

# Hearts Together

A CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN & ANN ARBOR  
SPECIAL MAGAZINE EDITION



## CHOSEN AND CHAMPIONED

Called by God and shaped by faithful saints,  
Concordia students prepare for church work vocations.

# Hearts Together contents

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



## ON THE COVER

Concordia students show love to the people who most influenced their decision to pursue a career in church work. From left, Chuck Wallace ('23) is in the pre-seminary program at CUA, Abigail Landskroener ('25) is pursuing her Lutheran Teacher Diploma at CUA, Matthew DiMercurio ('25) is a CUW pre-seminary student, and Hannah Doyle ('23) is majoring in the director of church ministries program at CUW.

## IN THIS ISSUE

4-5 **Social scene**

6-11 **On the bluff**

It has been an exceptionally busy year for the Student Government Association.

12-19 **Called alongside** (feature story)

Concordians pursue church work thanks to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and encouragement of countless faithful servants.

20-25 **On the banks**

This alumnus has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, among other notable news outlets, for his decades-long studies of what makes sports fans tick.

26-27 **Benediction**

*“Concordia University is a Lutheran higher education community committed to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world.”*

Concordia University has been and continues to be an institution committed to the confession of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The mission of the school is appropriately centered on Christ and the Holy Scriptures. Here, a student’s faith and knowledge will flourish because the Concordia community is one that cares for the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—and we are committed to helping individuals reach their fullest potential.

This faithful commitment is what first drew me to serve at Concordia 32 years ago; it is the same thing that keeps me here all these years later. However, if it were only I who held this value it wouldn’t be enough. I am thankful for the countless Concordians—faculty, staff, board members, Synodical and district leaders, donors, alumni, parents, and students—who hold this same mission in their hearts, who put it into action daily, and who demand that Concordia, as an institution, does the same. If there is one thing these past months have shown us, it is that the Concordia community ardently resonates with its mission.

At the same time, our faculty and staff serve an increasingly diverse population of students:

- 25% of traditional undergraduates on our Mequon campus and 28% on our Ann Arbor campus are under the stated federal income level to qualify for a Pell Grant.
- At least 15% of CUW’s traditional undergraduate population and 19% of CUAA’s are first-generation students. Those percentages jump to 33% and 50% when we look at just our accelerated undergraduate populations.
- Only 31% of CUW’s total student population and 21% of CUAA’s is Lutheran.
- 18% of CUW’s total student population and 17% of CUAA’s is a race or ethnicity other than white.

We have worked hard to ensure that all students—whatever their race, ethnicity, religion, or creed—are welcomed and supported on campus as they pursue their educational goals through a distinctly Christ-centered lens. Our efforts to reach out to ALL of God’s children have been richly blessed by the Lord. We have opportunity to share the Word of God with students through lectures, daily chapels, Bible studies, and prayer (in class, in dorms, during practices, through daily emails, in worship, at mealtime, in formal settings, and informally).

While our goal as an institution of higher learning is to help students strive for academic excellence and grow within their chosen vocations, our ultimate hope—the reason we exist as a Lutheran university—is that ALL will come to a saving knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ. There is no higher goal than this. Concordia’s effort to provide an excellent Lutheran education to all of our students comes at a crucial time, when religion, especially Christianity, is increasingly marginalized in the secular world. Our students need us now more than ever. Moreover, our world needs Concordia’s graduates and their faithful fulfillment of their vocations beyond our campus walls.

As the Apostle Paul says in Philippians 3, we have not obtained it yet, but “[we] press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of [us],” and “forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, [we] press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus.”



**WILLIAM R. CARIO, PH.D.**  
*Interim President*



**HEARTS TOGETHER** is a joint publication of the Mequon and Ann Arbor campuses of Concordia University. In 2013, the two formerly independent universities merged into one institution, overseen by one president and one governing board. This publication shares the stories of the exciting advancements on each campus; the notable accomplishments of faculty, staff, students, and alumni; and the life-changing service Concordians—hearts together—undertake for Christ in the Church and the world.

The Strategic Communications department is responsible for the production of *Hearts Together*. The magazine’s editorial team welcomes your feedback. Please send comments or queries to [Kali.Thiel@cuw.edu](mailto:Kali.Thiel@cuw.edu).

#### Editorial Team

Kali Thiel, executive editor  
Lisa Liljegren  
Mike Zimmerman  
Andrea Michel

#### Special Contributor

Madelyn Arrigoni ('22), student contributor

#### Design

Lindsay Taylor

#### Comments

[Concordian@cuw.edu](mailto:Concordian@cuw.edu)  
[ArborLight@cuaa.edu](mailto:ArborLight@cuaa.edu)

#### Mail

Send address changes to:  
Concordian Circulation  
12800 North Lake Shore Drive  
Mequon, WI 53097

#### Subscribe

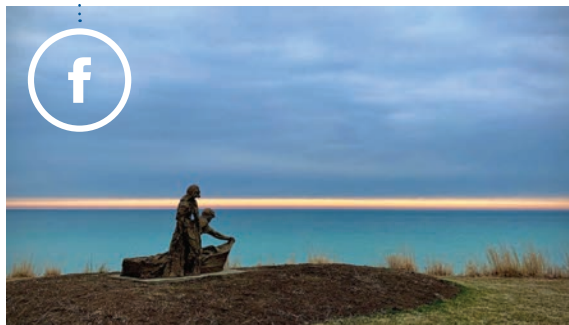
For a free subscription, call 734-995-7317 or email [Jennifer.Hackmann@cuaa.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Hackmann@cuaa.edu). If you have an address change, please visit [cuw.edu/alumniupdate](http://cuw.edu/alumniupdate) or [cuaa.edu/alumniupdate](http://cuaa.edu/alumniupdate). All current faculty, staff, and students are invited to pick up their magazine copy on campus.

**Go green!** If you would like to subscribe to our email edition instead of receiving a copy in the mail, please email [news@cuw.edu](mailto:news@cuw.edu) or [news@cuaa.edu](mailto:news@cuaa.edu).

# social scene

## TWO MEN AND A BOAT






Strat Comms team member Mike Zimmerman offers an inspirational reflection on one of CUW's iconic statues: "And that's why Fishers of Men is such a great reflection of our Lutheran higher education community. It reminds us that even when you can't actually see Him, Jesus is at the center of everything we do." Read it at [blog.cuw.edu/fishers-reflection](http://blog.cuw.edu/fishers-reflection).



## CONNECT WITH CUW

-  /CUWisconsin
-  @CUWisconsin
-  @CUWisconsin
-  /ConcordiaWisconsin1
-  [cuw.edu/news](http://cuw.edu/news)

## CONNECT WITH CUA

-  /CUAnnArbor
-  @CUAA
-  @CUAnnArbor
-  /CUAnnArbor
-  [cuua.edu/news](http://cuua.edu/news)

## A hidden gem

Behind door No. 1? A secret passageway! Those who know the Manor well know the building holds all sorts of novelty features. View photos at [blog.cuaa.edu/manor-features](http://blog.cuaa.edu/manor-features).



• **NATIONAL CHAMP** In sports, we often talk about a team or athlete having a "dream season." It turns out athletic training students like J'may Simmons ('22) have them too! [blog.cuaa.edu/jmay](http://blog.cuaa.edu/jmay).



• **OH, BABY!** First-year DPT students in Dr. Bob Barnhart's movement science course spent their class time observing some special little guests. View photos at [blog.cuw.edu/bundles-of-joy](http://blog.cuw.edu/bundles-of-joy).

