



FUND FOR LEADERS

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Seminary
Scholarship Fund
of the ELCA

Q. Who is supported by my gift?

A. Gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders supports men and women who are preparing for ordained and rostered lay ministry within the ELCA. These seminary students attend one of the ELCA's eight seminaries.

Q. What is the purpose of the Fund for Leaders?

A. The Fund for Leaders is an initiative of the whole of this church to build up and support future seminary trained church leaders as they prepare for a life of ministry and service. The goal of the Fund for Leaders is to provide tuition support to all eligible students who are attending seminary and who plan to serve this church as ordained or rostered lay leaders.

Q. Why was the Fund for Leaders created?

A. One of the major obstacles preventing people from responding to God's call to ministry within this church is the cost of a seminary education. Often seminary graduates are so burdened by seminary debt that they are unable to serve this church in areas where they are needed most. The Fund for Leaders is an investment by the whole church in its future ministry by financially supporting the education of those called to ordained and rostered lay leadership. The end result is that Fund for Leaders scholarship recipients are graduating seminary with 31.5% less educational debt, and they are able to serve God where they are needed most; often in rural or urban congregations.

Q. How much does a seminary scholarship cost?

A. The amount increases each year and varies across the ELCA's eight seminaries. Currently, for the 2007-2008 academic year, one year of full-time studies averages around \$11,000.

Q. How many seminary students are supported by the Fund for Leaders?

A. The Fund for Leaders will provide tuition support to over 150 seminary students this academic year. This represents a financial commitment of almost \$800,000. The Fund for Leaders has supported 280 seminary students since the first round of scholarships were awarded in 2000.

Q. Where does my gift go?

A. Gifts to the Fund for Leaders go to the Fund for Leaders Endowment Fund or the specifically named Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment you designate. Fund for Leaders gifts are invested and reinvested in perpetuity. The earnings of this investment are then used to provide tuition support to seminary students. Gifts to the Fund for Leaders will always support the ministry of this church.

Now your gift goes further with Leadership Rising

Three families have challenged this church to double the Fund for Leaders by 2010. For the next two years your outright gift will be eligible to be matched 50 percent through Leadership Rising. Gifts up to \$50,000 will be matched through this matching gift challenge.

Increase your support to the Fund for Leaders. Your gift will help us realize this challenge while ensuring that those called to be pastors and leaders in this church can receive the seminary education necessary to faithfully serve for years to come.

Help us meet this challenge. Send your gift to:
ELCA Fund for Leaders
8765 W. Higgins Road | Chicago, IL 60631
or give online at: www.elca.org/giving

LEADERSHIP
RISING



Q. What can I do?

Support those who will go forth and share the Good News of the Gospel with others.

Support the men and women who will witness in word and in deed to the love of Jesus Christ.

Your gift to the ELCA Fund for Leaders will help these future pastors and rostered lay leaders get the seminary education necessary to become effective pastors and leaders.

Mail your gift to:
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Church in America
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Chicago, IL 60631.

Or give online at:
www.elca.org/giving

For more information contact:

The Rev. Paul Hanson,
Director
☎ 1-800-638-3522,
ext. 2749
✉ paul.hanson@elca.org

Meet some of those students supported by your gift at:

www.elca.org/fundforleaders



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Pr. Paul Hanson
Director

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Chicago, IL 60631

1-800-638-3522,
ext. 2749

[www.elca.org/
fundforleaders](http://www.elca.org/fundforleaders)

Q. Who is supported by my gift?

A. Gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders supports men and women who are preparing for ordained and rostered lay ministry within the ELCA. These seminary students attend one of the ELCA's eight seminaries.

Q. How does someone get a Fund for Leaders scholarship?

A. Fund for Leaders scholarships are awarded once a year to students entering their first year of seminary at one of the ELCA's eight seminaries. Nominees are submitted by each seminary to the Fund for Leaders. Scholarships provide tuition support for full-time students.

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Q. What is the minimum amount to create a named Fund for Leaders endowment?

A. The minimum amount to create a named endowment is \$25,000. This will provide partial funding for a Fund for Leaders scholarship and may be funded through a planned gift (such as a will or trust) or through an outright gift (such as cash or stock). The minimum amount to fund a full-tuition scholarship is \$200,000. Named endowment scholarships exist in perpetuity, and only earnings from the investment are distributed for tuition support.

Q. What is this "gift matching" for my Fund for Leaders gift?

A. Three families have generously provided close to a \$1 million as a challenge for members of the church to increase the Fund for Leaders endowment to \$30 million by 2010. This challenge matches \$1 for each \$2 given to the Fund for Leaders. Your gift helps us meet this challenge to grow and increase our support of seminary students who are preparing to become ordained and rostered lay leaders in this church.

Q. How much of my gift is eligible to be matched?

A. Your entire gift will help us realize this wonderful challenge that was raised up by three families who, like you, are dedicated to helping raise up the next generation of faithful, wise, and courageous leaders who will share the Gospel with others.



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Challenge name: Leadership Rising
Challenge tagline: A matching gift challenge to double the Fund.
Director: The Rev. Paul Hanson

A challenge for the whole church. Three generous families have challenged this church to raise up future leaders by providing a three-year, million-dollar matching gift challenge. *Leadership Rising* is a challenge for this church to double the current ELCA Fund for Leaders endowment to \$30 million by 2010. Gifts to the ELCA Fund for Leaders will help us realize this challenge as we bring forth and support future leaders who will faithfully, wisely, and courageously serve this church in a pluralistic and changing world. Individuals, congregations, and synods can establish named seminary scholarships within the ELCA Fund for Leaders, and they will be eligible for matching funds as a part of the *Leadership Rising* matching gift challenge.

Challenge details:

Gifts from Individuals. For every \$2 gift, \$1 of the matching fund will be added, increasing the impact of your gift to \$3. Your check (up to \$50,000) will be matched. And, if it totals \$25,000, a scholarship could be established in your name. \$200,000 endows a full-tuition scholarship.

Gifts from Congregations. Here is an excellent way to make your congregation's seminary scholarship fund work harder. Each year that you have a student from your congregation attending an ELCA seminary, the scholarship assistance will benefit him or her. And, during years that you do not have a qualifying candidate, your funds will benefit another student on your behalf.

Gifts from Synods. Nineteen synods have established scholarship accounts with the Fund for Leaders. Encourage your synod to become the next one and your dollars will increase by 50%.

Make a gift. Help bring forth a new generation of faithful leaders for the ELCA. Make your gift to the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Call 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, visit www.elca.org/fundforleaders for more information, or make a gift online at www.elca.org/giving

The ELCA Fund for Leaders works.

280 students. From 2000-2007, 280 future church leaders have received, or are currently receiving, tuition support through the ELCA Fund for Leaders.

127 full-tuition scholarships. Since its inception in 2000 the ELCA Fund for Leaders has awarded 127 full-tuition scholarships to support the education of future leaders and pastors of this church. Recipients attend one of the eight ELCA seminaries.

Almost \$3,000,000. As of the 2007-2008 academic year, almost \$3,000,000 has been distributed by the ELCA Fund for Leaders in support of seminary education of those preparing for ordained and rostered lay ministry within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

38 recipients already serving. Currently, 38 of the 58 ELCA Fund for Leaders recipients who have graduated from seminary are serving in congregations across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This includes pastors like Kimberly Susan Conway who was ordained October 20, and who is called to serve as pastor of the 265-member Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dale City, Virginia.

Less debt. More options. Fund for Leaders scholarship recipients graduate with 31.5% less debt than their seminary classmates. This allows Fund recipients to answer the call where the whole church is calling them to serve. With less debt, they can take a call in small, struggling congregations where others cannot afford to go.

Pr. Paul Hanson
Director

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