



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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Dear Friends,

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; ² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. ⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

I John 1:1-7

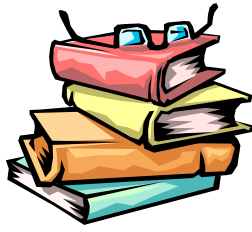
This past month, I attended my high school class reunion and had the privilege of renewing old acquaintances. It was great to catch up with old friends and celebrate the common bond we have as former classmates. Our recent annual church convention is also a type of reunion. One of the many great blessings of our convention is the opportunity to have fellowship with other brothers and sisters in faith and celebrate the common bond we have in Jesus Christ. Our fellowship even extends beyond the services of the Word, often carrying over into the casual conversations we have over a meal or a cup of coffee.

In the beginning of his first epistle, the Apostle John describes the essence of our fellowship. As believers, we have a special kinship that stems from Jesus Christ Himself; who He is and His saving work at the Cross. The very reason we have a connection with one another, is that we have something special in common. We are cleansed from sin by the blood of God’s Son. As John writes his epistle, he reminds us of this reality so that our “*joy may be full.*” There is a sense of completeness when the children of God are gathered together. The bond we have with the Risen Christ allows us to forgive past offences and overlook our differences, as we celebrate the unity we have in Jesus. No other reunion can compare. Thanks be to God for this marvelous gift. May God grant us grace to enjoy this fellowship, as we continue to “*walk in the light, as He is in the light.*”

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God; ²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:19-25

Yours in Christ.
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



FALL SEMESTER BEGINS SOON

As we approach the beginning of a new school year, we are excited at the prospects for the future of the seminary. This semester we have several full-time students returning with the possibility of two new students as well. Also, there are many part time students taking classes during the day and on Monday and Thursday evenings. We are thankful for the increasing demand for instruction and training in the Word of God from many different circles. We hope you can join us too!

Daily classes in Hancock will begin on Wednesday, August 31. The Thursday night class in Negaunee will begin on August 25. The Monday night class in Hancock will begin on September 12th. The complete class schedule is posted on our website www.ilseminary.org. Go to the *Academic Information* button then click on *Class Schedule* or contact the office at (906) 482-3337.

As we seek to meet those needs, we thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and your financial support. We cannot do this work without you. The ministry of the seminary is not limited to a few select individuals, but is the collective effort of many brothers and sisters in Christ who have a vision for the importance of the teaching and preaching of God's Word. The Apostle Paul speaks of something similar when he writes to the church in Philippi:

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...

Philippians 1:3-6

If you are already a financial supporter of the seminary, we thank you and pray that God will bless you and enable you to continue helping us. If you have not been a financial supporter of the seminary in the past, please consider assisting us in the future. Every contribution not only helps to sustain the current work of the seminary, but also allows us to look at expanding our ministry in the future. Thank you for your kindness and thanks be to God for the riches of His grace through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.