

# VALPO Lutheran Connection



Valparaiso University ... an independent Lutheran university that fosters a community of scholars, free inquiry and commitment to faith-based education.

## Allen Scholars: One Response to the Need for Church Workers

The need is clear. The church's supply of full-time workers is diminishing.

No matter the calling: pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, youth workers, musicians, or deaconesses. The list could go on.

No matter the denomination either. In Lutheran circles, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod each face daunting projected shortages.

Universities and colleges that care about the church and its public ministry also recognize the need. Fewer full-time church workers, especially those who directly impact the lives of young people, translate into fewer advocates for attending a Lutheran school or modeling the joys of devoting one's life to church ministry.

This issue of the "Valpo Lutheran Connection" responds to the need for church workers in three ways. It asks that you consider Valpo as a resource for locating a future full-time staff person. Equally important, it encourages that you see Valpo as a school that can help equip someone from your congregation

for future service in the church. And, it alerts you to a marvelous scholarship program designed to support financially those individuals seeking to serve the church full time (for additional information see Pages 4-5, as well as the enclosed Allen Scholarship brochure).

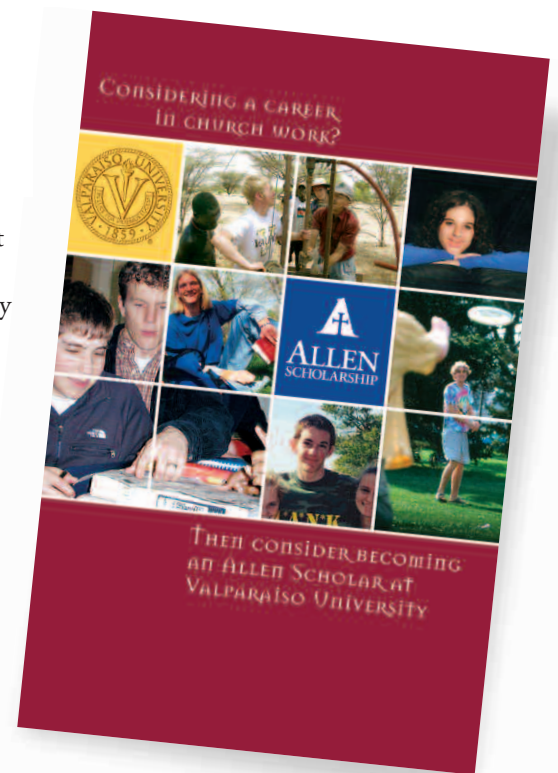
Valpo has a long history of graduating individuals who seek to serve the church full time. Hundreds of its graduates are currently serving in congregations, schools, and church-related agencies around the country.

Well aware of the blessing of being at Valpo, Allen scholars are featured on Pages 2 and 3. Allen scholar Dan Beirne expresses his thoughts below:

*"The community, the faith, and the spirit of this campus will never cease being a part of me. Participating in the Center for Church Vocations activities as an Allen scholar, and the Chapel of the Resurrection and its ministries, have not only fostered and accommodated my spiritual life through these years, but they also have challenged me (intentionally and unintentionally) to aspire beyond mere comfort levels and restrict-*

*ing mentalities. I've been challenged to run in the Spirit, as well as to fall before it. On top of all that ... it has been a load of laughs and good food."*

In summary, the message of this Connection is look to Valpo as one of those Lutheran universities that has both the resources to equip your sons and daughters for public ministry and the capacity to help launch them into a life of competent, committed Christian service.



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# My *life* flows on in endless *song*.

That is how **Paula Maust, Friedens Lutheran, Friedens, Pa.**, describes her journey as a church musician. Blessed with a highly supportive congregation, she has had numerous opportunities “to spread her wings” as an organist.

Maust still recalls the first time she played for an entire worship service: “At age 16, I was scared beyond belief.” Yet it was that experience, and others that followed, that helped her realize “what an amazing privilege and opportunity it was for me to be able to help with the leading of the service and with creating the worship mood for the rest of the congregation.”

