



ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS

for this church and for our future

2024-2025



ELCA
Fund for Leaders

ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS
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A NOTE FROM THE REV. MARISSA KREY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS

Dear friends,

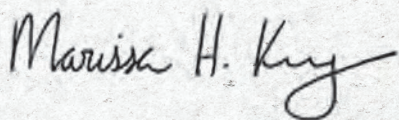
Once again I am honored and privileged to introduce you to the newest class of ELCA Fund for Leaders scholars. Every year I am amazed and grateful for the variety of gifted leaders the Spirit has called to rostered ministry in our church. Amid change, Christ is with us and the Spirit continues to move among us, joyfully calling people into ordained ministry as pastors and deacons.

These leaders can answer God's call only because of the extraordinary generosity of the Fund for Leaders community. For nearly three decades, synods, congregations and individuals have joined together to weave a network of support that reaches each of our future leaders. There is always room to grow, but we have come a long way. **This year we celebrate that, for the fourth year in a row, Fund for Leaders is distributing over \$3 million in scholarships.** Thanks be to God!

As theological education and the leadership needs of our church continue to change at a rapid pace, Fund for Leaders provides a firm foundation on which to build our future. In 2022 we were thrilled to expand our reach to include students studying through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program. Building upon that success, we continue to look for ways to grow our offerings and support students in ways that will strengthen their ministry for years to come.

This year's full-tuition scholars represent 23 different synods and attend five different seminaries. Twenty-two of them are studying to be pastors, and seven are studying to be deacons. Their journeys are different, but their purpose is the same: to share the love of Jesus Christ and invite more people to live into the freedom of the gospel message. They are able to live out this purpose because of your incredible generosity. Each of them is grateful — and so am I.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Marissa H. Krey
Program Director, ELCA Fund for Leaders

2024-2025 FUND FOR LEADERS FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We celebrate with this year's called and gifted group of future leaders. This year 29 new scholarships, totaling \$580,000, are supported by Fund for Leaders general and named endowment funds, valued at \$58,892,504 on June 30, 2024.

HAILEY BIANCO

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

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Mentors: Dr. Terence Gadsden, Campus Pastor, North Park University, Chicago, Ill.; the Rev. Christina Garrett Klein, Pastor, Edgebrook Lutheran Church, Chicago

A guiding Bible verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I'm most excited to be surrounded by a community of people who want to see me succeed but also challenge me to push beyond my comfort zone.*



COLE CHAMBERS

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

Synod: Rocky Mountain

Attending: Luther Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Valerie Carlson, Pastor, American Lutheran Church, Grand Junction, Colo.

A guiding Bible verse: Luke 6:36

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I eagerly anticipate delving deeper into the study of Lutheran theology, embracing the challenge of expanding my understanding of faith. I am excited to deepen my knowledge and explore ways to guide others toward a meaningful and enriching discipleship to Jesus.*



AARON COLWICK

Scholarship made possible by the Our Savior Vero Beach Seminary Scholarship Fund

Synod: Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Ernie Hinojosa, (former) Senior Pastor, Rejoice Lutheran Church, Coppell, Texas

A guiding Bible verse: Romans 12:1-3

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am eager to learn more about the passion I have had for Christ for my whole life, and to see how Christ is eager to use that passion for his ministry.*



KRISTEN COMBS

Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Franklin G. Senger III and Mr. Edward J. Wilhelm Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

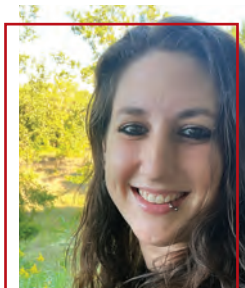
Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Mentor: The Rev. Heidi Torgerson, Senior Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, La Grange, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: Isaiah 41:10

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am looking forward to the formation, connection and growth that will come with being a full-time seminary student.*



KATIE DYER

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

Synod: Sierra Pacific

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Rob O'Berg, Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Fresno, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: Romans 12:1-13

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am so excited to start to tie my personal theological learning to my undergraduate, public university religious studies learning, and to deepen my connection to Jesus and to my neighbors.*



BILAL EL KAISSI

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

Synod: Southwest California

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: 1 John 4:16

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I'm looking forward to getting to know Jesus.*



CLAUDINE ELZUGHBI

Scholarship made possible by the Arthur and Vera Mabis Endowment Fund

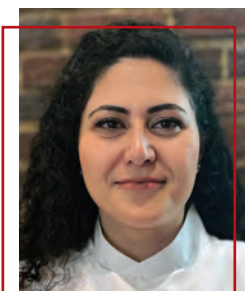
Synod: Upstate New York

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Jason R. Davis, Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Dubuque, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: Matthew 28:18-20

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am eager to study the word of God deeper in my life and reflect it in people's lives. I hope that studying in the seminary will help me practice Lutheran worship as a leader to a congregation in the future, and that I might learn how to be a role model for Palestinian Arab women in the Middle East.*



LEVI FAAS

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

Synod: Southeastern Iowa

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Russell L. Lackey, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Master, Corona Del Mar, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: Isaiah 43:1-2

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am most looking forward to growing in my knowledge of Scripture, and leaning into the rhythms of intentional and consistent Christian community. And I would like to try a large German beer at some point!*



CHRISTIANA GARCIA

Scholarship made possible by the Dr. Adelia E. Weis Memorial Ministerial Scholarship Fund

Synod: Sierra Pacific

Attending: Luther Seminary

Mentor: The late Rev. Karl H. Wyneken, Pastor and Veterans Affairs Chaplain, Fresno, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: John 11:17-44

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am thrilled to learn new pastoral care and preaching methods to convey the sheer grace and love of God through Christ today!*



MATTHEW GROBINSKI

Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Guy Edmiston Mission Endowment Fund

Synod: Lower Susquehanna

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: Charlie Roberts, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, Lower Susquehanna Synod

A guiding Bible verse: Luke 10:38-42

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am most looking forward to diving headfirst into the big questions presented by our faith, exploring the many ways we can engage with and share the good news with others.*



