

## 2022 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipient's Thank You Stories

### John F. Trinklein — The Third of Eighteen

Dear friends in Christ,

What a fantastic thing it is to see God's provision through His people! I am so grateful for your generosity that is able to touch so many students. God is working through you to encourage, strengthen, and bless us. And I want to thank you specifically for encouraging me through prayer and financial support.

First, I would like to provide some brief information about myself. My name is John F. Trinklein, and I am the son of Hans Trinklein, LCMS missionary in South Korea. The youngest of four children, I was born in St. Louis, and I lived the first 14 years of my life at a small congregation in Southern Illinois where my father was pastor. In 2016, my father accepted a call to serve as a Theological Educator in South Korea, and I moved with my family to a suburb of Seoul. Until 2021, our whole family resided primarily in South Korea, with occasional visits back to the States or to other countries in Asia. However, in early 2021, my mother was diagnosed with brain tumors, and we were medically evacuated from Korea in April 2021. After a tumultuous and trying battle filled with metaphorical mountains and valleys, God welcomed my mother into His victorious kingdom on June 21, 2022. All praise to Him for His faithfulness to His people!



While these past months and years have been difficult, to say the least, I have seen God working in so many ways. Most notably, when my family was evacuated from Korea in 2021, I had the opportunity to serve at a church in Phoenix, Arizona. This experience changed the way I thought about my purpose, and I was compelled to pursue professional church work. I transferred from Grand Canyon University to Concordia University Irvine, where I am now studying in the pre-seminary program. God has used so many people and experiences to convict, inspire, and shape me into a closer image of who He created me to be. And although I am not perfect, your prayers and support have helped provide the opportunities for me to grow in my faith and walk with Christ. Thank you.

With you, in His service,  
~John F. Trinklein