



PASTORAL EDUCATION

June 2010 ■ A newsletter for those interested in the ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

This Issue Emphasizes 'Scholarship'

Each issue of *Pastoral Education* emphasizes one of the 12 "Themes for Pastoral Education" from the Board for Pastoral Education. In this issue the focus is on "Scholarship for the Church and World."

The theme states: The church needs pastors, congregations, universities/colleges, and seminaries to transmit Lutheran theology to the next generations. They must relay the strong Lutheran heritage to the next group of leaders (through instruction in Lutheran confessional teachings, means of grace centered worship, biblical preaching, advanced study, writing and publication). The church needs to provide graduate programs (offering masters and doctoral studies) in pastoral education. The church needs to support strongly its centers of theological scholarship. The church must put in place a disciplined pattern for lifelong learning among its pastors (to reflect upon pastoral practice, develop pastoral skills, learn pastoral response to contemporary issues and problems, and to transition to different ministry contexts).

All 12 themes can be found online at: www.lcms.org/pastoraleducation.

Simple, but not simplistic

In one sense, the Christian faith is simple: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved," Paul and Silas told the jailer at Philippi (Acts 16:31). Jesus thanked the Father that He had revealed these things to "little children" (Luke 10:21) and welcomed infants and children as those to whom the Kingdom of God belongs (Luke 18:15-17). It is a simple, child-like faith in Jesus Christ that saves, and in that sense, the Christian faith is wonderfully simple.

Yet the Christian faith is not simplistic. For centuries, theologians have devoted their lives to the study of the relationship between the human and divine natures of Christ, the relationship between the three persons of the Trinity, the nature of God, the nature of man, and countless other complex topics. The enormous depth and breadth of the Christian faith consistently surpass our ability to comprehend.

The oft-quoted account of a dialogue between an astronomer and a theologian underscores the error of thinking that the Christian faith is simplistic. The astronomer said to the theologian: "I don't understand why you theologians fuss so much about predestination and supralapsarianism, about communicable and incommunicable attributes of God, of imputed or infused grace and the like; to me Christianity is simple: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'"

The theologian replied, "I think I see what you mean. I get lost in all your talk about exploding novae, expanding universes, and theories of entropy. For me astronomy is simple: It's 'Twinkle, twinkle little star.'" Simple, but not simplistic, is the Christian faith.

This issue of *Pastoral Education* explores how the professors at our seminaries in Fort Wayne and St. Louis provide sophisticated theological scholarship for the church and the world. Seminary campuses provide unique environments where formal research, teaching, and learning, as well as informal conversation, sharpen one another. Library resources, questions posed by students, and challenges offered by faculty colleagues who possess a broad base of theological expertise, all serve to enhance theological scholarship in ways that cannot be duplicated in other environments. This collaborative, interactive environment produces a result that is greater than the sum of its parts.

This theological scholarship, in turn, serves to enrich both the formation of pastors and the life of the church. In this environment, future pastors learn how to engage in an ongoing life of theological scholarship. From this environment, journal articles, biblical commentaries, textbooks, and more recently, online video and audio resources are produced and disseminated worldwide (20,000



Dr. Glen Thomas

downloads/day of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, online resources alone!). From this environment, the church secures those who provide theological expertise as they address pastors conferences and church conventions. From this environment, the church enlists those who serve on various commissions and task forces where challenging issues are addressed and where simplistic answers will not suffice.

We are blessed to have two exemplary centers for theological scholarship in our church. They are populated by professors whose trust in Christ is the simple faith of a child, but whose approach to theological inquiry is anything but simplistic. They assist us as a Synod to follow the admonition of St. Paul: "Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking, be mature" (1 Cor. 14:20, ESV).

Dr. Glen Thomas
Executive Director
Board for Pastoral Education

Scholarship fosters quality seminary teaching and helps pastors give theological leadership

The faculties of both LCMS seminaries engage in scholarly activity as they, and the students they form, seek to provide meaningful expression of God's Word to a world of competing ideologies, subjective truth claims, and increasing uncertainty. While the truths of God's Word never change, the world in which they are expressed is relentlessly changing.

