

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Free Lutheran Bible College

### “New Beginnings”

Pastor Adam Osier, Dean of the Free Lutheran Bible College



Perhaps it's because, at the time of this writing, we've just celebrated the new year with all its promises of fresh starts and clean slates that I keep coming back to the phrase “new beginnings.” Yet I do think it an apt phrase to capture God's working at FLBC during this past semester. With a variety of changes, it's easy to see this season of “newness” on campus. From a new name, to a new dean, to a new group of first year students, to the groundbreaking on a new student life center, the new beginnings are easy to observe. New beginnings excite and motivate. Like with New Year's resolutions they can serve to shape and focus the mission before us. These events have, indeed, done this for our campus.

But just like with New Year's resolutions, new doesn't always mean that the newness leads to something essentially different. The common New Year's resolution of eating healthier isn't a brand new idea or goal for the one making it. The occasion of the new year simply provides an opportunity for a fresh start to focus one's efforts to do so. This distinction expresses well the new beginnings at FLBC. Our mission and purpose for our existence has not changed, our school has always been part of the “new” work that God is doing in Christ. We exist to proclaim the new covenant made in Christ's blood (Jer. 31:31-34, Mt. 26:26-28). We proclaim the new life promised for the one who trusts in Christ. We explore what it means that in Christ we are new creations for which the old has gone and the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17, Col. 3:9). We do this to train our students to live a life of faith and service in this new kingdom.

This semester has afforded many opportunities to observe this new kingdom work. I think of the group of our students who have devoted time handing out water bottles near the U of M campus and the impact that they are having as they share the gospel with those they encounter. One such conversation has led to someone who's never heard of FLBC to apply to attend our school because they witnessed what God was doing in and through our students. This case is not unique. Talking with our students, I am reminded daily of the power of God's new work in Christ and what that means for them. God's Word is powerful, and his mercies are new every morning. Thank you for your support for FLBC and being part of God's new kingdom work!

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Free Lutheran Seminary

### “The Continual Call to Proclaim”

By Joseph Larson, Junior class

“He commanded our fathers to teach to their children . . . so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:5b–7 ESV).

For those known as “PKs” (Pastor's Kids), the details about their father serving the congregation can seem like a distant reality. Pastors will often do their best to shelter their children from the trials, troubles, and stresses their careers can bring. PK's may not even realize the intensity and importance of their father's daily ministry, as the pastor is always seeking to love his family while also serving the congregation faithfully. My wife and I were both blessed to grow up (relatively) free from the concerns that were placed upon our fathers because of their pastoral calls.

However, in responding to the first stages of my own pastoral call, the stark realities about the ministry and its joys and struggles have become quite apparent. Even in the first year of studies at

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