



Concordia Seminary  
801 Seminary Place  
St. Louis, MO 63105

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# 90th Anniversary Guild Lines

A PUBLICATION OF THE CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD • Fall 2021  
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## CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Tami Clardy <i>Hope, St. Ann, Mo.</i>	<b>Bylaws</b> Margot Loeb <i>Immanuel, Olivette, Mo.</i>
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	<b>Seminary Liaison</b> Kim Braddy

## Have You Paid Your Dues?

A yearly Guild membership lasts from July 1-June 30. Dues are \$10 annually for an individual and \$25 for an organization. If you have not paid your dues yet, won't you please send your check? Thank you for your support!

### Join Us! Upcoming Meetings

Dec. 3, 2021

March 18, 2022

May 6, 2022

Reservations are needed two weeks prior to event. Send RSVP with payment to:

Mary Jane Autry  
1160 London Circle Lane, Apt. 206  
Fenton, MO 63026

Please make checks payable to Concordia Seminary Guild. Visitors and new members are always welcome!

*Want to donate, learn more or become a member? Visit us online at [csl.edu/semguild](http://csl.edu/semguild) or on Facebook by searching Concordia Seminary Guild.*

## MEET THE EGGERS

Newly installed Concordia Seminary President Dr. Thomas J. Egger and his wife, Tori, were guest speakers at the Guild's September luncheon. Having served as a professor of Old Testament at the Seminary since 2005, Egger was called as president in February 2021. He told the Guild members at the luncheon that the church's care for pastors and deaconesses humbles him. God's Word has been a rich part of his life and that is why he chose the verse, "Your word is a lamp to my feet" (Ps. 119:105 ESV) as the theme for the 2021-22 academic year, his first year as president.

Tori, the oldest of four children, grew up in the very small town of What Cheer, Iowa, the daughter of a Pentecostal pastor. Although her parents valued mission work, Scripture and worship, it was Tom who introduced her to the true Gospel. She joined The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in college and was married to Tom in 1991 while both were still completing their undergraduate studies. She worked in the mental health field, taught grammar school music and fourth grade, directed a children's choir and homeschooled her children for many years. She loved serving as a pastor's wife in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Now, Tori teaches English online to students in China and homeschools their two youngest children. She enjoys gardening, decorating, reading and camping.

Tori spoke about her pre-pandemic experience as being "less of everything." The Eggers have six children but only their youngest daughters, Ellen and Mary, were *(Continued on Page 2)*



President Dr. Thomas J. Egger, second from the right, and wife, Tori, second from the left, visit with Guild members during the luncheon.



Dr. Thomas J. Egger and Tami Clardy

## From the Guild President

No doubt about it, the coronavirus pandemic gave us pause. It was a bit of a stumbling block, actually. But it did not keep the Guild members from praying for and being of service to seminarians and their families. We could not have done what we did during the pandemic without your continued support.

Before our September 2021 luncheon, the last time members gathered for a luncheon meeting was February 2020. The September gathering was an emotional and joyous reunion. I was thrilled to meet President Dr. Thomas J. Egger. I was inspired by his wife, Tori, and I was excited to get back to the business at hand.

To be honest, I started going to the Seminary Guild luncheons for the wonderful food. I thought I could support our future pastors and deaconesses in some small way. And then I was elected president. I was stunned and flattered and honored. It is hard to believe that I will soon be completing four years as Guild president.

On March 18, 2022, the Concordia Seminary Guild will celebrate 90 years of service. I know our sisters before us would be proud of their legacy. I am privileged to be a part of that legacy, and I pray that my daughter and perhaps a future daughter-in-law will follow in the footsteps of those who came before them in supporting their generation of Seminary students.

With gratitude,  
Tami Clardy

*"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"*  
*(Ps. 119:105 ESV).*



(Continued from Page 1) living at home when the pandemic began. As a result, she had less laundry, less cooking and less cleaning than what she was used to doing. And then the pandemic hit. Their son, Abram, and daughter, Bonnie, both returned home from college. And since both were in serious relationships, their significant others often came to visit. Son, Andrew, and his wife had been visiting during spring break and decided to stay. Daughter, Bonnie, also decided to come home from college rather than stay on campus. Tori said that it was “unexpected togetherness,” but God led them through it. She connects strongly to this year’s theme.

The question she is most often asked is, “Just how old is Tom, anyway?” The answer? 50.

Tori attends chapel at the Seminary almost every day. She enjoys entertaining guests on campus at the president’s house. In fact, she extended an invitation to anyone visiting campus to stop by for a visit!

## Board of Directors Welcomes Members Back to Meetings

About 70 Guild members and guests arrived on campus Friday, Sept. 10, for a luncheon and program to kick off the new academic year with the theme, “Your word is a lamp to my feet” (Ps. 119:105 ESV). Guild members had not gathered since February 2020 because of coronavirus-related restrictions.

