



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

July 2010,

Dear Friends,

As we approach this 4th of July I was moved to share with you some of Abraham Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address. At the time he penned these words the United States was involved in a war that threatened to bring the end of the Union. Under that threat he was elected to his 2nd (all too short) term as President. Knowing that both sides who were at war were Christian he said:

Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other.... The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes.

God is all too often invoked to support political causes without much thought given to what His name is being associated with. Lincoln clearly understood that he was not God and could not fully discern God's purpose. God alone knows His ways and God alone must execute His plans. To confuse the works of human beings with the will of the Almighty is a fatal error of which God is very aware. So the second commandment: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7) To use God's name as a vain thing doesn't only mean to use it in cursing but it means to use it emptily. Sadly many who seek office or support for a cause merely use the name of God to gain popularity; they use the name of God in vain. We must be aware that every plan of human beings is not necessarily that of God and the invocation of God's name does not guarantee that we are doing what God wants.

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

The words quoted above are the last portion of Lincoln's address and often quoted but seldom understood. They clearly show that Lincoln was simply reflecting the very clear teaching of Jesus: Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so?⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:43-48 KJV)

It is too easy to begin to hate people. God indeed hates sin but does not hate those who sin. God has given His Son to reconcile sinners to Himself. Lincoln recognized the difference and did not give in to the impulse to hate those who hated him even though Booth's bullet fired in hate ended his life and ended the greatest hope of a seamless restoration of the Union. The language of hate is often cloaked in the terms of Divine retribution or righteousness. We must take care not to confuse the two. The retribution and righteousness of God are seen on the cross where sins are forgiven in the blood of Christ there alone is true righteousness, there alone God demonstrates and achieves His purpose alone. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV) We are ambassadors of this truth.

As we rightly wax patriotic and remember the greatness of our nation in celebrating its birth this month may we remember these words of Lincoln and even more the words of Jesus and continue to walk in the truth.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



Donation received...

In memory of Norman Ruohonen
from Betty Ruohonen & family

In memory of Mae Olson
from Stuart & Evelyn Olson



Kristine Jukuri and Jay Weidner cordially invite you to a wedding reception in their honor on the evening of Friday, the twenty-third of July 2010 at Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot Street, Hancock, Michigan between the hours of six o'clock and eight o'clock in the evening.

Please no gifts.

If you desire, the couple requests that donations be made payable to the Apostolic Lutheran Church, Foreign Mission.
Mailing address: Susan Tyni, 1601 Northwest 4th Avenue
Battle Ground, Washington 98604
or to the Zion Lutheran Church for the Eldon & Alice Kinnunen Mexico Ministry
Mailing address: 400 Ingot Street, Hancock, Michigan 49930

Kristine and Jay sincerely thank you for honoring this request.



The Inter-Lutheran Seminary invites you to join us for fellowship in the Word of God.

FALL 2010 SCHEDULE	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8:40a.m.	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00 - 9:50a.m.	New Testament Greek	Hebrew	Hebrew	Hebrew	New Testament Greek
10:00 - 10:50a.m.	New Testament Greek	Homiletics	New Testament Greek	Old Testament Introduction	New Testament Greek
11:00 - 11:50p.m.	Evangelism	Old Testament Introduction	New Testament Greek	Old Testament Introduction	Homiletics
12:00 - 12:50p.m.	Evangelism				
2:00 - 3:00p.m.	New Testament Greek Readings				
7:00 - 8:40p.m.	Ezekiel (in Hancock)			Ezekiel (in Negaunee)	

Daily classes begin Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

Thursday night class in Negaunee begins, Thursday, August 26, 2010.

Monday night class in Hancock begins, Monday, September 13, 2010.

The seminary offers instruction not just for Pastors but also for anyone who desires to grow in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. Classes are available to be taken in person, online or independently by Internet downloads or DVD. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact the seminary at 906-482-3337, log on to our website www.ilseminary.org or email cilseminary@charterinternet.com.