

**ELCA Fund for Leaders**  
*for this church and for our future*  
**2021-2022**



**ELCA Fund for Leaders**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



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## A Note From the Rev. Marissa Krey Director, ELCA Fund for Leaders

Dear friends,

God's grace and peace to each of you, beloved saints, who make up the Fund for Leaders community!

Twenty-five years ago, in fall 1996, leaders of our church were busy preparing the case for establishing what we now know as the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Their goal was to present a compelling argument for a robust commitment to theological education at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly the following summer. Memos from this time argue that "the size of this effort should be dramatic and challenging."

The goal of supporting every candidate at an ELCA seminary continues to challenge us, but the impact of the Fund for Leaders can surely be called dramatic. In 2000 we awarded our first scholarships to just eight students, a proverbial "drop in the bucket" to be sure, yet with each award the effects ripple across our church. Now we add 50 or more new students to our Fund for Leaders community every year. When you include the large number of synodical scholarship recipients, **our Fund for Leaders Network of alums has grown to over 1,100!** What we have achieved together, nearly 25 years later, is truly miraculous.

This year, in addition to our 44 new full-tuition scholarships, we are celebrating impressive growth in both our mission developer and our federal chaplaincy ministry scholarships, with 15 new awards. Together, these two specialized funds represent not only more scholarship dollars distributed to students but also our church's commitment to supporting students who are called to many different types of ministries.

I hope you enjoy getting to know this year's class of scholars more personally throughout the pages of this book, and I want to share a few highlights of the class as a whole:

- For the 2021-2022 academic year, the Fund for Leaders will be supporting 317 candidates for ministry with **over \$3.2 million in scholarships!**
- The 59 students celebrated in this book come from 36 of the ELCA's 65 synods, and 19.6% are people of color or whose first language is other than English.
- Half of this year's students will be studying in distributed learning (i.e. long-distance) programs.
- The average age of this year's Fund for Leaders scholar is 32.5.

Over the years, some of our Fund for Leaders supporters have had the opportunity to meet students face-to-face at our annual celebration banquet, but many more have not. Though we miss being together, our online celebrations have been a true gift to members of our community who have never been able to travel to our banquet. For the first time, our entire community — students and their families, alums and generous supporters — can all be together. These last two years remind us that the thousands of saints who have made all this ministry possible could never fit into even the largest of banquet halls.

For each of them — for each of you! — I give thanks to God.

Yours in Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marissa H. Krey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Marissa Krey  
Director, ELCA Fund for Leaders

## 2021-2022 Fund for Leaders Full-tuition Scholarship Recipients

We celebrate with this year's group of called and gifted future leaders. For the 2021-2022 academic year, Fund for Leaders general and named endowment funds supported **44 new scholarships totaling \$836,000.**

### LAURA APLEGATE

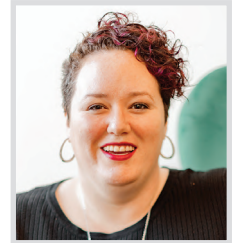
*Scholarship made possible by the John E. and Marcia F. Grove Memorial Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Indiana-Kentucky

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Crestview Hills, Ky.

A guiding Bible verse: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to [God] in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).



*"I am truly grateful for the support and guidance of Dominic Guido, senior pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Lakeside Park, Ky., during this period of discernment. He has been open to all my many questions. He really has encouraged me to go outside my comfort zone to fully embrace this call to ministry. I wouldn't be where I am in this path without his guidance."*

### KRISTEN ARENDS

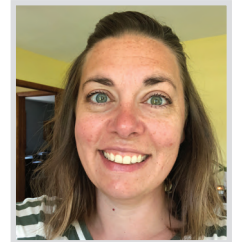
*Scholarship made possible by the Kenneth and Sandra Falkinham Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: La Crosse Area

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, Ettrick, Wis.

A guiding Bible verse: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to [God] in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).



*"I wouldn't be pursuing a call to ordained ministry if Pastor Stephen C. Biegner of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Eggertsville, N.Y., had not first convinced me of my call to youth ministry. I am inspired by the way he lives a life so deeply rooted in his faith. Steve has walked beside me during difficult times and shared in the joy of life well lived and ministry well done, encouraging my sense of call along the way."*

Scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## LESLIE ASKA

*Scholarship made possible by the Orville R. Klopff Memorial Endowment Fund*

Synod: Northern Illinois

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: First Lutheran Church, Rockford, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: "For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed [God] knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and [God's] righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:32-33).



*"The strong faith of Pastor Jane McChesney, First Lutheran Church, Rockford, Ill., on her cancer journey was an inspiration to many. Over my discernment journey this past year, she fed my faith and accompanied me in opportunities to lead and serve along with words of encouragement and affirmation of my calling, though always leaving room for God to lead the way."*

## SARAH BAUER

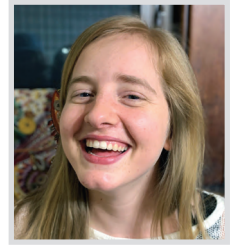
*Scholarship made possible by the Mr. and Mrs. Peter, William and Esther Herlein Fund*

Synod: East-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: First English Lutheran Church, Appleton, Wis.

A guiding Bible verse: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).



*"My mom, Pastor Mary Grace Bauer, First English Lutheran Church, Appleton, Wis., has always been the definition of loving and accepting faith, showing me time and time again that serving God doesn't inhibit one's life but makes it richer. Wherever I am in life, she supports my endeavors, whatever they may be, but has ultimately helped me realize that going into ministry is what I'm called to do."*

## KYLEE BESTENLEHNER

*Scholarship made possible by the J. Binnie Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Grand Canyon

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Home congregation: Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Henderson, Nev.

A guiding Bible verse: "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:14).



*"Pastor David Drach-Meinell, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Henderson, Nev., and I have a bond that is special to me. His door was always open for guidance through life's trials. He saw the call in me as a teen, encouraged me to serve and grow as a leader, and mentored me during my discernment journey. His support is invaluable, and I pray that someday I can help shape someone's life as he has mine."*

## ALISON BONDY

*Scholarship made possible by the Paul M. Dauten, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund*

Synod: Saint Paul Area

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).



*"Pastor Nancy J. Connor, visitation pastor, St. James Lutheran, Burnsville, Minn., has been a pastor and friend to me for over 35 years. I knew I liked Nancy right away because she was always warm, welcoming and very funny. She inspired me as a person, as a woman and as a child of God. Nancy has always been an exceptional role model for me. It was her influence that expanded my faith and opened the door to ministry for me."*

## CHANTAL BRANKER

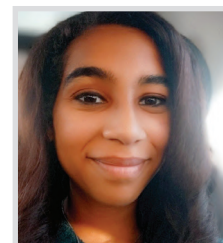
*Scholarship made possible by the Cox Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: Virginia

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Christ Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Va.

A guiding Bible verse: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1 Peter 4:10) and "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).