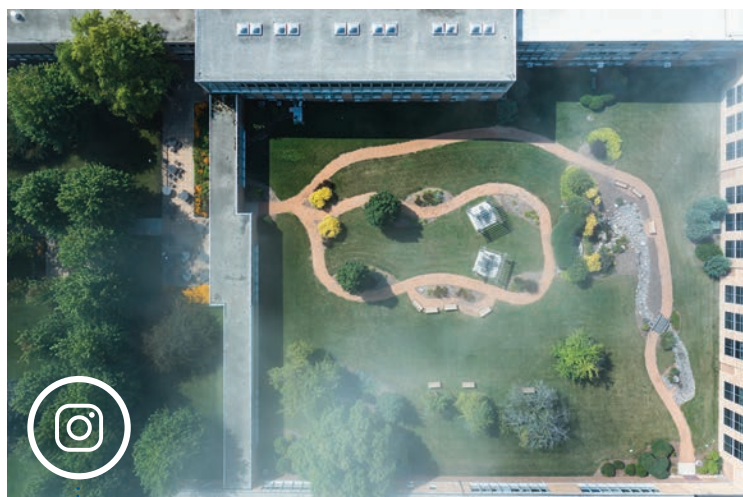
• **FUNCTIONING IN FAITH**

CUAA's simulation experiences help cement learning, and sometimes they produce bonus benefits. A recent simulation exercise prompted CUAA nursing student Marquida Mobley to share a meaningful demonstration of her faith with her classmates. [blog.cuaa.edu/nursing-simulation-prayer](http://blog.cuaa.edu/nursing-simulation-prayer).



**COMING OUT ON TOP**

Our second annual March MATCHness day was a huge success! The dual-campus fundraiser superseded our goal, bringing in over \$78,000. Bonus: Concordians had fun along the way!



• **A falcon's eye view**

The view from the top is always better ... especially when it involves our beautiful CUW campus!

**A heart for Concordia**

Thank you to the alumni and supporters who show us love on social and beyond. The feeling's mutual!



"It's nice to know Concordia is still following Christ and being a beacon of light in a dark world. ... Thank you, Concordia, for giving us parents hope and security for our kids."

—Dan Popov, future CUW parent



"Good times, good friends, and fond memories. CUAA is a great campus for all. Enjoy life! Go CUAA!"

—Dennis Malin, CUAA Campus Safety



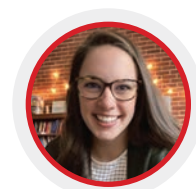
"I continue to be very proud to call CUW home."

—Kathy Huster, CUW ('03)



"I am proud to be a small part of a university that is dedicated to Christ, and is striving to be here and relevant for many years to come."

—Gail Milatz, CUWAA Advancement



"Concordia's impact on my faith is what I will always be most thankful for."

—Anna Kruger, CUAA ('17)

# clean compounding

Remember when hand sanitizer was virtually impossible to find due to the pandemic? Even though the FDA recommends that consumers don't make their own, the formula for sanitizer is actually quite simple. Faculty and staff from the School of Pharmacy, including April Hosack (pictured), welcomed students from Mukwonago High School to campus earlier this year to oversee the safe production of it. Learn more about CUW's School of Pharmacy at [cuw.edu/pharmacy](https://cuw.edu/pharmacy).



# take five

Get to know one of our **uncommon Concordians**,  
**Darcy Paape, D.C.E., director of the Women's Leadership Institute.**

By **Mike Zimmerman**, *Strategic Communications*

**D**arcy Paape is many things to many people. She leads the Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) at CUW. She's on staff with Campus Ministry, working with L.I.G.H.T., Students for Life, and Congregational Ministries. She's the author of a book on mentoring, *Someone to Walk With*, and a key contributor to the WLI's mentoring workshop, *Growing Together*. She's a wife to Dr. Adam Paape (associate professor of education), and mother to daughters Ava and Eliana. And—new this spring—she's an adjunct professor, teaching a course in interpersonal communication.

She's also a skilled identifier of leadership potential, who often “taps students on the shoulder” to encourage them to step up into a particular role. For Darcy, all these roles come down to one thing: seeking God's leading while helping others discover God's purpose in their own lives.



## 1 Why is mentoring so important to you?

I have a passion for working with young adults, cultivated early on as a youth leader and a teacher, and then as a director of Christian education in a congregation. Here at Concordia we have students with all different spiritual backgrounds, and so we have this opportunity to help them grab onto God's Word in some way and say, “This is real, this is relevant.” I'm here because I want to invest in that mission for students, alongside this strong community of Christ-focused, servant-hearted leaders.

## 2 Was there someone who tapped you on the shoulder?

My pastor, James Pingel Sr., from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. He was that person who made me get in the car and

look at CUW, and who really encouraged teaching and church work as a direction for me here. I tried to fight it at first, looking at other colleges and other degrees, but this place felt like home. I dedicated my book to him.

## 3 What led you to write that book?

I've always loved the “woman at the well” story, and it started there. There's something really compelling about Jesus going out of his way to sit at a well in the heat of the day to meet with this woman, one to one. It changed her life. By Jesus meeting with the *one*, it brought the *many* because she could say, “Come and see!” I think of mentoring as that idea of “Come and see what God has done in my life—and he can do that in your life, too.”

## 4 What's the most interesting thing that people don't know about you?

Probably that I've climbed three 14,000-foot mountains. I also got within 500 vertical feet of summiting Mount Hood before our company had to turn around because two of our members got oxygen sickness. I'm still a little sad about that!

## 5 What's a favorite childhood memory?

I grew up in a trailer park, and there were a lot of kids, and we had a lot of freedom. There was this trail that led to a “secret” pond, where we swam and caught frogs or turtles, then tried to sell them to the neighbors. Sometimes they'd take pity on us and give us a dollar, but then they'd throw them out the back door. Then we could catch them and try to sell them again. It was a pretty good deal.

For more information about CUW Women's Leadership Institute or the Growing Together mentoring program, visit [wlicuw.org](http://wlicuw.org).



The 2021–22 SGA executive board: Megan Schmitz, Ryan Krueger, Yannik Gruner, Christine Wolf, Alaina Hazelber, Hank Bell, and (not pictured) Adam Urban.

## CHANGE-MAKERS

At 9:31 p.m. on a recent Monday, Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President Ryan Krueger tapped his gavel on the podium three times to start the group’s weekly meeting. It was also at that precise time that the first of many Mafia Game jokes was fired. Fresh off a weekend camping retreat, the group of 36 in attendance was awash with inside jokes and friendly ribbing as they recalled the familiar campfire game.

Hard work, persistence, fun, and togetherness make up the secret sauce to the standout success of this year’s SGA class, which is responsible for more than three dozen student-chartered organizations and clubs. Haunted by the fits and starts of two years of compromise due to COVID-19, the SGA executive committee decided that they would do what they could to make 2021–22 an epic year for Concordia’s entire student body.

“Everyone who ran for officer positions shared the same fire and commitment to bring our campus community back to the pre-COVID days when students gathered in person to discuss topics, celebrate milestones, advocate for various causes, and deepen the overall Concordia experience,” said Megan Schmitz, SGA president. “They each have such good ideas, and have developed the skills and leadership traits to see them through.”

Before the school year even started, the executive committee made two commitments: all meetings would take place in person (no Zoom), and they would spend the money.

