

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ANN ARBOR

COMMENCEMENT

2024

May 5th, 2024



MISSION

Concordia University Ann Arbor is a Lutheran higher education community committed to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world.

OUR HISTORY

Concordia University stands on 150 acres overlooking the Huron River. Once a home to people of the Chippewa, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Huron and Miami nations, the campus is bisected by Geddes Road, formerly the Potawatomi Trail, an old Indian highway. In the spring of 1680, the French explorer LaSalle became the first European to view the campus site. The earliest settler of the land was Elnathan Botsford, one of the first residents of Ann Arbor, who arrived in 1825. In 1917, Harry Boyd Earhart purchased the property.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Earhart's interests focused on education, religion and charity. In the late 1950s, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod began a search for a site to build a college. The Earhart estate was purchased in the early 1960s and construction commenced. On September 30, 1962, Lutherans from across Michigan gathered on the grounds to install the cornerstone of a building that would soon become the centerpiece of a new college. The motto inscribed on the cornerstone, "That in All Things Christ Might Have Preeminence," set the tone and function for the Chapel of the Holy Trinity and the surrounding buildings that would embody the college.

Concordia College, Ann Arbor was dedicated in 1963 as a junior college. That year, Concordia was granted the right to award the Associate of Arts degree by the State of Michigan. The expansion of the college to a four-year institution with the right to award the Bachelor of Arts degree was approved by the State in 1976. In 2000, the State approved the graduate program and awarding of a Master of Science degree. In July 2001 the name was officially changed to Concordia University. In July 2013, a merger between Concordia University Ann Arbor and Concordia University Wisconsin became official.

In 2015, the university purchased a former law school building located just over two miles north of the main campus. The 84,5000-square-foot "North Building" now houses various health-care focused academic programs including nursing, athletic training, physician assistant studies, and soon, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Coupled with expanding academic programs, new athletic offerings, and continual improvements to campus facilities, enrollment over the past several years is the healthiest it has been since the school's inception. Since 2014, total enrollment has climbed 75%, making CUAA the fastest-growing public or private university in Michigan.

CONTENTS

Baccalaureate Service	4-9
Commencement Exercises	10-11
Concordia Graduates	12-16
Commencement Speaker/Awardee Bios.....	17-18
Academic Apparel.....	19

NOTES

Photography: Call Photography will photograph graduates during the commencement ceremonies and will contact them with information about how to purchase photos.

Call Photography Contact Info

800.997.4890 | info@callphotography.com | callphotography.com



THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY TRINITY BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

May 5th, 2024

Enduring Hope • Psalm 42:1-5

How is a Baccalaureate different from a graduation exercise? Quite simply the graduation or commencement exercise celebrates the fact that a student has completed all the academic work required in order to earn a certain degree. A baccalaureate service celebrates the calling of God in that person's life into a specific vocation. During our service today, the hymns and the Scripture readings celebrate the fact that God in His grace is calling these women and men into his service as Teachers, Directors of Church Ministries, Directors of Parish Music, and our Pre-Seminary students ultimately to serve as Pastors. We also celebrate many students entering vocations that aren't professional church vocations. They are, however, all Christian vocations. Our prayer of thanksgiving is that they joyfully heard God's call in their life, confident that His plans for them are good plans.

Please stand as the Processional starts

The Processional Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
LSB 549 (v. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7)

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
2. Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,
Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod
And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod
And crown Him Lord of all.
3. Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.
6. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
7. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.

The Invocation

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, EdD
Campus Pastor

Confession & Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve You present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

The Choral Anthem

“Set Me as a Seal”
Composed by Margaret Burk
The Concordia Choir

Set me as a seal upon your heart
As a seal upon your arm
For love is strong as death

Many waters cannot quench love
Neither can the floods drown it

The First Reading

6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:34-48

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

School Theme Verses
Psalms 42:1-5

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse

C: [sung] **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel

6th Sunday of Easter
John 15:9-17

L: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: [sung] **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: [sung] **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Please stand

The Hymn of the Day

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”
LSB 525 (v. 1, 3, 4)

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.
3. Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.
4. Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903
Text: Public domain

The Sermon

The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth

Please stand

The Song of Response

“Hope Has a Name”
Worship Arts Ensemble

1. There is a song, I know it well
A melody that's never failed
On mountains high, in valleys low
My soul will rest, my confidence, in You alone

Chorus

Hope has a name, His name is Jesus
My Savior's cross has set this sinner free
Hope has a name, His name is Jesus
Oh, Christ be praised, I have victory

