July 2019
To the amazing class of 1984.

BIG NEWS. 2019 is our 35th Class Reunion. Can you believe it has been 35 years since we graduated? Here are some links to all the details. Register TODAY!

View Homecoming Events

HOME COMING

Come to campus for all the festivities Oct. 11-13.
Registration is open for the annual alumni celebration! Return for class, sport and department reunions, the banquet and parade, the concert and football game, campus tours, worship and much more.

SPECIAL HOMECOMING NOTES:  
Our class breakfast will be Saturday morning at 9am in the Barry Auditorium, Offutt School of Business (This is the building we knew as East Complex in our day). The parade is at 11am, and the football game at 1pm. Rene Clausen is retiring this year and there will be a choir reunion in the Music Hall from 2-4pm. So many activities – it will be a full, fun weekend. The more you do, the more people you will see.

CLASSMATE UPDATES: 
Thank you to everyone that submitted an update for the newsletter. This is the real reason people read the letter – everyone wants to know what you are up to!! Here is the news from your classmates. It is a great read – we have an amazing class. Alphabetical by first name.

Chelle Lyons Hanson  
I love my Concordia pals and so appreciate the chance to stay up to date on what everyone is doing. Here’s a bit about me these days... I’m a hospital Chaplain for both Essentia Health and Sanford Health in Fargo-Moorhead. I am also an Advance Care Planning instructor and facilitator. I teach classes on ACP and work with patients and their families to complete their Healthcare Directives. Not much else is new.

Claire Lundquist Killian 
I have been married for 31 years to the best man ever, Pat Killian. We have a wonderful son Andrew, who is 27. Wow how time flies. I have worked for Allina for 25 years, most recently (for the last 17 years) at Courage Kenny Sports and PT Richfield as a Provider Coordinator. I live and work in Richfield which is awesome. I am an avid gardener, camper, hiker, mushroom hunter. In my spare time, I am busy with traveling, spending time with family and friends, and enjoying life. I am also in the choir at Hope Lutheran Church in Mpls.
Jan Barclay
I am now just completing my presidency on our church council. It was a privilege to serve my faith community. I also just got back from a wonderful pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was life changing as we walked in the land that Jesus walked. I was so blessed by the people there and those that I traveled with. Good luck with the letter. I hope to see you at the reunion in the Fall! Until then...God Bless!

Janna (Dick) Diggs
Just saw the Facebook reminder to send you info for the next edition of Class Notes! Life has been busy with trips, family milestones, and a move! My only child, Marissa, graduated from Oakes, ND High School in May & is now a freshman at Harvard University. I was prepared for homesickness, but she transitioned easily, has great roommates, and loves her classes. She was also selected as a Presidential Scholar for ND, which included a trip to Washington, DC in June where she met President Trump and had a great hour-long meeting with U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp. In addition to these unexpected trips to Boston & DC, we also enjoyed family trips to Louisville, KY and Charlotte, NC over the summer. It's a good thing we love to travel! Add in another trip to Boston for me in November for Harvard's family weekend, selling my home in Oakes in November, and buying a Fargo home and moving in mid-December, I was ready for the Christmas holiday break. I love living in Fargo and working at Bobcat's West Fargo office. In August, I'll be traveling again - this time to Venice, Italy, to visit Marissa during her Harvard Study Abroad session. Raising my daughter on my own from age two has been hard work, but I'm thankful to my "village" of family, friends, and Good Shepherd Luth Church in Englevale. I am truly blessed!

Jeff Miller (aka Slick)
I cannot believe we are celebrating 35 years this Fall at Home Coming! I am currently the Air National Guard Command Chief for North Dakota. I represent the highest level of enlisted leadership for the North Dakota Air National Guard and the principal advisor to the Assistant Adjutant General for Air on all matters concerning discipline, morale, welfare, effective utilization, professional development and career progression of over 900 Air Guard members. I am assigned to Joint Force Headquarters for the North Dakota National Guard. I currently reside in Bismarck, ND and have a home at Thumper Pond in Ottertail, MN. Look forward to seeing you this Fall!