Every semester each student is charged a \$40 student activity fee, which goes into a fund that SGA uses to enhance the student experience. “We like to say that we take that money and make change

on campus,” said Schmitz. The executive committee ambitiously took on several major projects this year, including an outdoor basketball court and an evening discussion with Karl Rove, former deputy chief of staff and senior advisor to U.S. President George W. Bush.

“Concordia’s SGA has always attracted sharp professionals who care about their school and want to help to make it better,” said Vice President of Student Life Dr. Steve Taylor. “We have been blessed with a tradition of strong student leadership.”

Taylor recognized something special about this class from the beginning. “I can’t tell you how much of an honor it is to work with President Schmitz. She is self-motivated, sharp, respectful, and a joy to be around. She is a perfect representation of what Concordia has to offer.”

Schmitz is the first to deflect the praise and is always quick to lift the entire executive team for this year’s success. “While we have certainly accomplished a lot this year, I think our biggest accomplishment is bringing students back together to have fun while working towards a common goal.”

SGA brought Former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to President George W. Bush Karl Rove to campus on March 29. Pictured are SGA President Megan Schmitz and Rove.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more happenings or full event information, visit [cuw.edu/events](http://cuw.edu/events).



### FALCON DAYS

For new, incoming students  
June 3, 10, 17



### COMPUTER SCIENCE CODE CAMP

For high schoolers  
June 20–22  
Registration closes  
June 6, 2022



### SERVANTS OF CHRIST

For high schoolers  
June 21–22



### ALUMNI BASEBALL GAMES

Madison Mallards—  
All alumni  
July 22  
Lakeshore Chinooks  
June 30, July 14 & 27,  
Aug. 5





## UP TO THE TASK

With the appointment of a new dean and two new vice provosts, Concordia has welcomed a new set of skills and expertise to its academic leadership roster.

Three individuals who possess a demonstrated commitment to Concordia’s Lutheran mission began their new roles this year: Diane Ames, DNP, as dean of the School of Nursing; Brooke Johnson, as vice provost of academic operations; and Dan Sem, PhD, as vice provost for research and innovation.

Ames, who earned her doctorate from CUW in 2010, began her teaching career at Concordia in 2012 and rose to co-director of CUW’s graduate nursing programs in 2014. She served as interim dean before she was selected in January to serve as the official head of Concordia’s nursing programs on both the Mequon and Ann Arbor campuses. Prior to Concordia, Ames spent most of her career as a nurse and family nurse practitioner with Aurora Health Care.

Johnson joined the CUWAA team in April from Concordia University Chicago, where she served as registrar. As vice provost of academic operations, a brand-new position for Concordia, Johnson oversees CUWAA’s registrar operations and library services, and will assume oversight of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness once Tamara Ferry, PhD, retires. Her efforts focus on improving and streamlining operational processes that support academic functions to ensure students receive prompt and accurate service.

Sem, who previously served as dean of business for CUWAA, now oversees the university’s grant funding and research efforts, as well as its innovation, startup, and tech transfer efforts. The newly created vice provost role, which Sem assumed April 1, will see Sem create and implement a vision for alternative revenue sources for the university. The role leverages Sem’s extensive expertise as a successful entrepreneur and researcher in the biomedical field.

## ECONOMICS EXCITEMENT

In the fall of 2021, the Concordia Free Enterprise Center (CFEC) officially opened under the leadership of M. Scott Niederjohn, PhD. Housed in the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center building, the CFEC exists at the confluence of economics, politics, and philosophy and is a place where students, faculty, and staff can come together, explore ideas, and practice civil discourse.

Niederjohn, a nationally respected scholar, teacher, author, and speaker, hosted a full slate of events, speakers, and opportunities during his first year at the helm.

“By focusing on economics and free enterprise, we are promoting the very principles necessary for prosperity and human flourishing,” explained Niederjohn. “These principles are consistent with Concordia’s mission as a Christ-centered institution that is dedicated to helping students use their unique gifts to reach their full potential.”

The CFEC draws upon four distinct pillars of work:

- **Research:** Peer-reviewed contributions to scholarly journals, curriculum development, and attendance at local, national, and international academic conferences.
- **Education:** Seminar-based opportunities for students to learn about capitalism and classical economics through engagement with the great thinkers in the history of liberty and free society.
- **Application:** Real-world application to give students and alumni access to investors and venture capital, and the opportunity to practice their business.
- **Public Policy:** Free-market speaker series for the benefit of CUW faculty, staff, and students, as well as the wider Wisconsin community.

Many of CFEC’s events are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit [cuw.edu/cfec](http://cuw.edu/cfec).



## HEALTHY PRAISE

In an article that appeared in *The Washington Post* and *The Hechinger Report*, award-winning journalist Laura Pappano outlined the innovative and proactive ways CUW helps students cope. Access the stories at [blog.cuw.edu/washington-post](http://blog.cuw.edu/washington-post).





## KEEPING IT COOL

For the past 20 years, Jeff Shawhan has steadily chipped away at his snow-carving craft, and this year his perseverance paid off in a big way. The Concordia assistant professor of art and his three teammates took home a coveted win at the International Snow Sculpting Championships in Breckenridge, Colorado. This was the team’s seventh year competing and their first win.

Snow sculpting is not for the faint of heart. It requires a tremendous amount of stamina, physical fitness, and skill.

“Competitions last for days, and you’re carving through the night, so it’s pretty grueling,” Shawhan said. “Some years I’ll say I’m done, but the competitive side of me always pulls me back in.”

The Breckenridge competition lasted four days, with temperatures dropping well below 0 F. Nine teams from around the world competed using only hand tools to carve out of 12-foot, 54,000-pound blocks of snow.

Throughout his 26 years at CUW, Shawhan has been a source of inspiration for countless students and has motivated many to utilize their gifts beyond the classroom.

When Shawhan organized an ice-carving competition for Winterfest at The Corners of Brookfield in 2018, he encouraged Taylor Strohmenger (’17) to sign up, and she has been hooked ever since.

She’s gone on to compete in Cedarburg’s Winter Festival ice-sculpting competition and has taken home two second-place wins in the past three years.

The value of her Concordia education extends far beyond the skills and motivation she acquired while on campus, however.

“Having my foundation in Jesus is absolutely essential,” Strohmenger said. “I’m very thankful that my courses at Concordia, in all content areas, helped point me to my faith and encouraged me to give God the glory.”

Learn more at [cuw.edu/art](http://cuw.edu/art).



## TO THE TUNE OF ...

“Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!” —*Psalm 98:1a*

Whether it be through song or instrument, Concordians are full of musical praise to the Lord for His marvelous works. But none do it better than CUW’s musical ensembles! Each year hundreds of Concordia students elect to share their musical gifts and grow in talent to the glory of God. Here’s a snapshot of CUW’s music department. Learn more at [cuw.edu/music](http://cuw.edu/music).

12

Total ensembles

250+

Students involved in music

47

Academic programs represented

37

States represented

60+

Music scholarships awarded annually

## ROOM TO SERVE

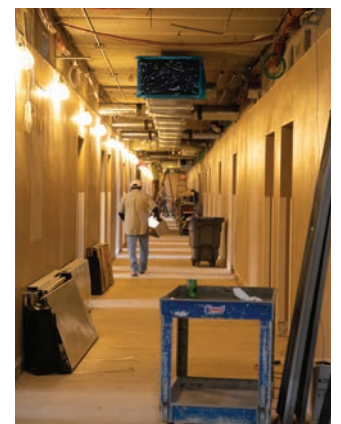
Concordia is in the process of converting a significant portion of its School of Health Professions (SHP) wing into an inter-professional clinic space to benefit students’ learning and support ongoing community outreach efforts.