When she wanted to further that musical calling by attending a Lutheran university, participating in a nationally acclaimed honors college, studying in a very fine music department, and being a part of a wonderful worshipping community, Valparaiso University fit the bill as few other schools could. To clarify matters even further, Maust was invited to be an Allen scholar and to receive a substantial scholarship.

As a first-year Allen scholar, Maust had “an amazing time of spiritual, musical and personal growth.” One of the highlights of her year was a Center for Church Vocations retreat on spiritual practices, planned and led by church music students and Dr. Lorraine Brugh, director of the church music program.

A current highlight for Maust is her eight-week internship in the “Servant Summer: Exploring Your Life Directions” program organized by the Eastern Cluster of seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. One of eight interns, her assignment led her to Atlanta, and a role in the Refugee Services Department of Lutheran Services of Georgia. Her responsibilities: help collect supplies necessary to furnish refugee apartments; encourage area youth to get involved in service learning projects; speak to interested congregations about the Refugee Services Department; and implement a three-week day camp for some 15 children and youth ages 8-14.

According to Maust, the goals of the camp, held at Rivercliff Lutheran Church, and aptly named Azalea after the apartment complex where the refugee families have been resettled, are “to provide a fun, educational setting that helps develop the English language skills of the young people as well as integrate them more fully into American culture.”

How will Maust’s music skills fit into her social service efforts? Since the children are Meskhetian Turks from various eastern European countries, she, and her 18-year-old Turkish assistant, plan to use American folk songs to enhance the

language abilities of the participants of the camp. Additionally, Maust plans to spend an afternoon having the children make music using body percussion techniques and simple rhythm instruments.

This summer’s experience of working alongside of a social service staff deeply committed to the Old Testament vision of acting justly and loving mercy and walking humbly with God will serve Maust well as she returns to Valpo in the fall. Such a vision can further fuel her music aspirations so that one day she will be able to focus her energies on assisting a congregation to glorify God through worship and social action that helps others to hear and learn an endless song that brings joy and hope during the most trying and unsettling of times.



Photos: Provided

Maust enjoying a recreational moment with two children participating in Camp Azalea.

# Finding a Purpose

By: Katie Benjamin, student writer

“Well. Good job.”

It was the line that started my second play. Picture Adam and Eve bickering just beyond the bounds of the Garden of Eden, whence they’ve been summarily tossed (in Adam’s view) because “You just had to, didn’t you—you just had to ...”

Then a senior in high school, I played Eve during the performances: Eve, who is always right—even if she isn’t right—hands on her hips and staring down the poor young man playing Adam, who happened to be my little brother.

Family and friends alike got a “kick” out of it.

It was the last big hurrah I would have with the high school youth group at **Our Savior Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Fla.**, before I found something else I just had to—namely, haul my things to Indiana and Valparaiso University, where I would enroll with a double major in theology and English. I had been awarded an Allen scholarship to attend because of my intention to give back to the church that had been formative, enlivening, and engaging for me in all the relevant ways.

