

# Guild Lines

FALL 2022



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## WOMEN ON CAMPUS

Introducing the Seminary Women's Association (SWA)

By Jessica Thompson

When people think of Concordia Seminary, pictures of men typically come to mind. It is true that the Seminary classrooms are full of wonderful men who have been called by the Lord to enter into full-time ministry and are learning at the feet of wise male professors. The Seminary provides these men with opportunities to grow in knowledge and faith through their ministerial formation journey.

What most people don't realize is that Concordia Seminary also is home to quite a few women. These women are not studying to be pastors but are on campus for numerous reasons. Some have come as wives of the seminarians who have moved here — some already with families — to support their husbands in their studies. There also are women who are seminarians themselves, studying to be deaconesses or working toward their Master of Arts to prepare for the ministry into which God has called them. The Seminary employs quite a few women in areas like communications, financial aid, admissions, placement, campus services, etc. Many professors are married and their wives also are an integral part of the Seminary community.

This being the case, the Seminary Women's Association (SWA) has become an active organization at Concordia Seminary. SWA's goal is to support and serve all the women on campus through a variety of means. Each year a board of Seminary women serves as leaders for this organization. They operate under the supervision of Katie Nafzger, wife of Associate Professor of Practical Theology Dr. Peter Nafzger. Examples of ways that SWA serves are:

1. Offering Tuesday night classes and Bible studies for women
2. Hosting monthly community building events
3. Organizing fall and spring womens' retreats
4. Providing a means of communication so that women on campus can be informed about community life



Members of the Seminary Women's Association gather for a wine and cheese night Aug. 30, 2022, in Koburg Hall. Photo: Bridgette Sharpe

### 5. Preparing meals for new moms in the Seminary community

Through SWA, the women at Concordia Seminary are cared for and nurtured. Many of these women are living far away from their homes and extended families. SWA fills the void and provides some of the community and support that these women need to thrive in this new place. Through the faith and fellowship opportunities that are offered, these women find deep and lasting friendships. Many of these relationships stay strong even after the women's time at Seminary has ended. Women find that as they move out into the world of ministry, whether it be their own call or their new role as the wife of a pastor, the lessons they learned and the relationships that were built equip and provide them with the foundation needed to serve in whatever context God places them. SWA is a blessing to so many!

Jessica Thompson, who serves on the Seminary Women's Association, is a first-year Deaconess Studies student and is married to Lawton, a 2022 Master of Divinity graduate.

## From the Guild President



Welcome to the fall 2022 issue of *Guild Lines*! Our thanks to Tami Clardy who has completed her term as Sem Guild president after serving two consecutive two-year terms (the maximum). Her interest in and service to the Guild is very much appreciated.

Serving on the Guild board are both elected and appointed members. The positions of vice president, corresponding secretary and treasurer will be nominated and elected before you receive the next issue of *Guild Lines*. Please consider nominating someone for one of these positions. Self-nomination also is in order. Include a note when you contact Treasurer Mary Jane Autry and she will forward the information to Nominating Committee Chair Marian Hoehner.

You will note that all the appointed positions on the board are filled at the present time. Appointed positions are two-year terms, with no limit on the number of terms. And you will note, by looking at the list, that some of the women are familiar, having served for several years.

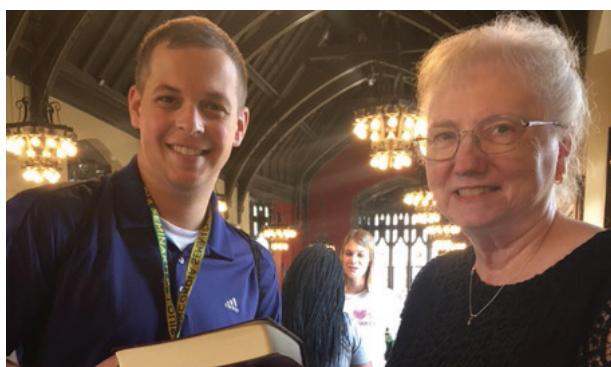
Thank you so very much to Karen Kramer for having ably served as membership chair for several terms. She cheerfully greeted luncheon attendees at the registration table with their name tags. She kept a list of contact and attendance information for members and reminded them when dues were due. Guests were sent welcome letters and invited to join the Guild. Karen now has decided to complete her service on the board.

Also, a tremendous thanks to Gail Brauer for her service to the board as historian, preserving the history of the Guild with an annual report and accompanying materials. These items are ultimately deposited  
*continued on next page*

## News Bits

### Journaling Bibles fully funded

Special Projects Chair Alice Kastens and Publicity Chair Angela Gielow handed out journaling Bibles during Orientation in August. More than 20 Bibles were gifted by Guild members in honor or memory of a special person in their lives. A total of 104 Bibles were delivered, including 34 to first-year Master of Divinity students, 21 to Graduate School students and five to women in the Deaconess Studies Program. "This was the first time that the graduate students were included, and they were very thankful for our gift and continued support," Kastens said.



New seminarian Joshua Kastens, left, receives a journaling Bible from his grandmother and Sem Guild Special Projects Chair Alice Kastens.

### Meet our new Publicity Chair Angela Gielow

Angela Gielow was appointed publicity chair by President Carol Schmidt in the spring. Gielow came into The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the campus ministry of Hope Chapel at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Her passion is Bible study and she especially finds joy in making it easier for others to participate. She enjoys taking leadership roles and making video presentations. She has more than 15 years of experience in coordinating and organizing Bible studies at her home church of Zion Harvester in St. Charles, Mo.