To make room for the new design, approximately 50 SHP faculty offices are being moved to a renovated Heidelberg residence hall. The 9,150-square-foot clinic will largely be used by physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) students as a home base for their pro-bono clinics, which have served uninsured or underinsured community clients for more than 20 years.

The new clinic presents an exciting opportunity for growth.

“There’s enough manpower to increase services from two days a week to five, but we haven’t had the space to accommodate our wait list before,” said Lois Harrison, PT, DPT, MS, inter-professional clinic coordinator. “It’s exciting that we’ll be able to put that Christian care and service piece into practice on an even larger scale.”

Learn more at [cuw.edu/OT](http://cuw.edu/OT) or [cuw.edu/DPT](http://cuw.edu/DPT)





# Christina (Wingfield) Janetzke

BS in nursing ('08)

## NURSING WITH HEART

Christina Janetzke is a transplant nurse coordinator at Froedert Hospital. She currently serves a patient who received a heart transplant through a national clinical trial that holds promise for opening up a whole new, desperately needed pool of heart donors. The Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) Heart Trial looked at recovering hearts from donors who have irreversible brain injury but don't meet formal brain death criteria, and the family has decided to withdraw care. The heart is preserved inside a machine that keeps it perfused with warm, oxygenated blood until it's transported to the recipient.

For the last year, Janetzke has met at least monthly with the patient to extend exemplary Christian care in the wake of his surgery. She will continue her care of him for the rest of his life.

"My whole career has been focused on cardiac care. That's my love," said Janetzke. "I give a lot of credit to Concordia for that because Concordia really did give me the gambit of clinical experiences while I was there and that helped me figure out where I wanted to be."

Read Janetzke's full story at [blog.cuw.edu/Janetzke](http://blog.cuw.edu/Janetzke). Learn more at [cuw.edu/nursing](http://cuw.edu/nursing).

# Called alongside

*"For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. Therefore parakaleo one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*

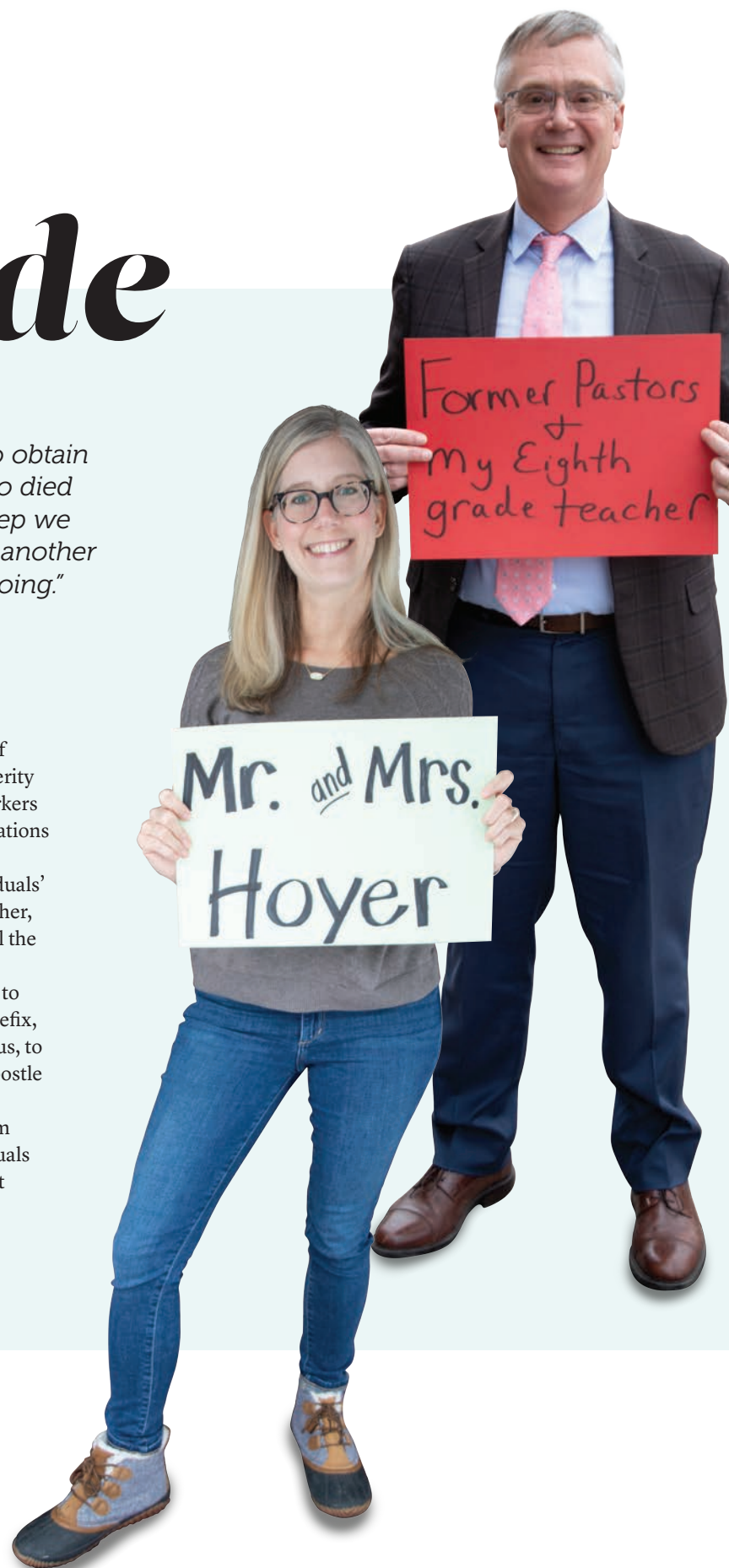
—1 THESSALONIANS 5:9–11

**T**he seeds of God's Word are daily sown through an army of faithful workers who have opted to eschew worldly prosperity and answer the Divine Call to serve as commissioned workers in Lutheran and Christian schools, churches, and organizations around the world.

Yes, it was the Holy Spirit who placed the Divine Call on these individuals' hearts. However, more often than not, there was also a Spirit-filled teacher, pastor, parent, or the like who came before them to motivate and model the joys and privileges of serving within the Church.

The Greek word for "encourage" illustrates how we as Christians are to accomplish this. *Parakaleo*, when broken down into its root word and prefix, is *kaleo*, which means "to call," and *para*, which means "alongside." Thus, to encourage is, first, to invite someone alongside ourselves, just as the Apostle Paul describes in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5.

The fine art of inviting another alongside yourself is best learned from those who have successfully accomplished it. Meet a few of the individuals who have championed church work and effectively encouraged the next generation to enter into the divine pursuit.



Concordia offers the following church work programs:

- Pre-seminary studies
- Lutheran teaching
- Director of church ministries (CUW) / family life ministries (CUAA)
- Parish music

Learn more at [cuw.edu/church-workers](http://cuw.edu/church-workers) or [cuaa.edu/church-workers](http://cuaa.edu/church-workers).



Mrs.  
Dietz  
Middle School  
Teacher

Rev. Dr. Charles  
Gieschen  
(my Dad ♡)

Pastor  
Benke  
↳ BROOKLYN,  
NY

My Aunt and  
Uncle + Youth  
Director

Eric  
Steinke  
(Youth Pastor)

My  
Mom

Jake  
Weber  
(1<sup>st</sup> Organ teacher)

Fr. Ubel

CALLED ALONGSIDE TO BE  
***a director of  
 church ministries***



A 9-year-old Mikayla Kennaugh poses with her dad in 2010.