*"Rev. Anne Jones Martin, senior pastor, Christ Lutheran Church of Fredericksburg, Va., has served as an inspiration for what it means to be a woman of God and a pastor within our church."*

## LYDIA BROOKS

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Northeastern Ohio

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church, Canton, Ohio

A guiding Bible verse: "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14b).



*"Pastor Bonnie Gerber, lead pastor at All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington, Ohio, has not only taught me about what it means to be a Christian but has shown me how to confidently and unapologetically live out my faith. In my discernment process, Pastor Bonnie spoke truth into the doubts I will inevitably face along the way and gave me the assurance I needed to take the leap. I am so blessed to have her in my life."*



## ROSALIE BRUNNER

*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Elizabeth A. Platz Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Lower Susquehanna

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Robesonia, Pa.

A guiding Bible verse: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them — though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10).



*"Pastor Alex Martini, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, Pa., has been an integral part of my journey to ministry since I began undergrad. He has never ceased to be a source of overwhelming support and encouragement throughout my discernment process and continuously provides opportunities for leadership and fellowship within and beyond the church to deepen my call to ministry."*

## LUCAS BYL

*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Dr. Frederick, Anna, & Kathleen Wedemeyer Seminary Scholarship*

Synod: Northeastern Iowa

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: First Lutheran Church, Decorah, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: "Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:23-24).



*"I was fortunate enough to take several courses from Dr. James Martin-Schramm, professor of religion and ordained pastor at Luther College. His courses and life by example helped me learn what kind of responsibility I bear to my fellow humans and how that responsibility can be guided and energized by my faith. It's my hope that, as a pastor, I can use my privilege to be that same inspiring force for others."*

## JANE CLARE

*Scholarship made possible by the Bishop H. George and Jutta F. Anderson Endowment Fund*

Synod: Southwestern Washington

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Home congregation: Jubilee Collective/Messiah Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Wash.

A guiding Bible verse: "He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm" (Mark 4:39).



*"Bishop Anne Edison-Albright, East Central Synod of Wisconsin, supported me through the most spiritually trying time in my life. She modeled compassionate care, healthy boundaries, empowering advocacy and the wonder of a thoughtful and informed spirituality. I look forward to employing these lessons Bishop Annie taught me, because they were an unparalleled gift to my faith and sense of call."*

## EMELIE CLEMENTS

*Scholarship made possible by the Eddie H. Olson and Donald L. Olson Memorial Endowment Fund*

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wheaton, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34).



*"Jared Olson, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wheaton, Ill., has shown me what it means to be a steward of faith. From walking with me through difficult times in my life to spending a long phone call working through discerning my call to ministry, he has always made me feel like I belong in the church, even after my move to Texas. He has been a blessed presence in my life."*

## BRECK COGSWELL

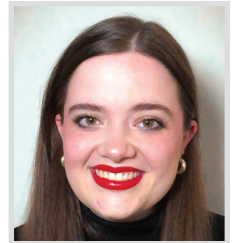
*Scholarship made possible by the Imogene Lewin Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Arkansas-Oklahoma

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, Ark.

A guiding Bible verse: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58:6-7).



*"During college, I found myself in and out of church communities and deeply tangled up in the question of God. Elly McHan, former campus pastor, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., patiently accompanied me through my many concerns and bolstered my faith by allowing room for doubt and vulnerability. Our conversations allowed me to be human, and with this permission, I allowed myself to grow into my call."*

## EVAN DeBOER

*Scholarship made possible by the Marvin D. Anderson Tuition Legacy Fund*

Synod: Northeastern Iowa

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Independence, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: "Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock" (Isaiah 26:4).



*"Alex Krumm, campus outreach director at Grandview University, Des Moines, Iowa, pushed me to further my relationship with Christ. He asked questions that were thought-provoking and meaningful. Alex led by example and showed us all what it was like to live a life of service and love. He pushed me to be the best possible version of myself by helping me figure out what my calling in ministry is."*

## JACKSON DRONEY

*Scholarship made possible by the Paul L. and Valerie C. Miller Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, D.C.

A guiding Bible verse: "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that [God] will give you whatever you ask ... in my name" (John 15:16).



*"Pastor Karen Brau, Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, D.C., has inspired me to navigate rewarding waters of prophetic witness and community care, all while listening to the Spirit. I've learned from her boldness, humility and perseverance that resurrection is happening all around and being fully alive means joining in, with our gifts and flaws. Opposing white supremacy is not a sidebar!"*

## KAYLA FEIL

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: "[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).



*"Blake Thomas, director of student ministries at West Campus at Church of the Resurrection, Olathe, Kan., gave me patience as I was trying to figure out what it meant for me to be called into ministry. He encouraged me to grow into the leader I am today and allowed me to wrestle with what the church should be. He helped me see that faith is rooted in actions and helped me see a bigger God."*

## LINDSAY FERTIG-JOHNSON

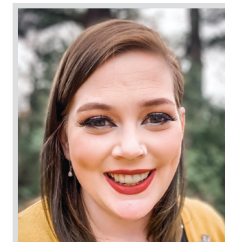
*Scholarship made possible by the L. Travis and Jean M. Brannon Endowment Fund*

Synod: Metropolitan New York

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Grace Lutheran Church, Scarsdale, N.Y.

A guiding Bible verse: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19) and "For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).



*"I will never be able to put into words what it has meant for me to have a mentor like Rev. John Nunes, president of Concordia College New York. I am who I am because of him. It is because of him I have gone from a young woman with no confidence, who stuttered when she got nervous, to a confident leader with belief in myself and even further belief in the work God is doing through me."*

## LOURDES GOMEZ

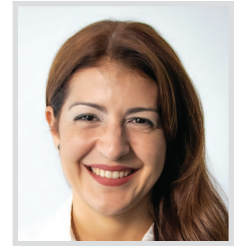
*Scholarship made possible by the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Caribbean

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Iglesia Evangélica Luterana El Mesías, San Juan, Puerto Rico

A guiding Bible verse: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the [Divine Parent] and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).



*"Pastor Sandra Soler Estrada, Iglesia Evangélica Luterana El Mesias, Puerto Rico, brought to my attention that I have a calling, before I even began to consider a calling. She's nurtured and helped guide my growing desire to serve as a rostered minister. It was she who enrolled me in a vocations retreat, where I finally understood and accepted my calling to ministry."*

## JENNIFER GRUMLING

*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Eric Wogen Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: Florida-Bahamas

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Dunedin, Fla.

A guiding Bible verse: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the [Divine Parent] and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20) and "They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world'" (John 4:42).



*"From the time Pastor Katy A.H. Fast accepted the call to St. Mark Lutheran Church, Dunedin, Fla., she has been relentless in her encouragement and nurturing my sense of call. She has recognized and continues to recognize my deep sense of call and love for sharing in God's love with marginalized communities. She inspires me as a woman in ministry with a strong voice and unabashed love for God and neighbor."*

## LARRY HERROLD JR.

*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Dr. E. Earl Anderson Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Upper Susquehanna

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Zion Lutheran Church, Sunbury, Pa.