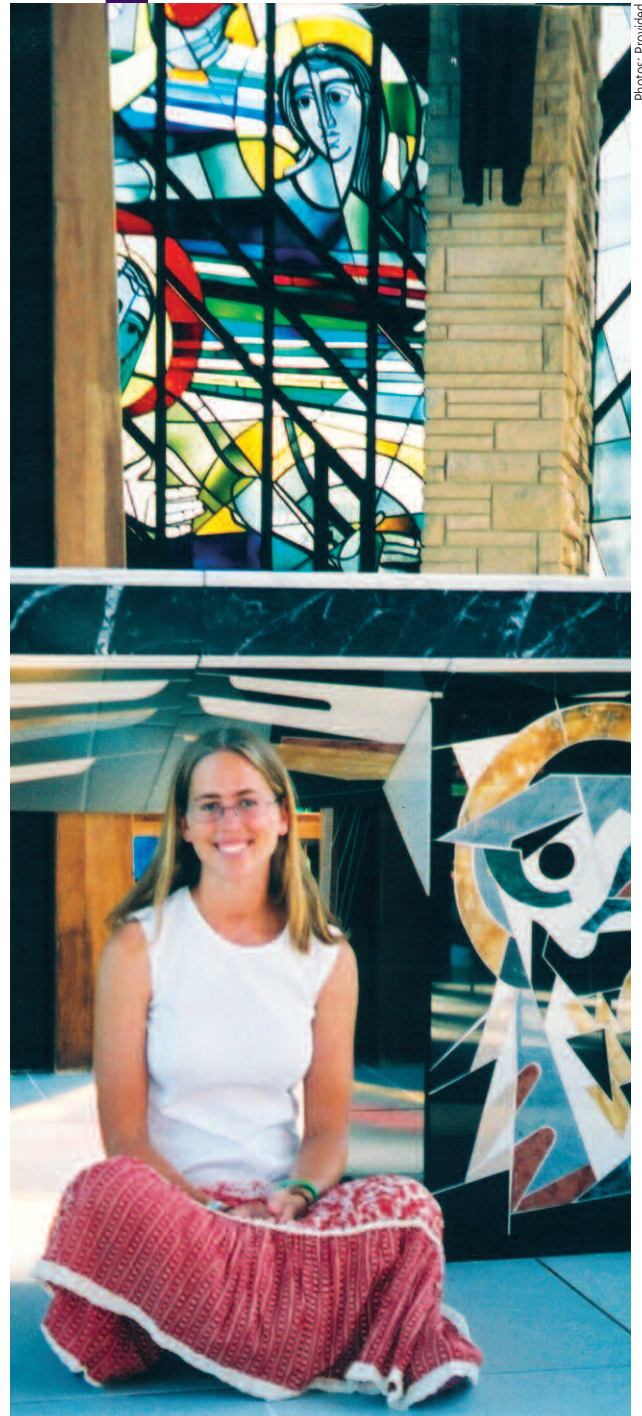
I wanted to be a youth minister.

In addition to the two majors, I found work at Valparaiso’s Chapel of the Resurrection, where I’ve served the last two years as sacristan. I have kept on acting, auditioning for and joining Soul Purpose, the liturgical drama troupe based out of Valpo’s Theatre Department. They’ve even let me keep writing: I work with a group of amazingly talented students, who generate a new drama every week for Morning Prayer.

But it’s like me to be busy. So I’ve appreciated the opportunities that being an Allen scholar provide: the steady presence of the Church Vocations program with its text studies and lectures, and the retreats that buy us time to think and reflect about the next step that one day I’ll tell my family I just “had to.”

I’ll be graduating from Valparaiso at the end of the next spring semester, and leaving a host of brilliant friendships and memories behind, for paths as yet untrodden and ventures of which I cannot know the ending. I go with faith, and I go with hope: that at the end of my journey, whatever place I will have found and service I will have rendered, I will have gained the kind of ears that hear those welcome words from the Savior whose love inspired the journey in the first place.


“Well. Good job.”



Photos: Provided

Katie Benjamin sitting in front of the altar in the Chapel of the Resurrection where she serves as assistant to the dean of the Chapel of the Resurrection.

# ALLEN SCHOLARS: GIFTS FROM THE CHURCH,

 Just imagine. A couple you don't know has a dream of helping young people prepare for the various ministries of the church. To make it feasible, they want these aspiring church workers to realize their undergraduate degree with relatively little, if any, educational loan debt.

Sometimes dreams come to pass, especially for Oliver and Emma Allen. Before their deaths, they arranged with their attorney to establish the Allen Scholarship Program and fund it with a \$4 million gift.

Just imagine again. Thirty-eight Allen scholars studying together on one campus (see names on Page 5). As a group they are academically astute, accustomed to excelling, and unafraid of the rigors of critical thinking. They enjoy creating and maintaining community among themselves and others. One of their keen interests is dissecting and discussing theological questions and issues. They also are intrigued by Valpo's inter-Lutheran environment and do not let differences of perspective block substantive conversation and the development of friendships.