KELSEY GRULKE

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

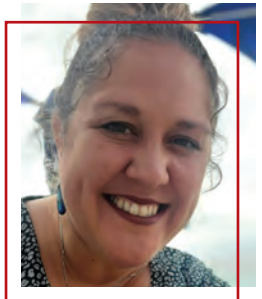
Synod: Southeastern Iowa

Attending: Luther Seminary

Mentor: Julie Van Hove, Mentor/Coach, Defined Ministries, Story City, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: Acts 2:11

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am most looking forward to growing new relationships with other people who are passionate about God's word and God's kingdom.*



KRISTIN JOHNSON

Scholarship made possible by the George A. and Dorothy L. Johnson Living Legacy Fund

Synod: Southwest California

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The late Rev. Zachary Johnson, who served as pastor of Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church, Pasadena, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: Colossians 3:12

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am most looking forward to growing in my understanding of biblical texts and interpretation as well as becoming more confident in leading, preaching, teaching and providing pastoral care.*



JULIANA JIMENEZ AREVALO

Scholarship made possible by the Merlin Flesner Memorial Endowment Fund

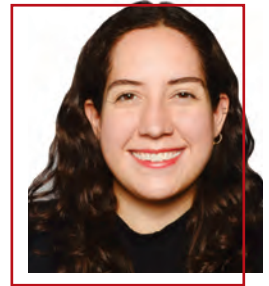
Synod: South Dakota

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Aimee Pakan, Associate Pastor, Brandon and Split Rock Lutheran churches, Brandon, S.D.

A guiding Bible verse: Psalm 121

What most excites you about starting seminary? *This year I fully commit to deepening my understanding and spiritual faith while connecting with and learning from influential leaders and guides in seminary and ministry. My goal is to build a stronger foundation for my comprehension of the Lutheran church in the U.S. and the teachings of God's words, Jesus' example and the Holy Spirit.*



KALI KADELBACH

Scholarship made possible by the Corrine Wehvilainen Memorial Endowment Fund

Synod: South Carolina

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Christina Kadelbach, Pastor, Faith United Lutheran Church, Iron Junction, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: Revelation 22:1-3

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I look forward to deepening my understanding and connection to my faith through theological studies and spiritual formation.*



DARRA KINGSLEY

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

Synod: Rocky Mountain

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. DanaLee Simon, Minister of Spiritual Direction, Rocky Mountain Synod, Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, Utah

A guiding Bible verse: Acts 11:15-17

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I look forward to meeting others on the journey to ministry and learning together how to walk God's path.*



ALLISON KLEIN

Scholarship made possible by the Frances and Donna Olson Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Synod: Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Brenda Peconge, Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio

A guiding Bible verse: Luke 10:38-42

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am looking forward to being in an intentional Christian community and growing alongside future leaders of the church.*



NATHANIEL KNUTSON

Scholarship made possible by the Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship, Independence, Mo.

Synod: Northern Illinois

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: Deacon Shari Simon, Diaconal Minister, Peace Lutheran Church, New Lenox, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: Matthew 13:52

What most excites you about starting seminary? *As I start seminary I am excited to be in a learning environment where everyone is passionate about theological study.*



MICHELLE LATA

Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Milton Gustafson Memorial Endowment Fund

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Luther Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Trudy Stoffel, Pastor, Geneva Lutheran Church, Geneva, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: 1 Corinthians 10:31

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am most looking forward to connecting and engaging with others in a mission-driven setting by sharing new ideas and insights on how we are called to do God's work in the world.*



MEGANNE MASKO

Scholarship made possible by the E. Marilyn Oberle Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

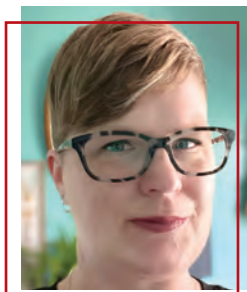
Synod: Indiana-Kentucky

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, Professor of Systematic Theology, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: Micah 6:8

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am looking forward to learning about different theologies and how they declare God's love to God's people.*



JULIA RANKIN

Scholarship made possible by the David D. and Barbara A. Swartling Seminary Scholarship Fund

Synod: Oregon

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentors: The Rev. Hallie Parkins, Pastor, Lutheran Campus Ministry-Luther House, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.; the Rev. Melissa O'Keefe Reed, Bishop's Associate for Vital Leadership and Sacramental Organizing, Oregon Synod

A guiding Bible verse: 2 Timothy 1:9

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am looking forward to learning more about how the Bible and Lutheranism are based on upending systems of oppression.*



KELBY REED

Scholarship made possible by the Gunther C. and Johanna W. Holpp Memorial Endowment Fund

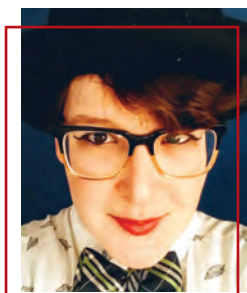
Synod: Southeastern Pennsylvania

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Meagan Esterby, Pastor, University Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Philadelphia, Pa.

A guiding Bible verse: 1 Kings 19:11-13

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I'm looking forward to adding to my spiritual toolkit and digging deeper into this mysterious experience we call faith.*



MARY RIEDL

Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Seminary Presidents Fund for Leaders

Synod: Northwest Intermountain

Attending: Luther Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Connie Winter-Eulberg, Pastor, King of Glory Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho

A guiding Bible verse: Phillipians 4:4-9

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am really excited to connect with a community of people who want to learn more about how to lead the church and help them grow into relationship with God and their communities while adapting to a rapidly changing world.*



LINDSAY SANNEMAN

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

Synod: New England

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Andrew Heisen, Lutheran Chaplain, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

A guiding Bible verse: Acts 17:22-28

What most excites you about starting seminary? *As I begin my seminary education, I am excited to continue to deepen my understanding of Scripture and the Lutheran tradition and to seek truth alongside a new community of fellow sinner-saints.*



STEPHEN SCHRADER

Scholarship made possible by the A. Craig Settlege Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

Synod: Southeastern

Attending: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Beverly Wallace, Director of Lifelong Learning, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C., and Women in Ministry Coordinator, Southeastern Synod

A guiding Bible verse: Romans 8:38-39

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am excited about investigating wider perspectives on theology and the interpretation of Scripture, and helping people know the God who wants to love each one of us; and I look forward to learning to care for God's people in a way that shows that love.*



KARIN SELLAND

Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Daniel W. and Karen Erlander Seminary Scholarship Fund

Synod: Western North Dakota

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Sharon Baker, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Rugby, N.D.

