Letter From the Editors

Welcome to all! Really! We, the editors, do hereby welcome new arrivals and returning students, faculty and staff. Why? Because we exist for and because of you. You will not only read this publication, you will probably write for it. What's on your mind? Let us and everyone else on campus know. You can let us know in print or photo, earnestness or jest, solo or in concert with your fellow conspirators. For example, this month's edition covers "what you wish you knew as a first year student at Luther Seminar."

On other fronts, we love to catch people doing something right, and we similarly ask you to do the same. However, we will call them out if they are doing something we regard as less than beneficial for the seminary community, intentional or not. After all, we are a paper with journalistic aspirations. Then again, we are a seminary community, and we want to address important issues in the most beneficial way possible. That being said, help us turn open the floodgates of creativity on campus!

All submissions should be sent to concord@luthersem.edu. Article lengths should be 350-700 words. Times New Roman 12-point font speeds along our copy and layout editing. Grace and Peace, Always.

--Dan Pennington, Copy Editor

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THE CONCORD NEEDS YOU!

Do you want to write, take photographs, proofread and edit articles, make art, draw a cartoon, or otherwise contribute to the printed voice of the students at Luther Seminary? Then the Concord needs you. Email us at concord@luthersem.edu and volunteer your skills to making this the best newspaper/magazine that it can be. Uncle Sam and Martin Luther would do it. Why don't you?
Council Corner

Student Council's new constitution has provisions for helping student-led groups on campus, including a small budget. Student Council is also offering a voting position on the council for one selected member of each official student-led group. How does one start an official student group? Check this link out for more information: http://bit.ly/1dcVvK0

Luther Seminary Student Council is made up of 16 elected members and a member of each student group as a voting member—but all are welcome to join the meetings. The first student council meeting is going to be held on September 11, 2013 at 1:00pm in NW 100. We hope to see you there!

If you are unable to attend council meetings, minutes are available to all students online by visiting https://www.luthersem.edu/studentcouncil/minutes.aspx?n=1265

Run for Student Council!

Want to get involved? Run for student council! Nominations will be taken until 5pm on September 5th. Nominate yourself or a classmate by contacting Judy Hedman at jhedman@luthersem.edu. Elections will be done electronically from September 6th until September 9th at 5pm. New members will be announced on the 10th, and the first Student Council meeting of the year will be held September 11 at 1:00pm in NW 100. Nominees must be able to attend the first meeting.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Student Council directly at studentcouncil@luthersem.edu.

ATTENTION STUDENT GROUPS!

We want you to have the freedom to speak. If the student group(s) that you participate in are interested in this opportunity, please contact our staff at concord@luthersem.edu. We appreciate your voice and your willingness to share it with the rest of us!

First Year Protips

Dan Pennington
M.Div. Middler

Tech:

When you log in to your seminary account on a seminary computer for the first time you set up a user environment that travels with you on campus computers. A rough draft of my latest paper on the Windows desktop of a PC in the downstairs lab in Guilliison is also on the desktop when I log on to a library PC. Also, Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010 is available as a free download for students from the Office of Technology.

If you watch a movie using the campus internet connection, your bandwidth ends up getting scaled down for a day or so on that computer. It is nothing personal, it is just a fairness issue engineered into the network.

Goodies:

Sandy Hammerlind usually has cookies available in her office early on Thursday mornings. If you’re lucky they might survive as long as 8:30 to 9:00am.

CYF is short for Children, Youth and Family Ministry, not Challenge Your Faith. They have very hospital people working in their office. They also have the best-concerted-internal-marketing machine at the seminary. Think candy.

Other Acronyms:

So I.T. is O.T. here at Luther, as mentioned previously. And CMI is… CMI is… well, just ask Prof. Zscheile. It’s missionlarry, anyway. The professors are even more impressive in person, so now you have an excuse to find and meet one.

Good Company:

When I feel somewhat less than informed about a particular issue, in class or around campus, I’m usually not alone in this regard. The info desk is awesome. Expect quick answers because they get lots of questions. And if they don’t seem too talkative at the moment, leave them alone so they can do homework in between questions like everybody else.

Procrastination abounds. Expect to see me at the jigsaw puzzle table in the coffee shop, starting or finishing abandoned crosswords in the cafeteria or even buried in a Sudoku on my cell phone between classes. Expect others to be lounging by the water feature, furiously Facebooking from behind their laptops or maybe even discussing unexpected topics like theology over a cold beverage on or off campus. In any case, alone-time will probably be an active choice on your part.

Luther Seminary 3
Greetings and Peace. Making the move to being a seminarian on campus has many challenges. One of those challenges is getting connected to the larger Luther community and the daily activities of its student body. Seminary is intense enough that you will find and make community very quickly with classmates, and if you live in student housing, the people in your apartment building. What about connecting with people not in your classes or living area? Luther Seminary has several great Facebook pages to help.

