



in the **LOUP**

JAN 2023

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Happy New Year!

Greetings in Christ Jesus. I hope that your time of celebration at the Nativity of our Lord was edifying and that you were reminded that the Lord who came to earth on Christmas will soon be returning to usher in the New Heavens and the New Earth!

The new year brought a new class for me—our ‘Winterim’ session started on the second of January. Winterim is a time that Concordia Seminary offers intensive classes, usually about two weeks long. Instead of the usual hour and a half, these classes last for four hours in the morning and give you time to read assigned texts and work on papers in the afternoon. So far, I am really enjoying my time in my winterim class, Introduction to Pastoral Leadership, under the tutelage of Dr. Ely Prieto. Dr. Prieto comes to our Sem by way of our sister-seminary in Brazil, where he had taught for a decade before making his way to the States! In class we are learning all about different models of leadership and what works in different congregational contexts, from small rural churches to midsize congregations to large, corporate churches of over one thousand. Wherever I end up on vicarage, I think I can take note of different aspects of all the different size dynamics and adapt them to fit my current context. I can’t wait to see where my vicarage congregation will be, and what kind of strengths I can bring to the table for the ministry team there!

Dreama and Eleanor are doing great—Eleanor loved looking at all the Christmas lights! We took her to Union Station in STL for their Christmas light show in the grand hall, and she was mesmerized by all the colors. Her first Christmas was magical! She got to spend time with her cousin, who is about 15 months older than her, it was so sweet to see them play together! She is definitely finding her voice! It always warms my heart to hear her jabbering away, “talking” to her mother and me.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for spoiling us with gifts over the holiday, whether they came in physical, financial, or prayerful ways! We are so blessed to have each of you in our lives, providing for us, and being the hands of God who support us in love. Thank you!

My class will only be another week long, and then after that we get to have a bit of a break again! I am looking forward to taking a trip with a classmate up to his hometown in Minnesota where we will go ice-fishing for a couple of days! Ice fishing is something that I have never experienced before- I am only a little nervous about driving a truck out onto a frozen lake and auguring a hole into the water!!! But it sounds like a blast and I know I am going to have a great time.

Blessings as this new year of 2023 comes into full swing. May God bless you and keep you in this new year and every year!

Sincerely,  
The Eggermans

