



**Fund for Leaders**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## **ELCA AWARDS – FULL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED!**

**Shawn Brooks** is a member of the La Crosse Area Synod and is currently attending Wartburg Theological Seminary. He was recently awarded a full scholarship from the Fund for Leaders. Here are his thoughts:

*“My name is Shawn Brooks, and I am a member of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church in La Crosse. I am currently enrolled at Wartburg Theological Seminary pursuing my first year of seminary studies. I was honored, grateful, and humbled to receive a scholarship from the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission. Honored, because there is not yet enough in the fund to provide for every seminarian, though that is the goal, and my award meant that I was considered worthy of support from among all of the qualified candidates. Grateful, because entering seminary meant leaving my job, and while we are trying to live frugally, costs are high, and any and all financial support is welcome. Humbled, because I feel that being recognized in this way means that much is expected of me, and I know I have a lot of work to do in preparing to fulfill those expectations. I would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Fund for Leaders in Mission. Your support gives seminarians an easier road as we prepare to serve our church. We are grateful for the chance to serve, and grateful to those who ease the path.”*

As reported in the November 2010 issue of The Lutheran magazine, the ELCA announced that twenty-two seminary students had been awarded full tuition scholarships for the 2010-11 school year via the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission. For the first time, the fund awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships in a single year. The fund's value now exceeds \$20 million and has awarded more than 700 scholarships over ten years. Partial tuition scholarships from the Fund for Leaders were awarded to 16 students and another 165 won scholarships through individual synod funds. When fully endowed, the fund's goal is to provide full tuition assistance for every ELCA seminary student committed to a future in parish ministry. Thanks to the generosity of members and congregations in the La Crosse Area Synod, our synod endowment board has established a fund within the ELCA Fund for Leaders to benefit seminarians from our own synod. We have reached the minimum threshold of \$25,000, and now have a fund exceeding \$33,000! Our goal is to increase our fund to \$50,000 or more in the next three years. This will permit more scholarships with larger awards for our seminarians in our synod.

**We encourage everyone to join us in helping keep our ordained rosters strong  
by supporting the synod Seminary Scholarship Fund!**