

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR

COMMENCEMENT & BACCALAUREATE

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Sunday, May 9, 2021



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR

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BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Chapel of the Holy Trinity

May 8th, 2021

UNCHANGING

Hebrews 13:8

How is a Baccalaureate service 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 in various ways and in various fields, from business to education to the arts. Our prayer of thanksgiving is that they joyfully hear God's call in their life, confident that His plans for them are good plans.

The Pre-Service Music

Dr. John Boonenberg, *University Organist*

Please stand as the Processional begins

The Processional

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Lutheran Service Book (LSB) 549; verses 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.

[Gentlemen please remove caps now and throughout the Service]

The Invocation

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, MDiv, *Campus Pastor*

Confession and 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 Your 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.

The Psalmody [6th Sunday of Easter]

Psalm 98:1-6

- P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- C: The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- C: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
- P: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!
- C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!.**
- All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- C: The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Please be seated

The Choral Anthem

Arborsong

“Children of the Heavenly Father”
Arranged by Eric Nelson

Children of the Heavenly Father
Safely in His bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given

God His own doth tend and nourish
In His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them
In His mighty arms He bears them

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever
Unto them His grace He showeth
And their sorrows all He knoweth

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers,
Your Protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender
Ev'ry foe then must surrender.

The First Reading [6th Sunday of Easter]

Acts 10:34-38

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading [School Theme Verse]

Hebrews 13:5-8

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Alleluia

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 be seated

The Hymn of the Day

“By Grace I’m Saved”
LSB 566; verses 1, 3, 6

1. By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.
3. By grace God’s Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.
6. By grace! On this I’ll rest when dying;
In Jesus’ promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart’s condition,
I also know my Savior’s voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Please be seated

Please stand

The Song of Response

“Build my Life”
Worship Arts Ensemble

Verse 1

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Verse 2

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Chorus

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Chorus

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

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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, died, 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.**

Special Presentations

Academic Excellence Awards

Dr. Erin Laverick
Assistant Vice President of Academics

The Prayers

Included in our thanksgivings and petitions are prayers for:

- The graduates
- The families of the graduates
- Our colleges and seminaries
- Those who serve in the Church and the world

*(At the conclusion of each petition the pastor will say "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation will respond "**Hear our prayer.**")*

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done 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 and the love of God and the communion 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.”

The Postlude

Dr. John Boonenberg, *University Organist*

ASSISTING WITH TODAY’S SERVICE

The Preacher

Reverend Todd Biermann, DMin
*Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church
Grand Blanc, MI
Father of graduate Micah Biermann*

The Liturgist

Reverend Randall S. Duncan, MDiv
Campus Pastor

The Lectors

Reverend John R. Rathje, MDiv
Dean of Students

Reverend Charles Schulz, PhD
Assistant Professor of Theology

Reverend Ryan Peterson, DMin
Vice President of Administration

The Organist

John Boonenberg, DMA
*Assistant Professor of Music
Director of Church Music & Worship Arts*

Arborsong

Brian Altevogt, DMA
Professor of Music; Director

Brass Ensemble

William Perrine, PhD
Associate Professor of Music; Director

Worship Arts Ensemble

John Boonenberg, DMA
Assistant Professor of Music; Director

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES CLASS OF 2021

May 9th, 2021

The Pre-Service Music

Concordia Brass Ensemble

Please stand

The Processional

“Pomp and Circumstance”
Edgar Elgar

[Gentlemen please remove caps now and throughout the Service]

The National Anthem

“The Star-Spangled Banner”
Francis Scott Key

The Invocation

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, MDiv

The Welcome by the President

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. Ferry

The Student Address

Charity Felton
*Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education
Fort Wayne, IN*

The Presentation of Awards

Christus Primus (1:00pm)

Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, PhD

Honorary Doctor of Letters (1:00pm)

Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, PhD

Outstanding Alumnus (4:00pm)

Rev. Ryan R. Peterson, DMin

The Commencement Address

Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, PhD

The Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
Lutheran Service Book 790, verses 1, 2, 4, 5

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?

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!

