



Through Him. For Him. A Guide for Life

by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger, University Pastor and Dean of the Chapel



Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger

Every year the life of Concordia University Chicago as an academic community is guided by a theme, scripture passage, and hymn of the year. This serves to inspire and focus our efforts as a Christian

university. Centered in Colossians 1:16, Concordia - Chicago's theme for this academic year (and really, a guide for life) is "Through Him. For Him." For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. (ESV)

St. Paul's words to the Christians at Colossae peer into the deep mystery of the person and work of Christ Jesus. Revealed as both fully God and fully human, the divine Christ was present at the beginning, Himself as the Word, the means through which all things came to be. Through Him all things—spiritual or physical, visible or invisible—came to be; even now all powers, earthly or heavenly, receive life-sustaining power solely through Him.

But all things were also created for Him. In connection with Christ all things hold together, as our very selves are directed towards Him

Continued on page 5.



Katie Kaufmann, senior and the ILC Sunday School Class

International Lutheran Church and Me

by Katie Kaufmann

I never expected to work with a church in South Korea for my deaconess field studies. What a joy it was to join the ministry of International Lutheran Church (ILC) via Zoom. ILC consists of people from many different cultural, racial, and religious backgrounds all united in Christ (and in speaking English—I do not know Korean!).

The six months I spent with ILC were filled with blessings and challenges. Navigating the 15 hour time difference between South Korea and the U.S. limited some of the activities I was able to do with the church. But it was a blessing to watch the Sunday school students and church members grow in their faith. One of the four-year-olds mentioned that she told her friend about Jesus and wanted us to pray for her friend's salvation, demonstrating how important she understands prayer and faith in Christ to be.

My fieldwork allowed me to put into practice what I have learned at CUC. While it is impossible to be completely prepared for real-life ministry, my studies taught me theological foundation, how to teach a class in an engaging and age-appropriate manner, individualized spiritual care and more. In addition, I applied lessons learned outside of the classroom such as relationship-building and time management. Through its mixture of classroom instruction and real-life experience, CUC's Deaconess Program does a wonderful job of equipping women with the skills and knowledge necessary to serve in this vocation.

Nurturing Disciples for Generations to Come

by Maria Gedroc, Donor Relations and Communication Projects Manager



Rosa J. Young (1890-1971)

Dr. Rosa J. Young is known as an advocate for the education of rural children. Her legacy is as an educator, confessor and church planter for Christ and His Church. She played an instrumental role in the founding and development of 30 Lutheran elementary schools and 35 Lutheran congregations throughout Alabama's Black Belt region.

fidelity to her vision. She was awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia Theological Seminary during their commencement service in May 1961. She was both the first woman and the first African-American to be honored in this way by the Lutheran Church.

Concordia University Chicago invites you to join us in endowing The Dr. Rosa J. Young Opportunity Scholarship. This fund will support African-American students at CUC who intend to enter into church vocations in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Matching funds will be available and your gifts to CUC doubled up to a total of \$275,000.

Dr. Young led a life of service and enabled others to do the same. She taught more than 2,000 students, impacting their lives with her faith and her belief in the importance of education, at a time when opportunities for children of sharecroppers was limited. Many of her students entered the Holy Ministry or became parochial school teachers at her urging, spreading His word to many others with their

To learn more about the scholarship match, call the Foundation Office at 866-448-3867 or give at CUChicago.edu/GiveNow.

To learn more about Dr Young, visit the Concordia Historical Institute online at www.lcms.org/thefirstrosa where this text and photos originated.



Rosa Young counseling young women who were teaching students at Alabama Luther College, 1961. Photo from lcms.org.



New Office of Church Relations will serve the University and its partners

by University Communications and Marketing Services

University President Russell Dawn has announced the formation of Concordia University Chicago's Office of Church Relations (OCR). The OCR was created to heighten awareness of the University across the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); strengthen relationships with LCMS entities, students and their parents; and build relationships with biblically faithful institutions across various Christian denominations.

“Strengthening CUC’s relationships with future LCMS students and their parents, as well as their congregations, schools and other organizations, is key to our institutional identity,” says Dr. Dawn. “By building these connections, we will be better equipped to live out our vision as a Christ-centered Lutheran university where truth, freedom and vocation form students for lives of influence and service for the common good.”

Housed within the Office of the President, the OCR serves the entire CUC community, collaborating with departments across the institution including Undergraduate and Graduate Admission, the Foundation, Alumni Relations, Student Success and University Ministry.



