

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA

O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

7301 Germantown Avenue • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19119-1794
215/248-6309 • 800/286-4616, ext. 6309 • 215/248-7348 fax • www.ltsp.edu

Dear Friend in Christ,

If you have been a part of a vibrant congregation you know just how important congregational leaders are. From Pastors to Directors of Christian Education to youth workers to choir directors and church musicians, there are so many people who dedicate their gifts and energy to making congregations work.

Which means that you also know just how important seminaries are. Because schools like The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia are the places where all these leaders are educated, formed, trained and then sent to your congregations. In fact, over our 150-year history, we have prepared more than 5000 leaders for lives of faithful service in congregations throughout the Northeast and across the country and world.

What you probably don't know is how much it takes to prepare these leaders or where the support to do so comes from. Most people I talk to assume that seminaries are funded 100% by the national church. And that was true...*decades* ago. Today, the national church supplies about 7% of necessary funds, with supporting Synods offering another 7% or so. That leaves 85% for us to cover, and because we don't want our graduates to leave seminary overly burdened by student debt, we keep tuition as low as possible. In fact, student tuition counts for only about another 25% of the cost of running our school. Which means that more than half of what we need to continue our mission comes from congregations and individuals who are committed to providing the church with the best possible leaders we can prepare.

Needless to say, your gifts matter. They make it possible to keep an excellent faculty and maintain classrooms and our campus. They make it possible to provide critical financial aid for students. They make it possible to offer continuing education for pastors and faith formation resources for congregations. In short, they make it possible for us to prepare leaders for a lifetime of faithful and creative service.

Your gifts matter. We simply could not accomplish our mission without them. Thank you for helping us prepare leaders for today's congregations and those our children and their grandchildren will attend.

Yours in Christ,



David J. Lose