Seeking to publicize the Sem Guild within the church community is her priority. "I encourage all members of the Sem Guild to communicate with me at [gielowangela@gmail.com](mailto:gielowangela@gmail.com) to ask any questions about the Sem Guild," she said. "Your questions may simply be an opportunity to satisfy your inquisitiveness, but they also may help to promote ideas for future *Guild Lines* articles about that same topic. Often when you have a question,

there are others who have that same question but they may be too timid to ask. Also, invite me to speak to your group about the Sem Guild. I would love an opportunity to promote the work of the we do."

### Another service project completed

The members of the Concordia Seminary Guild contributed \$2,500 for the new student Orientation service project. Here is a thank you from Debbie Roediger, senior administrative assistant in Ministerial Formation:

"Such a pleasant surprise and so very generous! Thank you so very much and thank the Guild ladies also! They are so very kind to us!! Thanks again for the most generous gift and for all you and the Seminary Guild do for our students!"

### FUN FACT

#### What's in a name?

There are 34 first-year Master of Divinity students. Ten of them have the name Jacob, Joshua or Josh!

# Greetings from our Adopt-A-Student seminarians

The Seminary Guild supports four students throughout their time at the Seminary through direct-to-student aid. Here is the latest from this year's students:

## Meet our first-year seminarian, **Tim Handrick**



I am a first-year Residential Alternate Route student preparing for full-time pastoral ministry. My wife, Ashley, and three children — Melody (almost 5), Leah (almost 3) and Joshua (8 months) — are thrilled to be on campus and be a part of the Seminary community. I have been a full-time Director of Christian Education (DCE) for the past 18 years, serving congregations in Harlingen, Texas; Tampa, Fla.; Loveland, Colo.; and most recently in Ocala, Fla. Throughout my time as a DCE, I have primarily ministered to youth, but have always been passionate about getting out of the church building and taking the Good News of Jesus into the communities I served. We are truly humbled and appreciative for the support of the Concordia Seminary Guild. Please keep our family in your prayers: that God would draw us closer to Him, that we would grow stronger as a family unit and that we might develop meaningful relationships with others to encourage and support us for the rest of our lives.

## **Rob Choate/second-year seminarian**



I am beginning my second year and I am looking forward to getting married in November. The Lord has blessed me richly and continues to provide me and my fiancée, Alyssa Lehenbauer, with family support and financial means to be able to plan our wedding

very quickly. Also, I am looking forward to the many classes and Seminary activities I will partake in this year, including the Seminary baseball team, intramurals, cookouts and other clubs and events. I am staying very busy and feel very fulfilled here at the Sem. I will be praying for the Guild and its work to support seminarians. Please keep all my brothers and sisters in the ministry in your prayers as we enter into a world that is increasingly more hostile toward Christ and His saving Word.

## **Luke Onken, vicar/third-year seminarian**



I was assigned as a vicar this past spring to Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station, Va. Fairfax Station is a suburb of Washington, D.C., so it is a rather unique place for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The congregation I serve here has several military families who have lived in many places all over the globe, and thus they have many interesting stories to tell. The congregation has been warm and welcoming to me, which has made the transition from a small town in southern Indiana to the D.C. metropolitan area a rather smooth transition. One of the fun things that I can do here is minister to the international student population at George Mason University. A few times during the week, I go to the campus and eat with the international students. While there, I invite them to conversations about faith. It is a joy to be able to serve the Lord in this unique aspect of my vicarage. I thank each of you once again for your continued prayers and support of my education at Concordia Seminary and my journey on vicarage. I will continue to pray for all of you and your ministry that you provide for the Seminary!

## **Jacob Moore/fourth-year seminarian**



It has been a hectic summer and fall to say the least! My wife and I had our first child, Arthur. We moved back to St. Louis from vicarage, attended two weddings in a matter of a month and took a much-needed vacation! I learned a lot from my vicarage and was able to get a lot of training in the areas of preaching and teaching Bible study. In my systematics class we are learning that the pastoral office is one of preaching and teaching, so the more I can do that, the better off I will be! Speaking of classes, I am really enjoying all of the ones I am in and have learned so much in just the first few weeks. I look forward to seeing you all again soon and as always thank you for all the support you show me and my family. The Lord be with you!

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at Concordia Historical Institute, which preserves items of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) historical interest. We appreciate Gail's service to the Guild.

The theme for the 2022-23 academic year is "Sharing the Gospel—Sharing our Lives" from 1 Thess. 2:8, "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." Certainly, this theme also blends well with the purpose of the Guild itself to "cooperate with the board and administration in rendering service and providing items not ordinarily in the Seminary budget." As Christ serves us by His atonement through His death and resurrection, so we, in gratefulness, serve, among others, the Seminary — its students, faculty and staff. Thank you for sharing this focus.

Lord's blessings,  
*Carol Schmidt*

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## Adopted service projects for the 2022-23 academic year:

Journaling Bibles for incoming students*	\$1,500
Adopt-A-Student	4,000
Music arts	2,000
After chapel coffee time	1,000
Campus landscaping*	4,000
Student athletics and fitness center	3,000
New student Orientation*	2,500
Commencement reception	800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,800</b>

\* Completed projects

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

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

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