

# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHRONICLE

An Educational Mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ■ February 2014

## Concordia University Newsbriefs

- ✞ Thirty-three nominations were received in the search for the next president at **Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas**, following Dr. Tom Cedel's announcement that he will retire at the end of the academic year.
- ✞ The women's soccer team at **Concordia University, Portland, Ore.**, won the NAIA national championship.
- ✞ **Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.**, was recently named a top college for teacher education in the state of California.
- ✞ **Concordia College Alabama, Selma, Ala.**, has launched "A Time to Build," its \$20 million campaign to support new programs and facility improvements.
- ✞ As part of its 150th anniversary celebration, **Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.**, recognized the 100th anniversary of its River Forest campus on Oct. 12 — 100 years to the day.
- ✞ Dr. Kelsi Anderson, assistant professor of Biology at **Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich.**, recently was named the director of Academic Operations for the campus.
- ✞ **Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis.**, initiated a Master of Business Administration for Health Care Practitioners.
- ✞ Students at **Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb.**, raised more than \$100,000 for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.
- ✞ Six political-science students at **Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn.**, announced their student legislative agenda for the 2014 Minnesota legislation session at the State Office Building in St. Paul.
- ✞ **Concordia College—New York, Bronxville, N.Y.**, was named a "College of Distinction" in four areas: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes.
- ✞ **Concordia College Alabama, Selma, Ala.**, received a \$50,000 grant from Wheat Ridge Ministries for equipment to support a health-and-wellness program for faculty and staff.
- ✞ **Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.**, launched a Doctorate of Education program beginning this January.

## Celebrate Concordia Sunday: April 27

Concordia Sunday — planned for April 27 this year — offers congregations an opportunity to celebrate Lutheran, Christian higher education in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which began when its forefathers came to America and built schoolhouses before they built churches.

So why celebrate Concordia Sunday?

Recognition of Lutheran, Christian higher education in a congregational setting reminds worshipers of the importance of a faith-life atmosphere for students throughout their college learning experience. Many congregations celebrate Concordia Sunday as an opportunity to highlight the importance of Christian education in a Lutheran context and to encourage youth to consider preparing for service to the church, community and world.

The Concordia University System institutions are recognized for their excellence in teaching, with more than 1,500 experienced and credentialed faculty members and some 160 undergraduate and 65 graduate programs. In addition to church-work programs

designed to prepare future pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of family life ministry, directors of parish music, deaconesses and lay ministers, the Concordia colleges and universities offer new and exciting options in the areas of health-care administration, nursing, pharmacy, special education, law, coaching, and forensic and exercise science.

Although April 27 is the suggested date for a Concordia Sunday celebration, congregations may choose to celebrate Concordia Sunday anytime throughout the year.

The Concordia University System offers free, specially prepared materials to help congregations in their celebration — such as brochures, bulletin inserts and announcements, liturgies, hymn selections, prayers and talking points.

To download materials from the Concordia University System website, go to [cus.edu](http://cus.edu). Larger print quantities may be ordered by using the order blank on the last page of this "Concordia Chronicle," by calling 800-248-1930, ext. 1252, or by requesting via email at [cus.info@cus.edu](mailto:cus.info@cus.edu).

**Concordia**  
UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM

**Concordia Sunday resources are now available. See the order form on Page 4.**

**For free materials, contact:**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### EPIPHANY: Light as creation and incarnation

*'Twas much, that man was  
made like God before,  
But, that God should be made  
like man, much more.*

(Sonnet XXII—Holy Sonnets,  
John Donne, 1571-1631)

This sonnet by the English priest and poet John Donne captures two beautiful realities. First, man and woman were created in the image of God. And, more wondrously, God became man in Jesus of Nazareth.



The Epiphany season is a splendid time to shine the light of these beautiful realities into our culture and into all the world.

The wonderful truth that man and woman are the apex and culmination of God's creative work means much for education in general and for higher education in particular. It means, in a word, that every human being is significant and of value. When Moses described the creation of

human beings, he was surrounded by the affluent cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

These peoples worshiped the sun, the moon, the stars and other natural forces. In their epics, human beings were marginal and played no central role in the narrative of the world. We are witnessing a "re-mythologizing" of the world in our

culture where prestigious voices assert that human beings are accidental products of aimless cosmic forces. Ultimately, they claim, we are all absorbed by death into the darkness of the universe. The sun, the moon, the forces of the universe, in this rendering, are the ultimate reality, i.e. god.

