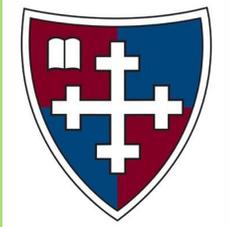


The Department of Lutheran Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

SUMMER
2018



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ONE NEVER KNOWS WHERE A TERM PAPER WILL LEAD!



All the books by and about Luther, Melancthon, and Chemnitz were checked out of the library! This was not a surprising state of affairs at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg Pennsylvania during the Gritsch-Jenson era! Nevertheless, there was a final paper due on a significant Lutheran who lived between the Reformation and the French Revolution. So I chose the one with the interesting name whose biographies and writings were still on the shelf: Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, the Pietist leader who established several religious communities in Germany (Herrnhut, Herrnhag, Marienborn), provided sanctuary for the persecuted *Unitas Fratrum* (later institutionalized as the Moravian Church), and sought to provide leadership to the dispersed Lutheran congregations in colonial America.

There was much about Zinzendorf's personality that was "odd" and for some people, off-putting. His DNA made him a member of an ancient Austrian noble family and he was fond of dressing in the courtly regalia and enjoying the luxury of castle life. Familial expectation was that he would pursue a legal career in service of the Dresden court, as had previous members of the family. Stronger than this DNA, however, was God's call to a church vocation. So despite objections of family and friends, and a lot of drama, Zinzendorf was ordained a Lutheran pastor in 1734. Two years later he was consecrated as a bishop of the *Unitas Fratrum*. Zinzendorf however, didn't see his title of "Bishop, negating his title as "Pastor," as negating his title as "baptized child of God." In fact in the very name *Unitas Fratrum*, (Unity of the Brethren) lies Zinzendorf's ecumenical vision, even one might dare say his vision of Article VII of the *Augsburg Confession*!

Article VII states that for the true unity of the church "it is sufficient," (*satis est*) that there be agreement in Word and Sacraments. Once that ecumenical goal is achieved, there is no obstacle to fellowship, even full communion between religious traditions. What does agreement in Word (spoken Gospel) and Sacraments (visible Gospel) mean? Luther answers that in "Article I" of the *Smalcald Articles*, "The first and chief article is this, Jesus Christ died for our trespasses and rose again for our justification." On this the church stands or falls.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

So Zinzendorf's vision of Article VII ecumenism, and his obedience to John 17 (Jesus "High Priestly Prayer" for the unity of his disciples,) resulted in his proposal for the *Gemeinde Gottes im Geist* (Congregation of God in the Spirit.) This was not a proposal for organic unification of churches or denominations, but for mutual recognition, praise and worship of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which gathers God's people together, even though they may have different worship styles, prayer postures, liturgies, even publishing houses, colleges, and seminaries. In fact, even the fact that they followed different altar guild manuals, did not negate their mutual recognition of each other as the church. What made the church the church was the "chief cornerstone," the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Zinzendorf's attempt to establish the "Congregation of God in the Spirit" in the American colonies in 1741 was unsuccessful for a variety of reasons. Like today, there was too much politics and too many personalities involved!

So what has this to do with the Dept. of Lutheran Studies at GCTS? We are privileged to be one of eighty Christian denominations who study, worship and pray together at GCTS, Charlotte. Sure, there are different theological perspectives, liturgical styles, politics, pot-luck dishes (!), but one Lord! It has been a blessing to us to be among so many brothers and sisters in Christ.

It seems to me that as we continue as the church, obedient to our Lord, that we must cultivate and nurture more such opportunities among the various brands of Lutheranism as well as with other Christians. So at the Dept. of Lutheran Studies at Gordon-Conwell we pray and work to manifest the unity that we share in Christ.

LUTHERAN YEAR AT GCTS TO FULFILL CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS?

Do you need Lutheran courses to meet candidacy requirements? We can offer that to you, on campus or via Digital Live!