2. There is a light, salvation's flame
Christ undefeated, trampled the grave
See now the cross, be lifted high
The light has come, the light has won, behold the Christ

Chorus

3. There'll be a day my hope complete
Now home in glory, Your face I'll see
My pain no more, my fear will cease
I bow my life, I fix my eyes, on Christ my King
I bow my life, I fix my eyes, on Christ my King

Chorus (repeat)

CCLI Song # 7084823

© 2017 BEC Worship | River Valley Church Music | River Valley Worship Music | Songs Of BEC

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com | CCLI License # 3130483

The Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, did and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
For thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Special Presentations

Presentation of Academic Awards

Rev. Dr. Theodore Hopkins
Assistant Vice President of Academics

Presentation of Zondervan Awards

Rev. Dr. Charles Schulz
Associate Professor of Theology

The Prayers of Parents

Parents stand and respond with the bold italicized text

Heavenly Father,

You reminded us that our children are Yours

and You gave us grace for every moment.

It feels like it was yesterday that they were so small

and we wondered how to hold them, but You reminded us we are all in Your hands.

We questioned how will we provide for them

but You told us that we don't have to worry because You meet all our needs.

Life is rarely easy

but You are our refuge and fortress and we trust in You.

We wonder what their future holds

but You remind us that You direct our steps.

So as our children are becoming adults, we humbly request:

Your peace in the midst of the storms.

Your strength in our weakness.

Your wisdom to guide us in the journey.

We commit these graduates to You and Your purposes

and we take this opportunity to pray a blessing directly over our kids.

Graduates as you leave the campus today,

We pray for godly discernment to protect you and keep you.

May you always remain humble, kind, and compassionate.

May you always defend the truth.

May you reflect the light of Christ into the darkness.

May your spirit grow bold for God's calling on your life.

As you rest in God's care,

we rest in the knowledge that God has your best in mind. He loves you even more than we do.

Lord, we acknowledge our complete dependence on You.

We commit our children to Your care.

In the Holy name of Jesus we pray.

AMEN!

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Gentlemen put on their caps for the Recessional

The Recessional Hymn

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

LSB 821

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."
2. Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?
3. Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.
4. Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your foot-stool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.
5. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S SERVICE

The Preacher

The Reverend Timothy P. Halboth, MDiv
Senior Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Redford Township, MI
Father of graduate Aaron Halboth

The Liturgist

The Reverend Randall Duncan, EdD
Campus Pastor

The Lectors

The Reverend Charles Schulz, PhD
Associate Professor of Theology

The Reverend Ted Hopkins, PhD
Vice President of Academics

The Reverend Ryan Peterson, DMin
CUAA Vice President

Brass Ensemble

William Perrine, PhD
Associate Professor of Music
Director of Instrumental Activities

Worship Arts Ensemble

Amy Duncan, MSL
Adjunct Faculty & Director of Worship Arts

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES CLASS OF 2024

May 5th, 2024

Please stand

The Processional

“Pomp and Circumstance”
Edgar Elgar

[Gentlemen please remove caps now and throughout the Service]

The Invocation

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, EdD

Please be seated

The Welcome

Rev. Ryan R. Peterson, DMin

The Student Address

Molly Breitenbach
Bachelor of Arts
Family Life Ministry
Adrian, MI

Recognition of the Outstanding Alumnus Award

Rev. Ryan R. Peterson, DMin

The Commencement Address

Rev. David A. Davis

Presentation of the Honorary Doctorate Degree

Rev. Ryan R. Peterson, DMin

Presentation of the Christus Primus Award

Rev. Ryan R. Peterson, DMin

Please stand

The Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
Lutheran Service Book (LSB) 790

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all
things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

3. Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully,
wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and,
when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief
Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.
4. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy
shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in
me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now
with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

Please be seated

The Conferring of Degrees

Rev. Theodore J. Hopkins, PhD

The Prayer & Benediction

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, EdD

The Recessional

Concordia Wind Ensemble

ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S SERVICE

The VP of Administration

Rev. Ryan R. Peterson, DMin

The AVP of Academics

Rev. Theodore J. Hopkins, PhD, MDiv

The Campus Pastor

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, EdD

The Commencement Speaker

Rev. David A. Davis

The Student Speaker

Molly Breitenbach

The Marshal

Rev. Scott E. Yakimow, PhD

The Assistant Marshals

Timothy A. Reynhout, PhD
Kristin M. Schuman, EdD
Jonathan D. Reasor, PhD
Sheena N. Long, DPT

The Crucifer

Scott O. Chappuis, PhD

Concordia Brass Ensemble

William M. Perrine, PhD

THE CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES MAY 2024

Graduation Honors

An undergraduate candidate who achieves a cumulative grade point average of 3.90 or better will graduate SUMMA CUM LAUDE (gold cord); one who achieves a cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or better will graduate MAGNA CUM LAUDE (silver cord); and one who achieves a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 or better will graduate CUM LAUDE (bronze cord).