The impact of such a critical mass of gifted students? Although rarely visible as a group, the Allen scholars serve to validate the serious pursuit of theological study and the consideration of full-time service in the church. Through their far-flung campus involvements, they also serve as a sounding board for those who are exploring and testing future career choices. As a result, the number of students pursuing a church-related vocation, which includes classroom teaching, church music, deaconess, youth and family ministry, and pastor, is approaching 175 students.

A remarkable number for a university long known for graduates who serve the church in various lay leadership roles.

## The 10th Allen Scholar Class to Enter Valpo

Not the largest class, nor the smallest. Twelve in all. Eight men and four women. Seven Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, four Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and one Episcopal. Several come from Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana, while others hail from as far as Washington, Texas, Minnesota, Colorado and California.

Like their predecessors, the 2006 Allen scholar class is a relatively bright lot. Average SAT score is just under 1300. Five are in Christ College, the university's honor college.

Allen scholars' financial packages are quite healthy. Based on their families' financial need, and their academic qualifications, their average scholarship/grant amount is just above \$17,000.

Their career intentions also vary. Five aspire to the pastoral ministry, four want to become parish musicians, two will pursue youth and family ministry, and one seeks to be a teacher.

## Allen Scholars on Campus During 2006-2007

The guiding vision for the Allen Scholars program is that its numbers during any given school year will range between 38 and 42. In 2006-2007, there will be 38 Allen scholars on campus. Their home congregation, denomination, and vocational intent are outlined at right:

# FOR THE CHURCH

John Allegar	Independence, Mo.	Non-denom	Church Music
Benjamin Anderson	Utica, Mich.	LCMS	Pre-Seminary
Alecia Behrens	Florissant, Mo.	ELCA	Youth Ministry
Daniel Beirne	Naperville, Ill.	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Katie Benjamin	St. Petersburg, Fla.	LCMS	Youth Ministry
Amanda Boyd	Toledo, Ohio	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Daniel Brunette	Carmel, Ind.	LCMS	Teacher
Kirstin Davies	Houston	LCMS	Youth Ministry
Linda Davis	Plano, Texas	LCMS	Youth Ministry
Jeremiah Dost	St. Louis	LCMS	Pre-Seminary
Blake Edwards	Orange, Calif.	LCMS	Pre-Seminary
Philip Forness	Brookfield, Wis.	Baptist	Pre-Seminary
Jennifer Gulley	Burlington, Iowa	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Kimberly Haugen	Cincinnati	ELCA	Education
Rachel Holley	Crown Point, Ind.	Episcopal	Church Music
Theodore Hopkins	Jefferson City, Mo.	LCMS	Pre-Seminary
Jessica Kindschi	Hales Corners, Wis.	LCMS	Education
Nicole Koehler	DePere, Wis.	LCMS	Church Music
Edward Marque	Mason, Ohio	LCMS	Pre-Seminary
Paula Maust	Friedens, Pa.	ELCA	Church Music
Ruth Moberg Foster	Worcester, Mass.	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Carol Mueller	Columbia, Ill.	LCMS	Church Music
Seth Nelson	Decorah, Iowa	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Elizabeth Niggemyer	Spokane, Wash.	LCMS	Youth Ministry
Matthew Olin	Canyon City, Colo.	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Leah Parker	Cleburne, Texas	PC (USA)	Youth Ministry
Elizabeth Richter	Canyon City, Colo.	ELCA	Education
Matthew Riley	Indianapolis	LCMS	Pre-Seminary
Jonathan Rudy	Batavia, Ill.	ELCA	Church Music
Richard Schwartz	Livonia, Mich.	LCMS	Pre-Seminary
Peter Schwich	Park Ridge, Ill.	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Shannon Speaker	Williamsville, N.Y.	ELCA	Youth Ministry
Andrew Stoebig	Plymouth, Minn.	LCMS	Church Music
Bradford Thompson	Lowell, Ind.	LCMS	Church Music
Andrew Venstrom	Rockford, Ill.	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Emily Weller	Lima, Ohio	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Erin Westerman	Naperville, Ill.	ELCA	Pre-Seminary
Christopher Zeichman	Clinton, Mich.	ELCA	Pre-Seminary

