

**Seminarian
Euder Paul
leading worship and
Bible Study at our
sister church —
Timothy Lutheran,
St. Louis,
August 2023**



Seminarian Euder Paul

We just received this note and photos from **Euder Paul, our Haitian member** now completing his second-year of graduate studies towards **becoming a pastor**. If you would like to join those supporting the **seminary's costs** for our brother, please write your check to "Concordia" with the memo line reading "Seminarian Paul." Our Concordia Sarasota Foundation offers **\$8,000 to match** your gifts. Thanks!

Dear **Concordia friends**,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus!

I am very happy to share with you some details about my life in **Saint Louis**, Missouri during this summer 2023. Sunday August 6th I was the **liturgist** at Timothy Lutheran Church, where are **Rev. Ted and Mrs. Abby Wuerffel** (photo here, with Euder) as members. I led the **Bible study** also with 10 or 15 people. I lead that study once a month as part of my "Resident Field Education." I thank God, the heavenly Father because He has given us various "offices" (roles and responsibilities) in our lives. I ask Him to grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve Him, the Church and our fellowmen.

Another thing very important for me during this summer is the **elementary Hebrew class**. The goal is to help me "to have an introductory knowledge and understanding of both the diversity and the Christological coherence of the word of God, remaining mindful of the Lutheran principle that Scripture interprets Scripture." Thank God my quizzes, tests and exams are going very well. Finally, this elementary Hebrew will help me "to grow in the ability to faithfully relate the **word of God** to Lutheran doctrine and the **present day lives** of the people of God...."

Now I am waiting for the **US embassy in Haiti** to reopen. The embassy recently closed for

Haiti's political instability and insecurity. We hope to see if **my wife Judelande** can come to Saint Louis. I will have to travel to Haiti any time there is an opportunity. Only the US embassy there can interview me to renew my student visa (F-1). Then, we pray, my wife Judelande can get the F-2 visas. **Please pray** for me and my wife Judelande, for this process. **God can open doors** very soon. May God give us capacity to say: "Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name" (Psalm 97: 11-12).

Once again, **thank you** for all your supports, dear members of Concordia Lutheran, Sarasota. All the different people in my Florida-Georgia District, thank you for all you are doing to help me to become a Lutheran pastor. You all are in my prayers.

May God bless you all.
Euder and my wife,
Judelande



Seminarian Euder Paul

Our member at Concordia Seminary in **St. Louis** is now completing his second year of studies. His newlywed **Judelande** remains in Haiti until the US State Department permits her travel to Missouri in connection with our seminarian's student visa. Euder came to be in our brother in our Sarasota church family since May 2020.

Our December 2021 Voters' Meeting had redirected \$22,500 of our \$25,000 mission gifts to **the Seminary**, covering the seminarian's **campus living costs** for Euder's first year-and-a-half of studies. The Seminary found other donors to support his tuition (as is common for most seminarians in recent years). Our January 2023 Voters' Meeting budgeted no mission dollars. Individual donors so desiring may **direct special gifts** to our Concordia's dedicated "Seminarian Euder Paul Fund." Also our Florida-Georgia network of sister churches seeks new friends determined to bring Euder to pastoral ministry.



photo: Euder at **Timothy Lutheran**, St. Louis. See the Haitian flag over his right shoulder?

Seminarian Euder Paul writes:

I thank you, my people of Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota. Thank you for all **your supports** for my seminary formation. Thank you for **your prayers**. I want to thank God for you and for his grace for me.

In the **Fall semester** I studied: Systematics I, Teaching the Faith, Spiritual Formation III, Worship & the Word, Greek Lab- Second Year. I passed all my courses. Thank God.

I continue my "field work" by learning and doing ministry at Timothy Lutheran. This is the home church for Pastor Ted and Abby Wuerffel here (in Saint Louis, Missouri). I am very blessed to have them with me at Timothy.

Last Summer I finished **Creeds & Confessions**. The class was a study of the Ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confessional writings (Biblical doctrine & teachings) as contained in the Book of Concord. That course dealt with the documents' historical and theological settings and our present-day commitment to them. Special attention was given to principles of the Bible's interpretation, and to pastoral implications. Finally, this class helped me to understand that the student (disciple) can value **following Christ in all** circumstances. Should value having his faith and life governed by the testimony of the Scriptures. Should value possessing a positive self-worth. Should value being compassionate. Should value being humble. Should value being patient and long-suffering. Should value being empathetic. And the student will value the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible source, rule, and norm for faith and life.