A guiding Bible verse: "But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you" (Job 12:7-8).



*"Rev. Richard Fangmann, pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Sunbury, Pa., taught me about Lutheranism and how I could use my gifts in leadership. My work in hunger ministries and eco-justice would not be the same without his support. My discernment began at the start of the pandemic, and as busy as he is keeping the work of the congregation going, he is always eager to have truly meaningful conversations with me."*

## BETHANY KETCHEM

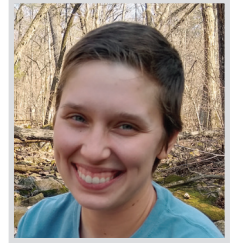
*Scholarship made possible by the Omer G. and Annabelle K. Voss Family Donor Advised Fund*

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Home congregation: University Lutheran Church, Evanston, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house" (Matthew 5:14-15).



*"As my campus pastor at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., Rev. Deanna Langle profoundly shaped my sense of faith with her questions, support and encouragement. Because she believed in me, I was able to step into my faith in a way I never had before and found power, hope and a future. She's been steadfast in guiding me through my call and discernment, and I am extremely thankful for her."*

## NICOLE KIEFER

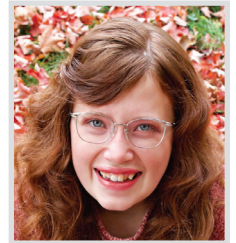
*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Northeastern Iowa

Attending: Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Home congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Marble Rock, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: "You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways" (Psalm 139:2-3).



*"A person that has influenced my faith is Mark Anderson, assistant to the bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod. He has influenced my call by always being supportive of what I do and encouraging me. He has also known me since I was in high school and has seen that growth in me from where I was younger and into the present day. He knew that I was called to do ministry, and he helps me to see that in myself."*

## JAYME KOKKONEN

*Scholarship made possible by the Charles, Joe Anne, Nan and Al Lintz Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Virginia

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Home congregation: Reformation Lutheran Church, New Market, Va.

A guiding Bible verse: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6).



*"For more than a decade, Pastor Jeff Sonafelt, Reformation Lutheran in New Market, Va. (2006-2020), has been steadfast in both nourishing and challenging me in my spiritual development. He has deeply influenced my sense of call by truly being the type of leader I aspire to be — one who listens, empowers and guides by way of following the path of Jesus."*

## KARLA LEITZMAN

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Saint Paul Area

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).



*"The honesty and ministry of Pastor Jen Rome, Next Generation Ministries at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn., reminds me that the church and the world need pastors who are young and committed to being their authentic selves. Jen lives into that deeply and inspires me to do the same; to be honest and joyful and humorous and compassionate all at the same time."*

## LOTEGELUAKI OLE LOTING'IDAKI LENGAI

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Southeastern Iowa

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Messiah Lutheran Church, Burlington, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. [God] makes me lie down in green pastures; [God] leads me beside still waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).



*"My mentor is Christina Loting'idaki. She is my mother and a devoted Christian who believes in prayers. When the situation seems to be unpredictable, she encourages me to fast and pray. I am grateful for having such an amazing mentor. Unfortunately, she will not be able to join the Fund for Leaders virtual celebration due to lack of internet access."*

## PAIGE McGRATH

*Scholarship made possible by the Max W. and Phyllis Krell Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: Western Iowa

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8).



*"Although he didn't start until after I had left for undergrad, Pastor David Halaas is the pastor at the church I grew up at. After I spent nearly a year considering seminary, David gave me the final push I needed to JUST APPLY! Ever since, he's been super-helpful, encouraging and affirming. I don't think I would be doing what I'm doing now if it weren't for him."*

## VICTORIA MICELI RICHARD

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Southeastern Iowa

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Lutheran Church of Hope–Waukee, Waukee, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: “You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever” (Psalm 30:11-12).



*“Dr. Kristin Wendland, Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, is much more than a professor and adviser. She was the first to affirm my call and has continuously loved, supported and challenged me in vocational discernment and faith. Dr. Wendland is a wonderful example of leadership in the church, accompaniment and faithfully following God’s call.”*

## LAUREN MILDAHL

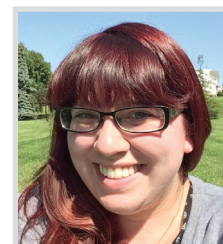
*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Saint Paul Area

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: “The one who calls you is faithful, and ... will do this” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).



*“My mother, Lynn Millikan, is inspirational in countless ways, but her decision to go to seminary in her retirement and the wonderful conversations I had with her about it were definitely a catalyst in my own journey toward rostered ministry. I wouldn’t be here without her, and I’ll be relying on her advice, encouragement, care and wisdom every step of the way.”*

## ALBIE NICOL

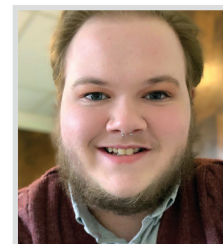
*Scholarship made possible by the John E. and Marcia F. Grove Memorial Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Northeastern Iowa

Attending: Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Home congregation: Saint John Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: “A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).



*“Rev. David Glenn-Burns, campus minister at the University of Northern Iowa, is one of the most Spirit-filled persons I know. If I came by with a hard question, news or holes in theology, fifteen minutes and a cup of coffee later, we’d have it figured out. I felt heard by him in a world where a good listener is hard to come by. What does the Lord require of you? Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”*

## ALEXANDER O'CONNELL

*Scholarship made possible by the Bishop Mark S. Hanson Fund for Leaders Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Eastern North Dakota

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Faith Journey Lutheran Church, West Fargo, N.D.

A guiding Bible verse: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).



*"Elna K. Solvang, professor of Old Testament studies at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., has been a mentor to me throughout my discernment journey. She chaperoned an incredibly growth-filled trip to Israel/Palestine in 2018 that I attended."*

## KATELYN OHREN

*Scholarship made possible by the Florence E. Von Behren Memorial Endowment Fund*

Synod: Northwestern Minnesota

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Bethesda Lutheran Church, Moorhead, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long" (Psalm 23:6).



*"Dan Forsberg was the pastor of congregational care at Bethesda, my home congregation while in college. He was the person who pushed me to work at Bethesda with the kids through Sunday and Wednesday church-school classes. We had great conversations about concepts of call to ministry and where the church is heading."*

## LUISA OLIVER

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Cicero, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: "I can do all things through [the One] who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).



*"My sister Alpha would take me to church weekly, making sure I was involved in the youth group activities and confirmation classes. As an adult she would sit me down and talk to me about God and never straying from him. She never gave up on me, and I truly believe she knew in her heart that I was destined to follow my faith and serve my calling."*



## MADELINE PATTERSON

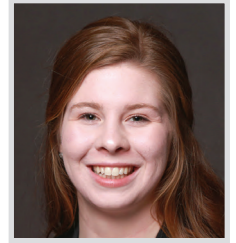
*Scholarship made possible by the Dr. Carol Craig Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: Southeastern Minnesota

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Hegre Lutheran Church, Kenyon, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: "But now thus says the Lord, ... who created you, O Jacob, ... who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).



