



# St. John Amelith Parish News - September 2024

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Former professor Rev. Harold Senkbeil and founder of Doxology-The Lutheran Center For Spiritual Care and Council writes, *"By our Lord's own mandate, he has so arranged it in his church that we grow, are fed, nourished, guarded, and protected not out of the weakness and ineptitude of our ministers but rather by the tools Christ has entrusted into their hands. The gospel and the sacraments are not static entities—mere object lessons by which we advertise and promote the kingdom of God. Rather, the gospel and the sacraments throb with vitality. They are filled to the brim with the energy and life of God's own Spirit."* (*The Cure of Souls*, p.30).

Pastoral presence and care for souls extends from the Divine Service to be a benefit for the lives of God's baptized people. While administrative and organizational task of doing church can easily distract pastors, it is just as common for lay people to think misread the work of the pastor and not want to "bother" him. However, the called and ordained servants of the Word are properly at work when they are caring for souls as Shepherds. Few even realize when they might need a pastor or how His spiritual care does deliver a service of love by the Gospel.

Here are a few times when I might be able to serve you in the work of Christ and His ministry.

- Illness, hospitalized, surgery, or a chronic illness
- Having a new baby, stillbirth, or miscarriage
- Seeking the baptism of child or adult
- Communion for the homebound
- Time of distress like anxiety, loneliness, anger, depression, or addictions
- Family uncertainties over children, elderly care, moving, or job
- Blessing of a home with the Word and prayer
- Guidance for private and family devotional life
- Heartaches in marriage or facing pain of divorce
- Comfort of Private Confession/Absolution
- Bereavement over loss of loved one
- To be in pastor's daily private prayers
- Healing and spiritual care with abuse or violence
- Coping with changes as come with retirement
- Preparation in funeral planning
- Ethical matters on infertility, end of life decisions, trouble at work, etc....
- Demonic affliction, persecution, or spiritual doubts



Pastors are servants of the spirit-filled Word not simply a service offered by a church. St. Paul declares, "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). Pastors are not C.E.O's, but caretakers of sheep. Jesus told Peter after His resurrection, "Feed my lambs" (John 21:15). Pastors have a special charge from Christ for the sake of His baptized. St. Paul says, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

In service to the Lord and His flock,                      Pastor Gauthier

We continue the series of articles about every Sunday communion for our newsletter. There are plenty of things that we need daily if not weekly in life. David celebrates this care of our Good Shepherd feeding him in Psalm 23 declaring, “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...” (vs. 5). Truly the table of our Lord is today His true body and blood to eat and drink for us men and our salvation. Our Lutheran Fathers made every Sunday communion part of their defense at the time of the Reformation. They confessed, “At the outset we must again make the preliminary statement that we do not abolish the Mass (Lord’s Supper), but religiously maintain and defend it. For among us masses are celebrated every Lord’s Day and on the other festivals, in which the Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. (Augsburg Confession, Apology, Article XXIV).

God’s peace be with you in Christ Jesus, Pastor

## We Have the Time

January 18, 2021

#5 We have the time...for Jesus to love us so much.

The second most common objection to [recovering weekly communion in the 1999](#) survey was that it takes too much time. While the Holy Trinity and the saints triumphant are outside of time, we struggle in and with time. Time may seem heavy as a day drags along or sleepless hours lumber through the night. Time may appear light and fleeting as another year or decade slips away, like a shadow or a flower that withers (Job 14:2). Our time on earth is a precious gift from God, for our times are in God’s hands (Psalm 31:15). We pray, “O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!” (Psalm 39:4). We ask God, “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12).

Time is precious. Jesus’ love is infinitely more precious.

Our risen Lord comes among us in the Divine Service to provide refuge and security that we cannot provide for ourselves. We gather in His presence for a fraction of each week. We easily spend more than 80 minutes for a sporting event, movie, eating out with friends or relaxing in the great outdoors. But our inwardly-curved hearts easily complain about the 80 minutes to receive Jesus’ loving gifts.

