

To the members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

God's peace to you from a rainy St. Louis! It is that time of the year again where the plants are making their appearances on campus and I cannot help but smile when I see the green stems breaking through the fertile black dirt. It serves as a reminder of home and I think about my grandmother's garden and the crops in the field when the Lord does his work and lets them grow to a perfect height! And of course, like I said, it is raining! With the temperatures in the high 50's/ low 60's every day for the last two weeks, the rain comes almost every other day. The nice weather shows when many people are coming out of their houses for walks with their families and their dogs.

This semester is going by very fast! It feels like yesterday that we came back from Christmas break, but now we are heading into Reading Week. I will be doing some traveling for the break! I will go over to Indiana to see Hannah for a couple of days then head up to Minnesota, to spend time with family and friends. This will be a nice break from the busy work that we have had put on us this semester. I am currently taking Pastoral Counseling, Reformation of Luther, Preaching and Reading the Word, and Church and World. My favorite class right now is probably Pastoral Counseling. This course has allowed me to grow in active listening as well as being able to lead a couple through some couples counseling. This course has also instructed us on writing Wedding and Funeral sermons. These will be quite helpful for me in my "sooner than I thought" pastoral ministry. I am also serving as the Vice President of the Student Association this year. This has been a fun experience for me to interact with the members of the board and being able to help the student body in any way we can.

Call Day is coming up pretty darn quick! Hannah and I have had a couple meetings with the Dr. Nielson to talk about the different options of churches that I could serve at this next year. There are a couple in Indiana that will be good options for me, and I am really looking forward to serving my Lord more in the parish over the next year. This is a really exciting time for Hannah as well because this day will tell us where we will be living for our first year of marriage.

Hannah is doing wonderful! She is enjoying her classes this semester even though it is the busiest semester of her life! I went and surprised her this last weekend which she said was the second-best surprise I have given her. After popping the questions of course! She has been quite busy planning the wedding and traveling all over the country for bridal showers! She was in Wisconsin earlier this month for her sides bridal shower and will be traveling to Minnesota in early May for my sides.

It has been quite a whirl wind trying to plan the wedding with the lingering thought that because of Covid, we would have to change our plans. We have been very fortunate that the restrictions have been getting lighter and lighter as the days go by. We have had to move our venue a couple of times, but we are still going to be getting married on May 29<sup>th</sup> with many of our family and friends in attendance. We are going to try and live stream the wedding in some

way. I will talk more about that in my next letter to you if you would like to watch. You can continue to follow our website at [theknot.com/nickandhannahwagenknecht](http://theknot.com/nickandhannahwagenknecht).

I write to you again to say Thank You! Your support has meant so much to me and Hannah! We were talking the other day and we both agreed that we would have no idea the extreme amount of stress that we would have if I would have had to worry about paying for seminary tuition. It is because of churches like you that allow us seminarians, and their wives, to enjoy the seminary experience without stressing on the debt that could go with it. So once again, thank you! I pray for y'all every day and am thankful for all that you have done for us! Blessings to you as we go through this season of Lent and a blessed Easter to you all!

God's Richest Blessings,

*Nick*

*Wagenknecht*

Nick Wagenknecht and Hannah

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