In the beginning **God had a perfect plan** for stewardship. The man and woman would rule over the creation, and the creation would yield itself willingly to their desires. I believe that God has made me (and you!) part of His plan.

"All I must do is obey your will, O God. Help me cast each care upon You, my God, in faith, believing. In my formation You **grant me peace**, God. My heart fills with hope."

I repeat to you the words of Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds **in Jesus Christ**."

Seminarian Euder Paul Married

"Our" Seminarian Euder Paul was joined in **Christian marriage** to **fiancée Judelande** in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on January 7. God bless His **joyful servants!** Euder has now returned to Concordia Seminary in **St. Louis** to complete his second year of studies. Judelande remains in Haiti until the US State Department permits her travel to Missouri in connection with our seminarian's student visa. Euder came to be in our brother in our Sarasota church family since May 2020.

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"Jesus, bless Seminarian Euder and Judelande, bless each and all of us, as we follow You in **making disciples of all nations!** Let Your Good News cheer every heart."





Euder with Ted, Abby and Pastor Dinger

Rev. Wuerffel - Seminarian Paul

Dear Friends at Concordia,

Abby and I are enjoying a very fine **garden season in St Louis**, where God has sent the rains just when we needed them, and so the garden is bearing tasty vegetables week by week. In June we met our five children and six grandchildren out on the **coast of Oregon** to celebrate our **50th Anniversary**....a wonderful week!

Here in St Louis the Seminary classes are underway once again. I am able to see **Euder Paul, the seminarian** we support through Concordia Sarasota, almost weekly. He has been assigned to do Field Work (a two-year assignment to a local church involving various practical activities that serve as an apprenticeship to work and tasks of Lutheran ministry). By now Euder has helped lead the Sunday liturgy and also lead an adult class, in turn with other seminarians, studying the lessons for the day. His ability to use conversational English has improved a great deal, and therefore he feels much more free to interact with people.

In this **Fall Term at the Seminary** Euder is studying the formal side of worship: the 3-yr lectionary, the formal sections of the Sunday service (called 'the Liturgy') and how we enact worship, action by action, including the formal section on holy communion ('the Eucharist'). Sometime this year he will prepare and offer his first sermon, first to his professor and classmates, or maybe even at our church here (Timothy LCMS). He is also studying Lutheran Doctrine and he meets regularly with a faculty mentor.

In sum, our seminarian is no longer "the new kid on the block," but is in the mainstream of student life and getting used to our quite rigorous Lutheran system of preparation for the Holy Ministry. He is **very thankful for the support** Concordia is giving him, diligent in his studies, and conscientious of the high calling of serving as a pastor to God's people. Please continue to **pray for him** and the many other international students at Concordia Seminary. Their challenges and determination are an **inspiration**.

Pastor Ted Wuerffel, St Louis

Our Sem Student's Thanks

In December Concordia voted to re-direct most of her mission giving. Of 2022's \$25,000 we could have sent to our Florida-Georgia District missions, we directed that \$22,500 be sent this year to **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** in support of **Seminarian Euder Paul**. Our gift will cover room, board and insurance expenses for the first year-and-half of Seminarian Paul's three years on campus. The Seminary has found other donors delighted to support our seminarian's tuition costs.

Our new member came to Concordia in May 2020. A Haitian, our seminarian's previous education was in **Creole, French** (high school), **and Spanish** (collegiate). In Haiti he had been a high school teacher. He first visited our congregation when in Sarasota to bid farewell to his sister, a nurse here. Euder had just left Florida's **Roman Catholic seminary**. In his year's study there, Euder found his faith differed. He spoke with our Florida-Georgia District president, our bishop Rev. Dr. Greg Walton. Euder heard Jesus calling him to be a Lutheran pastor.