A guiding Bible verse: Romans 12:9-13

What most excites you about starting seminary? *As I look ahead toward seminary, I am most excited for the opportunity to be surrounded by other people of faith. I am excited for the chance to learn from excellent professors, delve into new texts and strengthen my relationship with God throughout it all.*



ELLIE TAYLOR

Scholarship made possible by the Jutta F. Anderson Seminary Scholarship Fund

Synod: Northeastern Iowa

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Joy Edeker, Pastor, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: Psalm 24:1-2

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to grow in knowledge of God and Scripture in order to care effectively and authentically for all creation: land, human and more than human.*



CYNTHIYA VARGHESE

Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Ronald T. and Sue Ann Glusenkamp Seminary Scholarship

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Mentor: The Rev. Nancy Goede, Pastor, Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park, Chicago, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: Psalm 27:4

What most excites you about starting seminary? *To serve God and the people of God faithfully with love and justice.*



TAMIKA WELLS

Scholarship made possible by the William D. Wubben Memorial Endowment Fund

Synod: North Carolina

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Emily Harkins, Pastor, The Dwelling, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Guiding Bible verses: Isaiah 41:10 and Psalm 100

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I most look forward to learning about God from God's heart, by the Holy Spirit, in the languages God chose to share God's mind with us, Greek and Hebrew. I look forward to community, joyful worship and ministry together with like-minded souls.*



CALISTA WOLF

Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Jeanette Bialas Strandjord Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Synod: Northwestern Minnesota

Attending: Luther Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Birgitte Simpson, Pastor, Aardahl Lutheran Church, and Mission Developer, Peoples Church, Bemidji, Minn.

A guiding Bible verse: Micah 6:8

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am looking forward to have the opportunity to explore where God is calling me!*



LEADERS GUIDING LEADERS



When Fund for Leaders (FFL) scholars Jeanette Perrault and Jill Disbro entered seminary, they were both certain of their calls to ministry, but they didn't know yet where the Holy Spirit would lead them.

At first Jeanette assumed that she would follow a traditional route through theological education and into congregational ministry. As she neared the end of her studies at Wartburg Theological Seminary, though, she started to feel that something was missing. She took a class called "Reading and Leading in Context," which included the topic of administration as ministry.

This persuaded her that she could use her planning and organizational skills in her call rather than set them aside along with her previous career. "I'd never been more seen in seminary," she says. Shortly after that, she learned that Wartburg was searching for a director of admissions. As she recalls, "It was like these blinders fell off of my eyes and I was opened to these new possibilities."

Jill enrolled in Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) after spending a year in Mexico through the Young Adults in Global Mission program. As

she went through seminary, she says, she remained “pretty open” to wherever the Holy Spirit might lead her after graduation. She saw different ways to lead within the church, and she liked knowing that she had options. She felt particularly drawn to working with people in discernment, which led her to apply for the director of admissions job at PLTS.

In their current roles Jeanette and Jill speak with other potential seminary students about the different ways they can lead. Jill says she has appreciated meeting different kinds of students. As access to seminary has expanded, she has seen people come in straight out of undergrad, others who have established careers and families, and still others who are retired and looking for a new way to serve the church they’ve been part of for their whole lives. She meets people who want to do advocacy, camp ministry, chaplaincy and more. “At PLTS one of the things that our leadership is focused on is how we can expand seminary education beyond just people who are going to become clergy.” They are looking for different ways to make people in congregations feel “empowered to serve where they weren’t always before.”

Jeanette’s and Jill’s work has also deepened their appreciation for ELCA Fund for Leaders — and for the generosity of donors. Jeanette remembers

her awe when she received her own scholarship and her great relief that her seminary education wouldn’t drive her into debt. Now she sees the impact FFL scholarships have on others across the ELCA. When the school year began, Wartburg hosted a gathering for the 13 students who had received FFL scholarships. “I just felt their excitement and how affirmed they were,” Jeanette says. “Even though they didn’t know what they were maybe getting themselves into completely, they knew they had the support of a group of people who said, ‘Yes, I want to invest in them,’ not only financially but as leaders in the church.”

Both Jeanette and Jill have gained a deeper understanding of how church leaders are formed, which they will carry with them on their own leadership journeys. They know that seminary education is only one part of the process. Jeanette’s message to people in churches and communities is: “You can see your people in a way that one person in a seminary can’t. If we are in need of more leaders in the church, it is all of our responsibilities to identify them and lift them up. We don’t do this work alone.”

“I just felt their excitement and how affirmed they were.”

—JEANETTE PERRAULT



2024-2025 FUND FOR LEADERS MISSION DEVELOPER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, six scholarships, totaling \$48,000, are being supported by Fund for Leaders Mission Developer named endowment funds, valued at \$3,617,187 on June 30, 2024.

JADHER ABAD

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

Synod: Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Gabriel Marcano, Spiritual and Pastoral Adviser, Iglesia San José Obrero ELCA, Houston, Texas

A guiding Bible verse: Jeremiah 1:5

What most excites you about seminary? *I look forward to continuing to develop my Lutheran theology to better serve and educate my community.*



CATHERINE ABIHUDI

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

Synod: Metropolitan Chicago

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Mentor: The Rev. Melanie Potuznik, Associate Pastor, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Elk Grove Village, Ill.