While temptations to usurp time in the Divine Service for extraneous things abound, Christ serving His people at His Table is never extraneous. All week, the pastor prepared a sermon for Christ to speak to His gathered guests. The liturgy confesses the King of kings in our midst acting for us. Of all the voices in the world, only Jesus’ voice reveals and heals our hearts. Of all the food in the world, only His food prepares our bodies for the resurrection of all flesh. The Lord’s Supper is His doing, not ours, and He loves to give.

Questions about the time used to receive the Sacrament should be asked [with Jesus Christ as the subject](#), not us.

The question “Why should we use 10 or 15 minutes more to do this each week?” misses the mark. Such questions turn our thoughts back in on ourselves and away from Christ. The question “Why should the living Christ desire time to do this for His gathered guests each Lord’s Day?” hits the target. Consider also a related, probing question: “Is our life really too busy to have Jesus serve us His holy food on our day of rest?”

### In our time

From outside of time, the risen and ascended Christ steps into our time to serve us His holy body to eat and His holy blood to drink. In so doing, the living Christ, here and now, in the flesh, makes precious our time. We live in the fullness of time (Gal. 4:4–7), time that our Lord made full of life and salvation by redeeming us. He plans to unite all things in Him (Eph. 1:10). We receive a foretaste of this union at the altar.

We should make the best use of the time because the days are evil (Eph. 5:16). And so, we do good to everyone, especially to those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10). We abound in love for one another (1 Thess. 3:12). Jesus comes to us with His gift, abounding with His love, to enable us to do good for others, to love others. “Why should the living Christ desire time to do this for His gathered guests each Lord’s Day?” Because He is love.

St. Paul wrote to Timothy:

Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.

(2 Tim. 3:1–5)

The actions of self-love shown in this list prevent us from loving others. Jesus said that in these end times, the love of many would grow cold (Matt. 24:9–14). He comes to help us with His love, a close, intimate, steadfast, certain love delivered to our mouths by God in the flesh.

#### Undeserved love

**In a Christmas Day sermon Dr. Norman Nagel once proclaimed:**

Almighty God can do what He likes. But can He love us so much — can holy God love us so much — as to put Himself into our messed-up lot, into what happens to us for our sake, to be our Savior? The heart of unbelief is to refuse to be loved so much. God can love others perhaps, but not me. Or we may think we deserve God's love, which is also refusal of His love. We would have God deal with us another way, not with undeserved love but in a way which we would have ourselves to thank, at least for some of it.

*Norman Nagel, Selected Sermons (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2004), 30–31.*

Unbelief refuses to be loved by God in Christ Jesus. This statement echoes Jesus explaining the convicting work of the Holy Spirit: “He will convict the world ... concerning sin, because they do not believe in me” (John 16:9). This unbelief is the sin that condemns. The Holy Spirit bestows the gift of believing in Christ's atoning sacrifice as God's undeserved love. The Holy Spirit also bestows trust in Christ's delivery of forgiveness in His Holy Word and Holy Sacraments. The beating heart of Holy Communion and the liturgy is God's love in Christ.

Christ is present “for you.” He comes with incarnate love “for you.” He joins Himself to you with His holy body and holy blood. Therein He gives His holiness to you to be received in faith. He comes, in the flesh, acting for you here and now in this gift. He comes with love you do not possess from within. He comes “for you” with love even greater than faith and hope (1 Cor. 13:13).

#### The way of love

Jesus gives you patient love at His Table; He knows your many failings and bears all things for you. He gives you love at His Table that does not insist on its own way. He is the way and invites you to follow Him in faith, but He forces no one. He gives you love at His Table that rejoices with the truth. He is the truth and covers all your wrongdoing with His cleansing blood. He gives you love at His Table that never ends. He is the resurrection and the life and gives you Himself. The living Christ, at His Table, loves you with boundless love. You cannot be loved too much by Him, and He never tires of loving you this much.

