



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

December 2009

Dear Friends,

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-14

At the center of the celebration of Christmas is a great mystery. With the birth of Jesus, the Divine becomes human. In his Gospel, John speaks of this event as the Word becoming flesh. In the past, God spoke to us through the spoken word and the written word. But now, God communicates His great love for mankind through the living Word, Jesus Christ. Instead of sending another ordinary messenger, God comes and speaks to us *in person*. The writer of the book of Hebrews echoes a similar thought:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; ⁴ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Hebrews 1:1-4

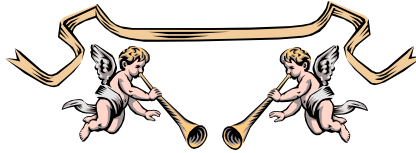
This passage teaches us that God took on human flesh not only to say that He loves us, but to demonstrate His love for us. Christ came for the express purpose of offering Himself as a sacrifice for sins. Not only did Christ cleanse us from sin by His blood, but He also conforms us into His own image. We now walk in newness of life, because of the death and Resurrection of God’s Son. To paraphrase the church father Athanasius, *“He became what we are, so that we might become what He is.”*

May God grant us grace to believe in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation and celebrate the *“...good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”*

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Memorials received...

*In memory of Jean Foltz
From Joyce Tibbs*

*In memory of Dolores (Dee) Panke
From Gordon & Marjorie Mattila*

*In memory of Wally Hendrickson
From Verna Hendrickson*

*In memory of Edwin Puumala
From Luella J. Puumala*

*In memory of Edwin Juntunen
From Mark & Fayth Anderson*

*In memory of Theresa Weidner
From Mark & Fayth Anderson
Gordon & Marjorie Mattila
Steve & Ruth Ann Smith*

*In memory of Melvin Lundeen
From Joyce Tibbs*



Seminary Service Schedule 7 p.m.

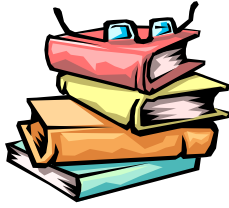
December

6th - Marc Tumberg @ Seminary
13th - Dennis Hannu @ Laurium
20th - Marc Tumberg @ Zion



*Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyous
New Year ~ from the students and staff of the
Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary.*





SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES OFFERED

The spring semester will begin on Monday, January 18, 2010. The following classes will be offered:

History of Christianity in America 3 credits

A history of the spread of the church in the United States from its pilgrim beginnings to the present.

History of the Ancient Church 3 credits

A history analysis of the major people and events that shaped the Christian Church from the Apostolic Age to 600 AD.

Science & Christianity 2 credits

Studies on the relationship between modern science and the Christian Faith, including various theories of origins.

Gospel of Mark 2 credits

An in-depth analysis of the most concise Gospel with an emphasis on sound and segmentation.

Homiletics 2 credits

A study of the construction and delivery of sermons.

Evangelism 2 credits

A study of the principles and methods for Christian outreach in one's own church and community, including home visitation.

Galatians 1 credit

An exegetical study of Paul's epistle to the Galatians and its relevance to the preaching of the Gospel today.

Liturgics & Hymnology 1 credit

A study of the origin and meaning of liturgics, music and hymns in worship services with an emphasis upon Lutheran tradition.

New Testament Greek Readings 1 credit

A course designed to apply the principles learned in New Testament Greek and facilitate the mastery of the language of the New Testament through reading selected portions of its text.

Isaiah (Monday night class in Hancock) 2 credits

An exegetical study of the book of Isaiah, theories of its development and its impact upon the New Testament.

For the complete class schedule, please refer our website www.ilseminary.org. Go to the *Academic Information* button then click on *Class Schedule*. We hope you can join us either in person or via the Internet. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to call (906) 482-3337 or send an email to: cilseminary@charterinternet.com.

****PLEASE NOTE****

If you are receiving this newsletter in error or would prefer to be taken off the mailing list, please complete the form below and mail to: P.O. Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930. Or call 906-482-3337 or email: cilseminary@charterinternet.com. Thank you!

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