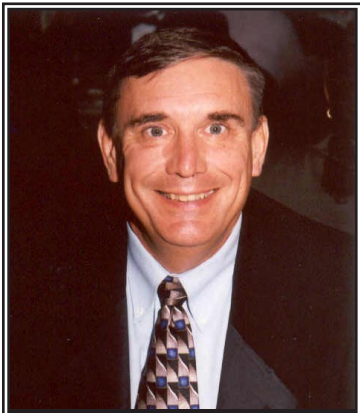


## CONCORDIA HOUSE OF STUDIES

## CHS to Offer New Options in Fall



## HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK

Wayne Wilke  
Concordia House  
of Studies

The story is told of a DCE, the school principal and the congregation's senior pastor who are on their way to lunch, where they were going to plan for the next year's activities. On their way, they come across a genie's lamp. They rub the lamp and a genie appears. The genie says, "Normally, one is granted three wishes but as you are three, I will allow one wish each."

So the young DCE shouted, "I want the first wish. I want to be in the Bahamas, on a fast boat and have no worries." PFFFF! He was gone.

Now the school principal could not keep quiet and shouted, "I want to be in Wisconsin, far away from this meeting, with a fishing rod in my hands." PFFFF! He was gone.

The senior pastor calmly said, "I want these two idiots back in the office after lunch at 1:30pm." The moral of the story is: "Always allow the senior pastor to speak first."



The summer months are a time of transition in many parishes. Most of the winter visitors have left for the summer, schools are on summer break and families take to the road for vacation. The pace of life in the parish sometimes slows down and provides a respite; an opportunity to make plans for the cycle of activities that will begin in the Fall. This issue of *Lutheran LIFE* provides many insights into planning for the upcoming year. This column will give you an advanced view of CHS classes for this Fall.

We are excited to announce that the **first online class** will be offered this Fall through our partnership with Concordia University-St. Paul. This online instruction will enable more students to enroll who have been unable in the past because of a potential weekly commute over long distance to class. The class is **THY422 Christian Ministry and Practice, a three-credit class**. 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." The lead instructor for the class will be Rev. Dr. James Gimbel, Coordinator for Cohort Religion Classes at Concordia-St. Paul.

**Traditional college** classes will be offered in **Orlando** beginning Monday, August 25, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo. **RLG203 Old Testament Narrative, a three-credit class, with Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke, Director of the Concordia House of Studies, as the instructor.** **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." Tuition cost for each class is \$405 per class for academic credit or \$200 for personal enrichment.

The partnership between Concordia-St. Paul and the House of Studies provides even more church work programs to students in Florida and Georgia. In addition to being valuable courses for Teacher education students and for pre-seminary students, both the online course and the Old Testament course are part of the coursework

for programs as Director of Christian Education, Director of Christian Outreach, Director of Parish Music, Director of Family Life and pre-Deaconess.



Plan now to also partake of our non-traditional weekend course offerings which can be used to a myriad of needs. These classes will be offered at both Trinity Lutheran Church-Delray Beach and at St. Paul Lutheran Church-Lakeland. These classes will meet for four Saturdays over a two-month period beginning August 23. Tuition cost is \$405 per class for academic credit or \$200 for personal enrichment.

Two classes will be offered at St. Paul-Lakeland. REL201, Old Testament Survey will be offered tentatively on August 23; September 6, 20; and October 4. REL203 New Testament Survey will be offered tentatively on October 18; November 1, 15; and December 6.

Two classes will be offered at Trinity-Delray Beach. REL204, Biblical Theology will be offered tentatively on August 23; September 6, 20; and October 4. ED306 Teaching the Faith will be offered tentatively on October 18; November 1, 15; and December 6.



CHS and Concordia University-Wisconsin are jointly offering the Lay Ministry program in Florida-Georgia. This program prepares people for service in

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod as lay ministers in a variety of capacities throughout the church. Lay ministers serve under pastoral supervision in their congregations. Lay ministers have the opportunity to lead the congregation's educational programs, direct youth ministry, visit the sick and shut-in members, and perform many other services for the church, dependent upon specific gifts, abilities and skills.

