

April 13, 2016

Dear Friends of Southeast Michigan,

Thank you for your partnership and participation in the fifth Southeast Michigan Synod Bishop's Seminarian Fund Sunday, May 8, 2016. I'm delighted to tell you that as a result of the fourth appeal, we shared over \$14,000 with our current seminarians preparing for ordination in addition to providing a gift to the ELCA Fund for Leaders. As one recipient wrote, "The financial gift is a great blessing to me and my family! Not only the dollars but the love that stands behind them."

The purpose of the Fund is to

- Raise awareness among our congregations of those persons who are in the process of preparing themselves for rostered leadership in ELCA congregations
- Demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to the academic progress of our seminarians
- Provide ALL of our Southeast Michigan seminarians with some financial support from their home Synod and its congregations.

The specific thing I'm asking you to do on Sunday, May 8, 2016, is to ask members and friends of your congregation to make a one-time gift that will be used to support our seminarians. The way you collect this gift is up to you. Do whatever works best in your context: pass a plate or a hat, put a jar outside the sanctuary, special envelopes in the pews, whatever. The intent is to give you and your people an opportunity to make a gift to help prepare our future church leaders.

After that money is collected and counted, please fill out the form included, write out a check to "Southeast Michigan Synod" with "Bp's Seminarian Fund" on the memo line, and send it to Synod House. If you are currently supporting a seminarian, you can send this money on to her/him or their school. In that case, just send the form back with the amount you collected from this appeal, so that we can keep an accurate account of the money we raise.

I've also included a bulletin-ready half page insert that you can use if you'd like, that may help your folks understand why this is so important—not just for our seminarians, but also for our whole Church. It is also available electronically on our website: [www.semisynod.com](http://www.semisynod.com), as are all these documents.

Some of our seminarians are blessed with strong support from their home congregations; others are not so fortunate. What I do hope, however, is that all of them will receive an encouraging sign from us that we are grateful for their studies, that we commend them for their gifts for ministry, and that we support them with our prayers as well as our giving.

Thank you for all you do, and especially as we work together to support our next generation of leaders.

Grace and peace,



Bishop Donald P. Kreiss