

Special Appeal Report on

2021 GLOBAL SEMINARY INITIATIVE - SCHOLARSHIPS

*The Public Response to a Matching Challenge Grant Special Appeal by
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, and
Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne*



Executive Summary

The total of *qualifying* GSI contributions received during the 2021 match window exceeded the proposed special appeals goal of \$175,000.00. Through October 15, 2021, the total contribution detail report (*excluding bequests*) shows the three GSI partners (LCMS/LCMS Mission Advancement, Concordia Seminary – St Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne) surpassing the challenge goal by \$41,294.30.

Public support via gifts and pledges received between February 16 and October 15, 2021, totaled **\$216,294.30**, not counting the matching grant commitment! The 2021 “GSI International Seminary Student Scholarships Donor Challenge” campaign is declared a success.

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Global Seminary Initiative Match Description and Restrictions

A private charitable foundation again responded favorably to a grant request from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod seeking support for a special appeals effort to secure donations restricted to providing scholarships to qualifying international students attending LCMS seminaries in Fort Wayne and St. Louis, one component of the Global Seminary Initiative (GSI). The foundation trustees graciously pledged up to \$175,000 in matching funds contingent on the 2021 GSI campaign securing an equal or greater amount in public support by November 30, 2021.

To be eligible to have a donation matched, a contributor had to meet the following conditions:

1. The donation must be able to support the international student scholarships component of GSI as implemented by the three partners. While the LCMS maintains an account and restricted gift designation for donations that can *only* be used as GSI scholarship assistance, several contributors responded to matching grant promotions with general GSI contributions (different account and gift designation) and granted the LCMS permission to use their gifts for international student scholarships *if that was where it was needed most*. A decision was made to direct most if not all of the GSI general resources to the scholarship component. Concordia Seminary St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne efforts utilize their own individual accounts for the resources they each receive from contributors.
2. The donation or pledge must be secured no earlier than February 16, 2021, the date when the matching grant commitment from the Foundation was first publicized. Contributions received prior to February 16 are not considered to be eligible for the match but will be part of the July 2022 distribution to both seminaries.
3. The pledge documentation or donation (in full or in part) must be received and recorded before the \$175,000 in pledge matching funds is fully subscribed, or November 30, 2021 – whichever was first. Once the \$175,000 matching challenge grant is fully subscribed, or beginning December 1, 2020, subsequent donations would not be matched.

2021 Campaign Activities

LCMS efforts

LCMS Mission Advancement and LCMS Communications began promoting the availability of the donor challenge match on February 16, 2021, following receipt of the foundation's acceptance of the proposal. Promotion was initiated through the LCMS website, including a special matching gifts page and home page spotlight feature; social media, a special insert (see image, next page) included in gift receipts; and focused phone calls.

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Personal, face-to-face visits with contributors and potential donors, while possible in 2021, was still difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The LCMS, which had shifted to a “work from home” posture (closing the building to all but a caretaker crew) beginning in February 2020, allowed employees to return to the International Center in July. Most personal conversations about the Global Seminary Initiative scholarships and the match took place via telephone and teleconferencing technology (Zoom, Facetime, Skype, Ring Central, etc.). The Global Seminary Initiative was not made the focus of any direct mail appeal; however, it was an option in a mass e-mail appeal promoting several matching/challenge grants issued by the Foundation for 2021.

Double your gift's impact with these dollar-for-dollar matching opportunities:



<p>Help future seminary professors and church leaders from our global partners get a world-class theological education at our Synod's two seminaries.</p> <p>Global Seminary Initiative Gifts matched up to \$175,000 All gifts must be received by Nov. 30.</p>	<p>Support the LCMS Office of International Mission as it sends missionaries and strengthens Christ's church in various locations around the world.</p> <p>LCMS International Mission WHERE OPPORTUNITIES ARE GREATEST Gifts matched up to \$240,000 Ongoing</p>
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Learn more about these opportunities at lcms.org/matching-gifts.

Concordia Seminary, St Louis

As in prior years, Concordia Seminary carried out a highly personal, one-on-one contact via telephone. St. Louis utilized a highly focused GSI-scholarships calling campaign, generating both immediate gifts and pledges to be funded at the time most convenient for the contributor.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

The efforts by Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne launched immediately after notification was made of the matching challenge grant. The Fort Wayne team combined direct mail, telephone contact and direct contact in a comprehensive appeal strategy similar to that of the LCMS.

As gifts were received and the response to all three partners approached the \$175,000 goal, Mission Advancement encouraged promotional activities to be scaled back (and in some venues suspended) in order to avoid making promises for matching funds when data showed the match was fully subscribed. On October 19, 2021, all promotion and other print promotion

Global Seminary Initiative: International Student Scholarships

Oct. 19, 2021 update — The match on contributions to the Global Seminary Initiative (International Student Scholarships) has been fully claimed by many wonderful people, groups, and congregations. We thank each and every participant for being the generous, caring disciples you are.