"A vigorous life of the mind in service to the Gospel" is how Dr. William Schumacher describes the intellectual life at the seminary. "It's not an ivory tower, because we are connected to the world in ways most people don't appreciate," says the dean of theological research and publication at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. "We do this kind of research and scholarly work for the sake of the Gospel."

The seminary is more than a place to

give people pragmatic skills and it is more than a place of academic study undertaken



He Qi visits with Dr. William Schumacher, associate professor of historical theology, during the Chinese artist's exhibition of sacred art last October. The exhibition is a part of intellectual life at the seminary that Schumacher describes as "a vigorous life of the mind."

for its own sake, says Schumacher, an associate professor of historical theology.

The seminaries understand that the church faces complex problems and challenges that require serious intellectual work, he adds.

"We can never live in isolation from the world around us," comments Dr. Charles Gieschen, professor and chairman of exegetical theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and associate editor of the *Concordia Theological Quarterly*. Noting that recent popular novels and magazine articles have misrepresented the Christian faith and raised questions from church members, he adds, "As a pastor I need to be tuned in with the kinds of things my people are reading ... and I can

bring them a more credible and faithful way of understanding Jesus and the Scriptures."

One of the ways the seminary faculty's scholarly activity helps the church is through the Concordia Commentary Series, a project of Concordia Publishing House.

"It's always important as pastors or professors that we go back to the sources and reflect on them," Gieschen says. "The writers [of the commentary series] are reflecting on the Scriptures in light of the language, recent writings on the biblical texts, recent archaeology, and discussions on the person of Christ and life of the apostle Paul."

As one who is always in the learning mode, Gieschen appreciates the dialogue of some theological conferences where

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MEET THE SEMINARY PROFESSOR:

JOEL BIERMANN

‘Having nothing to do’ sets vocations as husband, father, seminary professor

Think of this: When the alarm rings tomorrow morning, you have nothing to do.

That, according to Dr. Joel Biermann, helps to bring a focus to the Christian life.

“I love being God’s creature, being freed in Christ from earning my salvation,” says Biermann, an associate professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. “Knowing where I stand before God is tremendously liberating. I’ve got 24 hours a day, seven days a week to do nothing—it’s taken care of.

“So, what shall I do?” he asks. “I think I need to do my vocation, and my vocation begins at home as husband and father, and then as seminary professor. People are counting on me; I’ve got to get it done.”

A look at his professor vocation helps to explain his perspective on his vocations as husband and father.

Systematic theology is applying God’s truths to contemporary situations, according to Biermann. His interest is theological ethics—how Christians are supposed to live. The Ten Commandments give a set of rules, but knowing what is right—and how to do right—can be more complicated.

“Theological ethics is interested in the idea behind making those decisions,” the professor comments. Beyond questions

of whether a pastor leaves the door open during a counseling session or when to disconnect life support are questions like “How do we become people who know what to do?”

Lutherans, who thoroughly understand and teach justification, sometimes have trouble with the “doing,” he says. “We get God’s stuff right, but we’re not so good at what it means to live now. A lot of times people in our churches look elsewhere, like Family Life Radio or James Dobson, where they are told about how to live.

“This is not ivory tower theory,” he continues. “When we are doing theology well, it’s immediately relevant to parish life. It speaks to people in their real life situations and it has applications right now.”

Biermann is most satisfied when his students “start to make the connections.” When fourth-year students return from a year of vicarage in a parish, they especially begin fitting the pieces of their studies. He says, “It’s just very exciting.

“It’s also exciting when you meet a graduate who has been out a few years and he tells you he’s using what you taught him.”

His father was a pastor and, as a youngster, Biermann knew he wanted to serve God. He determined that he could

best use his gifts as a pastor.

After 11 years of parish ministry, an “unsettling sense of responsibility” led him to wonder if he could use his gifts better in teaching. He moved his family to St. Louis, where he did graduate study at the seminary, where he was called the summer after he completed his Ph.D. degree.

“Put me in a classroom and I’m a happy guy,” he comments. One of his courses, “Man and Woman in Christ,” also highlights his academic interests: “The relationship of man and woman ties into the whole creation account and ethics ties in as well—our relationship to the wider world around us.”