Jill (Doering) Jacobson
Hope this finds you well! We moved back to fargo/moorhead 5 years ago and are planning to return to Alexandria MN this spring when our house sells to be closer to aging parents. Our daughter, Amy, graduated in May and is planning to attend Bethel University in St. Paul next fall. I am still nursing (Registered Nurse in homecare). We have enjoyed being close to Concordia these past 5 years as there have been concerts, etc. that we have taken advantage of while here in Moorhead.

Joanie Eppinga
My husband and I have moved to Madison, WI to help take care of our granddaughter while my daughter is in law school. My most interesting project this year was editing Leonardo da Vinci: The 100 Milestones by Martin Kemp. I am now an Advanced Professional Member of the Society for Editing and Proofreading. (that last bit may have been in my last update--I don’t remember).

John Kost
I recently retired after a 34 year career as an elementary school teacher. The families, colleagues and kids I have been able to connect with over those years has been a true blessing! I spent the first four years in the Campbell-Tintah school district, then one year in Woodbury and the past 29 in Hastings. Retirement has been a wonderful
adjustment. My wife and I have been able to do some traveling and simple get-aways. It has been a great start to this new phase of life!

**Judy Siegle**
It has been a year with lots of change, but God is good, and I am feeling extremely blessed! The miles on my arms caught up with me. I had rotator cuff surgery, thank you Dr. Howard Berglund, with 6 months off from work and a return to the power wheelchair. This change brought me to a new living environment that I absolutely love. I am completing my 11th year as Director of Women’s Ministry at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, and treasure the opportunity to work with great people and a wonderful staff. This summer, I will be coaching track and playing softball with Hope Inc., a sports program for kids and adults with disabilities. In August, I look forward to serving at the Joni and Friends Family Retreat, truly one of my favorite weeks of the year. I hope to see you in October!

**Karoline Pierson**
Greetings on a rainy Sunday night. After 31 years in MN, I moved to Chicago. I am enjoying the city and loving apartment life in an urban loft. Lots to be said for unobstructed views of the sunrises and sunsets. I play tourist on the weekend and am trying to put down roots in my new home. Hoping to make it to our reunion in October.

**Kathy (Gray) Nevins**
Works as a Nurse Practitioner for Essentia Health in Walker and Park Rapids. I work a lot with folks struggling with Opioid Use Disorder and acute illnesses. It’s nice to live in Cobber Country again!

**Kay Klasse**
In addition to my CFP designation, I recently completed a new professional designation, CKA, which stands for “Certified Kingdom Advisor” (I have a franchise financial planning company thru Ameriprise Financial (in business since 6/1987 - 32 years). Kingdom Advisors (has a website to identify other Christian professionals) recognizes me "as a committed Christian financial professional who has met high standards in integrity, character, and competence, and has been trained to offer biblically wise financial advice. Look forward to seeing you at our 35th reunion!

**Kris Lahren, MD**
Still live in Wausau, WI and still doing Pulmonary and Critical Care medicine here for Aspirus.
I am NOT retired.

**Kristi (Winegar) Wieser**
I retired for a weekend late last year. Retired from IBM on a Friday and started up at Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions the following Monday. It was grand. 😏😏 I lead Toshiba’s Global Services with Walmart so stayed in Bentonville and am really enjoying the new role and company. My favorite — and only — child graduated from BHS last year and has survived his freshman year of college at the U of Arkansas. I don’t take that for granted. My husband and I are doing ok with the empty nest. Our health is good and we are focused on making memories with family and friends. So all is well! I’m looking forward to the reunion this fall.
Lea and Dave Byrnestad
Dave and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary last July. We still are using our Art degrees: Dave is an Art Director with Dakota County, and Lea is an Art Teacher for Stillwater Schools. The biggest excitement is that I just illustrated and published (with Dave’s help) a book titled *S is for Stillwater*!

Lisa (Medd) Carlson
Last October, I was ordained as an ELCA pastor, accepting a call to serve Associate Pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN. This the end of a three year journey toward ordination and I love serving the congregation that I have called home for the last five years. On a personal note, Dale and I are the proud grandparents of two year old granddaughter, Brielle, and grandparenting is the best thing ever!