*"Pastor Renita Eidenschink has been a mentor to me since she started at Hegre Lutheran Church, Kenyon, Minn. She has faithfully preached the law and gospel to me, and raised me in right thinking. She has shown me what living into various vocations means and taught me to do this. Finally, she has fostered a love of Jesus in me and pushed me toward pursuing this call. I have learned more than I can recall from her."*

## JUAN MANUEL ARIAS PEREA

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Home congregation: St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: "[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).



*"Senior pastor of my home congregation, Rev. Josh Ebener's influence in me has been very deep due to his immense passion to walk alongside people and be part of their life stories and in some way to respond to their needs. I am motivated by his great ability to live and build a diverse church in which immigrants have a place of welcome; his work with Latino ministries is something that has impacted my life and my call to serve in ministry."*

## AQUILINO PEREZ III

*Scholarship made possible by the Howard and Marie Cleer Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: Southwestern Texas

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Home congregation: Grace Lutheran Church, Giddings, Texas

A guiding Bible verse: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift" (Revelation 22:17).



*"Deanna Lowrey-Green, licensed master social worker, is the most influential person in my life aside from my church family. She's exposed me to a more inclusive image of God in her providing for the needs of the poor, marginalized and community. She's nourished my sense of call in igniting the spark for social justice and change, as well as helping to reawaken that sense of call in me."*

## **RODOLFO SALAZAR JR.**

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Southwestern Texas

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: St. John's Lutheran Church, Stockdale, Texas

A guiding Bible verse: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to [God's] purpose" (Romans 8:28).



*"Dr. Norman Beck, professor of theology, philosophy and classical languages at Texas Lutheran University, has accompanied me with a personal, teaching and mentoring relationship in theology and biblical languages. He encourages and supports my continued academic studies and opportunities to serve as an ordained pastor in the Lutheran tradition."*

## **MAKENNA SANDERS**

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Northeastern Ohio

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

A guiding Bible verse: "And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself"'" (Matthew 22:35-39).



*"Pastor Brian Riddle, Thiel College campus pastor, has supported and guided me through every step of my discernment. When I needed someone to ask about the process of call and discernment or listen as I sorted through my own ideas, he was there. He has encouraged me to grow and challenge myself in my faith life, and this has helped me get a more holistic understanding of my vocation."*

## **AMY SCHMUCK**

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Rocky Mountain

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Holy Love Lutheran Church, Aurora, Colo.

A guiding Bible verse: "[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).



*"Pastor Libbie Reinking's (Epiphany Lutheran Church, Denver, Colo.) generous sharing of her experience and wisdom helped me solidify my internal and external sense of call to the Word and Service roster. She has provided grounding, encouragement, affirmation, challenge and friendship that I am extremely grateful for."*

## AARON SCHUTTE

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Southeastern Iowa

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: "'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ... And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me'" (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).



*"Nate Montover, associate pastor at my home church, has been a great mentor, colleague and friend in my ministry. He helped me answer this call to seminary by pointing out I have responded to God's call since my baptism, and this is another form of that call."*

## LISA SIMMELINK

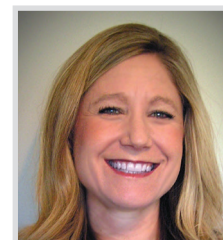
*Scholarship made possible by the Swanson Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Synod: Central States

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, McPherson, Kan.

A guiding Bible verse: "But now thus says the Lord, ... who created you, O Jacob, ... who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).



*"Jerry Bowen, youth pastor at McPherson Church of the Brethren, McPherson, Kans., has been a trusted friend during my period of discernment. He has had honest conversations with me about what pastoral ministry has been like for him, listened to my concerns and self-doubt, and been a source of encouragement and acceptance."*

## STEVEN SMART

*Scholarship made possible by the Mildred A. Flotow Memorial Endowment Fund*

Synod: Greater Milwaukee

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Waukesha, Wis.

A guiding Bible verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).



*"Kay Styza, member of my home church, loves Jesus and is a faithful ambassador of the gospel. She truly sees Jesus in everyone she encounters. Kay is generous with all her resources, so everyone knows that Jesus loves them and that the gift of the gospel is free. Her faithful ministry has inspired me to listen closer to my own call. She has supported me along my call journey."*

## LAUREN SPILINEK

*Scholarship made possible by the First Lutheran Church and Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship*

Synod: Nebraska

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: University of Nebraska–Lincoln Lutheran Center, Lincoln, Neb.

A guiding Bible verse: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven[.] ... [God] has made everything suitable for its time; moreover [God] has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11).



*“Adam White, campus pastor, University of Nebraska, opened my eyes to what ministries are truly capable of. He’s created open spaces where all may feel welcomed, heard and validated. He not only helped guide me through times of joy and sorrow and my discernment process but also helped me reconcile my identity as a trans woman of faith, and I am ever grateful for him.”*

## SARAH JESSOP STREET

*Scholarship made possible by the Carol J. Reed Endowment Fund*

Synod: Sierra Pacific

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Home congregation: St John’s Lutheran Church, Sacramento, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).



*“Rev. Katy Grindberg, director of contextual education, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, saw within me the potential for a call to rostered ministry prior to my own acknowledgment of it. Her vast knowledge of the process and her gentle encouragement have been a blessing and a solace for me as I endeavor to understand God’s plans for me in the world.”*

## NATALIE WUSSLER

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Fund for Leaders*

Synod: Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Bethel Lutheran Church, Hudson, Wis.

A guiding Bible verse: “If the Spirit of [the One] who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [the One] who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through [the] Spirit that dwells in you” (Romans 8:11).



*“Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, choir director at St. Olaf College, has become a close friend and mentor. His “Music and Social Justice” course helped me recognize the intersections between my faith and a call to fight for the rights of the marginalized. Tesfa has encouraged my call toward rostered ministry and helps me continue to dream bigger and cast my reach wider.”*

## 2021-2022 Fund for Leaders Mission Developer Scholarship Recipients

For the 2021-2022 academic year, Fund for Leaders Mission Developer general and named endowments are supporting **12 scholarships totaling \$136,500.**

### KEVIN COMPTON

*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. P. Richard and Nancy L. Grove Mission Developer Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Southeastern

Attending: United Lutheran Seminary

Home congregation: Advent Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

A guiding Bible verse: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).



*"Pastor Michael Jannett, assistant to the bishop for formation and communication, Southeastern Synod, brings the gospel to crucial conversations and fosters an open, loving church body that reaches beyond its walls. I learned from Pastor Michael that when you treat others with dignity, God is working through you."*

### CATHERINE FLORENZ

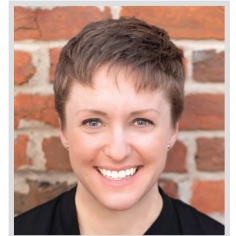
*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Dr. Lauritz and Mrs. Margaret Vigness Mission Developer Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Attending: United Lutheran Seminary

Home congregation: Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington, Va.