About those other vocations: He and his wife, Jeannalee, have home-schooled their children. Their daughters, Jasmine and Justine, teach in an area Lutheran school and last year earned M.A. degrees in theology from the seminary. Their son,

MEET THE SEMINARY PROFESSOR

A continuing series of articles designed to provide greater familiarity with the faculty members serving at the LCMS seminaries in Fort Wayne and St. Louis.



“Put me in a classroom and I’m a happy guy,” says Dr. Joel Biermann, associate professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He has taught at the seminary since 2002.

Jess, will be ready for college in another year.

“I’m very committed to his education and very committed to my responsibility as a father to him. That’s my primary vocation right now,” Biermann comments. “For recreation, I like to take walks with my wife—some people call them power walks—and I’m starting to keep up,” he says. “That’s my biggest recreation, just that time with my family, whether we go to events around the area or just watch a movie or make supper together.”

In order to keep grounded in parish ministry, Biermann serves as a pastoral assistant at Webster Gardens Lutheran Church, where he teaches a Sunday Bible class and evangelism training, makes evangelism calls, and occasionally preaches and does pastoral counseling.

SCHOLARSHIP FOSTERS QUALITY

(Continued from Page 1.)

the questions posed are different from what he might hear in Lutheran circles. “It is helpful for me to be challenged and stretched and, in a sense, I learn through that.

“I found that congregations truly appreciate pastors who know their subject matter very well—especially the Scriptures,” he continues. “If our pastors are to be faithful and articulate teachers in the world, it is my responsibility to model and mentor that kind of passion for learning and teaching at the seminary.”

Schumacher says faculty engage in their own research and study because those projects sharpen their skills and sharpen their teaching. Noting how seminary faculty responded to questions raised by the book and film, “The Da Vinci Code,” he adds that faculty can’t always anticipate how their study will be useful for the church.

“We live in a world where often the questions people ask will be new questions,” he observes. “You can’t assume that we already know all the questions we will have to face. And that means we have to have nimble minds and the ability to process and apply new information.”

Processing and applying new information is not the realm of seminaries alone. Gieschen and Schumacher believe that scholarly activity furthers the service of the parish ministry as well.

“There is always a balance where you have the Scriptures in one hand and the newspapers in the other hand,” Gieschen comments. “That’s the life of a pastor. He’s engaged in the Scriptures, he’s engaged in the life that’s going on in the world, and he’s engaged with people. It’s so important

for him to be refreshed and strengthened as a shepherd who is grounded in the revelation of God.”

While academics are important, Schumacher believes “there is great value” in the ability to relate to people on a personal and empathetic and pastoral level. “But we have to have something to say,” he continues. “We have to really know

our disciplines and be well informed.”

Schumacher adds that study isn’t limited to theological study at the seminary. In a multi-ethnic world and a multi-ethnic country, the church also can use pastors and theologians with skills in areas such as languages, sociology, and psychology.

Through their responsibilities for research and publication, Gieschen and Schumacher are directly involved in providing scholarly services to the church.

One is through the printed journals—*Concordia Theological Quarterly* from the Fort Wayne seminary and *Concordia Journal* from the St. Louis seminary.

“The idea of a journal is for the seminary faculty to give clergy, not only of our church body but of theological institutions around the world, some research and theological reflection on some of the issues the church is facing,” Gieschen explains. “We hope busy pastors can take time to be refreshed by reading that is different from what they do in their daily pastoral work.”

The Internet has brought new and less expensive ways to distribute scholarly information. Journal articles can be accessed from the seminaries’ Web sites (www.ctsfw.edu and www.csl.edu).

Schumacher notes that the St. Louis seminary is finding worldwide interest in resources from its regular Web site and www.Concordiatheology.org. He says the “Lectionary at Lunch” series has thousands of downloads each week. Data indicate that some 20,000 resources—ranging from the lectionary series to full courses in Greek—are downloaded daily through the “iTunes U” service through Apple Computer.

Most of these resources, including the journals, are provided at no charge to LCMS pastors or congregations.

