

August 2016

Dear Friends,

*“Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. <sup>41</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:*

*<sup>42</sup> But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”*

**Luke 10:38-42**

One of the great blessings that I receive from attending our annual church convention is the opportunity to enjoy Christian fellowship with many brothers and sisters in Christ. Although many of the visits are brief, there is always that moment of joy when we see someone that we have not seen for a while. In many instances, we even continue conversations that seem unhindered by time or distance. God has blessed us with a special bond that is only made stronger every time we gather together. It is the Word of God that brings about this bond that we call fellowship.

In the Gospel of Luke, we hear that Mary understands the importance of God's Word. Martha was so concerned about making preparations to receive the honored guest, that she neglected her honored guest, “...**that good part...**” Mary discovered the one thing that is needful; sitting at Jesus' feet and hearing His Word.

It is that encounter with Christ in the Word that brings us to a proper understanding of who we are and of who God is. It is that encounter that leads us to repentance and kindles faith in our hearts. When we sit at the feet of Jesus and hear His Word every Sunday, we hear those gracious words of forgiveness and life. Those feet, along with His hands were pierced for us. His head was wounded for us. Jesus Christ suffered, was crucified, died and rose for us, so that by His blood, we would be brought into true fellowship with Him and with one another. The finished work of Christ is the very center of the Holy Scriptures, and it is that message that makes our fellowship so sweet. There is only One who has the words of eternal Life. **“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.” John 6:58**

As the hymn writer has said so well,

*“Til we meet, 'til we meet,  
'Til we meet at Jesus' feet,  
'Til we meet, 'til we meet,  
God be with you, 'til we meet again.”*

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



**UPCOMING  
FALL SEMESTER**

The fall semester for daily classes will begin on Wednesday, September 7, 2016. Below is the list of tentative classes being offered.

**History of the Ancient Church** (3 credits) - A historical analysis of the major people and events that shaped the Christian Church from the Apostolic Age to 600 AD.

**Christian Dogmatics II** (3 credits) - A continuation of Christian Dogmatics I focusing on lectures, readings and discussion of various Christian Doctrines.

**The Pastoral Counselor** (3 credits) - A course about the dynamics of the Pastoral counseling process designed to provide insight into human nature and the close relationship between body, soul and mind in human behavior. Students learn to apply Biblical teachings to help people resolve problems in their lives.

**Isaiah** - (2 credits) - A exegetical study of the book of Isaiah, theories of its development and its impact upon the New Testament.

Note: Isaiah will be taught in Negaunee on Thursdays at 7PM beginning August 25 and Mondays in Hancock beginning September 12.

As soon as the complete class schedule has been finalized, it will be posted on our website [www.ilseminary.org](http://www.ilseminary.org). Go to the *Academic Information* button then click on *Class Schedule*.

**SAVE THE DATE...**



You are invited to our Fall Songfest service at the seminary on **Sunday, September 18 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. Hope to see you there!



*Donations Received...*



*In memory of Anita Walrath*

From Dick Walrath  
Ross & Fayth Wolfe