A guiding Bible verse: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).



*"When I told Pastor Lamar Bailey, director of evangelical mission for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, that I thought I was going to be a mission developer, he said, 'As far as I'm concerned, you already are.' Over coffee and over Zoom, Pr. Lamar has helped me to hear, understand and follow God's call for my life, and we have shared our excitement about what the Holy Spirit is up to in Washington."*

## WANDA FRENCHMAN

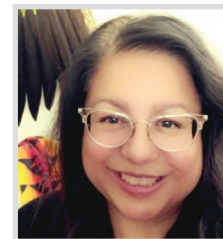
*Scholarship made possible by the Sara E. and John R. Wise Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Grand Canyon

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Native American Urban Ministry, Phoenix, Ariz.

A guiding Bible verse: "I can do all things through [the One] who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).



*"Retired pastor Mary Louise Frenchman has been my biggest champion and influence. I've watched her own journey as she did Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM), was ordained and took her first call. I learned by helping her start Native American Urban Ministry in Phoenix. I feel as if I have been shadowing her for all these years in preparation for my own faith journey. I would not be in the place I am without her outstanding example of a woman-of-color clergy."*

## MATTHEW HANSEN

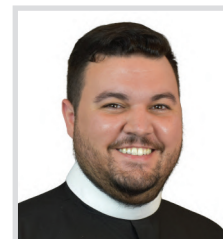
*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund*

Synod: North Carolina

Attending: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Home congregation: St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Andrews, N.C.

A guiding Bible verse: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good" (Romans 12:9).



*"Pastor Volley Hanson, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Andrews, N.C., was the first rostered minister I talked to as I discerned a call toward public ministry in the ELCA. After our initial conversation, we met weekly for long and joyous chats about the vocation of ministry, seminary education, internship and various call stories. I am extremely grateful for his continued mentorship."*

## ZACHARY MANZELLA

*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Stanley E. Olson Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Alaska

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Anchorage, Alaska

A guiding Bible verse: "[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).



*"As a role model, Pastor Keith Anderson, First Lutheran, Ketchikan, Alaska, shares his love of Jesus freely with all through his actions as well as his words. Keith reflects upon the current challenges facing the church with a sense of hope and openness to the possibilities of the future church."*

## ANDREA McDONOUGH

*Scholarship made possible by the Elizabeth K. Weisburger Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Southern Ohio

Attending: Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Home congregation: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio

A guiding Bible verse: "But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with Scripture — 'I believed, and so I spoke' — we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence" (2 Corinthians 4:13-14).



*"I have found a wealth of female leadership in the ELCA, but a special mentor is my Leadership in Context supervisor, Rev. Orinda Hawkins-Brinkley, St. Philip Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio. Under her leadership I have deepened my relationship with the Holy Spirit. She is always available with a listening ear, an encouraging prayer, or just the word that I need to hear. I thank God for our relationship!"*

## MARIAH MILLS

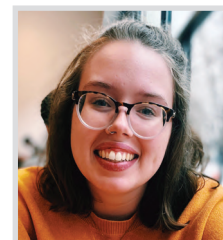
*Scholarship made possible by the MIF Mission Developers Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Southern Ohio

Attending: Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Home congregation: First English Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio

A guiding Bible verse: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36).



*"Drew Tucker, campus pastor at Capital University, has accompanied me in key moments of my development of faith and sense of call. We've had countless conversations wrestling with faith, my call to ministry, making the decision to pursue Word and Sacrament, and so much more. He has continuously supported and encouraged me in my ministry, conviction and work."*

## YESENIA MORALES BAHENA

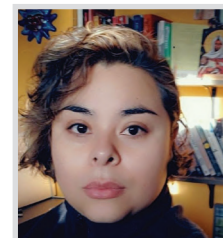
*Scholarship made possible by the MIF Mission Developers Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Minneapolis Area

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Home congregation: University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1 Peter 4:10).



*"The way Pastor Jen Nagel, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis, Minn., loves, full of vulnerability, respectful, conscious of cultural differences but curious to know more, encourages me and other people around her to pay attention to our own vulnerability and talents and get curious as to how we can implement them in our daily lives for God to glorify herself through us, bringing all communities even closer."*

## HEATHER PRATT

*Scholarship made possible by the MIF Mission Developers Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Arkansas-Oklahoma

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Peace Lutheran Church, Rogers, Ark.

A guiding Bible verse: "Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full" (Matthew 14:19-20).



*"Pastor Liz Albertson, vice president for admissions and student services at Wartburg Seminary, was director for evangelical mission in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod when I started discerning a call to rostered ministry. She planted seeds that helped me understand this unorthodox calling has a name — mission development. In our monthly conversations, she encouraged me, provided guidance and helped me see how the gifts I have align well with church-planting."*

## DYLAN PYEATT

*Scholarship made possible by the Delilah E. Ross Memorial Endowment Fund*

Synod: Southeast Michigan

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Home congregation: Micah 6 Community, Pontiac, Mich.

A guiding Bible verse: "The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in" (Isaiah 58:11-12).



*"Pastor Paul Walters, Lutheran Church of the Master in Troy, Mich., has encouraged me toward rostered ministry for several years. I am very thankful for his mentorship, advice and friendship as I have begun this journey. He has been a constant source of energy, passion and support for my whole team and me as we share the love of God in the inner city."*



## RACHAEL THEISEN

*Scholarship made possible by the George and Frances Cornell Family Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: North Carolina

Attending: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Home congregation: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont, N.C.

A guiding Bible verse: "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As [God] has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (John 20:21-22).



*"Rev. Gary Haddock, senior pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont, N.C., is my pastor, and my dad, and has been my mentor throughout my journey. He influenced my passion for missional ministry by modeling and walking alongside me, both inside and outside the church walls, to minister to those in need. He offers prayers and support and has encouraged my call to ministry, and I am so grateful for him!"*

## JASON WILLIAMS

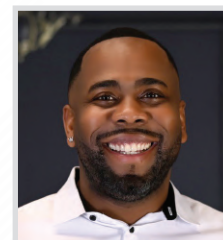
*Scholarship made possible by the Bjorg Davidson Johannesson Mission Developer Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Home congregation: Shekinah Chapel, Riverdale, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: "Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need" (Philippians 4:11-12).



*"Bishop Yehiel Curry, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, is my mentor. I learned the importance of family and my role to provide, protect and lead. Through him, I recognize that gifts are just that, gifts from God. His guidance showed me that, to serve the church effectively, one's gifts must be joined with education in order to maximize one's full potential."*

## 2021-2022 Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Recipients

For the 2021-2022 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministry general and named endowments are supporting **three scholarships totaling \$24,000**.

### LUKE BEAVER

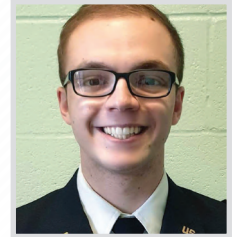
*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Upper Susquehanna

Attending: United Lutheran Seminary

Home congregation: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kratzerville in Selinsgrove, Pa.

