





ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS

for this church and for our future

2025-2026

ELCA
Fund for Leaders

A NOTE FROM THE REV. MARISSA KREY, DIRECTOR, ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS

Dear friends,

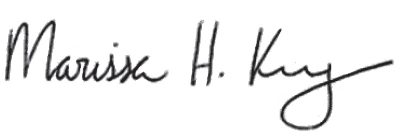
In Isaiah 43:19, the prophet proclaims, “See, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?” I am proud to announce that this academic year, 2025-2026, Fund for Leaders is launching Phase 1 of a pilot program to financially support the internship portion of ministry preparation for both pastors and deacons.

With funding from Fund for Leaders, some synods and the internship sites themselves, we hope to identify and utilize sites that were previously unaffordable due to financial constraints. These partnerships are particularly important so that students of color or students who identify as LGBTQIA+ can find safe, engaging and formative internship sites that set them up for healthy leadership as rostered leaders in the ELCA. We have known for some time that many congregations cannot afford an intern, yet they offer valuable learning experiences for our leaders. With Phase 2 of this pilot program, we hope to tap into the gifts these congregations have to offer our whole church. I am grateful to the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod and United Lutheran Seminary for helping to get this project off the ground. Just as Fund for Leaders started in 2000 by awarding eight scholarships, we are delighted to support eight students from five of our ELCA seminaries this year.

As we move forward with this and other exciting projects, I continue to draw inspiration from Isaiah’s promise. Yet I struggle with Isaiah’s words just prior, in verse 18: “Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.” I struggle because I want to remember. I don’t want to forget the things of old, because I am grateful for every step Fund for Leaders has taken, for every dollar given, for every legacy gift established. I am grateful for the enormous cloud of witnesses who make this ministry possible, the saints on whose shoulders we all stand.

The beauty of Fund for Leaders is that we remember the former things without dwelling on them. From the beginning, our supporters have always trusted these words, eager to assist the new leaders the Spirit is raising up for a church that is ever reforming. Thanks be to God! We hope this book will serve as a resource for you to share the new things the Spirit is up to in our church. Share it with someone God is calling to join us.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Marissa H. Krey
Director, ELCA Fund for Leaders

ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS
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CORE VALUES OF THE FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ROOTED IN FAITH:

Demonstrates how personal beliefs shape daily life through spiritual practices and reflection.

HUMBLE CURIOSITY:

Embraces lifelong learning with openness to growth through listening and collaboration.

GRACE-FUELED RESILIENCE:

Trusts in God's grace to persevere through challenges, sharing how the Spirit sustains them.

INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY:

Aligns inner beliefs with outward actions, leading with honesty and conviction.

COMPASSIONATE PRESENCE:

Lives out Christ's love through empathy, justice and authentic relationships with others.

SCHOLARSHIP TYPE	FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION	For students who intend to enroll at an ELCA seminary, attending full- or part-time for an MDiv or M.A. degree.
FUNDING SUPPORT	Funds three years of full-time coursework or four years of part-time coursework. No funds are sent when the student is on internship.
FUNDING USE	Funds are for tuition first, then books and fees.



TYPES OF FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIPS

MISSION DEVELOPER	FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES	SYNOD	CONGREGATION	TEEM SUPPORT	INTERNSHIP SUPPORT PILOT
Candidates are nominated by ELCA seminaries. Each seminary may nominate two current students who show potential gifts for Mission Development.	For students preparing for ministry as a military, federal prison or Veterans Affairs chaplain. Military applicants must intend to pursue appointment as a chaplain candidate and a commissioned officer.	Synods that have FFL Synod scholarships nominate ELCA seminary students in their candidacy process.	Congregations that have FFL Congregation scholarships nominate ELCA seminary students in their candidacy process.	Seminaries with TEEM programs, in collaboration with synods, identify students who will be registered for TEEM coursework within the academic year.	For a small group of ELCA seminary students identified by seminaries as needing stipends to make their internships possible.
Additive support for up to two years; award amounts vary.	One-year additive support. Awardees may reapply each year they are eligible.	One-year award. Students may be nominated each year they are eligible.	One-year award. Students may be nominated each year they are eligible.	One-year award. Students may be nominated each year they are eligible.	One-time award.
Funds are additive and are applied directly to student accounts by the seminary.	Funds are additive and are applied directly to student accounts by the seminary.	Funds are additive and are applied directly to student accounts by the seminary.	Funds are additive and are applied directly to student accounts by the seminary.	Funds are additive and are applied directly to student accounts by the seminary.	Funds are sent directly to congregations for the student's internship stipend.







2025-2026 FUND FOR LEADERS FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We celebrate with this year's called and gifted group of future leaders. This year, 28 new scholarships, totaling $560,000, are supported by Fund for Leaders general and named endowment funds, valued at $63,629,094 on June 30, 2025. Students are listed with their honorary match to a Fund for Leaders endowment.



ANTHONY ALVAREZ
Florence E. Von Behren Memorial Endowment Fund
Synod: Oregon
Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



ELISE AMES
George and Martha Benson Memorial Endowment Fund
Synod: Northeastern Minnesota
Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary



CAROLINA BOWEN
Cox Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: Virginia
Attending: Luther Seminary



PAUL BUROW
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Glenn Heights, TX, Seminary Scholarship Fund
Synod: Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana
Attending: Luther Seminary



BENJAMIN BUSS
St. Jacob Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund
Synod: Southern Ohio
Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



OLIVIA CLARK
Imogene Lewin Seminary Scholarship Fund
Synod: Florida-Bahamas
Attending: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary



MARK CUILLA
Astrid V. Wilson Memorial Endowment Fund
Synod: Northwest Intermountain
Attending: Luther Seminary



BRIGHAM DREVLOW
Bishop H. George and Jutta F. Anderson Endowment Fund
Synod: Eastern North Dakota
Attending: Luther Seminary



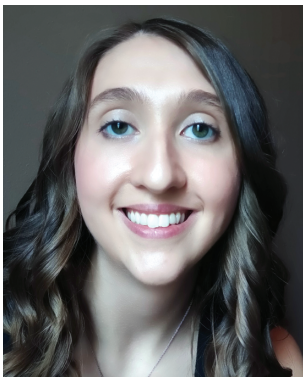
JENNIFER DVORAK
William D. Wubben Memorial Endowment Fund
Synod: Southwestern Washington
Attending: Luther Seminary



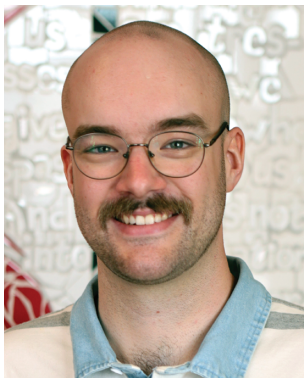
EMMA ESANBOCK
Orville R. Klopf Memorial Endowment Fund
Synod: Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary



LORIE BURKE GARCIA
Irma K. Lauffer 1999 Memorial Fund
Synod: Southwestern Texas
Attending: United Lutheran Seminary



KENDRA KAPPLER
Swanson Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: South Dakota
Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary



MICAH KETCHENS
Charles, Joe Anne, Nan and Al Lintz Scholarship Fund
Synod: North Carolina
Attending: United Lutheran Seminary



ABIGAIL KRAMER
Rick and Kathy Ambrose Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: Minneapolis Area
Attending: Luther Seminary



DANIEL LARA GONZALEZ
ELCA Fund for Leaders
Synod: South Dakota
Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary



ANDREA McCOOK
Carol J. Reed Endowment Fund
Synod: Florida-Bahamas
Attending: United Lutheran Seminary



CARINA McVEIGH
The Rev. Donald P. Schneider Seminary Scholarship Fund
Synod: Southwest California
Attending: Luther Seminary



HIDE MICHEL
Howard and Marie Cleer Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: Northwestern Minnesota
Attending: Luther Seminary



AMANDA NEILL
Lahm Family Seminary Scholarship Fund
Synod: Northwest Washington
Attending: Luther Seminary



VERONICA PARKE
Carrie J. Brown Memorial Endowment Fund
Synod: Southwestern Texas
Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



LYNDI REED
Paul L. and Valerie C. Miller Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: Southwestern Washington
Attending: Luther Seminary



KIT ROPER
E. Marilyn Oberle Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: Delaware-Maryland
Attending: United Lutheran Seminary



AMANDA STEVENSON-COSGROVE
J. Binnie Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Fund
Synod: Southeastern Iowa
Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary



KIMBERLY TAYLOR-BLAKEMORE
L. Travis and Jean M. Brannon Endowment Fund
Synod: Oregon
Attending: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary



AMY JO VAN ARSDALL
Kenneth and Sandra Falkinham Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: La Crosse Area
Attending: Luther Seminary



VIVIAN VEGA
The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund
Synod: Southwest California
Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



KARLA WELLS
Omer G. and Annabelle K. Voss Family Donor Advised Fund
Synod: Southwest California
Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



NELSON WIGGINS
Van and Linnea Grosse Seminary Scholarship Fund
Synod: North Carolina
Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary



“The FFL scholarship allowed me to say yes to my call. Without it, the seminary might have remained a distant dream rather than a faithful step toward serving as a minister in the ELCA. This support reminded me that I was not alone on this journey — that the church believed in me, walked with me and was willing to invest in the future of my ministry.”

—Brenda Sue Lussier

2025-2026 FUND FOR LEADERS FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, two scholarships, totaling $40,000, are being supported by Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministry named endowment funds, valued at $1,944,378 on June 30, 2025.



CHELSEY HINRICHSEN
The Rev. Scottie & Karen Lloyd Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship and the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund
Synod: Pacifica
Attending: Luther Seminary



CHRISTOPHER SCHOMAKER
Elmstrom Family Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund and the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund
Synod: Northeastern Pennsylvania
Attending: United Lutheran Seminary

Adriano Ayres was a 2024 Federal Chaplaincy scholarship recipient, attending Wartburg Theological Seminary. The scholarship supported the household budget for Adriano, his spouse and their four children as Adriano pursued Army chaplaincy. One of his favorite classes was Chaplaincy Leadership in Specialized Settings, taught by ELCA Navy chaplain and adjunct professor Will Bevins — another Fund for Leaders alum.

"Maybe, in the future, my fellow seminary students and I will see one another in boot camp together!" said Adriano.





"Your support doesn't just help students — it helps shape the future of the church. Every gift you give becomes a sermon preached, a baptism celebrated, a meal shared and a hurting heart comforted. Donors such as you make it possible for leaders to be formed not just academically but spiritually and emotionally, so we can show up fully for the communities we're called to serve. Your generosity is part of every moment of grace we witness in ministry."

—Juan Manuel Arias Perea

NOURISHING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT



FedUp received a $100,000 grant on The Kelly Clarkson Show *to further grow its ministry.*

The Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants is founder and executive director of FedUp Ministries, an ELCA synod-authorized worshiping community and food truck ministry based in Ypsilanti, Mich. She's also an ELCA pastor and mission developer.

FedUp offers nutritious meals to communities that are food-insecure. It has served over 75,000 meals since it was founded in 2020, when food insecurity increased because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to donor support, Pastor Anna received the Fund for Leaders Mission Developer scholarship and graduated from United Lutheran Seminary in 2021 with a Master of Divinity degree. The support she received during her education helped her develop FedUp into the growing ministry it is today.

"We envision an inclusive and equitable environment where everyone is nourished in mind, body and spirit," said Pastor Anna about FedUp.

With Pastor Anna's leadership, the services of FedUp have expanded over the years. Community members can attend LiftUp, a worship service and free meal on Wednesday evenings. The WashUp program provides a mobile shower trailer for people who are unhoused.

Pastor Anna and FedUp received a $100,000 Pilot Pen G2 Overachievers Grant on *The Kelly Clarkson Show* in June 2025, which demonstrates how she has gone above and beyond to support her community. With the funding, the ministry will be able to build its own commercial kitchen and create a hub for its mobile services.



Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants (left) received a Fund for Leaders Mission Developer scholarship in 2021.

Your gifts to ELCA Fund for Leaders ensure that leaders such as Anna have the resources they need to complete their theological education, which allows them to focus on their ministry and spiritual growth.

Make a gift today to support more leaders like Anna! Find additional ways to donate on page 24.

2025-2026 FUND FOR LEADERS MISSION DEVELOPER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, six scholarships, totaling $45,000, are being supported by Fund for Leaders Mission Developer named endowment funds, valued at $4,464,665 on June 30, 2025.



ANNA BELZ-BROCK
Delilah E. Ross Memorial Endowment Fund
Synod: Southwestern Minnesota
Attending: Luther Seminary



HANNAH GRIGGS
Lois and Gerald Olsen Mission Developer/Redeveloper Scholarship Fund
Synod: Southeastern Iowa
Attending: Wartburg Theological Seminary



CAMPFIELD HEINRICH
The Rev. P. Richard and Nancy L. Grove Mission Developer Scholarship Fund
Synod: New England
Attending: United Lutheran Seminary



ANTHONY MAGGIO
The Rev. Stanley E. Olson Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund
Synod: Southern Ohio
Attending: Trinity Lutheran Seminary



JAIRO ALBERTO RINCON MORA
Our Saviours Lutheran Church Mission Developer Scholarship Fund — Lake Oswego, Ore.
Synod: Northwest Intermountain
Attending: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



ELIZABETH SHEEDY
The Rev. David and Sally Sloop Mission Developer Scholarship Fund
Synod: Lower Susquehanna
Attending: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

The Fund for Leaders Mission Developer scholarship is one powerful tool we use for identifying innovative future leaders in the ELCA. The future of the church requires skills beyond simple management of existing congregations. Rostered leaders need to be able to share the good news of Jesus Christ with authenticity, humility, compassion and fervor. We are looking for seminarians who are passionate about evangelism and skilled at gathering people and building new communities. Some FFL Mission Developer scholarship recipients are now vital new-start leaders, transforming lives in new and creative ministries. If you believe you have a vocation to mission development, please reach out to your synod's director for evangelical mission to learn more about how to apply for this scholarship.

Rev. Guillermo A. Arboleda (he/him/él)
Program Manager for New Starts
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

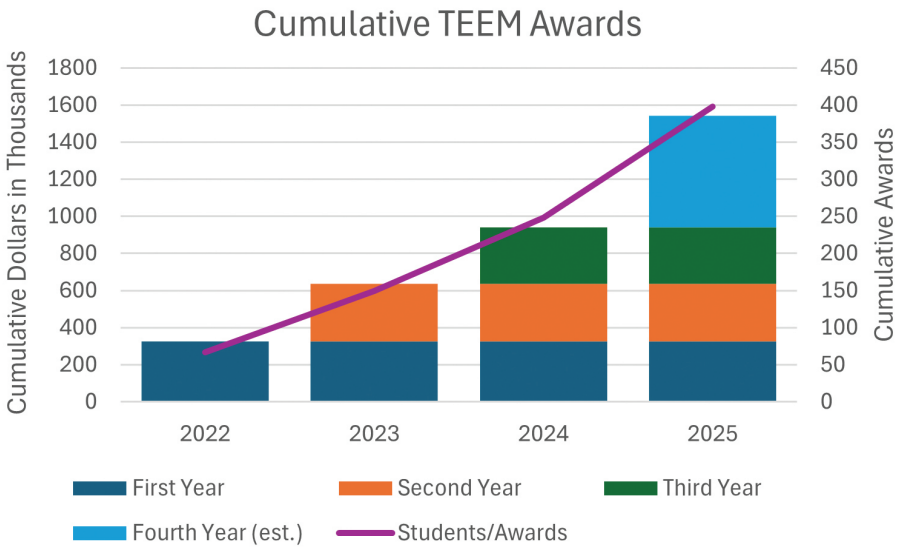
2025-2026 THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR EMERGING MINISTRIES SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of our commitment to support a diverse group of students, Fund for Leaders launched scholarships for Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) students in 2022. Since 2019, the number of students choosing a TEEM certificate over a Master of Divinity degree has grown significantly. From 2018 to 2022, TEEM enrollment more than doubled. By 2022, students studying in the TEEM program made up almost 20% of all candidates seeking ordination for Word and Sacrament ministry in the ELCA. For the 2024-2025 academic year, 45 of the 65 ELCA synods had candidates receiving FFL TEEM support.

Fund for Leaders is proud to continue increasing its funding of TEEM scholarships in 2025, thanks to donor support. During the 2025-2026 academic year, Fund for Leaders anticipates supporting as many as 150 TEEM candidates with nearly $600,000 in scholarship funds.



Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry first served as a lay mission developer at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., while participating in the TEEM program in the late 2000s. Addressing the 2025 Churchwide Assembly after his election, he said, ***"When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."***



YEAR	AWARDS	AWARD AMOUNT	TOTAL
2022	67*	$5,000	$325,000
2023	82	$3,800	$311,600
2024	100*	$3,000	$298,430
2025	150	$4,000	$600,000 (estimated)
TOTAL	399		$1,535,030 (estimated by end of 2025-26 academic year)

*Includes students receiving partial payment.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION



"FFL makes theological education possible for gifted leaders who have a call to serve the church. FFL is a great gift for theological education and leadership formation, especially of Indigenous leaders and historically marginalized people."

—Rev. Moses Paul Peter Penumaka, Director of Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) and Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders (TEIL), Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

"The candidates who come through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program at LSTC are often second- or third-career individuals who can no longer deny the call they have been given to serve as pastoral leaders. Balancing family, work and the financial demands of life, these students are able to say 'Here I am, Lord' because of the tangible support of the ELCA, including generous scholarships provided by the Fund for Leaders."

—Deacon Marji Shannon, Director of Contextual Education, Director of the TEEM Program, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago





"This scholarship has encouraged me to believe even more in myself, knowing that not only does God sustain me but there are also people who believe in me and in the mission God has for each of us, especially for seminarians in the TEEM program. Thanks to the financial support I have received, which also brings relief to a Latino congregation within the ELCA, I am able to continue my studies, purchase materials such as books and keep preparing to serve my congregation faithfully."

—Juan Carlos Cabrera, Wartburg Seminary

"The ELCA scholarship I received has helped me be available for my internship duties without having to worry about working extra hours to pay for some of my classes and supplies. I appreciate the money and the value of the relief it provides as well as the partnership. In receiving these funds, I feel valued in my journey by the ELCA, my synod and the congregations that have also contributed to make these funds available."

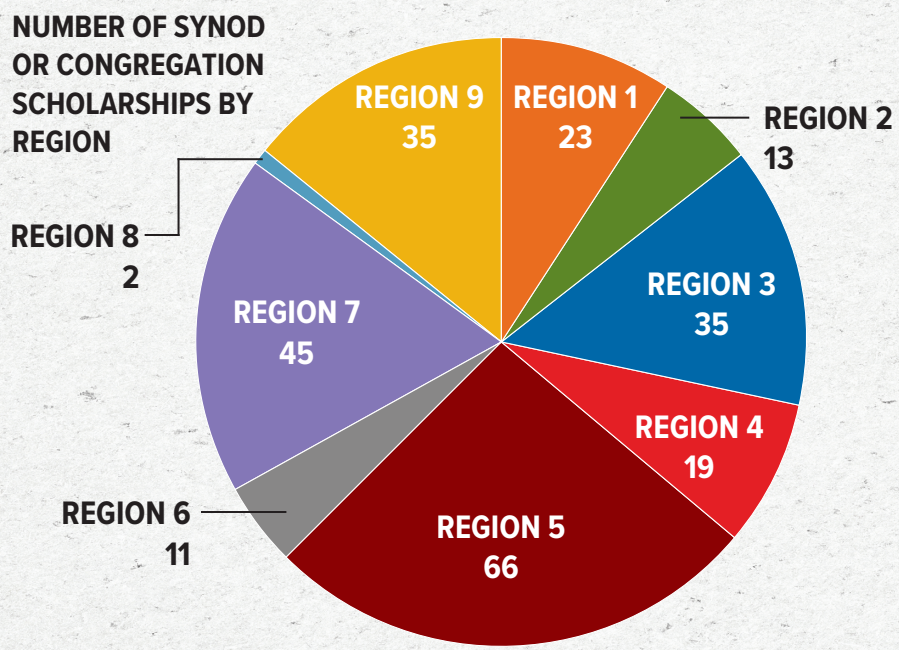
—Vicar Sarah Sleeter, Wartburg Seminary



2025-2026 SYNOD AND CONGREGATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, 234 scholarships, totaling $805,096, are being supported by Fund for Leaders **synod endowment funds**, valued at $22,950,576 on June 30, 2025.

This year, 15 scholarships, totaling $34,100, are being supported by Fund for Leaders **congregational endowment funds**, valued at $1,890,957 on June 30, 2025.



REGION 1

Northwest Washington Synod Fund for Leaders (1B)

Grey Chapman
Reid Cook
Salvador Cossio
Heidi Francis
Orion Gudgell
Melissa Marzolf
Cheri Neill
Natalia Pierson

Northwest Intermountain Synod Fund for Leaders (1D)

Kari Kitchen
Jairo Rincon
Lori Tharp
Brendan Wiechert

Oregon Synod Fund for Leaders (Allert) (1E)

Anthony Alvarez
Emily Brabham
Julia Rankin
June Smith
Jasmine Sprague
Kimberly Taylor-Blakemore

Montana Synod Fund for Leaders (1F)

Taryn Hauglie
Shawn Juers
Jacqueline VanDenburg
Samantha Watson

REGION 2

Pacifica Synod Fund for Leaders (2C)

Adham Alaraj
Blake Danser
Stephanie Dykes
Kathleen Hartl
Grace Lee
Nicholas Orth
Amanda Pulos
Feronika Rambing
Roderick Sinclair
Josefina Villalpando Paredes
Wen-Tzao Yang

2D Desert Hills Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Green Valley, Ariz.

Mark Cuilla
Brigham Drevlow

2E First Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund — Colorado Springs, Colo.

Colton Laptad

2E Trinity Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund — Fort Collins, Colo.

Jessica Kuhns

REGION 3

Western North Dakota Synod Fund for Leaders (3A)

Heather Feland
Joel Sandy
Karin Selland

South Dakota Synod Fund for Leaders (Anderson, Harrington, Ketterling, Wall) (3C)

Nicholas Breining
Tyler Egge
Juan Angel Ferro
Juliana Jimenez Arevalo

South Dakota Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (3C)

Hannah Reeves Fleming

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (3D)

Kristina Dernier
Samuel Maier
Hide Michel
Jessica Paulsen
Brent Seewald-Marquardt
Rodney Thompson
Brian Wing
Calista Wolf

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (Green Lake) (3F)

Thomas Bonnema

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (Trinity, Marble) (3F)

Rory Rohloff

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Men in Mission Fund for Leaders (3F)

Thomas Bonnema
Doran Schoeppach

Minneapolis Area Synod Fund for Leaders (3G)

Shawna Berg
Timothy Bergeland
Mwamini Bundi
Michael Karpinko
Erik Nelson
Karen Wain

Saint Paul Area Synod Fund for Leaders (3H)

Nathan Adu-Gyamfi
Mitchell Paddock
Natalie Romero
Matt Ryan

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders (3I)

Joellen Barak
Tina Goeman
Christy Hall-Holt
Madeline Patterson

REGION 4

Nebraska Synod Fund for Leaders (4A)

Kim Bate
Joseph Daffer
Barnaba Dyedi
Elizabeth Florian
James Holzer
Keith Powell
Heidi Price
Dereck Tveitbakk

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Fund for Leaders (4D)

Aaron Colwick
Johnna Page
Michael Rivard
Bryan Swecker

Ascension Lutheran Church / NT-NL Synod Seminary Scholarship (4D)

Eliana Katchkey
Jessica Nipp

Southwestern Texas Synod Fund for Leaders (4E)

Gilma I. Aguirre
Deb Darnell
Brittany Eggleston
Megan Getman
Taline Manassian

REGION 5

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Fund for Leaders (5A)

Catherine Abihudi
Johnathon Augustine
Immanuel Paul Vivekanandh Karunakaran
Lorin Kirksey
Cynthiya Esther Rani Varghese
Robert Lewis
Philip Wallace

5A The Rev. Walter E. Wittman Seminary Scholarship Fund / Gloria Dei Lutheran Church — Downers Grove, Ill.

Robert Lewis

Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders (5B)

Brandon Fuhr
Nathaniel Knutson
David Luecht

5B Bethlehem Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund — Joliet, Ill.

Matthew Longfellow

Southeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5D)

Julie Faas
Levi Faas
Hannah Griggs
Carl Grulke
Kelsey Grulke
Bryce Hewlett
Stanley Lehman
Daniel Luepke
Thomas Ogilvie
Aaron Schutte
Amanda Stevenson-Cosgrove
Carrington Wells

Western Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5E)

Emily Anderson (Fleckenstein)
Grace Baumgartel (Braun)
Susan Rohan

Northeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders (5F)

Apou Aderbuk
Madelyn Anderson
Christopher Anderson
Dorothee Caspari
Sergio Ismael Gomez Alanis
Elizabeth Hurt
Craig Moss
Albie Nicol
AJ Olson
Caitlin Tauro
Ellie Taylor

Northern Great Lakes Synod Fund for Leaders (5G)

Robert Lake
Daniel Moschea
Elaine Robbins
Sarah Sleeter

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Fund for Leaders (5H)

John Addison
Matthew Aubart
Matthew Dietsche
Jessica Dragseth
Jill Fries
Kellie Heath
Noah Holland
Allison Klein
Alexandra Klug
Donald Knutson
Evan Lewis
Grace Olson
Dana Paulsen
Luke Pederson
Donald Rosenberry
Amanda Swanson

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Fund for Leaders (5K)
Adriano Ayres
Jeff Bakken
Christopher Beaver
Jen Seffrood

La Crosse Area Synod Fund for Leaders (5L)
Ronald Amundson
Kjell Bakken
Jeff Hoch
Jason Knipe
Amy Jo Van Arsdall

REGION 6

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Fund for Leaders (6C)
Abigail Vesga

Northwestern Ohio Synod Fund for Leaders (6D)
Paula Cleaver
Michelle Detmer
Alan Fuhrhop
Robert Glenn
Jacinda Jones
Elizabeth Kieffer
Mary Miller
David O'Brien
Frank Weaver

REGION 7

New Jersey Synod Fund for Leaders (Advent Lutheran Church) (7A)
Kenneth Bassett
Susan Chin
Wayne Olsen
Vincent Piekarski
Jason Reed
Mark Singleton
Kim Syvertsen
Anne Weinberg

7A Reformation Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund, Absecon, NJ (formerly Epiphany Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Pleasantville, N.J.)
Susan Chin
Vincent Piekarski
Jason Reed

New England Synod Fund for Leaders (7B)
Jenifer Beaudean-White
Jacey Glass
Campfield Heinrich
Samantha Keegan
Beatrice Luciano
Isabelle Vernalia

Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7C)
Gina Danialinia
Megan MacIver

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia / Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7C)
Chloe Edmundson
John Evans

Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for Leaders / Dr. John G. Huneke (7C)
Raquel Busa
June Daniel-Bradshaw
Samantha de Graffenried
Chloe Edmundson
Deivis Ventura

Upstate New York Synod Fund for Leaders — Schwartz (7D)
Claudine Elzughbi
Joel Herbert
Teresa O'Connor
Jamil Zoughbi

Upstate New York Synod Fund for Leaders (7D)
Breanna Dauphinee
Claudine Elzughbi
Grace Fay
Joel Herbert
Jacob James
Teresa O'Connor
Christopher Strickland
Jamil Zoughbi

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Fund for Leaders (Holy Spirit Lutheran Church) (7E)
Brynn Anderson
Quentin Bernhard
April Mulvey
Heidi Shilanskas

Rev. Dr. Samuel R. and Linda L. Zeiser Seminary Scholarship (7E)
John Brewster
Joshua Labadie-Gulotta

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia — Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Fund for Leaders (7F)
Connor Watson

REGION 8

8G Abiding Presence Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund
David Lewis
Krystal Waters

REGION 9

Virginia Synod Fund for Leaders (9A)
Carolina Bowen
Kate Hoffstaetter
Stephen Povlish
Raymond Riggin
Caroline Wilson

North Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9B)
Nina Allen
Coleman Carter
Matthew Helms
Alexandra Jacob
Charles Maurice
Kristen Mouritsen
LisaDale Philbeck
Erin Pushman

South Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9C)
Daniel Crofts
Fredy Gonzalez
Zachary Lindler
Jace Martinez
Patrick Preacher
James Salter

Trinity Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Greenville, S.C. (9C)
Patrick Preacher

Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (9D)
Tiffani Heinreich

Southeastern Synod Fund for Leaders (Skillrud) (9D)
John Brenke
Kristen Curtis
Kathryn Folk

Rev. H. Julian Gordy Bishop Emeritus, Seminary Scholarship for Advocacy (9D)
Ethan Miller
Samuel Sosebee

Advent Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund — La Grange, Ga. (9D)
Roel Salinas

The Rev. John Weber Seminary Scholarship Fund / Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church — Peachtree, Ga. (9D)
Ethan Miller

St. John's Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Knoxville, Tenn. (9D)
Caitlynne Fox

Florida-Bahamas Synod Fund for Leaders (9E)
Heather Hedman DeVaughn
Andrea McCook
Stephanie Stark

Florida-Bahamas Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (9E)
Kristin Berkey-Abbott
Dori Dunham
Heather Hedman DeVaughn

ADDITIONAL SYNOD SCHOLARSHIPS

The Santa Cruz Sunrise Multi-Cultural Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund (2D)

Grand Canyon Synod Fund for Leaders (2D)

Southeast Michigan Synod Women of the ELCA Fund for Leaders (6A)

North/West Lower Michigan Synod Fund for Leaders (6B)

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Fund for Leaders (8H)

ADDITIONAL CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS

This year, scholarship dollars from these funds, totaling $26,900, are supporting the TEEM scholarship.

5A Bethlehem Lutheran Church Endowment Fund — Chicago, Ill.

5A Edison Park Lutheran Church Nasby-Anderson Seminary Scholarship Fund — Chicago, Ill.

5B Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Forrest and Betty Reid Scholarship Fund — Moline, Ill.

5H Our Savior's Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund — Menomonie, Wis.

7F St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Doylestown, Pa. — The Rev. Herbert and Lucy Piehler Seminary Scholarship Fund

OTHER CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS

2D Fiesta Conference Seminary Scholarship Fund



"Receiving the [Fund for Leaders scholarship] did a lot of practical things for me, but one spiritual thing it did was show the abundance that is still present in the church. A lot of what we hear about the church is that it's dying or hollowed out — but this generosity is proof of the Spirit's work in people despite the prevailing scarcity mindsets of the world."

—Lucas Carlson

GRATITUDE FOR AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONORS AND PARTNERS

We wish to thank all the faithful people, congregations and synods that gave gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders endowment funds (General, Mission Developer, Federal Chaplaincy Ministry, synod, and congregational funds). **Your commitment to raising up and supporting leaders makes the ELCA Fund for Leaders possible.**

NEW ENDOWMENT FUNDS ESTABLISHED

JULY 1, 2024–JUNE 30, 2025

Faith Lutheran Church Al and Martha Jane Briesemeister Seminary Scholarship Fund

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund

Endowment fund valuations are calculated as of June 30, 2025.

KEY

* Endowment funds that contribute to a variety of ELCA churchwide ministries, including Fund for Leaders

[MD] Endowment funds that support Mission Developer scholarships, which provide 2025 awardees with $7,500 per year for up to two years

[FCM] Endowment funds that support Federal Chaplaincy Ministry scholarships, which will provide awardees with $20,000 this year

ENDOWMENT VALUED | $1.9M+

The John E. and Marcia F. Grove Memorial Scholarship Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Peter, William and Esther Herlein Fund*

MIF Mission Developers Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]

Omer G. and Annabelle K. Voss Family Donor Advised Fund

ENDOWMENT VALUED | $900,000-$1,899,999

Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Chicago Ill.*

Paul M. Dauten, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund

ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund [FCM]

Orville R. Klopf Memorial Endowment Fund*

E. Marilyn Oberle Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Astrid V. Wilson Memorial Endowment Fund

The William D. Wubben Memorial Endowment Fund*

ENDOWMENT VALUED $500,000-$899,999

Rev. Olaf A. Berge Memorial Fund

Kenneth and Sandra Falkinham Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Milton Gustafson Memorial Endowment Fund

Alice D. Hillstrom Legacy Endowment Fund*

The Ruth Walker Holliday Memorial Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Gunther C. and Johanna W. Holpp Memorial Endowment Fund*

Marius and Cora Newell Titterud Memorial Endowment Fund

Rev. Dr. Lauritz and Mrs. Margaret Vigness Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]

Dr. Adelia E. Weis Memorial Ministerial Scholarship Fund*

ENDOWMENT VALUED $250,000-$499,999

The Rick and Kathy Ambrose Scholarship Endowment Fund

Albert G. and Svea H. Anderson Memorial Fund

Rev. Dr. E. Earl Anderson Seminary Scholarship Fund

The L. Travis and Jean M. Brannon Endowment Fund

The Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Chicago, Ill.*

George and Frances Cornell Family Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]

Erckmann-Miller Seminary Scholarship Fund

Lester Eugene Gyllstrom II Seminary Scholarship Fund

Max W. and Phyllis Krell Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Lahm Family Seminary Scholarship Fund

Irma K. Lauffer 1999 Endowment Fund

Dr. Oliver A. Muhonen Memorial Endowment Fund*

The Portico Benefit Services Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Carol J. Reed Endowment Fund

Rev. Dr. Richard D. and Melba N. Reichard Seminary Scholarship Fund

Delilah E. Ross Memorial Endowment Fund [MD]

Saint Stephen Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund Shreveport, LA

Rev. Donald P. Schneider Seminary Scholarship Fund

Colonel Robert A. Williamson MD Scholarship [FCM]

Rev. Eric Wogen Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

J. Binnie Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Fund

Sara Kramer Wolfe Memorial Scholarship Fund

ENDOWMENT VALUED $100,000-$249,999

Rev. Kenneth R. Ahlstrand Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Bishop H. George and Jutta F. Anderson Endowment Fund

The Marvin D. Anderson Tuition Legacy Fund

Ascension Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund, Garland, Tex.

The Doris M. Bagley Fund for Leaders Memorial Endowment Fund

Carrie J. Brown Memorial Endowment Fund

Dr. Carol Craig Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Guy Edmiston Mission Endowment Fund

First Lutheran Church and Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship — Omaha, Neb.

Merlin Flesner Memorial Endowment Fund*

Rev. Harold and Rachel Goers Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. P. Richard and Nancy L. Grove Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]

Inter-Lutheran Coordinating Committee Scholarship Fund [FCM]

George A. and Dorothy L. Johnson Living Legacy Fund*

Imogene Lewin Seminary Scholarship Fund

Charles, Joe Anne, Nan and Al Lintz Scholarship Fund

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund, Glenn Heights, TX

Paul L. and Valerie C. Miller Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Margarete Ursula Nitschke Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Frances and Donna Olson Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Reformation Legacy Seminary Scholarship Fund, Rochester, NY

Carl E. and Alice E. Schaedel Memorial Endowment Fund

Raymond and Ruth Schultz Christian Education Fund*

The 1927 St. John West Milwaukee, WI Endowment Fund* [FCM]

The Erik and Barbara Stone Seminary Endowment Fund

The Florence E. Von Behren Memorial Endowment Fund*

Sara E. and John R. Wise Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]

ENDOWMENT VALUED $50,000-$99,999

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship, Independence, MO

Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Victor L. Brandt Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Paul Cobb Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Cox Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

Bjorg Davidson Johannesson Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]

Iveda C. and Christen H. Evanson Seminary Scholarship Fund

Faith Lutheran Church Al and Martha Jane Briesemeister Seminary Scholarship Fund — Enid, OK

The Rev. Murray D. and Rhoda M. Finck Federal Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship Fund [FCM]

Mildred A. Flotow Memorial Endowment Fund*

Van and Linnea Grosse Seminary Scholarship Fund

Helen S. and Earl Randolph Hessler Jr. Family Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]

Earl L. Mummert Memorial Endowment Fund

Lois and Gerald Olsen Mission Developer/Redeveloper Scholarship Fund [MD]

Eddie H. Olson and Donald L. Olson Memorial Endowment Fund*

Padley Family Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Elizabeth A. Platz Seminary Scholarship Fund

A. Craig Settlage Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Tom and Sherry Slater Seminary Scholarship Fund

St. Jacob Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Jeanette Bialas Strandjord Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Swanson Family Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

The David D. and Barbara A. Swartling Seminary Scholarship Fund

Gerald and Marihope Troutman Scholarship Fund

Corrine Wehvilainen Memorial Endowment Fund*

Elizabeth K. Weisburger Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]

Bryn, Nicholas, and Betty Jane Ziemendorf Seminary Scholarship Fund

ENDOWMENT VALUED $25,000-$49,999

Jutta F. Anderson Seminary Scholarship Fund

Thomas J. Anders and Gerald E. Lloyd Memorial Chaplaincy Scholarship [FCM]

George and Martha Benson Memorial Endowment Fund

Calvary Lutheran Church Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund

Howard and Marie Cleer Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

ELCA Seminary Presidents Fund for Leaders

Elmstrom Family Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund [FCM]

Rev. Daniel W. and Karen Erlander Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Ronald T. and Sue Ann Glusenkamp Seminary Scholarship

Bishop Mark S. Hanson Fund for Leaders Scholarship Fund

Inspire Faith Seminary Scholarship Fund

Reverend Ivan and Kathryn Ives Federal Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship [FCM]

Ben Splichal Larson Memorial Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rev. Dr. Duane Larson and Dr. Joen Larson Seminary Scholarship

Rev. Scottie & Karen Lloyd Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship [FCM]

Arthur and Vera Mabis Endowment Fund

Rev. Earlean Miller Seminary Scholarship Fund

The Rev. Stanley E. Olson Mission Developer Seminary Scholarship Fund [MD]

Our Savior Vero Beach Seminary Scholarship Fund

Our Saviours Lutheran Church Mission Developer Scholarship Fund — Lake Oswego, Ore. [MD]

Elsa Schulz Pierce Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Franklin G. Senger III and Mr. Edward J. Wilhelm Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

The Earl Melvin Sletten Fund for Leaders Scholarship Endowment

Rev. David and Sally Sloop Mission Developer Scholarship Fund [MD]

Rev. Arne Strandjord Memorial Endowment Fund

Louise Stroud Sullivan Federal Chaplaincy Seminary Scholarship Fund [FCM]

The Elaine P. Tucker Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Joseph and Claudia Wagner Seminary Scholarship Fund

Rev. Dr. Frederick, Anna, & Kathleen Wedemeyer Seminary Scholarship

Chaplain Eric and Mrs. Paula Wester Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund [FCM]

OTHER ENDOWMENTS SUPPORTING FUND FOR LEADERS

The Armia Family Scholarship Endowment Fund

The Ottilya Elliott Memorial Endowment Fund*

Fund for Leaders Alumni Scholarship Fund

Leroy R. Keranen Endowment Fund*

The Charles and Georgia Knobler Seminary Scholarship Fund

William Larsen Memorial Scholarship Endowment

Peter & Mildred Nodyne Memorial Fund

Rev. Mark and Kari Olsen Seminary Scholarship Fund

Frank J. & Marie O. Reichardt Memorial Endowment Fund

St. Michael Lutheran Church Virginia Beach Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund [FCM]

Rev. Dr. Gerald S. Troutman Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund

Zoar Lutheran Church Seminary Scholarship Fund



"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Your contribution is invaluable not just to me but to countless students and future ministries as well. Your dedication truly inspires us and allows us to pursue our education and faith with confidence. I sincerely appreciate all that you do. May God continue to bless you abundantly."

—Lotegeluaki Ole L. Lengai

IN MEMORIAM

With thanksgiving to God, we remember the faithful and generous supporters of the Fund for Leaders whose deaths we have learned of in the past year. The gifts they gave and/or named endowment funds they established provide a legacy that will make a difference in the lives of ELCA seminary students and the congregations and ministries they serve for years to come. Those whose names are known to us are listed below with thanks for their faithful witness to the gospel.

* Denotes contact for a Fund for Leaders Endowment.

# Denotes member of the advisory Leadership Table.

Mrs. Marjorie A. Ahlstrand *
Mr. Richard C. Baker
The Rev. Paul A. Baker
Mr. Kenneth E. Becker
Ms. Barbara Biederman
Mr. Steven D. Blackledge #
Ms. Nola J. Brown
The Rev. Andrew E. Carlsson
Ms. Judith D. Claybaker
The Rev. Linda K. Diepenbrock
Mr. Charles H. Dietz
The Rev. Richard L. Dowhower
Mrs. Marilyn W. Dudley
Dr. James "Jim" A. Gerding
Ms. Anna O. Graeber
Mrs. Lola J. Gronewold
The Rev. Melvin J. Hammer
Ms. Lynne W. Hansen
Ms. LaDonna M. Hardt
Mr. David J. Hardy
Mrs. Patricia A. Hinrichs
Mr. Arthur "Art" L. Hitz
The Rev. Sally J. Houck
Mr. Harold W. Julifs
The Rev. Robert W. Kelley
The Rev. Thomas T. Kolden
The Rev. Susan L. Lindberg
The Rev. Susan P. Lynch
The Rev. Martin E. Marty
Mrs. Janet Mattheis
Ms. Evelyn S. Mechtly
The Rev. Charles S. Miller
The Rev. Tom O. Miller
The Rev. Norman A. Nelson
Ms. Pamela "Pam" R. O'Brien Anderson
Mrs. Barbara J. Olson
Deacon Helen M. Pagel
The Rev. Terrance I. Parker
Mrs. Elaine C. Peters
Mr. Robert E. Reifschneider
Mrs. Marsha L. Rianda
Mrs. Shirley M. Schneider *
Mrs. Betty Schoenhals
Mrs. Doris E. Stromer
Mr. Stephen S. Strunck
The Rev. Dean E. Sudman
The Rev. Richard R. Tupy
Mrs. Gracia C. Willis
The Rev. James P. Wind

NUMBERS FOR THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR*

FFL Churchwide Scholarships 98

Total amount to be distributed: **$1,574,354**

Synod and Congregational Partner Scholarships 251

Total amount to be distributed: **$839,196**

TEEM Scholarships (estimated) 150

Total amount to be distributed: **$600,000**

Internship Support Pilot 8

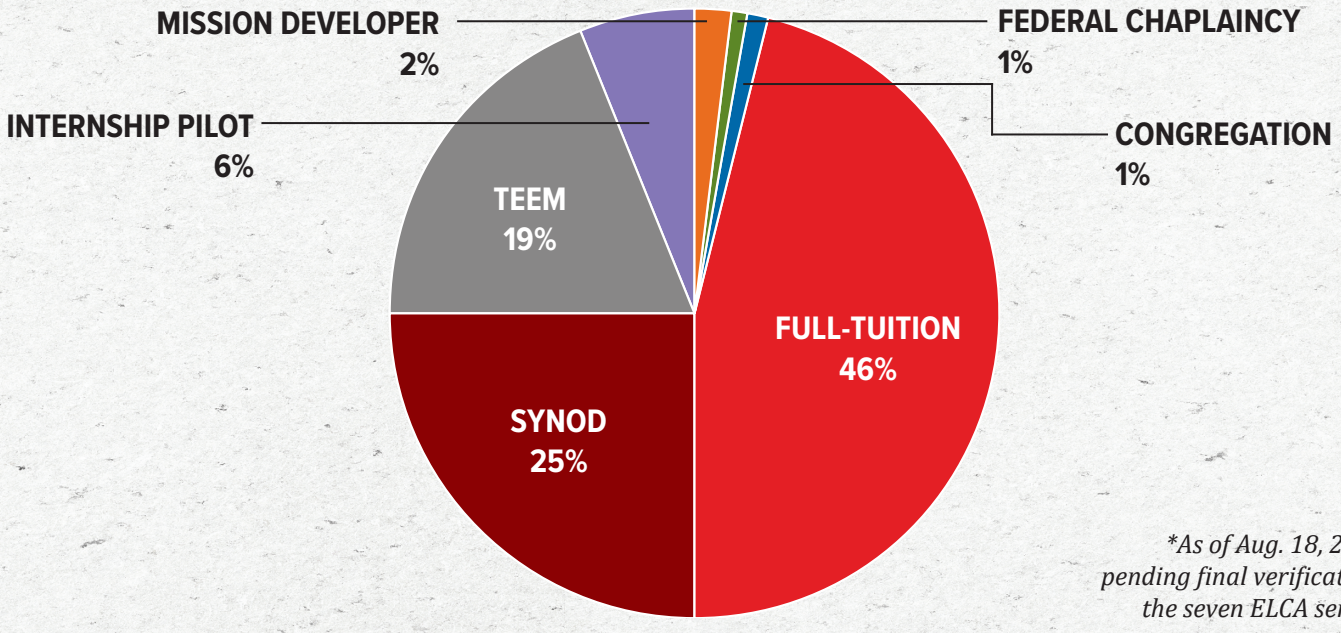
Total amount to be distributed: ..... **$132,000 (estimated)**

Total number of scholarships awarded 507

Students supported in 2025-2026 ..... 458 (includes 150 TEEM students)

Total amount to be awarded in 2025-2026 ..... **$3,145,550**

FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIPS



**As of Aug. 18, 2025, and pending final verification from the seven ELCA seminaries.*

HOW TO GIVE

There are so many ways the ELCA Fund for Leaders walks alongside future pastors and deacons at a critical moment in their lives and in the life of the church. **You can join us in this vital ministry through your prayers, by encouraging someone to consider ministry and by making a gift to help make seminary more affordable.** Every contribution helps ensure that faithful and promising leaders can answer God's call and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Fund for Leaders named endowment funds can be established with a gift of $25,000 or more. At the current standardized value of a full-tuition scholarship — $20,000 per year — a full-tuition Fund for Leaders scholarship can be sustained with an endowment of $500,000.