Amazing, isn't it, what Oliver and Emma Allen have enabled because they backed their dream with ample resources. In just 10 years, 100 of the church's finest have been able to test and clarify their dream of serving the church full time. Pleased as the Allens might be thus far, these Valpo students and graduates are just a hint of what's to come. How appropriate that these gifts from the church are now preparing to serve the church that gave them an identity and a future through the waters of Holy Baptism.

# 2006 Valparaiso University Lutheran Graduates and

## Alabama

Joy Woellhart  
Grace Lutheran, Huntsville

## Arizona

Carl Bear  
Christ Church, Phoenix

## Arkansas

Sharon Middleton  
Christ Lutheran, Little Rock

## California

James Hooper  
Pilgrim Lutheran, Chula Vista

Helen Huggins  
Peace Lutheran, Grass Valley

Brandon Lewke  
Grace Lutheran, Palo Alto

Mark Oeding  
Hope Lutheran, Palm Desert

Benjamin Wohlfeil  
Tierrasanta Lutheran, San Diego

## Colorado

John Westerberg  
Faith Lutheran, Golden

## Connecticut

Elizabeth Case  
St. Andrews Lutheran, Ridgefield

Ashley Jordan  
St. John Lutheran, Stamford

## Florida

\*Julia Colbert, Sarasota

Deborah Hartner  
St. Paul Lutheran, Weston

John Unrath  
Advent Lutheran, Melbourne

## Georgia

Kelly Jacob  
St. John Lutheran, Griffin

## Hawaii

\*Shannon Steuber, Hilo

## Illinois

\*Heather Bolur, Lombard

Nicholas Bruns  
United Lutheran, Oak Park

Joseph Bynum  
Alleluia Lutheran, Naperville

Matthew Cassity  
Our Savior's Lutheran,  
Naperville

Kimberly Christman  
Our Redeemer Lutheran,  
Bloomington

Rachel Cooper  
Trinity Lutheran, Tinley Park

Betsy Crull  
St. Matthew Lutheran,  
Lemont

Benjamin Dahlke  
Holy Cross Lutheran,  
Libertyville

Anthony Dertz, Bethany  
Lutheran, Woodhull

\*William Erdmann,  
Crystal Lake

Matthew Fry  
St. Paul Lutheran, Waukegan

Joel Funk  
Immanuel Lutheran, Downers  
Grove

\*Stacy Gibbons, Marengo

\*Matthew Gutwein, Aurora

Jason Hallman  
Redeemer Lutheran, Rockford

\*Jared Hahn, Brimfield

Christa Hanrath  
Holy Cross Lutheran,  
Libertyville

\*John Helmkamp, Shelbyville

Jason Holzwarth  
Living Lord Lutheran, Bartlett

Matthew Hoovey  
Cross Lutheran, Yorkville

Zachary Horn  
St. Olaf Lutheran,  
Montgomery

Richard Humeniak  
Trinity Lutheran, Genoa

Lindsey Jabs  
Trinity Lutheran, Tinley Park

Melissa Johnson  
Alpine Lutheran, Rockford

Michael Juell  
Faith Lutheran, Joliet

Thomas Kaczmarczyk  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Chicago  
Heights