Mark Beenken
I retired from a 32-year career in the pharmaceutical industry at the end of last year. Definitely don’t miss being “on the road” after so many years of driving, flying, and hotel rooms. Working on launching a “2nd Act” career in the non-profit world, something completely different from what I have done . . . hopefully will be engaged in that by the time of the reunion. My wife Beth continues to teach school in the Southwest Metro Intermediate School District, and we live in Eden Prairie, MN. No grandkids yet . . . just “grand-dogs” ( 3 of ‘em). Our daughter Mary and her husband Nathan are Lutheran pastors in Peoria, IL; and our daughter Rachel is an illustrator and artist employed here in the Twin Cities. We still love the outdoors; gardening, cycling, camping, skiing (bought a new camping trailer this Spring), traveling, spending time with friends, family, being active in our church and community. See you at Homecoming!

Marna Klug
I continue to live in Moorhead MN. I continue to be a clinical Christian counselor for Valley Christian Counseling in Fargo and Northland Christian Counseling Center in Grand Forks. My husband works for Blue Cross Blue Shield. Our son Jacob is heading back to UND after spending a year living at home going to Minnesota State in Moorhead. Enjoy motorcycle rides and bike rides with our two Yorkies. Planning a trip to Vancouver and Victoria BC this summer to sit by the ocean and hike with friends. Planning on the 35th reunion looking forward to seeing everyone.

Mary Erickson has dedicated 34 years of her life to education, and loves helping her eighth grade students develop passions for diverse cultures around the world. Mary herself has a natural wanderlust, and has traveled from St. Paul to Wellington to Juneau. She is looking forward to catching up with the rest of the class of ’84 and learning about where their lives have led.

Mary (Peterson) Miller
David and I love sharing our ranch life and ranch woolly and furry family members with others on Facebook. We have family and friends all over the U.S. who keep up with us and our activities. I lead a truly blessed life and am TRULY blessed to have my David. July 2 will be our 25th wedding anniversary.
Nathan (aka Nate) Dally
Greetings! As far as news, a few weeks ago, I decided to retire from Augustana University. It has been an honor to serve Augustana over the last 30 plus years. I've tried to give 110% every day to a job I loved and I am thankful to have had this opportunity. My last day will be May 17, 2019. It is also the last day of classes and it is Syttende Mai - Norwegian Independence Day, (you may know I am Norwegian). It has been a joy to be part of a fundraising team which has raised $300+ million for an excellent school. My immediate plans are to attend my youngest son's high school graduation on May 18. On May 19 head up to Canada and go fishing for a few weeks. Mary, my wife, says I need to be back in Sioux Falls by mid-June so we can go to our oldest son's college graduation in Chicago. Our only daughter is engaged to be married, the date has not been set. Mary will continue to work in her accounting firm. We will see what happens next, maybe I will become a wedding coordinator - you gotta love the liberal arts. That's all new from here.

Nita Brainard
I live in Harvey, ND with my husband Lee, author of Christian prophecy novels “The Rogue” and “The Rendezvous.” I work as a service coordinator for people with developmental disabilities. We have four children, and we are expecting the 13th grandchild in June. Two of my children (and three grandchildren) live in Brazil, where I plan to visit this summer. The others are in Madison, Wisconsin and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Pete Finelli
I am excited to become “retired” from being a CFO in healthcare for the past 35 years. I was blessed to have been part of the great Concordia Healthcare program during my years at the school. I now enter a new phase of my life being CFO for Sun City West - a planned retirement community of 26,000 residents in the NW part of Phoenix. I am filled with great memories of the past 35 years, in numerous locations throughout the United States, but am also excited about this new opportunity.

Pete Seljevold
Entering my 10th year at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota as the North Dakota Worksite Wellness Initiative Administrator. One daughter graduated from Concordia this spring, one daughter entering her junior year at CC and youngest daughter will be a freshman at CC this fall. The Concordia financial aid office will not let me retire anytime soon :). All is good. I have been elected to serve on the Concordia College National Alumni Board – Term will start in October 2019.

Sarah (Anderson) Kane
Retiree open to a second career. I'm graduating from my 33-year teaching career this June (West High School English teacher), and hoping to try lots of new things before maybe finding my next career. Our two boys are married and living in South Dakota. The oldest, Alex, works for our family's welding company traveling everywhere to repair and refurbish pressure tanks and piping. Our other son, Spencer, is working as a campus minister for CRU in South Dakota colleges. Our youngest, Lizzie, is getting a major in environmental science from Minnesota State-Mankato.