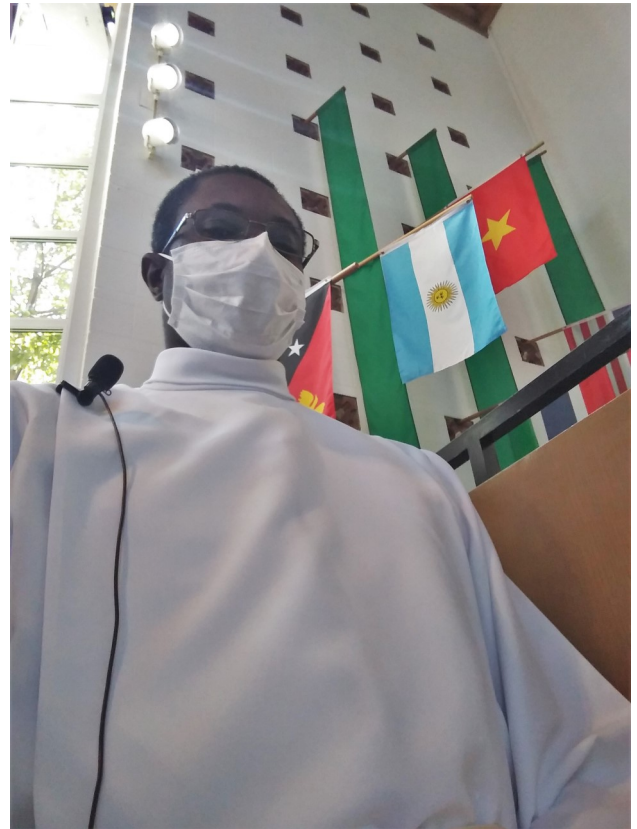
Seminarian Paul writes to you: "God is always faithfully present in my life. Luke 19:10 says us 'The Son of Man came to **find lost people** and save them.' I want to share the grace of God in my life during my first semester in Timothy Lutheran Church, Saint-Louis. As a student/seminarian in my Residential Field Education once a month I serve as a liturgist, and lead the Bible study and go to the Charter Senior Living home to share the Word of God with people. During this semester I can say our God is the **God who follows**. He is the one who came to seek and save me.

"I learn in my pastoral service that **God gives us himself**. Even when we choose our hovel over his house, and our problem, our mistake over his grace, still he follows. Never forcing us. Never leaving us. But, patiently persistent, faithfully present in our daily life. It is a **gift**, it is God who uses all his power to convince us that He is who He is and can be trusted to lead us in our ministry, our activities or our home. I feel Timothy Lutheran Church is like my home congregation Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota. All of that is God's plan.

"Thank you, God, for everything you have done for me during my first semesters in Saint Louis.

"Euder, your seminarian"

photos: Seminarian Euder Paul at **Timothy Lutheran** St. Louis, his field work church. Also our snowbirds Pastor Ted and Abby **Wuerffel** call Timothy Church their other home.



*Photo: from Dec. 2021
Euder and Judelande
engaged!*

Our Sem Student's Thanks

Euder Paul came to Concordia in May 2020. A Haitian, our seminarian's previous education was in **Creole, French** (high school), **and Spanish** (collegiate). In Haiti he had been a high school teacher. When he first visited our congregation, Euder had just left Florida's Roman Catholic seminary. In his year's study there, Euder found his faith differed. After he spoke with our Florida-Georgia District president, our bishop Rev. Dr. Greg Walton. Euder heard Jesus calling him to be a **Lutheran pastor**. Concordia's December Congregational Meeting voted to send much of our budgeted mission gift to support Euder Paul's attending our **Concordia Seminary in St. Louis**.

Our seminarian sent Pastor Stephen his **Palm Sunday sermon**, preached at Timothy Lutheran St. Louis (home church of our snowbird Wuerffel friends).

"St. Paul writes: If we live **by the Spirit**, let us also walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25). But what is the difference between **living** and **walking** by the Spirit? Well, the first indicates the **source** and the second what **results** from it. The Christian experience not only **begins** with the Spirit, but also **continues** through him. And if **the Spirit has created a new life** in the child of God, it is not to shut up the Spirit within that Christian, but **so that the new life may produce fruit**. Paul therefore recalls that the believer has received the Holy Spirit to let him guide his Christian walk by submitting to Christ's directives..... When a baby reaches the age to take his first steps, parents do not give him an anatomy lesson and explain to him the psychological and sociological implications of walking. The child first stands up on his own.... In this same way the believer must learn to move forward in the Christian life, even after making mistakes, by getting up when he falls and by starting again.... We know well that a new life is in us.... We know that we have been forgiven, and that we are new creatures in Christ.... Remember Christ's death, which gives us life, and His resurrection, through which we dwell with Christ and walk by the Spirit for all eternity."

"Thank you, dear Concordia friends!"

"Euder, your seminarian"



Our Sem Student's Thanks

In December Concordia voted to re-direct most of her mission giving, funds usually sent to our Florida-Georgia District missions. We send that gift this year to **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** in support of **Seminarian Euder Paul**. Our new member came to Concordia in May 2020.

A Haitian, our seminarian's previous education was in **Creole, French** (high school), and **Spanish** (collegiate). He had been a high school teacher. We have covered expenses for the first year-and-a-half of Seminarian Paul's three years on campus.

