2D art professor.



NOW

David Gaynier, junior, practices painting techniques in CUAU's new 2D art studio, part of the Kreft Center for the Arts building renovation that was completed in September 2015.

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Spring/Summer 2017

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Reformation 500 Oktoberfest

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Friends of Concordia and Ann Arbor community members are invited to join us as we celebrate the monumental anniversary year of the Reformation on Concordia's campus!

Concordia welcomes families and friends to enjoy the fun and celebration:

- Polka band
- German food and drink
- Replicas of the 95 Theses on display
- A historian dressed in full regalia portraying Martin Luther
- And more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
www.cuaa.edu/reformation500

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