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LWML Kansas District

Dear ladies of the LWML KS District, May you have peace and joy as you receive this letter!

One year has gone by, and I wonder where all the time has gone. It seems just like a breeze as I am going through it, but I then look backward and realize how much has happened. Time flies when you're busy or having fun.

There have been some interesting assignments in my classes. In Practical Theology, we did a group-project where we had to theoretically make a pitch to do a church-plant somewhere in St. Louis. In Creeds and Confessions, we have been summarizing the Book of Concord into a smaller document called "Lutheran Confessions for Dummies"; the main idea is to answer certain questions or summarize what the Book of Concord says so that the everyday layman may understand. In Homiletics, I finally got a chance to write two sermons and to deliver one in class. Delivering your first sermon to your peers is probably the hardest time to deliver a sermon, but it is good to be among loving brothers in Christ who want to support you.

At my fieldwork-church of Concordia Kirkwood, weekly youth-nights have finished and will not meet again until the Fall. It was great to work with the youth in the past year. The deaf ministry is planning to have a Sign Choir, where we learn a song in ASL and perform it in Sunday-worship. Hopefully, this will happen in June. In the meantime, we have been meeting on Wednesdays in order to practice and learn more ASL from one of our deaf members.

I have finished my institutional module at Memorial Hospital in Belleville, IL, and this has certainly been a learning experience. Visiting people as a total stranger and trying to engage with them in conversation is a challenge. This is something which is out of my usual comfort-zone, but it was definitely good to grow in this way. There was even one experience which was especially a somber learning moment: I witnessed a patient passing away in the moment while his family waited around him. Although this was tragic and sad to see, it was wonderful that we were able to pray for him in his last moment so that we prayed him on his way to see Jesus. That was truly a blessed a moment.

My job at the library has been becoming busier and busier. The original building is finally finished with its renovations, and some of our collections have been moving over there. I will be there during the summer when the bulk of the move will happen. The plan is to have a soft opening in July and a grand opening in August. I have gotten some sneak peeks of the new library, and it looks awesome! It will be exciting to see once everything is set up.

Here is an update on some of my other extracurricular activities.

1. The St. Louis Lutheran Chorale performed one last time on Call Day. It was great to perform and then to be a spectator of the service. I could tell that emotions were filling the room with excitement and anxious anticipation. What will next year hold for me?
2. The German Reading Group finished translating one letter by Luther and started on another one. Luther may have done some things to standardize the German language for his time, but he certainly used some very non-standard constructions which are difficult to decipher. Overall, it is still fun and exciting to translate Luther.
3. The Life Team has had many events, but I recently enjoyed a seminar which dealt with Psychological First Aid as well helping people in crisis.
4. Since the big shave back in February, I have gained some hair back. I even have my whole beard back! Here is a photo of my progress.



5. Elizabeth and I are still having fun in dating even in the midst of busy classes. During the summer, I am hoping to become even more acquainted with her family. She will also be taking a class in Israel for a few weeks as well. I hope that I can go next year.

One year has happened, and another one approaches. At the end of May, I will take a chance to visit my family in Kansas. In June, I will be back at work in the library and will start Summer Hebrew. I am sure that next year will be busy like this one. However, it is good to know that God, my heavenly Father, has provided for me and preserved me in my time here at the seminary. You have been part of that providence by your generous gift to the seminary for my education. I thank you so very much. I am glad to be here at the seminary and that God has led me here. Feel free to reply by mail or email (melinj@cs1.edu). Have a wonderful summer and a blessed Pentecost!

Blessings in Christ Jesus,
Jaron Melin

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