What a privilege it is, in such a setting, for the Concordia University System to display the light of God's creative work. Our campuses engage literature, history, philosophy, science, ethics, music and the arts with the knowledge that creation as well as human creativity witness to the wonder and beauty of God's creative work. It is no accident that the Christian culture of the early and medieval churches gave birth first to learned monasteries where classical literature was preserved alongside Sacred Scripture and then to the distinguished universities of Europe. The church needs a compelling and  
(See Epiphany, Page 4)



Wenthe



# CUS enrollment up 12.8 percent

The total fall 2013 headcount for the Concordia University System (CUS) institutions is 33,399. That is an increase of 3,802 students from fall 2012.

For 21 consecutive years, total enrollment increased between 3 and 7 percent annually. The fall 2013 increase of 12.8 percent is a record.

Both the number of graduate and undergraduate students grew, from 13,790 to 16,819 in graduate programs and from 15,807 to 16,580 in undergraduate programs.

While the total enrollment grew significantly, the number of church-work students fell from 1,654 to 1,531. Students who identified themselves as LCMS Lutherans totaled 4,030.

The graphs provide a visual trend of the enrollment numbers.

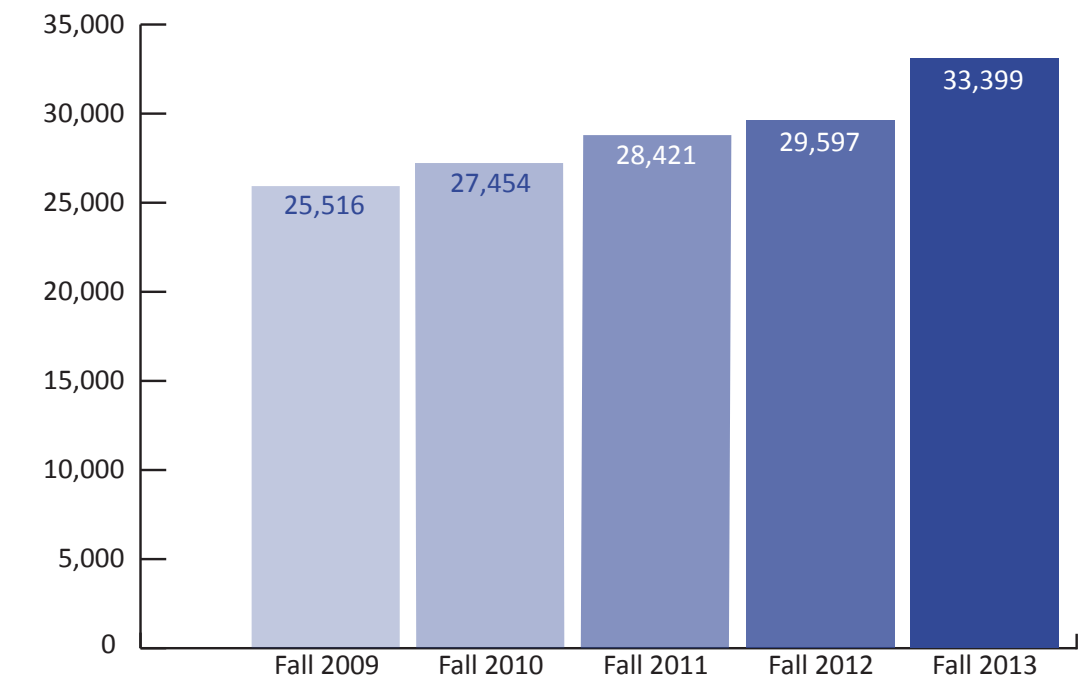
Headcounts at the individual colleges and universities are as follows:

■ Ann Arbor, Mich. ....	740
■ Austin, Texas .....	2,565
■ Bronxville, N.Y. ....	953
■ Irvine, Calif. ....	4,046
■ Mequon, Wis. ....	7,943
■ Portland, Ore. ....	5,428
■ River Forest, Ill. ....	5,286
■ Selma, Ala. ....	600
■ St. Paul, Minn. ....	3,632
■ Seward, Neb. ....	2,206