GOOD NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LUTHERAN STUDIES, GCTS

With this year's Spring Graduation, the Dept. of Lutheran Studies completes its fifth year of providing an theological education at GCTS for the Lutheran community. In that time,

- 20 students (14 NALC, 5 LCMC, 1 ELCA, 1 LC-MS) have taken classes with us and are now serving as pastors, and educators. 11 of them have earned degrees from GCTS (5 LCMC, 5 NALC, 1 LC-MS). Students of other denominations have taken our classes: Anglican, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Methodist, Reformed, and non-denominational.
- Courses in Lutheranism in North America, Lutheran Confessions, Luther & the Reformation, Worship, Preaching, Spiritual Formation, Church History, Ethics, Theology, and several directed studies have been taught by the Dept. of Lutheran Studies.
- The Director has served as a co-mentor in the D. Min program (Pastoral Theology in Practice track) for the past 3 years. Currently, there are 3 ELCA Lutherans in that program. She hooded her first D. Min student at this year's commencement ceremony.
- The Director is under call from the executive council of the NALC. The Carolinas Mission District of the NALC signed the Memorandum of Agreement with GCTS. The LCMC has officially approved the Dept. of Lutheran Studies as a seminary "partner." Our Advisory Board has representatives from the ELCA, LCMC, and the NALC.
- Our "Lifelong Lutheran Learning" Class has between 12-18 participants for each course. Class members have been clergy members pursuing continuing education and laity seeking to grow in their faith.

While all these statistics are interesting, what is most important is that the ministry of the Dept. of Lutheran Studies is to offer theological education that is biblical, confessional, and ecumenical in order to prepare men and women for church vocations in the 21st century world.

**ORDINATION OF THE REV.
JASON DAMPIER**



January 28, 2018

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Gastonia, NC

**ORDINATION OF THE REV.
CHRIS GIBSON**



February 10, 2018

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Easley, SC and
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of Pickens,
SC.**

**GCTS GRADUATION
KAREN HARMON**



**GCTS, CERTIFICATE IN LUTHERAN
STUDIES
RICHARD WEIDMAN**



**GCTS GRADUATION
FRANK GARRISON**



**GCTS, CERTIFICATE IN LUTHERAN
STUDIES,
AMY CARPENTER**



redefining **RESIDENTIAL**

At Gordon-Conwell's Department of Lutheran Studies, our digital-live, interactive classes give students the flexibility to attend in person or online, reducing time spent away from home. Come and see how we are preparing the church leaders of tomorrow by redefining residential today!



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GORDON CONWELL
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



REDEFINING RESIDUAL

In the 1970's and 80's, and to a lesser extent in the early 1990's, one pursued a theological education by renting a U-Haul and moving to a campus away from home. In a world where denominations supported their seminaries and where most pastors went to seminary directly after college, that made sense. Many church leaders who attended seminary during that time treasure that experience and fondly remember it at alumni gatherings. For some today, it is still the way they will attend seminary and there are some seminaries that still offer that experience. The GCTS campus in Hamilton, MA offers that residual option.

For many in 2018, however, that is no longer a feasible way to attend seminary. Many are second and third career students who have established families, careers, and communities. Also, the reality of smaller congregations means that a pastor may need to be bi-vocational, having a part-time call to a congregation as well as other employment outside of the church.

Some argue that a non-residential seminary is not able to offer essential formation beyond classroom education for parish ministry. That is not true at all. In fact, because we work harder to insure that the

element of formation is not lost, we are able to offer worship, service, fellowship, and networking opportunities to our students as well as classroom education and field experience.

At GCTS, Charlotte we are a "non-residential" seminary. That means that there are not dormitories where students live. Many of our students live in the Charlotte area and attend classes. Some of our students, however, live in other states, even other countries. They attend classes via GCTS "Digital Live Learning" platform. Via the technological resources available at GCTS, they are "in class" and participate "in class" as the other students. This is one of the ways that theological education happens in the 21st century.

