

# CHS Classes Answer Various Student Needs



## HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK

by Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke  
Director Concordia House Studies

The Concordia House of Studies seeks to prepare men and women to effectively serve in the mission that God has provided for them. Some of our students are full-time college students and others take classes while they continue working. They may be preparing for a career change or simply taking classes to strengthen their skills in existing areas where they already serve. All CHS students benefit from CHS courses because they are building a theological foundation that will serve them in a variety of vocations.

The ultimate goal of the Concordia House of Studies is to increase the number of church workers in the area served by the Florida-Georgia District. One of our sites for traditional college courses is at First Lutheran Church in Gainesville, Florida, the home of the University of Florida.

This month I have asked Sarah Freeman to share her story. Sarah is on the staff of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church-Gainesville, where she works in the area of



Sarah Freeman

Youth and Christian Education. Sarah has found time over the past three years to take classes in the midst of her full-time work responsibilities. In

addition, she has been involved in planning both the Senior High and Middle School Youth Gatherings for the Florida-Georgia District.

*Sarah, please tell me a little about your background. Where were you born, where have you lived, what schools have you attended?*

I was born in Ohio but spent my childhood in Milwaukee, WI. I moved to Florida in middle school and graduated from Lake Gibson High School in Lakeland, FL. I attended Florida Southern College and graduated in 2002.

*What led you to make the decision to enter full-time church work? What factors informed your decision that the Lord is calling you into full-time service as a DCE?*

Several key role models blessed me in my life that God faithfully used to guide me into full time church work. God constantly amazes me by how He so delicately places people

in my life and gives me so many teaching experiences that gently place me where He wants me to be. God used these role models and experiences in my life to show me how much Joy I gain from working with children and youth. I look forward to coming to work everyday just to see what God has in store for me next!

*What led you to begin taking courses with the Concordia House of Studies?*

Honestly, Rev. Charles Reich — my pastor — and the congregational leaders at Abiding Savior thought it would be beneficial to me since I did not attend a Concordia College. They were right!

*How has your CHS experience helped you with your ministry with the people at Abiding Savior?*

The classes are constantly reaffirming both what I was taught all throughout my childhood as well as what I now have the privilege of teaching others.

*How have the CHS classes helped you academically and spiritually in your role as a youth group leader in the parish?*

The classes help me academically as they challenge me and give me the necessary knowledge of challenging others in their faith—especially the confirmands I teach. Spiritually, they renew my sense of how amazing our God is and how His Grace never ends.

*What do you value most about your experience in the Concordia House of Studies?*

I love to be challenged. I also enjoy the friends that I have made in the class and the community we now have.

*Do you have any advice for others who may be considering taking CHS courses?*

For sure, I would you encourage people to enroll in the Concordia House of Studies! It is a worthwhile experience that will be beneficial in so many ways on so many different levels. □

## CHS Spring 2006 Classes Announced

The Concordia House of Studies will be offering the following classes for the Spring term of 2006.

### Traditional College Level Courses

Traditional college-credit courses will be offered in both Orlando and Gainesville. These are 15-week classes that meet one night a week for three hours. Students receive college credit through our partnership with Concordia College-Bronxville, NY.

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 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seminaries. Finally, individuals interested in taking classes for their own personal enrichment are also welcome.

Each class is offered for three college credits and tuition for each class totals \$360. Persons taking the classes for personal enrichment can enroll for \$200. Orlando classes will again be offered at St. Luke's Lutheran Church-Oviedo, near the campus of the University of Central Florida. This site is convenient to students at UCF, Valencia and Seminole Community Colleges, and other local colleges.

*REL120, The Literature and History of the New Testament* will begin on Tuesday, January 10, at 6:00pm at St. Luke. The instructor will be Rev. Gary Schuschke, St. Luke's associate

pastor who has served as an instructor for several CHS courses in the past.

Students who have completed either the Old or New Testament class will enroll in *REL237, Lutheran Confessions*. This class will begin on Thursday, January 12, at 6:00pm at St. Luke. The instructor will be Rev. John Rallison, pastor of Journey of Life Lutheran Church-Orlando. This course will focus on the Book of Concord in its historical setting and as the Lutheran Church's normative exposition of Holy Scripture.