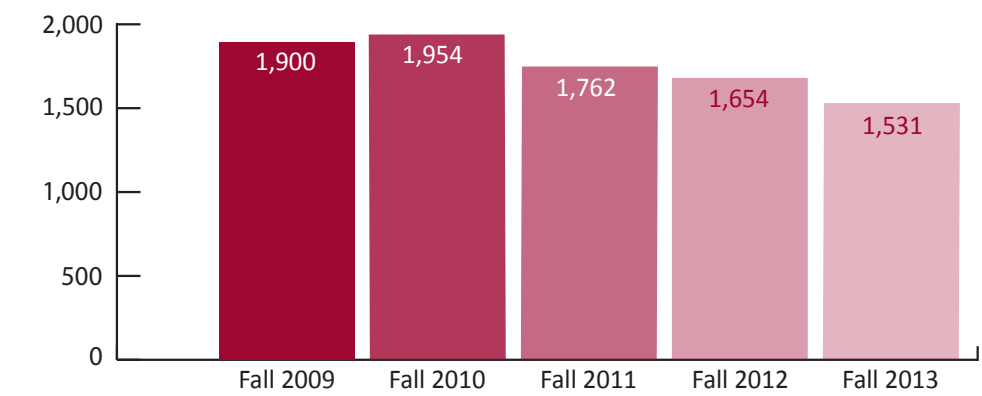
Credit for the increase in enrollment goes to the administrative staff members at the institutions, especially with ever-increasing tuition costs and the competition of the many colleges and universities across the country vying for students.

Lutheran, Christian higher education offers students an opportunity to grow intellectually and spiritually. Faith-life relationships with professors and other students prepare them for a variety of social structures that they will encounter in the future.

## Fall Headcount Enrollment



## Church-Vocations Students



## Golden Bears win seventh consecutive championship

Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn., claimed its record-setting seventh consecutive NCAA Division II Volleyball Championship with a straight-set victory over Brigham Young University-Hawaii on Dec. 14 at the U.S. Cellular Arena in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The win improves Concordia's NCAA Tournament win streak to 42 consecutive matches, as its all-time NCAA Tournament record improves to 52-4 in 11 appearances. Concordia now holds a 7-1 record in national championship games, all coming in 11 years under head coach Brady Starkey. It has reached the Sweet Sixteen in each of those 11 seasons.

The Golden Bears, who finished the season with a record of 35-3, now own the longest streak of consecutive national championships at any level in collegiate volleyball. The record was shared with Washington University in St. Louis at the Division III level between 1991 and 1996. The streak also is tied for the fourth-longest Division II championship streak in any women's sport.

Concordia's seven titles are more than any other Division II program, with the next-closest being Portland State University (with four), while Barry University and West Texas A&M each has three titles.



(NCAA Photo/Conrad Schmidt)

The Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn., women's volleyball team poses after its record-setting seventh consecutive NCAA Division II Volleyball Championship with a victory over Brigham Young University-Hawaii Dec. 14. The Concordia, St. Paul, Golden Bears now own the longest streak of consecutive national championships at any level in collegiate volleyball.

# For the Sake of the Church endowment distributes \$257,000

The "For the Sake of the Church" endowment fund, managed by the Concordia University System, distributed \$257,000 of earnings to the Concordia colleges and universities in December 2013.

This endowment is a collaborative initiative of the Concordia colleges and universities and the Concordia University System office in St. Louis. Its intended purpose is to increase endowment funds that generate earnings to financially assist students attending a Concordia.

The For the Sake of the Church endowment ef-

fort has generated more than \$234 million in gifts and pledges since its inception in 2000. Most of the gifts come from individual donors. However, matching gifts from places of employment also have made a significant impact.

Endowments are the lifeline for the future of higher education in the LCMS. Scholarships and financial aid serve first to recruit students and second, to reduce the cost of their education. Endowments are built through major gifts, individual annual contributions and estate designations.

A number of LCMS congregations are supporting

the For the Sake of the Church endowment fund through special offerings, budgeted distributions and even monthly gifts.

Gifts to the For the Sake of the Church endowment effort may be made through direct or deferred gifts to a Concordia of choice or to the Concordia University System office in St. Louis. Contact information is included in this issue of "Concordia Chronicle."





