

Dear Saint John's family,

This past year of seminary has been challenging, tiring, life-giving, and wonder-filled all at the same time. In October, I began the process of applying for what will be my year-long internship beginning this August. This led me to apply for the Horizons internship through the ELCA, in which I would serve my neighbors across the world. I have officially accepted a position as pastoral intern in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This position will begin this August. I would be so grateful for your prayers as I prepare to move and learn this new place and people.



Figure 1 One of my classmate's kiddos helping me light candles in our chapel.

This past year, I ended my third fall semester at Luther. I took *Epistles: Romans to Revelation*, *Foundations of Preaching*, and *God & Economy*. These classes were challenging both academically and spiritually. I was able to dive into the Epistles book by book, preach 3 sermons throughout my lab time in *Foundations of Preaching*, and read about the history of American economics and how it connects to biblical economics- all very interesting!

During my winter semester, I took *Funding Forward* and *Discerning God's Call*. *Funding Forward* allowed me to learn about new models of ministry and how to help congregations start them. It was a very thought-provoking class and I am sure I will use the skills I developed in this class throughout my ministry. *Discerning God's Call* was a 3-day retreat in which we learned the ways we can aid others in discernment and how we ourselves need to remain on this lifelong journey of discerning what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives.

This spring semester, I took my last two required courses, *Scripture and Its Witnesses* and *Leading Christian Communities in Mission*. These courses gave me a change to reflect on my personal theology, ways of leadership, and preaching styles.

This summer, I will take my last elective, *Hope and Despair*. This class explores how people have hope in the midst of the most challenging times in their lives, and how Christian public leaders can instill hope in all people through the Scriptures.

Meanwhile, I continue to help create worship experiences as a chapel staff member at Luther and at my church in NE Minneapolis, Grace Lutheran. I also welcome people to Luther Seminary's campus as the Welcome Coordinator and help plan discernment retreats.

As I continue to interact with current classmates and prospective students, I am constantly reminded of how God is active in each of our lives. Every person's story is unique and has very clear ways (and not so clear ways) that the Spirit of God has been working in and through them throughout their *whole life*. As I sat a discernment retreat on the Shores of Saint Andrew earlier this year, I was reminded that discernment is a life-long adventure. I hope that through intentional listening and conversation I can continue to be open to discerning God's call in my life.

As I experience the joys (and challenges) of seminary life, I remain grateful for all of your prayers and support.

I look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you soon!

God's peace,
Ashley Teter (she/her)
Luther Seminary Student



Figure 2 A picture of our morning prayer group that meets twice a week at Luther.