The classes can also be used in partial fulfillment of the Teacher Colloquy program. For teachers seeking credits for State of Florida re-certification, each class taken for credit can be converted into 60 in-service hours. These classes can be taken by students who are preparing for the entrance exams for seminary study. Finally, these classes can be taken for a reduced fee by lay people who are interested in upgrading their skills and understandings in biblical theology or for personal enrichment.

*Full details regarding specific days and times will be available on the District web site in July. Go to [www.flga-lcms.org](http://www.flga-lcms.org) and click on the "House of Studies" icon and then "2008 courses." Here you will find everything you need to know, including the option to register. If you have any questions about how CHS can assist you in your educational plans, please feel free to contact Dr. Wilke. You can contact him 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](mailto:wwilke@flga-lcms.org)* □

## The Case for Campus Ministries

*Editor's note: This column was written by Jake Sletten, who completed his vicarage at First Lutheran-Gainesville before going back to Concordia Seminary-St. Louis to complete his studies. "I have had the distinct honor of serving the students of the University of Florida as the Campus Minister at First Lutheran," he wrote. "I wanted to write an article regarding the need for campus ministries in our District, and regarding the immense need they are for incoming students into the universities and colleges that exist in Florida and Georgia." This is that article...in a question-and-answer format.*

**Q:** Why is it important to connect students to campus ministries?

**A:** For incoming freshmen coming into schools that are as large as the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of Georgia and several others, the size of these schools can be incredibly intimidating. When you first set foot on

campus you are immediately hit with the reality that you are no longer in high school, and that the little pond that you were used to swimming in has just grown to the size of the Atlantic Ocean.

Some students feel as though they may as well have been dropped off in a foreign country by their parents because the feelings of insecurity and awkwardness would no doubt be the same. This is why it is important to connect students to our campus ministries. It gives them the opportunity to be a part of something that is familiar, to be a part of something that is smaller while still remaining a part of the bigger pond and to be able to connect with other students who share the same Christian faith that they do. This can, ultimately, lead to a much more successful and easier first part of a fall semester for students — not to mention putting their worried parents at ease!

**Q:** What is the Florida-Georgia District doing to help connect students?

**A:** Through the District as well as Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF), we are proud to say that we have several active and well-functioning campus ministries in Florida-Georgia! Through these campus ministries we are providing weekly Bible studies at each individual

school's ministry, as well as regular social and servant events.

Perhaps the most important thing that we provide, though, is the opportunity to get plugged into a church. Whereas larger campus ministry organizations such as Campus Crusade do not have an actual church which they consider their "home base,"

the campus ministries for the Florida-Georgia District are all connected with an LCMS congregation. This is highly crucial as this gives students the opportunity to also be plugged into a church setting where they have the opportunity to be a part of the Body of Christ by interacting with other people of similar

faith, as well as having a place where they can partake in our Lord's Supper.

However, even if a church is not close by, campus ministries can still reach students through student leaders or remote service a particular campus. If you have any other questions or want to look for

more information regarding LSF please visit our website at [www.lutheranstudentfellowship.org](http://www.lutheranstudentfellowship.org).

In regards specifically to the District, we have a goal of starting 15 new campus ministries at colleges and universities in Florida-Georgia. This is a very bold and ambitious goal, but, Lord willing, we feel that there are resources, leadership and help available in order to make this happen! We currently have campus ministries at the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of Georgia, Georgia Southern University, Florida Atlantic University and many others.

If you know of any current or soon-to-be college students, please send them our way! Please go to the Florida-Georgia District website at [www.flga-lcms.org](http://www.flga-lcms.org) and click on the District & Lutheran Student Fellowship link on the home page to sign up your college students so they can be welcomed on behalf of the church on the university campus. □