As we sing, “By Your love I am invited, Be Your love

with love requited; By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure” (LSB 636:8). Our time speeds along. Soon years on earth are past. As we weigh time for the Divine Service each week, God's love merits first place on the scale.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

*(Psalm 103:10–16)*

Time is precious. Jesus' love is infinitely more precious. On earth, we will die and soon be unknown. Jesus, however, prepares a place for us where He is (John 14:1–7) and where He knows us forever. Even now He knows us as His own and prepares a place for us at His Table.

Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.  
*(LSB 620:5)*

One post-communion prayer asks God to strengthen us through the Sacrament “in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another.” Such faith and love only comes from Him.

Let this food your faith so nourish,  
That its fruit of love may flourish  
And your neighbor learn from you  
How much God's wondrous love can do.  
*(LSB 627:10)*

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Wieting is a retired pastor and author of *The Blessings of Weekly Communion and Lutheranism 101 - The Lord's Supper*, both available from Concordia Publishing House.

<https://www.withness.lcms.org/2021/we-have-the-time/>



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
**LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)**  
**Newsletter Article – September 2024**  
***Stewards, Called to Forgiveness***



Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

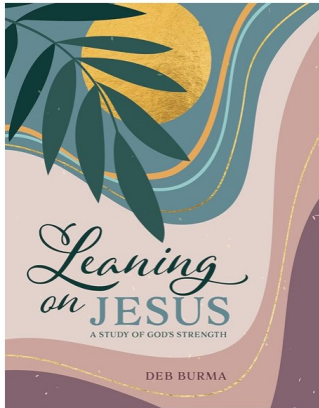
This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus! So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.



A Veteran's Day recognition is being planned for Sunday, November 10th. To help us put together a list of names, please send the following information: your name, branch of the military that you served in, and the dates of your service. This can be texted to Deb Hutter at 989-316-8322 or emailed to [debhutter@netzero.net](mailto:debhutter@netzero.net) by October 16th. Thank you all for your help!

Are you a college student, or the parent of a college student, that is away at school? Please share an address to send a care package. You can contact Deb Hutter at 989-316-8322 or email at [debhutter@netzero.net](mailto:debhutter@netzero.net).

Women's Bible Study begins September 18, 2024 with a bible study by Deb Burma "Leaning on Jesus, a study of God's strength".



The Cost of the book is \$12. The group meets every Wednesday until November 20, 2024 from 9am-10:30am. Come and join us for as many days as you can! If you would like a book, contact Mary Warnke by September 9th at 989-798-5617.

## Little Produce Stand

Rooted in God's Word, Growing in Christ's Love,  
Branching Out to Serve, Bearing Fruits of Faith

Here at St. John Amelith we want to share the bounty of our gardens with you! Please take what you or someone you know can use and share in our bounty. If you happen across this stand and have bounty to share, please feel free to add to our stand!

St. John Amelith Church and School  
1664 Amelith Rd  
Bay City, MI 48706



# St. John Amelith



## MUM FUNDRAISER

**Beautiful 9" Potted Mum. Only \$12**

Orders Due by September 09th

Parents and students can pick the mums up Friday September 13th at  
the school parking lot

Mum's the word! The St. John Amelith School and church are selling these fabulous flowers to make your yard look fabulous. Consider buying some, your yard (and the school) will appreciate it. Contact your favorite SJA Student to order or stop in the office.

Contact us!

1664 Amelith Rd

Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-0176

[office@amelith.org](mailto:office@amelith.org)





## Speaking to Your Neighbor

### Word from the Center

Written By LCRL Staff

How can an informed Lutheran talk about violations of conscience? How do we speak about our religious liberties? What if our neighbor asks us to explain freedom of religion? Here are some questions you might hear and ways to respond.

“You don’t have the right to impose your religion on anyone else.” We Lutherans agree completely. Faith is a gift of God. It cannot be coerced. Power, whether exercised by an individual or the government, should never be used to impose a faith or control a person’s religion.