Adam King  
St. Paul Lutheran, Decatur

Brittany Koester  
St. Peter Lutheran, Arlington  
Heights

Daniel Lesko  
Zion Lutheran, Staunton

Tyler Lowell  
St. James Lutheran, Lake  
Forest

Karla Madal  
Holy Trinity Lutheran,  
Burbank

Lauren Moulton  
Good Shepherd Lutheran,  
Elgin

Jennifer Nelson  
St. John Lutheran, Lombard

Julie Nickels  
St. Luke Lutheran,  
Montgomery

\*Julianne Oimoen,  
Libertyville

\*Robert Pedersen, Urbana

\*Gregory Postweiler,  
Palos Park

\*Benjamin Pulley, Port Byron

\*Emily Quetel, Naperville

\*Amanda Reedy, Minooka

\*Michael Ross, Gurnee

John Roth  
Hope Lutheran, Long Grove

\*Thomas Sage, Chebanse

Kathryn Sass  
Bethany Lutheran, Naperville

Kimberly Sawusch  
St. Peter Lutheran,  
Schaumburg

Alexandra Schmidt  
St. Peter Lutheran, Arlington  
Heights

Emily Schmidt  
Blessed Savior Lutheran,  
O'Fallon

Sarah Severson  
St. Paul Lutheran, Warren

Nicole Stone  
Prince of Peace Lutheran,  
Palatine

Christopher Summers  
Holy Cross Lutheran,  
Libertyville

Bethany Suwinski  
St. Andrews Lutheran, Park  
Ridge

Katherine Swank  
St. Matthew Lutheran, Milan

Allison Swanson  
St. James Lutheran,  
Naperville

Erin Swanson  
Good Shepherd Lutheran,  
Naperville

Philip Theiss  
St. Paul Lutheran, Columbia

Amy Toporsh  
Charles

Margaret-Ann Uding  
St. Paul Lutheran, Mt.  
Prospect

Jason Urban  
All Saints Lutheran, Orland  
Park

Kristen Voss  
Trinity Lutheran, Lisle

Kevin Warner  
Peace Lutheran, Lombard

\*Jessamyn Wehmeier,  
Orland Park

Cory Wood  
Prince of Peace Lutheran,  
Palatine

Jenna Yamanaka  
St. Matthew Lutheran,  
Lemont

Stacy Zarr  
Lord Life Lutheran, Lafox

## Indiana

Ryan Beebe  
Bethany Lutheran, La Porte

Joy Bowker  
Immanuel Lutheran,  
Valparaiso

Peter Brock  
St. Paul Lutheran, Columbus

Adam Dravininkas  
Immanuel Lutheran,  
Valparaiso

Michael Engstrom  
First Lutheran, Mishawaka

Marcie Fischer  
St. John Lutheran, La Porte

Christopher Frame  
Immanuel Lutheran,  
Valparaiso

Richard Garduno  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Munster

Jamie Gieschen  
Concordia Lutheran, Fort  
Wayne

Nathan Gordon  
St. Paul Lutheran, Bremen

\*Matthew Graham, Hanover

David Hyde  
Christ the King Lutheran,  
South Bend

Benjamin Lieske  
Trinity Lutheran, Valparaiso

\*Kara Miller, Brookston

\*Kristiana Murphy, Plymouth

Jacqueline Nusbaum  
Epiphany Lutheran, Fort  
Wayne

Jordan Richardson  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Munster

Heather Rosenwinkel  
Trinity Lutheran, Crown Point

Katherine Ryan  
St. Peter Lutheran,  
Mishawaka

Scott Schoech  
Christ Lutheran, Valparaiso

\*Amy Stark, Saint John

Sara VanHuffel  
St. Peter Lutheran,  
Mishawaka

\*Sarah Weight, Valparaiso

Steven Wilco  
Trinity Lutheran, Valparaiso

## Iowa

Byron Kutz  
King Kings Lutheran, Cedar  
Rapids

Keith Pump  
Zion Lutheran, Rockford

Heidi Topolosky  
Grace Lutheran, Muscatine

Brent Whitlock  
Grace Lutheran, Davenport

## Kansas

Kerri Nanney  
Our Redeemer Lutheran,  
Hutchinson

Matthew Stohs  
Hope Lutheran, Shawnee

## Kentucky

Daniel Burford  
St. John Lutheran, Louisville

## Maine

Megan Bolton  
Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham

# Their Home Congregations

## Massachusetts

Amy Jeffers  
Zion Lutheran, Worcester

## Michigan

\*Laurie Crawford,  
Grand Blanc

Kristiana Dixon  
Calvary Lutheran, Clarkston

Christine Hoffsten  
St. James Lutheran, Grosse  
Pointe

\*Dana Hommel, Midland

Rebecca Klusman  
Trinity Lutheran, Manistee

Danielle La Pointe  
