

October 11, 2009



Dear members of the Northwest/Lower Michigan Synod,

I am very grateful for all of the support that I have received from the synod from the time that I started the discernment process. The cost of seminary was one of our main concerns when I started at Trinity Lutheran Seminary during the summer of 2008. While the school has done everything possible to keep tuition rates at a minimum we still have additional living expenses that have to be accounted for. We have learned to live on a tight budget while still providing for our children and letting them participate in extra-curricular activities.

The scholarship that I have received from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod will help ease some of our burdens as we continue on in this journey that God has called us to. The scholarship means that we do not have to take as many financial aid loans and therefore will not have as much debt when I graduate from Trinity. We are very thankful that the Northwest/Lower Michigan Synod has stepped up to help support the future leaders of the church by providing a way to make the cost of seminary not so over whelming. The scholarship is also an affirmation of my calling as I continue on into my second year of coursework. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

God's Peace,

Alexander Steward

(Alex is a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte, MI)