



Trinity Lutheran Seminary

2199 East Main Street, Columbus, OH 43209

Trinity Lutheran Seminary forms leaders for Christ's church at work in the world.

Lawrence Small writes in the *Smithsonian* about the Smithsonian collection of rare Stradivarius stringed instruments. Stradivari (1644-1737) was the most distinguished of Italian violinmakers. Small says these rare instruments are never shown to greater advantage or kept in better health than when they are played. I know that to be true as I consider my own 1805 Italian Ceruti cello. Yes, old instruments are best played. And so his announcement: "Let the instruments sing!—And when they sing as they have for centuries, time is erased, differences are eased and there is harmony across the ages."

How timely for us. For a world torn and ravaged by a broken economy: "Let the instruments play!" At Trinity we expand this notion of the "instruments" to our called and gifted students. Because of you, these talented "instruments" will play and their music (the gospel) will be heard around the world. For your faithful support, I am grateful.

Now I have a special request. This is what Trinity needs from you:

1. Your prayer that pastors and leaders will be identified and raised up from our congregations.
2. Your invitation into service. I love meeting with a confirmation class and I am not shy to ask, "Have you considered ministry?" When was the last time you asked?
3. Your financial support for future ministry. Tuition at Trinity is about 1/3 of what it costs to attend a private college/university and I want to keep it that way. It is the only way to manage student debt. But keeping the tuition down presumes faithful support from the church and congregations. We need you. Thank you.

Jesus calls each one of us in service to the gospel. Your close ties with Trinity convince me that our calling together is to this gospel ministry of education and formation for church leaders. By our gifts we contribute to bringing "harmony across the ages." Thank you.

The Lord be with you.

Mark R. Ramseth
President

Grace-filled and loving God, we give you thanks this day for sharing people with us who know that you are God. You daily give us examples to see the evidence of your grace and mercy at work in life. Amen.
(From *The Daily Texts*.)