Sherri (Sykes) Bellefeuille
After 30 years in high tech marketing, 5 years ago I joined the crazy world of residential real estate in the greater Seattle market. “Wild ride” would be a good summary. Jim and I will celebrate our 34th wedding anniversary in August. Both of our kids live in the Seattle area, which is great fun. Samantha is 28, married and has 2 kids (we are enjoying the wonderful world of grandparenting). Joe is 27, has a girlfriend and they plan to get a puppy this fall. Jim retired from 32 years of teaching and is now the proud holder of a CDL, which he uses to drive school bus. Life is good.
Thor Tolo
I will be teaching Strategic Business Communications in the University of Washington’s prestigious Michael G. Goster School of Business during 2019-20 academic year.

Thomas Lehmann
My only real update is my appointment by Governor Mark Dayton to the District Court Bench last July. I am a District Court Judge in the 10th Judicial District chambered in Anoka.
Sincerely,
Honorable Thomas R. Lehmann
Judge of District Court
Anoka County Courthouse

Office of Governor Mark Dayton
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2018

Contact: Sam Fettig
651-201-3408 office
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Governor Dayton Appoints Thomas R. Lehmann to Fill Tenth Judicial District Vacancy

ST. PAUL, MN – Today, Governor Mark Dayton announced the appointment of Thomas R. Lehmann as a District Court Judge in Minnesota’s Tenth Judicial District. Mr. Lehmann will be replacing the Honorable Lawrence R. Johnson, and will be chambered at Anoka in Anoka County.

“I am pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Lehmann to serve as District Court Judge,” said Governor Dayton. “Mr. Lehmann will bring valuable knowledge of both civil and criminal law to the Tenth Judicial District. I thank him for his willingness to serve the people of Minnesota.”

Timothy Jung
As I said already, our class is amazing. Seems like “retirement” is a growing theme for many. Regardless of your stage or path, I wish you blessings and peace. See you in October!

Soli Deo Gloria.
Sherri (Sykes) Bellefeuille
1984 Class Agent

P.S. Don’t forget to include Concordia College on your “giving” list. www.concordiacollege.edu/giving/

P.S.S. Keep reading to hear updates from various groups across campus.

2019 CLASS LETTER CAMPUS UPDATE

Concordia Language Villages
- Summer 2018 was a busy one for Concordia Language Villages. We had over 4700 villagers and families from all over the world attend immersion programs at our Turtle River Lake sites just north of Bemidji and at other leased camps in northern Minnesota. This strong enrollment demonstrates the value families are placing on world language and culture education.

- Thanks to a generous gift of $5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, we will soon begin the first phase of construction of Sup sogŭi Hosu, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake. The first Village to be built was Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village, and that happened 50 years ago this summer. A special event to commemorate this milestone will be held on July 13. Sjölunden the Swedish Language Village, celebrates its 45th summer with a midsommar event on August 3. International Days are July 5 and August 9 where we will also celebrate 50 years of offering four-week high school credit sessions.

Music
- Dr. René Clausen announced that he will retire following the 2019-20 academic year, concluding his service as professor of music and conductor of The Concordia Choir. Clausen is a leader in choral music as both a conductor and a composer. He is the artistic director of the Concordia Christmas Concerts. In addition to composing arrangements and original pieces for Concordia ensembles, he has written dozens of commissioned compositions including “MEMORIAL” and “Crying for a Dream” for the American Choral Directors Association. Clausen was also commissioned by Concordia to create a major work in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The work is titled “The Passion of Jesus Christ” and premiered at Orchestra Hall in 2017. President William Craft noted in an announcement to the Concordia community that throughout his work at the college Clausen has lived the mission of The Concordia Choir “to uphold a sacred choral tradition through the uncompromising and unrelenting collaborative pursuit of musical integrity and spiritual expression.”

- The Concordia Choir completed a highly successful tour through the Pacific Northwest in March. The tour featured concerts in Washington, Oregon, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. The Choir also had engagements with ten high school choirs, as well as The Choir of the West at Pacific Lutheran University and a collaboration concert with The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists at the Ordway in St. Paul. Work is now being done to plan the Choir’s 2020 tour to the Southeast United States. Updates and more information can be found at www.TheConcordiaChoir.org.

