

WITH SINCEREST APPRECIATION FROM JOSHUA, SUZY & GRAHAM BRAKHAGE

2 Founders Way, Unit A † St. Louis, MO 63105 † joshua411@gmail.com † (918) 706-1632

It is a joy to write to you once again with news from our family and our Seminary community. Amid the new things in life, we continue to be blessed by your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you so much! Suzy has begun seeing children for in-home speech/language services, along with being a full-time mom to Graham. In addition to his Seminary coursework, Joshua is also in the classroom on Sundays, teaching the junior high Bible class at our fieldwork congregation. Graham has outgrown his newborn clothes and he has lost a fair bit of the hair he was born with; he makes babbling sounds and loves smiling at people (as long as he has a full tummy.) Guess Graham and Joshua have a lot in common.



With the start of a new academic year, it seems appropriate to give an update on how things are going at the Seminary. The transition from quarters to semesters has gone as smoothly as possible. A few bumps in the road were expected.

All in all, Joshua's classes have been relatively bump-free. This semester, he is taking two Old Testament courses, a preaching course, a teaching course, a class on missions, and another on systematic theology. Additionally, he is enrolled in two non-credit courses; one is meant to keep his Greek language skills fresh, the other addresses pastoral health and wellness. Joshua is excited about all he will learn this semester.

The semester kicked off with an opening chapel service, led by Seminary President Dale Meyer. There were so many new faces. Joshua, Suzy and Graham sat right behind the incoming class of 1st year students and right in front of a batch of returning 4th year students. There will be lots of new names to learn, and familiar faces in new positions. Along with leading the Seminary, President Meyer will be returning to his post as speaker at the Lutheran Hour. Along with former speaker Rev. Ken Klaus, the two former Lutheran Hour voices will be

taking turns throughout the upcoming 500th Reformation anniversary year.

The Seminary's theme for this academic year is "Faith: Living, Daring Confidence in God's Grace." It was inspired by a quote from Martin Luther's commentary on the Book of Romans, "Faith is a living, daring confidence on God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times." This quote also inspired an opening weekend hymn festival. Students, families, faculty and staff were joined by families from congregations from the local area to fill the chapel on opening weekend to sing songs of faith. Graham slept through half of it, but Suzy and Joshua loved all the singing. We're told it went so well, they plan to make it an annual tradition.

One of the biggest blessings of the upcoming year is the Reformation Jubilee Award, a scholarship in honor of this milestone Reformation anniversary. Generous hearts have given enough to essentially cover all tuition expenses for every future pastor at the Seminary. What a precious, one-time gift to support Seminary families like ours and the mission of the Gospel!

READ WITH US

Matthew 6:5-15 — Joshua and Suzy have spent a lot of time with the Lord's Prayer this summer. Our church explored what we're really asking our Father for by looking at the new book *Our Way Home* by Daniel Paavola. As a special treat, Pastor Paavola visited as a guest preacher on Labor Day weekend and signed copies of his book. *Our Way Home* is rich with relevant and thoughtful illustration and would make a good personal devotion or Bible study resource.

SING WITH US

Suzy was struck by the words of a choral piece that was sung at the Seminary's opening weekend hymn festival. It is a prayer set to music by the Seminary's director of musical arts, Dr. Jim Marriott.

*Lord God, You have called Your servants
To ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths untraveled, through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
Not knowing where we go but only that
Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us;
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

PRAY WITH US

Rejoice with your brothers and sisters at St. Paul's in Coffeyville, KS (Joshua's childhood congregation) as they celebrate 125 years of God's faithfulness to their family of faith.

Thank Him for the ways Christian compassion has been displayed in the aftermath of the death and devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

Ask that congregations in the midst of transition or turmoil might find peace in Christ and unity in His Word as they navigate challenges and change.