**Gainesville** classes will be offered at First Lutheran Church, adjacent to the campus of the University of Florida. First Lutheran has long been the site of the Florida-Georgia District's campus ministry program at the University. Classes are open to anyone with a high school diploma and the first class will include students from not only UF, but also from Santa Fe Community College and other local colleges.

The class to be offered in Gainesville will be *EDU327, Religious Education and the Role of the Christian Teacher* beginning on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00 pm. The instructor will be the Richard Rath, principal of St. John's Lutheran School-Ocala. This class will focus on the goals, objectives, contents, methods and materials for teaching the Christian faith.

### Lay Ministry/DELTO

The Concordia House of Studies and Concordia University-Wisconsin are jointly

offering the Lay Ministry program in Florida-Georgia. This program prepares people for service in the LCMS as lay ministers in a variety of capacities throughout the church. Lay ministers, who serve under pastoral supervision in their congregations, lead the congregation's educational programs, direct youth ministry, visit the sick and shut-in members, and perform many other services for the church.

This program will also fulfill the requirements for the first ten courses for those individuals eligible for DELTO, Distance Education Leading To Ordination. Students currently enrolled in DELTO classes in Atlanta or South Florida will now have their classes offered as part of the Lay Ministry program.

In Atlanta, three courses will be offered at Grace Lutheran Church in the Spring Term of 2006. *REL204 Biblical Theology* will be offered on alternate Saturdays beginning January 7, 2006. Dr. Rodger Meyer from Atlanta will serve as the instructor. *REL221 Lutheran Worship* will be offered on alternate Saturdays beginning March 4, 2006. The instructor will be Rev. Dr. Tim Maschke from Concordia-Wisconsin and the mentor will be Dr. Meyer. *REL233 Communicating Bible Messages* will be offered beginning Saturday, May 6. The Instructor will be Rev. Dan Paavala from Concordia-Wisconsin and the mentor will be Dr. Meyer.

In Jacksonville, courses will be offered at Guardian Lutheran Church. *ED 306 Teaching*

*the Faith* will be offered on alternate Saturdays, beginning January 7, 2006. Mark Wetherell, DCE at Trinity Lutheran Church-Holly Hill, will be the instructor. *REL233 Communicating Bible Messages* will be offered beginning Saturday, March 4. The Instructor will be Rev. Dan Paavala from Concordia-Wisconsin and the mentor will be Rev. Paul Koch, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran-Kingsland.

In Tampa, courses will be offered at Messiah Lutheran Church. *REL233 Communicating Bible Messages* will be offered beginning Saturday, January 7, 2006. The Instructor will be Rev. Dan Paavala from Concordia-Wisconsin and the mentor will be Rev. Dennis Goff, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran-Lakeland. *ED 306 Teaching the Faith* will be offered on alternate Saturdays, beginning March 18, 2006. Peter LeBorious, DCE at Christ the King Lutheran Church-Largo will be the instructor.

Enrollment for all of these courses can be accomplished on-line. Simply go to [www.flga-lcms.org](http://www.flga-lcms.org), click on the "House of Studies" icon, then go to "Course of Study" 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](mailto:wwilke@flga-lcms.org) or [chammerstrom@flga-lcms.org](mailto:chammerstrom@flga-lcms.org) if you have additional questions. □

## Wheat Ridge Offers New Resource

Wheat Ridge Ministries has introduced its newest resource, a collection of insights, prayers and inspirations entitled *Living Well! 100 Seeds to Grow Your Spirit*.

The book includes contributions from Rich Bimler, Herb Brokering, Eldor Kaiser, Cathy Malotky, Walt Schoedel and Ted Schroder. It includes 100 "seeds"—of encouragement, comfort, faith, health, hope and joy. Initial distribution of the resource was at Wheat Ridge's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary "National Symposium on Health and Hope" last October.

Copies of *Living Well!* are available for \$15 each and can be ordered on line at [www.wheatridge.org](http://www.wheatridge.org) (resources) or by contacting Wheat Ridge at 800-762-6784 or [wrmill@wheatridge.org](mailto:wrmill@wheatridge.org). □