

Concordia Theological Seminary

6600 North Clinton Street ♦ Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825-4996 ♦ (260) 452-2100 ♦ www.ctsfw.edu

February 16, 2023

Ms. Jan Larson, Vice President Gospel Outreach
South Dakota District LWML
920 Woodridge Dr
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: 2022-2024 Biennium Mission Grant for CTSFW Food Co-op

Dear Ms. Larson,

Greetings from the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne (CTSFW), in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

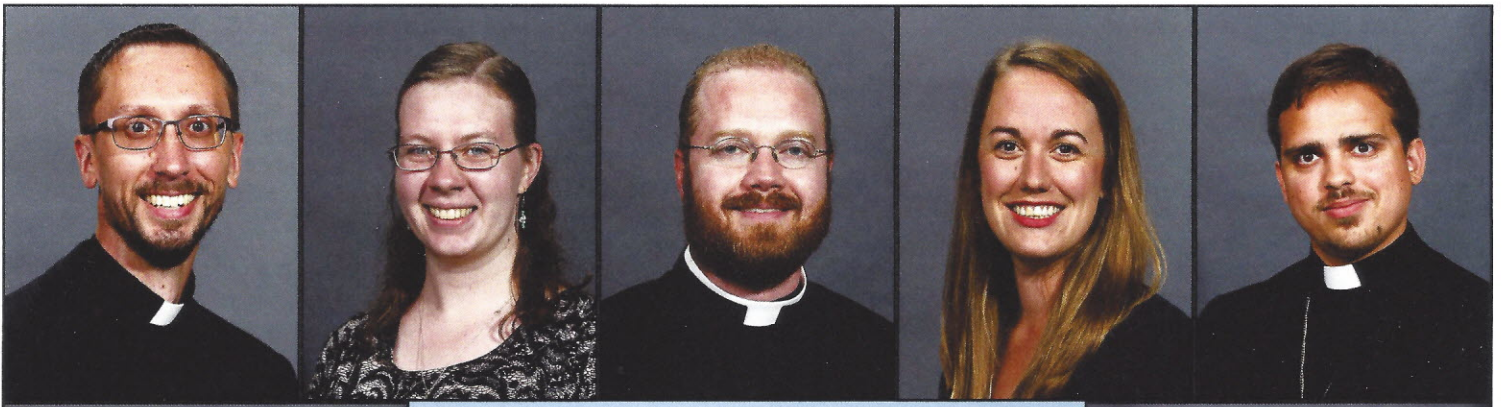
There are no words to convey the gratitude felt by every student and their family for the support provided by the South Dakota District LWML. These funds provide dairy, fruits and vegetables, eggs, pork and beef as well as cereal and other staples for our students and their families.

I hope you are able to share the enclosed Thank you with all of the ladies of the South Dakota District LWML so they are able to see and read what a true blessing they are to our students, especially those from within your district.

I look forward to continuing our work together in the future to provide for our future church workers.

In His service and yours,

Deaconess Katherine E. Rittner
Director, Food and Clothing Co-op



**With Our Thanks
to the
LWML
South Dakota
District**





FOOD & CLOTHING CO-OP

Providing for Our Future Pastors and Deaconesses

Concordia Theological Seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

The Food & Clothing Co-op at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), plays a vital role by helping students feed and clothe themselves and their family members while they prepare for full-time church work. The Co-op has served the needs of students and families for more than 40 years.

Students relocate to Fort Wayne, sometimes leaving the security of employment, not only for themselves but also their spouses. Adequate employment is often difficult due to the temporary nature of attending the Seminary. Many students take out student loans to meet their tuition and basic living needs.

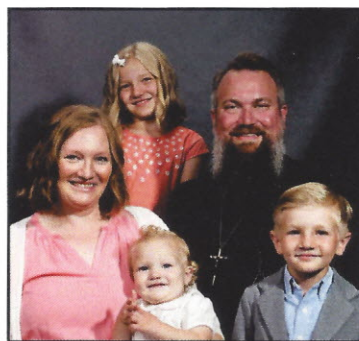
THANK YOU, LWML!



