



Dear Partners in Ministry,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the exciting things happening at your ministry of publishing, Augsburg Fortress. Here are a few things you might not know about us:

1. We have three divisions: [Augsburg Fortress](#) creating group use faith formation, worship and music resources for congregations; [sparkhouse](#), creating group use faith formation resources for the ELCA and other mainline denominations; and, [Fortress Press](#), focusing on text and reference materials in the areas of religion and theology.
2. Our most exciting new resource for 2013 is [Prelude Music Planner](#), a web-based subscription resource for church musicians! Here are a few features:
 - *Prelude* allows church musicians to create music plans easily in just a few clicks. Quickly browse hundreds of pieces based on lectionary days, keywords, skill level and more.
 - Download new music in *Prelude's* multi-publisher library. Preview sheet music and listen to audio before purchasing, and organize your church's existing music library.Augsburg Fortress is offering free 14-day trials for *Prelude Music Planner* and free webinars for an overview and questions & answers. <http://Preludemusicplanner.org>.
3. In 2012 we launched two new Sunday school resources for kids: [Holy Moly!](#) (Sunday school for preschool-grade 4) and [Connect!](#) (Sunday school for "tweens" in grades 5 & 6). New content has been added in 2013 for both of these faith formation resources for kids. Samples of the print learner & leader resources and videos are available at [wearesparkhouse.org](#).
4. We have launched innovative print & video based confirmation and youth resources. These include: [re:form](#); [re:form Traditions](#) (with versions for Lutheran, Reformed & Methodist traditions); and [re:form Ancestors](#) (Old Testament & New Testament). Samples of the print learner & leader resources and videos are available at [wearesparkhouse.org](#).
5. [animate.faith](#) is our first ecumenical introduction to Christianity resource from sparkhouse. Published in August 2012, it is being used in traditional small groups as well as non-traditional faith formation settings. In August 2013, a second resource will be published, [animate.bible](#). See [wearesparkhouse.org](#) for samples!
6. In November 2012, [Fortress Press](#) announced a new brand at the AAR/SBL (teaching theologians) conference. We expect to publish more books (both print & digital formats) over the next few years in three primary areas: Fortress Education (textbooks); Fortress Academic (monographs); and Fortress Reference. You can learn more about our Fortress Press publishing plans at [fortresspress.com](#).

Thank you for your interest in and continuing support of your ministry of publishing! Please check our websites and don't hesitate to contact our Customer Care team at 800-328-4648 or your assigned [Congregational Resource Representative](#).

I hope that you have a blessed and inspiring synod assembly! Please don't hesitate to let us know how we may assist you!

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Personal greetings to your Assembly Delegation and through you, to the members of your congregations.

I am nearing completion of my first year among you, as President of Carthage College. Among my earliest impressions of this strong and vibrant institution is its identity through 166 years as a Lutheran-related college. I seek to assure you that this identity shall be respected, preserved and strengthened. A small, private college deserves and needs a distinction, a specific reason to help it stand out among a throng of other excellent educational institutions. Carthage is church-related and we want to celebrate that fact.

We have moved this year to revive the popular Torchbearer relationship with congregations to improve our mutual dialogue, and I invite each one to respond to our liaison, The Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson when he calls with an invitation. Also, I seek your support and advice. Visit the campus so that we can meet as our schedules permit. Arrange a campus tour or write to me with your greeting or concerns: president@carthage.edu. You might also look at the Carthage website, www.carthage.edu, where you can take virtual tours and enjoy a variety of videos.

Now, celebrate with me the status of your college:

- At near-capacity, 2,546 full-time and 617 part-time students this year are being served by 149 full-time and 169 part-time faculty. Approximately 30% of our students are Lutheran, and 50% are Catholic. This past fall, students moved into the 6th and final dormitory in our new Oaks subdivision, a former Kenosha public park facing beautiful Lake Michigan. They enjoy the new Campbell student union, a state-of-the-art facility named after 25 year president, F. Gregory Campbell and his wife, Barbara. This spring, our students, plus teams from Kenosha and Racine, will begin to enjoy our new baseball field and stadium, dedicated in honor of widely known sports director, Augie Schmidt.
- Carthage extends far beyond our 80 acre arboretum campus. Annually over 500 students study across the United States and around the world, from Central America to Europe to Central and Eastern Asia. International students join Target Language Experts from 7 countries as they live among, teach, and bring cultural diversity to the campus community. In support of such diversity and inclusiveness, our Chapel ministries have enabled Jewish holiday observances and shared Ash Wednesday services and study projects with Catholic ministries. Intentional admissions recruitment is directed at racial and ethnic variety.
- Financially, Carthage remains strong, with endowment at an all-time high in spite of recent crises. This marks the 26th consecutive year of operating surpluses. Our facilities are being maintained, with over \$3.5 million spent this past year on repair, improvements and off-campus parking facilities. Significant capital additions are in the planning stage, including a welcome center and a performing arts center. In the spring of 2014 we will begin construction of a new science building with state-of-the-art teaching and laboratory facilities.

So, I invite you to pray with us, that we may be dutiful servants of the Lord. And celebrate with us the faithful and effective service of those who give their lives and careers to your college, Carthage.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Woodward, President

Greetings

Concordia rejoices in its historic identity as a liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A college, therefore, that prepares students to be globally aware, intellectually capable, ethically grounded, religiously fluent, compassionately guided, and justice-oriented for benefit of the common good.

Inauguration

On April 28, 2012, Concordia formally inaugurated Dr. William J. Craft to serve as the College's eleventh president. Public observance included an Inaugural Chapel service of worship, an Inaugural Seminar – *"The Liberal Arts in a Golden Age,"* and an introduction to the College's new theological resource, The Forum on Faith and Life. Within his inaugural address, President Craft remarked, *"Concordia College is a communal act of faith – in learning, in beauty, and in the love of God."*

Strategic Plan

In October, the Board of Regents formally adopted a five-year strategic plan presented by the President, *"Whole Self, Whole Life, Whole World:" The Plan for Concordia College, 2012 – 2015.*

The document may be viewed online at <http://www.cord.edu/About/president1.php>.

Enrollment

2,573 undergraduate students, representing 34 states and 35 countries, currently attend Concordia. These students come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and faith traditions. 62% are female, 38% are male, and 57% claim Lutheran affiliation. Student-faculty ratio is 12.6 to 1.

Offutt School of Business

Repurposing construction of the Grant Center was completed, on-time, and opened for classes in January, 2013. The Offutt School of Business is rooted in the liberal arts and inspired by best practices in undergraduate business curriculum, inclusive of: leadership development, ethical decision-making, entrepreneurial ingenuity, global competencies, and responsible citizenship.

Theological Leadership

The *"Whole Self"* section of *"The Plan for Concordia College"* articulates the College's aim to be the leader among ELCA colleges in mutual ministry, faith and leadership formation, vocational exploration and discernment among students, spiritual development, and inter-faith conversation, and service for the sake of the church and the world. To achieve this aim, the College has invested significant resource into creation of a collaborative network of faculty and staff. This network includes: The Dove Center for Faith and Learning; The Forum on Faith and Life; The Lorentzen Center for Faith and Work; The Department of Religion's Faith and Leadership Concentration within Major; The Office of Ministry - pastoral; and The Office of Vocation and Church Leadership.

Vocation and Ministry

Concordia remains at forefront among undergraduate institutions preparing students for theological study at seminaries, leading to eventual rostered leadership within the church. In 2012, Concordia graduates accounted for 11 of the ELCA's 57 Young Adults in Global Mission, tops among all schools. ELCA Lutheran Outdoor Ministries benefited from 53 Concordia students serving on summer staffs, coast-to-coast. The newly created Faith and Leadership concentration within Religion Major, together with The Forum on Faith and Life, have classes at full capacity – preparing students for service, leadership, and religious fluency in a variety of life and ministry contexts. Furthermore, pastoral staff and faculty at Concordia offered glad presence at multiple ELCA Synod Assemblies, ELCA Theological Conferences, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, and Lutheran Social Ministry settings in order to provide worship leadership, chaplaincy, preaching, keynote presentation, and consultation.

Grateful

Thank you for commending Concordia to students, for prayerful support, and for an abundance of gifts which encourage and sustain our mutual work in the world. Soli Deo Gloria.

Tom Schlotterback, Office of Vocation and Church Leadership

901 South 8th Street, Moorhead, MN 56562

Ph: 218.299.3146



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings on behalf of President Kent Henning, our faculty, staff, students and alumni! Here are some highlights of recent additions or enhancements to the campus:

Grand View Awarded Grant for Vocation Initiative

Grand View has been awarded a \$50,000 grant, funded by NetVUE (the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education), the Council of Independent Colleges, and the Lilly Endowment, to help us implement our vocation initiative.

The grant will be used as follows: Evolving from more than a decade of reflection and exploration by the campus community on its Lutheran identity, Grand View University is infusing the concepts and practices of vocational exploration into a new core curriculum, across campus, and among our alumni and off-campus constituency. The grant from NetVUE comes at a perfect time as we seek to place vocation at the center of what we are doing academically. The grant will be used for four principal endeavors: to provide extensive pedagogical development so that faculty will be ready to effectively guide vocation exploration with students; to develop an innovative vocation capstone within the curriculum; to initiate an annual campus-wide signature event that highlights the vocation outcome; and to claim our logo as being representative of the centrality of vocation in all that we are and do.

Grand View Students Shine at Iowa College Media Awards

Grand View University's KDPS radio station was named 2012 Radio Station of the Year and The Grand Views was named 2012 Newspaper of the Year at the Iowa College Media Association annual convention last week in Des Moines. The annual competition is judged by media professionals and features newspapers, radio stations, television stations and online outlets from colleges and universities across the state. Grand View University's radio station won Radio Station of the Year for the fourth year in a row at the Iowa College Media Awards. Grand View's KDPS radio, at 88.1 FM, has been named best in the state every year the award has been handed out. Grand View students won 15 of the 29 honors given in the radio categories. The Grand Views has won three of the past four years. Grand View communication students won more than 30 awards, including 13 first-place finishes.

Grand View Wins Third Straight MCC Commissioner's Cup

The Midwest Collegiate Conference has announced that Grand View University has won the Commissioner's Cup trophy for the 2011-12 athletic season. The Commissioner's Cup honors all-around athletic excellence among MCC member schools. It is awarded to the institution with the highest cumulative score as determined by a rating system that includes points awarded at the end of the regular season of each championship sport sponsored by the MCC. The Vikings dominated championships across the MCC in the 2011-12 athletic season, winning regular season crowns in women's cross country, men's soccer, volleyball and women's basketball, tying for regular season championships in baseball and women's soccer, and also sweeping the men's and women's indoor and outdoor track & field as well as men's and women's golf titles. In addition to its Midwest Collegiate Conference achievements, in 2011-12, the Vikings also won the Mid-States Football Association (MSFA) Midwest League title and qualified for the NAIA Playoffs for the first time, won the Cliff Keen National Wrestling Duals, the NAIA Wrestling Central Qualifier, NAIA National Wrestling Championship, had two national individual wrestling champions, and qualified for the national tournament in men's and women's bowling for the first time.

Grand View Receives Hometown Hero Award

Grand View University has been recognized for its commitment to the community, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Des Moines Area Sports Commission through various acts of generosity, volunteerism, visitor services, donations and partnerships with Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau/Des Moines Area Sports Commission staff, clients and partners. Grand View received the Hometown Hero award. GV has won numerous awards including the MCC Commissioner's Cup, 13 of 18 possible conference championships and the Five Star Champions of Character award.

The Center for Renewal Continues

The Center for Renewal, an outreach ministry of the University, continues its mission of renewing the saints and the church so that the light of Christ can be more brightly reflected in the world. In addition to events and services, the Center has also been doing a lot of work on how congregations can support and encourage ministry in daily life. For more information and a schedule of programs, go to www.renewingchurch.org.

If you have not visited Grand View University, or have not visited us for some time, we extend a special invitation for you to come for a visit sometime soon! Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for the Colleges of the ELCA.

