

May 1, 2010

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I would like to thank you again for continuing to support me throughout my time here at Concordia Seminary and update you on some of the exciting events and changes in my life.

I have been very busy since I wrote to you last month. I am really enjoying my classes this quarter, as well as helping out at my field work church. On April 11th I got my first opportunity to preach at my field work church on a Sunday morning, and I think that it went very well. I was a bit nervous before the first service, but much more relaxed during the second one. Last week, I got a chance to fill in for one of the other seminarians and lead a high school youth group meeting. I really enjoyed that opportunity to lead a Bible study and get to know many of the youth better. During the rest of the quarter, I am going to be team-teaching an adult Bible study on 1st Corinthians with another seminary student. I am really looking forward to getting some more experience teaching adults.

This week, I also started my three week teaching practicum for my Pastor as Educator class. Instead of attending class, all of the seminarians are assigned to teach religion class in one of the local Lutheran schools. I got assigned to teach 4th grade, and I have really enjoyed the experience thus far. My students have been very well behaved so far, they seem eager to learn, and willing to ask questions. My supervising teacher has also been very easy to work with and helpful so far.

Another one of the highlights of my quarter has been the meal plan experiment that I mentioned in my last letter. A few weeks ago, 10-12 of the single dorm students were allowed to cook in one of the vacant apartments on campus instead of eating in the cafeteria. One of the Ph.D. students also volunteered to give all of us a cooking lesson during one night that week. My roommate (who also participated) and I really enjoyed getting a chance to make our own meals. I am definitely looking forward to my vicarage year because I will have many more opportunities to cook.

Although I have had many great experiences this quarter, the highlight by far has been Call Day. Tuesday April 27th was the Call Day service in which all of the second year seminary students received their vicarage assignments. Unfortunately my parents were unable to make the trip to

St. Louis, but Stephanie and her parents came up for the weekend. It was very exciting to see them, and to enjoy this great experience with them.

Stephanie and I are going to be going to First Lutheran Church in Gainesville, FL for vicarage next year. Gainesville is a little more than two hours north of Stephanie's home in Tampa, and it will be nice to have her family within a reasonable driving distance. I have already called my vicarage supervisor and talked with him a bit about the church and its ministry. The church which I will be serving in Gainesville is very close to the University of Florida and it has a very active campus ministry program. It sounds like there will be many great opportunities for me to learn in the next year, and I am very excited to start at the beginning of August.

I am confident that the next few months will fly by. I will be done with my second full year at the seminary in about three weeks, Stephanie and I will be getting married in less than two months, and vicarage starts in three months. Thank you for sharing these exciting times with me, and for continuing to support me throughout my seminary experience!

Sincerely,

Christopher Kollmann