



**Christopher Jackson**  
**B.A. Valparaiso**  
**University 2001**

**Classical Languages,**  
**Philosophy**

**M.Div. Concordia**  
**Seminary, Saint Louis,**  
**2006**

**Associate Pastor, Saint**  
**John's Lutheran**  
**Church, Lexington,**  
**Kentucky**

The First Psalm describes one who delights in God's Word as a deeply rooted tree planted by a river. The roots of such a tree drink in water and nutrients from the soil so that it may bear fruit for the sustenance of others.

I owe the Classics Department at Valpo great thanks for the tools they gave me, excellent preparation for studying the Scriptures during my seminary education and my service in the Office of the Holy Ministry. In the classrooms of Meier Hall, I learned to read and understand Ancient Greek from professors who had immense knowledge of the language and a passion for teaching it. My professors' passion and knowledge were both important for learning the language. Their passion for teaching the language translated into high expectations for the students and strong motivation to ensure our success. Knowing that my professors personally cared about my studies in these ways bolstered my will to put in the hard work necessary to master the material.

Understanding a language also requires understanding the culture or cultures associated with it, and Classics students have ample opportunity to study and experience ancient culture through field trips to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago or summer trips to Greece. Through the Classics Department, I had the great privilege of attending a semester at College Year in Athens, a North American study program for students of Classical language and culture to study in Greece. The experience was life changing. I was enriched personally by intimately experiencing a different culture. Studying the art and architecture at places like Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica, and Crete helped me to better understand the ministry and context of Paul, a great benefit to my professional life. Attending Greek Orthodox services each Sunday morning broadened my understanding of world Christianity.

All these experiences have helped to deepen my studies of the Scriptures, and the fruit of this is a more powerful proclamation of God's Word to my flock so that they have a greater understanding of the Christian faith. For that I thank the Valpo Classics Department, and I recommend studying with them to anyone interested in the Pastoral Ministry.