Our Savior's Lutheran,  
Edmore

Jennifer Praedel  
Lutheran Church the Savior,  
Kalamazoo

Evan Roller  
St. Peters Lutheran,  
Plymouth

Erica Romsos  
University Lutheran, East  
Lansing

\*Thomas Stratton, Dewitt

David Tomke  
Immanuel Lutheran, Bay City

## Minnesota

Martha Afdahl  
Shepherd the Hills Lutheran,  
Shoreview

Mari Bjoraker  
Calvary Lutheran,  
Minneapolis

Christiana Johnson  
St. Michael's Lutheran,  
Bloomington

Matthew Schaefer  
St. John's Lutheran, Chaska

Robert Schmidt  
Hosanna Lutheran, Lakeville

Michael Scott  
Calvary Lutheran,  
Minneapolis

Lynnae Skogerboe  
St. Matthew Lutheran,  
Columbia Heights

Kristin Thomas  
St. Luke's Lutheran,  
Bloomington

Amy Wilford  
Woodbury Lutheran,  
Woodbury

Whitney Wittorf  
All Saints Lutheran,  
Minnetonka

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\*Elizabeth Eischer,  
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Laurie Grabiak  
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Chesterfield

Madeline Orling  
Bethel Lutheran, St. Louis

Peter Oschwald  
Timothy Lutheran, St. Louis

\*Jenny Siebert, Saint Louis

Kathleen Siepman  
Concordia, Kirkwood

Brian Snodgrass  
Immanuel Lutheran, Saint  
Charles

Kyle Wicks  
Good Shepherd Lutheran,  
Manchester

## Nebraska

\*Laura Ebberson, Coleridge

\*Anne Montgomery, Murray

Adam Ortman  
Southwood Lutheran, Lincoln

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Living Hope Lutheran,  
Omaha

\*Janelle Ritsch, Omaha

Eric Spaeth  
St. Peter Lutheran, Snyder

## Nevada

\*Michael Paulson, Mesquite

## New York

\*Erica Corlito, Brightwaters

Aaron Leavitt  
Prince Peace Lutheran,  
Clifton Park

Lindsay Scott  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran,  
East Amherst

## North Carolina

Amanda Hassebrock  
Our Savior Lutheran, Raleigh

\*Kirk Heavner, Lincolnton

## Ohio

\*Joshua Buchs, Defiance

Jonathan Bull  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Prospect

\*Matthew Glomski, Aurora

Alison Harvey  
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Bradley Haugen  
Prince of Peace Lutheran,  
Loveland

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St. John's Lutheran,  
Zanesville

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Bethany Evangelical  
Lutheran, Toledo

Monica Ott  
Epiphany Lutheran, Dayton

Martin Patrick  
St. Luke Evangelical  
Lutheran, Mansfield

\*Stephanie Pollitz, Ottawa

Michael Waugh  
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Park

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Lutheran Church of the  
Covenant, Maple Heights

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Christ the King Lutheran,  
Lodi

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St. Peter's Lutheran, Edon

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Central Lutheran, Eugene

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Redeemer Lutheran, Gresham

## Pennsylvania

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Holy Trinity Lutheran,  
Jeannette

Haley Hackett  
St. Luke Lutheran, Cabot

Hans Tolpingrud  
Trinity Lutheran,  
Mechanicsburg

Amanda McConnell  
St. John Lutheran, Maytown

## South Dakota

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First Lutheran, Sioux Falls

Katherine Peters  
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Sioux Falls

Luke Wilcox  
Gloria Dei Lutheran, Sioux  
Falls

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Matthew Canning  
Holy Cross Lutheran, Dallas

