

ABC District Supports CLS Pastor's Sabbatical Week

Concordia Lutheran Seminary has a singular mission: “as a seminary of Lutheran Church—Canada, we form servants for Jesus’ sake.” This includes pastoral training in the MDiv program, but also a variety of ways that we continue to support and equip pastors in the field.

About 30 pastors from ABC District attended the Pastor’s Sabbatical Week on June 6-8 in Edmonton. One major set of presentations was led by Rev. Dr. Chuck Arand, Professor from Concordia Seminary St. Louis, who talked about Lutheran distinctives of balancing the Biblical creation accounts with *good* and *sound* information we receive from the hard sciences. Another series of presentations covered the science and art of preaching, from the experience and heart of Rev.

Larry Vogel, member of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Local LCC psychologist Dr. Colleen Hammermaster presented two sessions addressing important new directions and elements of providing good pastoral care. Dr. Steve Chambers (CLS) presented on the use of pronouns in preaching; Dr. Hellwege (CLS)



presented on the Lutheran influence in Nazi Germany; Rev. Michael Schutz (Concordia Penticton) led a discussion about facing the challenges of Junior Confirmation ministry. We are grateful to ABC District and the congregations and individuals who support pastoral mission and ministry alongside of us, allowing the Pastor’s Sabbatical Week to serve ABC District and the LCC at large.

Among our growing student body, nine students (slightly over half) count a congregation in ABC District as their home church. We are thankful to the Church for providing these men *and women* – our first DPS student, intern Lenora Wallden, comes from Chilliwack – for training to serve in Lutheran Church—Canada. On their behalf, we are also very thankful for the financial aid support that ABC District provides directly to these students through the financial aid process, *and* to the many ABC congregations and individual donors who directly support the seminary operations budget in ways that keep tuition costs at a reasonable rate. When tuition rates are low, students are able to matriculate through the seminary with minimal student loans and are not saddled with educational debt loans throughout their years in ministry (it helps congregations afford a pastor).

The costs of operating this seminary are diligently managed to remain at the lowest rate that allows us to provide the highest quality of education. Our pastor-graduates are well trained and fit for service in ABC District and anywhere in Lutheran Church—Canada. We **CRITICALLY NEED** your support – sending students, and supporting them through our operations and financial aid sides of the budget; therefore, we thank God for you and your partnership. Thank you, in advance, for that support.

Please pray for the mission and ministry of our seminary, all who work and all who study here, that we may have union in serving our one Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In His service,
Rev. James R. Gimbel, Ph.D.,
President, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton