

# *PLTS Donor Testimonials*

My first priority for giving is theological education and support for those who aspire to be leaders in the church. As a member of the PLTS Donor Advocates Group--and as a former PLTS board chair--I now find myself wanting to stand at the front of the line to advocate for and commit to a *PLTS Challenge Fund* established as an incentive for congregations in Regions 1 and 2. The purpose of the fund is to provide incentive for congregations to initiate or enhance budget giving to PLTS. This is how it works. *New and enhanced gifts* from congregations will be **matched** by individual PLTS donors. Your congregation thus has an incentive and an opportunity to further the aspirations of those students at PLTS who are moving toward leadership in our church—a gift that will be doubled by a donor match. This is the time!

- Rev. Dr. Mark Ramseth, Montana

Throughout our lives we've been blessed with many wonderful pastors. Sometimes they've opened our eyes on Sunday mornings, sometimes they've provided helpful advice or counseling when needed, sometimes they've made order out of those traumatic events that bump into each family from time to time. They don't grow on trees. We are fortunate to be part of the ELCA, where good pastoral preparation and support at our network of ELCA seminaries is an integral part of our shared ministries in our communities and around the world. Those who feel "the call" need our encouragement and support particularly during their years of discernment and preparation in one of our seminaries. Please join us in whatever way you can to be a supportive part of the PLTS family. Thank you.

– Dr. Gary and Pat Andeen, Oregon

We are pleased and excited to join the PLTS Challenge Fund and see this fund as an important step in involving all our congregations in support of theological education that impacts each and every ELCA congregation. When calling a new pastor, our congregations are directly benefiting from the spirit led process of theological education. Those of us in faith communities who have encountered and been joined and led in ministry by graduates of PLTS can speak to the depth and quality of theological education they have received. We certainly have!

In contributing to the PLTS Challenge Fund, we anticipate a renewal of interest and commitment to theological education at PLTS by ELCA congregations throughout the country, especially in the West. We encourage all those who have been blessed by rostered leaders from PLTS to consider contributing to this fund and to encourage their congregations to take advantage of the available matching grants by including in their budgets a contribution to PLTS this year.

- Dr. Rod and Sharie Schofield, Washington