

Global Seminary Initiative

Strengthening confessional Lutheranism
and global Gospel proclamation

Make Disciples of All Nations

The single most frequent and fervent request received by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) from partner and non-partner Lutheran church bodies around the world is to share our theological treasures.

One way the LCMS responds is by delivering sound, vigorous theological education through the Global Seminary Initiative (GSI). GSI is a partnership between the LCMS and its two world-class seminaries—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

GSI makes possible student scholarships for qualified international students, opening the door to study at our two seminaries, and supports the sending of LCMS seminary and university faculty, or qualified parish pastors and missionaries, to teach courses at select international seminaries.

GSI-supported students pursue master's and doctoral degrees that prepare them to return to their home countries and serve as professors, pastors, deaconesses, teachers and even future seminary presidents!

A Vital Partnership in the Gospel

Currently, 64 future international Lutheran leaders are attending our two seminaries because of GSI. They come from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Russia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Sweden.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (MATT. 28:19)



Gemah P. F. Ballah
Doctor of Philosophy in
Missiology student from
Liberia at Concordia
Theological Seminary

“I enrolled at CTSFW to gain a greater knowledge of Lutheran doctrine and acquire more insight into my tasks as pastor and diaconal worker. My study will help me oversee God’s flock of believers and supervise diaconal work in the areas of community health and education. My goal is to help our Lutheran congregations be transformed spiritually and together believe and trust in God for life and salvation.”



Futao Liu
M.A. graduate and Ph.D.
student from China at
Concordia Seminary

“My seminary studies have broadened my theological horizon and enhanced my research ability in theology. What I have gained here will benefit the Chinese mission, for we believe confessional Lutheran theology has much to offer.”



Christiana Gbeanquoi
M.A. student from Tanzania
at Concordia Seminary

“I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to my studies here. You have been a blessing not just to me but to my ministry and to the people of Africa.”



Markus Snellman
M.A. student from Finland
at Concordia Theological
Seminary

“Thanks to GSI support, my family and I were able to spend a year in Fort Wayne. I’m now finished with six years of studying theology, and the year at CTSFW was by far the most important and enriching year for my upcoming call as pastor in northern Norway.”



Resourcing the Church and World

The Global Seminary Initiative is part of the LCMS legacy of support for Lutheranism worldwide as we vigorously make known the love of Christ through our commitment to solid theological education.

Supporting Gospel Proclamation

These students receive support because LCMS individuals and congregations care about and give to empower GSI. Through GSI, God's people have an extraordinary opportunity to help students prepare to proclaim Christ throughout the world.

Every contribution to GSI through the LCMS is split equally by our two seminaries. Those who wish to support GSI at a particular seminary can do so by sending a GSI gift directly to that seminary.

Your Voluntary Gifts Are Deeply Meaningful



To learn how you can champion our Synod's Global Seminary Initiative efforts as part of your personal or organizational philanthropy, contact: 888-930-4438



To offer support via personal or organizational check, please make the check payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Note "Global Seminary Initiative" on the memo line.

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Mission Advancement
P.O. Box 66861
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Photo: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford



"The hunger for God's Word and demand for Lutheran theology is so great that our seminary faculties cannot keep up with the many requests we receive. Engaging in Christ's mission opens our eyes, broadens our understanding of evangelism and mission, and connects us to the reality of the whole church on earth. The greatest barrier to meeting this need, whether for international student scholarships or faculty visits to other countries, is cost. Thank you for your continued GSI support!" — Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne



"Lutheranism is growing rapidly in many countries, and partner churches are looking to LCMS seminaries for theological education and support. Under the Global Seminary Initiative, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis is collaborating with our Synod and our sister seminary in Fort Wayne to respond to these opportunities. We rejoice in sharing biblical, confessional Lutheran theology with churches around the globe so that Jesus Christ may be given all glory in salvation and His full comfort be granted to sinners." — Dr. Thomas J. Egger, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis



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