

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Dear Ms. Sandy Hardies, Ms. Lucie Witte, and the Members of the Council of Lutheran Women,

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you very much for your generous support of my education here at Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne. Your gift has helped immensely in my pursuit of the pastoral ministry! I apologize for the lack of a handwritten note. My handwriting is unfortunately not very neat, so I thought I would spare you the trouble of having to decipher it.

I also thought I'd tell you a bit about myself. I grew up in Pontiac, Michigan and went to school in Waterford my whole life because my dad is a paraprofessional at Kingsley Montgomery. I then went on to study at Concordia University Chicago in their Pre-Seminary program, majoring in Philosophy and Theological Languages. I absolutely loved my time there and was blessed with wonderful friends and a great campus pastor. It's also the place where I met my wife, Rachel! We just got married in June and have enjoyed settling into this new adventure together. She is from Grand Rapids, MI and is currently working at DeBrand Chocolate Company here in Fort Wayne.

Since starting seminary, I have greatly enjoyed my classes and have had the opportunity to meet many kind people. The seminary really is a tight-knit community, and it is one where students and professors interact freely with each other. Both students and professors are dedicated to helping one another succeed and building each other up in the faith. Most recently, I was assigned my fieldwork congregation (Emmaus Lutheran Church and School) where I will spend the next 2 years learning from the pastor, assisting with the liturgy, shadowing him on visits, helping with Bible Class, and gaining as much hands-on experience as I can before I head out on vicarage my 3<sup>rd</sup> year. I also thought I'd include my class list and textbook list below in case any of you are interested in what I am studying and reading. Here at the Fort Wayne seminary, we operate on a quarter system with each quarter consisting of 10 weeks. The work is rigorous and fast-paced, but it is joyful all the same. My classes and books are as follows:

Dogmatics I- Jack D. Kilcrease, *Holy Scripture* (Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics, Volume 2); Francis Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics Volume I*

Church History I- Justo L. Gonzalez, *A History of Christian Thought Vol. 1: From the Beginnings to the Council of Chalcedon*; Leo Donald Davis, *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-387): Their History and Theology*

Old Testament Hebrew Readings- We're reading through the books of Jonah and Nahum this quarter

New Testament Greek Readings- In this class we go over the Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday in the Three-Year Lectionary

Field Education- St. John Chrysostom, *Six Books on the Priesthood*

Gospels I- David P. Scaer, *Discourses in Matthew: Jesus Teaches the Church*; David P. Scaer, *The Sermon on the Mount*; Jeffrey Gibbs, *Matthew 1:1-11:1*; Jeffrey Gibbs, *Matthew 11:2-20:34*; Jeffrey Gibbs, *Matthew 21:1-28:20*; Stanley J. Porter, *The Fundamentals of New Testament Textual Criticism*; Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Writings of the New Testament*

Thank you again for your support, and I hope you have a wonderful remainder of the year! Also, should you ever have any specific prayer needs, please feel free to reach out and my wife and I will gladly add them to our prayer list. Otherwise, you are still in our prayers, and we are so grateful for the work you do in service to the Church. We look forward to communicating with you again soon.

Peace and Blessings in Christ,

Noah Dunsmore

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