The Presentation of the Candidates

The Conferring of Degrees

William R. Cario, PhD

Please stand

The Prayer & Benediction

Rev. Randall S. Duncan, MDiv

The Recessional

Concordia Brass Ensemble

ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S SERVICE

The President

Reverend Patrick T. Ferry, PhD

The Provost

Professor William R. Cario, PhD

The Vice President of Administration

Reverend Ryan R. Peterson, DMin

The Campus Pastor

Reverend Randall S. Duncan, MDiv

The Commencement Speaker

Reverend Patrick T. Ferry, PhD

The Student Speaker

Charity Felton

The Marshal

Reverend Scott Yakimow, PhD

The Assistant Marshals

Reverend Theodore Hopkins PhD
Georgia Kreiger, PhD
Erin Laverick, PhD
Neal Migan, PhD
Jonathan Reasor, PhD

The Crucifer

Scott Chappuis, PhD

Concordia Brass Ensemble

William Perrine, PhD




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	 Midnight blue – criminal justice
 Brown – fine arts	 Orange – engineering
 Citron – social work	 Pink – music
 Copper – economics	 Peacock – public policy
 Crimson – communications, journalism	 Purple – law
 Dark blue – philosophy	 Sage – athletic training, exercise physiology, occupational therapy, physical education
 Drab – accounting, business	 Scarlet – theology
 Gold – computer science, healthcare administration, mathematics, psychology, science	 White – counseling, English, history, humanities, liberal arts, mathematics, sociology student personnel administration
 Lemon – library science	
 Light blue – education	

THE CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES MAY 2021

Graduation Honors

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

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

Master of Business Administration

Jacob Brendtke
Strategic Marketing

Logan Cooley
Finance

Master of Science

Narendra Bansal
Computer Science

Randa Bazzi
Curriculum & Instruction: ESL

Rania Bazzi-Hijazi
Curriculum & Instruction: ESL

Lauren Buffman
Special Education Learning Disabilities

Paige Crittella
Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education

Thomas Dobberteen
Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education

Lamar Gassaway
Organizational Leadership & Administration

Eddie Goldston
Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education

Rachel Goodman
Curriculum & Instruction: ESL

Michael Greene
Organizational Leadership & Administration

Juliana Gutknecht
Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education

Sharon Hall
Curriculum & Instruction: ESL

Zegeye Hambissa
Family Life

Wynbeth Handley
Curriculum & Instruction: ESL

Emily Heidler
Curriculum & Instruction

Megan Holmes
Educational Leadership

Bryant Hudson II
Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education

Elizabeth Kaschube
Curriculum & Instruction

Barbara Lewis

Educational Leadership

Elizabeth Lomax

Educational Leadership

Adrienne Miller

Curriculum & Instruction: ESL

Ryan Moschetta

Curriculum & Instruction

Gwenette Murff

Special Education Learning
Disabilities

Hailey Paull

Student Personnel Administration in
Higher Education

David Slusser

Special Education Learning
Disabilities

Jennifer Spangler

Student Personnel Administration in
Higher Education

Alexandria Steffke

Curriculum & Instruction: ESL

Rebekah Stohlmann

Curriculum & Instruction

Devin Thomas

Curriculum & Instruction

Jon Wiegand

Educational Leadership

**Master of Science
in Athletic Training****Grace Brown**

Athletic Training

Lindsey Michalak

Athletic Training

Miriam Sikora

Athletic Training

Michael Tabor

Athletic Training

Kaytlynn Thornton

Athletic Training

Bachelor of Arts**Analyse Auxter*****

Elementary Education - Language
Arts

Ruth Belli*

English

Abigail Bentz**

Elementary Education - Early
Childhood

Eric Bugg**

Exercise Science

Jacob Culp***

Mass Communication

Victor Diaz, Jr.