*Deaconess Betsy Karkan
University Deaconess &
Director of Ministry
Strategies*

These mission-critical efforts will be led by Deaconess Betsy Karkan BA '08, MA '18, director of ministry strategies, and Dr. Kevin Borchers DCE '81, PhD '16, director of church relations.

Deaconess Karkan continues as University deaconess in her ministry with students and the broader Concordia-Chicago community while taking on this new role. During her first decade at CUC,

Karkan carried out many functions of the OCR, alongside

University Pastor Jeff Leininger, while leading campus ministry activities and coordinating University worship opportunities. Recently she worked to establish the Pillars Pantry, which helps students persist to graduation by alleviating food insecurity. In her new role, she directs the OCR's strategies and programs, leads efforts to build collaborative relationships with LCMS congregations, coordinates CUC's presence at key church-related events, and facilitates Lutheran identity initiatives among University departments and offices.

“Being a part of a university where Christ is at the center of all we do and where students are formed for service to the community is truly a gift,” says Karkan. “I look forward to having many opportunities of sharing that gift with our church, future students, their families, our communities and the broader Christian Church.”



*Kevin Borchers, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of
Christian Education,
Director of
Church Relations*

Dr. Borchers steps into this position after serving more than 13 years as assistant director of the University's DCE program and associate professor of Christian education. He will continue to serve the LCMS as CUC's director of colloquy and as University marshal, overseeing important ceremonies like Opening Service of the Academic Year and Commencement.

“I'm honored to continue these partnerships and solidify CUC's efforts to recruit LCMS students to professional church ministry as well as other vocations serving the Church, their families and the world,” Dr. Borchers says.

To collaborate with the Office of Church Relations, please contact Betsy Karkan, University Deaconess & Director of Ministry Strategies at Betsy.Karkan@cuchicago.edu or 708-209-3502.



Samantha Wegner, senior

Get Cultured — Understanding International Ministry

by Samantha Wegner

In my role as CUC’s Spiritual Life coordinator for Ministry to the World, I help students learn more about our brothers and sisters in the faith from around the globe. This team highlights ways we can get involved in missions, either as a short-term volunteer or for a career! There is so much that we as American Christians can learn from the global church. In the “Get Cultured” Bible study, we take the opportunity to dig into various passages from the Bible, see how we interpret and understand them, how that might connect to our own cultural norms, and how different cultures might approach those stories differently.

My coursework as a Director of Christian Education taught me how to be intentional and creative when teaching

Bible studies and how to come up with unique and interactive ways for students to learn about international mission work. One of my favorite Spiritual Life activities was Box City, where about 30 students slept in cardboard boxes in the Triangle to learn more about the experiences of those who are homeless in our community and around the world.

Serving on the Spiritual Life team also gives me the opportunity to connect more with the mission organizations around the LCMS. Getting to know the amazing people who serve there and the ways that they live out the Great Commission, both here in the US and around the world, has been a great joy of mine. As I consider serving internationally after I finish at CUC, I’ve really enjoyed the relationships I’ve made across our church body’s mission organizations.

The work of Spiritual Life and campus ministry is real, hands-on work that the Holy Spirit is using to impact lives. Whether those lives are Concordia students or the youth at DCE fieldwork churches, it has been beautiful to see how God works through students to equip, strengthen, and minister to His people.



Charlie McLain, senior
Pre-Seminary program

Student Spotlight

“I dream of pastoring a church attached to a Lutheran school. In order to be well rounded, I have taken a class in each of the professional church work tracks. The idea took shape freshman year when a Director of Christian Education classmate commented that Pre-Seminary students should take education classes and suggested that I take Introduction to Lutheran Teaching. Each class outside of my program helps me understand more about the people I will work with one day.”

— Charlie McLain
Pre-Seminary program





New lecture series to explore intersection of humanities, Christianity and public life

by University Communications and Marketing Services

Concordia University Chicago announced the creation of the Lectureship in Humanities, Christianity and Public Life. The new biannual speaker series is committed to and motivated by the biblical teaching that by and through Christ all things were created, and “in Him all things hold together” (Col. 1:16-17). It is generously funded by C. Ross Betts, MD, a member of Concordia -Chicago’s Board of Regents.

“These events are the embodiment of the University’s new strategic plan, particularly as we seek to provide a transformative student experience,” says University Provost Dr. Erik Ankerberg. “These lectures will supplement our already rigorous academic programs and will focus on the goal of transforming students’ lives within the context of the University mission. We are exceptionally grateful for Dr. Betts’ vision and support, which will allow us to expose students to a variety of well-known scholars and experts in their respective fields of study.”

Nationally recognized scholars and public intellectuals will encourage both internal and external community members to explore the intersection of and tensions within the humanities, science and the Christian faith. Beyond each speaker’s public presentation, they will have the additional opportunity to engage the University’s students, faculty and staff through other, more exclusive and focused interactions.

“In a time of increasing secular incoherence, we hope this lectureship provides a small contribution to restoring comity in discussing important topics, edifying both our students and our campus community generally,” Dr. Betts says.

Gary Saul Morson, the Lawrence B. Dumas professor of arts and humanities, and professor, Slavic languages and literatures at Northwestern University, will be the first speaker in the series. Additional details about Dr. Morson’s Oct. 27 presentation will be available on Concordia University Chicago’s website www.cuchicago.edu/events/.

Through Him. For Him. A Guide for Life

Continued from first page.

in faith. Christ Jesus receives all honor, glory and praise for the greatest of all our accomplishments. United in Him and with one another through baptism and brought into His kingdom of light, we rejoice in the salvation given to us by His blood.

CUC faculty and staff want to instill in each of our students that they were created by Him. That everything we

can possibly do is through Him. That everything we do is for Him. God is with us in all things.

For over 20 years, God has worked through the members of the Martin Luther Society to support students preparing to live out their faith and serve God’s people in Lutheran churches and schools. Enjoy this newsletter and walk alongside some of our dedicated students as they discern their vocations and seek to fulfill those vocations in a God-pleasing way.





Jordan Holliday, junior
and Darryl Holliday BA '95

Everything In God's Hands

by Jordan Holliday

My mom suggested that I go to Careers for Christ during my junior year of high school. That Saturday, after we finished all the day's events, my

hosts and I sat on the grass in the Triangle and did Evening Prayer at midnight. I knew in that instant that I would be coming to Concordia University Chicago and studying church music.

I've been in band since 5th grade, and I always knew I would continue with it in college. What I didn't know, however, was that I'd play in the same band - under the same conductor - as my father, Darryl Holliday BA '95. Dr. Richard Fischer and the Wind Symphony was one of the biggest selling points for me as I applied to college.

Now I'm in the Director of Parish Music program focusing on composition. Because of Wind Symphony and composition lessons, I have grown considerably as a musician in ways I never imagined. I'm proud to have had two pieces played in past composer's recitals, and hope to have more on the Fall 2021 program. As I look to the future, I know that everything is in God's hands. He has a plan for future generations, and I am blessed to be a part of it.



Brinn Miller, junior

Try New Things

by Brinn Miller

The first week or two as Media Coordinator at Camp Lutherhaven was rough. I'm a Music Education major in the Lutheran Teacher Education program and not technically savvy. I had to quickly learn a number of new skills.

It was exciting to see the growth in quality between the first week of camp and the last week as I created videos to capture memories for campers and parents. My creative personality,

especially in regards to the music, started to shine. In addition, what I learned in CUC education classes allowed me to share tips on behavior management with other counselors. Most importantly, I wanted the campers to know that God has made them to be wonderful and unique people and to live that out every day.

Did I forget to mention that I am really shy? Concordia-Chicago helped me become more comfortable in my faith and in who I am. In class, I'm not worried about trying new things and jumping in saying "I don't know how to do this but I'm going to figure it out." I will use the talents I have been given to play my part in the body of Christ.



*"Grounded in Truth,
Equipped for Freedom
and Vocation"*

Concordia University Chicago continues to build upon our legacy of academic rigor and missional distinctiveness - forming students for vocations in their church, family, and the world. Through your gift to the Martin Luther Society, Concordia-Chicago is able to equip students for lives of influence and service in Lutheran churches and schools.

Join us today and support the education of future church professionals!

Concordia University Chicago
7400 Augusta Street River Forest, Illinois 60305
866-448-3867
CUChicago.edu/GiveNow

Concordia University Chicago

Mission Statement

Steadfast in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, Concordia University Chicago promotes academic rigor in its liberal arts and professional programs; grounds students in objective truth, integrity, and excellence; and practices faithfulness to the Confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, as it forms students for vocations in church, family, and the world.

Vision Statement

Concordia University Chicago is a Christ-centered Lutheran university where truth, freedom, and vocation form students for lives of influence and service for the common good.