God's Peace and Joy,

The Grand View University Campus Community
1200 Grandview Avenue / Des Moines, IA 50316
1-800-444-6083 / www.grandview.edu

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2012 •

Greetings to you from your colleagues in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! With excitement we are pleased to announce that during this year Gustavus made the appointment of Dr. Marcia J. Bunge to the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Studies. In announcing her appointment President Jack R. Ohle said, “Dr. Bunge has the energy, enthusiasm, and character to advance the Lutheran tradition in the classroom and in public forums, and has strong interest in relating to faculty, congregations, and the larger Church. Her work as the Bernhardson Chair is critical to helping Gustavus articulate what it means to be a church-related liberal arts college today.” Dr. Bunge, who is currently serving as professor of humanities and theology at Christ College, the Honors College of Valparaiso University, and will officially begin her duties at Gustavus on January 1, 2013.

In September 2011, at the Opening Dinner of the Gustavus Sesquicentennial, the College kicked off a comprehensive fundraising effort, *Campaign Gustavus*. The campaign began with just over \$71 million in total commitments. We are proud to announce that during 2012 *Campaign Gustavus* reached a significant milestone. Thanks to the generosity and vision of many alumni and friends of the College, the *Campaign* has reached \$100 million in gifts and commitments toward the *Campaign's* goal of \$150 million.

We are proud of our heritage as a College of the Lutheran Church. We will continue to provide countless resources to members of our Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. This Association is important as the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. Within this Association, key relationships are formed that help us maintain and grow this connection. We continue to provide and offer an ever-expanding menu of resources to congregations. To access a full listing of resources we offer for congregations please visit www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our ministry partnership. It is our joy to offer ourselves in service to you and the community you serve.

MARK YOUR 2013 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

• Annual Gustavus Faith Conference — APRIL 20, 2013

The theme for the 2013 conference will be “*Road to the Reformation: Deepening our Lutheran Theological Roots.*”

Dr. Martin E. Marty, professor emeritus in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago will speak on the question, “*What Do Lutherans Have to Offer the 21st Century?*” The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, study secretary for the Department of Theology and Public Witness of the Lutheran World Federation will bring a second keynote address on the topic, “*Lutheranism in the 21st Century: African Perspectives.*” The Gustavus Faith Conference is open to the public.

• Student Leadership Day—also APRIL 20, 2013, a separate event and great opportunity for congregations to bring 5 to 10 key student leaders for this upbeat student leadership development event that features live music and small group discussion time. Tiger McLuen of Youth Leadership will bring the keynote address.

• MAYDAY! Peace Conference—MAY 1, 2013

• Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 1-2, 2013 “*The Universe at Its Limits*”

• Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 6-8, 2013

For more information about these events and the resources we offer congregations, please contact Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership (507-933-7001) or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director for Church Relations

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

Church Relations | DIRECT 507-933-7001 | FAX 507-933-6337 | church-relations@gustavus.edu
800 West College Avenue | St. Peter, Minnesota 56082-1498 | 507-933-8000 | gustavus.edu



ELCA Synod Assemblies 2013

Greetings from St. Olaf College!

Since 1874, St. Olaf College has educated students in an academic community shaped by its commitment to the Lutheran tradition. At St. Olaf, students work closely with dedicated faculty who challenge them to grow in mind, body, and spirit. St. Olaf has always seen its vital connection to the Lutheran tradition as enhancing its standing as one of the leading liberal arts colleges in the United States.

Like its predecessors, this year's entering class brings outstanding academic talent to campus. The class academic grade point average in high school was 3.64. The median ACT composite score was 29, and the median combined SAT score was 1310. Fifteen percent of the students identify themselves as having a multi-cultural heritage, and 5.5% are international students. 43% of this year's incoming students who indicated their religious affiliation identified themselves as Lutheran.

In both the curriculum and the co-curriculum, St. Olaf students explore theological issues and are challenged to choose their vocations in light of this exploration. All St. Olaf students take two religion courses, one focusing on the Bible and the other on Christian theology. The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career provides programs and services to assist students as they discern their vocations and prepare for their careers during their four years at St. Olaf.

The Martin E. Marty Professor of Religion and the Academy for 2013-14 is the Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock '62. Dr. Jodock holds the MDiv degree from Luther Seminary and the PhD from Yale University. He founded the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College and most recently served as the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College. Dr. Jodock is the author of numerous articles and books, including *The Church's Bible: Its Contemporary Authority* (Fortress, 1989). He is the co-editor of *Covenantal Conversations: Christians in Dialogue with Jews and Judaism* (Fortress, 2008).

