



ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Fund for Leaders 2024 Update

Meet Our 2024-25

Scholarship Recipients

- The ELCA Chaplaincy Fund for Leaders addresses the financial obstacle for women and men answering a call to federal chaplaincy ministry with our service members, veterans, staff, and those in federal correctional facilities.
- Currently we have 150 chaplains serving in these specialized ministries at military posts, VA hospitals, and federal prisons.
- It takes an average of \$40,610 per year (tuition, books, fees, and living expenses) to support a seminarian.
- In 2024, faithful donations from individuals and congregations allowed us to support 4 seminarians with \$25,000 scholarships.
- And we would like to do more. You (or your congregation) can help us by:

- 1. ENCOURAGING AND DIRECTING POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR CHAPLAINCY TO THE ELCA WEBSITE**

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Leadership/Federal-Chaplaincy-Ministries>

- 2. MAKING AN ONLINE GIFT AT:**
www.ELCA.org/fundforleaders/donate
Select ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship from the dropdown menu.

- 3. MAILING YOUR GIFT TO:**
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1806
Merrifield, VA 22116-8000
Reference E271994 on your check.

- 4. USING THIS QR CODE**



Adriano Ayres (First English, South-Central WI Synod) was raised in Brazil and he is completing his studies at Wartburg Seminary. Adriano is interested in becoming an Army Chaplain he is called to military ministry through his interactions with his father, grandfather, and veterans during CPE. He and his wife Sara have two children.

Chelsey Hinrichsen (Christ Lutheran, Pacifica Synod) is completing her studies at Luther Seminary. She is married and became interested in military ministry during CPE while conducting interviews with marginalized veterans experiencing PTSD. Chelsey considers providing pastoral care during spiritual struggles as, “the honor of a lifetime.”

Christopher Schomaker (Trinity Lutheran Church, NE Pennsylvania Synod) is studying at United Lutheran Seminary. He believes his, “greatest honor would be to serve military personnel and their families who serve this nation.” He discerns his call to military ministry through his grandfather’s service as a prison chaplain.

Rebekah Miller (University Lutheran Chapel, Sierra Pacific Synod) is studying at Pacific Lutheran Seminary. She is a “pastor’s kid” who developed her sense of pastoral care while accompanying her mom on homebound visits. She developed a desire for military ministry while working with a Battle of the Bulge veteran, and she looks forward to “living her work” by “taking care of those who take care of us.”