Key: *** = Summa Cum Laude ** = Magna Cum Laude * = Cum Laude

Doctor of Education

Randall Duncan

Leadership, Innovation, and Continuous Improvement

Master of Arts

Robert Baines

Digital Humanities

Nicole Foley

Digital Humanities

Master of Business Administration

Jamie Vartoogian

Health Care Administration

Julie Vartoogian

Human Resource Management

Kristopher Wallace

Sport & Entertainment Management

Master of Science in Athletic Training

Madisyn Fox

Athletic Training

Teagen Johnson

Athletic Training

Nicholas Painter

Athletic Training

Avery Sanchez

Athletic Training

Marissa Sullivan

Athletic Training

Master of Science in Leadership

Abbie Begley

Leadership

Amy Duncan

Leadership

Master of Science

Natalee Afif

Child Life

Jessica Barnett

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Shelby Bobowski

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Jennifer Bruning

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Brianna Bush

Physician Assistant

Julia Chahine

Physician Assistant

Cynthia Click

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Haley Crabbs

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Jessica Cuadra

Physician Assistant

Kathryn Delmotte

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Paul Derks

Educational Leadership

Kaylee Diekevers

Physician Assistant

Ana Domenzain Galindo

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Annabel Dougherty

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Matthew Drabant

Physician Assistant

Haley Follbaum

Physician Assistant

Zoe Ford

Physician Assistant

Chelsea Geiger

Physician Assistant

Andrew Grant

Physician Assistant

Katherine Hackbarth

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Chase Hall

Physician Assistant

Hillary Ho

Physician Assistant

Michael Hodge

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Jaeley Huelskamp

Special Education Learning Disabilities

Ebonee Jackson

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Christy Kemner

Physician Assistant

Caitlin Keskey

Physician Assistant

Elijah Kothe

Curriculum & Instruction

Sara Lancour

Physician Assistant

Julia Lani

Physician Assistant

Sydney Laplow

Physician Assistant

Reed Larson

Physician Assistant

Alyson Lenz

Physician Assistant

Allyssa Loven-Lutz

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Graham Minney

Physician Assistant

Ackim Mpofo

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Katherine O'Connor

Physician Assistant

Angela Orr

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Abigail Ostman

Educational Leadership

Traver Parlato

Physician Assistant

Daniel Patrick

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Daniel Pena

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Tyler Peterson

Physician Assistant

Thomas Roberts

Physician Assistant

Kendall Sampang

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Cassidy Schettenhelm

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Gabriel Sidor

Physician Assistant

Chloe Sisneros

Physician Assistant

Natalie Skaryd

Physician Assistant

Taylor Skover

Child Life

Michelle Suzuki

Secondary Teacher Education Certification

Leeann Sweany

Educational Leadership

Jodie Swetz

Educational Leadership

Alexis Thompson

Physician Assistant

Nadia Turfe

Physician Assistant

Bailey Uggeri

Physician Assistant

Corinne Vanker

Elementary Teacher Education Certification

Kory Wells

Physician Assistant

Lindsey Yuan

Physician Assistant

Dazaro Zeigler

Educational Leadership

Master of Social Work

Amanda Archer

Social Work

Bachelor of Arts

Chad Abraham

Elementary Education--Math

Calista Bickel***

Music / Psychology

Nicole Bordo

Exercise Science

Danielle Bracken*

Exercise Science

Molly Breitenbach

Family Life Ministry

Rachel Costello

Digital Media Design

Brianna Domagalski

Mathematics / Psychology

Kristofer Farrell

Music

Thomas Fill*

Psychology

Korie Fowler

Psychology

Justin Goodrich**

Applied Theology

Aaron Halboth***

Church Music

Devyn Jones

Exercise Science

Benjamin Kletzli

Music

Lindsey Koshowsky

Exercise Science

Bryon Mane

K-12 Physical Education & Health

Mackenzie Martin

Exercise Science

Belle Orjada

Psychology

Samantha Pfeiffer**

History / English

Koryn Playford*

