

Dear Council of Lutheran Women,

Happy Easter! He is risen!

I'd like to deeply thank you for your steadfast support and prayers throughout my time at seminary and I also would like to give you an update on my studies.

After much prayer and many conversations with my wife and professors at the seminary this year and especially the last couple of months, I have officially decided to enter the S.T.M. (Master of Sacred Theology) program upon completion of my studies in the M.Div. (Master of Divinity) program this May.

The S.T.M. program is a twelve-month program that consists of more advanced coursework, comprehensive examinations, and the writing of a major thesis. The purpose of this program is to be better equipped to serve the Church in pastoral ministry, teaching, and scholarship. This is something I have been encouraged to do based on my academic work at the seminary and is something I greatly look forward to! I have been offered a position as a graduate assistant, which will require that I teach some courses in exchange for tuition coverage and a very modest stipend.

While I will not be receiving a call this Spring, I have completed all the necessary requirements to be eligible for one at any point in the future, and I fully intend to receive one when the right time comes.

It will be nice that we can forgo a move this summer with the baby coming. Since the last time I wrote you, we found out that we will be having a boy, due on July 6th, Lord willing. Please keep us all in our prayers as we grow as a family and as I continue my studies to serve the Church.

If you would be willing to continue to support me financially this coming year at the seminary, that too would be very helpful to us!

Joy!
Dylan Smith