“Part of the challenge that we have today is the thinking that if you are intelligent or scholarly, you somehow reject things like the resurrection or belief in creation,” Gieschen comments. “We have to equip our Christians to be bold and testifying to these kinds of misconceptions, and especially about Jesus, His life, what He did, what He taught, and especially His death and resurrection.”



Dr. Charles Gieschen, left, professor and chairman of exegetical theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, sees a pastor having the Scriptures in one hand and the newspaper in the other—a process of regular study in order to relate God’s Word to the Christian life today.

CTS continues expansion and video partnership

Pentecostide is a season for growth and renewal, and that is evident all around the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Because of Christ's resurrection, there is confidence in a certain future, and the coming of the Holy Spirit empowers witness and vision.

The long-awaited library expansion continues to rise, and the steel structure is becoming increasingly apparent. The new structure will add 45,000 square feet of space to the current building, bringing the seminary's entire 175,000 volume collection under one roof.

As CTS builds a physical bridge between the old library and the new, it also is creating a figurative bridge to its future: maintaining time-honored library services while creating room for a new era of growth and development.

Fundraising for the project continues while construction has begun,

and the seminary community remains hopeful that additional donors will step forth to build for the next generation of Lutheran students and scholars. To join in keeping alive the voices of theologians, past and present, contact the Office for Institutional Advancement at 1-877-287-4338 or e-mail Development@ctsfnw.edu.

In more expansion news, the seminary and Lutheran Ministries Media (LMM), producers of the "Worship for Shut-Ins" television program, are collaborating on the construction of a new television production center on the seminary campus. CTS provided use of two buildings, which are being remodeled into offices and studios for LMM.

The seminary will use the new studios to assist students in teaching and preaching and for producing distance-learning programs. The new center is expected to be completed by late fall 2010.



Adam and Melissa DeGroot, take a first look at his call documents on April 28 at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Adam has been called to Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, N.Y. (Photo courtesy Bruce and Chery DeGroot)

Call Day reminds us why seminaries exist

As you read this edition of *Pastoral Education* 156 seminary graduates are preparing to begin their ministries as pastors in LCMS congregations and mission fields throughout the United States and around the world.

They received calls into the pastoral ministry on April 27 and 28 at our seminaries in St. Louis and Fort Wayne, respectively. They are new servants provided by God to carry the message of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected to the world.

I ask you to join me in supporting those who are preparing to serve as pastors and in encouraging those who are contemplating service in the pastoral ministry by becoming a member of **The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund Messengers Giving Society**. As a *Messenger*, you will support teaching and research, development of curriculum and materials, recruitment of qualified faculty and staff, financial aid to students, maintenance of facilities, and continuing education for pastors in the field.

Throughout the LCMS, individuals, families, congregations, Bible study groups, women's groups, and schools are providing a significant source of support and encouragement. In fact, between October 2009 and March 2010 the number of participants in *Messengers Giving Society* grew 10 percent, and annual income has increased an average of 23 percent per year over the past six years!

Participating in the *Messengers Giving Society* allows you the opportunity of not only determining your *annual gift amount*, but also your *giving frequency* and *method of payment* (check, credit card, etc.). Payments may be offered on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis.

Giving Level	Monthly Gift	Annual Gift
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Depending on the level of your *annual gift amount* **The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund Messengers Giving Society** will recognize your membership with a certificate, bookmark, or one of two books written and signed by seminary faculty. At the end of each year you will receive an annual reminder that will allow you to decide whether you would like to renew your *Messenger* membership.

It is easy to become a *Messenger*. Simply contact Sandra Tochtrop, Donor Care Coordinator, by telephone at 1-800-248-1930, ext. 1019, or send an e-mail to sandra.tochtrop@lcms.org.

**Rev. Paul D. Kienker, Vice President for Development
The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund**



Discussing first calls at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, are, from left, candidate Samuel Powell, called to Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Mo.; seminarian Timothy Koch; candidate Peter Ill, called to St. John Lutheran Church, Chester, Ill.; and candidate David Benning, called to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brookfield, Wis.

Professor Robert Roethemeyer, director of library services at Concordia Theological Seminary, points out the progress on the expansion to the Walther Library.