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LCMS.org website announcement

of the GSI match (web, social media, etc.) by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was deactivated, the public was informed that the grant had been fully subscribed (right).

Results

Gifts and pledges restricted to funding GSI scholarships, received between February 16 and October 15, total **\$216,294.30** with match-eligible contributions representing the full \$175,000 goal (or 80.91 percent of the total support pledged and received).

In terms of each collaborative partner efforts, the results were:

Concordia Seminary, St Louis

The total secured thus far via **913 gifts and pledges** and reported in the transaction detail was **\$75,944**. Two gifts/pledges in the amount of \$5,000 each, from contributors in South Dakota and Minnesota, were followed by the next largest gift/pledge of \$2,000 from a donor in Illinois. Excluding these three largest commitments, the average donation was \$70.19.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

The total secured through August 30 (when Fort Wayne's report was sent to the LCMS) in **80 gifts and pledges** was **\$62,275.75**. The largest single gift was a \$35,000.00 donation from a donor in California, followed by a \$12,130.75 contribution from a second donor also from California. Excluding these two atypical commitments, the average contribution was \$194.17.

LCMS/LCMS Mission Advancement

The total secured through October 31 was **\$78,074.55** via **157 contributions (no pledges)**. The largest single gift was a \$20,000 gift from a contributor in Washington State, followed by two \$10,000 gifts. Excluding the atypical \$20,000 and two \$10,000 donations, the average gift to/through the LCMS was \$377.11. Donations to support GSI and its international student scholarship component are still being encouraged, and gifts that will impact scholarships awarded in the 2021-22 academic will be received through January 31, 2022. At that point the GSI scholarships account managed by the LCMS will be 'locked down' so that a specific amount available will be reported to both seminaries for their budgeting purposes. Donations received on February 1, 2022 and following will form the basis of the next round, held for disbursement as scholarships in the 2022-23 academic year.

The COVID-19 pandemic may still be negatively influencing fundraising performance; however, lower giving may not reflect the perceived value of the Global Seminary Initiative. The total given last year (2020) was below that given in either of the preceding two years. And while this year's 2021 campaign ran for a longer window resulting in more dollars being committed, there is also some evidence that a few GSI contributors are responding with greater generosity. Household donors and individuals are still giving, but many are still choosing other "where needed most" options as they see the overall revenue challenges facing their own congregation, local nonprofits and even The LCMS and her seminaries.

Impact

The Global Seminary Initiative, though, is not about strengthening the Synod or its two seminaries or giving accolades to an organization or a fundraising campaign. Its purpose is to identify, form and send well-equipped, thoroughly trained men back to their homelands to lead and serve their home church body as seminary professors, church body leaders and strong mentors.

GSI is about delivering the Gospel of Jesus Christ clearly to men, women and children in all four corners of the world, baptizing them in the name of our Triune God, and walking with them as they become disciples for life. Those who hear that Gospel and believe are the true beneficiaries of a strong GSI scholarships campaign effort.

Enrollment – 2021/22 Academic Year

The Global Seminary Initiative is a vitally important funding strategy that has already sent dozens of highly trained theologian-leaders to serve LCMS confessional Lutheran partners around the world. The most recent data on GSI enrollment, provided by the seminaries to the LCMS when requesting disbursement of the 2020 GSI scholarship grants, gives an indication of the scale and scope of the Initiative's labors:

	Concordia Theo. Seminary Fort Wayne	Concordia Seminary St Louis
Maximum Capacity for GSI Students	25	80
Current GSI Enrollment: 2021-22 Year	15	41
Number of Nations Represented	8	16
Number of Partner Churches Represented	8	16
Degrees being pursued	STM: Ph.D.	STM; Ph.D.
Number expected to graduate this year	9	9
Number expected to graduate 1 to 3 years out	5	20

The contributions received from this year's efforts will be disbursed to both seminaries in the summer of 2022. Information about the funds on-hand with the LCMS (excluding the donations given to each seminary directly) will be given to the seminaries in February 2022 to support accurate GSI scholarship budgeting by each institution. This process avoids the pitfall of promising dollar amounts to the seminaries *before* God's disciples have actually responded to the opportunity, and the seminaries basing scholarship awards on a potentially unrealistic *pledge* rather than the actual cash on hand.

Graduates Sent- 2020/21 Academic Year

Using scholarship dollars provided by God's people for the 2020-21 academic year (see 2020 GSI distribution check copies on pages 7 and 8) - and prior academic years - the seminaries provided qualified individuals for service and leadership among LCMS partner churches.

