

The Reverend Nicholas Zook chosen for Service Award

On April 19, 2016 Pastor Nicholas J. Zook received the 2016 Service in Parish Ministry Alumni Award from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. This award seeks to honor all living Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary graduates, lay and ordained, who have exhibited faithfulness in the ministry of the church and by that faithfulness bring honor to all graduates of the seminary.

The Alumni Awards are given for perseverance, effectiveness, and faithfulness in a ministry of devotion and dedication. The award seeks to recognize those who serve our Lord inconspicuously and normally would not be heralded with accolade or recognition. Part of the criteria the selection committee reviews includes dedication to vocation/faithfulness and effectiveness in ministry and special unheralded services.

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Bishop Wayne Miller has written, "Pastor Zook has been both a friend and colleague for 30 years in Chicago. He is an exemplary, faithful pastor and a well-respected leader in our synod. Beyond this work in congregational leadership, Pastor Zook has proven himself to be an extraordinary leader in his community."

Pastor Zook (center) is pictured with fellow awardees Father John R. Cochran (left, Celebrated Lifetime Ministry) and The Reverend Herbert L. Bomberger (right, Service in Specialized Ministry). In his acceptance speech, Pastor Zook thanked all those who have been a part of making Concordia Place's mission a reality:



"I am honored to receive this award on behalf of the many talented and committed leaders at Concordia Lutheran Church and Concordia Place who live out our mission to 'Love God and Love our neighbors' over the past 35 years. We are grateful for the impact we have been blessed to bring in our community and give thanks for this ministry. We change lives."

Rev. Zook became the pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church after his graduation from seminary and ordination in 1981. Shortly thereafter, he was approached by three single mothers looking for after school care for their children, and from there Concordia Place was born. The congregation will be celebrating his 35th anniversary on June 12, 2016 at the 10:30am worship service with fellowship to follow. All are welcome.