



**The Fourth of Thirteen**  
**Richard Sovitzky IV**  
**2018 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients**

Dear contributors of the Steinbeck Memorial Scholarship,

I would like to thank you for your generosity with the wonderful scholarship opportunity you have offered me – I greatly appreciate it.

I study at a private college called Anglo-American university in Prague, Czech Republic, where I have lived for nearly four years. My father serves as the Business Manager for the Eurasia Region for our mission work. His work is primarily about supporting missionaries and partner churches spread throughout Europe and Asia who are actively proclaiming the gospel. He handles all the business and financial matters in our mission work. Some of his duties include tracking all the expenses that missionaries incur, preparing the

budget for what we – the LCMS – will spend in Europe on mission projects, and he also oversees the donations and grants we give to our partner churches.

He will now be moving to Taiwan, however, with the rest of my family, where he will take up the duties as the Business Manager in the Asia mission region. His work will remain the same, but he will now serve all of our missions in Asia. I, however, will remain in Prague and continue my final two years of college.

After living in the Czech Republic for several years, the time came for me to decide on where I wanted to go to school, and I opted to stay in Prague. I attend an English- speaking university and am pursuing a bachelor's degree in the liberal arts. A broad range of subjects comprise my curriculum, such as history, philosophy, social sciences, politics, art, and more. My classes for this upcoming semester include courses in political philosophy, psychology, theatre and politics, economic thought, and intercultural communication. In the European school system, I will not major in any one discipline, per se, instead, in my final year, I will write a research thesis in an academic field of my choice. (Right now I am leaning towards history!) So far, I have enjoyed my studies immensely, and attending school in Europe has provided me with truly unique opportunities that I would never have experienced had I chosen to attend school in America.

One such opportunity that I consider one of the greatest privileges of my life here in Europe is visiting with other Lutherans from various sister churches throughout Europe. A number of conferences take place each year; some are theological conferences for young men preparing to be pastors, others are more general and are aimed at connecting young Lutheran adults from different countries. Most confessional churches in Europe are extremely small and are looked down upon by society. Yet that is all forgotten when we gather together from many countries and spend time with each other and are strengthened in the faith we share. Young men and women come from the Arctic circle in Norway, or from Germany and Sweden, Russia and Finland, Latvia, Denmark, England, and more. Meeting and befriending devout Christians from all over Europe has been among the most inspiring experiences from my time here.

After graduating in 2020, Lord willing I plan on returning to the US and will prepare for the ministry and begin studying at Seminary.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your generosity towards me and all the other scholarship recipients. Please keep the churches' mission work in your prayers, and please pray that the gospel may be proclaimed all over the world, and especially that Christians in Europe, who often feel very alone in a Godless world, would be strengthened in their faith and would lead joyful lives in service to the Lord, and that God would grant them the courage to boldly proclaim and profess their faith to unbelievers they encounter in their lives.

Peace in Christ,

Thank you once more, I am gratefully yours,

Richard Sovitzky IV