

many challenges, but all of our pastors will readily testify that it is a blessing to have the opportunity to serve Christ's people, bringing them the means of grace for the forgiveness of their sins and strengthening in faith.

Second, the seminary is also in need of financial support in both the near term and on a long term basis. Supporting a headmaster, steadily building a theological library, and providing for the occasional transportation costs of our "adjunct faculty" (that is, the pastors of our diocese) is likely to cost approximately \$50,000 a year. We do not want to burden our students with large financial debts, and so our intention is to keep tuition low. **However, if 200 individuals would commit to only \$5 a week in support (\$260 a year), we would meet and surpass this need.**

The pastors agreed at our 2010 diocesan synod that we would endeavor to raise one year's support—\$50,000—before opening the seminary. **At present, the diocese has nearly half of those funds on hand.**

Financial issues are only one element of opening St. Ignatius seminary. The search continues for the best candidate for a future headmaster, and we

are also in need of firm commitments from future seminarians so that we may begin instruction as soon as possible.

Please keep the diocese and our efforts toward establishing St. Ignatius seminary in your prayers! The preparation of future pastors is vital to sustaining the congregations of our diocese with the Word and Sacrament and providing missionaries to continue to proclaim the Word to those who have not heard, or who do not yet have an orthodox Lutheran congregation which they can attend.

*Support for the diocese and seminary
may be sent to:*

*ELDoNA Seminary Support
c/o Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 North Park Avenue
Herrin, Illinois 62948*

*Potential students and other inquiries
may be addressed to the bishop:*

*Bishop James Heiser
Salem Lutheran Church
718 HCR 3424 E
Malone, Texas 76660*

*You may also contact the bishop by email:
hunnius@mac.com*

WWW.ELDONA.ORG

St. Ignatius Lutheran Theological Seminary



*A Confessional Lutheran Seminary
Preparing Men for Service in the Office
of the Holy Ministry*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America stands at a critical moment in her history. While many "Lutherans" are carried away by every wind of false teaching emanating from the "mega-churches" and permitting the shallowness of our post-modern, post-Christian culture to define their agenda, a few congregations and pastors uphold a consistently biblical and confessional doctrine and practice.

The Church needs bold, confessional pastors to confront the darkness of this age by teaching God's Word in

its truth and purity and administering the Sacraments according to Christ's institution.

To meet the ongoing needs of congregations served by the pastors of this diocese, and to send more men into the home mission field, the diocese has been working for several years toward establishing **St. Ignatius Lutheran Theological Seminary**.

St. Ignatius Seminary is named for a first century bishop of Antioch who wrote letters of instruction and encouragement to the churches even as he was being taken to Rome to suffer martyrdom for the sake of the Gospel. Bold confessors of the early centuries of Christ's Church and from the Reformation and Post-Reformation Ages exemplify the character which the diocese desires to inculcate in candidates for the holy office.

In the ELDoNA, the pastors will play a central role in the education of seminarians. A headmaster will be responsible for a significant proportion of the instruction, but all of the pastors will also be instructors, either teaching periodic two-week intensives, or on an ongoing or occasional basis by video conference.

Thus far, the diocese has nearly completed the preliminary description of courses, including text books, for a three-year period of seminary instruction. As the seminary will be hosted by a parish affiliated with the diocese, seminarians will be observe every element of faithful pastoral practice throughout their seminary education. The pastor of the hosting congregation will play a very important role in seminary instruction.

Throughout the three years of instruction, seminarians will receive a thorough education in Greek, the study of the Scriptures, and biblical doctrine (especially as set forth in the confessional documents of the Book of Concord). Seminarians will also learn the history of the Church, and will be taught historic Lutheran practice with regard to the conduct of the Divine Service, catechesis, and other aspects of the calling of the pastoral office.



Many of our ELDoNA clergy at the 2010 Diocesan Synod in Malone, Texas.

The needs of our diocese are humble, by worldly standards. We anticipate that a seminary intended to serve the needs of our diocese (and those of our sister synod, the Association of Confessional Lutheran Churches) are modest, but it does require the support of the pastors of our diocese and the congregations which they serve.

First, we ask that men give consideration to devoting themselves to study as students at St. Ignatius. Truly, the fields are white for harvest, but the laborers are few! Those whom the Lord calls to the ministry in this age face