CONCORDIA, ST. LOUIS

CSL candidates may serve 'in new ways and places'

Dr. Glen Thomas, executive director of the Board for Pastoral Education, was the one who occupied the pulpit during the Service of Praise and Assignment of Calls in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on April 27. Seated in the pews just a few feet away were the 111 seminary students about to learn where they would be called to serve.

In many respects, it was a typical Call Day service. Yet, in recent years, it has become increasingly obvious that there is growing diversity in the student body and that those receiving calls come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

In his sermon, Thomas referred to the rewarding service ahead of those assigned to traditional and familiar ministry settings. Also, he acknowledged the changing opportunities for ministry

in the world and to the seminary's response. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the same, he said, but there are some "new ways and new places" in which we are now privileged to share it.

Of those receiving calls to serve as pastors, 11 were from the seminary's Center for Hispanic Studies. Thirteen were from the DELTO program (Distance Education Leading To Ordination). Three were from the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology.

One of the recurring themes of Dr. Dale A. Meyer, seminary president, in his conversations and preaching, is that the seminary is a place where students are always reminded to "love God and love people," and to be in ministry "in the church and in the world." Dr. Meyer considers it a "blessing that more and more we are being given the chance to reach out with the Gospel, through our graduates, in a wide variety of settings."



A group of pastor candidates and a deaconess candidate from the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, review the program prior to the Call Day worship service on April 27.



As a pastor, Rev. Robert Bennett finds he needs to keep growing in his faith and his knowledge of how Christ is acting in the world. He is completing a Ph.D. from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and is studying the conversion of Madagascar's people to Christianity from their traditional religions.

Graduate study helps Michigan pastor grow in faith and world knowledge

A few years ago when he was in the midst of a graduate program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Rev. Robert Bennett received a word of encouragement from a woman in his congregation.

"She said, 'Pastor, I know you're gone a lot and I know you're going to school, but you need to keep doing that because you're bringing all these things back to us in the Bible class and in the preaching you do. We're not able to go to class and you're doing it for us,'" Bennett recalls.

Bennett thinks it's important for pastors to continue to learn. While they can study on their own, he believes that a graduate program brings structured study, plus encouragement to focus on a specific topic. At the time of the woman's comment, he was studying toward a Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) with emphasis on Christian vocation.

"I focused on Christian vocation—how does God want us to live, how are we able to live our lives as Christians, how does God work through us, and so forth," he says. "So you bring all that back to the congregation."

Scholarly activity was not always an emphasis in Bennett's life. As a high school graduate, he went to work loading trucks for United Parcel Service and eventually moved into management. Then he was an engineering manager for a company that designed control systems.

In order to attend the seminary he needed a bachelor's degree, so he studied human resources management at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., before enrolling at Concordia Theological Seminary. He graduated from the seminary in 2002 and received his first call to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Benzonia, Mich., where he served until accepting his present call in 2009 as sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Reese, Mich.

"You know, our M.Div. program is a wonderful program that gives you a very good foundation, but that's what it is—foundational," he remarks. "As a pastor, you need to be constantly growing in the faith, in your own knowledge of the world, and how Christ is acting in the world."

Through his S.T.M. study, Bennett met many international graduate students. He says that opened his eyes to greater Christianity as it is occurring in the world. Through the seminary, he became involved with the Good Shepherd Center in Madagascar, which helps to feed and clothe people. In preparation for a trip to

dedicate a kitchen, Bennett learned that the country has one of the world's fastest growing Lutheran churches.

"As a result of that, I got interested in missions and I've been to Madagascar multiple times, as well as to South America and the Middle East," he says.

Continuing his graduate study, Bennett now is in the final stages of writing his dissertation for a Ph.D. degree in missiology. He is studying the conversion of Madagascar's people to Christianity from their traditional religions that involved sacrifices to appease multiple gods.

"I'm studying this from a phenomenological perspective—the experience of the people and their explanation of their life in paganism, their conversion to Christianity, and their view of those things as part of the Lutheran church," he explains. "We are looking at their individual expressed experience, so it is from an insider perspective rather than a western outsider perspective."

