

ELCA Fund for Leaders



Krystle Moraska

2019-2020 Class of Scholars

As a third-year seminary student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Krystle Moraska has been looking back over her time in seminary. “It’s been a very rich experience so far,” she says. “Looking back, it’s been a very intense and turbulent time of life in general. But my studies have been so interesting and transformative.”

Having spent eight years working in Argentina with both the ELCA and church bodies based there, Krystle moved back to the U.S. to begin seminary. However, her husband wasn’t able to come at the same time due to issues with immigration paperwork. It was just her and her two young children, so she was temporarily a single parent while moving to a new country and starting school. “[Without the ELCA Fund for Leaders,] it would not have been possible for me to also have money to pay for my studies.”

The scholarship Krystle received hasn’t just given her financial security, it also shows that the church believes in her. “To have this financial support just felt different in that someone is investing in my future – someone is believing in me and investing in the future of the church and my leadership,” Krystle says.

After living abroad, Krystle says this investment has helped her feel reconnected to the ELCA as her home denomination. “It’s not just me going through this experience by myself, but it’s sort of like the community rallying behind me ... as I go through this process of formation.”

Now, as Krystle finishes up her final classes of seminary, she is looking forward to her internship next year. She will most likely be in the Chicagoland area and is currently interviewing with congregations, including Spanish-English bilingual congregations, where she could use her Spanish language to connect with local faith communities and put her theology into practice. And, looking to the future after seminary, Krystle is hoping to follow a call that taps into her passions.

“I would love to be a part of a community with a house of worship that was really invested in simultaneous earth care and justice work in the community,” she says, “to really care for the earth in a way that was completely entwined and wrapped up together with human justice work.”

And, no matter what happens in the future, she knows the ELCA Fund for Leaders community is there to support her.

“To have that kind of network of people to go on the seminary journey with is really important for me,” she says. “It’s been humbling to think that I would not be able to follow this call if there were not financial support for these studies ... which is just such a gift, and so I’m very grateful for that.”



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