

February 2024

Dear Friends,

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, <sup>2</sup> With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; <sup>3</sup> Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> One Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. <sup>7</sup> But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ..." Ephesians 4:1-7

The Apostle Paul offers this wonderful encouragement to the church in Ephesus, reminding them of how they should treat one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul's exhortation is not some new law to burden the Ephesian congregation. In fact, Paul is simply reminding them to live their lives in light of who they are in Christ Jesus. Paul tells them (and us) that God has "...blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ..." Ephesians 1:3 In Christ, "...we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace..." Ephesians 1:7 and that "... by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God..." Ephesians 2:8 God has delivered us from sin, death and the devil by the finished work of Jesus Christ. We are no longer in bondage to the darkness of sin. In Christ, we are forgiven, children of the light and part of God's new creation. We no longer live for ourselves. We live for one another, just as Jesus did. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

This last verse puts me in remembrance of Reverend Roger Jenkins, one of my fellow classmates in seminary. Roger, who recently passed away, was one of the most tenderhearted individuals that I have ever known. God called Roger to ministry later in life. Once Roger learned that he was a new creature in Christ, he couldn't wait to share that same message with others. He had a passion for helping the poor, especially those suffering from the bondage of addiction. Roger never lost his love for sharing the Gospel, even when health issues made it necessary for him to move to a nursing home. The last time I visited Roger, he was excited to tell me that he would be preaching at the nursing home that next Sunday, which he did.

Roger would begin many of his sermons with the beautiful prayer of the Psalmist "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14 This is our prayer for all of our seminary students as well. The seminary remains dedicated to the preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word. This is acceptable in God's sight, and He is our strength and our redeemer.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the ministry of the seminary. As the Apostle Paul has said "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, <sup>5</sup> For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; <sup>6</sup> 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

Yours in Christ, Pastor Chuck Bylkas



In memory of Ed & Shirley Hulkonen From Raymond & Marlene Hilman

*In memory of Eldon Kinnunen* From Heath & Sherry Anderson

In memory of Jack & Ruby Munter From Bruce & Wendy Bergstedt

In memory of Dr. Jacob & Betty Bergstedt From Bruce & Wendy Bergstedt

*In memory Donald & Bertha Kangas* From John & Jeanette Pemberton

> *In memory Vieno Stalo* From Donna Gustafson Flaherty

*In memory Peter Sandretto, Sr.* From Donna Gustafson Flaherty



The Monday night class on Revelation has started but it is not too late to join in. Revelation begins each Monday at 7PM (ET) at 916 Pine Street, Hancock or on Zoom.

Revelation is an exegetical study and interpretation of the book emphasizing its structure and content.

If you are interested in taking this class, please contact the seminary as soon as possible by calling (906) 482-3337 or email – cilseminary@ilseminary.com. If you are able, a \$50 donation would be appreciated. As always, your continued support is appreciated.

## ATTENTION SUPPORTERS: There are several ways to support the Seminary.

## thrivent

**CHOICE DOLLARS DETAILS**: Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

**Eligibility requirements:** To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup>, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations: Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31). Choice Dollars expiration date: Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

For more information about Choice Dollars, visit <u>http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice</u> or call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

## THRIVENT CHARITABLE IMPACT & INVESTING™

The Inter-Lutheran Seminary has established an Endowment Fund through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing.<sup>™</sup> All earnings of the endowment will be used for the seminary's needs thereby ensuring the continued existence of this funding source. This is the preferred method used by many non-profit entities, especially ongoing religiously focused organizations such as seminaries. To learn more about this organization, go to www.thriventcharitable.com.

We would love to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support. Although the seminary still needs the financial ongoing regular contributions of our supporters, please consider the endowment fund for your planned giving needs. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 821-8574 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.

## **ANOTHER OPTION FOR GIVING – PayPal**

Online giving is as easy as clicking the DONATE button on our website: https://ilseminary.org. Simply go to the *How to Contribute* tab and tap the yellow *DONATE* button to begin. There are options for credit and debit card donations and even the option to help the seminary cover the PayPal processing fee. (Note we are charged 1.99% + \$.49/transaction fee). As always, we are thankful for your continued support!