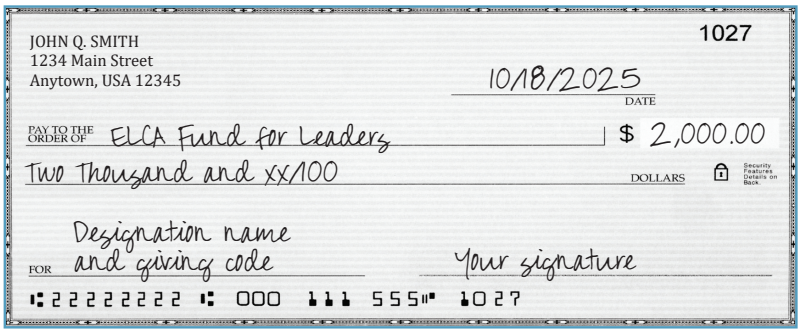
Contact FundForLeaders@ELCA.org or 800-638-3522.

GIVE BY CHECK

Make your check out to "ELCA Fund for Leaders" with one of the designation names and codes* in the memo line. Mail your check to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

*For a list of designation codes, see page 26.



GIVE BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD

Visit **ELCA.org/GiveFFL** or call **800-638-3522**.

GIVE TO AN ENDOWMENT

Make a lasting gift! Contribute to one of the Fund for Leaders endowment funds to help support these ministries for generations to come. Visit **ELCA.org/GiveFFL** and select from the drop-down menu.

GIVE THROUGH THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

If you are a Thrivent member, consider supporting ELCA Fund for Leaders through your Thrivent Choice Dollars.

MONTHLY

Set up an automatic monthly gift by calling **800-638-3522**.

CREATE A LEGACY

An ELCA gift planner can help you plan a legacy gift, such as a bequest, endowment or charitable-gift annuity. Contact **ELCAfoundation@ELCA.org** or call **800-638-3522, ext. 2299**.

RISING TO FUTURE CHALLENGES

We've come a long way since the ELCA Fund for Leaders was established over 25 years ago, but we still have a long way to go.

In just the last few years, distribution of funds has grown from $2 million to $3 million. With your help, we can grow that figure by another million dollars. Reaching $100 million in endowment funds would permit us to award $4 million in scholarships every year. **To fully realize this vision of the Fund for Leaders, we need you! Your investment will ensure that the gospel will be faithfully preached for generations to come.**

Together we can support all those God is calling to lead our church into the future.

GREAT GIFTS

Say yes to the future leaders of this church by making a gift and/or multiyear commitment today. Your gifts fund an endowment to provide annual tuition assistance into perpetuity.



$500,000

Endow a full-tuition scholarship, allowing distribution of $20,000 to one student per academic year.



$250,000

Contribute half of a full-tuition scholarship, allowing distribution of $10,000 to one student per academic year.



$25,000

Establish a named endowment within the ELCA Fund for Leaders.

GIVING CODES

Use these codes to designate a specific Fund for Leaders endowment. Make out your check to **"ELCA Fund for Leaders"** with one of the designation names and codes in the memo line. Mail your check to: **ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**.

ELCA Fund for Leaders, Current Fund*	**E270433**
ELCA Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund	E270134
ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Endowment Fund	E271994
Mission Developers Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund	E271368
Fund for Leaders TEEM Scholarships	MCG0076
Fund for Leaders Alumni Scholarship Endowment Fund	E272970

**Used immediately for scholarships*

A NOTE FROM THE REV. BENJAMIN A. HOGUE DIRECTOR, MINISTRY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Grace and greetings, Fund for Leaders supporters,

Because of your generosity, the ELCA Fund for Leaders continues to equip and empower faithful, bold leaders for the sake of the gospel. **Your gifts ensure that future pastors and deacons can answer God's call without the burden of debt holding them back, which will free them to serve with courage, creativity and joy.**

Each scholarship tells a story — of hope, of call, of a church that believes in investing in its leaders. These stories begin in seminary classrooms, at kitchen tables and in congregations such as yours, and they ripple outward into communities and ministries across the ELCA and beyond.

Thank you for believing in the students God is raising up, for walking alongside them as they prepare to serve and for trusting that your investment will bear fruit in ways seen and unseen. Together we are shaping a future in which gifted leaders can answer God's call without hesitation, carrying the good news of Christ into the world.

With gratitude,



Rev. Benjamin A. Hogue
Director, Ministry Engagement and Support

ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS ON THE ROAD



ELCA Fund for Leaders staff attended a reception for the new Fund for Leaders scholarship recipients at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

ELCA Fund for Leaders staff and Leadership Table members with the Rev. R. Guy Erwin, president of United Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania. The seminary hosted the graduation of Fund for Leaders scholarship recipients.





Marissa Krey, director of ELCA Fund for Leaders, with the Rev. Dianne Lewis at the African Descent Lutheran Association conference. Rev. Lewis is a Fund for Leaders alum and a member of the Fund for Leaders Leadership Table.

ELCA
Fund for Leaders

MEET THE ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS STAFF



Rev. Marissa Krey
Director,
ELCA Fund for Leaders



Rev. Benjamin A. Hogue
Director,
Ministry Engagement and Support



Kelly Pierce
Program Director,
ELCA Fund for Leaders



Joanne BjergaSuri
Information Manager,
ELCA Fund for Leaders

APPLICATION TIMELINES

FULL-TUITION STUDENTS	**12/1/2025-2/20/2026**
MISSION DEVELOPER STUDENTS	**12/1/2025-2/2/2026**
FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES	**2/9/2026-3/13/2026**
SYNOD OR CONGREGATION	**5/15/2026-6/5/2026**

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP: For future ELCA pastors and deacons who intend to enroll at any ELCA seminary and who have begun the ELCA candidacy process.

MISSION DEVELOPER: For students who are rising middlers, seniors or TEEM candidates at an ELCA seminary and who are nominated by their seminary and by the Christian Community and Leadership home area.

FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES: For students who are attending an ELCA seminary and preparing for ministry as a military, federal prison or Veterans Administration chaplain.

SYNOD OR CONGREGATION: For ELCA seminary students, awarded by synods and/or congregations that have established funds through ELCA Fund for Leaders.







Questions?
Email us at **fundforleaders@ELCA.org**.

Visit **ELCA.org/fundforleaders** to learn more or start an application.