Early Childhood Educ AA

Marial Rahn

Psychology

Sarah Sanda

Psychology

Megan Soop

Digital Media Design / Biblical Studies

Eden Spangler

Art

Lydia Thurm***

Digital Media Design

Mackensi Wilson

Secondary Education--Math

Bachelor of Science

Amelia Black

Rehabilitation Science

Samuel Bowling

Sport & Entertainment Business

Michael Brannan

Justice & Public Policy

Nathan Brighton

Marketing

Collin Brice

Justice & Public Policy

Zachary Brickner

General Business

Griffin Briquelet

Marketing

Seeger Degayner

Biomedical Sciences

Elijah Douglass**

Finance

Tara Drinane

Hospitality & Event Business

Theodore Eising

Justice & Public Policy

Caden Flanery

General Business

Heath Flower*

Biology

Kimberly Fox

Biology

Ellesyn Fritch*

Biology

John Geraghty

General Business

Kamryn Gerecke***

Finance

Patrick Good

Business Communication

Parker Graham

Justice & Public Policy

Savannah Gridley

Radiologic Technology

Mason Gullen

Rehabilitation Science

Angelina Haisha***

Marketing

Kyle Hebner

Justice & Public Policy

Luke Hovarter*

Justice & Public Policy

Bianca Hrynciw*

Rehabilitation Science

Andre Hutchins

CS: Software Engineering

Aaliyah James

Biomedical Sciences

Benjamin Kletzli

Computer Science

Matthew Kohler*

Sport & Entertainment Business

Isabella Komarowski

General Business

Brandon Kucera*

Marketing

Keirlynn Lawless

CS: Software Engineering

Kendra Lewis

Sport & Entertainment Business

Joshua Line

Sport & Entertainment Business

Madalyn Lisman**

Finance / Marketing

Jeffrey Lizewski

General Business

Taishin Matsushita

Business & Humanities

Shannon McAlinden**

Sport & Entertainment Business

Hunter McCarty

General Business

Zaria Mitchner

Biology

Riley O'Connell

General Business

Ryan Patterson**

Finance

Nicholas Patton

General Business

Kayla Peters***

Human Resources

Carl Pierce

Marketing

Austin Poe

Sport & Entertainment Business

Reegan Potter

Justice & Public Policy

Hailey Ranzenberger

Rehabilitation Science

Orece Robinson

Marketing

Jake Ryan

Sport & Entertainment Business

Noah Sorenson

Finance

Noah Starkey***

Management

Jada Stephenson*

Management

Jared Stiver***

Management

Evan Stuart

Accounting

Andrew Sweitzer***

Management

Katherine Tobias

Public Relations

Curtis Townsend

Sport & Entertainment Business

Brandon Troyer

Management

Gabriella Vanhorn

Management / Marketing

Ryan Webb

General Business

Kyriakos Wixom

Marketing

Taisei Yamada

Business & Humanities

**Bachelor of Science
in Nursing****Brenden Baumann**

Nursing

Rebecca Darnell*

Nursing

Violet Dudley***

Nursing

Akeisha Graham

Nursing

Alaina Haller*

Nursing

Cassidy Kane***

Nursing

Makayla LaVere

Nursing

Shannon Lewen

Nursing

Bre-Lyn Luoma*

Nursing

Samuel Saje

Nursing

Samantha Smith

Nursing

Allana Traylor

Nursing

Sydney Yount

Nursing

Joshua Zegrean***

Nursing

**Bachelor of
Social Work****Emily Abraham**

Social Work

Bethany Carey***

Social Work

Sophie Jones***

Social Work

Yasmin Melara

Social Work

Shelby Peterson

Social Work

Joshua Tierney

Social Work

Faith Watkins*

Social Work

AbleLight College**Molly OConnell****Jack Potter**

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Rev. David A. Davis

Rev. David A. Davis earned a BA from Concordia University Ann Arbor in 1979 and an MDiv from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1983. His other academic pursuits included classical studies at Washington University in St. Louis and Governance and Executive Training through the Pastoral Leadership Institute.

Since his ordination, Rev. Davis has served as pastor of four different congregations, all in Michigan: St. Matthew, Spring Lake; St. Paul, Trenton; Immanuel, Grand Rapids; and St. Luke, Haslett/Lansing. He currently serves as President of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Rev. Davis has served in various leadership positions in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, planted congregations, developed multicultural ministry, led non-profit governance seminars, and developed mentoring processes. He also wrote leadership development materials and facilitated meetings and retreats. He has authored a book, *Toward Significance: A Guide for Pastoring Well*, and has a blog with the same name (towardsignificance.com/blog).

