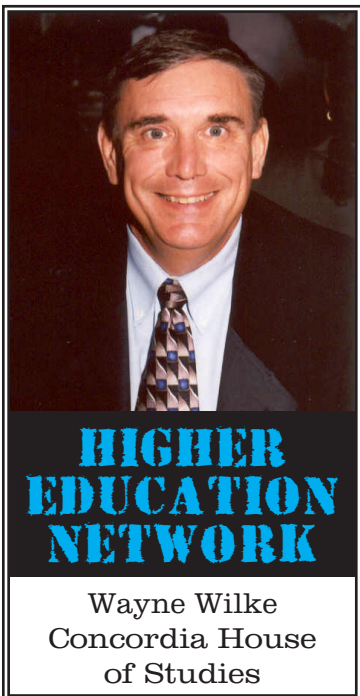


CONCORDIA HOUSE OF STUDIES

CHS Supports Range of District Ministry Opportunities



This issue of *Lutheran Life* focuses on the topic of Missions. The Concordia House of Studies supports a variety of ministry opportunities available in our District. The local congregation is the place where God's people join together around Word and Sacrament, reaching out to a lost world. In the congregation, dedicated, faithful workers assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, building up the Body of Christ.

Christ Himself instituted the office of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Many functions belong to this office: evangelizing, preaching, teaching, shepherding, supervising, admonishing, disciplining, and administering. Because it is often difficult or impossible for the pastor to perform all the functions of the ministry, the church may under the one Ministry of the Word establish such "offices" as the situation requires.

If the situation changes, the church may abolish some "offices." However, the church must always remain faithful to our Lord's commission to preach the Gospel, baptize, celebrate the Lord's Supper and feed and guard the flock of Christ.

In previous issues, we have featured the Office of the Holy Ministry. In this issue, we will briefly focus on other full-time positions in the congregation.

Teacher

Teachers serve in classrooms in Lutheran early childhood centers, elementary schools, high schools or colleges. The life of a Christian teacher is dedicated to the exciting, enriching experience of the development of searching minds and the formation of personalities. Teachers partner with parents and pastors in the joy and satisfaction of preparing children for a life of service to Jesus Christ.

Teachers use their gifts and talents in teaching, coaching, music programs, adult education, youth programs and/or administration. Certified teachers are required to complete a college degree in education which includes five years including an internship.

Deaconess

A Deaconess, the word means "servant," is a Christian woman who is given the gifts to serve in a unique way within and outside the church. She fills roles like counseling, teaching, administration, evangelism and social services within parishes, hospitals, welfare institutions, college campuses and on foreign mission fields. Certification requires a college degree plus a year of internship with one to four years of specialized study.

Director of Christian Education (DCE)

The DCE works with the pastor to establish educational programs within the congregation. As a congregation grows and mission opportunities expand, a DCE can provide the vision and leadership required to address varied educational needs. This involves nourishing the full range of ministry for children, youth, adults, and family groups in Christian instruction and growth in personal faith.

Academic preparation leading to certification as a DCE involves four years of higher education plus one year of internship in a congregation.

Director of Christian Outreach (DCO)

The DCO works with the pastor to develop and direct the witnessing efforts of one or more congregations and helps new members become involved. The DCO's primary function is to stimulate, educate, mobilize, and support parishioners in this important ministry.

A DCO also may serve in a cross-cultural outreach in the USA or on a foreign mission field. Academic preparation requires four years of higher education and one year of internship.

Lay Minister

The lay minister works under a pastor's guidance and direction in a variety of ways depending on the gifts, talents and area of study.

The Lay Minister assists in many areas of church life, often filling the roles of church business administrator, evangelism coordinator, pastoral assistant, administrator of home for the aged or Bible Translator. Academic preparation normally includes four years of college with a major in theology and an internship or practicum.

Director of Family Life Ministry

The Director serves as a partner on a congregation's ministry team with a focus on helping families develop a strong commitment to Christ and a life of service beyond themselves. The Director organizes Christ-centered family programs, leads discussion groups on family life topics, counsels parents and children and influences educational experiences throughout the congregation. The Family Life Graduate completes a four year undergraduate program and a practicum, and is certified by the National Council on Family Relations.

Director of Parish Music

The Director helps the pastor plan worship services, leads or plays music for worship services and conducts choirs and musical groups. The Director's God-given talents and spiritual sensitivity are used to enhance the musical life and worship experience. Academic preparation requires four years of study with an intense concentration in music along with a practicum in an area church.

The Concordia House of Studies (CHS) is directly involved in the education of professional church workers seeking to serve in these congregational ministries. Students can complete their entire **Teacher Education** program by taking CHS courses at the same time they are completing their state teacher certification at a local university. In many instances, students can complete their entire **Lay Ministry** program by combining CHS courses with local community colleges or universities.

