



# Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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Dear Friends,

In the twentieth chapter of II Chronicles, the Southern Kingdom of Judah is confronted by the threat of attack by the Moabites, Ammonites and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. When Jehoshaphat, King of Judah hears of the tremendous armies that are approaching his people, he declares a fast, seeks the help of the Lord and commands that all of the people do the same. As King Jehoshaphat prays, he reminds God that He has promised this land to His chosen people and asserts “...*in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?*” **II Chronicles 20:6** As the king stands before the temple, he declares God’s promise that “*If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.*” v. 9 King Jehoshaphat concludes his prayer in great humility “...*for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.*” v. 12

After the king finished his prayer, all of the people of Judah stood before the Lord, waiting for His response. The prophet Jahaziel spoke by the Spirit of the Lord “*Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.*” <sup>16</sup> *Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.* <sup>17</sup> *Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.*” vv. 15-17 What an amazing command! The people of Judah are about to be attacked by an overwhelming foe, and yet God says that they will not even have to fight in the battle! Just “...*set yourselves, stand ye still and see the salvation of the Lord...*” God did just as he had promised. The Moabites, Ammonites and the inhabitants of Mount Seir all destroyed each other and the people of Judah did not have to fight at all.

God delivered us from our enemies in a similar way. In the face of the overwhelming enemies of sin, death and the devil, we are reminded that “... *the battle is not yours, but God’s.*” Just as God told the people of Judah to “...*set yourselves, stand ye still and see the salvation of the Lord...*”, God calls us to repent and believe in what he has done for us in Christ. The battle not only belongs to God, but he has already given us the victory through the death and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Our sins are forgiven by the blood of the Lamb, “*Death is swallowed up in victory*” **I Corinthians 15:54** and the devil is utterly defeated. As the hymn writer has said “*The strife is o’er, the battle’s done... Aleluia!*”

During this Easter season, may God grant us grace rejoice the victory that is ours through the finished work of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

*“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”* <sup>15</sup> *And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*

**Hebrews 2:14-15**

Yours in Christ.  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



## Donations received...



*In memory of Lawrence & Harriet Rasaka*  
Wayne & F. Anne Waldal

*In memory of Melissa (Dahlmeier) Roeser*  
from Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier

*In memory of Helen Saukkola*  
Verna A. Hendrickson

*In memory of Elizabeth Naasko*  
Al & Janis Saari

*In memory of Linda Weidner, Theresa Weidner & W. E. Weidner*  
Jeff Weidner



### Seminary Service Schedule 7 p.m.

#### April

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Ray Stenersen @ Seminary
- 8<sup>th</sup> – EASTER (no service)
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Josh Bergstedt @ Alston
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ryan Kandoll @ Laurium



### *SPRING SING* service hosted by the Inter-Lutheran Seminary

You are invited to the first ever Spring Sing service at the seminary on Sunday, April 29 at 7PM. The service will include singing by the students, staff and local musicians. The service will take place in the sanctuary which is located at 916 Pine Street in Hancock. Refreshments will be served afterwards. A free will offering will be collected and used to carry on the work of teaching and preparing our students for ministry. In addition, the seminary has applied for matching funds through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Hope to see you there!

