



# 2020-2022 MISSION GRANT DEVOTION

## #1 CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FOOD AND CLOTHING CO-OP

**Leader:** Recognizing that most students live on a very limited income, the Concordia Theological Seminary has established the **Food and Clothing Co-op** to help provide food and clothing for the students and their families.

**R1:** *The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.* (Psalm 145:17-19).

**Leader:** Located on the campus at Fort Wayne, Indiana, the **Food and Clothing Co-op** plays a key role in helping students feed and clothe their families during their seminary years. Nearly 60% of the students are married, second career seminarians with families. The **Food Co-op** is able to supply between 80–85% of all food and household needs each month at no cost to the students.

**R2:** *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.* (Psalm 145:15,16).

**Leader:** The **Food Co-op** operates as an actual cooperative with each family volunteering a certain amount of time each month in exchange for points/vouchers that are redeemed on food, household, and personal products on shopping days. The **Co-op** spends about \$7,500 each month to keep the shelves filled with eggs, dairy products, ground beef, fresh fruits and vegetables plus additional grocery and paper products. Shopping can be done at any time without cost/points or vouchers at the **Clothing Co-op**.

**R3:** *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* (Matthew 9:37-38).

**Leader:** With the \$5,000 grant from the LWML South Dakota, we are able to help these seminarians and their families as they prepare to further mission and ministry of the Word of God to His people and those as yet without Christ in their lives.

**ALL: Father in Heaven, You provide all that we need, body and soul, and for that we are most grateful. We ask that You would bless these mite offerings that are given to the Food and Clothing Co-op that they would cover a huge amount of need there. Bless the workers who operate the Co-op, the families that shop there, and the students who are striving to become the future shepherds of Your sheep. We thank You for the opportunity to help these fellow believers in this way. Believing in the power of Your Word and promises, Amen.**