Rev. Davis and his wife Sallie have been married since 1980. They have four grown daughters, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD



Dr. William R. Cario

After graduating with an AA degree in 1976 from Concordia Lutheran Junior College, William Cario completed his baccalaureate degree and Lutheran Teacher diploma from Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois, in 1978. He accepted a call to teach social studies at Redeemer Lutheran School, Glendale, New York, where he taught until June 1982. For the next eight years, he pursued graduate degrees at New York University, earning an MA in History in 1984, and a PhD in 1992. Between 1986 and 1988, he also taught religion at Martin Luther High School, Maspeth, New York. During this time, he met and married Cheryl A. Gross, a Concordia College New York graduate and fellow Lutheran teacher.

In August 1990, Dr. Cario received a call to teach history at Concordia University Wisconsin. He taught thousands of CUW students in the history department between 1990 and 2004, chairing the history program from 1990 through 2000. In 1998, CUW faculty members recognized him with the Ronald E. Berg Faculty Laureate award.

Also in 1998, Dr. Cario moved into higher education administration when he accepted the part-time role of Assistant Vice President of Academics at CUW. In 2006, then CUW president Patrick Ferry chose him to take the Vice President of Academics role. He remained in that role until 2021, although the title changed several times, in 2010 Senior Vice President of Academics, and in 2016 Provost. During his tenure as Chief Academic Officer, he was involved in the addition of several doctoral programs, the introduction of the Pharmacy School, numerous international initiatives, and the merger of CUW with CUAA, among other accomplishments.

In spring 2021, Concordia's Board of Regents asked Dr. Cario to serve as Interim President upon President Ferry's July 2021 retirement. He served in that role until mid-January 2023 and finished the year as special assistant to the president until his retirement in December 2023.

Dr. Cario and his wife Cheryl continue to live in Mequon, Wisconsin, where they are busy in their congregation and community. Their two sons, David and Stephen, both benefitted from Concordia University educations.

CHRISTUS PRIMUS AWARD



Laura L. Thomas

Laura L. Thomas currently serves as the Director of Development for the Michigan District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Mrs. Thomas's degrees include a BS in Individualized Studies, a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree, and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, all from Eastern Michigan University. Additionally, she earned a Certificate in Fund Raising Management (CFRM) from Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Prior to her work in the Michigan District LCMS, Mrs. Thomas served at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, as Senior Gift Officer. Prior to that, she served as Senior Director of Donor Relations and Alumni at Concordia University Ann Arbor; Donor Relations Officer – Principal Gifts for the University of Michigan Health System; Manager of Donor Relations for Eastern Michigan University Foundation; and Fraternal Specialist for Aid Association for Lutherans.

In addition to her professional achievements, Mrs. Thomas serves as Vice President of Communication for the Council of Lutheran Women and is the secretary to the Michigan District Stewardship Committee.

Mrs. Thomas and her husband, Gary, have three children and five grandchildren. They are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamburg, Michigan.

HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS



Rev. David Nehrenz

Rev. David Nehrenz was raised in Lakewood, Ohio. He received his AA degree from Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan; his BA in Education from Concordia, River Forest, Illinois; and his MDiv degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1982. He began his ministry in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, in 1982, in a mission congregation, Our Savior Lutheran Church.

He has been serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Norman since 1988. The mission statement of his congregation is "One Family in Our Church, Early Childhood and Campus Ministry." Over thirty-three vicars have assisted Trinity in the Oklahoma District LCMS U Campus Ministry at the University of Oklahoma.

He has served as a delegate to national LCMS conventions, worked with Laborers for Christ building programs, been an Oklahoma District Circuit Counselor, and served on the Oklahoma District Board of Directors. He was second Vice President from 2009 to 2015 and first vice president from 2015 until his election in June 2022 as President of the Oklahoma District. He was also the Oklahoma District Convention Chairman for the last five conventions beginning in 2009.

Rev. Nehrenz believes the future opportunities for serving our Lord in Oklahoma are exciting! He says, "We are living in a time when the old things have now become new. Our fidelity to the inerrant and inspired Word of God is a necessity. Our commitment to the confessional standard of the Book of Concord is a strength. Our administration of the means of grace in preaching, teaching, baptism, absolution, and holy communion is what the world most needs."

