

LIFE AT THE SEM

November 2020

Ryan and Kari Maser

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For Kari and her students at Immanuel, Wentzville, MO.
- For Ryan as he transitions to online courses for the remainder of the semester
- For the placement process at Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne), and calling congregations.
- Those struggling with the physical, emotional, and financial effects of COVID-19.
- For Concordia Seminary, as they seek to call their next president.

THANKFUL BEYOND MEASURE

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.” – Psalm 9:1

This Thanksgiving may look different for many obvious reasons. With the development of the pandemic, families and friends are not able to travel and gather, churches may be offering online Thanksgiving services, and the dinners will not be as extravagant. Does that mean Thanksgiving is effectively ‘cancelled’?

By no means! As I have heard it said in the past, Thanksgiving should not be reserved for one day of the year. Rather, we should be thankful for all the gifts and blessings we have received from God every day. We should frequently take time to reflect on the things we too often take for granted and go out of our way to help those in need.

We understand it may be hard with so many things on our minds. But Kari and I challenge you to do something. Using the word “Thankful” (or another Thanksgiving-themed word), list out things that you are thankful for this Thanksgiving or a way that God has graciously provided for you. You could even work on it with your spouse or family members! Here are the things we are “Thankful” for in the past month:

Teaching continues to go well for Kari, and her students are healthy. Praise God!

Hunting weekend was successful with Kari’s dad, uncle, and brother as Ryan got a doe, and Kari spent valuable time with her mom and our nieces and nephews.

An announcement was made that classes at the Seminary will be virtual after Thanksgiving break through the end of the Semester. While this will be a transition, we are grateful Ryan will have the opportunity to study and finish coursework.

Neighbors and friends on campus have become close family to us, as we are not able to be with our family for Thanksgiving this year. We are blessed to have classmates and friends who are there for us, to encourage us, and point us always to Christ.

Kari continues to spend a lot of her free time working on embroidery, Cricut, and sewing projects. These projects give her something to work on and are a blessing to those who receive them!

Fall-like weather continues in abundance here in St. Louis. The warm days and the cool nights allow for walks around campus!

Untimely circumstances for campus social events have been overcome by the effective use of technology. Virtual “Prof-n-steins,” online card games, and other cool e-activities have filled a social void and allows Ryan to connect with many of his classmates in a non-classroom setting.

Learning more about the Lord and growing in Him each day through prayer, reading His Word, and having devotions together ground us as we do our work and studies.

What are you “Thankful” for? We pray that you are drawn to give thanks always to the Lord by recounting all the blessings He has given to you. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support – a blessed Thanksgiving to you!

Ryan and Kari Maser