A guiding Bible verse: Colossians 4:17

What most excites you about seminary? *I am looking forward to learning more on how dynamic theology is relative to the communities I serve.*



JUAN CABRERA

Scholarship made possible by the MIF Mission Developers Seminary Scholarship Fund

Synod: South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke, Chaplain, University Health Services Clinic, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

A guiding Bible verse: Matthew 14:28-31

What most excites you about seminary? *What I'm most looking forward to is continuing to discover Jesus through every person that crosses my journey, and learning from their experiences as they learn from me, embracing my Latino heritage.*



ANDREA ELLIOTT

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

Synod: Sierra Pacific

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Katy Grindberg, Director of Contextual Education, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: Psalm 46:10

What most excites you about seminary? *I look forward to my pastoral formation being the embodiment of a pastor-organizer, like Jesus.*



ADAM GROENKE

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

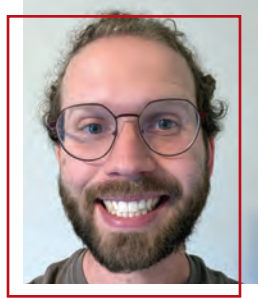
Synod: Southwestern Texas

Attending: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Mentor: The Rev. Matthew Groenke, Senior Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pflugerville, Texas

A guiding Bible verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13

What most excites you about seminary? *This coming year I am most looking forward to my study tour to Turkey and Greece, walking in the footsteps of the apostle Paul.*



APRIL MULVEY

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

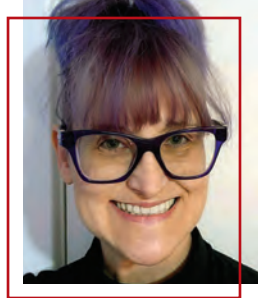
Synod: Northeastern Pennsylvania

Attending: United Lutheran Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Tom Scornavacchi, Pastor, Common Ground Recovery Community, Wyomissing, Pa.

A guiding Bible verse: Micah 6:8

What most excites you about seminary? *I dream big and serve an even bigger God; I am looking forward to what God has in store for me this year.*



2024-2025

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR EMERGING MINISTRIES FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

As part of our commitment to support a diverse group of students, Fund for Leaders is again allocating 10% of available (i.e. nonrestricted) funds to TEEM students. This year, the TEEM scholarship awards will be distributed in October 2024, and these students will be recognized in next year's annual report. **We celebrate with these called and gifted leaders, whom we estimate to be between 80 and 90 students.**

You may give a restricted gift to this scholarship online by visiting www.elca.org/GiveFFL or writing the TEEM giving code MCG0076 on the memo line of your check.

2024-2025 FUND FOR LEADERS

ELCA FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year four scholarships, totaling \$100,000, are being supported by Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministry named endowment funds, valued at \$1,749,380 on June 30, 2024.

ADRIANO AYRES

Scholarship made possible by the 1927 St. John West Milwaukee, WI Endowment Fund and the Chaplain Eric and Mrs. Paula Wester Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund

Synod: South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Brenda Crossfield, Senior Pastor, First English Lutheran Church, Platteville, Wis.

A guiding Bible verse: Joshua 24:15

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I want to learn as much as I can about how to serve in a military setting and small parish ministry.*



CHELSEY HINRICHSEN

Scholarship made possible by the Rev. Scottie & Karen Lloyd Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship and the Thomas J. Anders and Gerald E. Lloyd Memorial Chaplaincy Scholarship

Synod: Pacifica

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: Deacon Taflin Fisher, Minister for Life in Community, Christ Lutheran Church–Pacific Beach, San Diego, Calif.

A guiding Bible verse: Psalm 51:15-17

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am most looking forward to deepening and widening my understanding of the mystery that is God and all the ways that mystery presents itself in our daily lives so that I can help bring healing to the hurting.*



REBEKAH MILLER

Scholarship made possible by the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund and the Colonel Robert A. Williamson, M.D. Scholarship

Synod: Sierra Pacific

Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mentor: The Rev. Daniel Pell, Army Reserve Chaplain; Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lost Nation, Iowa

A guiding Bible verse: 1 Corinthians 4:1

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am most looking forward to the opportunity of building relationships with my cohort and experiencing seminary with all the gifts it can bring, and how I can best utilize my time at seminary.*



CHRISTOPHER SCHOMAKER

Scholarship made possible by the Reverend Ivan and Kathryn Ives Federal Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship and the Rev. Murray D. and Rhoda M. Finck Federal Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship Fund

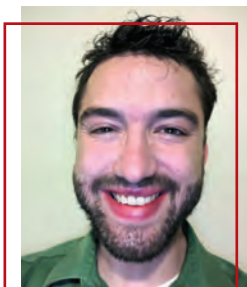
Synod: Northeastern Pennsylvania

Attending: United Lutheran Seminary

Mentor: Vicar Seth Noggle, Lead Minister, Trinity Lutheran Church, Kutztown, Pa.

A guiding Bible verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What most excites you about starting seminary? *I am so blessed with the opportunity to be in an environment teeming with other disciples of Christ as I pursue my dream of becoming a chaplain in the U.S. military.*



2023-2024 SYNOD FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year 209 scholarships, totaling \$655,591, are being supported by the Fund for Leaders synod endowment funds, valued on June 30, 2024, at \$18,555,321.