CHS can provide the basic religious courses required in all of the other programs, but final certification will require two to three years at one of the Concordia University System schools.

If you have any questions about how CHS can assist you in your educational plans, please feel free to contact Dr. Wilke in Orlando locally at 407-857-5556, ext 5, toll free at 877-457-5556, ext. 5, or via e-mail at wwilke@flga-lcms.org. □

CHS Announces Spring 2009 Classes

In partnership with Concordia University-St. Paul, the Concordia House of Studies (CHS) is offering its second online course beginning Monday, January 26, 2009.

RLG303 Old Testament II (2 credits) will meet for ten weeks with a weekly online chat discussion from 8-9 pm. The instructors will be Rev. Dr. Jim Gimbel and Rev. Dr. Steve Stohlman from Concordia University-St. Paul. The class is a study of the major and minor prophets; Psalms and wisdom literature; and apocalyptic literature. The course will examine the nature of prophecy, the nature of worship and response to God's gifts and struggles in life.

The on-site Orlando class will be offered at St. Luke's-Ovideo this term. Rev. Gary Schuschke, St. Luke's, will be the instructor for the class which begin Thursday, January 22, from 6-9 pm. This class is an introduction to the historical context and literature of the New Testament. Students will master the stories and teachings of early Christianity, practice the uses of the tools of biblical interpretation and grow in their ability to read Biblical texts in their historical and literary contexts.

These classes are part of our partnership with Concordia University-St. Paul. This program offers the complete sequence of courses needed for the Lutheran Teacher Certificate. It also provides all of the religion courses

for the Director of Christian Education program.

In addition, the courses will prepare pre-seminary students for the competency exams in Old and New Testament plus Christian Doctrine required by the seminaries of the LCMS.

Finally, individuals interested in taking classes for their



own personal enrichment are also welcome. Each class is offered for college credits and tuition is \$135 per credit hour. Persons taking the classes for personal enrichment can enroll for a \$200 course fee.

The Concordia House of Studies and Concordia University - Wisconsin are jointly offering the Lay Ministry program in Florida-Georgia. Two classes will be offered in **South-east Florida. REL 311 CHURCH IN MISSION** (3 credits) will meet on alternate Saturdays beginning January 17, 2009 and continuing January 31 and February 14 and 28. Class will meet at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lake Worth and the instructor will be Rev. Stephen Wipperman. This class studies the mission of the Church with a vision toward

contemporary ministry and outreach. Emphasis will be given to friendship and cross-cultural missionary outreach methods.

REL 221 LUTHERAN WORSHIP (3 credits) introduces the main terms and elements of traditional and contemporary worship. The student is exposed to a variety of art forms and the ways in which they can be incorporated into the worship experience. Along with learning the principles involved in assisting with leading a worship service, the student practices these skills in the community. This class will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church in Delray Beach on alternate Saturdays beginning April 18 and continuing May 2, 16, 30.

Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke of Concordia - Mequon will be the instructor, and Rev. Ken Larson will serve as the local mentor.

Two classes will be offered in **Lakeland**, meeting at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School.

REL 204 Biblical Theology (3 credits) is a systematic study of major areas of Christian doctrine with an emphasis on what Scripture says, as well as how Lutheran doctrine reflects what Scripture says. This class will meet on alternate Saturday's beginning January 17, 2009 and continuing January 31 and February 14 and 28. The instructor will be Rev. Dean Pfeffer, Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Plant City.

ED306 Teaching the Faith (3 credits) - helps the student develop knowledge of resources

and skills necessary to teach religion in the elementary classroom. This class will meet on alternate Saturdays beginning April 18, continuing May 2, 16, 30. The instructor for this class is Mr. David Geidel, principal of Immanuel Lutheran School in Brandon.

These classes can be used to meet the requirements of the Lay Ministry program which leads to certification as a Commissioned Minister - Lay Ministry. These classes can also be used to meet competency requirements for the Specific Ministry Pastor Program. For teachers seeking credits for State of Florida Re-certification, each class taken for credit can be converted into 60 in-service hours. Finally, these classes can also be taken by lay people who are interested in upgrading their skills and understandings for a reduced fee. Tuition cost for each class is \$135 per credit hour for academic credit or \$200 for personal enrichment.

Enrollment for all of these courses can be accomplished on-line. Simply go to www.flga-lcms.org, click on the "House of Studies" icon, then go to "2009 Courses" and select the location nearest you. Also, feel free to contact the Concordia House of Studies at 407-857-5556, extension 5, or toll free 877-457-5556, extension 5; or via e-mail wwilke@flga-lcms.org or chammerstrom@flga-lcms.org if you have additional questions. □