By **Lisa Liljegen**, *Strategic Communications*

**W**hile it wasn't a foregone conclusion that Mikayla Kennaugh would follow her father into church work, there were some pretty clear early indicators. For example, during a Service of Tenebrae on Good Friday when Mikayla was just 3 or 4 years old she started to weep when she saw the crown of thorns and the cross. Through tears, she managed to sputter to her parents, "That was all for me."

According to her father, Rev. Eric Kennaugh, lead pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Batavia, Illinois, "At that moment, when she was overcome with emotion after realizing what Jesus had done just for her, we knew that God had big plans for Mikayla."

Despite such a strong start, Mikayla's faith began to wane during her teenage years. At that time, she was facing tough life challenges, and elected to distance herself from God and her church. She found herself questioning and doubting almost everything about her faith. Fortunately, as she grew farther from the church she grew closer to her father. Through long talks over late nights, he helped her find her way back to Jesus. And now as a junior in the director of church ministries program, she aspires to be fully present with others who are struggling in their faith, just like her father is for her.

"I'm so grateful that my dad gave me the freedom to figure things out on my own," said Mikayla. "No matter what I said or how badly I felt, my dad just held space for me and listened."

"We spent a lot of time talking together about who she was, and what her place is in the world and with God," said Pastor Kennaugh. "She initially had a lot of fear that I would reject her for asking such deep and challenging questions because she put pressure on herself to be the image of what she thought a pastor's kid should be."

Their conversations eventually led Mikayla to consider CUW. At Concordia, she said she deepened her reading of the Bible and relearned how to pray. I ultimately learned how to take accountability for my own faith," said Mikayla. "The more I learned the deeper I went. I wanted to figure out the matrix of Christianity and what it meant to me."

Mikayla recognizes that the pause in her faith journey was an important step in her ministry preparation. She also credits her honest and open relationship with her dad, and the guidance of many Concordia professors for shaping her into the kind of church worker she wants to be. "How many people in ministry give themselves true permission to step back, reflect, and ask really hard questions?" she asked rhetorically.

Now well into her coursework, Mikayla still feels the growing pains of her youth, but she better understands the value of her struggle and the peace when finally letting go. "God is all powerful, and we are so little in comparison. Concordia reminded me that we have such a limited knowledge of who God is and what He does for us."

Ever her father's daughter, Mikayla goes on to share that she hopes to be half as effective as her dad when it comes to connecting with people and sharing the love of Jesus. Her big aspirations understandably make her father very proud. According to Pastor Kennaugh, "When you become a parent, you start to discover a whole other aspect of His love. Mikayla has always been a leader and a strong communicator. Now that she has found her home and her niche, she will be an excellent director of church ministries."

**DCM CERTIFICATE OPTIONS**

In addition to its traditional undergraduate director of church ministries program, CUW offers an accelerated option for second-career learners or lay workers.

- Fully online, 47-credit program
- Graduates are eligible to receive a call within the LCMS
- 16- and 31-credit certificate options also available for volunteers currently serving in churches

Learn more at [cuw.edu/DCM-certificate](http://cuw.edu/DCM-certificate).



CALLED ALONGSIDE TO BE

# a teacher

By **Madelyne Arrigoni ('22)**, *student contributor*

When kindergarteners are asked what they want to be when they grow up, it's common for them to picture themselves as a teacher. Perhaps it's because a teacher is the only profession they know, but for 5-year-old Breanna Sheridan, the desire to become a teacher wholly had to do with Miss Jacobs.

Carrie Jacobs, now Carrie Jankowsky, taught Sheridan for both kindergarten and first grade. She had an uncanny ability to make her students feel special by fostering a safe, caring, and intentional classroom. Jankowsky wasn't afraid to let her goofy side shine through, and she made a point of spending time with students outside of class in an effort to reinforce how much they meant to her. Consequently, Sheridan adored her, and the two formed a strong bond that has continued to this day.

"The love she has for students, it's pretty unconditional," Sheridan said. "I remember really looking up to her when I was young and thinking she was the coolest person ever."

After Sheridan completed first grade, she and Jankowsky continued to keep in touch through a special notebook the two would write notes back and forth in. Their exchanges continued even as Sheridan entered high school.

"She was a constant support to me while I was going through some of my more formative years," Sheridan said. "It was really awesome to have an adult outside of my parents who cared about me and who I knew I could count on."

Naturally, when Sheridan prepared to enter college, she returned to her childhood ambition, as well as the person who modeled the career best. An elementary education major, Sheridan chose to complete a semester-long pre-student teaching experience last year with Jankowsky, which reignited their friendship and helped it bloom into a beautiful mentorship. The two regularly check in on each other, with Jankowsky

sharing advice and teaching materials, and continuing the pattern of care and commitment she began when Sheridan was her student.

"Breanna has been a natural inspiring leader since the day she stepped foot in my kindergarten classroom," recalled Jankowsky. "Her passion for making that difference in others' lives shines when she's put in front of students."

Sheridan will soon put the tools and advice she has received into practice as head of a classroom of her own. She's among this year's class of CUAA graduates, having earned her Bachelor of Science in elementary education, a minor in language arts, and her Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD).

Sheridan chose Concordia after an intern at her church recommended the school. Concordia's Lutheran foundation presented opportunities for Sheridan to grow in her faith and earn her LTD.

"I wanted to be able to have more knowledge to make myself a better teacher," Sheridan said of her choice to pursue her LTD. "I didn't want to close any doors for myself as I graduate."

The education faculty at CUAA continued to foster Sheridan's passion for the profession.

"Concordia teaches us to be that caretaker in the classroom and encourages us to build those relationships with students," Sheridan said. "CUAA puts a huge emphasis on teaching kids with love and logic."

Sheridan also found in Concordia the same attention to her welfare that she received in the classroom early on. Whether it was from Dr. Mark Looker, who went the extra mile to make a study abroad opportunity possible for her, or Dr. Sara Clemm Von Hohenberg, who invited Sheridan and classmates into her home for dinner to help them get to know each other, Sheridan said she experienced a community at Concordia that helped her to thrive.

"The impact that teachers and professors are having on students every single day needs to be highlighted," Sheridan said. "My teachers might not have realized it in the moment, but their impact is what has brought me to where I am today and where I want to be in the future."

## ACCELERATED TEACHING DEGREES

Concordia provides multiple three-year degree tracks for those looking to become teachers. These programs are offered entirely online. Upon completion, learners receive Wisconsin teaching licensure. Those who wish to add the Lutheran Teacher Diploma can do so in as few as nine credits.

The currently approved three-year bachelor's programs include:

- Elementary education | Licensure for grades K-9
- Secondary social studies | Licensure for grades 4-12
- Secondary English and language arts | Licensure for grades 4-12

Learn more at [blog.cuw.edu/accelerated-ed](http://blog.cuw.edu/accelerated-ed).



A first-grade Breanna Sheridan poses with teacher Carrie Jankowsky in 2006.







## YOU CAN HELP

Interested in supporting the next generation of church workers? Here's how you can help:

- Pray that the Lord would continue to raise up faithful workers for His Kingdom.
- Encourage young people in your congregation or family to consider church work.
- Donate to a church work scholarship fund – visit [cuw.edu/give](http://cuw.edu/give) or [cuaa.edu/give](http://cuaa.edu/give).
- Refer a student to us – visit [cuw.edu/referral](http://cuw.edu/referral) or [cuaa.edu/referral](http://cuaa.edu/referral).

