



## Grace Lutheran Church

9900 E. Mill Plain Blvd.

Vancouver, WA 98664

*Mark E. Heuser, Pastor*

*Pastor@Gracevancouver.org*

(360) 892-7850 Church

(360) 254-0663 Preschool/Daycare

Dear Brother (first name),

When I attended summer Greek, a course designed to make all previous accomplishments and titles seem trivial, I met a man who had just retired. I remember one evening commenting how special it was that after 35 plus years of ministry and study he was receiving his Doctorate. I've never forgotten his answer, "*son, (I was 45) I already have the greatest title in the world, I'm a Pastor!*"

Thirteen years later I'm still convinced he was right. You and I have been granted one of God's "greatest" gifts, being a Pastor to His people. A gift we were given through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. A gift provided by the sacrifices of professors and staff, their families, and people throughout the Church dedicated to training the best pastors possible for Gods church.

Having been involved with this process and the leadership of the seminary, I can see St. Louis Seminary's primary focus for the future is on two major tracks:

1. Graduating the best trained pastors.
2. Reconnecting with pastors in the field to:
  - provide continuing support and resources to serving pastors for their ministry and,
  - understand and pass on from current Pastors in the field what's needed for future pastors to carry the gospel into today's world.

Today as Alumni you are being asked to rededicate yourself to the Seminary. The enclosed brochure illustrates many of its current and future needs; so please take this opportunity to reconnect, perhaps by honoring the pastor, professor or person that played a pivotal role in your becoming the pastor God called you to be.

*The goal of the alumni phase is to have as many of the 6,000 living alumni PARTICIPATE as possible, establishing a supportive relationship with the alumni comes first, the dollar amount second. Enclosed please find a commitment form. I would encourage you to sit down (with your spouse as appropriate) and pray over making a 3-year commitment which you can return either to me or to the Seminary.*

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration, and I hope you will join Donna and I in responding to the blessing we were given. During August, myself, Pastor Tony Schultz, or Pastor Michael Warmbier will give you a call to update you on the campaign and answer any questions you may have.

In His Name and Service,

Pastor Mark E. Heuser

NOW District Campaign Representative, *How will they Hear?*

*Grace is... "Connecting People to Christ"*

*www.Gracevancouver.org*