

LUTHERAN SEMINARY PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHWEST
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Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to share with you a brief reflection that I shared with my friends on my Facebook page as we began the Lenten season:

“This Ash Wednesday service at Christ Chapel at the Seminary of the Southwest was a beautiful service as ashes were placed on our foreheads. I experienced many moments of grace in that one hour of worship, but of particular note was the moment in which the entire Body of Christ knelt to examine our individual and corporate conscience, all of us in unison and unity bowing our heads to the Holy in our midst. It reminded me of my childhood when I knelt with my parents in that old wooden church in south Texas that was built for Hispanic Lutherans in 1925. That memory of the faithful kneeling and bowing in worship is timeless. It connected me to the entire church catholic of all the ages and allowed me to make their prayers my own. There is something beautiful in reverence. By it we see ourselves as Sacred. In that moment we recall those who have gone before us, those who shaped and formed our faith by their devotion. We are indeed the extended and beloved family of God!”

I share this reflection with you to remind us that our legacy of faithfulness has far-reaching implications. Those German missionaries who reached out to my family in 1917 did not realize then that a son of the church they helped to start would become the director of a seminary program in Texas. They had no clue that in 2014 a Hispanic Lutheran pastor would continue the work they began almost one hundred years later! They were simply doing what they knew best – serving the neighbor by sharing the love of God with my community.

We at LSPS continue this legacy by preparing pastors to serve in emerging ministries. Since 1975 you have helped us to provide theological education for over two hundred pastors who are serving in twenty-five states and three countries. We are able to do this because of your faithful contribution. Our sustainability and longevity depends on it. Please help us to continue this significant ministry with financial support in your annual budgets that will assist us in preparing the leaders who will shape the lives of so many in the future. Like those early missionaries in south Texas, make a difference that will allow others to tell your story. Your legacy depends on it!

Together we can make a difference!

Muchas gracias!



Rev. Javier (Jay) Alanis, PhD, JD
Executive Director