

✠ Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church ✠

A Member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Rev. Stewart Crown
Pastor

Christ on Campus / Lutheran Student Fellowship
at Stanford University

Peninsula Asian Mission Society
Member Congregation

28 August 2007

Dear Friend in Christ,

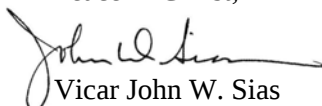
“Keep hold of instruction; do not let her go; guard her, for she is your life.” So says the Proverb (Prv 4:13). I write to you as to one who clearly cherishes instruction. I congratulate you that you have been invited to study at Stanford University, truly a premier academic institution, where you will be surrounded with prominent faculty, gifted peers, and magnificent opportunities. Lay hold of them for the blessings that they are, preparing earnestly to serve God by serving your neighbor. But the Proverb says more than this, for the word translated “instruction” really means something more like “discipline,” “correction,” “chastisement.” Lay hold of *discipline*, the Father says to his children. That is, discipline as He showed at the Red Sea, delivering his people from bondage into freedom through water and ordeal; discipline as he shows us when life challenges our autonomy and pride, when we find out we are not so self-sufficient as our heady dreams suggest. Life is then a good teacher, given the right interpreter.

Thus the Father says, “My son, be attentive to *my words*; incline your ear to my sayings...for they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh” (Prv 4:20-22). Life is not easy; the more we learn, the more we know we don’t have all the answers. But the Father has spoken to us in these last days by His Son. He has put Himself here for you in His Holy Word and Sacraments, so that as you lay hold of all the challenges and opportunities of college life and beyond—some of which will challenge your self-perception, your security, your understanding of what life means—He will always be there to interpret life for you. He speaks words that show us the weakness of our flesh and words that restore it to health—words that restore to us our true identity, that give us true security, that restore to us His Image, perfectly manifested in the person of His Son. Thus, just as I encourage you to embrace the good gifts God gives you through Stanford University, I encourage you also to lay hold of the good gifts in His Word.

Therefore, while you are at Stanford, Trinity Lutheran Church invites you to join us in receiving those gifts. As Trinity’s Vicar, it is my pleasure to serve you here at 1295 Middlefield Road and on Stanford’s campus, to help you lay hold of God’s good gifts in His Word and in fellowship with His saints. Before going to Seminary two years ago, I spent eleven years in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois (B.S. ’97; M.S. ’99; Ph.D. ’05), so I know the joys and challenges of life at a major university, and I look forward to sharing in your time on campus as one who understands what you’re going through.

In addition to gathering for worship and study, the Stanford Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) group at Trinity enjoys fellowship, sharing dinners, devotions, casual get-togethers, retreats and other special events. We will enjoy getting together to share food and fellowship and to support, encourage, and enjoy each other. The congregation also loves to take care of students as a “home away from home.” I look forward to meeting you in person, either at our Sunday services (8:15 and 11:00AM) or at one of the welcome events on the Stanford campus. Trinity will have a table at the **Frosh and Faith Open House** (2-4PM, Tues., Sept. 18, Stanford Center for Inter-Religious Community, Learning, and Experiences (CIRCLE)) and on **White Plaza** (Weds., Sept. 19). We’ll also be hosting a **welcome barbeque** at 5PM on Sat., Oct. 13 at Trinity. Check our web site for more information on our upcoming activities: <http://www.lsfatstanford.homestead.com/>. Feel free to contact me at the church (650-853-1295), at home (650-327-6476), or by e-mail (john.w.sias@gmail.com). Blessings on your time at Stanford!

Peace in Christ,



Vicar John W. Sias