The Luther Seminary Coffee Shop Facebook page is one of my favs. It keeps you up to date on the latest deals on caffeinated beverages, not to mention the latest info on the tasty creations coming from our in-house baker (I highly recommend the Über Cookie, cinnamon bar and the Raspberry Nasty). The Coffee Shop is a great place to spend time, either studying hard or procrastinating, and the Facebook page will let you know all about the goodies for sale.

The opportunity to connect doesn't stop there. The Luther Seminary Community Life Facebook group offers more connection with the larger student body and is more diverse in its offerings compared to the public pages for various facilities on Luther campus. This is a closed group, but you can get added easily by sending a request to the administrator.

This page is great for buying, selling or trading used course books with fellow students! I have also seen posts of students shouting out for help on projects such as the Community Garden, moving in and out of campus housing, and even giving stuff away for FREE. I have even seen students post events from their church and wider Twin Cities communities. Occasionally, students post furniture and other items for sale. The page is not meant to replace the Student Swap Meet page on MyLutherNet but it does offer many of the same kinds of listings. The advantage of the Facebook page is that the updates can appear right in your news feed, and you can have notifications sent to your email so that you can get responses for help, jump on good deals before they're gone, and communicate with others on campus all in one location. Plus, you can ask questions that you might have about being on campus since you are connected to an abundant well of experience of Luther Campus living.

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To the Entering Juniors

Carrie Carroll
Dean of Students

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Luther Seminary! I was asked to share with you what I would want to know if I were an entering junior. It happens to overlap a bit with what I want you to know about being at Luther, so I am offering my thoughts on each point.

It's a place where you can fit in and make strong friendships. It is fun to see how students become friends and to see how deep connections are made. I encourage you to join a group, go to Chapel, eat lunch in the Eatery and attend events on campus, as you are able.

It's a place that encourages you to explore your faith and challenge your thinking. This is an intellectual, spiritual and emotional journey with incredible faculty from whom to learn and classmates with whom to learn. You will be challenged, but that is what graduate school is all about!

It's a place of respect. You are a Christian public leader! Our mission is to educate leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world. You come to Luther with gifts and experiences that have shaped you and that you can contribute to shape the community around you. We need your participation in student groups, in community forums, in surveys, and in the classroom. Be the leader you are!

It's a place full of people who want to help you. The staff are wonderful resources for you: from the library to the Writing Center, from student employment to contextual education, from the Student Resource Center to the Office of Technology (just to name a few!). Staff are here to accompany you in your educational and vocational journey. If you are facing a spiritual crisis you can reach out to Pastor Laura Thelander. If you desire counseling support there are funds available to assist with your costs. If you are not sure in which degree program you should be, talk with faculty, the Student Resource Center or Contextual Learning. If you feel alone, talk to someone.

It's a place that is constantly changing. This is a strange and wonderful place when it comes to community. We have new students entering every year, interns returning every year, Distributed Learning students coming to campus in June and January and interns going out each year. The community is constantly evolving, with new people entering all the time. So, don't assume that everyone knows everyone. If you don't know someone, introduce yourself!

It's a place that welcomes diversity: diversity of thought, experiences, beliefs and passions. Luther Seminary has about 700 students across multiple programs. We have a wide range of ages represented. We have students from across the US and 64 students from around the world. We have many denominations represented in our student body as well as in our faculty and staff. We are diverse in our opinions, our experiences and our beliefs. You will meet people with whom you will agree and people with whom you won't. It is our job as members of this community to respect and care for one another across these diversities.

It's a place that will prepare you to share God's love in amazing ways. You will be graduating with a degree that churches, communities and employers respect. Our M.Div. graduates are getting their first calls or going onto Ph.D. programs. Our M.A. students are finding work in churches, non-profits and in the corporate sector. The Church and the world need you!

It's a place full of grace. This is a learning and caring community. You will grow in a myriad of ways, and God's grace will surround you on your journey.

You are coming to Luther at an interesting and critical time in our history. We are in a time of transition as we will be calling a new president to start in the summer of 2014. We are looking to the future as we prepare to launch a new curriculum that educates Christian Public Leaders to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of the Church and the world. So much is happening at Luther, and you are called to be an integral part of it.

Again, welcome you to this community: your community. I look forward to seeing the contributions you will make in the classroom, on the campus and in the world. We are absolutely delighted that you are here!

Luther Seminary
On-Campus Family Wisdom

Carrie Gubsch
Fourth-Year Seminary Spouse

Odds are if you are reading this, you are a seminarian. Please share this article with your wife, husband or partner and let him or her know just how much you appreciate the role he or she plays in your ministry/vocational career.