“So, why should . . . health-care law(s) recognize religious beliefs?” Just as the government has no right to impose a religion, it also has no right to prevent people from practicing the religion of their choice or to punish them for doing so. The health-care law’s regulations require religious employers to pay for insurance coverage that provides contraceptives and early-abortion drugs free of charge. If they refuse, they will be punished with a fine of \$100 per employee per day. The Roman Catholic Church takes a clear stand against, not only using birth control devices, but also providing them. We Lutherans don’t usually go that far, but like many people of other religions, we believe that life begins at conception.

Thus, providing “morning after pills” that prevent the embryo from implanting kills a baby. “How about the employee who doesn’t believe all of that? What about her freedom of religion?” She remains free in her religion. She is even free to get an abortion. This measure makes churches and employers provide her with an abortion. See the difference?

“But some religions allow for polygamy and human sacrifice. Is religious freedom a license to do that?” Governments exist to establish social order and protect human life. (Ironically, protecting children in the womb doesn’t seem to count, but that’s another conversation.) Some religious practices might be outlawed. But it’s possible to be a Muslim without having multiple wives or a pagan without sacrificing human beings. Those religions are not prevented or punished. However, forcing Muslims to drink alcohol or Jews to eat pork or Catholics to fund birth control would infringe on their religious liberty.

“Why are you Lutherans making such a big deal about this? I thought you made a point of staying out of politics.” Two centuries ago in Germany, the king of Prussia systematically crushed religious liberty by forcing all Protestants to jettison their theology and join into one state church. He imposed his views on Lutherans, prevented the free exercise of their religion and harshly punished them for following their conscience. Many of those persecuted Lutherans left their families, property and homeland for America, where they could find religious freedom. These were the founders of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. So, yes, we Missouri Synod Lutherans keep the church out of politics, but we have a big stake in religious freedom.

*Dr. Gene Edward Veith is provost emeritus of Patrick Henry College. This article was originally published by the LCMS’ Free to be Faithful campaign.*

<https://www.lcrlfreedom.org/blog/word-from-the-center-friday-august-23-2024>



LWML is collecting school supplies for Orphan Grain Train which are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. The list of supplies are on the poster board in the gathering area. Get what you can find on sale - you don't need to furnish a complete kit. LWML is supplying all of the cinch up backpack bags. There will be a container for these items under the hangers in the gathering area until our meeting to assemble the school bags on September 17th. Thank you for your help. You are blessing many children in need.



# SCHOOL KITS

## CONTENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 backpack                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 ruler                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 spiral notebooks              | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 glue sticks                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pencils                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 scissors                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pens                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 eraser                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 sheets of construction paper | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package colored pencils (12 count) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package crayons (24 count)    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pencil sharpener                   |

## ASSEMBLY

1. Stack flat items together.
2. Place all items inside school bag.
3. Close bag if applicable.

## PLEASE NOTE

- Backpacks, drawstring athletic bags, or homemade tote bags are all acceptable.
- We recommend leaving contents in the original packaging, but it is not required.
- No additions, deletions, or substitutions.
- Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.
- Do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols.
- Pack only new or gently used items.
- Do not include plastic bags.
- It costs an average of \$11 to ship each box of kits. Please consider a donation to your local OGT branch to help with shipping.

*Although well-meaning variations are tempting, please do not do this. It may result in heavy fines and/or the entire shipment being confiscated by customs officials.*



Thank you for making a difference in these children's lives. Your love of your Savior, Jesus Christ, is sent with each kit packaged. May God continue to bless your life as you serve Him.



# St. John Amelith

1664 Amelith Rd  
Bay City, MI

September 14, 2024

Thanks be to God for He is good!  
Free Fun for the whole family!



## GERMAN DINNER

\$15/DINNER

PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS BY  
CALLING THE OFFICE

989-686-0176

A FULL CONCESSION STAND  
AVAILABLE TOO!

### Schedule of Events

11:30am Prayer Service by Pastor Gauthier

12pm Oktoberfest Begins!

Cornhole Tournament sign in, Bounce  
houses, Consessions, Bake Sale, Beer Tent  
and German Dinner all open

### Entertainment

12-2pm Frankentrost Band

2-2:30pm Skit by The Women of Amelith

2:30-3pm Gemutlichkeit Verein Singers

3-7pm Floyd Grocholski's Family Tradition

Bake Sale starts  
at 12pm and is  
open until sold  
out!