At GCTS, our students may come to us via automobile or they may come to us via Internet access!

In the "Lutheran Lifelong Learning" class. One of our students participated in the class while traveling in a car (He was not driving!)





LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD



In Fall 2018, we will be offering this course as part of our “Lutheran Lifelong Learning” Certificate Program. This course is open to anyone, laity and clergy, who desire to explore the story of Lutheranism as it developed in the United States. There will be ample time for discussion and reflection among class participants.

In addition to **class**, we will gather for **worship** on Saturday morning, with preaching that relates to the class and on Saturday noon we will share a **meal** together. The Rev. Dr. Scott Suskovic will be the preacher for our worship services.

The cost for this course is \$150.00 which may be paid in installments at each class period. This course may also be taken, by those not in the Charlotte area, via GCTS “Digital Live Global Learning.” Last semester, in addition to our Charlotte students, we had a pastor in Wisconsin and a pastor in Kansas taking the class via our Digital Live Platform.

To register:
Contact MHavens@gordonconwell.edu.

THINKING ABOUT SEMINARY? NOT SURE? HAVE LOTS OF QUESTIONS?

If this describes you, then you are the individual we would like to invite to lunch! Seriously, send us an email (MHavens@gordonconwell.edu) or call (803-606-7126).

PULPIT SUPPLY

The Dept. of Lutheran Studies Director was honored to preach and/or give presentations in these churches January-May 2018

- Lamb of God Lutheran Fellowship, NALC, Simpsonville, SC.
- New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, NALC, Hickory, NC.
- Ehrhardt Memorial Lutheran Church, ELCA, Ehrhardt, SC.
- WELCA Retreat, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, ELCA, West Columbia, SC
- St. Timothy Lutheran Church, NALC, Goosecreek, SC.
- Union Lutheran Church, NALC, Salisbury, NC.

Our seminarians have also supplied in area churches. If you would like us to visit in your congregation, please send directions!

Contact: mhavens@gordonconwell.edu

Lutheran Lifelong Learning Certificate

The “Lifelong Lutheran Learning” Certificate program is open to anyone who desires to grow in knowledge of the history and theology of Lutheranism.

There are four courses in this program:

1. Luther: Life & Legacy

A study of the life of Martin Luther, his writings, theology, and significance.

2. Confessing the Faith

A study of the Lutheran Confessions contained in the “Book of Concord.”

3. Looking Back; Looking Forward

A look back at the history of the Lutheran Church in America; its origins, major personalities, development, and their significance as we look forward to ministry tomorrow.

4. Walking the Walk

An exploration of Lutheran spirituality, ethics, and discipleship; providing guidance to the question: WWJWMTD (What Would Jesus Want Me To Do?)

(Each course counts for 21 CE hours or 2.1 CEUs)



SCHEDULE

One of the four courses will be offered every semester in the weekend format, Friday evening—Saturday afternoon once a month. The courses will be taught on a rotating basis over a two year period.

In addition to the class time, there will be a time for worship, a shared meal together and fellowship.

A typical class session looks like this:

Friday Evening

7:00-9:00: Class time

Saturday Morning & Afternoon

9:00-9:45: Worship with Holy Communion

10:00-12:00: Class time

12:00-1:00: Lunch

1:00—2:30: Class time

COST

The cost of each course is \$150.00.

Individuals who do not live in driving distance to Charlotte, NC, may take the course via GCTS’ “Digital Live Global Learning.” All that one needs to participate is a computer with internet access.

DISCERNMENT EVENT

Am I really called to a church vocation? Is seminary for me? Can I do it? How can I do it? What are the steps? What is a candidacy committee? What is a certification interview?

These are some of the questions we will be exploring at our fall discernment event in Charlotte, NC. More details will soon be available.

FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



The Department of Lutheran Studies Seminary Auxiliary



An opportunity to help our students and seminary

SEMINARY AUXILIARY

Luther Fellows :

Marjorie McDaniel by the Advisory Board

Mary Havens by her students

Ronnie Smith by Mary Havens

Mary Havens by Butch & Tricia Price

NOMINATION FORM

Your Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

NOMINATES

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

FOR A

Lifetime Membership (\$100)
Luther Fellow (\$250)

Nomination Forms and Payment should be sent to:

Pastor Carl M. Haynes
6190 US Hwy 52
Salisbury, NC 28146

For more information email Pastor Haynes at:
pastorcarl@charlotte.twebc.com

PRAYER LIST

Thankful that God has placed it on the hearts of GCTS to provide a home for the Department of Lutheran Studies.

Our students who are so courageously and delightfully responding to God's call to ministry.

Our former students who are ministering in congregations, leading mission trips, serving as hospice chaplains.

Our faculty at GCTS, who share with our students not only their expertise but their passion for the gospel, love of God, and commitment to furthering His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Our staff at GCTS, Charlotte who so graciously welcome us and assist us.

Our Advisory Board who give of their times and talents to support and direct the Dept. of Lutheran Studies.

Our partners in the Partnership Program and for all those who support our Department of Lutheran Studies, GCTS.

The persecuted Christians throughout the world who take a bold stance for Christ in the midst of unimaginable and demonic forces that "seek to work us woe".

For us all...that our minds may be open to learn, our hearts to love, our lives to serve to the glory of God and the expansion of His Kingdom.

We have received gifts from these donors in 2018:

- *Bethel Lutheran Church, NALC, Lincolnton, NC*
- *Emmanuel Lutheran Church, LCMC, Easley, SC*
- *Holy Communion Lutheran Church, NALC, Banner Elk, NC.*
- *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, NALC, Gastonia, NC*
- *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, NALC, Little Mountain, SC*
- *Lamb of God Lutheran Fellowship, NALC, Simpsonville, SC*
- *Mayer Memorial Lutheran Church, NALC, Newberry SC*
- *New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, NALC, Hickory, NC*
- *St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, LCMC, Salisbury, NC*
- *Union Lutheran Church, NALC, Salisbury, NC*
- *Various other donors who wish to remain anonymous*

CONTACT MAGAZINE

Contact is the ministry magazine of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The latest edition is about "Racial Reconciliation."

To read: <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/Contact-Magazine.cfm>

"Our task is not to bring all the world to Christ; our task is unquestionably to bring Christ to all the world."

(A. J. Gordon)

BUDGET MATTERS!

In used to be... famous last words, right? It used to be that our Lutheran seminaries were supported by the governing bodies. For most of us that was the LCA, ALC, or AELC. The church did so as an expression of their commitment to insure that congregations would have theologically educated and spiritually formed pastors. When the merger that established the ELCA in 1988 occurred, financial constraints necessitated change. While the need and desire for educated pastors and church leaders was still there, churchwide couldn't support it. So, in the 1990's the regional synods encouraged churches to designate monies for seminary benevolence. In some branches of Lutheranism that encouragement is still there. But more and more it fell on the seminaries that supplied faithful pastors to also find the financial mean to do so.

The Dept. of Lutheran Studies is supported only through donations from congregations and individuals. Over the past five years, we have been blessed, and are so grateful for the support that has been given to us. Our continued ministry at GCTS depends upon such generosity. Please consider encouraging your congregation to make a gift to the Dept. of Lutheran Studies or make an individual gift.

Gifts to the Department of Lutheran Studies should be sent to this address:

Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary
Dept. of Lutheran Studies
14546 Choate Circle
Charlotte, N.C. 28273

Checks should be made out to:

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Memo line: Dept. of Lutheran Studies

Online contributions can be made at:

<https://my.gordonconwell.edu/stewardship/lutheranstudiesgift>

Again, thank you for investing in the future of the church through your support of our program, our faculty, and our seminarians.