Rev. Nehrenz and his wife Kathy Sue live in Norman, Oklahoma. They have four children, Kurt, Mark, Stephen, and Michelle, and two granddaughters, Corrie and Beatrice.

Academic Apparel

One of the most colorful features of an academic procession is the appearance of the faculty, members of the governing board, and guests of the University in full academic regalia. These caps, gowns, and hoods have long histories dating back to the Middle Ages. American universities and colleges have adopted a standard code of academic garb.

The design of the gown, the color of the tassel, and the pattern, length, and colors of the hood all have special significance. The bachelor's gown is closed at the throat and has long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, tapering at the back in a square cut which ends in an arc cutaway. The doctor's gown is faced with velvet and has bell-shaped sleeves, each with three bars of velvet or chevrons. The colored tassel of the cap signifies the college granting the degree.

The most colorful part of the costume, however, is the hood. The color of the velvet trim indicates the faculty or department of learning in which the degree was granted. The width corresponds to the level of the degree. The colors associated with the different subjects are as follows:

Velvet Colors

Apricot – nursing

Brown – fine arts

Citron – social work

Copper – economics

Crimson – communications,
journalism

Dark blue – philosophy

Drab – accounting, business

Gold – computer science,
healthcare administration,
mathematics, psychology, science

Lemon – library science

Light blue – education

Midnight blue – criminal justice

Orange – engineering

Pink – music

Peacock – public policy

Purple – law

Sage – athletic training, exercise
physiology, occupational therapy,
physical education

Scarlet – theology

White – counseling, English,
history, humanities, liberal arts,
mathematics, sociology, student
personnel administration

Cord meanings

 **Gold** – Summa Cum Laude

 **Silver** – Magna Cum Laude

 **Bronze** – Cum Laude

THE UNIVERSITY

Concordia University is one of six colleges and universities in the Concordia University System, which is owned and operated by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
The Reverend Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

BOARD OF REGENTS

Michigan District President: Rev. David Davis

Ordained: Rev. John Berg (Chair), Rev. Jonah P. Burakowski, Rev. David C. Fleming (Vice Chair), Rev. Michael W. Henrichs, Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

Commissioned: Ms. Jennifer Lynn Knox, Mr. Nathan Wingfield

Laity: Dr. David Andersen, Robert Denkert (Secretary), Mr. Terry Donovan, Ms. Paula Harris, Mr. David Lambert, Mr. David Piehler, Mr. James M. Riske, Dr. Stephen Saunders, Ms. Lisa Senkbeil, Mr. Jon R. Schumacher, Mr. Scott Schweitzer

Advisory: Rev. Allan Buss, Rev. David Davis, Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy, Rev. Dr. Dwayne M. Lueck, Mr. Terrance Rowinski, Ms. Christine Specht-Palmer, Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Wilson

CUWAA FOUNDATION BOARD

Dr. Erik Ankerberg (Foundation CEO), Mrs. Kris Best, Mr. Matthew Burow, Mrs. Celeste Cuffie, Mr. Terry Donovan, Mrs. Heather Dunn, Ms. Judith Fischer, Mr. Patrick Horne, Mr. Craig Kasten, Mrs. Danielle Marsh (Executive Secretary and Treasurer), Mr. Chezare Misko, Mrs. Kim Nelson, Ms. Harriet Pedersen, Mr. Paul Rosenberg, Mr. Terry Rowinski (Vice Chair), Mr. James Saalfeld, Mr. Jon Schumacher, Mr. Bryan Seider, Mr. Tim Sheldon, Mrs. Christine Specht-Palmer (Chair), Mr. John Stollenwerk, Mr. Rich Twietmeyer, Mr. Gino Villani, Mr. Fred Watkins

UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE TEAM

President

Vice President, Academics

Vice President, Student Success

Chief of Staff

Vice President, Campus Administration & External Relations (Ann Arbor)

Vice President, Advancement

Chief Financial Officer

Vice President, Enrollment & Chief Strategy Officer

Vice President, Marketing

Vice President, Economic Development

Vice President, CUW Foundation

Erik Ankerberg

Leah Dvorak

Elizabeth Polzin (Interim)

Steven Taylor

Ryan Peterson

Michelle Buss (Interim)

Danielle Marsh (Interim)

Michael Uden

Lisa Liljegen

Roy Peterson

Dean Rennicke



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Ann Arbor, Michigan