REGION 1

Northwest Washington Synod Fund for Leaders (1B)

Luther Seminary

Katrina Bentsen Arlene Smith
Angela Czarnik-Neimeyer

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Natalia Pierson

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Salvador Cossio

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Heidi Francis

Northwest Intermountain Synod Fund for Leaders (1D)

Luther Seminary

Lori Tharp Brendan Wiechert

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Jairo Rincon

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

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Elizabeth Hofrichter Jasmine Sprague

Montana Synod Fund for Leaders (1F)

Luther Seminary

Carlos Ramalho

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Shawn Juers Jacqueline VanDenburg

REGION 2

Pacifica Synod Fund for Leaders (2C)

Luther Seminary

Nicholas Orth

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Perla Flores Ruiz Amanda Pulos
Grace Lee Josefina Villalpando Paredes
Brenda Lussier Wen-Tzao Yang
Jenifer Overy-Brown

Grand Canyon Synod Fund for Leaders (2D)

Luther Seminary

Yvonne Roesel

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Carly Chamberlain

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Kevin Anderson

United Lutheran Seminary

Allison Overly-Stokes

The Santa Cruz Sunrise Multi-Cultural Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund (2D)

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Kylee Bestenlehner

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Wanda Frenchman Jarrod Iversen

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Zachary Smirris

REGION 3

Western North Dakota Synod Fund for Leaders (3A)

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Adam Barden Samuel Trottier

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

Luther Seminary

Tyler Egge Hannah Reeves Fleming

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Jeremy Haugen

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

Luther Seminary

Hannah Fleming

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Wanda Biel

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (3D)

Luther Seminary

Samuel Maier Jessica Paulsen
Elizabeth Monke Brent Seewald-Marquardt

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Kyle Conant Rodney Thompson
Ian Heseltine Christopher Friese
Katelyn Ohren

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

Luther Seminary

Thomas Bonnema

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

Luther Seminary

Rory Rohloff Kari Shumaker

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Angela DeSmith

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

Luther Seminary

Thomas Bonnema Doran Schoeppach

Minneapolis Area Synod Fund for Leaders (3G)

Luther Seminary

Shawna Berg Erik Nelson
Mwamini Bundi Sophie Warnberg
James Currens Rachel Wyffels

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Yesenia Morales Bahena Kayla Zopfi

Saint Paul Area Synod Fund for Leaders (3H)

Luther Seminary

Nathan Adu-Gyamfi Karla Leitzman
Alison Bondy Jennifer Schneider

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Matt Ryan

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (3I)

Luther Seminary

Tina Goeman Katie Weiland
Christy Hall-Holt

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Ashley Kuhlman

REGION 4

Nebraska Synod Fund for Leaders (4A)

Luther Seminary

Dereck Tveitbakk

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Barnaba Dyedi Keith Powell
Elizabeth Florian Abigail Vetick
James Holzer

Ascension Lutheran Church/NT-NL Synod Seminary Scholarship (4D)

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Concepcion Ortega

United Lutheran Seminary

Jessica Nipp

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

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Olivia Riddle

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Brady Fox

Southwestern Texas Synod Fund for Leaders (4E)

Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico

Maribel Gonzalez

Luther Seminary

Megan Getman Joel Timmons

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Taline Manassian

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Brittany Eggleston

REGION 5

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Fund for Leaders (5A)

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Catherine Abihudi Lyndsay Monsen
Shemiah Curry Philip Wallace
Robert Lewis

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Marit Johnson

Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders (5B)

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Leslie Aska David Luecht
Nathaniel Knutson

Southeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5D)

Luther Seminary

Julie Faas Anna SmolikHagen
Kelsey Grulke Jessy Vera

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Avery Johnson

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Madison Carroll Daniel Luepke
Levi Faas Amanda Stevenson-Cosgrove
Hannah Griggs Kristi Swanson
Bryce Hewlett

Western Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5E)

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Cecilia Mickells

Northeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5F)

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Christopher Anderson Craig Moss
Noah Dodd Amy Olson
Elizabeth Hurt ChyAnne Slick
Laurie Iudin-Nelson Ellie Taylor

Northern Great Lakes Synod Fund for Leaders (5G)

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Lance Crevier Daniel Moschea
Wade Crevier Elaine Robbins
Robert Lake

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Fund for Leaders (5H)

Luther Seminary

John Addison Donald Rosenberry
Dana Paulsen Natalie Wussler
Catherine Reuter

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Jessica Dragseth

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

Luther Seminary

Elise Iverson Uphoff

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Ashley Bowman

La Crosse Area Synod Fund for Leaders (5L)

Luther Seminary

Kristen Arends

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Kjell Bakken

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Ronald Amundson Jason Knipe
Jeff Hoch

REGION 6

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

Luther Seminary

Alysa G. Offman

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Natalie Downs

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Fund for Leaders (6C)

Luther Seminary

Lucas Blackwood

Northwestern Ohio Synod Fund for Leaders (6D)

Luther Seminary

Paula Cleaver David O'Brien

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Alan Fuhrhop Mary Miller
Jacinda Jones Frank Weaver

REGION 7

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

United Lutheran Seminary

Jaymie Kosa Philip Scherzer
Daniel Marrone Mark Singleton
Vincent Piekarski Kim Syvertsen

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Jason Reed

New England Synod Fund for Leaders (7B)

Luther Seminary

Amy Duncckelmann Jacey Glass

United Lutheran Seminary

Jenifer Beaudean-White Campfield Heinrich

Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7C)

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Megan MacIver

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Lindsay Fertig-Johnson

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia/ Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7C)

United Lutheran Seminary

Raquel Busa June Daniel-Bradshaw

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

United Lutheran Seminary

Raquel Busa John Evans
June Daniel-Bradshaw Deivis Ventura
Marilyn Dolloway

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

United Lutheran Seminary

Rachel Sosebee

Upstate New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7D)

United Lutheran Seminary

Diana Foote

Teresa O'Connor

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Claudine Elzughbi

Jamil Zoughbi

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

Luther Seminary

Ben Mroz III

Ashley Teter

United Lutheran Seminary

Brynn Anderson

Tyler Rankin

Quentin Bernhard

**Rev. Dr. Samuel R. and Linda L. Zeiser Seminary
Scholarship (7E)**

United Lutheran Seminary

Joshua Labadie-Gulotta

Heidi Shilanskas

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

United Lutheran Seminary

Connor Watson

REGION 9

Virginia Synod Fund for Leaders (9A)

Luther Seminary

Chantal Branker

Chad Crowley

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Caroline Wilson

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Andrew Thomas

North Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9B)

Luther Seminary

Jessie Hodgson

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Brittany Mailleue

Brooke Watson-Summerour

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Alan Gates

Camber Herrig

Rachel Geddes

Tamika Wells

South Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9C)

