



MAY 2016 DEVOTION

Global Seminary Initiative \$100,000

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Was there a teacher in Sunday school that you remember clearly? What was it about him or her that stuck with you all these years? Was it the way she taught or was it the lesson she was teaching? (Allow time to share personal memories of teachers.) Effective teachers have such an impact on our lives. We know that from personal experience. When students don't have the benefit of well-trained teachers, their future may be in doubt. When pastors and leaders don't have all the necessary training, they may not be able to reach the lost with the message of salvation through Christ.

All: We thank You, Lord, for the teachers and pastors at our seminaries that train and educate those willing servants of the Word. Bless them with knowledge, skill, and grace to teach those attending.

Leader: Christ in his Holy Word said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20a). One of the first acts by the people and pastors who founded the Synod was to form seminaries to ensure that the preaching of the Gospel and distribution of the Sacraments would continue. The growth of Lutheranism worldwide, the most faithful confession of the Christian faith, depends on well-trained pastors and church leaders. The Global Seminary Initiative is an opportunity for the LCMS to affect the world.

All: Lord, we thank and praise You for Your hand in helping us to be able to respond to the need of graduate education for our international pastors and leaders.

Leader: Our seminaries are open and able to provide this needed education to pastors and leaders throughout the world. With our financial help these global servants will be able to bring the saving grace of God to their communities and also train others to teach.

All: Thank You, Lord, for all the pastors and teachers throughout the world. We ask You to bless all those seeking advanced education and continuing education. Equip pastors and leaders with greater knowledge, new methods, and renewed enthusiasm for their work in sharing the love of Jesus to the world. Amen.