Seminarian Paul writes to you:

I thank you, my people of Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota. Thank you for all **supports** for my seminary formation. Thank you for your **prayers**. I want to thank God for you and for his grace for me.

In the **Fall semester** I studied: Elementary Greek Part I, Interpreting and Communicating the Word, Spiritual Formation, Introduction to Pastoral Ministry, and Introduction to Systematic Theology. **My GPA** was 3.0. Thank God.

From the start the seminary also sends me to "field work." I learn by doing ministry at **Timothy Lutheran**. This is the home church for **Pastor Ted and Abby Wuerffel** here.

In January I finished Elementary Greek 2. The class "covers the essential morphology, syntax, and vocabulary of **Biblical Greek**. It thus equips students to read and study the New Testament Scriptures with guidance and with reference tools and to follow the discussion of the Biblical text in New Testament commentaries."

"All I must do is obey your will, O God. Help me **cast each care upon You**, my God, in faith, believing. In my formation You grant me peace, God. My heart fills with hope."

I repeat to you the words of Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus-Christ."

**Seminarian
Euder Paul**



Support Seminarian Euder Paul?

Teacher Jenna (nee **Weingart**) Rhodes (Teacher BA 2004) at Evansville Lutheran School, Indiana. Pastor Roy **Olsen** (Teacher BA 1994, MDiv 2005) at Emmaus LCMS, Fort Wayne Indiana. Pastor Scott **Schilbe** (MDiv 2010) at Messiah LCMS, Carlyle Illinois. Who are they? These three **current church workers** all came out of our Concordia Sarasota! Any others?

Next may be Euder **Paul**. Seminarian Paul started worshiping with us in **May 2020**. Read his whole story in the **November 2020** issue of the Courier newsletter. (At ConcordiaSarasota.org click on “newsletters” for the history, or ask the church office.) As a child, his native tongue was Haitian **Creole**. He was educated in **French**, until in the Dominican Republic he completed his collegiate studies in **Spanish**. He then taught philosophy, Spanish, citizenship in Haitian high schools.

When visiting his sister (a nurse) in Sarasota, a local priest heard Mr. Paul’s desire to serve Christ’s church. Soon he began studies at Florida’s Roman Catholic Seminary... and found he could not fully embrace Catholicism. Remembering his Haitian **grandmother’s Lutheran** church, he started worshiping with Concordia. Talks with our FL-GA District Bishop Greg Walton, local pastors and seminary leaders, and then Mr. Paul’s pre-seminary studies and tests, opened the door.

Euder left Sarasota for his St. Louis studies in July. Our Seminary there found donors to fund all his tuition! But the Seminary has no one else to cover their costs for Seminarian Paul’s room, board, insurance, books, personal expenses: **\$15,000 per year** (two semesters).

Concordia in **2021 sent a tithe** (\$30,000) of our offerings to the FL-GA District. Our Bishop suggested we might raise new funds or send part of our 2022 church tithes to the Seminary to cover Seminarian Paul’s costs. By December 2021, Seminarian Paul’s account is \$7,500 (2021’s semester) behind expenses. Our Seminary hopes to receive \$22,500 (three semester). The 2022 budget handout at church proposes that our **December 4 and 5 Voters’ Meeting** redirect that part of our mission giving to the Seminary. What will be Concordia’s delight?

P.S. Roy Olsen and our own Christie **Basinger** once were teachers at Concordia’s Lutheran School! That school is now a ministry of our sister church, Good Shepherd LCMS. Near Sarasota’s Clark Road, they care for infants through VPK.



Where’s Waldo? See here St. Louis’ Concordia Seminary **future pastors and deaconesses** starting studies in 2021. Not Waldo. Where’s Euder? Furthest to the right, in the dark suit jacket.

Pastor Stephen with Concordia Sarasota blesses Euder Paul when he leaves for the St. Louis seminary, July 2021



Euder Paul attends Concordia Sarasota's Council Zoom meeting, January 2021



Concordia's Seminarian

I greet you in the name of Christ.

I am **Euder Paul** born in l'Acul-du-Nord, in the north of **Haiti**, on May 27, 1982. My father's name was Joseph Paul, my mother's name is Edeline Charles. I was born into a family of 5 children; 3 girls and 2 boys. So, I am the youngest of my family. I received my sacrament of **baptism** on September 23, 1982 in the Parish of Our Lady of the Nativity of l'Acul-du-Nord, my first communion in this same parish on July 11, 1993 and my sacrament of confirmation on June 3, 2001 in the Cathedral of Cap-Haitien.