- The Concordia Orchestra completed a very successful fall domestic tour with performances in Appleton, Wausau and Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin and Roseville, Sartell and Brainerd in Minnesota. Repertoire included Symphony No. 3 by Florence Price, Scheherazade by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Concerto for Trombone by Jim Pugh, which
featured Concordia Professor of Low Brass Dr. Nathaniel Dickey on trombone. Also joining the tour was guest conductor Christoph Rehli-Fankhauser, professor of conducting at the Lucerne University of Music in Switzerland.

-The Concordia Band was invited to perform at both the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic in Minneapolis and the North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference in Bismarck. In addition, the band was also invited to be the featured collegiate band at the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. As part of their annual domestic tour, the band performed a joint concert with the Encore Wind Ensemble in St. Paul, MN as well as concerts in St. Anthony Village, Albany and Staples-Motley, all in Minnesota. The band is in the beginning stages of planning their international tour to Spain in May of 2020.

**Cobber Athletics**

- In the spring of 2018, Concordia had only one team – women’s basketball – with a female head coach. Fast forward one year, and with the hiring of new volleyball head coach Faith Dooley, the Cobbers now have 5 additional female head coaches mentoring student/athletes. Dooley, who was an All-American at the University of North Dakota, joins women’s golf head coach Kari Weidner-Ceniceros, Maureen Greiner of women’s hockey, Rebecca O’Shurak from women’s soccer and NDSU All-American Laura Januszewski who coaches both the men’s and women’s cross country teams. The rise of female head coaches was recognized by University of Minnesota’s Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport in their 2018-19 coaching report card that cited Concordia as the top college in the MIAC for the increase in female head coaches over the past year.

- Concordia men’s track and field junior Matt Bye, Moorhead, won the heptathlon at this winter’s MIAC Indoor Championship Meet and went on to finish 11th in the event at the NCAA National Indoor Meet held in Boston, Mass. Bye won the MIAC title with the second highest point total in school history.

- The Cobber men’s hockey team earned its seventh consecutive berth in the MIAC playoffs this season. Concordia finished conference play with nine league wins which was the most since the 2013 season. Sophomore forward Tyler Bossert, Fargo, led the MIAC in scoring and went on to earn All-American Second Team honors to become the ninth All-American in program history.

**New Hires**

-Concordia added two critical new leaders in the Career Center this year. Kris Olson joined the College as the new Director of the Career Center in October 2018. Jill Wenger, a Barnesville native, was hired in the role of Assistant Director of the Career Center in March 2019.

Kris began her career in Higher Education spent several years in Higher Education at NDSU and Concordia before making a career switch. She began working for Cargill, Inc as a Corporate Training Consultant, Training Curriculum Specialist, a Member of a Global Realignment Team, and a Recruiting Manager. Following her time at Cargill, Kris founded her own consulting business. Kris is an experienced professional with over 30 years of progressive experience in Higher Education, Corporate Business and Consulting.

Jill is an experienced professional with progressive experience within the City of Moorhead ranging from City Clerk, Assistant City Manager, and most recently, Human Resource Director. Jill brings great insight into public service, the local Fargo-Moorhead area, the Restorative Justice process, and recruitment best practices.

-Katie Nystuen was hired as our Health Services Coordinator this year. Part of her role is to guide students in making choices regarding their healthcare needs, and connecting them to the many quality providers in our community. Though direct care is not the focus of the Health Services Office, she is First Aid, CPR and AED certified, and can assist with triage and referral to an appropriate medical facility should an urgent situation arise, as can our Public Safety Office. One of her goals is to be more proactive and holistic regarding health and wellness programming on campus.
Dallas Fossum joined Concordia as the new Director for Facilities Management in March. Dallas is an experienced director of facilities management and has, with his teams, completed more than $50 million in renovations, new constructions, infrastructure, and deferred maintenance.

