

Homecoming: Coming Back to Worship

By Sarah Erkkinen and Jesse Stremcha

This year's Homecoming shirts were emblazoned with "CU at home." At its core, Homecoming is about celebrating the Concordia home. For current students, this means celebrating student life and CSP. For alumni, it means a return to their roots and the time when they were students. That's why 25 alumni came back to be part of chapel the week of Oct. 11-16.

The week of chapel was celebrated with alumni from both on and off campus participating in chapel—as greeters, musicians, pastors, readers and speakers. Alumni were assisted by the Student Alumni Council, a student group working to enhance connections between students and alumni to maintain traditions on campus.

"We saw this as another way to make homecoming special for both students and alumni," said Jesse Stremcha, director of Alumni Relations. "This was a great opportunity for alumni to give back to Concordia and it's important for students to understand how much alumni do, in addition to giving money,

to care for students. Our alumni are very interested in the spiritual development of CSP students."

"We've worked hard to make homecoming about more than a football game," Stremcha continued. "We were glad Campus Ministry was willing to work with us to make this happen. It was a good way to get alumni back, thinking about Concordia and celebrating the school and our students again."

"When I contacted alumni about being involved in chapel, they were all very excited to help out—some were even nervous," said Sarah Erkkinen, alumni relations associate. "Alumni have powerful memories of their experiences in chapel. It can be kind of daunting to try to live up to those memories."

On Monday, Stan Thompson

'98, Janelle Cotter '04, Thomas Knoll and Jason Moran '02 led a contemporary worship service based on the theme verse of the year, Isaiah 41:10. Cotter spoke to those in attendance about atelophobia, the fear of

Evening Prayer and a Eucharist service using Divine Service III. All of these traditional services were led by alumni including Dave Langemo '94, Mary Kay Bensen '75, Andrew Johnson '02, Jeremy Davis '04, Jim Gimbel '81 and Connie Strohschein '65.

Rev. Dennis Heiden '79, who celebrated his 25th reunion over Homecoming weekend, shared a message in Thursday's chapel service based on Matthew 6:25-34. Heiden proved to be popular, with some asking,

"Can he come back every day?" Ben Babcock '04 played trumpet accompanying Student Alumni Council member April Clausen on the organ that morning as well.

During Friday's chapel service, Rev. Lucas Woodford '98, shared a message while a group of eight

alumni (Eric Selle '04, Matt Maas '00, Johnson '02, Moran '02, Mark Boehme '03, Erica Eickhoff '04, Cotter '04 and Erkkinen '02) led the music. "It was great to be able to play in chapel again with some old friends! I like staying involved with my alma mater," said Johnson.

"The Neighbors," a musical group featuring Tom and Amy '99 Gundermann, Sam Rahberg '00 and Jack Carlos '99, led musical worship during Saturday's Homecoming chapel. Bob and Sally Cordes '55 and Roger Dramstad '68, the Alumni Council president, enjoyed greeting chapel attendees. Christus sang the benediction, "E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," which made an even more meaningful chapel for some returning alumni. "Hearing that song will always remind me of the good times I had singing in choir" said Boehme '03.

"Having alumni back in chapel seemed to be a really nice addition to the week's festivities," Stremcha said. "I hope we'll be able to continue our partnership with Campus Ministry and bring alumni back every year." Perhaps, some of the current CSP students reading this will be back to lead chapel in the years to come.

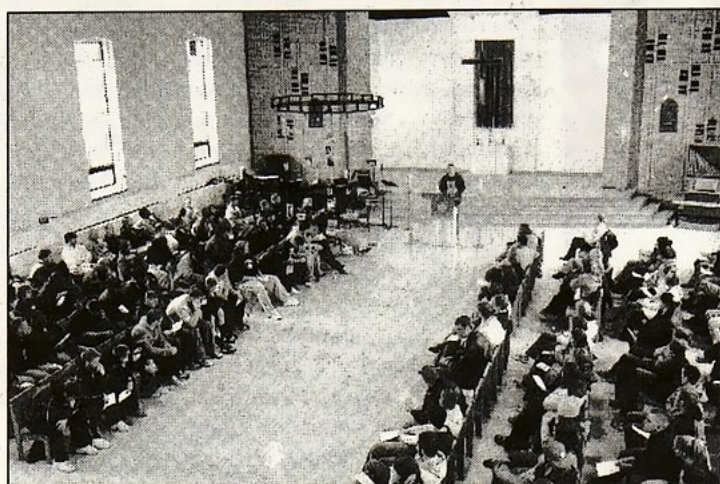


Photo Courtesy of Alumni Relations
Concordia students, alumni, faculty, and staff gather for chapel during Homecoming week.

imperfection, something that seems to affect many people. Christina Phillips '00 and Jacob LaCroix '03 were also on hand to greet all chapel attendees.

The services on Tuesday and Wednesday were more traditional utilizing Morning Prayer, Holden

Disappear in Jesus



Photo by Ben Fink

By Gwen Labovitch

The sounds of daybreak can be heard throughout the air telling you it is time to start another day. Today will not be a good day, so you cling to the safety of night as the covers somehow find themselves over your head. The morning found you, and none of the deeds that need to be done for the day are pleasant or amusing.

Today, the mistakes of yesterday become a hard lump in your throat, and you are

"The consequences of our actions catch up with us, and hope can be hard to find."

- Gwen Labovitch

curled up into a small ball in your bed wishing and praying that you would just disappear. If only you could stay in your dreams, but the piercing music is ringing through your head telling you it is time to leave that refuge and face whatever is to come in this day.

These mornings are common, but that does not make them easier to deal with or to get out of bed. The consequences of our actions catch up with us, and hope can be hard to find when our daily

world seems to be going down the toilet. The paper isn't done, the test wasn't studied for, you don't want to even think about the nasty words that came out of your mouth to a beloved friend, the dishes are collecting mold in the sink, and the list goes on as the longing to be invisible becomes more intense.

"You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance," the psalmist writes in Psalm 32:7. No matter what storms are

taking place internally or externally, God is holding us in his arms. We will have to face our mistakes and failures and learn all of the lessons that come with them,

such as confession and absolution, honesty, forgiveness, and so on. But, there is comfort in knowing that Jesus is with us. Even though hard rain falls down upon us, Jesus will always hold us within his arms as the rain falls upon us both.

Disappearing in the loving arms of Jesus, knowing that he is with us when the waves and rain coming crashing down upon our heads, is a joy and a strength that follows us throughout life—a promise we can trust. Instead of pulling the covers over your head in the morning, cling to God's Word: Romans 8, Isaiah 4:6, Matthew 11:25-28.



Paying for college
has never been easier.



That's where UPS lends a hand, with money for my education, plus good pay and other benefits, including a schedule that fits my classes.

PART-TIME PACKAGE HANDLERS

\$8.50-\$9.50/hr plus benefits
(Medical/Dental/Vision/Life & 401K)
Paid Vacations
Weekends & Holidays Off
Consistent Work Schedules

Available Shifts:
Night (Sun-Thur 10:30pm-3am)
Sunrise (Mon-Fri 3am-8am)
Twilight (Mon-Fri 5pm-9pm)
Must be available all 5 days.
Start & end times may vary.

UPS Minneapolis Facility
3312 Broadway St NE
To inquire about part-time job opportunities,
please contact Nick at:
612-379-6574 ext. 7117

www.upsjobs.com

The UPS
EARN AND
LEARN
Program

Get as much as
\$5,000*/year
in College
Education
Assistance!

*Program guidelines apply
Equal Opportunity Employer