A guiding Bible verse: "So that you may be children of your [Divine Parent] in heaven; for [God] makes [the] sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45).



*"Pastor Chad Herrold has been a mentor in my life since I was young. When I was in Boy Scouts, he was an adult leader in my troop, and we worked together at a Boy Scout camp, Camp Karoondinha. The relationship we developed influenced the growth of my faith formation. He continues to be a support, a mentor and a friend throughout seminary."*

### ALEXANDER O'CONNELL

*Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Eastern North Dakota

Attending: Luther Seminary

Home congregation: Faith Journey Lutheran Church, West Fargo, N.D.

A guiding Bible verse: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).



*"Professor Elna Solvang, Old Testament studies at Concordia College, has been a mentor to me throughout my discernment journey. She chaperoned an incredibly growth-filled trip to Israel/Palestine in 2018 that I attended."*

## ISAAC TAYLOR

*Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Murray D. and Rhoda M. Finck Federal Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship Fund*

Synod: Southeastern

Attending: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Home congregation: St. John's Lutheran Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

A guiding Bible verse: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).



*"Pastor Bobby Morris, seminary adjunct professor of Hebrew/Old Testament at Lenoir-Rhyne University, has helped me to understand my call to ministry in a larger sense through guiding me to see God in different ways and places."*

# 2021-2022 Synod Fund for Leaders Scholarship Recipients

For the 2021 academic year, the Fund for Leaders synod endowment funds are supporting **198 scholarships totaling \$759,320.**

## Florida-Bahamas Synod Fund for Leaders (9E)

Johanna Figueroa — Luther Seminary  
Macy Kennedy — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Trixie Richter — Wartburg Theological Seminary

## Florida-Bahamas Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (9E)

Macy Kennedy — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Trixie Richter — Wartburg Theological Seminary

## Grand Canyon Synod Fund for Leaders (2D)

Zach Bell-Nance — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Julie Gerrish — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

## Indiana-Kentucky Synod Fund for Leaders (6C)

Marc Cram — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

## La Crosse Area Synod Fund for Leaders (5L)

Alex Aakre — Luther Seminary  
Amanda Burton — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

## Metropolitan Chicago Synod Fund for Leaders (5A)

Llewellyn Dixon — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Sandra Gillespie — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Walter Gillespie — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Sean Ramsey — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Michael Willis — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

## Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7C)

Megan Maclver — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Gretchen Olson Kopp — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Lisa Stephens — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

**Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders/Dr. John G. Huneke (7C)**

Eric Brown — United Lutheran Seminary  
Sergio Centeno — United Lutheran Seminary  
Devon Gayle — United Lutheran Seminary  
Sarah Humphrey — United Lutheran Seminary  
Amelia Pakarati Collins — United Lutheran Seminary  
Gavin Schwen — United Lutheran Seminary

**Montana Synod Fund for Leaders (1F)**

Riley Anderson-Reed — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Kristin La Ve' — Luther Seminary  
Baird Linke — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Carlos Ramalho — Luther Seminary

**Nebraska Synod Fund for Leaders (4A)**

Janet Anderson — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Deborah Hammer — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Joanna Kathol — Luther Seminary  
Matthew Pearson — Luther Seminary  
Douglas Rothgeb — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Lauren Spilinek — Luther Seminary

**New England Synod Fund for Leaders (7B)**

Gail Angellis — United Lutheran Seminary  
Hector Lugo-Cuadrado — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Rosa Rafaela Radcke — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**New Jersey Synod Fund for Leaders (Advent Lutheran Church) (7A)**

Ivan Kavoleff — United Lutheran Seminary  
Jaymie Kosa — United Lutheran Seminary  
George Perwo — United Lutheran Seminary  
MaryAnne Psomas-Jackloski — United Lutheran Seminary

**North Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9B)**

Paul Anders — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Emily Graff — Luther Seminary  
Christina Nesslage — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Brittany Perry — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Dawn Schaeffer — United Lutheran Seminary

#### **North/West Lower Michigan Synod Fund for Leaders (6B)**

Megan Floyd — Luther Seminary  
Valerie Slaght — Trinity Lutheran Seminary  
Bridget Whately — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

#### **Northeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5F)**

Rebecca Baird — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Lillian Brondyke — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Evan DeBoer — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Noah Dodd — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Laurie Iudin-Nelson — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Hope Johnson — Luther Seminary  
Nicole Kiefer — Trinity Lutheran Seminary  
Albie Nicol — Trinity Lutheran Seminary  
Lisa Robison — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Dayna Weltzin — Wartburg Theological Seminary

#### **Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Fund for Leaders (Holy Spirit) (7E)**

Roger Berger — United Lutheran Seminary  
David Corrado — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Cody Danner — United Lutheran Seminary  
Dillon Epler — United Lutheran Seminary  
MaryAnn Farnsworth — United Lutheran Seminary  
Joshua Labadie-Gulotta — United Lutheran Seminary  
Jayne Leh — United Lutheran Seminary

#### **Northern Great Lakes Synod Fund for Leaders (5G)**

Lance Crevier — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Wade Crevier — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Lon Hider — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Krystle Moraska — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Melissa Salminen — Wartburg Theological Seminary

#### **Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders (5B)**

Thomas Mosbo — Wartburg Theological Seminary

#### **Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders (4D)**

Veronika Czutor — Luther Seminary  
Jessica Dollarhide Godwin — Luther Seminary  
Cheryl Herreid — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders (Ascension Lutheran Church) (4D)**

Sean McConathy — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Northwest Intermountain Synod Fund for Leaders (1D)**

R. Andrew Hamblen — Luther Seminary

Patrick Kaley — Wartburg Theological Seminary

Wendy Kenney — Luther Seminary

Amy Sperline — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Lori Tharp — Luther Seminary

Zack Wonderly — Luther Seminary

**Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Fund for Leaders (5H)**

Katie Anderson — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Matt Dietsche — Luther Seminary

Corina Forcey — Luther Seminary

Augie Hohl — Wartburg Theological Seminary

Emilia Hurst — Luther Seminary

Ally Klug — Luther Seminary

Dan Shimon — Wartburg Theological Seminary

Hillary Toulson Wolski — Luther Seminary

**Northwest Washington Synod Fund for Leaders (1B)**

Katrina Bentsen — Luther Seminary

Lori Cavender — Luther Seminary

Anna Czarnik-Neimeyer — Luther Seminary

Sharon DeGraw — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Benjamin Fowler — Luther Seminary

David Horton — Luther Seminary

Joseph Lual — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Callie Moothart — Luther Seminary

Steve Olson — Luther Seminary

Matthew Wilkerson — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

### **Northwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (3D)**

Karin Bergstrom — Luther Seminary  
Andrea Bonneville DeNaples — Luther Seminary  
Sharon Bridges — Luther Seminary  
Julie Carlson — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Benjamin Dyrhaug — Luther Seminary  
Madeline Elliot — Luther Seminary  
Christopher Friese — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Marilyn Grafstrom — Luther Seminary  
Lynn Melchior — Luther Seminary  
Beth Monke — Luther Seminary  
Anna Monke Gervais — Luther Seminary  
Jeanette Perrault — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Curtiss Peterson — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Melissa Pickering — Luther Seminary