# Concordia University Texas

## unearths interesting roots in *new* history

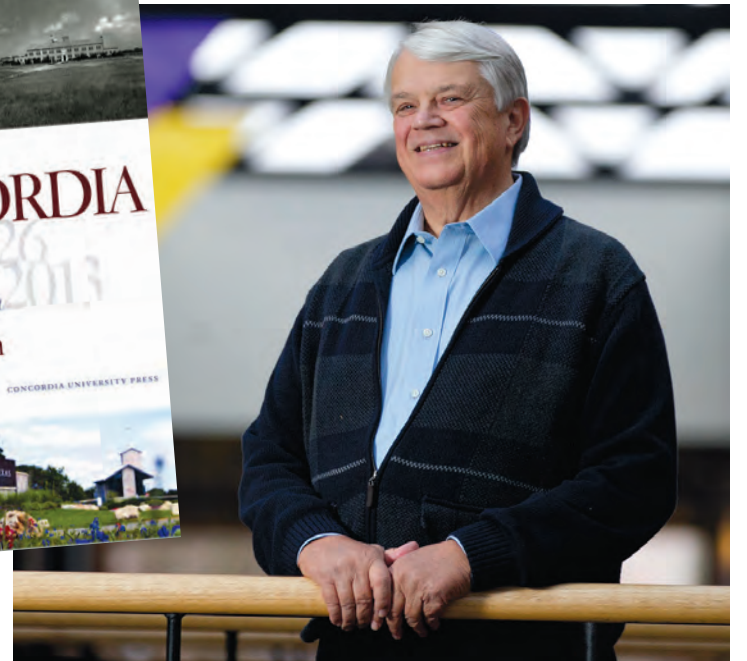
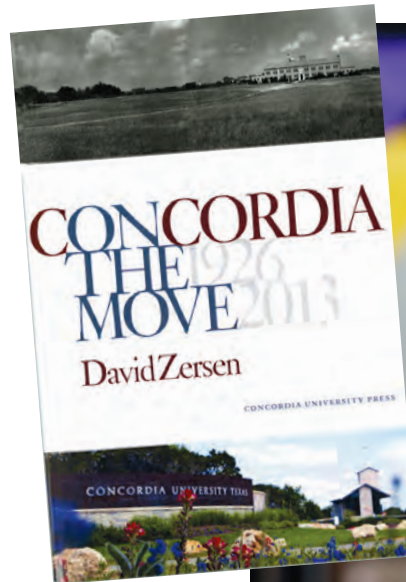
Checking one's past can be a risky enterprise.

Concordia University Texas learned that its downtown campus was on the site of a former slave plantation owned by descendants of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock. Concordia also learned that its founders wanted coeducation and business courses in a junior-college format already in 1926, but for 50 years had to resign itself to a male-only liberal-arts-and-sciences high-school program.

The author of a new book that documents Concordia's history, Dr. David Zersen, believes that in retrospect, Concordia got everything it wanted 87 years ago. However, the turmoil and anxiety dominating some of the eras made patience difficult. Zersen, who interviewed more than 100 people in writing the book, wishes that everyone could have had the confidence that today's readers can have in looking back.

His book, *Concordia on the Move* — a volume with 105 illustrations and 275 pages — not only documents the roots of a Texas university, but sets them within the context of Lutheran higher education's broad development as well as within the Missouri Synod's own schools. Zersen feels that this context involving English colleges, Norwegian academies and German gymnasia is important if one wants to understand what became the Concordia University System and its colleges and universities.

The history of Concordia University Texas is in many ways the story that all Concordia colleges and universities want to tell. It demonstrates that faith-filled leaders can reach their goals, that numerous participants in a great venture should not be forgotten and that one enters the future more responsibly if the past is meaningfully understood. The book may be purchased from Concordia University Press through [concordiabookstore.com](http://concordiabookstore.com).



(Deborah Cannon/Austin American Statesman)

The Rev. Dr. David Zersen, above, is the author of a new book, *Concordia on the Move*, a volume documenting the roots and context of Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas.

## Outline of a donor

Donors come in all sizes, shapes and ages. Some are wealthy, some just comfortable and some not so wealthy.