Exercise Science

Samuel Dobben

History

Mae'Isha Dulin

Exercise Science

Michael Felten

Family Life Education

Charity Felton***

Elementary Education

Megan Gibson

Psychology

Molly Grulke

Elementary Education - Special
Education

Richard Hayward

Social Studies

Alexander Hinojosa

Mathematics

Hannah Huhn**

Psychology

Kalee Johnson

Psychology

Alan Jones

Exercise Science

Lily Kozicki***

Music

Rhyeli Krause

Exercise Science

Makayla Lancioni*

Psychology

Annie Leiding

Exercise Science

Ashley Lupinski

Mass Communication

Amy Miles*

Parish Music

Alexandria Milot***

Digital Media Design:
Communications

Rachel Olson

Family Life Education

Gabriela Porter

Psychology

Morgan Raby

Liberal Arts

Kalera Rahn***

Secondary Education - Math

Sean Sheppard

Family Life Education

Jennifer Smith*

Elementary Education - Early
Childhood

Rachel Thiel

Biblical Studies Traditional

Derek Young

History

Bachelor of Science

Elijah Abenth

Justice and Public Policy

Ryan Abenth

Sport & Entertainment Business

Vann Acker

Accounting

Micah Biermann***

Computer Science

Tyler Black

Sport & Entertainment Business

Richard Bortle*

Biology

Sarah Burnett

Biology

Brianna Clopton

Biology

Donovan Corlew

Sport & Entertainment Business

Joshua Course

Sport & Entertainment Business

Roderick Dailey

Sport & Entertainment Business

Blake Dean

Justice and Public Policy

Cody Depa

Healthcare Administration

Lauren Drinane**

Sport & Entertainment Business

Nicole Evans*

Management

Alexander Goeglein

Hospitality & Event Business

Dylan Hayes

Accounting

Hannah Huhn**

Justice and Public Policy

Boris Ilic*

Finance

Noah Jankulovski

General Business

Paige Johnson*

Biology

Rebecca Johnstone

Hospitality & Event Business

Luke Konkell**

General Business

Cody Kwasniewski

Finance

Hunter Lastacy

Marketing

Felipe Lopez

Marketing

Finance

Leah Maassel***

Justice and Public Policy

Wyatt Mast

Justice and Public Policy

Derek McComas

Finance

Hailey McCourt*

Individualized - Healthcare

Administration

Perron Melcher

General Business

Matthew Monendo

Management

Peter Morrison*

Accounting

Caleb Muxlow

Justice and Public Policy

James Olson***

Finance

Mikio Osugi

Computer Science

Noah Pastrana

Biology

Brendan Pfeiffer

General Business

Gabriela Porter

Justice and Public Policy

Darius Reynolds

Sport & Entertainment Business

Miles Riddell*

Entrepreneurship

Glenn Rose

Justice and Public Policy

Savannah Schroeder

Individualized - Health Science

Katherine Snow

General Business

Hannah Spurlock

Justice and Public Policy

Garrett Stapleton

Sport & Entertainment Business

Dylan Steinke

General Business

Joseph Tany*

Accounting

Adam Thiel**

General Business

Reginald Thompson

Computer Science

Emilee Truhn

Individualized - Biomarketing and Management

Kevin Vedder

Justice and Public Policy

Kaitlin Veihl

Marketing

William Vis

Sport & Entertainment Business

Andrew Wade

Sport & Entertainment Business

Frederick Watts

Sport & Entertainment Business

Jordan Whitt

Computer Science

Tris'tyn Williams

Sport & Entertainment Business

Devin Wolever

Sport & Entertainment Business

**Bachelor of
Science Nursing**

Nimat Al-Dulimi

Nursing

Kadidiatou Nathalie Ascani*

Nursing

Sophia Bell

Nursing

Matthew Botti

Nursing

Clarissa Campbell

Nursing

Matthew Eastman*

Nursing

Lawrence Ebere

Nursing

Ryan Fish

Nursing

Lauren Fisher

Nursing

Karolina Fonseca

Nursing

Samantha Golchuk

Nursing

Alexis Hauser

Nursing

Rachel Johnstone*

Nursing

Alvine Ngounou

Nursing

Erin Parker*

Nursing

Celestine Perumalla

Nursing

Stephanie Reeves

Nursing

Joshua Sears

Nursing

Nicholas Stedtefeld

Nursing

Jakara Ventour

Nursing

Lexys Williams

Nursing

COMMENCEMENT HONOREE



Mr. Timothy Hetzner
Christus Primus

Mr. Timothy Hetzner grew up on a dairy farm in Frankenmuth, Michigan, where he attended a one-room school house for two years on the family farm. He attended Buena Vista High School in Saginaw. He graduated from Concordia University Ann Arbor in 1976, and from Concordia St. Paul in 1978.

Mr. Hetzner was first called to youth ministry at Hope Lutheran Church in Rochester, New York, in 1978. He served as a teacher and youth director at St. John Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, and later as director of discipleship at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Palantine, Illinois. Since 2001, he has served as President and CEO of Lutheran Church Charities (LCC), Northbrook, Illinois. He served in parish ministry for 25 years as a Director of Christian Education, including 22 years in the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

LCC changed its ministry focus when Mr. Hetzner became its leader. He initiated Pass-Through-Giving, in which each dollar given for a cause goes directly to support that cause or need. LCC is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS and works through its congregations, schools, and universities, helping them expand Christ-centered ministry outside of their walls to their community and the world. LCC's mission is to share the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. Each year LCC coordinates the deployment of thousands of volunteers for disaster and crisis response and for mission projects in the United States and abroad.

