

Dear Lucie Witte and the entire Council of Lutheran Women,

I just wanted to send you a quick thank you for all of your support and prayers.

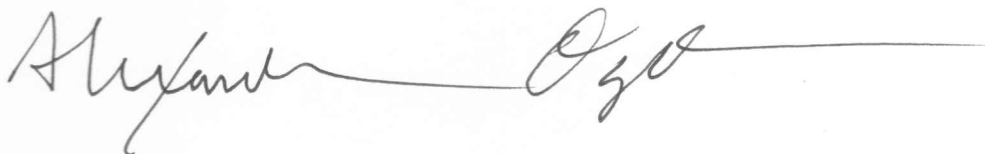
First, it might be best to introduce myself. My name is Alexander Ogden and I am a first year seminarian in the MDiv program. I have been here at the seminary since about mid-June, when I began the summer Greek class. From there, I completed my summer language class, began my fall quarter, and now am nearly at the end of my winter quarter. A lot has happened since I began. I have made wonderful friends, who will be close to me as I prepare and eventually enter the Holy Ministry. I have also had the pleasure to have some wonderful classes and professors. I discovered very quickly that my preferred field of study is exegetics (i.e. Holy Scripture itself). But perhaps, my favorite class so far was my Dogmatics I class with Dr. Scaer the Elder. He was such a blessing to learn under as he demanded close study of the Scriptures, deep and critical thinking about them, and how they translate into our understanding of Christian confessions and dogmatics. Additionally, I really enjoyed my Church History I class wherein, we studied the church from essentially the end of the book of Acts to St. Augustine. Here, I was able to continue explore my interest and quickly developing love for all things patristics and early church fathers. (It's becoming a running joke amongst my friends that I will quote at least three early church fathers in any paper or sermon that I write for class).

Additionally, I have begun field work and was even allowed to preach a sermon there over their Advent midweek services. It was a bit rough in its delivery, but I can't wait to learn and grow in my preaching abilities (after all, that's what my Homiletics I course is for this quarter, right?). As this quarter wraps up, I am setting my sights and excitement on my summer fieldwork/vicarage that I was blessed to do this summer. It will be in South Dakota where I will be assisting a local pastor who oversees three churches that are in the Native American reservation out there. Most of the work will consist of some preaching, teaching, and VBS. But I am so excited for this new opportunity to learn, grow, and of course serve God's people and His holy church.

Finally, I just wanted to thank you for the support that you have offered me thus far, both in finances and prayers. I hope that you continue to keep me in your prayer. Likewise, keep the seminaries, its students, staff, and faculty in your prayers, as they all work together to help prepare men and women for the service of God's people. It is through His grace and provision that there will continue to be servants, leaders, and supports to help this effort to bring the Gospel to the world.

Thank you for your blessings, and I hope that you continue your good works in aiding the people of the church. In that I pray for your ability to continue the good that you do already. And as we prepare to enter into the Lenten season, let us remember to turn to God in prayer and repentance, holding firm in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Alexander Ogden

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander Ogden". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.