

August 2014

Dear Friends,

<A Psalm of David.> The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. (Psalm 23:1-6 KJV)

These are some of the most comforting words ever written. Many people learn them from an early age and in their far later years are able to recount them. They are often the staple of Sunday school memorization and countless plaques and other decorations bear the words into the memory of numberless children worldwide.

The history of this psalm isn't well-known. The tradition is that King David wrote it later in his own life after many years of his reign. Reflecting upon his early days as a shepherd, David saw that his God had shepherded him through the many twists and turns he had encountered while leading the people of Israel. Through all of those times, good and bad, God had remained a faithful shepherd; guiding David's steps and making provision for him in every circumstance. In his old age David knew the simple trust that he had in God to watch over him while watching his father's sheep had never needed modification, God had not changed, He had kept His watchful eye upon David all the days of his life and would continue to do so.

God's constant vigilance is the theme of this psalm and for that reason many people find peace and rest in recalling these thoughts of David in the moments of their greatest anxiety. One of my favorite stories of Psalm 23 comes from my own youth. As a boy I would often read [The Word in Season](#), a Lutheran devotional with daily devotions written by Lutheran pastors for each day of the year. One of those pastors had written of his experience with a young boy suffering from a terminal illness. The pastor taught the boy the five words; The Lord is my shepherd, by using the fingers and thumb of his right hand. He had assigned one of the five words to each of the five digits, one word per digit, so when the boy said "The" he would hold his pinky finger with his left hand, when he said "Lord" he would hold his ring finger, etc. In this way the boy recited and remembered the opening of Psalm 23. The boy eventually succumbed to the illness and the pastor was called to the hospital immediately, when he arrived he found the body of the boy with his left hand clenching the index finger of his right hand. The pastor recognized the significance of the boy's last act, the index finger was assigned the word "my", The Lord is MY shepherd. The little boy had understood the meaning of David's marvelous words and taken them to heart and then taken them to heaven.

This is an anxious world, filled with troubling circumstances and perplexing happenings. There are difficulties all around us and it is easy to be consumed with fear but in those times let us be mindful of the words of a shepherd/king who reminds us of the true Shepherd/King who is always vigilant and faithful to the end. We are under the watchful eye of God our Father, washed in the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit of our loving God. The Lord is MY shepherd. Blessings on you and yours as you continue along the pathway that our amazing shepherd leads us.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



Donations Received...

In memory of Edna Esther (Sunnarborg) Kotila

from Ronald & Lois Johnson

In memory of Bill Juntunen

from Mary Juntunen

In memory of Phyllis Barney

from Mary Juntunen

In memory of Kathy Forsman

from Gene & Arlene Silkowski

In memory of Mayme Niemitalo

from David & Sharon Lehr

In memory of Arvid & Meredith Konu

from Edwin Jr. & Kathleen Bergstedt



ADDITION TO FALL CLASS SCHEDULE

There has been an addition to the classes being taught this fall. **Orientation to Deaconess Studies** (3 credits) will be taught by Karen St. Peter. It is an overview of the issues of women's ministry in the contemporary church. Following is a "tentative" class schedule.

A description of each class can be found in our on-line catalogue at <http://www.ilseminary.org/cataglog.pdf>

As a reminder, the daily classes will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd. The Thursday night class in Negaunee will begin on September 4th. The Monday night class in Hancock will begin on September 8th.

For additional information or if you would like to enroll in a class, please email cilseminary@ilseminary.com or call 906-482-3337.



Tentative
Fall 2014 Semester Class Schedule

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8:30a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	Christian Ethics ----- Orientation to Deaconess Studies	Koine Greek Readings	Christian Ethics ----- Orientation to Deaconess Studies	Genesis	Christian Ethics
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Romans ----- Orientation to Deaconess Studies	Ministry to the Aging	Romans ----- Orientation to Deaconess Studies	Genesis	Galatians
11:00 - 11:50p.m.	New Testament Greek ----- Orientation to Deaconess Studies	Edifying Church & Family	New Testament Greek	Isaiah	New Testament Greek
12:00 - 12:50p.m.	New Testament Greek	Isaiah	New Testament Greek		New Testament Greek
3:00 - 4:00p.m.					
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Gospel of Luke (Hancock) Begins Sept. 8th			Gospel of Luke (Negaunee) Begins Sept. 4th	

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!