## CALLED ALONGSIDE TO BE

*a pastor*

By **Kali Thiel**, *Strategic Communications*

If you were to ask Isaiah Mudge to sum up the qualities of an effective pastor, he would readily describe his father: someone who cares deeply about others and, at the same time, is unwilling to budge from the truth of God's Word.

Incidentally, Rev. Dr. Ron Mudge would say the same of his son. Even as a child, Isaiah's pastoral heart was evident. Dr. Mudge once overheard a 6-year-old Isaiah unabashedly proclaim God's love to a group of teenagers. Uncomfortable with the conversation, one of the teens tried to abandon the subject: "Let's just drop it."

To which Isaiah, filled with the assurance of Christ crucified, replied: "Okay, but God does love you."

"I thought to myself, he's a better evangelist than I am!" Dr. Mudge said with a smile of recollection. "He cares so much about human beings. He wants good for them, and when he sees them making a decision that would reject Christ it breaks his heart."

Even though Dr. Mudge and his wife never forced the matter, they found opportunities early on to encourage Isaiah to consider ministry. They also took advantage of opportunities to model the joys of being a Christian, as well as the responsibilities that come with it.

"I can't tell you how many times I've tried to rant to my dad, and he'll stop me and urge me to consider, 'Are you sinning right now?'" Isaiah said. "Because anger is okay, but if you're disparaging someone you're damaging both them and yourself."

In high school, Isaiah experienced the mission field of public school. He hadn't yet settled on becoming a pastor when he entered ninth grade, but the public-school setting presented no shortage of opportunities for him to test the waters of his future vocation. Many of Isaiah's classmates would often grill him with questions about his faith. Isaiah would boldly rise to each occasion, calling on his parents afterward for reflection and growth opportunities.

"With all of our kids, we would talk with them frequently about the things that were challenging their faith," Dr. Mudge said. "We wanted our kids to be salt and light. We were confident that they were strong in their faith, but we wanted to equip them to be able to respond to those who weren't."

It was painful for Isaiah to witness the hurt that his friends endured, often due to their disbelief, and he graduated from high school emotionally spent.

"By the time I decided to become a pastor, I was pretty exhausted from having those challenging conversations," Isaiah said. "I think there was a lot of sadness that was present for me. Concordia has helped to heal that and to teach me how to be a more effective witness."

Professors at Concordia have played a pivotal role in Isaiah's growth, as well as the growth of countless others. For the past 15 years, Dr. Mudge has played a role in the effort as well, though he announced in April that he will end his tenure at CUW to serve as provost at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. As head of CUW's pre-seminary program, Dr. Mudge put his winning combination of love and conviction into action to encourage young men all over the world to consider CUW as their home base, helping the Mequon campus earn a distinction as the preferred choice for pre-seminary studies among the Concordia University System schools.

"You can ask any pre-seminary student," Isaiah said. "My dad is the person who cares about you but won't budge. The human inclination is to hurt the people around us. The godly inclination is to guide them towards love."

Isaiah (far right) celebrates confirmation day in 2014 with his parents and siblings.



### FULL-TUITION PRE-SEM SCHOLARSHIPS

The CUW and CUAAs offer a variety of substantial scholarships for those wishing to become a pastor. New for the 2022-23 academic year, up to three full-tuition scholarships—one for CUAAs and two for CUW—will be awarded to pre-seminary students who meet the qualifications, including:

- Plans to become an LCMS pastor
- Major or minor in theological languages
- Member of the LCMS
- Active participation in church and community

Learn more at [cuw.edu/church-workers](http://cuw.edu/church-workers) or [cuaa.edu/church-workers](http://cuaa.edu/church-workers).

# take five

Get to know exercise science major **Ethan Young ('25)**, an *uncommon* Concordian who's bouncing back in a big way from a near-fatal car crash.

By **Mike Zimmerman**, *Strategic Communications*



**F**or Ethan Young, Oct. 10, 2021, was just a normal day—until it wasn't. A 6-foot 7-inch freshman, Ethan was on his way to a scrimmage for the Cardinal men's basketball team when a serious car crash almost ended it all. Severe internal injuries to his chest and throat led to major, life-saving surgeries and five days in intensive care, where doctors and family were left hoping and praying that he would just make it through one more night. By the grace of God, he did make it through that first night, then the next, and the next. .... Defying everyone's expectations, he walked out of the hospital just two weeks after the crash. Today, he's back in school and in the midst of an ongoing, miraculous recovery.

**1 What do you remember about the accident?**

Short version: An impatient driver tried to pass me on the right just as I was merging back into the right lane. The other car wedged underneath my truck and sent me into a skid. I ended up rolling about six times before my truck stopped on its roof. I was conscious, but I couldn't see because of the blood and swelling. I tried to squeeze out through the passenger window but only made it about halfway out before I got stuck. That's where the police found me.

**2 And after the accident?**

After the accident, I'm told a police officer found my study Bible open on the driver's seat of my truck. My parents took this as a sign that God

was watching over me. I know a lot of people were praying for me while I was in the hospital. My dad posted updates on Facebook, and hundreds of people commented with prayers of thanks and praises to God.

**3 Who came through for you during your recovery?**

Everybody did. At least one of my parents was always in the hospital room, bless their hearts, sleeping on that little couch by the cold window. My brother and sister were great. My teammates and coaches all reached out. Even my English professor, Cindy Kowall, sent chocolates and a card.

**4 How has the experience changed you?**

It's taught me not to take anything for granted. I now try to cherish every day the best I can, and to be more thankful to God. There's no room for negativity now.

**5 Will you be recovered enough to play basketball?**

When people told me, "Oh, you won't be able to play next year," I was like, "You just wait, I'll show you." I recovered pretty quickly though. I just need a couple of months to get my strength back and then I'll be ready to go. I'm not going to let this crash get in my way.

*For more information about Concordia Cardinals athletics programs, visit [concordiacardinals.com](http://concordiacardinals.com).*

*To help Ethan's family with medical bills resulting from the accident, visit their GoFundMe page: [Ethan's Recovery Fund](#).*

# light of life

Each spring the Christmas tree on the Concordia University Ann Arbor campus is shaved down and fashioned into a cross that remains in front of the chapel throughout the season of Lent. The tree serves as a reminder of Christ's journey to the cross for the sake of our sins. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed." —1 Peter 2:24





The directors of CUAAs DPT and OTDe programs, respectively, are Bob Frampton, PT, DHCE, MPT, and Julie Chreston, OTD, OTRL.

## A COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT

The North Building underwent a significant remodel this past year to prepare for the launch of the Ann Arbor campus’ newest programs: the entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTDe) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degrees.

Workers tackled more than 7,300 square feet to create an intentionally and expertly designed shared space for future occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) students. The upgrade was on top of significant renovations that the university undertook in 2015 for its School of Nursing and in 2020 for its Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program. Altogether, the North Building—a former law school located just under three miles north of the main campus—is fast becoming a state-of-the-art epicenter for CUAAs blossoming health care offerings.

The PT and OT refurbishment project included two classrooms and four labs, as well as storage, a reception area, and offices. The space features:

- A large multipurpose treatment lab with a full-range kitchen with adaptive equipment and supplies
- A second lab with 15 powered hi-lo plinth tables
- A simulation lab modeled after an outpatient clinic
- A pediatrics/neuro studies lab that includes a suspension bolt for affixing bolster swings or other suspension/therapeutic devices
- Two classrooms, with one conveniently located near the front entrance of the building to better welcome future community guests whom the programs will serve

Students in the OTDe program will be the first to utilize the new space as the inaugural cohort begins this summer. CUAAs will welcome its first DPT cohort in August 2023.

