

Seminarian Liza Hawkins
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Franklin, TN

My name is Liza Hawkins, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I live in Nashville, TN. I currently serve as the Director for Youth and Children's Ministry at St. Andrew Lutheran in Franklin, TN. I am a member of Advent Lutheran in Murfreesboro, TN, and a candidate for the ministry of Word & Sacrament. I recently graduated with an M.Div and concentration in History, Theology, and Ethics from Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, and I am currently studying at United Lutheran Seminary. I am committed to the pursuit of justice for all people and to paying deep attention to the ways God is working to bring about wholeness.

My favorite piece of scripture is Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1. She sings of the ancient tale of God's redeeming work in the world, and she expresses a deep trust in the promises of God. Mary's song tells me that the life-limiting structures and systems of the world that seek to oppress are not the way of God, and that is the core of my great hope in Jesus Christ.

Where have you seen God recently?

A houseplant I thought was dead, but have kept tending anyway, has produced the tiniest green sprout.

When/how have you been blessed by God's abundance?

In the midst of a public health crisis that has presented us with crises in life and ministry over the last year, it has been a uniquely difficult time for church work, and it is easy to feel disheartened and defeated. They feel rare, but every kind text, e-mail, and comment from folks who appreciate the work we are doing has been a sign of God's abundant care for the church, the world, and for me.