One should never forget Jesus' story of the widow's mite. In many respects, donors are as atypical as the human race. A benefactor once simply said, when asked why he drives a Chevy when he could afford a Cadillac, "Because I want to."

That is the power of the donor. A donor makes personal choices, selecting activities and events that have meaning or offer a sense of need that can be filled.

It has often been said that a donor contributes to an entity because doing so creates a sense of ownership (not legal title but personal relationship or connection). What is at stake in this concept is an emotional connection, previous or present relationship, compelling case, or even a recommendation or encouragement from a friend.

There is a sense of pride in being

a donor. It is the kind of pride that signals the importance of giving or sharing with an entity that will make a difference now and in the future. Some folks call it a "feel good" because they were able to participate in something larger than themselves. "Joint effort" may be a good expression of what really happens in most cases. It comes close to the old story of the fly telling the elephant, "We really shook that bridge."

Donor pride, interested party, personal relationship, worthy cause, stakeholder, emotional connection, joint effort, common commitment, etc. No matter what you call it, a donor is one who gives a gift because the gift will make a difference now and in the future.

The For the Sake of the Church endowment effort is a case in point. Today's gifts reduce the cost for Lutheran students attending a Concordia, who are preparing to serve their church and society in the future by making a difference.

## CUS Viewbook available cost-free



Share copies with friends and future college students!

Would you like to have an overview of the programs, admission requirements, financial aid, tuition costs and institutional focus of the Concordia colleges and universities? Can you use an information piece to help share the importance of a Christian, Lutheran college education? Do you need a handout to encourage a young person to consider studying at a Concordia?

If so, please contact the Concordia University System office for copies of the 2013-14 *Concordia University System Viewbook*. Either email [cus.info@cus.edu](mailto:cus.info@cus.edu) or call 800-248-1930, Ext. 1252.

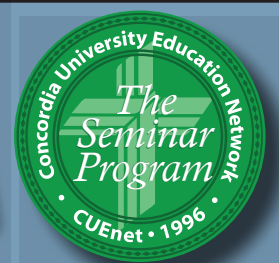
## CUEnet

Online Theology Programs for Teachers and Church Workers

deepening faith, strengthening service

1.800.238.3037

[www.cuenet.edu](http://www.cuenet.edu) [info@cuenet.edu](mailto:info@cuenet.edu)



"I hope others will see the benefits of the online Colloquy Program," writes Michelle Stehle, a middle-school teacher from Illinois. She continues, "I have grown in my faith and look forward to sharing the Word of God with all the children I teach in the years to come."

Michelle worked with CUEnet and Concordia University Chicago to complete the education necessary to receive a call from her congregation.

To date, more than 1,700 teachers, directors of Christian education, parish musicians and other workers in Lutheran congregations and schools have engaged in such training through the online programs of CUEnet.

The online Colloquy Program is offered by CUEnet (Concordia University Education Network) on behalf of the Concordia University System to teachers and church workers who have not

had previous opportunity to study Lutheran doctrine at a collegiate level. It is the intent of the program to enrich their professional and personal lives, leading them to infuse sound Lutheran doctrine into every aspect of their daily work and ministry.

The program is delivered via innovative technologies, including live and recorded streaming video and an extensive digital library.

For those who are eligible, the program leads to rostered status as a called and commissioned minister in the Synod. Other servants in the church for whom a call is not a possibility may choose to participate in a different program of theological training called the Seminar Program.

Information about these programs and more (including a confirmation program called "Images of Faith") is available at [www.CUEnet.edu](http://www.CUEnet.edu) or by calling CUEnet at 800-238-3037.





# Concordia Sunday resources order form

Thank you for your order. We pray that it will be a blessing to you. If you need more material or would like to see some of the other material available, there are several ways to place your order:

Website: [www.cus.edu](http://www.cus.edu)  
Email: [cus.info@cus.edu](mailto:cus.info@cus.edu)  
Phone: 800-248-1930, Ext. 1252  
Mail: Concordia University System  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122

Ship resources to:

We are celebrating Concordia Sunday on \_\_\_\_\_.