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Benjamin Bernstein

Paula Perry

Zachary Lindler

Mary Margaret “Pegi” Roberts

Jace Martinez

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Kali Kadelbach

Patrick Preacher

**Rev. H. Julian Gordy Bishop Emeritus, Seminary
Scholarship for Advocacy (9D)**

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Bryce Yamin

United Lutheran Seminary

Ali Clark

Joe Ley

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

Luther Seminary

Kristen Curtis

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Candice Clark

Bryce Yamin

Ethan Miller

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Audra Gehler

Sue Tyler

Sonya Solomon

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

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Candice Clark

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Sue Tyler

Florida-Bahamas Synod Fund for Leaders (9E)

United Lutheran Seminary

Heather Hedman DeVaughn

Wartburg Theological Seminary

Abigale Knappman

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

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Beatrice D'Angelo

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Boris Camille

United Lutheran Seminary

Heather Hedman DeVaughn

ADDITIONAL SYNOD SCHOLARSHIPS

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

**West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Fund for
Leaders (8H)**

2024-2025 CONGREGATION FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year 14 scholarships, totaling \$44,900, are being supported by Fund for Leaders congregational endowment funds, valued at \$1,734,302 on June 30, 2024.

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

David Lewis — United Lutheran Seminary

Bethlehem Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund — Joliet, Ill.

Matthew Longfellow — Trinity Lutheran Seminary

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

Tatianna Heinreich — Luther Seminary
Ann Emilie Tjorhorn — Luther Seminary

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

Jason Harbeck — Wartburg Theological Seminary

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

Colton Laptad — Luther Seminary

Reformation Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund, Absecon, N.J. (formerly Epiphany Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund, Pleasantville, N.J.)

Vincent Piekarski — United Lutheran Seminary
Jason Reed — Wartburg Theological Seminary

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

Caitlynn Fox — United Lutheran Seminary

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

Ethan Miller — Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

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

Sharei Green — Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

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

Gilma Aguirre — Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico

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

Trey Graff — Wartburg Theological Seminary

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

Patrick Preacher — Wartburg Theological Seminary

ADDITIONAL CONGREGATION FUNDS

This year, scholarship dollars from these funds, totaling \$9,440, are supporting the TEEM Scholarship.

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Endowment Fund — Chicago, Ill.

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

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

OTHER CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS

Fiesta Conference Seminary Scholarship Fund

GRATITUDE FOR AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NEW DONORS AND PARTNERS

We wish to thank all the faithful people, congregations and synods that, from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, gave gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders endowment funds (general, Mission Developer, Federal Chaplaincy Ministry, synod, and congregational funds), totaling nearly \$2 million. Your commitment to raising up and supporting leaders is what makes the ELCA Fund for Leaders possible.

ELCA Fund for Leaders Endowment Funds in Perspective

Fund for Leaders named endowment funds can be established with a gift of \$25,000 or more. At the current standardized value of a full-tuition scholarship — \$20,000 per year — a full-tuition Fund for Leaders scholarship can be sustained with an endowment of \$500,000.

NEW ENDOWMENT FUNDS ESTABLISHED

JULY 1, 2023–JUNE 30, 2024

GENERAL

- The Charles and Georgia Knobler Seminary Scholarship Fund
- Rev. Daniel W. and Karen Erlander Seminary Scholarship Fund
- St. Jacob Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund

MISSION DEVELOPER

- Rev. David and Sally Sloop Mission Developer Scholarship Fund

SYNOD

- First Lutheran, Portsmouth, VA Seminary Scholarship Fund

Endowment fund valuations calculated as of June 30, 2024.

- *Endowment funds that contribute to a variety of ELCA churchwide ministries, including Fund for Leaders;
- [MD] Endowment funds that support Mission Developer scholarships, which provide \$8,000 per year for up to two years
- [FCM] Endowment funds that support Federal Chaplaincy Ministry scholarships, which will provide \$25,000 this year.

ENDOWMENT VALUED | \$2M+

- John E. and Marcia F. Grove Memorial Scholarship Fund
- MIF Mission Developers Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]
- Omer G. and Annabelle K. Voss Family Donor Advised Fund

ENDOWMENT VALUED | \$1-2M

Orville R. Klopff Memorial Endowment Fund*
Paul M. Dauten Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Peter, William and Esther Herlein Fund*

ENDOWMENT VALUED \$400,000-\$999,999

Rev. Dr. E. Earl Anderson Seminary Scholarship Fund
 Rev. Olaf A. Berge Memorial Fund
 Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Chicago, Ill.*
 ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund [FCM]
 Kenneth and Sandra Falkinham Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
 Rev. Milton Gustafson Memorial Endowment Fund
 Alice D. Hillstrom Legacy Endowment Fund*
 Ruth Walker Holliday Memorial Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
 Gunther C. and Johanna W. Holpp Memorial Endowment Fund*
 E. Marilyn Oberle Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
 Marius and Cora Newell Titterud Memorial Endowment Fund
 Dr. Adelia E. Weis Memorial Ministerial Scholarship Fund*
 Astrid V. Wilson Memorial Endowment Fund
 William D. Wubben Memorial Endowment Fund*

