

Dear Student Care Fund donors,

Greetings in the name of Jesus from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne!

My name is Ray Hulett, and I will be starting my second year of the Master of Divinity program this fall and eagerly look forward to April when I will receive my vicarage assignment. I came to the seminary from Irvine, CA after working for over a decade with schools, libraries, and non-profits as an employee of a telecommunications service provider. With me are my wife, Aubrey, who is a homemaker and takes care of our very rambunctious almost-two-year-old son, Arthur, (and is now also growing his little sister), and our Pekingese, Mushu. We have really enjoyed our transition from the dense urban sprawl of Los Angeles and Orange counties in Southern California to the much more laid back and spread out lifestyle of Fort Wayne. We even got to experience living in an actual winter season!

Both Aubrey and I are adult converts to Lutheranism, drawn by the irresistibility of that chief article of faith that we confess: That for the sake of Christ alone we are truly forgiven of all our sins through faith alone by the grace of God alone. There is no greater medicine to ease our troubled consciences and to give us certainty that even in the face of death we can trust the Lord to keep His promise to resurrect us to eternal life on the last day. It is this certainty that brought us peace as we have experienced hardship in our lives, and especially when we were by my brother's side in 2015 proclaiming this hope to him as his battle with leukemia came to sorrowful end for us but a glorious end for him in Christ.

In fact, it was that experience with my brother that led me to seminary so that I could come to a deeper knowledge of the Word of God and our Confessions, looking forward to the day when I will be called as pastor to one of our congregations to serve God's people there with that same Eternal Word that gives peace and hope that surpasses understanding. As we journey down this path, we cannot express enough gratitude for the people and congregations like you that support not only our souls with our prayers on our behalf but our bodies as well through your generous gifts, donations, and support especially when unforeseen times of need arise. In these moments of difficulty, it is a very great relief for us that we have help to turn made possible by your gifts. You may often be the "silent partner" in this partnership but know that the support you provide to us and the whole seminary community is an essential part of our life and is neither unnoticed nor unappreciated.

Every day we thank Our Heavenly Father that he has called such people that love him and his bride, the church, and offer up their gifts to help those whom he calls to serve the body of Christ whether it is as a pastor or deaconess. We owe you a great debt of thanks, and pray that God bless you with the richest blessings in Christ Jesus, Our Lord!

Your servant in Christ,
Seminararian Ray Hulett

