

December 2014

Dear Friends,

*“Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. <sup>3</sup> Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. <sup>6</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*  
**Isaiah 9:1-7**

The prophet Isaiah is speaking to God’s People during the time of the divided kingdom. The Northern Kingdom of Israel has forsaken God and has been conquered by the Assyrian Empire. God permits this, because the people have given Him no choice. Their persistent rebellion has forced His hand. The Southern Kingdom of Judah faces a similar fate, if they do not repent of their unfaithfulness and return to the God of their fathers. In the midst of this turmoil, Isaiah offers a message of great hope. *“The people that walked in great darkness have seen a great light...”* Even though God will discipline His people, He will not forsake them. In spite of the fact that the Northern Kingdom has been vanquished and the Southern Kingdom will be taken captive in Babylon, God promises to preserve a remnant of His people and restore them to their homeland in Judah.

As we are well aware, the prophecy in Isaiah chapter nine has a far greater meaning than simply the restoration of an earthly kingdom. All of mankind had fallen in the deep darkness of sin, for which the penalty is death. But there is hope for us as well. *“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”* A great light has shined upon us in the person of God’s Son. *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...”* With the birth of Jesus, God has given us a Saviour. Instead of just Israel or Judah, God has given the Christ-child to all people. Instead of Assyria or Babylon, God has delivered us from the far greater enemies of sin, death and the devil by the way of the cross. The life, death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus has given us victory, and the kingdom of our Prince of Peace will last forever!

May God bless you with an even greater knowledge of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Merry Christmas to you all!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



*Donations Received...*

*In memory of Walter Hendrickson*  
from Ken Heikka

*In memory of Ernest Bylka Jr.*  
from Dale & Joanne Mattinen

*In memory of Dotty Liimatainen*  
from Dale & Joanne Mattinen

*In memory of Lillian Maunu*  
from Jimmy & Barb Maunu

*In memory of Gerald (Jerry) L. DeMotts*  
from Myra DeMotts

*In memory of Rev. Herbert Amala*  
from Audrey E. Amala

*In memory of Ruth Engman*  
from Dave & Barb Jukuri



**Seminary Service Schedule**  
**7 p.m.**

**December**

7<sup>th</sup> – Ryan Kandoll @ Zion  
14<sup>th</sup> – Josh Bergstedt @ Range



**WINTER NIGHT OF MUSIC**  
*to benefit the Inter-Lutheran Seminary*

*The Annual Winter Night of Music will be held Tuesday, December 2 at 7PM at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock. Ushering in the Christmas season, soloists will be inviting the audience join in with beloved Christmas carols. A Christmas buffet of refreshments will be served following the program.*

**THRIVENT FINANCIAL – Action Teams**  
**TAKE ACTION ON A CAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT!!**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is encouraging members to participate in a new program offered called THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS. If you are a Thrivent Financial member, you can lead a THRIVENT ACTION TEAM to bring people together for a one-time project to help others be wise with money and live generously.

If you organize a fundraiser to benefit the **Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary**: Thrivent will provide:

- Resources to help you plan the event.
- Promotional items, including Thrivent t-shirts.
- Community Impact Card with \$250 of seed money.

Learn more at [Thrivent.com/action-team](http://Thrivent.com/action-team) and apply online. Each member is eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year. If you have questions, please contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at 800-847-4836 and say "Fraternal" when promoted, or send an email to [fraternal@thrivent.com](mailto:fraternal@thrivent.com).



**Spring 2015 Class Schedule**

<b>Class begins Monday, January 19th</b>	<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
8:30a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	History of Christianity in America	History of American Lutheranism	History of Christianity in America	History of American Lutheranism	History of Christianity in America
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	Principles of Biblical Interpretation	History of American Lutheranism	Principles of Biblical Interpretation	Pastoral Work & Administration	Principles of Biblical Interpretation
11:00 - 11:50a.m.	Liturgics & Hymnology	Pastoral Work & Administration	Ministry to the World/Mission	Pastoral Work & Administration	Ministry to the World/Mission
12:00 - 12:50p.m.	Patristic Greek Readings		New Testament Greek Readings		
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Gospel of John (In Hancock)				

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

