

2023-2024

# PHILANTHROPY IMPACT REPORT



LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL  
**SOUTHERN**  
SEMINARY  
LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

# THE IMPACT OF



## On behalf of all of us here at LTSS, thank you for your support.

2023-2024 was a significant year for LTSS in many ways. It was a fruitful academic and fundraising year – and we are grateful for our partnership with donors like you who support our seminarians, their faculty and the programs that prepare leaders for public ministry in today's church.

With your support, more than \$1,418,000 was raised for LTSS last fiscal year. On the heels of a record attendance at our Alumni Day and Day of Giving, alumni participation increased to 15.76 percent. And your gifts went to work to support the extraordinary students who are pursuing their call to serve at the nexus between church and society.

Of course, the most extraordinary news that emerged this year is the relocation of the seminary to the Hickory campus. I have been inspired by the way in which alumni and donors like you have quickly turned their love of our seminary and its mission into all types of support, including your presence at public events, a willingness to serve on various advisory committees, participation in worship, prayer and financial giving. The gifts of donors like you sustain the mission that has been the heart of LTSS since its founding.

I hope this annual philanthropic impact report illustrates some of the innovative teaching and learning, and vibrant formation that your generosity made possible last year. I invite you to read on and learn more about the impact your support makes in the lives of our students.

Peace friends,



Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer, LTSS Rector & Dean



# Record Attendance and Support for LTSS Alumni Day

On April 18, 2024, LTSS hosted its fourth annual Day of Giving and the seminary's annual Alumni Day with the event's largest attendance since 2015. Drawing in almost **200 alumni** from around the United States, the community revealed that the deep love of the students and mission is stronger than ever.

The Day of Giving event set another record, exceeding its goal of 100 donors contributing to the seminary in honor of the day with **147 donors giving \$92,055** and breaking the 2023 donation record of \$76,040 from 120 donors.

Many of these gifts were in support of the New Life Fund, the seminary's unrestricted fund which supports every program and every faculty member on campus today. In Fiscal Year 2024, the New Life Fund raised more than \$351,700. From innovative coursework to life-changing internships, from ministry among our seminary community to ministry beyond our campus walls, the moments that define the LTSS experience are shaped each year by your support.





# LTSS Is at the Intersection of Church and Society Today

Your gifts provide the seminary space to introduce creative and theological reflection. Through programs like The First Week Experience and Explore Courses, students learn how to navigate the complexities of the modern world that they will face in their communities.

**The First Week Experience** creates a strong foundation for the academic year by immersing students in a vibrant learning community. Through worship, workshops, and shared meals, students forge connections with faculty, staff, and peers while exploring the year's Student Learning Outcome. This transformative week, made possible by generous donors, sets the stage for future ministry leaders who can build bridges and engage meaningfully within their communities.

EXPLORE COURSES  
ARE OPEN TO ALUMNI  
AND FRIENDS!



SCAN HERE TO SIGN  
UP FOR FUTURE  
OFFERINGS.

**Explore Courses** offer a unique opportunity for students, alumni, and the community to delve into critical issues that lie outside the traditional curriculum. Last year's offerings, for example, examined the legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery and its impact on native people and the land, the practical realities of church administration, and the theological implications of violence in scripture. These thought-provoking courses equip participants with the tools to grapple with real-world challenges and become agents of positive change. By supporting these programs, donors empower LTSS to prepare future leaders who are not only theologically sound but also critically engaged with the complexities of the contemporary world.

# Seminary at a Glance

**61%**

OF STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN THE  
MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

**\$14,291**

AVERAGE DOLLAR AMOUNT A STUDENT  
RECEIVES IN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

**Nearly 72%**

OF THE STUDENT BODY ARE  
ELCA MEMBERS

**100%**

OF ELIGIBLE LTSS STUDENTS RECEIVED  
SOME SORT OF FINANCIAL AID OR  
SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT.

**152**

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED IN 2023-  
2024 ACADEMIC YEAR, TOTALING

**\$700,260**





625 7th Ave NE, LRU 7467  
Hickory, NC 28601



## Join Us Again with Your Generosity

When you give to LTSS, you equip faithful students to answer God's call, creating a ripple effect for generations to come. Your gift today ensures more people will know God's love through the leaders you help send into the world.

## How to Make Your 2024-2025 Gift

**MAIL** a gift to 625 7th Ave NE, LRU 7467,  
Hickory, NC 28601.

**VISIT** [www.lr.edu/IGive2LTSS](http://www.lr.edu/IGive2LTSS) or scan the  
QR code to make an online gift.

**CALL** Call us Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
at 828.328.7108