ENDOWMENT VALUED \$200,000-\$399,999

Rick and Kathy Ambrose Scholarship Endowment Fund
 Albert G. and Svea H. Anderson Memorial Fund
 Marvin D. Anderson Tuition Legacy Fund
 Ascension Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund, Garland, Texas
 Doris M. Bagley Fund for Leaders Memorial Endowment Fund
 L. Travis and Jean M. Brannon Endowment Fund
 Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Chicago, Ill.*
 George and Frances Cornell Family Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]
 Erckmann-Miller Seminary Scholarship Fund
 Rev. Harold and Rachel Goers Seminary Scholarship Fund
 Lester Eugene Gyllstrom II Seminary Scholarship Fund
 Max W. and Phyllis Krell Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
 Lahm Family Seminary Scholarship Fund
 Irma K. Lauffer 1999 Memorial
 Imogene Lewin Seminary Scholarship Fund
 Dr. Oliver A. Muhonen Memorial Endowment Fund*
 Portico Benefit Services Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
 Carol J. Reed Endowment Fund
 Reformation Legacy Seminary Scholarship Fund, Rochester, N.Y.
 Rev. Dr. Richard D. and Melba N. Reichard Seminary Scholarship Fund
 Delilah E. Ross Memorial Endowment Fund [MD]
 Carl E. and Alice E. Schaedel Memorial Endowment Fund
 Rev. Donald P. Schneider Seminary Scholarship Fund
 The 1927 St. John West Milwaukee, WI Endowment Fund* [FCM]
 Rev. Dr. Lauritz and Mrs. Margaret Vigness Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]
 Colonel Robert A. Williamson, M.D. Scholarship [FCM]
 Sara E. and John R. Wise Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]
 Rev. Eric Wogen Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
 J. Binnie Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Sara Kramer Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Fund

ENDOWMENT VALUED \$100,000-\$199,999

Rev. Kenneth R. Ahlstrand Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Bishop H. George and Jutta F. Anderson Endowment Fund

Carrie J. Brown Memorial Endowment Fund

Dr. Carol Craig Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Guy Edmiston Mission Endowment Fund

First Lutheran Church and Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship, Omaha, Neb.

Rev. P. Richard and Nancy L. Grove Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]

George A. and Dorothy L. Johnson Living Legacy Fund*

Charles, Joe Anne, Nan and Al Lintz Scholarship Fund

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund, Glenn Heights, Texas

Paul L. and Valerie C. Miller Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Margarete Ursula Nitschke Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Frances and Donna Olson Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Raymond and Ruth Schultz Christian Education Fund*

Erik and Barbara Stone Seminary Endowment Fund

Florence E. Von Behren Memorial Endowment Fund*

ENDOWMENT VALUED \$50,000-\$99,999

Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Victor L. Brandt Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Paul Cobb Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Cox Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

Bjorg Davidson Johannesson Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]

Iveda C. and Christen H. Evanson Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Murray D. and Rhoda M. Finck Federal Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship Fund [FCM]

Merlin Flesner Memorial Endowment Fund*

Mildred A. Plotow Memorial Endowment Fund*

Van and Linnea Grosse Seminary Scholarship Fund

Earl L. Mummert Memorial Endowment Fund

Lois and Gerald Olsen Mission Developer/Redeveloper Scholarship Fund [MD]

Eddie H. Olson and Donald L. Olson Memorial Endowment Fund*

Rev. Elizabeth A. Platz Seminary Scholarship Fund

A. Craig Settlage Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Tom and Sherry Slater Seminary Scholarship Fund

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund

Swanson Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

David D. and Barbara A. Swartling Seminary Scholarship Fund

Gerald and Marihope Troutman Scholarship Fund

Corrine Wehvilainen Memorial Endowment Fund*

Elizabeth K. Weisburger Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]

Bryn, Nicholas, and Betty Jane Ziemendorf Seminary Scholarship Fund

ENDOWMENT VALUED

**\$25,000-
\$49,999**

Abiding Savior Lutheran
Church Seminary
Scholarship, Independence,
Mo.

Jutta F. Anderson Seminary
Scholarship Fund

Thomas J. Anders and
Gerald E. Lloyd Memorial
Chaplaincy Scholarship
[FCM]

George and Martha Benson
Memorial Endowment Fund

Howard and Marie Cleer
Seminary Scholarship
Endowment Fund

ELCA Seminary Presidents
Fund for Leaders

Rev. Daniel W. and Karen
Erlander Seminary
Scholarship Fund

Rev. Ronald T. and Sue Ann
Glusenkamp Seminary
Scholarship

Bishop Mark S. Hanson
Fund for Leaders
Scholarship Fund

Helen S. and Earl Randolph
Hessler Jr. Family Mission
Developer Scholarship
Fund [MD]

Inspire Faith Seminary
Scholarship Fund

Reverend Ivan and Kathryn
Ives Federal Chaplaincy
Seminary Scholarship [FCM]

Ben Splichal Larson
Memorial Seminary
Scholarship Endowment
Fund

Rev. Dr. Duane Larson and
Dr. Joen Larson Seminary
Scholarship

Rev. Scottie & Karen Lloyd
Chaplaincy Seminary
Scholarship [FCM]

Arthur and Vera Mabis
Endowment Fund*

Rev. Earlean Miller
Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Stanley E. Olson
Mission Developer Seminary
Scholarship Fund [MD]

Our Savior Vero Beach
Seminary Scholarship Fund

Our Saviours Lutheran
Church Mission Developer
Scholarship Fund, Lake
Oswego, Ore. [MD]

Padley Family Seminary
Scholarship Fund

Elsa Schulz Pierce
Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Franklin G. Senger III
and Mr. Edward J. Wilhelm
Seminary Scholarship
Endowment Fund

Earl Melvin Sletten Fund
for Leaders Scholarship
Endowment

Rev. David and Sally
Sloop Mission Developer
Scholarship Fund [MD]

St. Jacob Lutheran
Seminary Scholarship
Fund, Anna, Ohio

Rev. Arne Strandjord
Memorial Endowment Fund

Rev. Jeanette Bialas
Strandjord Seminary
Scholarship Endowment
Fund

Elaine P. Tucker Seminary
Scholarship Fund

Rev. Joseph and Claudia
Wagner Seminary
Scholarship Fund

Rev. Dr. Frederick, Anna,
and Kathleen Wedemeyer
Seminary Scholarship

Chaplain Eric and Mrs.
Paula Wester Chaplaincy
Scholarship Fund [FCM]

OTHER ENDOWMENTS

SUPPORTING FUND FOR LEADERS

The Armia Family Scholarship Endowment Fund

Calvary Lutheran Church Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund

Carmen Chavez Memorial Endowment Fund

Ottilya Elliott Memorial Endowment Fund*

Elmstrom Family Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund
[FCM]

Fund for Leaders Alumni Scholarship Fund

Leroy R. Keranen Endowment Fund*

The Charles and Georgia Knobler Seminary Scholarship Fund

William Larsen Memorial Scholarship Endowment

Peter & Mildred Nodyne Memorial Fund

Rev. Mark and Kari Olsen Seminary Scholarship Fund

St. Michael Lutheran Church Virginia Beach Chaplaincy
Scholarship Fund [FCM]

Louise Stroud Sullivan Federal Chaplaincy Seminary
Scholarship [FCM]

Rev. Dr. Gerald S. Troutman Seminary Scholarship
Endowment Fund

Zoar Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund

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.

