

Dear Lucie Wittie and the Council of Lutheran Women,

I just wanted to write to you one last time before I officially finished up this year. By the time you receive this letter I will probably be somewhere between campus and home, or maybe even on the way to South Dakota for my summer vicarage. With that being said, I am very excited for summer break to begin. Shortly after classes end, I'll be head down south to see my parents and spend about a week with them, reading, and relaxing a bit before my summer starts properly. I'll be going up to Grand Rapids for a dear friend's wedding. There I'll get to see several of my old college friends who I haven't seen in quite some time. The day after the wedding I'll head out on my 14 or so hour drive to South Dakota. From there it'll be adjusting to the vicarage position on the fly as they begin VBS and their other programs. Even with this globetrotting and rapid succession of events, it will be a nice reprieve from classes. This year has been quite involved. I have been trying my best to keep with everything that's required, while also attempting to have some semblance of a social life, get off campus from time to time, and just do something that isn't on campus or for classes. So, it will be really nice to finally be able to focus on my personal reading and writing, breath a bit, and retreat from the demands of the seminary for a while. In this, I also want to thank you for your continued prayers and support. They have been so very helpful. Your generosity in financial support, and also in prayers has been wonderful. Thank you for all that you have done for me this year, I can never fully express my gratitude.

Aside from that, the quarter seems to be wrapping up well. There's still plenty of papers, projects, academic paperwork, tests, and the like that I still need to finish up. But I am not terribly worried about failing in any of my tasks. Also, as an update from the Easter break, I got to go back to my old job in Detroit and celebrate at their Easter service in worship and communion. I also got to see some of my family and spend time with my cousins and their friends. Just a few weeks ago I got to go back up to Detroit with the seminary to experience and learn about the mission work that various churches and organizations do in the Detroit and Metro-Detroit area. That trip really encouraged me to keep at it in seminary. It sparked the passion and drive back into my studies, reminding me of the type of ministry that I fell in love with before I started seminary when I had just gotten out of college. It was a like what is said in Psalm 42, wherein my heart was like "a deer [that was] pant[-ing] for flowing streams," and "so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." God gave me an opportunity to see His people who I want to serve in the form of the pastoral office.

So, as I finish up this first year, I want to thank you for your support and prayers. I'm so thankful for you, my parents, friends, professors, and the pastors who helped me get through this year. But mostly, for the grace, mercy, and love that God has shown me and continues to show me each new day. He continues to provide for me richly in body and soul. To Him I owe everything, but Christ paid that for me, so I rest in Him and in Him alone. I'm already excited to come back next fall and begin again and update you with the next school year. *Soli Deo Gloria.*

Sincerely,

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

Alexander Ogden