Reid Gillette  
St. Andrew Lutheran, Hurst

Matthew Hubing  
Holy Cross Lutheran, Dallas

Rachel Husfeld  
Memorial Lutheran, Katy

Kristen Kollmann  
Messiah Lutheran,  
Richardson

Emily Plagens  
Messiah Lutheran,  
Richardson

John Schaekel  
Salem Lutheran, Tomball

Sarah Streder  
Grace Lutheran, Carrollton

Kathryn Vandersall  
Zion Lutheran, Dallas

## Wisconsin

\*Janet Anderson,  
Beaver Dam

Erin Arndt  
St. Paul Lutheran, Fort  
Atkinson

Julie Bolgert  
Trinity Evangelical,  
Sheboygan

Kari Fitterer  
Bethel Lutheran, Hudson

Nicole Genthe  
Salem Lutheran, Milwaukee

\*Timothy Hadley, Wausau

Megan Hahn  
St. Paul Lutheran, Howards  
Grove

Kirsten Huth  
St. Olaf Lutheran, Rubicon

Elizabeth Jagodinski  
Rib Mountain Lutheran,  
Wausau

Stephanie Jurss  
St. Matthew Lutheran,  
Wauwatosa

\*Amy Kalchbrenner,  
Milwaukee

Drew Kroshavn  
Ascension Lutheran, Green  
Bay

Corinn Mayhew  
St. Lukes Lutheran,  
Waukesha

Lindsey Orth  
Saint Luke Lutheran,  
Watertown

Heather Paisar  
First English Lutheran,  
Appleton

Nicholas Proksch  
Star Bethlehem Lutheran,  
New Berlin

Erika Rosenberg  
First Immanuel Lutheran,  
Cedarburg

\*Jonathan Rupno, Oneida

Magdalena Sander  
Blessed Savior Lutheran,  
West Berlin

Andrew Schneider  
Our Father's Lutheran,  
Greenfield

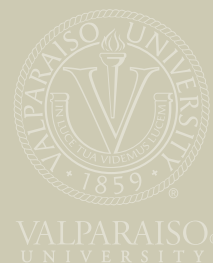
Leah Schneider  
St. Paul Lutheran,  
Oconomowoc

Brian Schwartz  
Calvary Lutheran, Brookfield

Lisa Seidl  
Pilgrim Lutheran, Wauwatosa

## Wyoming

\*Amanda Elston, Bar Nunn



\* Home congregation unknown

# Allen Scholarship Program: The Results So Far?

Emma and Oliver Allen wanted the Church to have well-educated, compassionate, and dedicated pastors, youth workers, teachers, deaconesses and musicians. They also knew that church work students would need opportunities to test and re-confirm their calling to full-time public ministry without overt concern for incurring massive loan debt.

Over the past decade, the Allen Scholar Program has afforded that opportunity to 56 Valparaiso University graduates. The first Allen Scholar class of six students serves as an apt illustration of what happened upon graduation. Four are still involved in church-related ministries: two are in seminary (one of whom is also in a Ph.D. program); one teaches in a Lutheran elementary school;

and one is an editor for Fortress Augsburg Press. The other two chose different paths: one is pursuing a law degree, and the other dropped out of the Allen Scholar Program before graduating.

Five other classes have followed the 1997 class. Most of them have pursued their dream of a career in the church, while some have delayed their dream for a year of volunteer service or graduate school. Others have sought non-church-related avenues of service.

Would the Allens be gratified by what has happened so far? It is likely

they would rejoice in the growing throng of dedicated Valpo graduates now serving in the Church.

Are Allen scholars pleased with the opportunity the Allens have given them? Christopher Jackson, a 2002 graduate and assistant pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ky., sums up the sentiment of his Allen scholar classmates:

*"I owe Valparaiso University and the Allens many thanks for a challenging experience that shaped my knowledge, skills and attitudes. Four years at Valpo contributed to a fruitful seminary education and, God willing, will influence a lifetime in the Holy Ministry."*

—Christopher Jackson '02

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