Learn more at [cuaa.edu/OTDe](http://cuaa.edu/OTDe) and [cuaa.edu/DPT](http://cuaa.edu/DPT).



## Alive again

FOR ITS FIRST IN-PERSON MUSICAL PRODUCTION SINCE THE PANDEMIC, CUAAs theater did not disappoint. The April performances of “The Sound of Music” drew sold-out crowds—not to mention a record number of auditions. “We had a lot of students show up for auditions this year, which was awesome to see,” said Amanda Williams, director of theater. “It’s really exciting to see that our theater program is gaining momentum.” Learn more at [cuaa.edu/theater](http://cuaa.edu/theater).

## STUDENT-FACING

There are some new faces serving CUAAs students on the front lines. Concordia welcomed Margaret Jones and LaDonna Hawthorne as staff members this academic year. The two serve under Rev. John Rathje, Concordia’s longtime dean of students.

Jones, a graduate of Concordia University Chicago, oversees the campus’ resident assistant staff and lives on campus with her 3-year-old daughter, Maya. Hawthorne, who also graduated from CUC, organizes events and activities for the CUAAs student body. Learn more at [cuaa.edu/life](http://cuaa.edu/life).



**Margaret Jones**

Director of Residence Life



**LaDonna Hawthorne**

Student Events Coordinator



**Rev. John Rathje**

Dean of Students



## LUTHERAN LEGACY POURS THROUGH

**A**fter 13 years as president of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier ('78) is term limited. His last day is Sept. 30, 2022.

"I'm very grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve," said Maier. "I trust that God will raise up a great leader to take over and move the Kingdom of God in Michigan as He desires."

Maier comes from a family legacy steeped in the Lutheran faith. His grandfather, Walter A Maier, founded the flagship radio ministry "The Lutheran Hour." His father, Dr. Walter A. Maier Jr., served as a vice president in Synod and taught at Concordia Theological Seminary. His uncle, Dr. Paul L. Maier, an author and lecturer, also served as a vice president in Synod. His brother, Walter A. Maier III, is a teacher at Concordia Theological Seminary and is authoring the Concordia Commentary on 1 and 2 Kings. Following in those esteemed footsteps, Maier attended CUA, where he met his wife Pat (Kemmerling, '77), and then attended Concordia Theological Seminary. He served in a variety of ministry positions before being elected district president in 2009. Both he and his wife have been honored with CUA's Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Among Maier's notable accomplishments as district president was his active role in preserving CUA mere days into his first term.

"CUA was worth saving then, and it is still a gem worth fighting for now," said Maier. "I came from a great Christian family, but at Concordia my faith became my own. That's what an incredible place like CUA does. Why would we want to lose it?"

Maier started his work for CUA, at that time, in the most powerful way he knew: He prayed. And then he rallied other believers, supporters, multiple district presidents, and influencers who were invested in the cause. CUA's ultimate triumph is the culmination of prayerful and financial support from several LCMS districts; Michigan's Church Extension Fund; the Concordia University System; members of CUW's Board of Regents; and Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, PhD, then CUW president.

"God allowed us to work hard and together by His grace blessed those efforts. God came through," said Maier. "But He's not done with it yet. May He use it for Christian growth, excellence, and transformed lives now and for decades or even centuries to come."

With CUA firmly intact, Maier is focused on the future.

"I would love to see our district, trusting firmly in the Word and promises of Jesus, be a stronger center for missional action," said Maier. "We need to lovingly care for people without compromise. We need to live and share the truth in love, and recognize and thank God for the gift that each individual is. We could focus on all that and let God take care of the church."

Come September, the Maiers will relocate to Frankfort on the northwest edge of Michigan. They anticipate seeing more of their four children and six (plus one more on the way) grandchildren. While they consider the numerous opportunities before them, they have clear thoughts on their top priorities. "We will pour ourselves into our grandchildren and help them see the beauty of Jesus, His words, and work. Then, we are always available to our God for what is next."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more happenings or full event information, visit [cuaa.edu/events](http://cuaa.edu/events).



### CARDINAL CONNECTION

For new, incoming students

May 11, June 16 & 29,  
July 26



### TRINITY TIME

For pre-college students considering church work

July 31-Aug. 1

Early registration closes July 12



### CLJC CLASS OF 1972 50TH REUNION

For members of the Class of 1972 and guests

Aug. 6-7



### FALL '22 SEMESTER START

For traditional undergraduates

Aug. 29



## SHINING AN ABLELIGHT

For the past eight years, students on Concordia’s Mequon campus have embraced a learner population unique to higher education: those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Now, efforts are underway to do the same on the Ann Arbor campus.

Earlier this year Concordia University Ann Arbor announced a partnership with AbleLight (formerly Bethesda Lutheran Communities) and shared plans to open AbleLight College at CUAA in fall 2022.

Angela Post, MA, BCBA, LBA, began her role as director of admissions in January. The Ypsilanti native has experience working with diverse ages and abilities, but is especially thrilled to join the Concordia campus for this new endeavor.

“The opportunity to bridge my faith with my passion for working with young adults and their families is a dream come true,” said Post. “I am excited to see lives changed.”

Students who enroll at AbleLight participate in a modified curriculum that focuses on developing life and job skills beyond graduation. Enrollees have the opportunity to live on campus and enjoy the perks of a typical college experience. At the end of the two-year program, participants graduate with a Certificate of Applied Learning, and cross the commencement stage alongside CUAA’s traditional undergraduate and graduate populations.

Employees of AbleLight forge connections with area employers to create job-shadow and employment opportunities. Since its launch, the Mequon-based AbleLight College has seen nearly 40 students complete the program who have secured jobs in day care; restaurant, hospital, and office settings; maintenance; and travel agency support.

“The students of AbleLight College have goals and big dreams just like all college students,” said Kristine Leonard, director of AbleLight College at CUW. “They just need a little extra help achieving them. Through our program, with the encouragement of our dedicated staff and with the full support of Concordia University, we are able to help these dreams become reality.”

Learn more by contacting Angela Post at 734-995-7274.

## HITS THE SPOT

There are many reasons to love CUAA. Not least among them is our campus amenities and great location within the city of Ann Arbor. If you’ve never paid us a visit, you’re missing out! Here are a few reasons why.

### #1

**Best College Town in America**  
(WalletHub, 2021)

### 187

**Acres of scenic riverfront property**  
(Plus 10 acres at the North Building)

### 4

**Ranked 4th among the Top 10 cities in the U.S. to get physically fit**  
(SmartAsset, 2021)

### 16

**Community-style residence halls**

### 5

**Major campus improvement projects** within the past eight years

## FULL OF HOPE

This January marked three years since I was asked to serve as vice president of administration on the Ann Arbor campus.

I followed in the footsteps of the excellent and committed Curt Gielow, who retired in December 2018. At the time, I shared that my focus has always been and would remain in our Christ-centered mission. Personally, that mission has shaped my life in profound ways. I summed up my job description simply as “a key collaborator for Concordia, working closely with the Church, the Michigan District, and with many different programs, people, departments, and friends to share our uncommon mission, and open more doors of faith and opportunity for our students.”

More than three years later I’m still energized by our mind, body, and spirit mission; our vibrant community; and my awesome opportunity to welcome as many people as possible to our campus. It is on our campus where many will undoubtedly witness our faith in action, and experience the palpable fullness of hope and joy that is granted to us by the Holy Spirit.