The Rev. J. Roger Anderson

Ms. Esther S. Arne

The Rev. James “Jim” L. Bailey

Ms. Cora B. Barr

The Rev. Myrin D. Bentz

Mrs. Helen Berntson

Dr. Dorothy “Dottie” P. Brandt

Mrs. Bernice E. Campbell

Mrs. Eleanor M. Cunningham

Mr. James H. Geist

Mr. James A. Grimm

Mr. Donald L. Gronewold

Mrs. Irma E. Gross

The Rev. Melvin J. Hammer

The Rev. Daryl M. Hanson

Mrs. Ione A. Hanson

The Rev. Bonnie L. Jensen

Ms. Esther M. Johnson

Ms. Anne Jones

Ms. Janet R. Keller

Ms. Melba Larson

The Rev. Phillip G. Leaf

Mr. Kenneth J. Marsh

The Rev. Harold R. McMillin Jr.

Mrs. Sonja E. Miller

The Rev. Ronald F. Moen

The Rev. Charles R. Moline

The Rev. Peter W. F. Nodyne

The Rev. Paul D. Opsahl

Mr. Myron “Mike” Parr

The Rev. Charles T. Paulson Jr.

Ms. Elizabeth A. Philippi

The Rev. John E. Quam

Mrs. Lorayne A. Radde

Mr. Harold “Hal” M. Rolfson

The Rev. James A. Scherer

The Rev. Allan J. Stoa

The Rev. Dean E. Sudman

Mr. Marvin Titterud

Mrs. Rachel M. Wahlberg

The Rev. Edgar A. Zelle

NUMBERS FOR THE
2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR*

FFL Churchwide Scholarships	113
Full-tuition	92
Mission Developer	17
Federal Chaplaincy	4
Total amount to be distributed:	\$1,915,186
Synod and Congregational Partner Scholarships	223
Total amount to be distributed:	\$862,168
TEEM Scholarships	80 (estimated)
Total amount to be distributed:	\$300,000
Total number of scholarships awarded	416
Students supported in 2024-2025	350
Total amount to be awarded in 2024-2025:	\$3,077,354

**As of Aug. 13, 2024, and pending final verification from the seven ELCA seminaries.*

THANK YOU

2024 FFL GRADUATES OFFER WORDS OF GRATITUDE



“What an impact Fund for Leaders has made, enabling and empowering those whom God calls to serve. I am forever grateful for the gift received during my seminary studies. May Fund for Leaders continue its service to the church, lifting up and supporting those whom God calls to serve.”

—Spence Robertson

“There’s no way my seminary journey would have been possible without the Fund for Leaders scholarships. I’m very grateful to the donors who have made this possible for me and for so many others.”

—Laura Frost



“I am so grateful for all that Fund for Leaders has done for me. I have connected with a great group of like-minded peers who care about the gospel and serving the church. The team has been so incredibly supportive and has helped me develop an even greater passion for mission development. FFL is truly a blessing that keeps on giving.”

—Jaren Summers



“Fund for Leaders has enabled me to be open to following God’s call for my ministry without the burden of additional educational debt. I’m grateful for all who support FFL and for the staff that steward this program. I look forward to seeing how these gifts will multiply in and through God’s ministry in me.”

—Kathryn Thompson

“The Fund for Leaders scholarship has been such a blessing during my seminary journey. I am incredibly grateful for all the support I have received from the whole church as I pursue my call to Word and Sacrament ministry. Thank you!”

—Katie Linthicum



“Fund for Leaders is transforming the landscape of ministry. Both my own sense of vocation and my ministerial experiences have been directly impacted by the generosity of FFL. It is all coming very full circle as I begin the first call process.”

—Bryce Bommersbach



RIISING TO FUTURE CHALLENGES

We've come a long way since the ELCA Fund for Leaders was established over 25 years ago, but we still have a way to go.

Reaching \$100 million in endowment funds would permit us to award \$4 million in scholarships every year, supporting nearly 50 new students!

In just the last five years our distribution of funds has grown from \$2 million to \$3 million. With your help we can grow that figure by another million dollars. To fully realize this vision of the Fund for Leaders, we need you! Your investment will ensure that the gospel will be faithfully preached for generations to come.

Together we can support all those God is calling to lead our church into the future.

GREAT GIFTS

Say "yes" to the future leaders of this church by making a gift and/or multiyear commitment today. Your gifts fund an endowment to provide annual tuition assistance into perpetuity.



\$500,000

Endow a full-tuition scholarship, allowing distribution of \$20,000 to one student per academic year.



\$250,000

Contribute half of a full-tuition scholarship, allowing distribution of \$10,000 to one student per academic year.



\$25,000

Establish a named endowment within the ELCA Fund for Leaders.

MINISTRY JOURNEYS

Fund for Leaders scholarship recipients are already at work in ministries across the ELCA. They serve as worship leaders, youth ministers, food pantry volunteers, policy advocates and more.





Artwork: Mary Button

Celebrating Fund for Leaders

This artwork is inspired by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the lives and diverse calls of the Fund for Leaders community.

The ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program supports students of tremendous promise who attend ELCA seminaries. By making seminary more affordable, 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 serve the church wherever they are needed most.

We are a thriving church, and each of us has a unique role to play in helping the mission and ministry of the church. Your gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders not only support students now but also invest 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
ELCA.org/fundforleaders

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