In August 2008, Mr. Hetzner launched the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry with four golden retrievers. Currently, approximately 130 dogs are located in 25 states. In August 2014, he launched the LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry to veterans and their families. In July 2017, he created the LCC K-9 Police Ministry with law enforcement handlers, who understand the unique challenges facing the law enforcement community and serve those who protect and serve, as well as their families. In January 2020, he started the National Hearts of Mercy and Compassion Ministry as a means to reach out to people in their time of sorrow or distress with handmade wooden hearts.

Mr. Hetzner is the author and teacher of an in-depth Bible study curriculum called WORD, with over 4500 students from 26 states, plus online students. He writes a daily devotion that is distributed nationally and leads Biblical study tours to the Middle East and European countries.

Mr. Hetzner and his wife Jackie (née Liese), a retired preschool teacher, have four children: Emily, Stephen, Katie, and Philip. They have three grandchildren: Kylie, Barret, and Cayson.

COMMENCEMENT HONOREE



Reverend Steven Briel *Honorary Doctor of Letters*

Reverend Steven Briel is a 1969 graduate of Concordia University Ann Arbor. He went on to attend Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and graduated in 1971 with a concentration in biblical Hebrew. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, in 1974.

He has completed graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, University of Minnesota, and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He received a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1982 from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne.

Rev. Briel served for two years as campus pastor at Calvary Chapel in Madison, Wisconsin, and four years as associate pastor in Fairmont, Minnesota. He spent four years as faculty at St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas, where he taught Hebrew, Greek, and Old Testament. In 1984, he was called to serve as pastor at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Corcoran/Maple Grove, Minnesota, where he remained for 33 years until his retirement in 2018.

Rev. Briel has traveled to India several times over the years, where he has lectured at various symposia and taught at the Lutheran seminary in Gunther, India. He also taught two terms at the Jonathon Ekong Lutheran Seminary in Nigeria, Africa, and recently taught a semester at Neema Lutheran College and Seminary in Matongo, Kenya. He has spent several summers as a guest instructor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, and is a regular speaker at various theological conferences. He has served on the former Board for Pastoral Education, the Board of Regents at Concordia College New York, and the Board for Higher Education. He is currently serving his second term as Chair of the Board for National Mission (BNM).

Rev. Briel is married to Katherine (Katy,) (née Preus), who also attended Concordia University Ann Arbor, and is retired from her career in secondary education, having taught at several high schools in the Minneapolis area. God blessed the couple with four sons and five grandchildren. Rev. Briel remains active in the church at large, continuing his service on the BNM and preaching regularly in congregations in the Minneapolis area.

COMMENCEMENT HONOREE



Reverend John Denninger *Outstanding Alumnus*

Reverend John Denninger graduated from Concordia University Ann Arbor in 1974. When not flipping through Greek flash cards, he was active in the intramural program, sang in Doc Foelber's Choir, and served as one of four guitarists who led worship at all-campus devotionals. He went on Ambassadors for Christ weekend trips to Michigan District churches, during which he served by playing guitar. He went on to

Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, and earned his Master of Divinity degree at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

If a marriage proposal to Constance was Rev. Denninger's best life-time decision, the second most important decision was made during the summer between his freshman and sophomore year. He asked his grade school friend, Constance (née Graft, CUAA class of 1975) to go on a road trip from Fort Wayne to Ann Arbor. After their years at CUAA, they were married.

Rev. Denninger's first ministry calls took the couple to Nebraska, where he served a parish and later became a full-time campus pastor. Their three daughters, Jessica, Laura, and Sara, were born Cornhuskers. Rev. Denninger accepted a call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, Virginia, in the suburbs of Washington DC, where he served as pastor for 24 years. In 2012, he was elected to serve as the Southeastern District (SED) President. His term of office will be completed in May of 2022.

Rev Denninger's experience with Concordia's Ambassadors for Christ was the seedbed for his missiological focus. He earned a Doctor of Missiology degree from Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, California. He developed iNeighborhood: simple tools for the baptized to engage their neighbors with the Gospel. These tools are used to reach the 10% of the US population that live within the SED boundaries and are not familiar with Jesus.

Though the Denningers live far from CUAA, they may actually walk the CUAA campus more than many Michiganders. That is because Joshua Schumacher, Concordia Cardinal's head football coach, is married to their daughter Laura. And former CUAA athletic trainer, Daniel Meier, is married to their daughter Jessica. Six (soon to be seven) of the Denninger's grandchildren live in Ann Arbor. The other three live in Virginia.

Our History

Concordia University stands on 187 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.

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. 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 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.

THE UNIVERSITY

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

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