

The name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah.

Christ is risen.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God.

Merciful father, since you have wakened from Death, The Shepherd of your sheep, grant us your holy spirit that when we hear the voice of Our Shepherd, we may know him who calls us each by name and follow where he leads to the same.

Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever Amen.

The reading is from Ezekiel chapter 34.

For that says the Lord God.

Behold I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

As a Shepherd speaks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered.

So will I seek out my sheep?

And I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness and I'll bring them out from the people's and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own land, and I'll feed them on the mountains of Israel by The Ravines and then all the inhabited places of the country.

I will feed them with good pasture and on the mountain Heights of Israel shall be their grazing land.

There, they shall lie down and good grazing.

Land.

And on Rich, Pastor, they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep and I myself will make them

lie down, declares the Lord.

I will seek the song lost, I will bring back the strayed and I will

bind up the injured and I will strengthen the weak.

And the fat and the strong.

I will destroy.

I will feed them.

Injustice.

This is the word of the Lord.

Please stand.

a reading from John chapter 10,

Jesus said,

I am the Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd, lays down his life for the Sheep.

He who has a Hired Hand and not a Shepherd who does not own.

The Sheep sees the wolf coming and leave the sheep and fleas and the

Wolf, snatches them and scatters them.

He flees because he is a Hired Hand and cares, nothing for the Sheep.

I am the Good Shepherd.

I know my own and my own know, me just as the father knows me.

And I know the father,

And I lay down my life for the Sheep.

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold, I must bring them

also and they will listen to my voice.

So there will be one flock, one Shepherd.

For this reason.

The father loves me because I lay down my life.

And I take it up again.

No one takes it from me.

But I lay it down of my own accord.

I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it up again.

discharge, I have received from my father,

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks.

Be to God, please be seated.

Hallelujah

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. And warm greetings and gratitude to all who are gathered here and to all who are listening online.

I wish that more of us could have been included in this joyful occasion

but welcome to our guest from many places to parents to spouses to representatives from the Council of Presidents to President Harrison, to members of the Board of Regents, to our dedicated faculty and staff.

And especially to, you our concluding students

to whom God himself, will utter his call this evening to serve his church as workers in his Vineyard.

I know that I speak for the faculty

and for your parents and for the whole church and I certainly speak for myself.

When I say that it has been a high high privilege, to have a hand in whatever capacity each of us has had

in preparing, you

for this vocation.

The text for the sermon, this evening is the Gospel reading from John

10 under the theme one Shepherd,

Jesus Christ.

Hear again, verses 14 through 16.

I am the Good Shepherd.

I know my own and my own know, me. Just as the father knows me

and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the Sheep.

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold, I must bring them

also and they will listen to my voice.

So there will be one flock, one Shepherd.

One Shepherd.

Tonight is a night of joy and confidence and anticipation and of

eternal significance because God has raised up one Shepherd.

The ministry into, which you are being called is glorious.

It is a bright and splendid light in the midst of the Earth because of

one Shepherd.

No one is stronger.

No one is more tender.

There is no safer, shoulder for the sheep

then, on the shoulder of this Shepherd.

The one Shepherd

Jesus Christ.

He was at the Father's side in the Father's bosom from eternity.

All things were made through him

and without him was not anything made that was made for us

and for our Salvation, he came down from heaven, he became man, he

took on our flesh.

So that he might be the one Shepherd for the Sheep.

He took on our flesh so that he might be slaughtered for the Sheep.

The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

So that we might be his dear Lambs.

Tonight is a night of joy and of confidence and of anticipation and of eternal significance because God has raised up one Shepherd.

And the time of his humiliation and the time of his shame and suffering is finished, he has done it.

The remarkable saving work of the Christ of God is accomplished.

Tonight is a night of joy, because of Jesus.

The one Shepherd,

And he is calling you to feed his Lambs.

What a glorious Ministry.

The ministry of the gospel of Christ.

Glorious because of his power

and his wealth, and his wisdom, and his might, and his honor, and His glory, and his blessing.

Glorious because of his love.

Earlier this week in a chapel sermon Christian Pieper reminded us that

Call Day is not about us.

Not about you.

At its core

it is about the love of Jesus Christ.

He is the Good Shepherd.

Who laid down his life for the Sheep.

One Shepherd.

Your Shepherd.

Who died for you.

Who Rose for you.

Who knows

you.

As the Eternal Father Knows the Eternal Son, he knows you.

This Jesus who reigns over all things enthroned at God's right hand of power.

He loves you, he loves us all.

He cares for us everyday, he hears our prayers.

He promises never to leave us or forsake us.

He is truly with us in his word. He is truly with us in his body and in his blood. He is with us standing in the midst of his flock come what may to the end of the age.

His Shepherd's voice will one day summon you from your grave.

And his love will be your eternal joy.

Call Day is about the love of Jesus.

It is about the one Shepherd.

Tonight, your names will be read along with the name of the congregation and the name of a place.

You will be called to many different flocks.

But truly, there is one flock and one Shepherd.

One Shepherd for all of us sheep.

Our text this evening about the Good Shepherd and his sheep comes from right in the middle of John's gospel chapter 10. And it's fascinating to see the way that John really frames his whole gospel with language of sheep, and lambs proclaiming Jesus as both the Good Shepherd and also, as the Paschal Lamb, the Passover Lamb of God.

Towards the beginning of the Gospel, right in chapter one, we have the Baptist pointing his finger and twice, saying of Jesus Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

And then right away in Chapter 2, John has this emphasis that begins

on the Passover, the Passover.

Chapter 2, we read.

Now, the Passover of the Jews, was it hand in chapter 6, we read.

Now, the Passover, the Feast of the Jews was at hand and third Passover what will be the final Passover in John's gospel is introduced in chapter 11.

Now, the Passover of the Jews, was it hand.

Chapter 12, right

after that begins, 6 days before the Passover. And chapter 13 begins before the Passover

when Jesus knew that his last hour had come. And three more times during John's account of Jesus trial and crucifixion

he reminds us again

and again, this is the time of the Passover.

And John is the gospel writer who tells us that the soldiers did not break Jesus legs.

So that is the scripture, say not one of his bones will be broken.

Which is not only a reference to Psalm 34 but also an allusion to the instructions for the Passover Lamb.

You shall not break any of its bones.

All of the thousands and thousands of Passover Lambs that had been sacrificed

and now here was the one.

The one Passover Lamb of God.

Who's blood would avert God's judgment upon sinners forever.

He was the one willing lamb.

The one willing Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep.

He had the authority to lay it down.

He gave his life for you
no one took it from him. And he who had the authority to lay his life
down
also have the authority to take it up again.

This Jesus
who has risen from the dead our triumphant Shepherd.

The Gospel of John which began by referring to Jesus as God's lamb and
which right in the center has Jesus declaring himself, our Good
Shepherd also ends with talk of sheep.

In John 21, the final chapter, the risen and triumphant, Shepherd
stands before, Peter and charges him.

Feed my Lambs.

Shepherd, my sheep.

Feed my sheep.

Peter isn't the one Shepherd.

Neither is any other disciple and neither are you.

There is one flock

and one Shepherd Jesus Christ.

But what a wondrous thing is happening here, at the end of John's
gospel, as the Good Shepherd, the victorious

lamb calls Peter to Shepherd, his lambs, Jesus, lambs, Peter.

Peter who just before Jesus was arrested, had boasted Lord why can't I
follow you

I will lay down my life for you.

Peter to whom Jesus had replied.

Will you lay down your life for me?

Truly, truly, I say to you

the rooster will not crow before you have denied me three times.

Peter would find himself, weak and weeping.

There is one flock and one Shepherd.

Only one who's faithfulness, never wavered and will never waver. One

Shepherd who laid down his life for us.

One Shepherd, who will never deny us because he cannot deny himself.

One Shepherd, whose rod and staff in life and in death will prevail

for us and will bring us home.

Peter is not that Shepherd

and neither, are you.

But what a wondrous thing is going on here

at the end of John's gospel. The one Shepherd is calling another to

feed his lambs to Shepherd, his sheep,

to be a pastor.

And what the Lord God did for Peter and others

at the end of John's gospel

he continues to do for his church.

And he does

so here tonight.

He is making you Shepherd's, watchman, over his flock.

He who gave his life for the Sheep

here tonight gives you

for his sheep.

Tonight,

here

Jesus Christ is shepherding, his flock.

He is calling you to go forth with his word and with his sacraments,

with his love, with his service, with his humility and meekness with

his strength, and authority with his rod, and his staff

and almost certainly also,

with his wounds and his sufferings.

I pray that a warm reception greets, you at the place where you're being called. I pray that your ministry will be blessed by God and it will be, and it will be carried out with joy.

And that you would often often be blessed to see the fruits of your labors.

I pray that the flock, would you serve would display the unity and the peace of Christ.

My own years as a pastor in Iowa where I think the richest and happiest years of my life.

But whether through the sin and hostility of others, or through your own sin and weakness and brokenness there will also be many times when the glorious Ministry of the gospel of Christ does not seem so glorious.

And when the strong Pastor who he has called to care for his sheep will not feel strong and when the faithful shepherd He has called will be confronted by his own lack of zeal and unfaithfulness.

As with Peter, there will be times when you find yourself weak and weeping.

In those times, dear brothers and sisters the faithfulness of the one Shepherd, your Shepherd, Jesus will endure.

His arms will be strong for you.

His shoulder will be your rock and place of refuge. His word and promises will bring life to death soaked bones.

His Sacrament will bring ointment and healing to your heart and to your lips. His strength, not yours, his righteousness, not yours his

authority, not yours, his love not yours is your hope and the church's hope.

He is so good.

So true, he will not fail you.

You.

Will you lay down your life for me,

Jesus asks, you?

Truly, truly, I say to you

the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

But if you turn the question around,

and if you ask Jesus,

Will you lay down your life for me?

Oh yes.

Right

there is your hope and your joy for a lifetime of self-giving

Ministry

in his name for he will answer you again and again.

Yes, for you, dear lamb, I have laid down my life and for all the

dear, lambs whom I've called you to Shepherd, in my one, flock with one Shepherd.

In his sermons on the Gospel of John Martin Luther encouraged future pastors with these words and it's a couple paragraphs of words.

So here we go.

I know says Christ that the devil will assail you severely for my sake to make you sad and weary and impatient.

So that you stop your work and say I wish I had never begun this.

That is what is happening too many now Luther continues and I myself have often felt this temptation to displeasure and disgust and it actually thought if I had not begun to do this, I would never again

want to preach another word, but would want to let everything go as it goes.

For flesh and blood are real flesh-and-blood.

And everyone is dazed by the fact that he must see and suffer so much contempt ingratitude and danger in return for his love and good turns.

But says Christ, no.

Do not let the devil the world or your own flesh overpower you.

But think how I have loved you.

And still love you and how much I have spent on you that you may be righteous acceptable to the father saved through me.

His Minister and priest in my disciple for this I have suffered and overcome everything, both a devil and the world were able to do to me so friend remain in my love.

And do not let the many trials and displeasure, which they arouse discourage you.

Remain in Christ's love.

Indeed.

Labor, then you're friends with joy in Christ with freedom in Christ.

In the love of Christ for you, serve with energy and devotion, bring the good news of the Good Shepherd, too many, be a good shepherd for Christ flock.

Yet always in this confidence.

That finally, there is one flock.

One Shepherd

Jesus

the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for us sheep.

To his name, be all glory at this Seminary, throughout his church

and in your lives of ministry.

Amen.

Please be seated.

In Christ's name, we welcome you who are present here in the chapel and those who are watching live stream via the Internet.

This evening is a joyous occasion for us all and President Egger thank you for reminding us that the joy comes from the one Shepherd and his one flock

Tonight, the Concordia, Seminary Community joins our candidates, their spouses and children families, and friends, supporting and calling congregations in praising God and celebrating his gift of workers for his church.

I also want to thank the staff and offices that have worked so diligently to make this in person service happen.

Alix-Ann O'Brien

who's our Director of Campus Services and Events Coordinator has worked diligently for this to come come be.

Our Communications Department with Melanie Ave and Sarah Maney have worked hard.

My executive assistant Kathy Whitcomb, who does most all things placement in that office.

Last year, we could not meet in person because of the covid-19 lockdown.

This year we are in person but we are under some rather significant restrictions by St.

Louis County

in the terms of wearing mask, social distancing, limited occupancy
in a building
and making contact with other people.

Next year we hope and we pray that we will be back to a full Chapel no
mask, handshaking
hugs smiling faces.

But this year, we want to acknowledge some of the disappointment that
is here because not all family and children and friends are able to be
here, as each candidate was given, just one guest to invite.

We thank you for understanding.

And we hope that you are celebrating as you watch online with all of
us here in the chapel this evening.

For the assignment, at a meeting on Saturday, April 24th, the Council
of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments for the Lutheran,
Church-Missouri Synod.

After much prayer and deliberation in the months, leading up to this
vote.

Approved

the placement of students from calls for are some synodical seminaries. Our sister seminary
Concordia, Theological, Seminary, in Fort Wayne Indiana held their
placement service last evening.

Tonight, we announce calls for 47 students in our residential MDiv
program, 7 residential alternate route students who are currently on
vicarage, 2 students from the Center

for Hispanic Studies, 3 from are Cross-Cultural Ministry Center in
Irvine,

California, 2 from our Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program.

We'll also announce the placement or placement pending of 3

deaconesses from our residential program

and 2 deaconesses from the Center of Hispanic Studies.

It's our privilege to have with us this evening, the Council of Presidents and presidium of the Lutheran, Church-Missouri Synod.

And I welcomed Rev. David Maier, president of Michigan District, and also Chairman of the Council of Presidents, to greet you this evening.

Dr.

Egger, thank you for the opportunity of being here

glad, again for the invitation.

Take this off.

There we go, I'm good with that

trust me.

I'm looking at some future pastors here and we are so very grateful.

I want to thank the professors the great teachers of the church for what you have done for these men and hope that you're grateful to them.

But Brothers, you have been prayed for ever since we knew that we had vacancies in our congregations, or if we knew you before hand, you've been prayed for his well. 35 District presidents would normally be over here along with the presidium, but I want you to know that if they could not be here, they're probably watching online.

And again, they have not stopped to pray for you for your congregations and for the larger parishes that will be around your particular congregations. You what you had great teachers and you are going to come into a world though that is completely different from what many of us have known in the past.

You've got one good year of experience under your belt and that's when covid was first erupting, right. Now

you're going to go back out into the field and we're wondering when are the masses going to return?

When are the exiles going to return again?

And you're going to wonder how do we get past some of the big questions masks, right?

No

masks loving it.

What about other things?

Other big questions that we're facing like the equality act?

How is that going to affect our churches and our schools?

And we begin to wonder.

No, Peter had a great teacher

also. We've heard about Peter and we recognize, you know, what, it was for three years, that he was with Jesus.

And yet he's thrown out there and we realized that he faced some big big changes.

The Lord never left them

as you heard. You know, when

he was on Joppa's roof, the big sheet comes down.

It has all of these animals on it and the command is given, you know, kill and eat.

And Peter is, is quick to respond

Lord, you know, these are dirty animals.

I would never eat this reminds the Lord of his commands in the Old Testament.

And yet we see this Peter is he continues to argue with the Lord, lose the argument,

that's always a good thing.

And then we realize also

as he gets into that whole episode of what is taking place that the Lord reminds and do not call anything unclean that I have made clean.

No, the Old Testament applied, some of those, same principles of separation the people, as well as one thing to do that with animals,

but then to people. We see that, even in the formation of the of the temple, you have a Woman's Court and then the Laymen's Court you have the Gentile Court, the Women's Court and then the Layman's Court and then the priest and inevitably the the Holy of Holies, but there was separation.

I'm so thankful that we live in the New Testament when we recognize and see you, the one Good Shepherd as we have just heard about this evening.

The one blessed savior that looks out at the world and recognizes that all of us have fallen short, all of us are different. You know, there was one book that really kind of, I think just highlighted the entire fact, and looking at the Old Testament and look at all these laws that just separated.

What's the one overarching theme we can take from that?

What what classified these animals as unclean or an anomaly or abnormal?

It's the fact that they were all different, oddballs.

The anomaly may have been

if you were in the sea, you shouldn't be an eel because you should have had fins.

You should have had the scales and therefore, the eel is out.

The Old Testament law was no oddballs allowed.

Jesus, fulfilled

all of the Old Testament, all of the law.

And if we could say there's one overarching principle now we're all
odd balls

but God loves us anyway.

And that's the message of the Gospel that you get to carry into your
churches into your communities, into your parishes.

Jesus culminated his time on Earth by giving his disciples the Great
Commission.

And even though the Gentiles were once considered dirty and to be
separated the goyim, he says no go to the unclean Gentiles in all
Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the Earth.

And Jesus approached the unclean people
although with this made many, especially with those within the church
and also became the reason that he finally died.

No oddballs allowed was replaced again by, we're all oddballs a rule
of Grace, but God loves us anyway.

Now we look at the Old Testament laws were three things that happened
quickly in the Gospel of Luke, in chapter 8, and it if you take them
together, you begin to see Christ's heart for Ministry
and his intent. There was the the healing of the naked madman who Jesus
commissioned, really as the first missionary to go back into his
hometown.

Then you have the hemorrhaging woman hemorrhaging for 12 years kept
her
unclean.

Could not work if I could not gather.

She did not stain him, she left whole.

And then, of course, after you've already been with a

crazy man a Gentile and now hemorrhaging woman why not touch a corpse and he heals Jairus's daughter.

Brothers as we look at with Christ did there

we come to realize that God has come for everyone.

The law was not a was not abolished, it was fulfilled.

And you now it's a great gospel message to give to each and every one of your congregations.

The Apostle Paul initially, one of the most reticent and resistant to change who prayed probably every day even as a Pharisee of Pharisees, I thank God that I am not a Gentile or slave or woman ended up writing these revolutionary words under the inspiration of the spirit. There is neither Jew, nor Greek, slave, nor free male nor female for all are one in Christ, Jesus. Grace, Grace, found a way.

Brothers, may it be that as you get up and you'll hear about your calls and you'll anticipate them along with your spouses or family.

However, it might be, may it be that you resolve to know nothing among your people accept Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Doesn't matter if we wear masks or not, they'll be other decisions you'll wrestle with.

But please resolve,

please resolve to preach the crucified Christ. And may you never boast, except in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ through whom the world has been crucified to you and you to the world.

We all want to say, welcome to you.

These are great men that want to support you continue to pray with you and encourage you.

We want to say, welcome to the front lines.

God bless you.

Thank you, president Maier.

We're also have honored to have with us this evening, the Rev, Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran, Church-Missouri Synod and President Harrison

I invite you to come and bring you the greetings to the students to this evening.

Thank you very much.

Thank you Tom, for that wonderful sermon, and thank you, David.

I was in a sheep paddock one time in South Australia and

I was with the shepherd, the owner of the sheep driving into that paddock.

And as he was driving, his utility truck with me in it, all of a

sudden, the sheep started to flee thousand of them

probably 1500. And all the sudden he Graham began to say he was a Lutheran guy who began to say hey Bob.

Hey Bob, just about that loud.

Hey, Bob.

And within a couple of minutes

1000 sheeps round of that truck.

So thick, you could step out, you felt like you could step off and walk across them.

My sheep hear my voice.

And you are Jesus sheep.

We're so thankful for you.

We're so thankful for the Seminary and its faculty.

Thankful for this moment in your life and we're thankful for these people, you've invited to see this event.

I'm sure they are all your major donors over here.

Have you learned something about fund development, right?

Right off the

bat.

We thank all of you for your investment in these men and your partnership with them how exciting this will be.

There's really not much left to say.

Now you who are sheep yourselves are sent.

And the powerful Lord blesses through his word, the God of Peace who brought again from the dead

our Lord Jesus Christ

the great Shepherd of the Sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant covenant.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

establish you buy every good thing for the doing of his will.

Working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters.

As you hear your name called and your placement announced remember God's word in

Paul's second letter to the Corinthians for what we proclaim is not ourselves but Jesus Christ, as Lord with ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake. For God who said let light shine out of darkness has shown in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.

The following candidates have been certified for the office of the Holy Ministry and the Diaconate ministry by the Faculty of Concordia Seminary.

I invite the first group of candidates to line up.

Members of the Faculty of also written, special notes of encouragement for each of our candidates, which I will read along with the placement.

And you're probably wondering, yes, it is now time for me to come down and actually do this.

Shawn Baker, assistant, pastor Bethany, Lutheran Church, Johnson County, or Overland Park, Kansas, Kansas District.

Dr.

Schmidt has written Shawn your genuine, humility and sincere graciousness are a delight in your preaching.

I pray that God blesses people through your words and work.

Garrett.

Rickey Becket associate pastor Zion Lutheran Church Mount Pleasant, Michigan, Michigan, District.

Doctor Penhaligon.

Ricky, I recall one day, at Concordia Ann Arbor loaning, you my pocket edition of the book of Concord so that you could explore the confessions and Lutheranism for yourself.

And here you are. May our Lord bless your subscription of these, confessions as you serve his people in his church wherever he calls you to serve.

Jake Bellinghausen Pastor Grace Lutheran Church, Vestal New York Eastern District. Doctor Nafzger writes.

God has served you in Christ Jake and he sent you to serve others in his name.

You have carried out your service in the dorms with integrity and joy.

Now bring that same joyful service to this congregation and community.

Matthew Berry Pastor Concordia Lutheran Church Sikeston, Missouri, Missouri District.

Dr.

Seifrid writes.

May the Lord bless you Matt and make you a blessing to those to whom, he sends you. Preach the word in season and out of season for the joy and strengthening of the flock.

Jeff Bierman associate pastor Trinity Lutheran Ministries Edwardsville, Illinois, Southern Illinois, District.

Dr.

Okamoto writes.

Jesus said to the disciples you did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.

Now, he has chosen you for special service.

Go and bear fruit.

Chad Bolosan, Pastor Messiah, Lutheran Church, Sterling, Illinois, Northern Illinois, District.

Dr.

Thompson writes. Chad, a listening ear and a thoughtful reply are valuable for pastoral Ministry and are gifts you possess. God bless you as you lead his people.

Nathaniel Brown.

Pastor.

Trinity, Grace and Trinity, Lutheran, Churches Odessa, Corral and Walter Township Minnesota, Minnesota, North District.

Dr.

Burreson writes. A master sacristan and house fellow Nathaniel.

You have learned the art of light and now it will render the ministry of Christ to supply, the needs of the Saints.

Justin Cullen, Pastor Faith Lutheran Church, Sullivan, Illinois, Central Illinois District. Dr.

Elowsky writes. As you go out into the ministry, take the whole armor of God with you. Develop that spiritual muscle memory, so that when the assaults come you will not be overcome but be able to stand firm in the faith and prevail.

Christopher Deneen associate

Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church Lansing, Michigan Michigan District. Dr.

Thompson writes.

Chris, God has gifted you with patience and compassion along with a strong sense of service in Ministry.

The Lord blesses you care for his people.

George Dunholm Pastor and church planter Emmaus Lutheran Church St. Louis Missouri, Missouri, District. Dr.

Marriott writes. Geordie, we have shared many conversations over the Commandments.

May your ministry, lead you, and Kara to love the Lord, with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

And to love your neighbor as yourself.

This is the greatest commandment.

Micah Drenkler associate pastor Living Word, Lutheran Church and School

The Woodlands Texas, Texas district. Doctor Haupt writes. Your pastor a heart for fellow students in need your gracious humility at your

vicarage congregation and your southern charm and humor are gifts, the Lord Jesus has given you for accomplishing.

His mission. Go boldly into that mission as the person Christ, has shaped you to be.

Matthew Dubensky Pastor St.

Paul Lutheran Church, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Northern Illinois District. Dr.

Marrs writes. Put on then as God's chosen ones holy and beloved compassionate hearts

kindness, humility, meekness and patience.

It has been wonderful

watching you grow in these attributes, readying yourself to serve God's people in Christ.

Miguel Gonzalez

Feliciano Pastor King of Glory

Lutheran Church

Elgin, Illinois

Northern Illinois, District.

Doctor Penhallegon, writes. Miguel and Rachel

it was a joy to teach and interact with you

both at Concordia University, Ann Arbor.

Now, it is a joy to celebrate your first call.

I look forward to seeing how our gracious Lord will bless your efforts together in his harvest fields wherever those fields maybe.

Daniel Gregg

Pastor the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit Elk Grove Village,

Illinois, English District. Dr.

Peter writes. You have encouraged us to do everything in the name of

the Lord

Jesus, Colossians 3:17. May you now Proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus name, and by his power, as you minister to his people.

Brendan Harrell associate pastor Our Saviors Lutheran Church and School Springfield, Illinois Central Illinois, District. Doctor Rockenbach writes.

Brendan you have the qualities of a wise owl, you think.

I'm not quite sure how to react to your classmates.

Anyway Doctor Rockenbach writes.

You think deeply about many things so that you can find creative ways to collaborate and care for others, God bless your service and proclaiming the gospel of Christ.

Aaron Hickey associate pastor Redeemer Lutheran Church, Peoria, Illinois, Central Illinois District. Dr.

Biermann writes. Your smile proceeds you and your enthusiasm for the moment, infects, all those around you. Make both omnipresent in your ministry except of course, when the law demands otherwise,

Joseph Highley Pastor First Lutheran Church and School, Ponca City, Oklahoma, Oklahoma District. Dr.

Kolb writes.

We will miss you, and Sieck Joseph, and we hope to see you soon on the other side of the continuing education, experience. Blessings to you and Rachel as you venture into Ministry.

Zachary Huffman associate pastor Redeemer Lutheran Church Seymour, Indiana, Indiana District. Dr.

Rockenbach writes. Zack, your parrot characteristics of being

enthusiastic creative and wanting to care for others will serve you well in Ministry.

God bless you and Jody as you faithfully proclaim, God's word.

Andrew Johnson associate, pastor Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas, Texas District. Dr.

Haupt writes.

Andy your heart for the lost and your innovative leadership in our Lord's mission to the world flows from our Lutheran understanding of the power of the word as it goes out to all nations. Go out in that mission with the Lord's promise that his word will not return void but will accomplish what he has given it to do.

Quincy Koll Pastor Christ, the Cornerstone and Mount Olive Lutheran churches, San Diego, and Poway California Pacific, Southwest District. Dr.

Elowsky writes. Gregory the Great once said,

Pastors are servants of the servants of God.

May you have the heart of a servant as you go out to serve the servants, wherever he calls you.

Joel Kosberg assistant, pastor Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Downers Grove Illinois, Northern Illinois District. Dr, Nafzger writes. Joel,

our Lord has given you the ability to lead with tenacity and humility.

This has served you, well on the court and in your studies and it will help serve faithfully in your congregation.

May God, grant you and Becky strength and joy, as you proclaim Jesus in word and deed.

Joshua Leborious, Pastor Edgewater Lutheran Church Eastvale, California Pacific Southwest District. Doctor Thompson, writes.

Josh, your initiative and can-do attitude inspires. May the spirit of God continue to Grant you insight for

enterprising leadership for the gospel.

Matthew Lorenz associate pastor, Zion Lutheran Church Alexandria,
Minnesota.

Minnesota.

North.

District. Dr. Rutt

writes. Matthew

it is a real blessing for me to see you come to this day.

when you receive your first call into the ministry. We go back, a long
ways

literally to the day you were born.

When your family and ours served as missionaries to Guatemala. God
will use you both Matthew and Shannon for the purposes of the Kingdom.

His peace, courage and strength be with you.

Ryan Maser Pastor First Lutheran Church, Plattsmouth, Nebraska,
Nebraska District. Dr. Nafzger writes. Ryan

The Lord is giving you a pastoral and servant heart, it comes through in
the garden on the security truck in class discussions, and on the
court.

May God grant you and Carrie joy in serving, hope and rejoicing and
confidence and proclaiming the promises of Jesus.

Brendan Moore associate, pastor Grace, Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Winter Haven, Florida, Florida Georgia, District. Doctor Rockenbach
writes.

Brendan your mixed owl and doval qualities

allow you to take a compassionate yet systematic approach in your care
for others.

God bless you and Jordan in your future Ministry and always be

confident in the work of Christ.

Jacob Muller Pastor Epiphany, Lutheran Church Kenmore, Washington,
Northwest District. Dr.

Biermann writes. Steady and certain and reserved.

You know what

you know and you know it

well. Now go and deliver what you know, is God's truth to God's people
with unflinching confidence.

Andrew Mussell associate pastor, Zion Lutheran Church Mayer, Minnesota,
Minnesota South District. Dr. Nafzger writes.

The Lord has given you strength and confidence Andrew.

Put them to use as you proclaim, the promises of Jesus.

God has given you a faithful wife from a faithful family and a
faithful congregation together with Anna

serve the people of God with a new life

he has giving you in Christ.

Brian Novak associate pastor and Pastor St.

John's and St.

John Lutheran Churches.

Redbud and Baldwin, Illinois

Southern Illinois District.

What's inside will explain that to you.

Dr.

Peter writes.

I have been encouraged to watch

you run the race with perseverance.

You certainly persevered to arrive at this day in which you receive
your call.

Now, continue to persevere in Ministry with your eyes, fixed on Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of faith.

Benjamin Oelschlaeger Pastor, Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church and Preschool Lake Orion, Michigan, Michigan

District, Dr. Dost

writes. Thanks been for all your support and wisdom. To quote from

Paul to the Romans, May the God of hope

fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him

so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. By

myself and convince my brothers and sisters that you yourselves are

full of goodness, filled with knowledge and confident to instruct one

another

Christian Pieper Pastor Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Turlock,

California, California, Nevada Hawaii District. Dr.

Haupt writes.

Christian your background in business and leadership paired with your

thorough grounding in the scriptures and

Confessions during your time here at the Seminary will be put to good

use in our large Church. Lead in our Lord's Mission with the same vigor

and talent you showed on the basketball court.

Go preachers.

Joseph Pierson Pastor St.

Paul Lutheran Church Webster City, Iowa

Iowa District West.

Dr.

Schmidt writes. Joe you are as comfortable in the church preaching and

teaching as you are under the hood, rebuilding an engine.

May your practical wisdom and holy dedication to God's varied works

be gifts that you continue to share.

Paul, Rempfer associate pastor St.

John's Lutheran Church, Columbus, Nebraska, Nebraska District. Dr.

Saleska writes.

Paul when your dad and I were classmates, I deeply admired the quiet strength that he exhibited no matter what was happening around him.

I see that same beautiful quality in you.

I know that your people will also see it and they will grow to admire you and love you for it.

May God bless you richly in your service to him.

Aaron Reseburg associate pastor Elm Grove, Lutheran Church, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, South Wisconsin, District. Dr. Biermann writes. Always ready to venture an answer and always ready to learn work to instill that same eager spirit in those

you are called to serve. Making them more deeply into the wonders and wisdom of right teaching.

Kyle

Ronchetto Pastor St.

Paul Lutheran Church, Lexington, Illinois, Central Illinois District.

Dr.

Saleska writes.

Kyle over these last four years, I've seen how much you've grown into a man who is now totally ready to serve God's people.

I'm so very proud of you and I'm thankful that God has graciously blessed you

and your time at the Seminary. I know that the people you are being called to serve will rejoice that God has given them such a wonderful pastor.

Zachary Sarrault associate, pastor, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, North Carolina, Southeastern District. Dr.

Thompson writes. Zach, you have great instincts for pastoral Ministry.

God will richly

bless the ministry where you put them in the practice for service to

Christ.

Ryan Schnake associate pastor Concordia Lutheran Church Macungie

Pennsylvania.

SCLC District. Dr.

Saleska writes. Ryan Schnake,

the man who cannot resist jacking up a 3 from deep in the corner.

But who does that and everything else was such joyful exuberance that

I could never get mad in fact, you always manage to make me smile.

I pray that you never lose that enthusiasm for your ministry and life

into which God is calling you.

Alexander Schrader

Associate pastor Emmanuel

Lutheran Church

Olivette,

Missouri.

Missouri District.

Dr.

Marriott writes.

As the best bass player I've ever heard or seen you been the solid

foundation, a many musical endeavors here at Concordia Seminary.

Now you Vicky and your family will build a new ministry in a new

place.

May our lord

Jesus continue to be your firm foundation in Ministry and in life.

Corey Schaffer, Pastor Trinity, Lutheran Church Port Edwards,

Wisconsin

North

Wisconsin District.

Dr.

Schuchard writes. Gathering into the net

the disciples are then fed by Jesus who last of all entrust his disciples to the precious care of his sheep.

May he who is our light and our life bless and keep you in the sacred charge till Jesus comes again.

Bradley Singer, Pastor, Peace and Christ Lutheran Church

Walkersville. Maryland, Southeastern District. Dr.

Saleska. Brad I and especially my wife, will never forget your ceaseless, chatter sitting behind us on our travels around Israel.

It is truly been a

distinct honor to walk with you on your journey during this time of your life.

I pray that you never lose your sense of humor nor your capacity to forgive and love those who seem to make doing that rather hard.

Jacob Smith assistant pastor

St.

Paul Lutheran Church Aberdeen, South Dakota, South Dakota District.

Doctor Rockenbach writes.

Jacob, you are patient a good listener, and willing to care for anyone.

You are dove

qualities will serve you

well, in providing pastoral care.

God bless you as you faithfully served in his kingdom.

Just a little hint.

Your senior pastor is sitting right over there.

Okay.

Ian Thormodson associate, pastor Redeemer Lutheran Church, North Chesterfield, Richmond, Virginia, Southeastern District. Dr.

Nafzger writes. Ian you have a way of getting to the heart of the matter and calling a thing

like it is. As you proclaim, the promise of Jesus

resurrection in the new life he gives us find strength in God's call to make you his own.

May the Lord, grant you and Britney joy in your service to his people.

Jeffrey Tucker associate, pastor Christ Church Lutheran Phoenix, Arizona, Pacific

Southwest District. Dr. Schuchard writes.

Jesus declares, just as

the Father has sent me even

so I am sending you. May our Lord bless you and keep you in this, your sacred charge till Jesus comes again.

Evan Veen

Pastor, Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dryden, Michigan Michigan,

District. Doctor Elowsky writes. Your spiritual life is God's gift to

you for the ministry. Tend to each day by memorizing and focusing on one Bible

verse for that day, that you will pray and meditate on and let the spirit work through his word in you and through you.

Mason Vieth

Associate pastor Trinity

Lutheran Church

Elkhart, Indiana

Indiana District. Dr.

Seifrid writes. Our community with one another consists solely, with what Christ has done for each of us, Bonhoeffer. May we continue to discover this truth together Mason and may God grant you true joy in serving the community to, which he now calls you.

Brandon

Wittig Pastor Trinity

Lutheran Church Sawyer, Michigan

Michigan District. Dr.

Schmidt writes.

Brandon from the first time I met you at college until now you have humbly shared with me God's work in your life.

May God bless you, as now you go to share God's gracious, work with others in the world.

Andrew Zobel associate pastor St.

James Lutheran Church, Shawano, Wisconsin, North Wisconsin District,
Dr.

Marriott writes. Your voice is a true and beautiful gift one that you have shared across the world through your participation in Laudamus. Blessings to you, Kristen and your family as our Lord calls you to use that voice to proclaim his gospel in this new ministry.

We have one residential Master Divinity student who is currently serving a deferred vicarage.

Andrew Simpson, Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church Sparks, Nevada, California, Nevada, Hawaii, District. And Dr.

Marrs writes. As your mentor, it has been a pleasure to observe your devotion as husband and father and to watch you grow and pastoral skills and most importantly in your faith

in Jesus Christ. Blessings as you share Christ in your first call to the Pastoral Ministry.

We have 3 residential Deaconess candidates.

If you were listening, carefully, Amanda Berry's husband was placed at Concordia in Sikeston

and hopefully in a short period

of time, we will have a call for you to that congregation as well, but

for now it is simply placement pending Amanda.

Dr.

Biermann writes for you. Daughter,

student, wife, mother, Deaconess

God has tasked you with so many vital vocations, honor your heritage

and do all your vocations with God's grace.

Proving the truth that every vocation is better done when shaped by good theological training.

Rachel Highley like Amanda

Josef's right there

First Lutheran Church and School in Ponca City.

and hopefully, hopefully in a short period

of time there will be call from that congregation, but for now it is placement pending. Dr.

Burrenson writes.

No, greater title

Rachel than that given to Deaconess Phoebe.

A servant of the church Romans 16:1.

May you continue in heart, mind, and action

as you have shown to follow in her path.

Rebecca, Lukas Communication Specialist Concordia Seminary St.

Louis Missouri, Missouri District. Dr.

Okamoto writes.

God in his Mercy, made you one of his own dear children, and now is calling you for service.

So do everything with joy and confidence and be merciful just as our Father is merciful.

We have three students from the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center who are receiving calls this evening, one of them is here.

To receive his Call document in person.

Brian Barlow

Pastor Resurrection Lutheran Church, Quartz Hill, California, Pacific Southwest District. Doctor, Marrs writes. The Lord has given you compassion for the broken and the gifts to build them up in their identity

in Jesus Christ, may he continue to strengthen you to teach others of Christ, deep love for them.

Our other two Cross-Cultural Ministry Center students are in that absentia. Michael Schuetzler, Pastor Cross Point Lutheran Church El Paso, Texas in the Rocky Mountain District. Dr.

Nafzger writes. In a sermon you composed for class you proclaim, the promise of the new creation in Christ.

God has made you his new creation and he sends you a joyous confidence to extend that new creation to your congregation and community.

And Christopher Simmons associate, pastor Grace Lutheran Church and School Pocatello,

Idaho Northwest District. Dr.

Sanchez writes.

Dear Chris, what a privilege to have you have had you in class and to

learn about your exciting Ministry. Your intrapreneurial spirit and zeal for the gospel are gifts, the spirit will bless with many years, to come. Rich blessings to you as you proclaim the cross in your community. We have seven residential Alternate Route students who are currently on vicarage in various parts of the country.

They are all in that, absentia.

Justin Bangert associate pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Edmond, Oklahoma, Oklahoma District. Dr.

Peter writes. Your journey to this event of Call Day has led you through many experiences as you've sought to do God's will. I'm grateful that our paths crossed in that journey know that the Lord will continue to guide and strengthen you on the path ahead.

Bruce Elliott, Pastor Emmanuel Lutheran Church Barnhart, Missouri, Missouri District. Dr.

Kolb writes.

Clay vessels we maybe Bruce but the potter does marvelous work and he will continue to fashion you beautifully as his instrument for furthering his kingdom and nurturing his children.

Eric Gradberg associate pastor

Our Savior Lutheran Church Norfolk, Nebraska Nebraska District. Dr.

Marriott writes.

God calls us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending.

This is certainly been true in your journey into the ministry.

May our Lord, who has guided your feet so faithfully to this point lead, you Kim and your family onward, as you continue this new adventure,

Brian Rosche Pastor St.

Matthew Lutheran Church

Westland, Michigan, Michigan District. Dr.

Seifrid writes.

It was an absolute delight to be part of your preparation for pastoral of ministry Bryce. May the Lord strengthen, and use you and the gifts that he obviously has given you.

Be mindful yourself and your teaching preserve in these things for doing

so you will save both yourself and others.

First Timothy 4:16.

Nathan Speerbrecker Pastor Chesapeake Community of Hope Lutheran Church Chesapeake, Virginia Southeastern District. Dr.

Peter writes.

You have exemplified what a messenger of joy looks like. Your joyful spirit and perpetual smile, uplift me and all who know you. May

you continue to share the joy of Jesus in pastoral Ministry.

Don Woolweber Pastor, Zion in Bethlehem Zion and Bethel.

Lutheran Churches Pittsburgh and

Glennshaw, Pennsylvania Eastern District. Dr.

Rutt writes. Congratulations

Don on your calling to the ministry during your time on campus, I thoroughly enjoyed our lunch

time conversations on matters of Theology and Ministry and who can never forget that deep resonant voice.

Sometimes it seemed like God himself was speaking to us.

God bless you and Deborah in your service to Christ and his kingdom.

Andrew Wrasman, Pastor Oak Grove Lutheran Church Lilburn,

Georgia, Florida, Georgia District. Dr.

Marrs writes. Salvation is found in no one else for

there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

Acts

4:12. May the Lord empower you to continue to share with others in your preaching teaching, and writing that Jesus is our only way and truth.

In absentia, we have two students from the Center for Hispanic Studies

receiving pastoral calls.

Eduardo Martinez call pending to Hope Lutheran Church in Orlando, Florida, Florida, Georgia District. Dr.

Sanchez writes. Dear brother Eduardo.

What

a joy to celebrate with you and your family, the completion of your formation as a pastor.

The Lord has given you gifts of teaching, and administration, and a deep appreciation for the church's worship. Through your ministry, you will be a rich blessing to many, congratulations.

Luis Martinez, call pending to Trinity Klein, Lutheran Church Spring Texas, Texas district.

Marcus Kempf writes.

We are honored to know you and we celebrate your calling to serve Christ and his church. Blessings of joy in your ministry to others.

We have two deaconesses from the Center from for Hispanic Studies.

Also, in abstinencia,

Nancy Estrada, Deaconess, St.

Paul

Lutheran Church and School, Aurora, Illinois

Northern Illinois District. Dr.

Sanchez writes.

Dear sister, Nancy,

congratulations on the completion of your formation as a Deaconess.

The Lord has given you gifts of teaching, and spiritual care, and a deep love for children and families.

Through your ministry, you will be a rich blessing to many.

We Rejoice with you and your family on this special day.

Mariaisabel

Villegas, Deaconess St.

Paul Lutheran Church and School Aurora, Illinois

Northern Illinois District.

Marcus Kemp writes. What a joy to know that Christ Church will have a Deaconess with your gift of compassion blessings of joy in your service to others.

We have two students from the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology also

in absentia. Albert Bakat

Assistant pastor, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, South Dakota District. Dr.

Okamoto writes. Paul and Timothy told the Corinthian Church.

We are ambassadors of Christ God making his appeal through us.

And now you are an ambassador of Christ.

Be confident and be faithful as God speaks and works through you.

Andrew Petajan

Pastor Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf

Silver Spring Maryland, Southeastern District.

Jeff Thormodson writes. Andrew, your passion for reaching the Deaf Community

with the gospel as evident throughout, your vicarage. May, the Lord provide many future opportunities to share Jesus with those who cannot hear with ears

but who hear with their eyes through American Sign Language.

Brothers and sisters.

I encourage you with these words from Paul let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish

one another with all wisdom that you sing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude, in your hearts to God, and whatever you do,

whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord, Jesus giving, thanks to God the Father through him.

President Egger

these are the Concordia Seminary pastoral and Deaconess candidates for spring 2021.

Please stand.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Oh, Heavenly Father, the author of all wisdom, understanding and true strength.

We ask you to look mercifully upon your servants and send your Holy Spirit into their hearts.

That when they must join to fight in the field for the glory of your holy name.

Then they being strengthened with the defense of your right hand, may stand in the confession of your faith and of your truth and continue in the same on to the end through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Oh, Lord, you have power over death and the grave and have shown us your wonderful Grace and rescuing us from sin.

We thank you for the blessings in the past 182 years that you have bestowed on Concordia Seminary and we thank you for the work you have given us to do together in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

We asked you to give us Grace to persevere in our present work so that your honor and Glory are magnified everywhere through Jesus Christ Our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever.

Amen.

Taught by our Lord and trusting his promises we are bold to pray.

Please stand.

May the one who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life.

Fill you with hope and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Alleluia