

## For Immediate Release

April 6, 2017

The Tour and Chamber Choirs of Concordia College - New York embark annually on domestic tours across the United States. Over the past decade the Concordia Choirs, under the direction of Dr. Jason Thoms, have performed over 300 concerts, assemblies, chapel worship services, in 49 states, 2 Canadian provinces, and Germany. This year's Great Lakes tour, from May 14th-26th, the Tour and Chamber Choirs will embark on a 12-day tour of the Midwest and Upstate New York.

This year's tour program is entitled *500th Anniversary of the Reformation - Hymn Festival*. The program will feature primarily hymn-based choral and instrumental music, as well as offer audiences an opportunity to sing some beloved hymns together with horn and organ. The selections featured in the Hymn Festival will include music of Bach, Christiansen, Schalk, Weber, Ferguson, Walker, and Jason Thoms.

Concordia College - New York is a college of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod located in Bronxville, New York just 30 minutes north of New York City. Beginning with a Reformation Service performance at New York City's Carnegie Hall in 1912, The Concordia Choirs established a long standing tradition and later began touring in the late 1930s.

In the summer of 2016, the Concordia Chamber Choir embarked on a 2-week tour of Germany to mark the beginning of a 500th Anniversary of the Reformation celebration. They recorded a live, concert CD in Wittenberg, Germany, at the very heart of the Reformation origin. On June 25, 2017 the Concordia Choirs will host the *500th Anniversary of the Reformation - Hymn Festival* at Carnegie Hall in New York City. This event will feature many of the pieces performed on the Great Lakes tour, including two massed choirs containing a total 400 singers from school, churches and community choirs across the US and Germany, accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

The Great Lakes tour will include an evening concert in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Tickets are not required, but a free-will offering will be accepted to help offset the cost of the tour:

**Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 pm**

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

5327 W Washington Boulevard | Milwaukee, WI 53208

(414) 774-2200 | [mtolivemke.org](http://mtolivemke.org)

### The Chamber and Tour Choirs

The Tour Choir is a 28-voice mixed ensemble which sings music from a wide spectrum of cultures, eras, and styles. The Tour Choir sings for on- and off-campus concerts and worship services, and embarks yearly tours of the United States. The Chamber Choir is a select mixed ensemble of 10-14 students auditioned from the Tour Choir. Dr. Jason Thoms has been the Director of Choral Activities at Concordia since 2007.

Students in the choirs represent a wide variety of majors including: music, new media, art, education, business, and psychology. Choir scholarships are awarded yearly for both incoming and returning students, no matter what major they are studying. Audition CDs are accepted throughout the year from incoming students interested in studying music or simply auditioning for the choirs.

### Dr. Jason Thoms, Director

Dr. Jason Thoms is the Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities, and Dean of Arts and Sciences at Concordia College-New York. He conducts the Tour Choir, Chamber Choir, Women's Chorale, Men's Glee and the fully professional Concordia Camerata. In June 2017, Dr. Thoms will have his main-stage Carnegie Hall debut as conductor when he conducts the Lutheran Multi-Generational Festival Choir and the Concordia National Festival Choir at the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Hymn Festival. After this year's Midwest Tour, Dr. Thoms will have conducted Concordia Choirs in concerts in 49 states, 2 Canadian Provinces and Germany during his 10-year tenure.

Dr. Thoms is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. He has studied conducting with Anton Armstrong, Robert Scholz, Charles Smith, David Rayl, Jonathan Reed and Simon Carrington. He is a frequent clinician and a certified NYSSMA adjudicator for school, church and community organizations. Dr. Thoms is on the New York State Board of the American Choral Directors Association.

Dr. Thoms is published composer with GIA Music and a professional bass-baritone soloist and chorister. He has written a large number of compositions for concert and worship including a congregational mass setting. He has sung with some of the country's top ensembles, including: the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Collegiate Chorale, Spire Chamber Ensemble, and the Yale Choral Artists.