



Trinity Lutheran Seminary

2199 East Main Street, Columbus, OH 43209

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

MISSIONAL REPORT OF TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY TO THE CHURCH

There is a lot of talk on a seminary campus these days about *mission leadership*. **Congregations are the instigators** and that is why I now take the lead in this way. You the congregations and members are key players in this conversation. Congregations consistently tell me that what they need from seminaries is faithful, missional leaders in order to face the new challenges presented in today's mission enterprise of the Gospel. I am not shy about looping that message back to seminary faculties. The call is to form leaders capable of carrying the stuff of Bible, theology and ministry practice into the world of mission that envelopes the congregations they will serve.

And so, **I have a deal for you**. In these next weeks and months you will be receiving seminary graduates into synod congregations. About their entry, I say, **"It is a new day."** Never before have I had seminary seniors come to me and say, "When I go before the ELCA assignment process, I want to be *open to all*—I want to be *open to the call of the church and its mission wherever the church needs me!*" Wow. Something is happening in seminary education. My deal for you: ***Be ready!***

At Trinity Lutheran Seminary much of this mission energy started with a fall faculty retreat where each participant was asked to present a statement of personal commitment to the "mission of the Gospel for the church today"—and, "how then will you make mission commitments a part of your teaching curriculum?" I witnessed faculty with a new energy and enthusiasm for the teaching vocation. It is exciting. Keep Trinity Lutheran Seminary in your prayers as we together with you, synod and congregation, seek to be more faithful and full in the commitments you expect from us in these times of mission challenge.

As a postscript to the seminary emphasis on mission, I must tell you that **seminaries today face the same challenges as do congregations—and synods**. What I mean here is the stewardship of resources. I know in terms of church priority today I am biased, but theological education and the delivery of persons who will bolster an educated and missional church must be at the top of what the church needs right now. **I say to you, "We need you—and I think you need the seminary."** **Thank you for your support.** Send Trinity your brightest and best. Allow us the privilege of forming and inspiring missional leaders for the Gospel today.

P.T. Forsyth, a Scottish preacher from a past time says: *"The non-theological christ is popular; he wins votes; but he is not mighty; he does not win souls; he does not break women and men into small pieces and create them anew."* (The Taste of Death and the Life of Grace, 1901). I vote for the Christ who creates anew. That is the mission we share.

Mark R. Ramseth
President