

CONCORDIA HOUSE OF STUDIES

Innovative Concordia House of Studies Opens Sixth Year

The Concordia House of Studies was created by the Florida-Georgia District in June of 2000. Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke was called to be the Founding Director of the Concordia House of Studies and assumed that position in July of 2001.

CHS began offering classes in the Orlando area on August 19, 2002.

CHS provides an attractive, reasonable opportunity for students to receive religious education, spiritual formation and/or ecclesiastical certification in a church work role while they are completing a degree at an accredited college or university.

The Florida-Georgia District is committed to the belief that the Concordia House of Studies provides means to increase the number of professional church workers.

Even as the Florida-Georgia District embarks on an enhanced program of mission outreach and growth to meet the needs of the 23,000,000 residents of the two states, there is a shortage of clergy and teachers for Lutheran churches and schools.

The number of students from Florida-Georgia attending schools of the LCMS' Concordia University System (CUS) is limited by the long distances to CUS schools.

The concept of a House of Studies offers an attractive, reasonable means of bringing quality training for professional church workers to this region. The CHS provides coursework for professional church workers in a setting adjacent to local college or university campuses. The state university provides the general or specialized secular education needed by the

student for the baccalaureate degree.

The CHS helps to overcome the barrier of distance that prevents some students from going into a church work program. By offering quality

religious education relatively close to where students live.

The CHS helps to overcome the barrier of dollars. By keeping the cost of education as low as possible for church work students. The Concordia

House of Studies does this by offering only the courses that are needed for church work certification. The state university provides the remainder of a student's education including the bachelor's degree. In the case of teacher education students, the state university also awards the student's state teacher certification.



The first Concordia House of Studies class is shown here with Dr. Wayne Wilke, CHS Executive Director (left, back row) and Florida-Georgia District President Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., (fifth from the left, back row).

For more information about CHS and its programs, visit the District website at www.flga-lcms.org and click on the House of Studies link in the left column. If you have any questions about how CHS can assist you in any aspect of your plans for Christian education, please feel free to contact Dr. Wayne Wilke at 407-857-5556, ext 5, or toll free at 877-457-5556, ext. 5; via e-mail at wwilke@flga-lcms.org. □

CHS Announces Fall 2008 Classes

In partnership with Concordia University-St. Paul, the Concordia House of Studies (CHS) will be offering its first online course beginning the first week of September. The three-credit course is entitled "Christian Ministry and Practice."

Traditional format classes will also be offered this fall in three locations.

Upcoming classes include:

**Online
Christian Ministry
and Practice**
(3 credits)

Beginning in early September
Lead Instructor: Rev. Dr. James Gimbel, Director for Cohort Religion Classes, Concordia University-St. Paul.

The catalog description reads: "The concepts of call, vocation, ministry and team ministry are studied in relation to the worship, witness, teaching, service and fellowship of the church. Students will develop an awareness of the oneness of the church as the body of Christ gathered around Word and Sacrament. The nature of the ministry as servant hood is explored in the context of the life of local churches. Students spend time off campus in local congregations observing and

participating in the life of the church."

**Orlando - meeting at
St. Luke's-Oviedo.
Old Testament Narrative**
(3 credits)

Mondays, August 25 - December 1, from 6-9 pm
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke, Executive Director, Concordia House of Studies.

The catalog description reads: "A survey of the narrative of the Torah, the Former Prophets and the Writings. Special attention is paid to the concepts of promise, law, covenant, grace, and the presence of God in the story of God's people. The course concludes with a survey of the intertestamental period and the Old Testament apocryphal literature."

The Concordia House of Studies and Concordia University-Wisconsin are jointly offering weekends courses at two sites in Florida.

**Lakeland - meeting at
St. Paul Lutheran
Old Testament**
(3 credits)

Alternate Saturdays beginning August 23; September 6, 20; October 4
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke.

The catalog description reads: "The foundational course in knowing three-fourths of Holy Scripture and being prepared to adequately teach how the stories fit into God's overall plan of creation and redemption."

New Testament
(3 credits)

Alternate Saturdays beginning October 18; November 1, 15; December 6
Instructor: Rev. Dennis Goff, Pastor, St. Paul-Lakeland.

The catalog description reads "This course surveys the content of the New Testament and teaches principles and skills for its interpretation."

**Delray Beach - Meeting at
Trinity Lutheran
Biblical Theology**
(3 Credits)

Alternate Saturdays beginning August 23; September 6, 20; October 4
Instructor: Rev. Kenneth Larson, Emeritus.

The catalog description reads, "It is the purpose of this course to study the major areas of Christian doctrine with an emphasis on what Scripture says, as well as how Lutheran doctrine reflects what Scripture says."

Teaching the Faith
(3 credits)

Saturdays beginning October 18; continuing November 1, 15; December 6

Instructor: Mr. Carl Schiefer, St. Paul Lutheran School-Boca Raton, FL.

The catalog description reads, "This course helps the student develop a knowledge of resources and skills necessary to teach religion in the elementary classroom, and to youth and adults in the church setting."

Tuition is \$135 per credit hour and only \$200 for enrichment. Enroll online by going to www.flga-lcms.org, clicking on House of Studies" and then on "2008 Courses" and then your location. Additionally, you can contact CHS in Orlando at 407-857-5556, ext 5, or toll free at 877-457-5556, ext. 5, or via e-mail at wwilke@flga-lcms.org. □

Gifts Help Sem Students

Friends of Concordia Seminaries from Christ The King-Largo, FL, recently gathered at the home of Peggy and Herm Schriefer.

Special guest was Tom Rehkop, Director of Principal and Planned Gifts at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, who was in Florida visiting Rev. Hubert Temme, Regional Director of Gifts for the Seminary.

"Many of the guests have friends and relatives who are graduates of Concordia Seminaries, and realize that funding of the seminaries has changed dramatically," said Christ The King member Gwen Diller.

"Through the 1960s Synod fully supported the seminaries and there were no tuition charges," she continued. "Synod support declined steadily. Currently, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis receives less than two percent of its income from Synod.

"Unless a congregation includes the seminary in its budget, a weekly offering envelope includes less than one cent to the seminary."

At the Largo gathering, Rehkop shared the vision of Concordia Seminary President Dr. Dale Meyer to ensure that the LCMS will have enough trained pastors to carry out the work

of the church. Rehkop emphasized that LCMS members may help by providing the names of those who might be interested in becoming involved with the formation of pastors by making contributions.

Temme and Rehkop are available to assist congregations with information on matching gift opportunities and other issues. □



At the recent Christ The King-Largo, FL, gathering in support of seminary training (l-r) Tom Rehkop with June and Rev. Hubert Temme.

From the editor ...

Our apologies for the late delivery of the recent *Lutheran LIFE*. The papers were on the delivery truck whose driver had the misfortune to veer off Alligator Alley and into a side canal. He was airlifted to a hospital; the papers were in the submerged truck and had to be reprinted. We're hopeful that this was a one-time incident ... and we've revised our distribution system to improve the delivery process. Thanks for your understanding!