### **Northwestern Ohio Synod Fund for Leaders (6D)**

Tanyce Addison — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Ann Augustin — Luther Seminary  
Ryan Cordle — Luther Seminary  
David Frye — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Carol Pretorius — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Shawn Schneider — Luther Seminary  
Robin Small — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Rebecca West-Estell — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Katlin Zaborski-Leslie — Wartburg Theological Seminary

### **Oregon Synod Fund for Leaders (Allert) (1E)**

Andrew Langford — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Charlotte Trent — Wartburg Theological Seminary

### **Pacifica Synod Fund for Leaders (2C)**

Beulah Chambers — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Elena Enriquez — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Perla Flores Ruiz — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Kendall Jeske — Luther Seminary  
Michelle Kuan-Yang — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Rachel Scott-Brace — Luther Seminary  
Alicia Saenz — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Jasmine Waring — Luther Seminary



**Saint Paul Area Synod Fund for Leaders (3H)**

Brittany Barkus — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Alison Bondy — Luther Seminary  
Kaitlyn Hendrikson — Luther Seminary  
Susan Modrow — Luther Seminary  
Jennifer Norberg — Luther Seminary  
Michael Poeschl — Luther Seminary  
Esther Sianipar — Luther Seminary

**South Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9C)**

Joel Antley — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Laura Henrickson — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

**South Dakota Synod Fund for Leaders (Anderson, Harrington, Ketterling, Wall) (3C)**

Hans Lundquist — Luther Seminary  
Tami Steffensen — Luther Seminary  
Sawyer Vanden Heuvel — Luther Seminary

**South Dakota Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (3C)**

Rhonda Hansen — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Fund for Leaders (5K)**

Nathan Houstin — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Kelsey Johnson — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Rachel Perkins — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
James Ranney — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Southeast Michigan Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (6A)**

Amy Cooley Higgs — Luther Seminary  
Charlie Martin — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

**Southeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5D)**

Jonathan Fry — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Elizabeth Kuster — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
LotegeLuaki Lengai — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Katie Linthicum — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
William Negron — Luther Seminary  
Stephen Nilsen — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Jamie Richards — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Dennis Rodenberg — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (3I)**

Martha Bec — Luther Seminary  
Krysta Flaharty — Luther Seminary  
Sarah Krolak — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
David Reedstrom — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Yang Tut — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Southeastern Synod Fund for Leaders (Gordy) (9D)**

Elizabeth Hawkins — United Lutheran Seminary  
Lax Vardhanapu — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

**Southeastern Synod Fund for Leaders (Skillrud) (9D)**

Ali Clark — United Lutheran Seminary  
Kevin Compton — United Lutheran Seminary  
Wilma Garing — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Colette Hammesfahr — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Lax Vardhanapu — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Adam Waddell — Luther Seminary

**Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (9D)**

Linda Barnes — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Wilma Garing — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (Green Lake) (3F)**

Tina Magner — Luther Seminary

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (Trinity, Marble) (3F)**

Myron Crawford — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Sara Jones — Luther Seminary

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Men in Mission Fund for Leaders (3F)**

Robert Ossefoort — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
James Rach — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Southwestern Texas Synod Fund for Leaders (4E)**

Johnene Cunningham — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Margaret Jackson — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Aquilino Perez III — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
Katie Rode Evans — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Rodolfo Salazar — Luther Seminary

**Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia/Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Fund for Leaders (7F)**

Ian Clements — United Lutheran Seminary  
Christian Hicks — United Lutheran Seminary

**Upstate New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7D)**

Chuck Copps — United Lutheran Seminary  
Diana Foote — United Lutheran Seminary  
Teresa O'Connor — United Lutheran Seminary  
Elisabeth Preisinger — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

**Upstate New York Synod Fund for Leaders-Schwartz (7D)**

Lisa Frauens — United Lutheran Seminary  
Meghan Garland James — Luther Seminary  
Gerry Zimmerman — United Lutheran Seminary

**Virginia Synod Fund for Leaders (9A)**

Chantal Branker — Luther Seminary  
Mycah McNett — United Lutheran Seminary  
Christopher Miller — Wartburg Theological Seminary  
Wes Way — United Lutheran Seminary

**Western North Dakota Synod Fund for Leaders (3A)**

Colin Neuharth — Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Additional synod funds:**

Grand Canyon Synod —Santa Cruz Sunrise Multi-Cultural Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund (2D)  
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia/Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7C)  
Minneapolis Area Synod Fund for Leaders (3G)  
West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Fund for Leaders (8H)  
Western Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5E)

## 2021-2022 Congregation Fund for Leaders Scholarship Recipients

For the 2021-2022 academic year, Fund for Leaders congregation endowment funds are supporting **eight scholarships totaling \$32,800.**

Bethlehem Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund — Joliet, Ill.

Jennifer Border — Wartburg Theological Seminary

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Menomonie, Wis.

Esther Sianipar — Luther Seminary

St. John's Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Knoxville, Tenn.

Issac Taylor — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Doylestown, Pa. — The Rev. Herbert and Lucy Piehler Seminary Scholarship Fund

Maeve Schurz — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

The Rev. Walter E. Wittman Seminary Scholarship Fund/Gloria Dei Lutheran Church — Downers Grove, Ill.

Erik Boss — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Sharei Green — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church: Forrest and Betty Reid Scholarship Fund — Moline, Ill.

Charbel Zgheib — Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Trinity Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund — Fort Collins, Colo.

Mercedes McCue — Luther Seminary

### Additional congregation funds

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Burke, Va.

Advent Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund — La Grange, Ga.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund — Chicago, Ill.

Desert Hills Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Green Valley, Ariz.

Edison Park Lutheran Church Nasby-Anderson Seminary Scholarship Fund — Chicago, Ill.

Epiphany Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Pleasantville, N.J.

First Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund — Colorado Springs, Colo.

Trinity Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Greenville, S.C.

The Rev. John Weber Seminary Scholarship Fund / Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church — Peachtree, Ga.

# Gratitude for and Acknowledgment of Donors and Partners

We wish to thank all the faithful people, congregations and synods who, from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, gave gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders endowment funds (general, Mission Developer, Federal Chaplaincy Ministry, synod and congregation) totaling over \$2.8 million. **Your commitment to raising up and supporting leaders makes the ministry of the ELCA Fund for Leaders possible.**

Each year the Fund for Leaders endowments are sustained by hundreds, sometimes thousands, of individual gifts. While we are exceedingly grateful for each and every gift, it is our practice to acknowledge here the individuals and groups who have established new named endowment funds within the previous year. Fund for Leaders named endowment funds can be established with a gift or multiyear commitment of \$25,000 or more. At the current standardized value of a full-tuition scholarship at \$19,000 per year, an endowment of \$475,000 sustains a full-tuition Fund for Leaders scholarship.