In September 2012, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Marohl was installed as St. Olaf's College Pastor. Pastor Marohl, who previously served ELCA congregations in Illinois and Iowa, serves as pastor to the St. Olaf Student Congregation and chaplain to the St. Olaf community.

I invite you to visit St. Olaf in one of two ways. Come to campus to join us at concerts, lectures, conferences, or summer camps. Or, visit the St. Olaf website at www.stolaf.edu to join in streamed events on-line. During the academic year, daily Chapel and Sunday morning worship services are held at Boe Memorial Chapel and streamed on-line at <http://www.stolaf.edu/church/chapel>.

We encourage you to send students to St. Olaf, and we thank you for your prayers and support.

David R. Anderson '74
President



2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS

*Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students
for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.*

“Living our learning; claiming our calling; transforming tomorrow” are key elements of the college’s strategic plan, moving the college forward as it fulfills and expands its historic mission as a college of the church.

The past year has witnessed a host of accomplishments that highlight the effectiveness and strength of the Wartburg College mission:

- A total of 368 students made more than 480 presentations at the college’s first annual Research, Internship, and Creative Endeavor Day (RICE), a daylong focus on student learning through research, internships, performance, and creative expression.
- The faculty voted unanimously to establish a new major, Peace and Justice Studies. This interdisciplinary program prepares students for vocations in organizations that seek to establish peace and justice among individuals, communities, and nations.
- The Class of 2012 set records for study abroad (53%) and liberal arts majors (52%).
- Under the direction of Gail Sexton, coordinator of church relations and faith community outreach, congregational and community partnerships have grown dramatically. Students are serving in volunteer work, internships, research projects, and job shadowing in congregations and congregational outreach.
- The college received \$1.5 million for the Social Work program, including gifts from O. Jay and Pat Tomson to establish Wartburg’s first Distinguished Chair in Social Work and Jack and Sarah Salzwedel to establish the Slife Institute for Social Work Consultation, Research and Training, named in honor of Sarah’s parents, the late Harry and Polly Slife. Harry Slife was a former member and president of the Wartburg Board of Regents.
- Dr. Mark Biermann began his work as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.
- Dr. Kunihiro Terasawa filled the new world religions position in the religion and philosophy department.
- A newly formed Mission Effectiveness Committee oversees the work of the strategic plan, aimed at fostering a “culture of collaboration and transparency,” reviewing best practices and improving quality.
- The women’s indoor and outdoor track and field teams and the wrestling team won national Division III championships. Coach Marcus Newsom was recognized for the sixth time as U.S. Track Coaches Association Division III indoor women’s Coach of the Year. Under his leadership Wartburg has won 10 straight indoor women’s conference championship/conference invitational titles. The wrestling team won its 20th consecutive conference title on the way to its ninth national championship.
- Through the work of Kelsey Nulph, ’14, Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry partnered with the ELCA Malaria Initiative to help support a year-long Wartburg Malaria Initiative aimed at education and fund-raising. By January 2013, the effort had raised more than \$24,000. The Wartburg Malaria Initiative’s work includes a dozen campus departments, more than 600 student volunteers, and the Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA. The initiative culminates on March 16, 2013, with a benefit concert featuring alumni and student bands. All gifts will be matched by the Sorenson family, whose generosity has made the initiative possible on all levels.
- Creative leadership from the communication arts department and the President’s Office resulted in a partnership with Deutsche Welle broadcasting in Bonn, Germany. The shared work includes satellite feeds, internships, and a variety of other initiatives.
- The annual Graven Award was given to Dr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, director of research and evaluation at the ELCA churchwide offices and author of *Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of the Mainline Churches*.
- Two Wartburg alums, 64 Wartburg students, and 17 faculty/staff initiated leadership roles to promote awareness and raise funds to build three fresh water wells in Ethiopia through Water to Thrive.

Wartburg College continues to find focus in a mission that is vibrantly alive and transformative for the entire college community. Faculty and staff find challenge and nurture in their work with students, and students find themselves on a quest to become alumni recognized for creative contributions to church, their communities, and the world.

Darrel D. Colson
President

Rev. Ramona S. Bouzard
Dean of the Chapel