Bounce Houses

Kids games

Raffles

50/50



Sign-up at noon  
\$20 per person with  
drawing for teams



Nathaniel and Emma Jensen are the proud parents of their second daughter, Cecelia Monica Helena Jensen, born the last week in August! Please offer prayers of thanksgiving for their growing family. If you would like to contact them, their address



is:

Pastor Nathaniel and  
Emma Jensen  
Danzigerstrasse 7  
66849 Landstuhl  
Germany

### School Happenings

**The BOTTLE/CAN Drive** to help offset costs for the school will continue through the summer. There are two barrels outside the school entrance for you to place your bottles/cans in. If you'd prefer to have someone pick them up from your home, please contact Jill @ 989-714-3811.

The St. John Amelith Lutheran Church and School Parent-Teacher League is conducting a bottle and can drive to help offset costs for the school. There are two barrels outside the school entrance to deposit cans. If you'd prefer to have someone pick them up from your home, please contact the school office.



## SAVE THE DATE VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL'S

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

**GOLF**  
*Outing*



**APPLE MOUNTAIN  
GOLF COURSE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.VLHS.COM/GOLF](http://WWW.VLHS.COM/GOLF)

Concordia Seminary – St. Louis opened their 186th year!

The academic year began with Opening Service held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus! If you desire to watch the service it was streamed at: [csl.edu/live](http://csl.edu/live)

Opening Service  
10:30 a.m. CDT  
Friday, Aug. 23, 2024  
Chapel of St. Timothy  
and St. Titus

### OPENING SERVICE



## Agnus Day

THE DAYS ARE *EVIL*?  
I GUESS SOME AREN'T  
SO GREAT, BUT DON'T  
YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT  
*EXTREME*?



PAUL IS  
OFFERING  
ENCOURAG-  
MENT.



EVEN THOUGH THINGS  
AREN'T AS THEY SHOULD BE,  
CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO  
DOUBLE DOWN ON *HOPE*  
AND *LOVE*.



WELL, SURE! BUT  
THAT'S A LOT EASIER  
TO DO IF YOU  
*REMAIN IN DENIAL!*



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

EPHESIANS 5:15-20

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**The mission of Higher Things is to make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults.**

**Content // Events // Resources // Support**

Learn more today at  
<https://higherthings.org>



# All Things NEW

Higher Things Conferences 2025

June 24-27, 2025  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Amherst, MA

July 8-11, 2025  
Concordia University Nebraska  
Seward, NE

July 29-August 1, 2025  
Calvin University  
Grand Rapids, MI

Everlasting life belongs to all who believe...one day. But for us, some days, that day feels far away. Like it'll never come... like it's been made for someone other than you. Live a steadfast faith today no matter what things look like because you rest on a yesterday that was made whole on the cross. Realize that God hates the same things you war against too, but he has already won the victory... the victory that makes All Things New.

Information Releases October 1st, 2024  
[www.allthingsnew25.org](http://www.allthingsnew25.org)

## September Content

- **I'm New Here** // Young Adult Catechesis Video Podcast
- **Who Am I Hymn Videos** releasing weekly
- **Black and Blue** Returns weekly on Youtube!
- **Uncultured Saints Season 5** continues Weekly on Youtube and podcast
- **Drive to School Season 3** begins every Tuesday and Thursday on Youtube and podcast
- Social Media
  - Feast Day Reels
  - Daily Video Content
- Weekly Bible Studies
  - High School and College
- **High School Bible Studies Collection 2** releases on the HT Store

## Latest News

- 2025 Conference Announcement
  - **All Things New // 2025 Conference**
- **Higher Things Beyond** announced
  - **Young Adult Initiative**
    - College Ministry, Vocation Support, YA Ministry, Mission and Service
- 2000 attendees served during 2024 conference season
- Currently booking '24-'25 Retreat Season
- **500 for \$500 Initiative**
  - Looking for 500 Congregations to support Higher Things annually for \$500
  - Looking for 500 individuals and families to support HT annually for \$500