As a single seminarian living in the dorms, my life is simpler than those of my married classmates. I don't have to figure out how I'm going to feed, clothe, or house my family, all the while also trying to support myself through the journey of seminary. With that

being said, the budget for an unmarried college graduate is still pretty tight, especially considering the added costs of a seminary education. The seminary's Food & Clothing Co-op, provide a great benefit for me and my fellow dormmates in many ways, like providing us with laundry supplies and other essentials. There is a certain peace of mind that comes with the knowledge that our most basic human needs of food and clothing are being provided for here, and that no matter how tight things get, the Lord is providing for me and my classmates through our new seminary family, as He has in the past through our families back home. I am extremely grateful for and appreciative of the seminary Co-op, through which our Lord is working to help form men and women for service in His Church.

Harvey Peters
First-year Master of Divinity student



Financial concerns were my biggest barrier to coming to the seminary. As a husband and father of four, I take seriously my responsibility to ensure my family is provided for. When I learned about all of the support services offered by the seminary—

especially the Food & Clothing Co-op—my fears, and those of my wife, were greatly alleviated.

The blessings of the Co-op far surpass our initial expectations! Our grocery budget, which has grown tighter and tighter since our arrival in 2021, is significantly eased by the Food Co-op's consistent assortment of staples. The Clothing Co-op is a veritable treasure hunt. It has kept my (constantly growing) family clothed and made our seminary rental feel like home. Finally, the special donations of meats, holiday ingredients, and the generosity expressed in the Christmas marketplace has enabled us to celebrate as a family, since we cannot go home to be with our extended family. In all, despite the demands put on me by my coursework, the Food & Clothing Co-op has enabled my family to truly treasure our time at the seminary. Thank you to all of the donors who make this possible for all of us!

Nathan Raugutt
Second-year Master of Divinity student

Because of the LWML Mission Grant you provided for us, we were able to purchase fresh produce, dairy products, ground beef, paper goods, and a large assortment of grocery items to help fill the shelves of the Food Co-op. The generosity of God's people, especially from the ladies of the LWML, has guaranteed fresh, healthy produce, milk, cheese, and other perishable food items.

Thank you for what you have done and for what you continue to do for the men and women who have answered God's call to serve Him and you. Please continue to remember the students, faculty, and staff of CTSFW in your prayers.



THANK YOU, LWML!



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As a second-year deaconess student and full-time student, the Food & Clothing Co-op is such a blessing in my life.

Dresses I need for my deaconess garb are easily accessible, as are cake and brownie mix, which I use for weekly devotions in the dorm. It is nearly impossible to communicate how much I appreciate and thank God for you. Though it's easy to give to those you know, you have donated to complete strangers—and this stranger is at a loss for words.

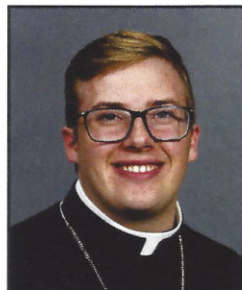
You make my education possible, ease my financial burden, and truly express the love and mercy that comes from none other than our Lord and Savior.

Thank you for all that you do.

Blessings on you and your home,

Claire Gerrard

Second-year Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies student



Thank you for your generous donations to the Co-op. As a single man I still am able to benefit from your gifts as much as the married men on campus. Through the Clothing Co-op I have been blessed with a coffee maker that has served me and the other men in my dorm during many late nights working on

homework and writing papers. We have also been blessed with jackets for the winter, which are especially nice for those of us who don't normally experience winters that are as cold or harsh as the winters here in Fort Wayne.

The Food Co-op has also been a blessing by providing quick and easy meals or snacks over breaks and during times when the dining hall is closed, and we don't have easy access to a kitchen to make something more complex than a microwavable meal. The soaps and toiletries are also a major blessing, allowing us to stay clean and smell decent around the dorms and classes, especially when it's harder for us single men to make it to the store when we need these kinds of things. Both of the Co-ops are a major blessing in general for everyone here, allowing us to worry less about how we are going to afford necessities and to focus more on our schoolwork, fieldwork, and everything else that we are here to do.

Cody Schrepferman

Second-year Master of Divinity student

Providing Through God's People

Through your continued support and resources for the Food Co-op, we were able to provide the following to our students and their families during the last fiscal year (July 2021–June 2022):