Dr. Jill Abbott has been appointed Deputy to the President at Concordia College, effective June 3, 2019. Dr. Abbott holds a bachelor’s degree in literature/language arts education, a master’s in counseling and human resource development, and a doctorate in educational administration. She currently serves as the associate vice president of academics at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. Dr. Abbott will serve as a member of the college cabinet and will continue the good work of her predecessor Tracey Moorhead as liaison to our Board of Regents. As Deputy to the President, she will work with me to ensure the fulfillment of the new college plan following its affirmation by the Board of Regents, to represent the college in building strong local and regional partnerships for mutual success, and to position Concordia as mission driven institution of national significance.

Other News

Concordia’s outstanding tradition of preparing students for medical school is now available to those who have completed an undergraduate degree. This intensive, 1 year program is designed for highly motivated individuals with excellent academic records, who have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year institution, but lack most or all of the prerequisite science courses needed for admission to medical school. Our program is ideal for career changers, and individuals deciding later in their academic journey, to pursue a career in medicine.

Concordia sent 12 members to the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) at the University of Alabama, where 60 colleges and universities from across the United States competed for top honors. Concordia was one of only a few smaller colleges that placed in the top 15, which is dominated by larger research institutions.

The Center for Student Success has a new home in the Normandy. The beautifully renovated space is open and light making for an inviting space for students. The center includes academic support, Orientation and First-Year Transition Programming, the Peer Mentor program, and the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services.

More than 300 students presented their posters or spoke at concurrent sessions during Concordia’s 2019 Celebration of Student Scholarship (COSS) on April 10. Some students participated in multiple presentations. New at this year’s COSS was an art display with printmaking pieces and two sessions presented in Spanish. “Our goal is to keep building on the diversity of research,” says Krys Strand, director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity and coordinator of the Celebration of Student Scholarship.

A dinner was held April 4 to celebrate the naming of Dr. Dan Biebighauser as holder of The Sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics. Biebighauser is a 2002 graduate of Concordia and joined the faculty in 2006. The holder of the Mundhjeld chair is to be a person who has provided exemplary service in teaching and scholarship in the field of mathematics and who is known and respected in the field. All of the past holders of the Mundhjeld Endowed Chair were present. Past holders include Dr. Bill Tomhave, Dr. James L. Forde, Dr. Alexander Sze and Dr. Gerald A. Heuer ’51.

Alumni Awards:
The National Alumni Board voted on the 2019 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition/.

2019 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

- Dr. Paul Brandvik ’59, professor emeritus of music at Bemidji State University, served as director of choral activities for 31 years. Brandvik received several awards, guest conducted more than 100 festivals and workshops in 16 states and abroad, and composed, edited or arranged more than 50 works.
• **Dr. Kristi Ferguson ’71**, is professor emeritus of General Internal Medicine and served as director, Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She spent her entire career at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine where she has greatly influenced the development, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum.

• **Dr. Thomas Samuelson ’81**, a board-certified ophthalmologist, is a founding partner and attending surgeon at Minnesota Eye Consultants, P.A., Minneapolis. He’s also an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota and on the faculty of Hennepin County Medical Center. He has received several awards and has been named to America’s Top Doctors each year since 2002. He has written numerous articles and given more than 600 presentations around the world.

• A 1977 Concordia graduate, **the Rev. Ann Svennungsen** is the bishop of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod, the first female bishop to serve in any of the ELCA’s six Minnesota synods. She served as a parish pastor prior to serving as president and CEO of The Fund for Theological Education and then as president of Texas Lutheran University. Svennungsen, a well-respected theologian and speaker, is published in numerous journals, and is invited to lecture, preach, and provide keynote and commencement addresses.

2019 Sent Forth Recipients

• **Betsy Grams ’98**, co-founder and executive director of Cycle Health, is a 1998 Concordia graduate. CycleHealth was founded in 2014 to equip kids to power their own wellness. CycleHealth’s programs are based on adventure and self-directed goal attainment, and are prescribed by pediatricians in more than 50 Twin Cities clinics through an innovative platform called Sweat Rx.

• **Matthew Culloton ’98**, Matthew Culloton, founding Artistic Director of The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists, is a 1998 Concordia graduate and earned a master’s and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He is Choirmaster at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn., an adjunct faculty member at the University of Saint Thomas and composer. Culloton received the VocalEssence/ACDA of Minnesota Creative Programming Award (2003) and MN ACDA Outstanding Young Choral Conductor of the Year Award (2004).