



Rev. Dr. Neil T. Eckstein Scholarship for Grace Lutheran Church

Background:

Neil T. Eckstein was born and grew up in Winchester, WI where his family belonged to Grace Lutheran Church. As a young man, he served in WWII and following his return graduated from St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary. He entered the ministry and served parishes in the Midwest and the East. Later, Neil earned his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. Marie Waag and Neil Eckstein married in 1948 and raised a family of 4 children. Supporting Christian education was always important to Neil, both as a faculty member at Wartburg College and later at University of WI, Oshkosh. Neil founded the Winchester Academy for adult learning in 1973, and it continues to provide stimulating programs and lectures covering a wide range of subjects. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from St. Olaf College in recognition of this in 1988. Following their retirement, Neil and Marie served as Senior Mentors at California Lutheran University, teaching classes and providing support for international students. This scholarship was established by Neil's family and friends to continue his legacy in support of Christian higher education.



Eligibility:

- Graduating high school senior or a continuing college or seminary student who is an active member (attends church, communes, participates, supports) at Grace Lutheran Church in Larsen (Winchester), WI
- Attends or is planning to attend an accredited, not-for-profit, private, or public 4-year college or university as an undergraduate student, or an ELCA seminary in preparation for the Lutheran ministry as a full-time student
- Minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Students who will be attending a Lutheran college or university or attending an ELCA seminary are especially encouraged to apply

Award Amount:

Number and amount of scholarships may vary.

Selection:

Recipient is recommended each spring by the Grace Lutheran Church Eckstein Scholarship Selection Committee.

Collecting the Award & Payment Procedure:

Recipients must fill out and submit Scholarship Acceptance Form and Scholarship Verification Form through the [Scholarship Portal](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar) (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar>). Recipients are required to provide supporting documents *as instructed* in the Scholarship Verification Form, such as class registration/list **with** credits listed, proof of major, grade transcript, etc.

After approval of online Scholarship Verification Form, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending. The **Community Foundation communicates with students via email**; it is the student's responsibility to keep their Scholarship Portal account updated with their current email address.

Loss of Eligibility:

Failure to register as a full-time student at a not-for-profit accredited college or university, or an ELCA seminary.

Further Information:

- Grace Lutheran Church
- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
 - Website www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/
 - Email scholarships@cffoxvalley.org
 - Phone 920.702.7629