

LIFE Talk • January 7, 2026

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF BELIEF

Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18



TODAY'S TOPIC

Faith & Music—An Intimate Relationship

Explore the relationship between music and faith in Dr. René Clausen's professional life and personal journey.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTER



Dr. René Clausen is Emeritus Conductor of The Concordia Choir, and known nationally and internationally as a premier conductor and composer. During his tenure at Concordia College in Moorehead, Clausen developed a choir that blends rich aesthetic expression, tonal refinement, and technical skill, serving as a model for choirs throughout the country. He has also been the Artistic Director of the ©Emmy awarded (twice!) Concordia Christmas Concert.

Replay videos available at saintandrews.org/LIFEU.

LIFE Group Sheet

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GETTING STARTED

Share in a spiritual practice, discuss an igniter question, and/or begin with prayer.

Creator God, thank you for the opportunity to gather with each person here, to grow in faith and knowledge together, and for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Bless our time, our conversation, and how we care for one another. Amen.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Briefly share (in pairs or 3s) your initial reaction to what you heard in the LIFE Talk.

Prompts: What stood out to you? What is stirring inside of you? What are you thinking, feeling, or wondering about?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In what sense does the term "inspiration" apply to the art of musical composition?
2. How does the term "faith" inform a composer? How do you define "faith"?
3. To what extent are the terms inspiration/faith/compositional gift, and intellect connected? Choral vis-à-vis instrumental composition.

CLOSING PRAYER

Offer a prayer to draw your time to a close, using one of your own or the one below.

God of wisdom and beauty, thank you for this time together. Help us as we live out our faith this week and share what we have learned. Make us instruments of your peace and healing love, as we grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

To join a LIFE Group, contact Sue Lennartson at slennartson@saintandrews.org