Our campus will be especially busy this summer as we host the English District, Ohio District, and Michigan District Conventions. We are the Church’s school. We remain committed to our Lutheran identity. We have an incredible story to share. We are stewards of a beautiful physical campus. For these weeks in June—and every week we have the privilege of serving students—we give thanks for the blessing Concordia has been, is today, and will continue to be in the years ahead. As many have sung, “O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.” We are people of hope!

**REV. DR. RYAN PETERSON**

*Vice President of Administration  
Chief Liaison to the Office of the President*







## Rich Luker, PhD

BA in psychology ('81)

### WHERE'S YOUR TREASURE?

Attention CUAA class of 2001! Remember that commencement speaker who gave you each a \$10 bill? He wants to hear from you! As you may recall, the theme was Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Dr. Rich Luker is working on a podcast project, and wants to find out where your heart and treasure are today.

As a boy, Luker and his brothers played on the grounds of the CUAA chapel before it was built. His mom was CUAA's first assistant librarian. Since then, he has followed a fascinatingly winding path to become a leading national sports marketing expert featured in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and more. He's a "big idea" guy with an extra-large passion for serving God.

Read more at [blog.cuaa.edu/rich-luker](http://blog.cuaa.edu/rich-luker).

## Advancing the mission

One of the highlights of the year for most universities is graduation. Over my 15 years at Concordia, I have witnessed the smiling faces of countless individuals as they cross the stage to become alumni. It never gets old. I smile in return knowing that these students have received an education grounded in biblical truth, which enables them to live out the Concordia mission of service to Christ in the Church and the world. This mission existed long before I began at Concordia. And, thanks to the faithful stewarding of our boards, administration, and faculty, it will continue long after I leave by God's grace.

These new alumni have been able to receive such a great education because of the generosity of many. Almost every student receives a generous financial aid package that typically includes endowment support or institutional aid.

You have probably heard that students benefit from endowments, but what does that really mean? Along with that question, people often ask how they can support our students through an endowment.

Endowments are financial gifts to Concordia that provide support, typically in the form of scholarships. These gifts are carefully invested, and a portion of the endowment is disbursed each year to fund scholarships or programs. Because of the faithful stewardship of these funds, the amount distributed each year typically grows along with the balance of the endowment. Some individuals who wish to leave a legacy of support often include an endowment gift in their estate plan.

Individuals, like you, are able to select an endowment to support and thereby direct your gift for the long-term benefit of our students. For example, if you wish to help cover some of the tuition for a pre-seminary student, an endowment gift will not only be an immediate blessing, it will support students for years to come. If that describes you, simply go to [cuw.edu/give](http://cuw.edu/give) or [cuaa.edu/give](http://cuaa.edu/give) and select "Endowment" from the column on the left. Our students will be blessed by your generosity and faithful stewardship.

**REV. DR. ROY  
PETERSON, CFRE**  
*President, Concordia  
University Foundation*



Erik Hollander, EdD, talks with a CUW student about the healthcare advocates program and its opportunities.

## ADVOCATES FOR *health*

What's up, doc?

The line, made famous by the beloved cartoon Bugs Bunny, is also a question being asked by many patients these days as they navigate what some believe is a health care system that needs some changes. At Concordia University, one of the many topics discussed is how can we best serve the industries of the future? What programs and classes need to be developed to meet the needs of employers for decades to come? Often it is because of philanthropic support that we are able to create new offerings at Concordia. Certainly health care is one of those industries that is thirsting for an innovative approach.

With the opening of the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center in 2019, CUW's Batterman School of Business and School of Health Professions have been working in collaboration to find solutions that will serve the general population.

The healthcare advocates program, one of our newer programs, has found success and is producing results, thanks in large part to the generosity and vision of Peter Grimes, president of Aur Enterprises, along with Concordia's Dan Sem, PhD, and Erik Hollander, EdD. Not only has a curriculum been developed, with Hollander spearheading the efforts in collaboration with Dr. Bill Hennessey, CEO of Pratter, Inc., but Concordia students are being trained to help future patients as advocates for individual's health care through internships and, in some cases, landing jobs in the industry.

"We wanted to work with a high-quality academic institution that upholds the values of our companies," said Grimes. "Concordia's students have exceeded all our expectations, and we look forward to expanding our program. We have found Concordia students to be intelligent, hardworking, and dedicated individuals who are eager to serve others. With these valuable attributes, we believe these are the young men and women who will someday lead our country's economy."

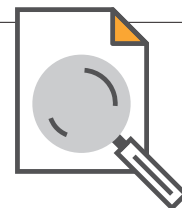
This is just one example of an entrepreneur bringing an idea to Concordia University where it has turned into a successful program. We welcome other opportunities to work together with businesses and organizations to help us serve the public, and produce students ready to take on industry challenges.

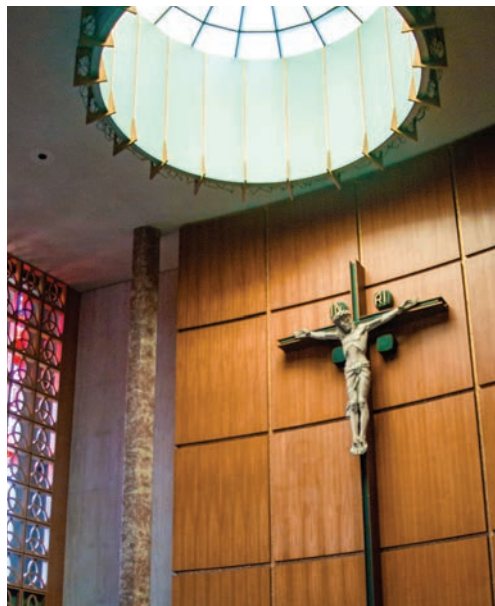


—Dean Rennie is vice president of the Concordia University Foundation. To learn more about the healthcare advocates program, email Rennie at [Dean.Rennie@cuw.edu](mailto:Dean.Rennie@cuw.edu).

## The president search continues

Concordia invites you to stay up to date with the search process. Updates and all search materials are posted at [cuw.edu/president-search](http://cuw.edu/president-search) or [cuaa.edu/president-search](http://cuaa.edu/president-search).





### Cross Examination

CUW Theology Chair Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola reflects on the strange path to peace that Christ endured for us: peace through the blood of the cross.

Read the full *Hearts Together* closing devotion at [blog.cuw.edu/benediction-Paavola](http://blog.cuw.edu/benediction-Paavola).



# John 20:20-21

“When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’”



# See you there!

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IS ON THE ROAD  
THIS YEAR. LOOK FOR US AT THESE  
CHURCH EVENTS AND MORE!**



## **District Conventions**

(Northern Illinois, North Wisconsin, Minnesota South,  
Missouri, Florida-Georgia, English, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa East,  
Michigan, Central Illinois)



## **LWML District Conventions**

(Michigan, North Wisconsin, South Wisconsin)



## **LCMS Youth Gathering**

July 9-13, 2022 | Houston, TX



## **Best Practices Heartland**

Sept. 18-20, 2022 | Frankenmuth, MI



## **LEA Convocation**

Oct. 6-8, 2022 | Milwaukee, WI



*Coming up next year!*

**LWML National Convention**  
June 22-25, 2023 | Milwaukee, WI

**LCMS National Convention**  
July 29-Aug. 3, 2023 | Milwaukee, WI