## **New endowment funds established July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021**

### **General**

Iveda C. and Christen H. Evanson Seminary Scholarship Fund  
Fund for Leaders Alum Scholarship Fund  
The Rev. Ronald T. and Sue Ann Glusenkamp Seminary Scholarship  
The Rev. Dr. Duane Larson and Dr. Joen Larson Seminary Scholarship  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund  
The Rev. Earlean Miller Seminary Scholarship Fund  
The Rev. Mark and Kari Olsen Seminary Scholarship Fund  
The Carol J. Reed Endowment Fund  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund  
The Swanson Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund  
The Rev. Dr. Frederick, Anna, & Kathleen Wedemeyer Seminary Scholarship

### **Synod**

The Marcille Jensen Memorial Endowment Fund (Southwestern Minnesota Synod)  
The Rev. Dr. Samuel R. and Linda L. Zeiser Seminary Scholarship (Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod)

## In Memoriam

With thanksgiving to God, we remember the faithful and generous supporters of the Fund for Leaders whose deaths we have learned of in the past year. The gifts they gave and/or named endowment funds they established provide a legacy that will make a difference in the lives of ELCA seminary students and the congregations and ministries they serve for years to come. Those whose names are known to us are listed below with thanks for their faithful witness to the gospel.

Rev. Delbert E. Anderson  
Rev. Marbury E. Anderson  
Nancy G. Appling  
Rev. Kenneth D. Baar  
David Bates  
Eleanor B. Baughan  
Margaret G. Benson  
Rev. Dwayne P. Daehler  
Martin J. Fahncke  
Rev. Arno L. Frerichs  
Bethine Garrison  
Roger C. Germundson  
Carol F. Gilbert  
Darlene Gustafson  
Anne Jordheim  
Marline S. Kelley

Rev. Roald A. Kindem  
Capt. Ralph H. Laedtke  
Rose A. Lof  
Pauline L. Lueders  
Marion I. Matson  
James (Jim) R. Nelson  
Marianne L. Nelson  
Rev. Sigurd J. Nelson  
Rev. Orville W. Nyblade  
Rev. Carol J. Reed  
Rev. Richard C. Schroeder  
Mary A. Schulz  
Ellyn M. Seifried  
Rev. Harold C. Skillrud  
Ardis E. Swanson  
Rev. Philip L. Wahlberg

## Numbers for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Fund for Leaders endowment (value as of December 31, 2020) \$75,817,906

FFL churchwide scholarships (new and continuing) 152

Full-tuition 134

Mission Developer 15

Federal Chaplaincy 3

Total amount to be distributed \$2,479,100

Synod and congregation partner scholarships 206

Total amount to be distributed \$792,120

Total number of scholarships awarded 358

Students supported in 2021-2022 317

Total amount to be awarded in 2021-2022 \$3,271,220

## **A Note From the Rev. Jennifer Michael, Fund for Leaders Leadership Table Member**

A warm hello to all my siblings in Christ,

Let me tell you a story. The entire trajectory of my life was changed by the ELCA Fund for Leaders, and you are part of my journey. A few years ago, after much discernment and prayer, I recognized a call to rostered leadership. But like many people in this position, I couldn't just say, "Sure, I'll go to seminary." There were many obstacles beyond discerning my call, redirecting my life and earning that M.Div. For me the biggest hurdle was how to pay for seminary. I remember my mother asking me how I might make this happen. I told her that I would pursue candidacy but go no further if I had no way to fund my education.

That's when something miraculous happened. That's when the Holy Spirit and people like you changed my life. I know this may be hard to believe, but the day I received my entrance decision from my candidacy committee was the same day I learned that I had received the Fund for Leaders Scholarship. Talk about a Holy Spirit moment! It literally changed my life!

I share all of this because I want you to know that each time you give to the ELCA Fund for Leaders, you are part of someone's call story. Your gifts are part of those affirming voices that say to a person in discernment, "Yes, you are called to rostered ministry, and I'm going to support you!"

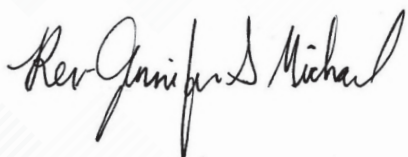
Each year since my graduation, I have given to the ELCA Fund for Leaders. This year I am happy to announce the establishment of the Fund for Leaders Alum Fund. Giving to this fund is my opportunity as an alum to make a visible statement to the whole church, to say thank you. Thank you for supporting me. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for the life-changing gift of ministry. My own giving is how I pass that same opportunity along to the next exceptional leader for our church.



Every year we continue to add scholarships, and every year stories just like mine are realized. Who else might be out there not knowing how to live out their call to ministry? Who else might fear taking those first steps in discernment because they don't know how later steps might be possible? As we move closer to realizing the initial goal of the ELCA Fund for Leaders to fund education for every person called to rostered ministry, we help more people say yes to that call.

I have said this many times and am constantly reminded of it as a pastor: I am me because of you. Without your faithful giving, without your affirmation of my gifts through the Fund for Leaders, I would not be able to serve God's kingdom to the fullest. I am me because of you. Thank you so much for this gift and for your continued witness of faith through the ELCA Fund for Leaders.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Jennifer S. Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael  
Fund for Leaders Class of 2013

# Thank you

Words of gratitude for supporters of the Fund for Leaders from 2020 scholarship recipients



*“Thank you for caring so much about the future of the church that you would support those who want to become pastors, like myself. Thank you for your generosity.” —Adam Waddell*

*“I have truly been blessed to be able to follow where my call is leading me without having to weigh my faith against my finances.” —Curtiss Peterson*



*“I’m beginning to learn more than ever the importance of financial responsibility, and your gift helps me on that journey and makes me a better steward.” —Alana Harms*

*“Your gift has allowed me to continue to grow into the person God is calling me to be in ministry, all while expanding my understanding of who God is and what God is up to in the world.” —Charlotte Trent*



*“I hope you know that by your generous gift you are giving me the ability to take the message of our Lord and Savior to hundreds of other people that I get to see and minister to on a daily basis.” —Kaitlin Leslie*



The ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program supports students of tremendous promise attending ELCA seminaries. By making seminary more affordable, the ELCA Fund for Leaders enables more future ministers to go to seminary and helps them graduate with less debt, empowering those whom God calls into rostered leadership to go and serve as the church needs and as the Holy Spirit leads.

We are a thriving church, and each of us has a unique role to play in forwarding the mission and ministry of this church. Your gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders not only support students now but represent an investment in our church's future.

To make a gift or to learn more about naming the ELCA Fund for Leaders as a charitable beneficiary in your estate plan, please contact us today.

**ELCA Fund for Leaders**  
Rev. Marissa Krey  
773-380-2731  
marissa.krey@elca.org  
ELCA.org/fundforleaders



**ELCA Fund for Leaders**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.