Learn more about  
**500 for \$500**



## Speaking to Your Neighbor

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## **CTSFW 179th Academic Year & Installation of Rev. Dr. Bruss service Sept. 8th.**

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), will open its 179th academic year with a special service on Sunday, September 8, at 3 p.m. (EDT) in Kramer Chapel. The service, which will be livestreamed, will include the installation of the Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss as CTSFW's seventeenth president.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), will serve as preacher for the service, and the Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch, president of the LCMS Indiana District, will preside over the installation. Bruss will deliver a brief address after he is installed.

"Our Lord, in His miraculous grace, has sustained this seminary in the true confession of His name for 178 years," said Bruss. "As we look forward to opening our 179th academic year, we rejoice in this rich history of His grace and pray His continued blessing on all who teach and learn here. May He keep us firm and steadfast in His Word and faith!"



Rev. Bruss, who joined the CTSFW faculty in 2022 as associate professor of systematic theology, accepted the call to serve as president after he was elected May 18. Prior to his arrival in Fort Wayne, he taught classics at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato Minnesota; St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota; the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee; and the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He then served for nine years at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas, first as assistant pastor (2013–2015), then senior pastor (2015–2022).

A community reception celebrating the opening of the new academic year and the presidential installation will follow the service.

To view the livestream, visit the Daily Chapel page at [ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel](https://ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel).

You can also find the service on CTSFW's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.



## **Hardy installed as CUS president**

**[reporter.lcms.org/2024/hardy-installed-as-cus-president](https://reporter.lcms.org/2024/hardy-installed-as-cus-president)**  
August 26, 2024

On July 23, during daily chapel at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) International Center in St. Louis, the Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy was installed as president of the Concordia University System (CUS). Prior to accepting the call to serve as CUS president, Hardy served as president of the LCMS English District (2015–2024) and as associate pastor of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hartland, Mich. He also spent nearly two years as an advisory member of the CUS Board of Directors. He replaces outgoing president Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe, who recently retired from the position.

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison preached for Hardy's installation on Romans 5:8–11, observing that the text presents "the most precious thing that students need today. ... The world has lied to our young people, continues to lie. ... Consciences are burdened. Confusion reigns. We have a message: You are worth the blood of Jesus."

Harrison walked through a brief history of Lutheran higher education, noting the abiding connection between the church and the university and the blessings and challenges that have arisen from that partnership. Turning to Hardy, he said, "Now is a golden moment. ... I'm proud of what's going on at our universities, and [I'm] thankful. And you are, too, aren't you, Jamison? You will be an indefatigable supporter of these universities."

Following his installation, Hardy told *Reporter*, "I look forward to continuing the great work at our Concordia universities and bringing the Good News to all people. Our Concordias play a key role in preparing future church workers, but they are also places to equip and train all vocations for service to Christ and the world. As a graduate of CUW [Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis.], I believe that there is no greater place to do evangelism than on our college campuses. We give thanks to God for that, and I look forward to working with all of our Concordia universities and the people they serve."

Hardy was born in Bay City, Mich., and grew up attending Lutheran schools. He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from CUW and a Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). After his ordination in 2000, his first call was to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mount Lebanon, Pa., which later merged with another congregation to form Peace Lutheran Church, McMurray, Pa. In 2003, he was elected as a board member for Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) and, as part of his responsibilities, took several trips to Africa to help monitor CLM's work there.

Hardy later pursued graduate studies and in 2012 earned a doctorate in Business Administration from Walden University. In 2014, he taught in the D.Min. program at CTSFW, focusing on parish administration and pastoral leadership. He also recorded the PALS (Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support) module for the LCMS on the same topic.

Hardy began serving as CUS president on July 15. He and his wife, Wendy, have three children: Noah, Nathaniel and Naomi.



# Sunday School at St. John Amelith Begins

September 22, 2024

11:00am