Luther Seminary Offers Financial Coaching to Students and Families

Living on one salary or two partial salaries while paying for grad school is hard, but doable. A financial coach can help you and your spouse make a plan to make it through seminary. Find out more: http://www.luthersem.edu/student_services/coach.aspx

Make Friends with the Maintenance/Housing Staff

Most of your contact with the seminary is through maintenance and housing. They work really hard to keep Burntven and Sandgren from falling apart, which is no small feat. If you are nice to them, they will bend over backwards for you. Maintenance requests: maintenance@luthersem.edu.

There’s a Family Council Just for You

The council was created to advise the seminary about issues that matter to spouses and families. Members include Kate Clark, Heather Shell, Director of Community and Residential Life Jeff Olsen Krenkel and myself. We’re looking for more members and welcome a little more diversity (we know you want to come hang out with us lovely ladies... and Jeff). Contact Jeff at jkrenge@luthersem.edu with questions or to sign up.

There’s a Gym and Guest Housing in Stub Hall

Gym keys are available for $10. It’s a pretty nice facility with treadmills, bikes, ellipticals, free and machine weights, WiFi access and cable. Stub Hall is located up the hill from Sandgren above the basketball courts. Contact Jeff to get a key.

You can also reserve guest rooms in Stub for family members who come to visit at a fraction of the cost of a hotel room. Reservations: http://www.luthersem.edu/campus/on_campus_housing.aspx

Lay School is Free For Spouses

Luther offers theology courses for lay people and spouses can attend for free. Find out more at http://www.luthersem.edu/layschool.

Don’t Buy a Full Turkey on Thanksgiving

It won’t fit in your easy-bake oven (if you live in Burntven), and you will have to hack it into smaller pieces to cook it.

There’s a Community Garden Just Above Sandgren’s Back Parking Lot

Plots cost $30, and it’s a great way to meet people and grow some tasty veggies (or in the case of the Gubsch household, 50 pounds of zucchini!). Contact Jeff to get a plot.

You Live in Lauderdale, Not Saint Paul

Burntven and Sandgren are located in Lauderdale, not Saint Paul, which affects where you vote, where you get your library card and what happens when you call 911. On a related note, if you received new knives as a wedding present, they are very sharp. Make sure to curl those fingers.

Get Involved With a Church Community

Twin cities area churches can offer a lot of support, especially if you and your family/spouses are a long way from home. If your spouse is a pastoral candidate, odds are this is the only time you will get to sit with them in church. Enjoy it while you can.

Get as Involved in Church/Seminary As You Want

Your gifts and skills are just as valuable to the church as your spouse’s, but don’t feel coerced or pressured into using them.

There Are Children Everywhere

Please be careful when driving in on-campus parking lots. There’s a playground, softball field, basketball courts and a large grassy area on the other side of Sandgren. There are also a lot of free/cheap programs in surrounding communities for families and children and lots of seminary families who would love to set up play dates.

Make Sure Your Spouse Leaves Campus

Remember to keep your seminarian grounded in life outside of the church. It’s easy to get swept up in the academic bubble of seminary, but we are called to be God’s hands in the world, not in a classroom or library. Make sure your spouse has time to live in the outside world every now and then.

You Are Not Alone

Seminary and ministry are hard, for students and their families. The next 2-4 years will be filled with lots of change and growth, but there’s a larger community that will be there to support, love and pray for you every step of the way. E-mail me at carriegubsch@gmail.com, or find me on Facebook (facebook.com/carrie.gubsch) if you want to talk.

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Prayer

Concerns

Peter Clark
M.Div. Student

Lord, bless all of the new and returning students. We have come here to seek wisdom, truth, and understanding. Help us through the hard times, and help us to see the good times. Especially watch over the first year students who have come with great excitement and joy in their hearts. Help them to find the nourishment and support that they need to remain excited and joyful in their studies. Help us all to remember that we are here because we have followed your will over our own and that we are all called into service to you in our own ways. Watch over Luther Seminary in this time of transition, and let your will be done to the glory of your name.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Next Issue!

Next issue we are looking for article submissions about community. What community have you experienced here? What would you like to see change in the community here? Speaking of community, we are in need of copy editors, layout editors, photographers, and artists. Come join the Concord community, spend time in our office, and enjoy the opportunity to facilitate and shape the conversation here at Luther Seminary, and help us fill in the blank space in that box to the lower left there.

To submit an essay or to respond to an article you've seen in the Concord, send an email to concord@luthersem.edu.
Find us on Facebook (see the QR Code) and like us. That's where we will keep you up to date with Luther and Concord News, as well as post questions and polls for the back page.

A normal Saturday afternoon at the Buemvedt apartments. Send us your slice of life pictures for the back page at concord@luthersem.edu. Photo by Dan Pennington