

Dear Members of the WLS Alumni Society,

Thank you so much for selecting me as one of the recipients of your annual scholarship! Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is truly blessed to be supported by people who have a deep desire to support my fellow classmates and me who are studying for the pastoral ministry.

My name is Daniel Schmidt (one of many Dan Schmidts in our synod). I am a senior here at the Seminary. I am from the small south-central Wisconsin town of Ixonia, and I am a member of St. Matthew's in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. At St. Matthew's my dad serves as one of the pastors, and our family has been there since 2008. I am the oldest of six children in my family, and many of my siblings are also thinking that careers in public ministry are in their future.

Until my family and I moved to Wisconsin, I attended public school. Then in 2008, when my dad accepted the call to be pastor in Oconomowoc, I started grade school at St. Matthew's. After that I went to high school at Luther Prep School in Watertown, Wisconsin. I graduated from Prep in 2013 and began classes at Martin Luther College in New Ulm the following fall. I graduated from MLC in 2017, and I am now enrolled in classes at the Seminary.

My first two years at the Seminary were great. Those years helped give me the tools I needed for my vicar year in Sharpsburg, Georgia. I had an awesome time living and serving in Georgia for the year. It was my first time going outside the Midwest for an extended amount of time, and it helped me experience ministry in a place I didn't really know much about.

My decision to become a pastor is the result of something I have thought about from a very young age. As long as I can remember, I've said I want to be a pastor. My education through St. Matthew's, Luther Prep, and MLC only strengthened that desire. I was surrounded by men that I still look up to, and many of them were pastors. I saw their desire to preach and teach the gospel and it made my desire even stronger. As I've gotten older, I've also been able to see more and more how we are in a world that is starving to hear the gospel message of Jesus. My time in Georgia last year made that even more clear. Whether it be here in Wisconsin, halfway across the country, or halfway around the world, I pray that I have the chance to share the message of Jesus with people so that the Spirit can work to create and strengthen faith in their hearts.

Again, thank you so much for your gift! I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for me in the coming years! Gifts like yours further encourage men to pursue a ministry and preach Christ crucified and risen!



Your Brother in Christ,

Dan Schmidt