



United Lutheran Seminary

Kindling Faith
Learning Never Ends

Epiphany 2025

*I believe in the sun, even in the darkness.
I believe in God, even if God is silent.
I believe in compassion, even when it must remain hidden.*

Dear Rostered Leader,

In 2023, my spouse Angela and I were in Köln, Germany when we learned the story of a poem that was scratched on a cellar wall during World War II by a Jewish refugee. Composer Kim André Arnesen set this verse to music that is painfully beautiful. I invite you to [listen to the YouTube video of the St. Olaf Choir performing “Even When He is Silent”](#) during your devotional time.

It is always good to remember we are not alone on the journey. If you are having a difficult time in ministry right now, ULS can offer respite care to you. Both of our campuses have plenty of guest housing that can be reserved with short notice for rostered leaders (and their spouses) at no charge for up to three nights. Maybe you just had one of *those* committee meetings and need some respite. Maybe you've had one funeral too many and need to rest your brain. Maybe you simply need to disappear for a day or so to take a nap and read a book. We're here for you. To book your place apart, simply email kindlingfaith@uls.edu.

I wish you God's peace and hope for the year ahead.

Martin

Pastor Martin Otto-Zimmann
Kindling Faith Sr. Director

*We thank you, God, for kindling faith that lights our transient years,
Illumining our pilgrimage through mists of doubt and fears;
For hope that sees a life beyond the swiftly passing days;
For love both human and divine, that lifts our hearts to praise.*
■ Herman Stuempfle