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Dear Friends in Christ,

Epiphany greetings in Jesus our Light and Life!

By now you may have learned the sad news that Concordia College, New York (CCNY), located in Bronxville, New York, will be closing after 140 years of serving the church. Over the past year the CCNY staff and Board of Regents have worked diligently, along with the Atlantic District, LCEF, the CUS, and leadership in the LCMS to come to a resolution that would be fiscally responsible and for the good of the whole Church.

The financial condition of the college impacted by declining enrollment and the global pandemic have converged to create a difficult and wearisome situation. This institution has touched many lives through the years, and gave the larger church such men as Walter A. Maier and O.P. Kretzmann. It has also provided a great foundation for the sports world, with men like Dell Alston, Mike Aviles, John Doherty and Willie Fraser. Author Kenneth C. Davis, Actor Jason Cerbone, and Commentator Tony Florentino with the Miami Heat, each were part of the Concordia NY family, as were countless young men and women who sang and toured with men like Doc Schultz and Gerry Coleman. So many pastors, teachers were formed here, not to mention those who have served churches in the priesthood of all believers.

As many of you know, Concordia NY was also my alma mater, and this loss is felt very deeply and personally. It is a part of my life that I will always cherish, and shall sorely miss. Considering the recent closings of her sister Concordias in Selma and Portland, this news is particularly painful and sobering. We are living in challenging times, and while we mourn our losses, our hope remains squarely in Jesus.

I invite you to keep the staff, faculty, alumni and especially current students in prayer in these final days of the academic history of Concordia College, New York. We look to the wisdom of God, who invites us to trust in Him. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding!”* Proverbs 3:5.

We are grateful for the partnership we have enjoyed with Concordia College, New York over the years, and pray God’s blessing on this transition, as we trust God’s good plans for hope and a future!

In His peace,

Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Walton, President
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS