

SECURING EACH CHILD'S FUTURE, FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE

by Andy Johnson

I will never forget the first time I learned about Luther's seal. I was in first grade. My teacher, Mrs. Herring, was teaching about The Reformation, Martin Luther, and the 95 Theses. But more than just history, or even theology lessons, I learned about Jesus. Picture the cross at the center of Luther's seal. It was black because of the sins which Christ bore. The Cross is not just a symbol of faith or a means to an end. The cross IS Christ's glorification, the ultimate exhibition of God to his creation. God is a loving, self-giving God. Granted, much of the wording of this has changed as I have grown in my understanding. But the premise, I learned is still true. God came to save me. The cross is where He did that and the cross is where I look for forgiveness. This I was taught and came to believe as the Holy Spirit worked through Lutheran educators.

In many pulpits the inside face will have the words, "Sir, we seek to see Jesus." This is the defin-

ing reason for Christian education. Children who fill the seats in our classrooms, need Jesus.

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Father, Humbly we come to you. You are the giver of all good things. Thank you for teachers, for those who devote their lives to the bringing up of the next generation. Bless them in their service, give them eyes to see the need for Jesus in the lives of their children. As your Son said, "Let the little children come to me," may our children not be hindered in their faith. May they be taught with boldness and confidence the salvation that is found only in Christ Jesus. May our Spirit be upon all who hear the Gospel proclaimed, in our classrooms and our lives. In the Name which is above all names, we pray. Amen.

Andy Johnson is one of 48 seminarian students to receive financial aid from the Michigan District for the 2009/10 school year. An additional 91 students attending one of our Concordia University System Schools also received aid. Increased scholarships are being made possible through *The Future is Now* campaign.

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"Thank you for your generous support of my education here at Seminary. Financially, your aid helped my wife and I make ends meet as we paid for this quarter's tuition. It is a blessing to receive such support from the Michigan District."

- Andy Johnson