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Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne graduated one GSI-sponsored student:

<u>Program Student/Degree</u>	<u>Country/Partner Church</u>	<u>Graduated</u>
Rev. Dr. Yohana Nzelu , D.Min	Tanzania, ELCT-SELVD	Summer 2021

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis saw five GSI-sponsored students complete their studies and graduate:

<u>Program Student/Degree</u>	<u>Country/Partner Church</u>	<u>Graduated</u>
Rev. Jesus Granado Lizardo, MA	Venezuela/ELCV	Spring 2021
Rev. Jared Magero , STM	Kenya, ELCK	Spring 2021
Rev. Roberto Molina Thomae , MA	Guatemala, SELK	Spring 2021
Rev. Andre Muller , MA	Uruguay, IldU	Fall, 2020
Rev. Jasper Olawo , MA	Kenya, ELCK	Spring, 2021

Distribution of 2020 (Prior Year) GSI Matching Campaign Funds

In July of 2021, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod disbursed the 2020 matching grant (\$175,000), and the net proceeds of all donations received by the LCMS for GSI scholarships from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021.

The two distributions to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne also included the income earned on and released from a special *Forward In Remembrance* endowment restricted for the same purpose as GSI. The distributions supplement the GSI contributions solicited and facilitated directly by each seminary and were released according to a schedule specified in the standard operating principles for the Global Seminary Initiative.

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LCMS disbursement to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

One half of the matching grant	\$ 87,500.00
GSI Funds net of expenses raised/facilitated by the LCMS	\$ 29,734.48
One half of the <i>Forward In Remembrance</i> endowment income	\$ 93,077.00
	\$210,311.48

Image of issued and cashed check



<p>THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED IN PINK COLORS. DO NOT ACCEPT UNLESS BLUE AND BURGUNDY ARE PRESENT.</p>		
<p>THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD International Center-Accounting Department 1333 South Kirkwood Road St. Louis, Missouri 63122-7295</p>	<p>US Bank N.A. 4-21 \$10</p>	<p>LCMS L1164254</p>
<p>PAY **Two Hundred Ten Thousand Three Hundred Eleven & 48/100*****</p>	<p>Check Date: 07/23/21</p>	<p>Check Number: L1164254</p>
<p>TO THE ORDER OF</p>	<p>Check Amount: ***210,311.48</p>	<p>VOID AFTER 90 DAYS</p>
<p>Concordia Seminary-St Louis Mo Attn Dr Gerhard Bode 801 Seminary Pl St Louis MO 63105</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i> AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE Frank Simek, Chief Administrative Officer</p>	
<p>Seq: 2 Dep: 008805 Date: 07/28/21</p>		
<p>Seq 2 07/28/21 Dep:008805 AG:1 Cust:5318 C/Ser:1150100</p>		
<p>For Deposit Only to Concordia College dba Concordia S Concordia Seminary MASTER* ACCOUNT # INCENTIVIZING IS MISSING Deposited by: ENDORSE HERE</p>		
<p>DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR ENDORSE BELOW THIS LINE</p>		



LCMS disbursement to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

One half of the matching grant	\$ 87,500.00
GSI Funds net of expenses raised/facilitated by the LCMS	\$ 29,734.48
One half of the <i>Forward In Remembrance</i> endowment income	\$ 93,077.00
	\$210,311.48

Image of issue and cashed check

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED IN TWO COLORS. DO NOT ACCEPT UNLESS BLUE AND BURGUNDY ARE PRESENT.							
 THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD International Center-Accounting Department 1333 South Kirkwood Road St. Louis, Missouri 63122-7295	US Bank of A 4-21 810	LCMS L1164286					
	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Check Date</th> <th>Check Number</th> <th>Check Amount</th> </tr> <tr> <td>07/27/21</td> <td>L1164286</td> <td>***210,311.48</td> </tr> </table>	Check Date	Check Number	Check Amount	07/27/21	L1164286	***210,311.48
Check Date	Check Number	Check Amount					
07/27/21	L1164286	***210,311.48					
PAY **Two Hundred Ten Thousand Three Hundred Eleven & 48/100***** TO THE ORDER OF ***** Concordia Theological Seminary Attn Rev Robert Roethemeyer 6600 N Clinton St Fort Wayne IN 46825							
		VOID AFTER 90 DAYS  AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE Frank Simek, Chief Administrative Officer					
<div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>							
For Deposit Only - JPMC							
DO NOT WRITE ABOVE OR BELOW THIS LINE FOR DEPOSIT ONLY PAY TO THE ORDER OF JP MORGAN CHASE FORT WAYNE, INDIANA CONCORDIA THEO. SEM A/C # 627357643							

The GSI Steering Committee, Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are extremely grateful to the private foundation for supplying a donor challenge grant that inspired both generosity and urgency in supporting this facet of GSI. It is indeed an initiative that reaps benefits here in the U.S. and for our international brothers and sisters in the Lutheran faith.

All three GSI partners are equally appreciative of all those across the LCMS and even contributors outside of the LCMS who responded with joy and generosity to this year's special appeal. Ultimately, all these contributions – including the foundation – again bolstered a clear proclamation of the hope all nations have in our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Comments and questions regarding this special appeals report may be directed to:

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