(Date)

Please send us the following resources:

Amount	Item
_____	<b>CONCORDIA SUNDAY RESOURCES</b> <b>Celebrate Concordia packet</b> <i>(all are included):</i> Litany of Thanksgiving, prayers for Concordia Sunday, suggested hymns, brief announcements for worship folders and newsletters, talking points for sermon and children’s sermon. <b>Bulletin inserts: “Teach us Your Ways, O Lord”</b> Information about CUS and For the Sake of the Church endowment campaign — includes gift envelope.
_____	<b>CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM RESOURCES</b> <b>Viewbook</b> A book providing an overview of the programs, sports and extra-curricular activities at each of the 10 colleges and universities of the Concordia University System. <b>Map of the Concordia University System</b> <b>Concordia Chronicle</b> A newspaper of the CUS.
_____	<b>LUTHERAN EDUCATION RESOURCES</b> <b>The Lutheran College/University ADVANTAGE</b> A brochure outlining the advantages of a Lutheran higher-education experience, based on professional research. <b>The Lutheran College/University DIFFERENCE</b> A brochure on integration of faith in the learning process. <b>The Lutheran College/University ... Lutheran by Choice</b> A brochure on why the LCMS promotes Christian higher education.
_____	<b>CALLED-WORKER VOCATIONAL RESOURCES</b> <b>Prepare for a Church-Work Vocation</b> Description of LCMS ministry vocations. <b>A Noble Work</b> Ideas for establishing a recruitment committee. <b>Recruitment for Church Work Careers</b> Ideas for churches to recruit and promote future workers. <b>CUEnet Colloquy Brochure</b> Online teacher-colloquy program to become LCMS roster certified.
_____	<b>ENDOWMENT AND GIFTING OPPORTUNITIES</b> <b>What is For the Sake of the Church?</b> A brochure providing information on FTSOTC <b>For the Sake of the Church gift envelopes</b> Can be used as bulletin inserts.



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**Concordia University**  
2811 N.E. Holman St.  
**Portland, OR** 97211  
800-321-9371  
[www.cu-portland.edu](http://www.cu-portland.edu)

**Concordia University Texas**  
11400 Concordia University Drive  
**Austin, TX** 78726  
800-865-4282  
[www.concordia.edu](http://www.concordia.edu)

**Concordia University Chicago**  
7400 Augusta St.  
**River Forest, IL** 60305  
877-282-4422  
[www.cuchicago.edu](http://www.cuchicago.edu)

**Concordia College—New York**  
171 White Plains Road  
**Bronxville, NY** 10708  
800-937-2655  
[www.concordia-ny.edu](http://www.concordia-ny.edu)

**Concordia University, St. Paul**  
275 N. Syndicate St.  
**St. Paul, MN** 55104  
800-333-4705  
[www.csp.edu](http://www.csp.edu)

**Concordia University**  
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**Irvine, CA** 92612  
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[www.ccal.edu](http://www.ccal.edu)

**Concordia University Wisconsin**  
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**Mequon, WI** 53097  
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[www.cuw.edu](http://www.cuw.edu)

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## Epiphany

(Continued from page 1)

articulate presence in higher education. The Concordia University System addresses that need.

The second half of John Donne’s sonnet speaks of that which is truly “much more,” the incredible beauty of the Incarnation, God becoming man in Jesus of Nazareth. From the face of the Christ Child shines the light and life of God. What an Epiphany! In the Christ Child we behold the love of God reaching out to save and to rescue human beings from the darkness of self-absorption that leads to death. In the Christ Child, we are given life now and forever.

Here, too, the Concordia University System shines with radiance, for Christ is displayed as the very wisdom of God. In Christ, knowledge is rightly ordered for the worship of the Holy Trinity and for the care of our neighbor. As St. Paul states:

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth,

visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities: all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Col. 1:15-17).

What beauty shines forth from the Christ Child! The significance of human life, the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage — all derive from God’s benevolence as our Creator and His boundless love and mercy in sending His Son into human flesh to be our Savior.

One small candle shines brilliantly in a vast dark space. In this Epiphany season, our Concordias sparkle and shine with the light of Christ in the often dark space of higher education.

May our light shine faithfully and fully so that many more will come to see that “in Him all things hold together.”

Yours, in Christ,

**Dean O. Wenthe**  
*Interim President,*  
*Concordia University System*