



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS

1997 **25th** 2022
Anniversary

FUND FOR LEADERS

Equipping the next generation of leaders

For over two decades, the ELCA Fund for Leaders has supported students of tremendous promise attending ELCA seminaries as they prepare to become pastors and deacons in our church. By making seminary more affordable, the ELCA Fund for Leaders enables more future ministers to attend. Graduating with less debt empowers students to serve the church wherever God calls them.

Over 1,100 past scholarship recipients are now serving congregations and organizations across the ELCA and around the world. These pastors and deacons were able to accept calls where they were needed most, free from the concern of paying burdensome student loans.

Excellent leaders positively impact the whole church. Supporting seminary students not only has an impact on those who receive scholarships but also lifts up those they go on to serve.

The ELCA Fund for Leaders is our church's collective commitment to support these leaders in their decision to follow a vocation of service to the church and the world.

Like any successful organization, the church needs the very best leaders to take it into the future, and the ELCA Fund for Leaders helps these outstanding leaders answer that call.

“Thanks to the generosity of so many,

Fund for Leaders scholars are making a difference all across our church. We have momentum, but the finish line is still before us.”

—The Rev. Rick Foss, FFL Leadership Table member



The very first class of ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship recipients in 2000.

CELEBRATING PAST SUCCESSES

Twenty-five years ago, leaders of our church made the case for establishing what we now know as the ELCA Fund for Leaders. The church made a robust commitment to theological education, and what we have achieved together in the 25 years since is truly miraculous.

While the goal of fully supporting every candidate studying at an ELCA seminary continues to challenge us, the impact of the Fund for Leaders cannot be overstated. In the year 2000, we awarded our first scholarships to just eight students. Today, the ELCA Fund for Leaders touches the lives of over 300 students a year, with annual support of more than \$3 million and endowment funds totaling \$84 million.

In total, since the beginning of the program 25 years ago, the ELCA Fund for Leaders has supported over 1,100 qualified candidates with more than \$28 million in scholarship funds.

RISING TO FUTURE CHALLENGES

This anniversary year we have the opportunity to guarantee that ELCA Fund for Leaders can continue to support more students each year. We've come a long way since the ELCA Fund for Leaders was established, 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 and support nearly 50 new students each year!

In just the last five years, our annual 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 ELCA 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.



\$475,000

Endow a full-tuition scholarship, allowing distribution of \$19,000 to one student per academic year.




\$237,500

Contribute half of a full-tuition scholarship, allowing distribution of \$9,500 to one student per academic year.



\$25,000

Establish a named endowment within the ELCA Fund for Leaders.



“When I served as [a seminary leader], one of our most significant partners in growing enrollment and reducing seminary debt became the Fund for Leaders. Growing deeply faithful, high-capacity seminary students means that churches will have leaders and

**the gospel will have
proclaimers for
decades to come.”**

—**The Rev. Louise N. Johnson,**
ELCA executive for administration
and former president of Wartburg
Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

GET INVOLVED

Your mission funding director can assist you in finding the giving method that best fits your wishes and financial planning needs, and can connect you with a gift planner should you wish to explore planned gift options. Get in touch with us at 773-380-2700 or, toll-free, at 800-638-3522.

[ELCA.org/FundforLeaders25](https://elca.org/FundforLeaders25)

The Rev. Marissa Krey
Director, ELCA Fund for Leaders
Marissa.Krey@elca.org