Begun by Norwegian missionaries, the Madagascar Lutheran Church was established in the mid-19th century. It has experienced dramatic growth over the last 15 to 20 years. Population on the island is dispersed in many remote areas, so membership counts are difficult. Bennett figures there are 4 million members, although some reports are as high as 6 million.

While Christianity grows in the southern hemisphere, the northern hemisphere is becoming less Christian. "We live in a very different world than our church body experienced in the past," Bennett says, noting the ever-increasingly non-Christian world. "You really need to be able to address these things, not just with what you think or feel, but with what the church has used to address them over the centuries: what do the Scriptures actually say concerning these things?"

Bennett has personally paid for his educational expenses, but appreciates his congregations' support by allowing him time to attend classes and intensive sessions at the seminary. Trinity began a vicarage program last year, which helps when he has to be away. Because of his contacts with international graduate students, he is able to bring them in, as guest preachers or Bible study leaders, to help his congregation widen its mission view and exposure to worldwide cultures and Christianity.

He and his wife, Angela, have two sons and two daughters ranging in age from 19 to 8 years old.

Scholarly study adds to a pastor's depth so he can equip the saints for their growth

If Christians want to grow in their faith during these changing times, Rev. Michael Redeker believes the pastor has to grow in his ministry too.

"A pastor has plenty of things to do, and if the ministry is going to grow, we have to equip the saints," says Redeker. "And equipping them with the Word of God is what's needed," he continues, "I've always thought that ongoing education— theological education—is really important because the pastor is the one who equips."

The pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ky., he has taken graduate courses from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He graduated from the seminary in 1995 with a Master of Divinity degree.

God uses the pastor to shape people, to strengthen their faith, to help them through struggles and problems, and also to equip them for daily life as Christians, Redeker says. And, he adds, a pastor has to have depth in order to do that kind of ministry.

"God's Word is God's Word; it doesn't change," Redeker says. "But the world continues to change in different ways and a Christian needs to deal with that." He said his graduate study has wedded exegetical theology with practical theology into a sharper focus. He has concentrated on Paul's letter to the Galatians and Christian ethics, which he has applied to his counseling and preaching.

"I tell you it has really helped me in counseling situations—and it's helped the people in counseling as well—to bring them back to Baptism and their identity as God's own, and then what's expected of them," he comments. "I wouldn't have looked at things this way had I not taken this graduate study and kept up on these approaches."

He believes his study added depth to his sermons and teaching too. He says his members have expressed appreciation for the academic insights in his sermons and classes.

The Lexington community has many churches, but few are Lutheran, and Redeker observes the theology is often "a mile wide and an inch deep." He comments, "When I get questions from people, even people from other denominations, the depth of theology that comes from my study has proven fruitful."

Redeker is a second-career pastor and worked in business and as a Lutheran Brotherhood representative before enrolling at the seminary. His first call was to a dual parish in Wisconsin, followed by service in the admissions department of the seminary. He began his ministry in Lexington in early 2005.

An established congregation, St. John averages 190 people in worship and has a small preschool. In recent years St. John helped to plant another Lutheran congregation and begin a part-time campus ministry for students at the University of Kentucky. The congregation is part of an effort to begin a Lutheran elementary school in the community.

St. John supports Redeker's academic pursuits by allowing time to attend intensive course sessions at the seminary.

He is an advocate for continuing education. He points to doctors, lawyers, and accountants who all study frequently to stay abreast within their respective profession.

"Aren't we dealing with people's eternities? That's a lot more serious," he comments. "What about ways of thinking and philosophies out there? How does a pastor keep up with the world changing around him? It's hard enough with Lutherans and then you've got the other people who need to be reached who have no clue who Jesus is or who God is."

The LCMS Board for Pastoral Education advocates and coordinates the formation of pastors, missionaries, and other church servants to serve the mission and ministry needs of Christ's church. *Pastoral Education* is published four times a year as an insert in the *Reporter* by LCMS Board for Pastoral Education, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122.

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Rev. Michael Redeker reviews a lesson with confirmation student Morgan Quick. The pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ky., says his graduate study has better prepared him for teaching, preaching, and other aspects of parish ministry.