At home we spoke **Haitian Creole**. But in school we spoke **French**. I did my primary studies at the Ecole St-Nom de Jésus et de Marie 1988-1996 in my native village with Canadian nuns where I learned Christian, educational, social and human values. I participated a lot in choirs, choir boys or altar servers in the Parish and in movements like: Scouts, Croix-Rouge Jeunesse. All these pastoral, social and educational activities inspired me to be a priest one day without knowing the difference between a religious priest and a diocesan priest, but I always **wanted to become a priest and a teacher**. I already felt this call at the age of 11, immediately after my first communion in 1993. Unfortunately, I did not have a vocational orientation from my parish priest or from other religious leaders.

My secondary studies were shared between the College Notre Dame and the College Bell Angelot of Cap-Haitien in the years 1996-2004. Afterwards, I studied Personalities and Human Relations with the PRH-International School of Quebec by correspondence in the years 2004-2007. I trained in this psycho-educational branch with the objective of serving and helping the SHAA (Haitian Society for the Aid of the Blind) on a voluntary basis. Immediately after these humanistic studies, I went to the **Dominican Republic** on October 12, 2007 to study Educational Sciences. So, the Dominican reality changed my study perspective; I **learned Spanish** even before going to PUCMM University (Universidad Pontificia Católica Madre y Maestra) where I was going to study Philosophy instead of studying Educational Sciences as I had planned. That is to say, 2008-2009 I studied my first year of philosophy at PUCMM (Santo Domingo, R.D).

In the years 2010-2012, I studied Human Rights with an Education specialization with the Jesuit Fathers and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in Santo Domingo (R.D). It was at this point in 2010, after having followed a period of vocational discernment with the Piarist Fathers (los Escolapios) in the Dominican Republic, I decided to begin an experience of formation for religious life and to clarify my vocation to priestly life. I had an experience of community life with them while studying philosophy and humanity for

4 years. That is to say, from 2010-2014 as a **seminarian** I obtained my License in **Humanities and Philosophy** at the Instituto Filosofico Pedro Francisco Bono led by the Jesuit Fathers and at the same time affiliated with the INTEC University of Santo Domingo, R.D.

After my philosophical studies as a postulant with the Piarist Fathers, the Formators sent me to the Novitiate in Bogota (**Colombia**) on January 26, 2014. There I experienced only 9 months. During the training, the Master of Novices asked me to come to my home.

I returned to **Haiti** on September 26, 2014. I was **teaching philosophy, Spanish and citizenship education** in colleges in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) from October 2014-June 2017.

I came in United States in 2018 to continue my formation with Roman Catholic Church. I spent 2 years with the **Boynton Beach seminary**.

After all these lively experiences in religious and priestly life and in teaching, I feel more invited to give my life following Christ, at the service of my neighbors, to become a disciple of Jesus in his Church and of the whole world. I desire to serve in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in the United States, trying to **live by the Gospel**.

Some classmates told me about the **Lutheran church**. My father's mother, in Haiti, was Lutheran. So when I had left the Catholic seminary and stayed with my sister's family in **Sarasota**, I did some online research. I phoned Concordia Lutheran Church. I say thank you to Rev. Stephen Gaulke for welcoming me. Everyone at church is kind! At the same time, I say thank you to the Lord Creator of the Universe. On Him depends my life, my intelligence and even my imagination.

I am now **your brother** communicant and member. That is why I ask you to pray for me, for my vocation. Bishop Greg Walton, President with the Florida-Georgia District, has opened doors for me to apply to **our St. Louis seminary**, so that I can respond to the call I feel to serve the Christian Church for the glory of God, for my spiritual growth and for the good of my neighbors.

It is true, **I am not a perfect man**. But I have very great qualities. I am a man of prayer. I am a trustworthy, transparent and helpful young man who takes to heart the responsibilities entrusted to me. I am a very strong believer and have a very solid faith in Christian doctrine. I am very jovial, creative. And I manifest a particular taste for education, liturgy, pastoral theology, philosophy and Christology. I would like to become a pastor **following Christ** in the service of the Christian Church, to be a pastor to serve my brothers and sisters around the world.

God bless you!

Euder Paul

P.S. from Pastor: If you worship with Euder or see our worship videos, hear his delight to read out our Scripture. And English is his **4th language!**

Concordia Sarasota's Seminarian Euder Paul

