

Concordia University Chicago

Truth ~ Freedom ~ Vocation



A Message from the President

Thank you for your interest in Concordia University Chicago! I am pleased you have considered joining us as we move boldly into the future as a Christian university committed to providing a rigorous and formative education to our students.

There are many unique things about Concordia-Chicago. We are very much committed to the liberal arts as a foundation for higher education, and we believe education should, in the end, serve the common good. We are also a Lutheran university. While that means many things, it is especially evident in our steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ. This shapes the way we treat our neighbors, think about our vocations, and pursue learning in light of the Christian faith.

This makes Concordia University Chicago an exciting and fulfilling place to work, study, learn, and grow, and I am happy to invite you to take a closer look.

Cordially,



Dr. Russell P. Dawn
President



Concordia University Chicago

Concordia University Chicago is a Christian university located in River Forest, IL. Originally established as a small teachers college in 1864, it is now a comprehensive university offering academic programs in both the liberal arts and professional studies. Today, more than 6,000 students pursuing baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees attend Concordia-Chicago.

As a university of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and member of its nationwide Concordia University System, the Christian faith is an integral part of our community. Every person at Concordia is regarded as unique and blessed with inherent worth. We strive for excellence in who we are and all that we do, demonstrate the accord between our beliefs and practice, and recognize and address the needs of others as a response to God's love for us and reflection of God's love for them. These are the core values of Concordia-Chicago.

Lutheran Tradition

The Lutheran tradition began over 500 years ago when Martin Luther (1483-1546) worked to rid the medieval church of teachings that were unbiblical. In the end, he and a number of other theologians, pastors and teachers wound up laying the foundation for a church that confessed only the doctrines of scripture, ordered its worship and understanding of the Christian life around the gospel, and remained true to historic Christianity.

The fullest summary of Lutheran theology is found in *The Book of Concord* (1580). Comprising the three ecumenical creeds, two catechisms and other confessional documents, it remains authoritative for Lutherans to this very day, not because of its authors but because



its content reflects and preserves the doctrines of the Bible.

Concordia-Chicago honors this tradition by confessing this faith and cultivating in each of its students, faculty and staff the ideals of a Christian life. Within that framework, members of the University community seek greater meaning in their spiritual and work lives, discovering ways to serve the greater good and mature in their faith.



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.

Faith and Learning

The Lutheran tradition places the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith on account of Christ front and center of all its teachings. This and all other truths given to us by God through scripture are the foundation upon which we stand and the lens through which we understand the world.

The University approaches learning from the perspective of faith differently than many other Christian institutions. While we believe in the clarity and veracity of scripture, we also believe that God has given us our reason and senses to help us

pursue and discover truths about our world. We do so cognizant of how easily the way we interpret data can be influenced by ideology, emotion and opinion. So while we strive to understand our world as it is, we do so knowing it is God's world. It is discernable by reason and our senses, but our reason and senses are tempered and ordered by God's revelation.

We are also eager to promote learning that rises above the shallow and reductionist thinking of the modern age—whether it be the dogmatic materialism of scientism or the relativism and cynicism of postmodernism. Our mission is to carefully ground students in objective truth, to help them discern what is truly good and praiseworthy, and to equip them with the wisdom and ability to pursue vocations with integrity and success.

CUC's Vision

One of the distinct features of the Lutheran tradition is its central and unwavering commitment to Jesus Christ. We believe, teach and confess that he alone is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), and in him God "was reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Cor. 5:19).

Martin Luther once characterized this act of reconciliation as a joyful exchange—where Christ exchanged his righteousness for our unrighteousness—and described the benefits as the perfect freedom of a Christian.

**"So if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed"
(John 8:36)**

It is with great joy and in perfect freedom shaped by Christ and the scriptures that the faculty and staff at Concordia-Chicago pursue their vocations. This is accomplished by rigorous attention to our disciplines, a robust commitment to our institution, and extraordinary service to our students. Because of this, Concordia-Chicago is well on its way to being the leading distinctly Lutheran university in America.

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.



The LCMS

While the Reformation may have begun in Germany, it soon spread across Europe and, in subsequent centuries, other parts of the world—in places like China, Ethiopia (where the largest Lutheran church is located), and Papua New Guinea. Lutherans started coming to America before it won independence from England. Those who established what would become the LCMS came to the United States in the late 1830s and founded a parish in the city of Chicago in 1847. Today, the LCMS is headquartered in St. Louis, MO. It remains consistent in its confession of the historic Christian faith as it is summarized in *The Book of Concord*, has over a million members, thousands of churches, and dozens of international partners.

A network of LCMS colleges and universities operate across the United States under the auspices of the Concordia University System. All combined, they offer over a hundred undergraduate degrees and dozens of graduate programs. Every Concordia is committed to providing an excellent, robust curriculum in the liberal arts and professional studies for the sake of equipping students for a variety of vocations of service to church and society.

River Forest

Concordia University Chicago is ideally located in beautiful, upscale, suburban River Forest, IL, just 10 miles west of downtown Chicago. With over 11,000 people who call it home, the town's motto of "Proud Heritage; Bright Future" reflects the community's commitment

to preserving its idyllic green space and historic architecture for generations to come. For more than 135 years, River Forest has remained an attractive community with rich architecture, beautiful homes and friendly residents who take pride in calling it their home. Located minutes away from one of the nation's most vibrant cities and with easy access to public transportation, CUC's 40 tree-lined acres of campus provide access to world-class restaurants, museums, sports and music venues, and theaters. Whether it is whiling away the hours in Chicago's 300+ parks, meandering along its Lake Michigan waterfront or visiting countless iconic buildings, there is plenty to keep one busy year-round.