After renewing acquaintances and many hugs among the members, Michael Stainbrook, a fourth-year student, led the opening prayer. At the business meeting following lunch, members adopted these service projects for 2021-22:

Journaling Bibles for incoming students	\$3,798*
Adopt-A-Student	4,000*
Music arts (holdover from 2020-21)	2,000*
After chapel coffee (holdover from 2020-21)	1,000*
Student athletics and fitness center (holdover from 2020-21)	2,000
New student Orientation (holdover from 2020-21)	2,500
Campus landscaping	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,298</b>

\*completed

If you would like to contribute to these service projects, send your check with the Project Fund Donation form or go to the Seminary website at [csl.edu/give](http://csl.edu/give) and designate “Seminary Guild Fund.”

## Your Generosity at Work: Journaling Bibles, \$3,798 Fully Funded

Special Projects Chairman Alice Kastens and Guild President Tami Clardy were on hand at Orientation in August to distribute journaling Bibles to incoming students, a tradition since 2017. This project was funded in large part by the “Gift from the Heart” program. Sixty-eight members gifted Bibles in honor or memory of a special person in their lives. In all, 112 students received Bibles.



Members of the Guild hand out journaling Bibles to new students during Orientation.

## Your Generosity at Work: Music Arts, \$2,000

*The Guild is always so kind and generous to us! Thank you so much for this amazing gift!*

*We do look forward to touring this year. We also have some special music projects planned with our annual Concordia Seminary Concert Series so this extra funding will be put to good use!*

*Blessings to you and the Guild!*

Rev. James F. Marriott, Ph.D.  
Kreft Chair for Music Arts  
Director of Music Arts  
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

## Greetings from our Adopt-A-Student Seminarians

The Seminary Guild supports four students throughout their time at the Seminary through direct-to-student aid. Each academic year, a first-year student is selected to replace a concluding student. Here is the latest from this year’s students.



### Meet our first-year Seminary student, Rob Choate from Houston, Texas

I attended Texas A&M University and earned an undergraduate degree in finance before receiving the call from the Lord to join His ministry. I enjoy sports and especially love to watch my Aggies play football on Saturdays in the fall, and I love going to Astros games when I am home in Houston. My parents, Bob and Kathy, and my sister, Haley, all join me in thanking you for the generous support which you have given me. With much prayer, formation, education and support, I will be a fully trained pastor ready to serve God’s people. I wish you all the best and hope to hear from you soon.



### Luke Onken/second-year seminarian

Greetings again in Christ to you, the Concordia Seminary Guild! I thank you once again for all you do for this wonderful Seminary and for my education. My summer was quite fruitful! I spent it working at Lakeview Ministries in my hometown of Seymour, Ind. My specific role was “designated survivor,” indicating that I filled a host of roles while there, including cook, counselor, first aid and other positions. Lakeview Ministries is a place near and dear to my heart, as my father took me there when I was in kindergarten, and Lakeview had a sizeable impact on my decision to pursue the ministry. Coming back to

St. Louis, however, is a return of joy and happiness! The pre-vicarage year is perhaps the most academically rigorous year for the students, but there is much anticipation for the vicarage that is to come. Meeting with old friends and making new friends is also something that brings me joy, as the community of God is truly found in this place. I wish all of you the best for this upcoming year, and I pray that God continues to guide your ministry here at Concordia Seminary!



### Jacob Moore/third-year seminarian — vicarage

I am currently serving as vicar at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Union, Mo. I began vicarage in early August but just a month beforehand was married to my wife, Hope. We are both excited to begin this new chapter of our life and to do it at a wonderful place. In our spare time, Hope and I enjoy hiking, home renovations and cooking. We appreciate your prayers as we go through this next year, knowing that God who is faithful will guide and direct us in paths of righteousness.

### Ezra Grabau/fourth-year seminarian



Sami and I are living off-campus in Sunset Hills, Mo., with our dog, Toby. Sami is already back to work as a nurse. She is currently working for SSM Health DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton, Mo. I am thoroughly excited about all of the classes I am taking this semester. We’re both trying to enjoy our time in community at the Seminary before we go out into ministry. We are excited to see how the Lord shapes and forms us as we prepare for our first call. Thank you for all your prayers and support!



## Concordia Seminary Guild Annual Membership Dues/Project Fund Donations

**Annual dues: Individual – \$10 Organization – \$25**

**A yearly Guild membership is from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Have you paid your dues for this current year?**

Name (or Society) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual membership (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Organization membership (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Project fund donation

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Concordia Seminary Guild and send to: Mary Jane Autry, 1160 London Circle Lane, Apt. 206, Fenton, MO 63026

**Membership dues:** Please make certain that your Guild membership is up-to-date so that you will continue to receive *Guild Lines*.

**Project donations:** Project donations will be used for any of the Guild projects unless they are specified for a particular project.

**Thank you for your support!** For questions concerning the Seminary Guild, please call 314-429-6302.